

1 Chronicles

Family History from Adam to Noah

1 ¹⁻³Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah.*

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

Japheth's Descendants

⁵The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath,* and Togarmah.

⁷The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.

Ham's Descendants

⁸The sons of Ham were Cush (*Ethiopia*), Mizraim (*Egypt*), Put, and Canaan.

⁹The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtecah. The sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰Nimrod, a descendant* of Cush, grew up to become the strongest and bravest soldier in the world.

¹¹Mizraim (*Egypt*) was the father of the people of Lud, Anam, Lehab, Naphtuh, ¹²Pathrus, Casluh, and Caphtor. (The Philistines came from Casluh.)

¹³Canaan was the father of Sidon. Sidon was his first child. Canaan was also the father of the Hittites, ¹⁴the Jebusite people, the Amorite people, the Girgashite people, ¹⁵the Hivite people, the Arkite people, the Sinite people, ¹⁶the Arvadite people, the Zemarite people, and the people from Hamath.

Adam ... Noah This list of names gives the name of a man, followed by his descendants.

Riphath Or, "Diphath."

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

Shem's Descendants

¹⁷Shem's sons were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. Aram's sons 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. (²⁰Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²²Ebal,* Abimael, Sheba ²³Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these men were Joktan's sons.)

Abraham's Family

²⁴Shem's [descendants were:] Arphaxad, Shelah, ²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu, ²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah, ²⁷and Abram. (Abram is also called Abraham.)

²⁸Abraham's sons were Isaac and Ishmael. ²⁹These are their descendants*:

Hagar's Descendants

Ishmael's first son was Nebaioth. Ishmael's other sons were Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ³⁰Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, ³¹Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. Those were Ishmael's sons.

Keturah's Sons

³²Keturah was Abraham's woman servant.* She gave birth to Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

Meshech Or, "Mash." See Gen. 10:23.

Peleg This name means "division."

Ebal Or, "Obal." See Gen. 10:28.

woman servant Or, "concubine." A woman who was like a wife to a man.

Jokshan's sons were Sheba and Dedan.

³³Midian's sons were Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.

These men were the descendants* of Keturah.

Sarah's Sons

³⁴Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac's sons were Esau and Israel.*

³⁵Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

³⁶Eliphaz's sons were Teman, Omar, Zepho,* Gatam, and Kenaz. Also Eliphaz and Timna had a son named Amalek.

³⁷Reuel's sons were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

The Edomites from Seir

³⁸Seir's sons were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹Lotan's sons were Hori and Homam.* Lotan had a sister named Timna.

⁴⁰Shobal's sons were Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

Zibeon's sons were Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹Anah's son was Dishon.

Dishon's sons were Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.

⁴²Ezer's sons were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

Dishan's sons were Uz and Aran.

The Kings of Edom

⁴³There were kings in Edom long before there were kings in Israel. These are the names of the kings of Edom:

[The first king was] Bela son of Beor. The name of Bela's city was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah became the new king. Jobab came from Bozrah.

⁴⁵When Jobab died, Husham became the new king. Husham was from the country of the Temanite people.

⁴⁶When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad became the new king. Hadad defeated Midian

in the country of Moab. Hadad's city was named Avith.

⁴⁷When Hadad died, Samlah became the new king. Samlah was from Masrekah.

⁴⁸When Samlah died, Shaul became the new king. Shaul was from Rehoboth by the Euphrates River.

⁴⁹When Shaul died, Baal Hanan son of Acbor became the new king.

⁵⁰When 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. ⁵¹Then Hadad died.

The leaders of Edom were Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, ⁵²Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁵³Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁵⁴Magdiel, 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, ²Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Judah's Sons

³Judah's sons were Er, Onan, and Shelah. Bathshua* was their mother. Bathshua was a woman from Canaan. The Lord saw that Judah's first son, Er, was evil. That is why the Lord killed Er. ⁴Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar gave birth to Perez and Zerah.* So Judah had five sons.

⁵Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul.

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

⁷Zimri's son was Carmi. Carmi's son was Achar.* Achar was the man that brought many troubles to Israel. Achar kept the things he took in battle. But he was supposed to give all those things to God.

⁸Ethan's son was Azariah.

Pau Or, "Pai."

Israel Another name for Jacob. See Gen. 32:28.

Bathshua This name means, "the daughter of Shua." See Gen. 38:2.

Judah's daughter-in-law ... Perez and Zerah Judah had sexual relations with his own daughter-in-law Tamar and caused her to be pregnant. See Gen. 38:12–30.

Achar Or, "Achan." See Joshua 7:11.

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

Israel Another name for Jacob. See Gen. 32:28.

Zepho Or, "Zephi."

Homam Or, "Heman." See Gen. 36:22.

⁹Hezron's sons were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Caleb.*

Ram's Descendants

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

Caleb's Descendants

¹⁸Caleb was Hezron's son. Caleb had children with his wife Azubah. Azubah was the daughter of Jerioth.* Azubah's sons were Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon. ¹⁹When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath. Caleb and Ephrath had a son. They named him Hur. ²⁰Hur was Uri's father. Uri was Bezalel's father.

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

²⁴Hezron died in the town of Caleb, Ephrathah. After he died, his wife Abijah had

Caleb Literally, "Kelubai."

Nahshon ... Judah Nahshon was leader of the family group of Judah at the time the people of Israel came out of Egypt. See Num. 1:7; 2:3; 7:12.

Caleb ... Jerioth Or "Caleb had children with Azubah his wife and with Jerioth."

his son. That son was named Ashhur. Ashhur was the father of Tekoa.

Jerahmeel's Descendants

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

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

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

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

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

³¹Appaim's son was Ishi. Ishi's son was Sheshan. Sheshan's son was Ahlai.

³²Jada was Shammai's brother. Jada's sons were Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without having children.

³³Jonathan's sons were Peleth and Zaza. This was the list of Jerahmeel's children.

³⁴Sheshan did not have sons. He only had daughters. Sheshan had a servant from Egypt named Jarha. ³⁵Sheshan let his daughter marry Jarha. They had a son. His name was Attai.

³⁶Attai was Nathan's father. Nathan was Zabad's father. ³⁷Zabad was Ephlal's father. Ephlal was Obed's father. ³⁸Obed was Jehu's father. Jehu was Azariah's father. ³⁹Azariah was Helez's father. Helez was Eleasah's father. ⁴⁰Eleasah was Sismai's father. Sismai was Shallum's father. ⁴¹Shallum was Jekamiah's father. And Jekamiah was Elishama's father.

Caleb's Family

⁴²Caleb was Jerahmeel's brother. Caleb had some sons. His first son was Mesha. Mesha was Ziph's father. [There was also Caleb's] son Mareshah. Mareshah was the father of Hebron.

⁴³Hebron's sons were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. ⁴⁴Shema was Raham's father. Raham was Jorkeam's father. Rekem was Shammai's father. ⁴⁵Shammai's son was Maon. Maon was Beth Zur's father.

⁴⁶Caleb's woman servant* was named Ephah. Ephah was the mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran was Gazez's father.

⁴⁷Jahdai's sons were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸Maacah was another woman servant* of Caleb. Maacah was the mother of Sheber and Tirhana. ⁴⁹Maacah was also the mother of Shaaph and Sheva. Shaaph was Madmannah's father. Sheva was the father of Macbenah and Gibeon. Caleb's daughter was Acsah.

⁵⁰This is a list of Caleb's descendants:* Hur was Caleb's first son. He was born to Ephrathah. Hur's sons were Shobal, the founder* of Kiriath Jearim, ⁵¹Salma, the founder of Bethlehem, and Hareph, the founder of Beth Gader.

⁵²Shobal was the founder* of Kiriath Jearim. This is a list of Shobal's descendants:* Haroeh, half the people in Manahtim, ⁵³and the family groups from Kiriath Jearim. These are the Ithrite people, the Puthite people, the Shumathite people, and the Mishraite people. The Zorathite people and the Eshtaolite people came from the Mishraite people.

⁵⁴This is a list of Salma's descendants:* The people from Bethlehem, Netophah, Atroth Beth Joab, half the people from Manahtim, the Zorite people, ⁵⁵and the families of scribes* that lived at Jabez, Tirath, Shimeath, and Sucah. These scribes are the Kenite people that came from Hammath. Hammath was the founder* of Beth Recab.

David's Sons

3 Some of David's sons were born in the town of Hebron. This is a list of David's sons:

David's first son 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].

woman servant Or, "concubine," a slave woman who was like a wife to a man.

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

founder Literally, "father," the person that started the city.

scribes Men that wrote down and copied books and letters.

These men spent so much time with those writings that they often became experts at knowing what those scriptures (*writings*) meant.

²The third son was Absalom. His mother was Maacah, daughter of Talmai. Talmai was the king of Geshur.

The fourth son was Adonijah. His mother was Haggith.

³The fifth son was Shephatiah. His mother was Abital.

The sixth son was Ithream. His mother was Eglah, David's wife. ⁴These six sons were born to David in Hebron.

David ruled as king in Hebron for seven years and six months. David ruled as king in Jerusalem 33 years.

⁵These are the children born to David in Jerusalem:

There were four sons from Bathsheba,* the daughter of Ammiel. They were Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. ^{6–8}There were nine other sons. They were: Ibhar, Elishua, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. ⁹They were all David's sons. Their sister was named Tamar. David also had other sons by his women servants.*

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.*

Bathsheba The Hebrew text has, "Bathshua."

Jehoiakim's sons ... son This can be interpreted in two ways:

(1) "This Zedekiah was the son of Jehoiakim and the brother of Jehoiachin," (2) "This Zedekiah is the son of Jehoiachin and the grandson of Jehoiakim."

David's Family After Babylonian Captivity

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

¹⁹Pedaiah'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, Berekiyah, Hasadiah, and Jushab Hesed.

²¹Hananiah's son was Pelatiah. And his son was Jeshaiiah.* And his son was Rephaiah. And his son was Arnan. And his son was Obadiah. And 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, Pelaiiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani.

Other Family Groups of Judah

4 This is a list of Judah's sons. They were Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

²Shobal's son was Reaiah. Reaiah was Jahath's father. Jahath was the father of Ahumai and Lahad. The Zorathite people are descendants* of Ahumai and Lahad.

³Etam's sons were Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. And they had a sister named Hazzelelponi.

⁴Penuel was Gedor's father. And Ezer was Hushah's father.

These were Hur's sons. Hur was Ephrathah's first son. And Ephrathah was the founder* of Bethlehem.

⁵Tekoa's father was Ashhur. Ashhur had two wives. Their names were Helah and Naarah. ⁶Naarah had Ahuzzam, Hephher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons Naarah had with Ashhur. ⁷The sons of

Helah were Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, and Koz. ⁸Koz was the father of Anub and Hazzobebah. Koz also was the father of the family groups of Aharhel. Aharhel was Harum's son.

⁹Jabez was a very good man. He was better than his brothers. His mother said, "I have named him Jabez* because I was in much pain when I had him." ¹⁰Jabez prayed to the God of Israel. Jabez said, "I wish you would truly bless me. I wish you would give me more land. Be near me and don't let anyone hurt me. Then I won't have any pain." And God gave Jabez what he asked for.

¹¹Kelub was Shuhah's brother. Kelub was Mehir's father. Mehir was Eshton's father. ¹²Eshton was the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah. Tehinnah was the father of Ir Nahash.* Those men were from Recah.

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

And Seraiah was Joab's father. Joab was the founder* of the Ge Harashim.* Those people used that name because they were skilled workers.

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

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

¹⁷⁻¹⁸Ezrah's sons were Jether, Mered, Ephher, and Jalon. Mered was the father of Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah. Ishbah was the father of Eshtemoa. Mered had a wife from Egypt. She had Jered, Heber, and Jekuthiel. Jered was Gedor's father. Heber was Soco's father. And Jekuthiel was Zanoah's father. These were the sons of Bithiah. Bithiah was Pharaoh's daughter. She was Mered's wife from Egypt.

¹⁹Mered's wife was Naham's sister. Mered's wife was from Judah.* The sons of

Jabez This name is like the Hebrew word meaning "pain."

Tehinnah ... Ir Nahash Or, "Tehinnah was the founder of the city of Nahash." Ir means "city."

founder Literally, "father," the person that started the city.

Ge Harashim This name also means, "Valley of the Skilled Workers."

Mered's wife ... was from Judah This is from the ancient Greek translation.

Jeshaiiah Or, "Isaiah."

Verse 21 The Hebrew is hard to understand here.

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

founder Literally, "father," the person that started the city.

Mered's wife were the father of Keilah and Eshtemoa. Keilah was from the Garmite people. And Eshtemoa was from the Maacathite people. ²⁰Shimon's sons were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben Hanan, and Tilon.

Ishi's sons were Zoheth and Ben Zoheth.

^{21–22}Shelah was Judah's son. Shelah had Er, Laadah, Jokim, the men from Cozeba, Joash, and Saraph. Er was the father of Lecah. Laadah was the father of Mareshah and the family groups of linen* workers at Beth Ashbea. Joash and Saraph married Moabite women. Then they went back to Bethlehem.* The writings about this family are very old. ²³Those sons of Shelah were workers that made things from clay. They lived in Netaim and Gederah. They lived in those towns and worked for the king.

Simeon's Children

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

²⁶Mishma's son was Hammuel. Hammuel's son was Zaccur. Zaccur's son was Shimei. ²⁷Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters. But Shimei's brothers did not have many children. Shimei's brothers did not have large families. Their families were not large like the other family groups in Judah.

²⁸Shimei's descendants lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, ²⁹Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, ³⁰Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, ³¹Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and Shaaraim. They lived in those towns until David became king. ³²The five villages near these towns were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Token, and Ashan. ³³There 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 family groups. They were 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 Shemaiah's son.

These men's families grew to be very large. ³⁹They 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. ⁴⁰They found good fields with plenty of grass. They found plenty of good land there. The land was peaceful and quiet. Ham's descendants* lived there in the past. ⁴¹This happened during the time that Hezekiah was king of Judah. Those men came to Gedor and fought against the Hamite people. They destroyed the tents of the Hamite people. Those men also fought against the Meunite people that lived there. These men destroyed all the Meunite people. There are no Meunite people in this place even today. So those men began to live there. They lived there because the land had grass for their sheep.

⁴²Five hundred people from Simeon's family group went to the hill country of Seir. Ishi's sons led those men. Those sons were, Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel. The Simeonite men fought against the people living in that place. ⁴³There were only a few Amalekite people still living. And these Simeonite people killed them. Since that time until now, those Simeonite people 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 Reuben had sexual relations with his father's wife. So those privileges were given to Joseph's sons. In the family history, Reuben's name is not listed as the first son. Judah became stronger than his brothers, so the leaders came from his family. But Joseph's family got the other privileges that belong to the oldest son. Reuben's sons were Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

linen A type of cloth.

married ... Bethlehem Or, "They ruled in Moab and Jashubi Lehem."

descendants A person's children and their future families.

⁴These are the names of Joel's descendants:* Shemaiah was Joel's son. Gog was Shemaiah's son. Shimei was Gog's son. ⁵Micah was Shimei's son. Reaiah was Micah's son. Baal was Reaiah's son. ⁶Beerah was Baal's son. Tiglath Pileser, the king of Assyria, forced Beerah to leave his home. So Beerah became the king's prisoner. Beerah was a leader of the family group of Reuben.

⁷Joel's brothers and all his family groups are listed just as they are written in the family histories: Jeiel was the first son, then Zechariah, ⁸and 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. ⁹Bela's people lived to the east as far as the edge of the desert, near the Euphrates River. They lived in that place because they had many cattle in the land of Gilead. ¹⁰When Saul was king, Bela's people fought a war against the Hagrite people. They defeated the Hagrite people. Bela's people lived in the tents that had belonged to the Hagrite people. They lived in those tents and traveled throughout the area east of Gilead.

Gad's Descendants

¹¹The people from the family group of Gad lived near the people from the family group of Reuben. The Gadite people lived in the area of Bashan, all the way to the town of Salecah. ¹²Joel was the first leader in Bashan. Shapham was the second leader. Then Janai became the leader.* ¹³The seven brothers in their families were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber. ¹⁴Those men 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. ¹⁵Ahi was Abdiel's son. Abdiel was Guni's son. Ahi was the leader of their family.

¹⁶The people in the family group 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.

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

Some Soldiers Skilled in War

¹⁸From half of Manasseh's family group and from the family groups of Reuben and Gad there were 44,760 brave men ready for war. They were skilled in war. They carried shields and swords. And they were also good with bows and arrows. ¹⁹They started a war against the Hagrite people and the people of Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. ²⁰Those men from the family groups of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad prayed to God in the war. They asked God to help them because they trusted him. So God helped them. God allowed them to defeat the Hagrite people. And they also defeated those other people who were with the Hagrite people. ²¹They took the animals that belonged to the Hagrite people. They took 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, 2,000 donkeys, and 100,000 people. ²²Many Hagrite people were killed because God helped the people of Reuben win the war. Then those people from the family groups of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad lived in the land of the Hagrite people. They lived there until the time when the people of Israel were taken into captivity.

²³Half of Manasseh's family group lived in the area of Bashan all the way to Baal Hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon. They became a very large group of people.

²⁴These were the family leaders from half of Manasseh's family group: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were all strong and brave men. They were famous men. And they were leaders in their families. ²⁵But those leaders sinned against the God that their ancestors* worshiped. They began worshiping the false

descendants A person's children and their future families.

Then Janai became the leader Or, "Then there was Janai. And then Shaphat was in Bashan."

ancestors Literally, "fathers." This means a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

gods of the people living there—and those were the people God destroyed.

²⁶The God of Israel made Pul want to go to war. Pul was the king of Assyria. He was also called Tiglath Pileser. He fought against the people from the family groups of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad. He forced them to leave their homes and made them prisoners. Pul brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and near the Gozan River. Those family groups from Israel have lived in those places since that time until today.

The Descendants of Levi

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's father. Phinehas was Abishua's father. ⁵Abishua was Bukki's father. Bukki was Uzzi's father. ⁶Uzzi was Zerahiah's father. Zerahiah 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 person that 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 Judah and Jerusalem away. Those people were made prisoners in another country. The Lord used Nebuchadnezzar to take the people of Judah and Jerusalem prisoners.

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 family group 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. Uzziyah was Uriel's son. Shaul was Uzziyah'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. ²⁸Samuel 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. 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 that David chose to take care of the music at the tent of the Lord's house after the Box of the Agreement* was put there. ³²These men served by singing at the Holy Tent.* The Holy Tent is also called the Meeting Tent. And these men served until Solomon built the Lord's temple* in

descendants A person's children and their future families.

Box of the Agreement Also called the "Ark of the Covenant," the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

Holy Tent Also called the "tabernacle." The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Jerusalem. They served by following the rules given to them for their work.

³³These are the names of the men and their sons that served with music:

The descendants* from the Kohath family were: Heman the singer. Heman 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. Asaph served by Heman's right side. Asaph was Berekiah's son. Berekiah's 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 Hilkiah's son. ⁴⁶Hilkiah 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's and Asaph's brothers were from the family group of Levi. The family group of Levi were also called Levites. The Levites

were chosen to do the work in the Holy Tent.* The Holy Tent 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 did the ceremonies to make the people of Israel pure.* They followed all the rules and laws that Moses commanded. Moses was God's servant.

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 Levite people. ⁵⁵They were given the town of Hebron and the fields around it. This was in the area of Judah. ⁵⁶But the fields farther from town and the villages near the town of Hebron were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh. ⁵⁷The descendants of Aaron were given the city of Hebron. Hebron was a city of safety.* They were also given the cities of Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa, ⁵⁸Hilen, Debir, ⁵⁹Ashan, Juttah, and Beth Shemesh. They got all those cities and the fields around

incense A kind of spice that smells good when it is burned. It was burned as a gift to God.

Most Holy Place The most important room in the temple. The Box of the Agreement with the Cherub Angels on it was in this room. This was like God's throne. Once each year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest went into this room to do the ceremony that atoned {(covered or erased)} the sins of the people of Israel.

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover or erase a person's sins."

city of safety A special city where an Israelite could run and be safe from angry relatives if he accidentally killed someone. See Josh. 20:1-9.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

Israel Another name for Jacob. See Gen. 32:28.

Holy Tent Also called the "tabernacle." The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

them. ⁶⁰From the family group of Benjamin they got the cities of Gibeon, Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth. They got all those cities and the fields around them.

Thirteen cities were given to the Kohath families.

⁶¹The rest of Kohath's descendants* got ten towns from half of Manasseh's family group.

⁶²The family groups that were the descendants* of Gershon got 13 cities. They got those cities from the family groups of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the part of Manasseh living in the area of Bashan.

⁶³The family groups that were the descendants* of Merari got 12 cities. They got those cities from the family groups of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. They got those cities by throwing lots.*

⁶⁴So the Israelite people gave those towns and fields to the Levite people. ⁶⁵All those cities came from the family groups of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. They decided which Levite family got which city by throwing lots.*

⁶⁶The family group of Ephraim gave some of the Kohath families some towns. Those towns were chosen by throwing lots.* ⁶⁷They were given the city of Shechem. Shechem is a city of safety.* They were also given the towns of Gezer, ⁶⁸Jokmeam, Beth Horon, ⁶⁹Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon. They also got fields with those towns. Those towns were in the hill country of Ephraim. ⁷⁰And from half of Manasseh's family group the Israelite people gave the towns of Aner and Bileam to the Kohath families. Those Kohath families also got fields with those towns.

Other Levite Families Get Homes

⁷¹The Gershon families got the towns of Golan in the area of Bashan and Ashtaroth from half of Manasseh's family group. They also got the fields near those towns.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

lot(s) Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

city of safety A special city where an Israelite could run and be safe from angry relatives if he accidentally killed someone. See Josh. 20:1-9 and Num. 35:6-34.

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

⁷⁷The rest of the Levite people are the Merari families. They got the towns of Jokneam, Kartah, Rimmono, and Tabor from the family group 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 family group of Reuben. The family group 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 family group of Gad. They also got the fields near those towns.

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 until by the time David was king, there were 22,600 men [ready for war].

³Uzzi's son was Izrahiah. Izrahiah's sons were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah. All five of them were leaders of their families. ⁴Their family history shows they had 36,000 soldiers ready for war. 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 family groups of Issachar.

Benjamin's Descendants

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

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 their family history also shows they had 20,200 soldiers.

¹⁰Jediael's son was Bilhan. Bilhan's sons were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Kenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar. ¹¹All of Jediael's sons were leaders of their families. They had 17,200 soldiers ready for war.

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 woman servant* had a son named Asriel. ... she bore Makir. Makir was Gilead's father. ¹⁵Makir married a woman from the Huppites and Shuppites. Makir's sister was named Maacah. ... The name of the second ... was Zelophehad. Zelophehad had only daughters.* ¹⁶Makir's wife Maacah had a son. Maacah named this son Peresh. Peresh's brother was named Sheresh. Sheresh's sons 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 Tahath. Tahath's son was Zabad. Zabad's son was Shuthelah.

Some men that 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. ²²Ephraim 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. ²³Then Ephraim had sexual relations with his wife. Ephraim's wife became pregnant and had a son. Ephraim named this new son Beriah* because something bad had happened to his family. ²⁴Ephraim's daughter was Sheerah. Sheerah built Lower Beth Horon and Upper Beth Horon and Lower Uzen Sheerah and Upper Uzen Sheerah.

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

²⁸These 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. ²⁹Along 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.*

Bilhah Jacob's woman servant and the mother of Dan and Naphtali. See Gen. 30:4-8.

woman servant Or, "concubine," a slave woman who was like a wife to a man.

verses 14-15 There seems to be a few words missing from the Hebrew, dating back evidently to the Chronicler's sources.

Hammoleketh Or, "The woman that ruled," or "queen."

descendants A person's children and their future families.

Beriah This is like the Hebrew word meaning, "bad," or "trouble."

Israel Another name for Jacob. See Gen. 32:28.

Asher's Descendants

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

³¹Beriah's sons were Heber and Malkiel. Malkiel was Birzaith's father.

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

³³Japhlet's sons were Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlet's children.

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

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

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

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

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

⁴⁰All these men were descendants* of Asher. They were leaders of their families. They were the best men. They were soldiers and great leaders. Their family history shows 26,000 soldiers ready for war.

The Family History of King Saul

8 Benjamin was Bela's father. Bela was Benjamin's first son. Ashbel was Benjamin's second son. Aharah was Benjamin's third son. ²Nohah 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 Huram.

^{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. Gera was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸Shaharaim divorced his wives Hushim and Baara in Moab. After he did this he had some children with another wife. ^{9–10}Shaharaim 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.

^{12–13}Elpaal'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. Those sons forced the people that 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, ²⁴Hananiah, 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 was Gibeon's father. He lived in the town of Gibeon. Jeiel's wife was named Maacah. ³⁰Jeiel's oldest son was Abdon. Other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³¹Gedor, Ahio, Zeker, and Mikloth. ³²Mikloth 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.

Jehubbah Or, "Hubbah."

descendants A person's children and their future families.

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 that 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 people of Israel were listed in their family histories. Those family histories were put in the book *The History of the Kings of Israel*.

The People in Jerusalem

The people of Judah were made prisoners and forced to go to Babylon. They were taken to that place because they were not faithful to God. ²The first people to come back and live in their own lands and towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites, and servants that work in the temple.*

³These are the people from the family groups of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh that 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 Shilonite people that lived in Jerusalem were: Asaiah was the oldest son and Asaiah had sons.

⁶The Zerahite people that lived in Jerusalem were: Jeuel and their relatives. There were 690 of them in all.

⁷These are the people from the family group of Benjamin that 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 that lived in Jerusalem: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jakin, and ¹¹Azariah. Azariah was Hilkiyah's son. Hilkiyah 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, Adaiah. 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 1,760 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 family group of Levi that lived in Jerusalem: Hasshub's son, Shemaiah. Hasshub was Azrikam's son. Azrikam was Hashabiah's son. Hashabiah was a descendant* 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 Elkanah's son. Berekiah lived in the small towns near the people of Netophah.

¹⁷These are the gatekeepers that lived in Jerusalem: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their relatives. Shallum was their leader. ¹⁸Now these men stand next to the King's Gate on the east side. They were the gatekeepers from the family group of Levi. ¹⁹Shallum was Kore's son. Kore was Ebiasaph's son. Ebiasaph was Korah's son. Shallum and his brothers were gatekeepers. They were from the family of Korah. They had the job of guarding the gates to the Holy Tent.* They did this just like their ancestors* had done before them. Their ancestors had the job of guarding the entrance

Holy Tent Also called the "tabernacle." The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

ancestors Literally, "fathers." This means a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

to the Holy Tent. ²⁰In the past, Phinehas was in charge of the gatekeepers. Phinehas was Eleazar's son. The Lord was with Phinehas. ²¹Zechariah was the gatekeeper at the entrance to the Holy Tent.

²²In all there were 212 men that were chosen to guard the gates of the Holy Tent.* Their names were written in their family histories in their small towns. David and Samuel the seer* chose those 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 that lived in the small towns had to come and help them at certain times. They came and helped the gatekeepers for seven days each time.

²⁶There were four gatekeepers that were the leaders of all the gatekeepers. They were Levite* men. They had the job of caring for the rooms and treasures in God's temple.* ²⁷They stayed up all night guarding God's temple. And they had the job of opening God's temple every morning.

²⁸Some of the gatekeepers had the job of caring for the dishes used in the temple* services. They counted these dishes when they were brought in. They also counted these dishes when they were taken out. ²⁹Other gatekeepers were chosen to care for the furniture and those special dishes. They also took care of the flour, wine, oil, incense,* and special oil.* ³⁰But it was the priests that had the job of mixing the special oil.

³¹There was a Levite named Mattithiah that had the job of baking the bread used for the offerings. Mattithiah was Shallum's oldest

son. Shallum was from the Korah family. ³²Some of the gatekeepers that were in the Korah family had the job of preparing the bread put on the table every Sabbath.*

³³The Levites that 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.

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

King Saul's Family History

³⁵Jeiel was Gibeon's father. Jeiel lived in the town of Gibeon. Jeiel's wife was named Maacah. ³⁶Jeiel's oldest son was Abdon. Other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³⁷Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth. ³⁸Mikloth was Shimeam's father. Jeiel's family lived near their relatives in Jerusalem.

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

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

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

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

The Death of King Saul

10 The Philistine people fought against the people of Israel. The people of Israel ran away from the Philistines. Many Israelite people were killed on Mount Gilboa. ²The Philistines continued chasing Saul and his sons. They caught them and killed them. The

Holy Tent Also called the "tabernacle." The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

seer This is another name for a prophet. See 1 Sam. 9:9–11.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

Levite A person from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

incense A kind of spice that smells good when it is burned. It was burned as a gift to God.

special oil Or "perfume." This might be the oil used to anoint priests, prophets, and kings. See Ex. 30:22–38.

Sabbath Saturday. A special day of rest and worship for the Jews.

Ahaz ... Jarah's father Hebrew has only, "Ahaz was the father of Jarah."

Philistines killed Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki Shua. ³The fighting became heavy around Saul. The archers* shot Saul with their arrows and wounded him.

⁴Then Saul said to his armorbearer,* "Pull out your sword and use it to kill me. Then those foreigners* will not hurt me and make fun of me when they come."

But Saul's armorbearer* was afraid. He refused to kill Saul. Then Saul used his own sword to kill himself. He fell on the point of his sword. ⁵The armorbearer saw that Saul was dead. Then he also killed himself. He fell on the point of his own sword and died. ⁶So Saul and three of his sons died. All of Saul's family died together.

⁷All the people of Israel living in the valley saw that their own army had run away. They saw that Saul and his sons were dead. So they left their towns and ran away. Then the Philistine people came into the towns the people of Israel had left. And the Philistine people lived in those towns.

⁸The next day, the Philistine people came to take valuable things from the dead bodies. They found Saul's body and the bodies of his sons on Mount Gilboa. ⁹The Philistines took things from Saul's body. They took Saul's head and armor. They sent messengers through all their country to tell the news to their false gods and to their people. ¹⁰The Philistines put Saul's armor 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 the Philistine people 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. Those brave men buried the bones of Saul and his sons under the large tree

in Jabesh. Then they showed their sadness and fasted for seven days.

¹³Saul died because he was not faithful to the Lord. Saul did not obey the Lord's word. Saul also went to a medium* and asked her for advice 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 people of Israel 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 people of Israel. You will become the leader over my people.'"

³All the leaders of Israel came to King David at the town of Hebron. David made an agreement with those leaders in Hebron before the Lord. The leaders anointed* David. That made him king over Israel. The Lord promised this would happen. The Lord had used Samuel to make that promise.

David Captures Jerusalem

⁴David and all the people of Israel went to the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was called Jebus at that time. The people living in that city were named Jebusites. The people that lived in the city ⁵said to David, "You can't get inside our city." But David did defeat those people. David took over the fortress* of Zion.* This place became the City of David.*

⁶David said, "The person that leads the attack on the Jebusite people will become the commander over all my army." So Joab led

medium A person that lets a spirit take control of him and let him tell things that would happen in the future. See 1 Sam. 28:7-19.

We are ... blood A way of saying they were David's relatives.

anointed To pour olive oil on a person's head to show he was chosen by God to be a king, priest, or prophet.

fortress A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

Zion The southeast part of the mountain Jerusalem is built on. Sometimes it means the people of God living in Jerusalem.

City of David The southeastern and oldest part of the city of Jerusalem.

archers Soldiers that use bows and arrows in war.

armorbearer A young man that carried a soldier's weapons.

foreigners Men from other countries that are not circumcised.

This showed that those men did not share in the special agreement with God.

Dagon The national god of the Philistine people. Its head, arms, and body looked like a person, and its lower body was like the tail of a fish.

the attack. Joab was Zeruah's son. Joab became the commander of the army.

⁷Then David made his home in the fortress.* That is why it is named the City of David.* ⁸David built the city around the fort. He built it from the Millo* to the wall around the city. Joab repaired the other parts of the city. ⁹David continued to grow greater. And the Lord All-Powerful was with him.

The Three Heroes

¹⁰This is a list of the leaders over David's special soldiers. These heroes became very powerful with David in his kingdom. They and all the people of Israel supported David and made him king. It happened just like God had promised.

¹¹This is a list of David's special soldiers:

Jashobeam the Hacmonite.* Jashobeam was the leader of the chariot officers.* Jashobeam used his spear to kill 300 men at one time.

¹²Next, there was Eleazar son of Dodai* from Ahoah. Eleazar was one of The Three Heroes. ¹³Eleazar was with David at Pasmammim. The Philistines had come to that place to fight a war. There was a field full of barley at that place. The people of Israel ran away from the Philistines. ¹⁴But the [Three Heroes] stood there in that field and defended it. They defeated the Philistines. The Lord gave the people of Israel a great victory.

¹⁵Once, David was at the cave of Adullam and the Philistine army was down in the Valley of Rephaim. Three of the Thirty Heroes* crawled flat on the ground all the way to that cave to join David.

fortress A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

City of David The southeastern and oldest part of the city of Jerusalem.

Millo The Millo was probably a raised platform of land southeast of the temple area in Jerusalem.

Jashobeam the Hacmonite This is "Josheb Bassshebeth the Tahkemonite" in 2 Sam. 23:8.

chariot officers Or, "The Thirty" or "The Three." See 2 Sam. 23:8.

Eleazar son of Dodai Or, "Eleazar his cousin."

Thirty Heroes These men were David's famous group of very brave soldiers.

¹⁶Another time, David was in the fortress,* and a group of Philistine soldiers was in Bethlehem. ¹⁷David was thirsty [for some water from his home town]. So he said, "I wish someone could give me some water from that well near the city gate in Bethlehem." [David did not really want this, he was only talking.]

¹⁸But the Three* fought their way through the Philistine army. These three men got some water from the well near the city gate in Bethlehem. Then the Three Heroes brought the water to David. But David refused to drink the water. He poured it out on the ground as an offering to the Lord. ¹⁹David said, "God, I can't drink this water. It would be like drinking the blood of the men who risked their lives to get this water for me." That is why David refused to drink the water. The Three Heroes did many brave things like that.

Other Brave Soldiers

²⁰Joab's brother, Abishai, was the leader of the Three Heroes. He fought 300 men with his spear and killed them. Abishai was as famous as the Three Heroes. ²¹Abishai was twice as famous as the Thirty Heroes. He became their leader, even though he was not one of the Three Heroes.

²²Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of a powerful man. He was from Kabzeel. Benaiah did brave things. Benaiah killed two of the best men from the country of Moab. One day when it was snowing, Benaiah went down into a hole in the ground and killed a lion. ²³And Benaiah killed a big Egyptian soldier. That man was about 7 1/2 feet* tall. The Egyptian had a spear that was very large and heavy. It was as big as the pole on a weaver's loom.* Benaiah had only a club. Benaiah grabbed the spear in the Egyptian's hands and took it away from him. Then Benaiah killed the Egyptian with his own spear. ²⁴Benaiah son of Jehoiada did many brave things like that. Benaiah was as famous as the Three

Three The Three Heroes, David's three bravest soldiers.

7 1/2 feet Or, "2.25m." Literally, "5 {short} cubits."

loom A machine used for making cloth.

Heroes.* ²⁵Benaiah was more famous than the Thirty Heroes,* but he was not one of the Three Heroes. David chose Benaiah to be the leader of his bodyguards.

The Thirty Heroes

²⁶The Heroic Soldiers (*The Thirty Heroes*) were: Asahel, the brother of Joab; Elhanan, son of Dodai from Bethlehem; ²⁷Shammoth the Harodite; Helez the Pelonite; ²⁸Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa; Abiezer from Anathoth; ²⁹Sibbecai the Hushathite; Ilai from Ahoah; ³⁰Maharai from Netophah; Heled son of Baanah from Netophah; ³¹Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjamin; Benaiah, the Pirathonite; ³²Hurai from the Brooks of Gaash; Abiel the Arbathite; ³³Azmaveth the Baharumite; Eliahba the Shaalbonite; ³⁴the sons of Hashem the Gizonite; Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite; ³⁵Ahiam son of Sacar the Hararite; Eliphai son of Ur; ³⁶Hepher the Mekerathite; Ahijah the Pelonite; ³⁷Hezro the Carmelite; Naarai son of Ezbai; ³⁸Joel, Nathan's brother; Mibhar son of Hagri; ³⁹Zelek the Ammonite; Naharai from Beeroth (Naharai carried the armor for Joab son of Zeruah.); ⁴⁰Ira the Ithrite; Gareb the Ithrite; ⁴¹Uriah the Hittite; Zabad son of Ahlai; ⁴²Adina son of Shiza from the family group of Reuben. (Adina was the leader of the family group of Reuben, but he was also one of the Thirty Heroes.*); ⁴³Hanan son of Maacah; Joshaphat the Mithnite; ⁴⁴Uzzia the Ashterathite; Shama and Jeiel sons of Hotham from Aroer; ⁴⁵Jediael son of Shimri and his brother Joha the Tizite; ⁴⁶Eliel the Mahavite; Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam; Ithmah the Moabite; ⁴⁷Eliel; Obed; and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

The Brave Men Who Joined David

12 This is a list of the men who came to David while he was at Ziklag. This was when David was hiding from Saul son of Kish. These men helped David in battle. ²These men could shoot arrows from their bows with their right or left hand. They could

also throw stones from their slings* with their right or left hand. They were Saul's relatives from the family group of Benjamin. Their names were:

³Ahiezer, their leader, and Joash (Ahiezer and Joash were sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite.); Jeziel and Pelet (Jeziel and Pelet were Azmaveth's sons.); Beracah and Jehu from the town of Anathoth. ⁴Ishmaiah from the town of Gibeon (Ishmaiah was a hero with the Three Heroes and he was also a leader of the Three Heroes); Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad from the Gederathite people; ⁵Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, and Shemariah; Shephatiah from Haripha; ⁶Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, all from the family group of Korah; ⁷Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from the town of Gedor.

The Gadites

⁸Part of the family group of Gad joined David at his fortress* in the desert. They were brave soldiers trained for war. They were skilled with the shield and spear. They looked as fierce as lions. And they could run as fast as gazelles* in the mountains.

⁹Ezer was the leader of the army from the family group 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.

¹⁴Those men were leaders of the Gadite army. The weakest from that group could fight 100 enemy soldiers. The strongest from that group could fight 1,000 enemy soldiers. ¹⁵The people from the family group of Gad were the soldiers that went across the Jordan River in the first month of the year. That was a time of year when the Jordan River was flooding. They chased away all the people

Three Heroes These were David's three bravest soldiers.

Thirty Heroes These men were David's famous group of very brave soldiers.

slings A strip of leather for throwing rocks.

fortress A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

gazelles Animals like deer.

living in the valleys. They chased those people to the east and to the west.

Other Soldiers Join David

¹⁶Other men from the family groups of Benjamin and Judah also came to David at the fortress.* ¹⁷David went out to meet them. David said to them, “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, then may the God of our ancestors see what you did and punish you.”

¹⁸Amasai was the leader of the Thirty Heroes.* Then the Spirit came over Amasai and he said,

“We are yours, David!
We are with you, son of Jesse!
Peace, peace to you!
Peace to the people who help you.
Why? 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 family group of Manasseh also joined David. They joined David when he went with the Philistines to fight Saul. But David and his men did not really help the Philistines. The Philistine leaders talked about David helping them, but then they decided to send him away. Those rulers said, “If David goes back to his master Saul, then our heads will be cut off!” ²⁰These were the men from Manasseh that joined David when he went to the town of Ziklag: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai. All of them were generals* from the family group of Manasseh. ²¹They helped David fight against bad men. Those bad men were going around the country and stealing things from people. All these men of Manasseh were brave soldiers. They became leaders in David’s army.

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

Other Men Join David at Hebron

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

²⁴From the family group of Judah there were 6,800 men ready for war. They carried shields and spears.

²⁵From the family group of Simeon there were 7,100 men. They were brave soldiers ready for war.

²⁶From the family group of Levi there were 4,600 men. ²⁷Jehoiada was in that group. He was a leader from Aaron’s family. There were 3,700 men with Jehoiada. ²⁸Zadok was also in that group. He was a brave young soldier. He came with 22 officers from his family.

²⁹From the family group of Benjamin there were 3,000 men. They were Saul’s relatives. Most of those men stayed faithful to Saul’s family until that time.

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

³¹From half of Manasseh’s family group there were 18,000 men. They were called by name to come and make David king.

³²From the family of Issachar there were 200 wise leaders. Those men understood the right thing for Israel to do at the right time. Their relatives were with them and under their command.

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

³⁴From the family group of Naphtali there were 1,000 officers. They had 37,000 men with them. Those men carried shields and spears.

³⁵From the family group of Dan there were 28,600 men ready for war.

³⁶From the family group of Asher there were 40,000 trained soldiers ready for war.

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

Thirty Heroes Or, “The Three” or “the chariot officers.”
generals Literally, “leaders over 1,000 men.”

³⁸All those men were brave fighters. They came to the town of Hebron fully agreed to make David king of all Israel. All the other people of Israel also agreed that David should be king. ³⁹The men spent three days at Hebron with David. They ate and drank, because their relatives had prepared food for them. ⁴⁰Also, their neighbors from the areas where the family groups of Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali live brought food on donkeys, camels, mules, and cattle. They brought much 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. ²Then David called the people of Israel together. He said to them: “If you think it is a good idea, and if it is what the Lord wants, let us send a message to our brothers in all the areas of Israel. Let’s also send the message to the priests and Levites* that live with our brothers in their towns and the fields near those towns. Let the message tell them to come and join us. ³Let’s bring the Box of the Agreement* back to us in Jerusalem. We did not take care of the Box of the Agreement while Saul was king.” ⁴So all the people of Israel agreed with David. They all thought it was the right thing to do.

⁵So David gathered all the people of Israel 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 people of Israel with him went to Baalah of Judah. (Baalah is another name for Kiriath Jearim.) They went there to bring out the Box of the Agreement. That Box of the Agreement is the Box of God the Lord. He sits above the Cherub angels.* It is the Box that is called by the Lord’s Name.

Levites People from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government.

Box of the Agreement Also called “The Ark of the Covenant,” the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

Cherub angels Special angels from God. Statues of these angels were on top of the Box of the Agreement.

⁷The people moved the Box of the Agreement* from Abinadab’s house. They put it on a new wagon. Uzzah and Ahio were driving the wagon.

⁸David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before God. They were praising God and singing songs. They were playing harps,* lyres,* drums, cymbals,* and trumpets.

⁹They came to Kidon’s threshing floor.* The bulls pulling the wagon stumbled. And the Box of the Agreement* almost fell. Uzzah reached out with his hand to catch the Box. ¹⁰The Lord became very angry at Uzzah. The Lord killed Uzzah because he touched the Box. So Uzzah died there in front of God. ¹¹God showed his anger at Uzzah. And this made David angry. Since that time until now that place has been called “Perez Uzzah.”*

¹²David was afraid of God that day. David said, “I can’t bring the Box of the Agreement* here to me!” ¹³So David did not take the Box of the Agreement with him to the City of David.* He left the Box of the Agreement at Obed Edom’s house. Obed Edom was from the city of Gath. ¹⁴The Box of the Agreement stayed with Obed Edom’s family in his house for three months. The Lord blessed Obed Edom’s family and everything Obed Edom owned.

David’s Kingdom Grows

14 Hiram was king of the city of Tyre. Hiram sent messengers to David. Hiram also sent logs from cedar trees, stonecutters,* and carpenters* to David. Hiram sent them to build a house for David. ²Then David could see that the Lord had really made him king of Israel. The Lord made David’s kingdom very large and powerful. God did this because he loved David and the people of Israel.

harps Musical instruments with several strings.

lyres An instrument with several strings, like a harp.

cymbals Brass plates that were hit together to make a ringing noise.

threshing floor A place where grain is beaten or walked on to remove the hulls from the grain.

Perez Uzzah This means “the outburst at Uzzah.”

City of David The southeastern and oldest part of the city of Jerusalem.

stonecutters Men that cut stones and build things with them.

carpenters Men that build things with wood.

³David married more women in the city of Jerusalem. And he had more sons and daughters. ⁴These are the names of David's children born in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, ⁶Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁷Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

David Defeats the Philistines

⁸The Philistine people heard David had been chosen to be the king of Israel. So, all the Philistine people went to look for David. David heard about it. Then he went out to fight the Philistine people. ⁹The Philistines attacked the people living in the Valley of Rephaim and stole their things. ¹⁰David asked God, "Should I go and fight the Philistine people? Will you let me defeat them?"

The Lord answered David, "Go. I will let you defeat the Philistine people."

¹¹Then David and his men went up to the town of Baal Perazim. There David and his men defeated the Philistine people. David said, "Waters break out from a broken dam. In the same way, God has broken through my enemies! God has done this through me." That is why that place is named Baal Perazim.* ¹²The Philistine people had left their idols at Baal Perazim. David ordered his men to burn those idols.

Another Victory Over the Philistine people

¹³The Philistines attacked the people living in the Valley of Rephaim again. ¹⁴David prayed to God again. God answered David's prayer. God said, "David, don't follow the Philistines up [the hill] when you attack. Instead, go around them and hide on the other side of the balsam trees. ¹⁵[Tell a watchman to climb up into] the top of the trees. As soon as he hears the sounds of marching, attack the Philistines. I (*God*) will go out in front of you and defeat the Philistine army!" ¹⁶David did what God told him to do. So David and his men defeated the Philistine army. They killed Philistine soldiers all the way from the town of Gibeon to the town of Gezer. ¹⁷So David

became famous in all the countries. The Lord made all nations afraid of David.

The Box of the Agreement in Jerusalem

15 David built houses for himself in the City of David.* Then he built a place to put the Box of the Agreement.* He set up a tent for it. ²Then David said, "Only the Levites* are permitted to carry the Box of the Agreement. The Lord chose them to carry the Box of the Agreement and to serve him forever."

³David told all the people of Israel to meet together at Jerusalem [while the Levites carried] the Box of the Agreement* to the place he had made for it. ⁴David called together the descendants* of Aaron and the Levites. ⁵There were 120 people from Kohath's family group. Uriel was their leader. ⁶There were 220 people from Merari's family group. Asaiah was their leader. ⁷There were 130 people from Gershon's family group. Joel was their leader. ⁸There were 200 people from Elizaphan's family group. Shemaiah was their leader. ⁹There were 80 people from Hebron's family group. Eliel was their leader. ¹⁰There were 112 people from Uzziel's family group. 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 family group of Levi. You and the other Levites must make yourselves holy.* Then bring the Box of the Agreement* to the place I have made for it. ¹³The last time we

City of David The southeastern and oldest part of the city of Jerusalem.

Box of the Agreement Also called "The Ark of the Covenant," the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

Levites People from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

holy This means "prepared to serve the Lord."

Baal Perazim This name means, "the Lord breaks through."

did not ask the Lord how to carry the Box of the Agreement. You Levites did not carry it, and that is why the Lord punished us.”

¹⁴Then the priests and Levites* made themselves holy* so they could carry the Box of the Agreement* of the Lord God of Israel. ¹⁵The Levites used the special poles to carry the Box of the Agreement on their shoulders, the way Moses commanded. They carried the Box just like the Lord said.

The Singers

¹⁶David told the Levite leaders to get their brothers, the singers. The singers were to take their lyres,* harps*, and cymbals* and sing happy songs.

¹⁷Then the Levites got Heman and his brothers, Asaph and Ethan. Heman was Joel’s son. Asaph was Berekiah’s son. Ethan was Kushaiah’s son. These men were 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 played bronze cymbals.* ²⁰Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah played the alamothe* lyres.* ²¹Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed Edom, Jeiel, and Azariah played the sheminith* harps.* This was their job forever. 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 Box of the Agreement.* ²⁴The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer had the job of blowing trumpets [as they walked] in front of the Box of the Agreement. Obed Edom and Jehiah were the other guards for the Box of the Agreement.

²⁵David, the elders (*leaders*) of Israel, and the generals* went to get the Box of the Agreement.* They brought it out from Obed Edom’s house. Everyone was very happy! ²⁶God helped the Levites* that carried the Box of the Agreement. They sacrificed* seven bulls and seven rams. ²⁷All the Levites that carried the Box of the Agreement 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 made from fine linen. And David also wore an ephod* made of fine linen.

²⁸So all the people of Israel brought up the Box of the Agreement.* They shouted, they blew rams’ horns and trumpets, and they played cymbals,* lyres,* and harps.*

²⁹When the Box of the Agreement* arrived at the City of David,* Michal looked through a window. Michal was Saul’s daughter. She saw King David dancing and playing around. And she lost her respect for David—[she thought he was being foolish].

16The Levites brought the Box of the Agreement* 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 fellowship offerings, he used the Lord’s name to bless the people.

Levites People from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government. **made themselves holy** This means “prepared themselves to serve the Lord.”

Box of the Agreement Also called “The Ark of the Covenant,” the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

lyres An instrument with several strings, like a harp.

harps Musical instruments with several strings.

cymbals Brass plates that were hit together to make a ringing noise.

alamoth We don’t know the exact meaning of this word, but it probably means “high pitched.”

sheminith We don’t know the exact meaning of this word, but it probably means “low pitched.”

generals Literally, “leaders over 1,000 men.”

sacrifice(d) To offer a gift to God. Usually it was a special animal that was killed and burned on an altar.

linen A type of cloth.

ephod This was probably a special vest or coat like the High Priest of Israel wore (see Exodus 28). Or it may have been an idol.

City of David The southeastern and oldest part of the city of Jerusalem.

³Then he gave a loaf of bread, some dates, and raisins to every Israelite man and woman.

⁴Then David chose some of the Levites to serve before the Box of the Agreement.* Those Levites* 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]. Asaph's 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 that always blew the trumpets before the Box of the Agreement. ⁷This was when David first gave Asaph and his brothers the job of singing praises to the Lord.

David's Song of Thanks

- 8 Praise the Lord.
Call on his name.
Tell people about the great things
the Lord has done.
- 9 Sing to the Lord.
Sing praises to the Lord.
Tell about all his wonderful works.
- 10 Be proud of the Lord's holy name.
All you people coming to the Lord,
be happy!
- 11 Look to the Lord and his strength.
Always go to him for help.
- 12 Remember the wonderful things
that the Lord has done.
Remember his decisions
and the powerful things he has done.
- 13 The people of Israel
are the Lord's servants.
The descendants of Jacob,
are the Lord's chosen people.

Box of the Agreement Also called "The Ark of the Covenant," the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

Levites People from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government.

cymbals Brass plates that were hit together to make a ringing noise.

lyres An instrument with several strings, like a harp.

harps Musical instruments with several strings.

- 14 The Lord is our God.
His power is everywhere.
- 15 Remember his Agreement forever.
He gave those commandments
for a thousand generations.
- 16 Remember the Agreement
that the Lord made with Abraham.
Remember his promise to Isaac.
- 17 The Lord made it a law for Jacob.
It is the Agreement with Israel
that continues forever.
- 18 The Lord said to Israel:
"I will give the land of Canaan to you.
The promised land will be yours."
- 19 There were only a few people.
A few strangers in a foreign land.
- 20 They went from one nation to another.
They went from one kingdom
to another.
- 21 But the Lord did not let anyone hurt them.
The Lord warned kings not to hurt them.
- 22 The Lord told those kings,
"Don't hurt my chosen people.
Don't hurt my prophets."
- 23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Each day you must tell the good news
about the Lord saving us.
- 24 Tell all nations about the Lord's glory.
Tell everyone how wonderful he is.
- 25 The Lord is great,
and he should be praised.
The Lord is more awesome
than all the other gods.
- 26 Why? Because all the gods of the world
are only worthless statues.
But the Lord made the skies!
- 27 The Lord has glory and honor.
The Lord is like a bright, shining light.
- 28 Families and people,
praise the Lord's glory and power!
- 29 Praise the Lord's glory.
Show honor to his name.
Bring your offering to the Lord.
Worship the Lord and his holy beauty.
- 30 The whole earth should shake with fear in
front of the Lord!
But he made the earth strong;
the world won't move.

- 31 Let the earth and skies be happy.
Let people everywhere say,
“The Lord rules!”
- 32 Let the sea and everything in it shout!
Let the fields and everything in them
show their joy!
- 33 The trees of the forest will sing with joy in
front of the Lord!
Why? Because the Lord is coming.
He is coming to judge the world.
- 34 Oh, thank the Lord—he is good.
The Lord’s love continues forever.
- 35 Say to the Lord,
“Save us, God our Savior.
Gather us together,
and save us from the other nations.
Then we can praise your holy name.
Then we can praise you with our songs.”
- 36 May the Lord God of Israel
be praised forever
as he has been praised forever!

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

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

³⁹David left Zadok the priest and the other
priests that served with him in front of the
Lord’s Tent* at the high place* in Gibeon.
⁴⁰Every morning and evening Zadok and the
other priests offered burnt offerings on the
altar of burnt offerings. They did this to
follow the rules written in the Law of the Lord
which the Lord had given Israel. ⁴¹Heman and
Jeduthun and all the other Levites were
chosen by name to sing the songs of praise
such as, *Praise the Lord because his love*

*continues forever.** ⁴²Heman and Jeduthun
were with them. They 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.
Each person went to his own home. And
David also went home to bless his family.

God’s Promise to David

17 After David had moved into his house,
he said to Nathan the prophet, “Look, I
am living in a house made of cedar wood, but
the Box of the Agreement* sits under a tent. [I
want to build a temple* for God.]”

²Nathan answered David, “You may do
what you want to do. God is with you.”

³But that night the word of God came to
Nathan. ⁴God said, “Go and tell these things
to my servant David: The Lord says, ‘David,
you are not the person to build a house for me
to live in. ^{5–6}Since the time I brought Israel
out of Egypt until now, I have not lived in a
house. I have moved around in a tent. I chose
people to be special leaders for the people of
Israel. Those leaders were like shepherds for
my people. While I was going around in Israel
to different places, I never said to any of those
leaders: Why haven’t you built a house of
cedar wood for me?’

⁷“Now, tell these things to my servant
David: The Lord All-Powerful says, ‘I took
you from the fields and from taking care of
the sheep. I made you king of my people
Israel. ⁸I have been with you everywhere you
went. I went ahead of you and I killed your
enemies. Now I will make you one of the
most famous men on earth. ⁹I am giving this
place to my people Israel. They will plant
their trees, and they will sit in peace under

Praise ... forever See 2 Chron.7:6, Psalms 118 and 136.

cymbals Brass plates that were hit together to make a ringing
noise.

Box of the Agreement Also called “The Ark of the Covenant,”
the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten
Commandments written on them and the other things that
proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in
the Sinai Desert.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Lord’s Tent Or, “tabernacle.” Also called the “meeting tent.”
The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The
people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in
Jerusalem.

high place A place for worshiping God or false gods. These
places were often on the hills and mountains.

those trees. They won't be bothered anymore. Evil people won't hurt them like they did at first. ¹⁰Those bad things happened, but I chose leaders to care for my people Israel. And I will also defeat all your enemies.

“I tell you that the Lord will build a house for you.* ¹¹When you die, and you join your ancestors,* then I will let your own son be the new king. The new king will be one of your sons. And I will make his kingdom strong. ¹²Your son will build a house for me. I will make your son's family rule forever. ¹³I will be his Father, and he will be my son. Saul was the king before you. And I took away my support from Saul. But I will never stop loving your son. ¹⁴I will put him in charge of my house and kingdom forever. His rule will continue forever!”

¹⁵Nathan told David about the vision* and about all of the things that God had said.

David's Prayer

¹⁶Then King David went to the Holy Tent, and sat before the Lord. David said, “Lord God, you have done so much for me and my family. And I don't understand why. ¹⁷Besides all those things, you let me know what will happen to my family in the future. You have treated me like a very important man. ¹⁸What more can I say? You have done so much for me. And I am only your servant. You know that. ¹⁹Lord, you have done this wonderful thing for me. And you did it because you wanted to. ²⁰There is no one like you, Lord. There is no God except you. We have never heard of any god doing wonderful things like those! ²¹Is there any other nation like Israel? No! Israel is the only nation on earth that you have done these wonderful things for. You took us out of Egypt and you made us free. You made yourself famous! You went in front of your people, and forced

I ... a house for you This does not mean a real house. It means the Lord would make men from David's family kings for many, many years.

ancestors Literally, “fathers.” This means a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

vision Like a dream. God gave messages to his special people by letting them see and hear things in visions.

other people to leave their land for us! ²²You took Israel to be your people forever. And Lord, you became their God!

²³“Lord, you made this promise to me and my family. Now, keep your promise forever. Do what you said you would! ²⁴Keep your promise so people will honor your name forever. Then people will say, ‘The Lord All-Powerful is Israel's God!’ I am your servant! Please let my family be strong and continue to serve you.

²⁵“My God, you spoke to me, your servant. You made it clear that you would make my family a family of kings. That is why I am being so bold—that is why I am asking you to do these things. ²⁶Lord, you are God. And God, you yourself promised to do these good thing for me. ²⁷Lord, you have been kind enough to bless my family. You were kind enough to promise that my family will serve you forever. Lord, you yourself blessed my family, so my family really will be blessed forever!”

David Wins Over Different Nations

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

²Then David defeated the country of Moab. The Moabite people became David's servants. They brought tribute* to David.

³David 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 because Hadadezer tried to spread his kingdom all the way to the Euphrates River. ⁴David took from Hadadezer 1,000 chariots*, 7,000 chariot drivers, and 20,000 soldiers. David also crippled most of Hadadezer's horses that were used for pulling chariots. But David saved enough horses to pull 100 chariots.

⁵The Aramean people from the city of Damascus came to help Hadadezer. Hadadezer was the king of Zobah. But David defeated

tribute Money and gifts paid by one king to the king that defeated him.

chariot(s) A small wagon used in war.

and killed 22,000 Aramean soldiers. ⁶Then David put fortresses* in the city of Damascus in Aram. The Aramean people became David's servants and brought tribute* 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 much bronze from the towns of Tebah and Cun. Those towns belonged to Hadadezer. Later, Solomon used this bronze to make the bronze tank, the bronze columns, and other things made from bronze for the temple.*

⁹Tou was king of the city of Hamath. Hadadezer was the king of Zobah. Tou heard that David had defeated all of Hadadezer's army. ¹⁰So Tou 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 Tou before. Hadoram gave David all kinds of things made of gold, silver, and bronze. ¹¹King David made those things holy and gave them to the Lord. David did the same thing with all the silver and gold he had gotten from Edom, Moab, the Ammonite people, the Philistine people, and Amalekite people.

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

David's Important Officials

¹⁴David was king over all of 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

fortress(es) A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

tribute Money and gifts paid by one king to the king that defeated him.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

the scribe.* ¹⁷Benaiah was responsible for leading the Kerethite and Pelethite people.* 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 Ammonite people. Nahash died, and his son became the new king. ²Then David said, "Nahash was kind to me, so I will be kind to Hanun, Nahash's son." So David sent messengers to comfort Hanun about the death of his father. David's messengers went to the country of Ammon to comfort Hanun.

³But the Ammonite leaders said to Hanun, "Don't be fooled. David didn't really send these men to comfort you or to honor your dead father! No, David sent his servants to spy on you and your land. David really wants to destroy your country!" ⁴So Hanun arrested David's servants and cut off their beards.* Hanun also cut their clothes off at the hip. Then he sent them away.

⁵David's men were too embarrassed to go home. Some people went to David and told him what happened to his men. So King David sent this message to his men: "Stay in the town of Jericho until your beards grow again. Then you can come back home."

⁶The Ammonite people saw they had caused themselves to become hated enemies of David. Then Hanun and the Ammonite people used 75,000 pounds* of silver to buy chariots* and chariot drivers from Mesopotamia.* They also got chariots and chariot drivers from the towns of Maacah and Zobah in Aram. ⁷The Ammonite people bought 32,000 chariots. They also paid the king of Maacah and his army to come and help them. The king of

scribe A man that wrote down and copied books and letters. He often became an expert at knowing the meaning of those writings (*scriptures*).

Kerethite and Pelethite people These were the king's bodyguards.

cut off their beards It was against the Law of Moses for an Israelite man to cut off his beard.

75,000 pounds Or, "34,000kg." Literally, "1,000 kikars."

chariot(s) A small wagon used in war.

Mesopotamia Literally, "Aram Naharaim."

Maacah and his people came and set up a camp near the town of Medeba. The Ammonite people themselves came out of their towns and got ready for battle.

⁸David heard that the Ammonite people were getting ready for war. So he sent Joab and the whole army of Israel to fight the Ammonite people. ⁹The Ammonites came out and got ready for battle. They were near the city gate. The kings that had come to help stayed out in the fields by themselves.

¹⁰Joab saw that there were two army groups ready to fight against him. One group was in front of him and the other group was behind him. So Joab chose some of the best soldiers of Israel. He sent them out to fight against the army of Aram. ¹¹Joab put the rest of the army of Israel under Abishai's command. Abishai was Joab's brother. Those soldiers went out to fight against the Ammonite army. ¹²Joab said to Abishai, "If the army from Aram is too strong for me, then you must help me. But if the Ammonite army is too strong for you, then I will help you. ¹³Let's be brave and strong while we fight for our people and for the cities of our God! May the Lord do what he thinks is right."

¹⁴Joab and the army with him attacked the army from Aram. The army from Aram ran away from Joab and his army. ¹⁵The Ammonite army saw that the army from Aram was running away, so they also ran away. They ran away from Abishai and his army. The Ammonites went back to their city, and Joab went back to Jerusalem.

¹⁶The Aramean leaders saw that Israel had defeated them. So they sent messengers to get help from the Aramean people living east of the Euphrates River. Shophach was the commander of Hadadezer's army from Aram. Shophach also led those other Aramean soldiers.

¹⁷David heard the news that the people of Aram were gathering for battle. So David gathered all the people of Israel. David led them across the Jordan River. They came face to face with the Arameans. David got his army ready for battle and they attacked the Arameans. ¹⁸The Arameans ran away from the Israelites. David and his army killed 7,000 Aramean

chariot drivers and 40,000 Aramean soldiers. David and his army also killed Shophach the commander of the Aramean army.

¹⁹When Hadadezer's officers saw that Israel had defeated them, they made peace with David. They became David's servants. So the Arameans refused to help the Ammonites again.

Joab Destroys the Ammonites

20 In the spring,* Joab led the army of Israel out to battle. That was the time of year when kings went out to battle, but David stayed in Jerusalem. The army of Israel went to the country of Ammon and destroyed it. Then they went to the city of Rabbah. The army camped around the city—they stayed there to keep people from going in or out of the city. Joab and the army of Israel fought against the city of Rabbah until they destroyed it.

²David took the crown from their king's* head. That gold crown weighed about 75 pounds.* There were valuable stones in the crown. The crown was put on David's head. Then David had a great many valuable things brought out of the city of Rabbah. ³David brought out the people in Rabbah and forced them to work with saws, iron picks, and axes. David did the same thing to all the cities of the Ammonite people. Then David and all the army went back to Jerusalem.

Philistine Giants Are Killed

⁴Later the people of Israel had war with the Philistine people at the town of Gezer. At that time, Sibbecai from Hushah killed Sippai. Sippai was one of the sons of the giants. So those Philistine people became like slaves to the Israelites.

⁵Another time, the people of Israel again had war against the Philistine people. Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi. Lahmi was Goliath's brother. Goliath was from the town of Gath.

In the spring Literally, "At the return of the year."

their king's Or, "Milcom," the god of the Ammonite people.

75 pounds Literally, "1 kikar."

Lahmi's spear was very big and heavy. It was like the large pole on a loom.*

⁶Later, the Israelites fought another war with the Philistine people at the town of Gath. In this town there was a very large man. He had 24 fingers and toes. That man had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He also was a son of the giants. ⁷So when that man made fun of Israel, Jonathan killed him. Jonathan was Shimea's son. Shimea was David's brother.

⁸Those Philistine men were sons of the giants from the town of Gath. David and his servants killed those giants.

David Sins By Counting Israel

21 Satan was against the people of Israel. He encouraged David to count the people of Israel. ²So David said to Joab and the leaders of the people, "Go and count all the people of Israel. Count everyone in the country—from the town of Beersheba all the way to the town of Dan. Then tell me, so I will know how many people there are."

³But Joab answered, "May the Lord make his nation 100 times as large! Sir, all the people of Israel are your servants. Why do you want to do this thing, my lord and king? You will make all the people of Israel guilty of sin!"

⁴But King David was stubborn. Joab had to do what the king said. So Joab left and went through all the country of Israel counting the people. Then Joab came back to Jerusalem ⁵and told David how many people there were. In Israel there were 1,100,000 men who could use a sword. And there were 470,000 men in Judah who could use a sword. ⁶Joab did not count the family groups of Levi and Benjamin. Joab did not count those family groups because he did not like King David's order. ⁷David had done a bad thing in God's sight. So God punished Israel.

God Punishes Israel

⁸Then David said to God, "I have done something very foolish. I have done a very

bad sin by counting the people of Israel. Now, I beg you to take the sin away from me, your servant."

^{9–10}Gad was David's seer.* The Lord said to Gad, "Go and tell David: 'This is what the Lord says: I am going to give you three choices. You must choose one of them. Then I will punish you the way you choose.'"

^{11–12}Then Gad went to David. Gad said to David, "The Lord says, 'David, choose which punishment you want: three years without enough food, or three months of running away from your enemies while they use their swords to chase you, or three days of punishment from the Lord. Terrible sicknesses will spread through the country, and the Lord's angel will go through Israel destroying the people.' David, God sent me. Now, you must decide which answer I will give to him."

¹³David said to Gad, "I am in trouble! I don't want some man to decide my punishment. The Lord is very merciful, so let the Lord decide how to punish me."

¹⁴So the Lord sent terrible sicknesses to Israel, and 70,000 people died. ¹⁵God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But when the angel started to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord saw it and felt sorry. So the Lord decided not to destroy Jerusalem. The Lord said to the angel who was destroying, "Stop! That is enough!" The angel of the Lord was standing at the threshing floor* of Araunah the Jebusite.*

¹⁶David looked up and saw the Lord's angel in the sky. The angel was holding his sword over the city of Jerusalem. Then David and the elders (*leaders*) bowed with their faces touching the ground. David and the elders (*leaders*) were wearing the special clothes to show their sadness. ¹⁷David said to God, "I am the one that sinned! I gave the order for the people to be counted! I was wrong! The people of Israel did not do anything wrong! Lord my God, punish me

seer This is another name for a prophet. See 1 Sam. 9:9-11.

threshing floor A place where grain is beaten or walked on to remove the hulls from the grain.

Jebusite A person that lived in Jerusalem before the Israelites took the city. "Jebus" was the old name for Jerusalem.

loom A machine for making cloth from thread.

and my family! But stop the terrible sicknesses that are killing your people!”

¹⁸Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Gad. He said, “Tell David to build an altar* to worship the Lord. David must build that altar near the threshing floor* of Araunah the Jebusite.*” ¹⁹Gad told those things to David, and David went to Araunah’s threshing floor.

²⁰Araunah was threshing* the wheat. Araunah turned around and saw the angel. Araunah’s four sons ran away to hide. ²¹David walked up [the hill] to Araunah. Araunah saw him and left the threshing floor. He walked to David and bowed with his face to the ground in front of him.

²²David said to Araunah, “Sell me your threshing floor.* I will pay you the full price. Then I can use the area to build an altar* to worship the Lord. Then the terrible sicknesses will be stopped.”

²³Araunah said to David, “Take this threshing floor*! You are my lord and king. Do anything you want. Look, I will also give you cattle for the burnt offering.* I will give the wooden floor boards so you can burn them for the fire on the altar.* And I will give the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this to you!”

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

²⁵So David gave Araunah about 15 pounds* of gold for the place. ²⁶David built an altar* for worshiping the Lord there. David offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. David prayed to the Lord. The Lord answered David by sending fire down from heaven. The fire came down on the altar of burnt offering.

altar A stone table used for burning sacrifices offered as gifts to God.

threshing floor A place where grain is beaten or walked on to remove the hulls from the grain.

Jebusite A person that lived in Jerusalem before the Israelites took the city. “Jebus” was the old name for Jerusalem.

threshing Beating or walking on grain to remove the hulls from the grain.

burnt offering(s) Gifts to God. Usually these were animals that were killed and completely burned on the altar.

15 pounds Literally, “600 shekels.”

²⁷Then the Lord commanded the angel to put his sword back into its sheath.*

²⁸David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor* of Araunah, so David offered sacrifices to the Lord. ²⁹(The Holy Tent* and the altar of burnt offerings were at the high place* in the town of Gibeon. Moses had made the Holy Tent while the people of Israel were in the desert. ³⁰David could not go to the Holy Tent to speak with God because he was afraid. David was afraid of the angel of the Lord and his sword.)

22 David said, “The temple* of the Lord God and the altar for burning offerings for the people of Israel will be built here.”

David Makes Plans for the Temple

²David gave an order for all foreigners living in Israel to be gathered together. David chose stonecutters* from that group of foreigners. Their job was to cut stones ready to be used for building God’s temple.* ³David got iron for making nails and hinges for the gate doors. David also got more bronze than could be weighed. ⁴And David got more cedar logs than could be counted. The people from the cities of Sidon and Tyre brought many cedar logs to David.

⁵David said, “We should build a very great temple* for the Lord. But my son Solomon is young and he hasn’t learned the things he needs to know. The Lord’s temple should be very great. It should be famous in all the nations because of its greatness and beauty. That is why I will make plans for building the Lord’s temple.” So David made many plans [for building the temple] before he died.

⁶Then David called for his son Solomon. David told Solomon to build the temple* for the Lord God of Israel. ⁷David said to Solomon, “My son, I wanted to build a temple for the name of the Lord my God. ⁸But the

sheath A case for carrying swords.

Holy Tent Also called the “tabernacle.” The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

high place(s) Places for worshiping God or false gods. These places were often on the hills and mountains.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshiping God.

stonecutters Men that cut stones and build things with them.

Lord said to me, ‘David, you have fought many wars and you have killed many people. So you can’t build a temple for my name. ⁹But you have a son that is a man of peace. I will give your son a time of peace. His enemies around him will not bother him. His name is Solomon.* And I will give Israel peace and quiet during the time that Solomon is king. ¹⁰Solomon will build a temple for my name. Solomon will be my son, and I will be his Father. And I will make Solomon’s kingdom strong. And someone from his family will rule Israel forever!’”

¹¹David also said, “Now, son, may the Lord be with you. May you be successful and build the temple* for the Lord your God, like he said you would. ¹²The Lord will make you the king of Israel. May the Lord give you wisdom and understanding so you 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 3,750 tons* of gold. And I have given about 37,500 tons* of silver. I have given so much bronze and iron that it can’t 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. The Lord helped me to 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 the things he says. Build the holy place of the Lord God. Build the temple* for the Lord’s name. Then bring the Box of the Agreement* and all the other holy things into the temple.”

Plans for the Levites to Serve in the Temple

23 David became an old man, so he made his son Solomon the new king of Israel. ²David gathered all the leaders of Israel. He also gathered the priests and Levites. ³David counted the Levites that were 30 years old and older. All together there were 38,000 Levites. ⁴David said, “24,000 Levites will supervise the work of building the Lord’s temple.* 6,000 Levites will be policemen and judges. ⁵ 4,000 Levites will be gatekeepers. And 4,000 Levites will be musicians. I made special musical instruments for them. They will use those instruments to praise the Lord.”

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

The Gershon Family Group

⁷From the family group 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, Haziël, 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 to be very special. Aaron and his descendants*

Solomon This name is like the Hebrew word meaning, “peace.”
temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

3,750 tons Literally, “100,000 kikars.”

37,500 tons Literally, “1,000,000 kikars.”

stonecutters Men that cut stones and build things with them.

carpenters Men that build things with wood.

Box of the Agreement Also called “The Ark of the Covenant,” the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

descendants A person’s children and their future families.

were chosen to be special forever and ever. They were chosen to prepare the holy things for the Lord's service. Aaron and his descendants were chosen to burn the incense* before the Lord. They were chosen to serve the Lord as priests. They were chosen to use the Lord's name and give blessings to the people forever.

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

¹⁸Izhar's oldest son was Shelomith.

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

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

The Merari Family Group

²¹Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi. Mahli's sons were Eleazar and Kish. ²²Eleazar died without having sons. He only had daughters. Eleazar's daughters married their own relatives. Their relatives were Kish's sons. ²³Mushi's sons were Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth. There were three sons in all.

The Levites' Work

²⁴These were Levi's descendants.* They were listed by their families. They were the leaders of families. Each person's name was listed. The people that were listed were 20 years old or older. They served in the Lord's temple.*

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

²⁷David's last instructions for the people of Israel was to count the descendants* from the family group of Levi. They counted the Levite men that were 20 years old and older.

²⁸The Levites* had the job of helping Aaron's descendants* in the service of the Lord's temple.* The Levites also cared for the temple yard and the side rooms in the temple. They had the job of making all holy things pure. It was their job to serve in God's temple. ²⁹They were responsible for putting the special bread on the table in the temple. They also were responsible for the flour, the grain offerings, and the bread made without yeast. They were also responsible for the baking pans and the mixed offerings. They did all the measuring. ³⁰The Levites stood every morning and gave thanks and praise to the Lord. They also did this every evening. ³¹The Levites prepared all the burnt offerings* to the Lord on the special days of rest, at the New Moon* celebrations, and at all the special holidays. They served before the Lord every day. There were special rules for how many Levites should serve each time. ³²So the Levites did all the things they were supposed to do. They took care of the Holy Tent.* They took care of the Holy Place.* And they helped their relatives, [the priests,] Aaron's descendants. The Levites helped the priests with the services at the Lord's temple.

The Groups of the Priests

24 These were the groups of Aaron's sons: Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ²But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did. And Nadab and Abihu had no sons. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. ³David separated the family groups of Eleazar and Ithamar into two different groups. David did that so those groups could do the duties of work they were given to do. David did this with the help of Zadok and

incense A kind of spice that smells good when it is burned. It was burned as a gift to God.

man of God Another name for a prophet.

descendants A person's children and all their future families.

temple Here this means the Holy Tent at Shiloh where people went to worship the Lord.

Holy Tent Also called the "tabernacle." The people would go to this tent to meet with God. The people used this tent until Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

Levites People from the tribe of Levi. The Levites helped the priests in the temple and also worked for the civil government.

burnt offering(s) Gifts to God. Usually these were animals that were killed and completely burned on the altar.

New Moon This was the first day of the Hebrew month. There were special meetings on these days to worship God.

Holy Place The room in the Holy Tent and in the temple that was used by the priests to do their daily service to God.

Ahimelech. Zadok was a descendant* of Eleazar, and Ahimelech was a descendant of Ithamar. ⁴There were more leaders from Eleazar's family than from Ithamar's. There were 16 leaders from Eleazar's family and there were eight leaders from Ithamar's family. ⁵Men were chosen from each family. They were chosen 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. All of these men were from the families of Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁶Shemaiah was the secretary.* He was Nethanel's son. Shemaiah was from the family group of Levi. Shemaiah wrote the names of those descendants.* He wrote those names in front of King David and these leaders: Zadok the priest, Ahimelech, and the leaders from the families of the priests and of the Levites. Ahimelech was Abiathar's son. Each time they threw the lots* a man was chosen, and Shemaiah wrote down that man's name. So they divided the work among the men from families of Eleazar and Ithamar.

- 7 The first group was Jehoiarib's group.
The second group was Jedaiah's group.
- 8 The third group was Harim's group.
The fourth group was Seorim's group.
- 9 The fifth group was Malkijah's group.
The sixth group was Mijamin's group.
- 10 The seventh group was Hakkoz's group.
The eighth group was Abijah's group.
- 11 The ninth group was Jeshua's group.
The tenth group was Shecaniah's group.
- 12 The eleventh group was Eliashib's group.
The twelfth group was Jakim's group.
- 13 The thirteenth group was Huppah's group.
The fourteenth group was Jeshebeab's group.
- 14 The fifteenth group was Bilgah's group.
The sixteenth group was Immer's group.
- 15 The seventeenth group was Hezir's group.

The eighteenth group was Happizzez's group.

- 16 The nineteenth group was Pethahiah's group.

The twentieth group was Jehezkel's group.

- 17 The twenty-first group was Jakin's group.
The twenty-second group was Gamul's group.

- 18 The twenty-third group was Delaiah's group.

The twenty-fourth group was Maaziah's group.

¹⁹These were the groups chosen to serve in the Lord's temple.* They obeyed Aaron's rules for serving in the temple. The Lord God of Israel had given those rules to Aaron.

The Other Levites

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

- From Amram's descendants: Shubael.
- From Shubael's descendants: Jehdeiah.
- 21 From Rehabiah: Isshiah. (Isshiah was the oldest son.)
- 22 From Izhar family group: Shelomoth.
From Shelomoth's family: Jahath.
- 23 Hebron's oldest son was Jeriah.
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 and Zaccur.
- 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.

Those are the leaders of Levite families. They are listed by their families. ³¹They were

descendant(s) A person's children and all their future families.

lots Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

Holy Place The room in the Holy Tent and in the temple that was used by the priests to do their daily service to God.

secretary A man that wrote down and copied books and letters.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

Merari The Hebrew in verses 26 and 27 is hard to understand.

chosen for special jobs. They threw lots* like their relatives, the priests. The priests were Aaron's descendants.* They threw lots in front of David the king, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the leaders of the priests' and Levite families. 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 separated Asaph's sons for special service. Asaph's sons were Heman and Jeduthun. Their special service was to prophesy* God's message by using harps,* lyres,* and cymbals.* Here is a list of the men that 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: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah. There were six of them. Jeduthun led his sons. Jeduthun used harps* to prophesy* and give thanks and praise to the Lord.

⁴Heman's sons that 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 Heman had many sons. God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. ⁶Heman led all his sons in singing in the Lord's temple.* Those sons used cymbals,* lyres,* and harps.* That was their way of serving in God's temple. King David chose those men. ⁷Those men and their relatives from

the family group of Levi were trained to sing. There were 288 men that learned to sing praises to the Lord. ⁸They threw lots* to choose the different kinds of work each person was to do. Every person was treated the same. Young and old were treated the same. And the teacher was treated the same as the student.

⁹First, there were 12 men chosen from Asaph's (Joseph's) [sons and relatives].

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 Joshbakashah's sons and relatives.

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

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.

lots Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

prophesy To speak God's message.

harps Musical instruments with several strings.

lyres An instrument with several strings, like a harp.

cymbals A pair of metal platters that are hit against each other to make a loud sound.

prophesy To announce God's message.

seer This is another name for a prophet. See 1 Sam. 9:9-11.

temple Here this means the Holy Tent at Shiloh where people went to worship the Lord.

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 Gate Keepers

26 The Groups of the Gatekeepers:

These are the gatekeepers from the Korah family. Meshelemiah [and his sons]. (Meshelemiah was Kore's son. He was from Asaph's family group.) ²Meshelemiah had sons. Zechariah was the oldest son. Jediael was the second son. Zebadiah was the third son. Jathniel was the fourth son. ³Elam was the fifth son. Jehohanan was the sixth son. And Eliehoenai was the seventh son.

⁴Obed Edom and his sons. Obed Edom's oldest son was Shemaiah. Jehozabad was his second son. Joah was his third son. Sacar was his fourth son. Nethanel was his fifth son. ⁵Ammiel was his sixth son. Issachar was his seventh son. And Peullethai was his eighth son. God truly blessed Obed Edom.* ⁶Obed Edom's son was Shemaiah. Shemaiah also had sons. Shemaiah's 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 those men were Obed Edom's descendants.* Those men and their sons and relatives were powerful men. They were good guards. Obed Edom had 62 descendants.

⁹Meshelemiah had sons and relatives that were powerful men. In all there were 18 sons and relatives.

¹⁰These are the gatekeepers from the Merari family. There was Hosah. Shimri was chosen to be the first son. Shimri was not really the oldest, but his father chose him to be the firstborn* son. ¹¹Hilkiah was his

second son. Tebaliah was his third son. And Zechariah was his fourth son. In all Hosah had 13 sons and relatives.

¹²These were the leaders of the groups of the gatekeepers. The gatekeepers had a special way to serve in the Lord's temple,* just like their relatives did. ¹³Each family was given a gate to guard. Lots* were thrown to choose a gate for a 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 counselor. 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. ¹⁶Shuppim 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 four guards at the western court.* And there were two guards on the road to the court.

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

The Treasurers and Other Officials

²⁰Ahijah was from the family group of Levi. Ahijah was responsible for taking care of the valuable things in God's temple.* Ahijah also was responsible for the places where the holy things were kept.

²¹Ladan was from Gershon's family. Jehieli was one of the leaders of Ladan's family group. ²²Jehieli's sons were Zetham and Zetham's brother Joel. They were responsible for the valuable things in the Lord's temple.*

Obed Edom God blessed Obed Edom when the Box of the Agreement stayed at his house. See 1 Chron. 21.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

firstborn The first born child. The firstborn son was very important in ancient times.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshiping God.

lots Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

court We do not know the exact meaning of this word.

²³[Other leaders were chosen] from the family groups of Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. ²⁴Shubael was the leader responsible for the valuable things in the Lord's temple.* Shubael was Gershom's son. Gershom was Moses' son. ²⁵These 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. ²⁶Shelomith and his relatives were responsible for all the things David had collected for the temple.

The officers of the army also gave things for the temple.* ²⁷They gave some of the things taken in wars. They gave those things to be used in building the Lord's temple. ²⁸Shelomith and his relatives also took care of all the holy things given by Samuel the seer;* Saul son of Kish; Abner son of Ner; and Joab son of Zeruah. Shelomith and his relatives took care of all the holy things that people gave to the Lord.

²⁹Kenaniah was from the Izhar family. Kenaniah and his sons had work outside the temple. They worked as policemen and judges in different places in Israel. ³⁰Hashabiah was from the Hebron family. Hashabiah and his relatives were responsible for all the Lord's work and for the king's business in Israel west of the Jordan River. There were 1,700 powerful men in Hashabiah's group. ³¹The 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 those men were found among the Hebron family living in the town of Jazer in Gilead. ³²Jeriah had 2,700 relatives that were powerful men and leaders of families. King David gave those 2,700 relatives the responsibility of leading the family groups of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh in taking care of the Lord's work and the king's business.

Army Groups

27 This is the list of the Israelite people that served the king in the army. Each group was on duty one month each year. There were rulers of families, captains, generals, and the policemen that served the king. Each army group had 24,000 men.

²Jashobeam was in charge of the first group for the first month. Jashobeam was Zabdiel's son. There were 24,000 men in Jashobeam's group. ³Jashobeam was one of Perez's descendants.* Jashobeam was leader of all the army officers for the first month.

⁴Dodai was in charge of the army group for the second month. He was from Ahoah. There were 24,000 men in Dodai's group.

⁵The third commander was Benaiah. Benaiah was the commander for the third month. Benaiah was Jehoiada's son. Jehoiada was the leading priest. There were 24,000 men in Benaiah's group. ⁶He was the same Benaiah that was a brave soldier from the Thirty Heroes. Benaiah led those men. Benaiah's son Ammizabad was in charge of Banaiah's group.

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

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

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

¹⁰The seventh commander was Helez. Helez was the commander for the seventh month. He was from the Pelonite people, and a descendant* of Ephraim. There were 24,000 men in Helez' group.

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

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshipping God.

seer This is another name for a prophet. See 1 Sam. 9:9-11.

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

¹²The ninth commander was Abiezer. Abiezer was the commander for the ninth month. Abiezer was from the town of Anathoth. Abiezer was from the family group of Benjamin. There were 24,000 men in Abiezer's group.

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

¹⁴The eleventh commander was Benaiah. Benaiah was the commander for the eleventh month. Benaiah was from Pirathon. Benaiah was from the Ephraim family group. There were 24,000 men in Benaiah's group.

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

Leaders of the Family Groups

¹⁶The leaders of the family groups of Israel were:

- Reuben: Eliezer son of Zicri.
- Simeon: Shephatiah son of Maacah.
- ¹⁷ Levi: Hashabiah son of Kemuel.
- Aaron: Zadok.
- ¹⁸ Judah: Elihu. (Elihu was one of David's brothers.)
- Issachar: Omri son of Michael.
- ¹⁹ Zebulun: Ishmaiah son of Obadiah.
- Naphtali: Jeremoth son of Azriel.
- ²⁰ Ephraim: Hoshea son of Azaziah.
- West Manasseh: Joel son of Pedaiah.
- ²¹ East Manasseh: Iddo son of Zechariah.
- Benjamin: Jaasiel son of Abner.
- ²² Dan: Azarel son of Jeroham.

Those were the leaders of the family groups of Israel.

David Counts the Israelites

²³David decided to count the men in Israel. There were very many people because God promised to make the people of Israel as many as the stars in the sky. So David only counted the men that were 20 years old and

older. ²⁴Joab son of Zeruiah began to count the people, but he did not finish.* God became angry with the people of Israel. That is why the number of the people was not put in the book *The History of King David*.

The King's Administrators

²⁵This is the list of men that 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 fields of grapes.
- Zabdi from Shepham was in charge of the storage and care of the wine that came from the fields of grapes.
- 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 that took care of King David's property.

³²Jonathan was a wise counselor and a scribe.* Jonathan was David's uncle. Jehiel son of Hacmoni took care of the king's sons. ³³Ahithophel was the king's counselor. Hushai was the king's friend. Hushai was

Joab ... did not finish God stopped him. See 1 Chron. 21:1-30.
scribe A man that wrote down and copied books and letters. He often become an expert at the meaning of those writings (*scriptures*).

from the Arkite people. ³⁴Jehoiada and Abiathar later took Ahithophel's place as the king's counselor. Jehoiada was Benaiah's son. Joab was the commander of the king's army.

David's Plans for the Temple

28 David gathered all the leaders of the people of Israel. He commanded all those leaders to come to Jerusalem. David called all the leaders of the family groups, the commanders of the army groups serving the king, the captains, the generals, 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.

²King David stood up and said, "Listen to me, my brothers 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. ³But 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 God of Israel chose the family group of Judah to lead the twelve family groups of Israel. And then from that family group, the Lord chose my father's family. And from that family, God chose me to be the king of Israel forever! God wanted to make me king of Israel! ⁵The Lord has given me many sons. And from all those sons, the Lord chose Solomon to be the new king of Israel. But really, Israel is the Lord's kingdom. ⁶The Lord said to me, 'David, your son Solomon will build my temple* and the area around it. Why? 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, then I will make Solomon's kingdom strong forever!'"

⁸David said, "Now, in front of all Israel and 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 you can pass it on to your descendants* forever.

⁹"And you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father. Serve God with a pure heart. Be happy in your heart (*mind*) to serve God. Why? Because the Lord knows what is in every person's heart (*mind*). The Lord understands everything you think. If you go to the Lord for help, you will get an answer. But if you turn away from the Lord, 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.* Those plans were also for the porch around the temple, and for its buildings, its storerooms, its upper rooms, its inside rooms, and for the place for the mercy seat.* ¹²David had made plans for all parts of the temple. David gave those plans to Solomon. David gave him all the plans for the yard around the Lord's temple, and for all the rooms around it. David gave him the plans for the temple storerooms and for the storerooms where they kept the holy things used in the temple. ¹³David told Solomon about the groups of the priests and Levites. David told Solomon about all the work of serving in the Lord's temple and about all the things to be used in the temple service. ¹⁴David told Solomon how much gold and silver should be used to make all the things to be used in the temple. ¹⁵There were plans for gold lamps and lampstands, and there were plans for silver lamps and lampstands. David told Solomon how much gold or silver to use for each lampstand and its lamps. The

Box of the Lord's Agreement Also called "The Ark of the Covenant," the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

footstool Usually this was a small stool in front of a chair, but here it means the temple. It is like God is the king sitting in his chair and resting his feet on the building David wanted to build.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshiping God.

I ... father This showed God was making Solomon the king. See Psalm 2:7.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshiping God.

mercy seat Part of the Box of the Agreement. The Hebrew word can mean "lid," "cover," or "the place where sins are atoned (*covered, erased, or forgiven*)."

different lampstands were to be used where needed. ¹⁶David told how much gold should be for each table used for holy bread. David told how much silver should be used for the silver tables. ¹⁷David told how much pure gold should be used to make the forks, sprinkling bowls, and pitchers. David told how much gold should be used to make each gold dish, and how much silver should be used to make each silver dish. ¹⁸David told how much pure gold should be used for the altar of incense.* David also gave Solomon the plans for [God's] chariot—the mercy seat* with the Cherub angels* spreading their wings over the Box of the Lord's Agreement.* The Cherub angels were made of gold.

¹⁹David said, "All these plans were written with the Lord guiding me. The Lord helped me understand everything in the plans."

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 officials and all the people will obey every command you give."

Gifts for Building the Temple

29 King David said to all the people of Israel that were gathered together, "God chose my son Solomon. Solomon is young and does not know all that he needs to do this work. But the work is very important.

incense A kind of spice that smells good when it is burned. It was burned as a gift to God.

mercy seat Part of the Box of the Agreement. The Hebrew word can mean "lid," "cover," or "the place where sins are atoned {(covered, erased, or forgiven)}."

Cherub angels Special angels from God. Statues of these angels were on top of the Box of the Agreement.

Box of the Agreement Also called "The Ark of the Covenant," the box containing the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and the other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai Desert.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for worshipping God.

This house isn't for people, this house is for the Lord God. ²I have done my best to make plans to build my God's temple.* I have given gold for the things made of gold. I have given silver for the things made of silver. I have given bronze for the things made of bronze. I have given iron for the things made of iron. I have given wood for the things made of wood. I have also given onyx* stones for the settings,* mosaic tiles,* all kinds of valuable stones in many different colors, and white marble stones. I have given many, many of these things for the building of the Lord's temple. ³I am making a special gift of gold and silver things for my God's temple. I am doing this because I really want the temple of my God to be built. I am giving all these things to build this holy temple. ⁴I have given 110 tons* of pure gold from Ophir. I have given 260 tons* of pure silver. The silver is for covering the walls of the buildings in the temple. ⁵I have given gold and silver for all the things made of gold and silver. I have given gold and silver so skilled men can make all different kinds of things for the temple. Now, how many of you people of Israel are ready to give yourselves to the Lord today?"

⁶The family leaders, the leaders of the family groups of Israel, the generals, the 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 house: 190 tons* of gold; 375 tons* of silver; 675 tons* of bronze; and 3,750 tons* of iron. ⁸People that had valuable stones gave them to the Lord's temple.* Jehiel took care of the valuable stones. Jehiel was from the Gershon family. ⁹The people were very happy because their leaders were

onyx A semi-precious stone with many layers of blue or gray.

settings The frames that stones are mounted in.

mosaic tiles Literally, "stones set in mortar."

110 tons Literally, "3,000 kikars."

260 tons Literally, "7,000 kikars."

190 tons Literally, "5,000 kikars and 10,000 darics."

375 tons Literally, "10,000 kikars."

675 tons Literally, "18,000 kikars."

3,750 tons Literally, "100,000 kikars."

happy to give so much. The leaders were happy to give freely from good hearts. King David was also very happy.

David's Beautiful Prayer

¹⁰Then David praised the Lord in front of all of the people who were gathered together. David said:

- “Lord God of Israel, our Father,
may you be praised forever and ever!
¹¹ Greatness, power, glory, victory, and honor
belong to you!
Why? Because everything in heaven and
on earth
belong to you;
The kingdom belongs to you, Lord!
You are the Head,
the Ruler over everything.
¹² Riches and honor come from you.
You rule everything.
You have the power and strength
in your hand!
And 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 All these things didn't 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 only strangers traveling through
this world like our ancestors.*
Our time on earth is like a passing shadow.
And we can't stop it.
¹⁶ Lord our God, we gathered all these things
to build your temple.
We build this temple to honor 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 good.
I gladly give you all these things
with a pure, honest heart.
I see your people gathered here.

ancestors Literally, “fathers.” This means a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

And I see that they are happy
about giving these things to you.

- ¹⁸ Lord, you are the God of our ancestors,
Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.*

Please help your people plan the
right things.

Help them be loyal and true to you!

- ¹⁹ And help my son Solomon be true to you.

Help him always obey your commands,
laws, and rules.

Help Solomon to do these things.

and help him build this capital city
that I have planned.”

²⁰Then David said to all the group of people gathered together, “Now give praise to the Lord your God.” So all the people gave praise to the Lord God, the God their ancestors* worshiped. They bowed to the ground to give honor to the Lord and to the king.

Solomon Becomes King

²¹The next day the people made sacrifices* to the Lord. They offered burnt offerings to the Lord. They offered 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams,* 1,000 lambs, and the drink offerings that go with them. They offered many, many sacrifices for all the people of Israel. ²²That 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* Solomon to be king, and they anointed Zadok to be priest. They did this in the place where the Lord was.

²³Then Solomon sat on the Lord's throne as king. Solomon took his father's place. Solomon was very successful. All the people of Israel obeyed Solomon. ²⁴All the leaders, soldiers, and all of King David's sons accepted

Israel Another name for Jacob. See Gen. 35:19.

sacrifice(s) A gift to God. Usually it was a special animal that was killed and burned on an altar.

ram(s) A male sheep.

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 Kings 1:5-39.

anoint(ed) To pour olive oil on a person's head to show he was chosen by God to be a king, priest, or prophet.

Solomon as king and obeyed him. ²⁵The Lord made Solomon very great. All the people of Israel knew that the Lord was making Solomon great. The Lord gave Solomon the honor that a king should have. No king in Israel before Solomon had such honor.

David's Death

^{26–27}David son of Jesse was king over all Israel for 40 years. David was king in the city of Hebron for seven years. Then David was king in the city of Jerusalem for 33 years. ²⁸David died when he was old. David had

lived a good, long life. David had many riches and honors. And David's son Solomon became the new king after him.

²⁹The things that King David did, from beginning to end, are in the books written by Samuel the seer,* Nathan the prophet*, and Gad the seer. ³⁰Those writings tell all about the things that David did as king of Israel. They tell about David's power and all that happened to him. And they tell about what happened to Israel and to all the kingdoms around them.

seer This is another name for a prophet. See 1 Sam. 9:9-11.

prophet A person called by God to be a special servant. God used dreams and visions to show them things to teach to the people.

License Agreement for Bible Texts

World Bible Translation Center

Last Updated: September 21, 2006

Copyright © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center

All rights reserved.

These Scriptures:

- Are copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center.
- Are not public domain.
- May not be altered or modified in any form.
- May not be sold or offered for sale in any form.
- May not be used for commercial purposes (including, but not limited to, use in advertising or Web banners used for the purpose of selling online ad space).
- May be distributed without modification in electronic form for non-commercial use. However, they may not be hosted on any kind of server (including a Web or ftp server) without written permission. A copy of this license (without modification) must also be included.
- May be quoted for any purpose, up to 1,000 verses, without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. A copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page using this pattern: "Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™ © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission." If the text quoted is from one of WBTC's non-English versions, the printed title of the actual text quoted will be substituted for "HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™." The copyright notice must appear in English or be translated into another language. When quotations from WBTC's text are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials of the version (such as "ERV" for the Easy-to-Read Version™ in English) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any use of these Scriptures other than those listed above is prohibited. For additional rights and permission for usage, such as the use of WBTC's text on a Web site, or for clarification of any of the above, please contact World Bible Translation Center in writing or by email at distribution@wbtc.com.

World Bible Translation Center

P.O. Box 820648

Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA

Telephone: 1-817-595-1664

Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE

E-mail: info@wbtc.com

WBTC's web site – World Bible Translation Center's web site: <http://www.wbtc.org>

Order online – To order a copy of our texts online, go to: <http://www.wbtc.org>

Current license agreement – This license is subject to change without notice. The current license can be found at: <http://www.wbtc.org/downloads/biblelicense.htm>

Trouble viewing this file – If the text in this document does not display correctly, use Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader from: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Viewing Chinese or Korean PDFs – To view the Chinese or Korean PDFs, it may be necessary to download the Chinese Simplified or Korean font pack from Adobe. Download the font packs from: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/acrrasianfontpack.html>