EDIFIED EDITION

1 Chronicles

A modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures

29	942	Old	13
chapters	verses	Testament	book of 66

Contents

Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Chapter 6
Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10
Chapter 11
Chapter 12
Chapter 13
Chapter 14
Chapter 15
Chapter 16
Chapter 17
Chapter 18
Chapter 19
Chapter 20
Chapter 21
Chapter 22
Chapter 23
Chapter 24
Chapter 25
Chapter 26
Chapter 27
Chapter 28
Chapter 29

Edified Edition (EDE): a modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek, in everyday British English. www.edifiededition.com

Numbered notes follow each chapter.

© 2026 Edified Edition. Made 3 November 2026.

Chapter 1

1 Chronicles 1 traces the line from Adam through Noah and his sons Japheth, Ham and Shem, listing the nations descended from each, as in Genesis 10. It follows Shem's line to Abram, that is, Abraham, then lists the sons of Ishmael, the sons of Keturah, and the descendants of Isaac's son Esau, together with the people of Seir. It closes with the kings who reigned in Edom before any king reigned over Israel, and the chiefs of Edom.

[1] Adam, Seth, Enosh,[1]
[2] Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,
[3] Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
[4] Noah, and Noah's sons Shem, Ham and Japheth.[2]
[5] The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras.

6 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Diphath[3] and Togarmah.

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

8 The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.

9 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama and Sabteca. The sons of Raama: Sheba and Dedan.

10 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who was the first mighty warrior on the earth.

11 Egypt was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites,

12 Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came) and Caphtorites.

13 Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of Heth,

14 and of the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

15 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

16 the Arvadites, the Zemarites and the Hamathites.

17 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud and Aram. The sons of Aram:[4] Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshech.[5]

18 Arpachshad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

19 Two sons were born to Eber. One was named Peleg,[6] because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

20 Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

21 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

22 Ebal,[7] Abimael, Sheba,

23 Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

24 Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah,

25 Eber, Peleg, Reu,

26 Serug, Nahor, Terah,

27 and Abram, that is, Abraham.

28 The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael.

29 These are their descendants: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

30 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

31 Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael.

32 The sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.

33 The sons of Midian: Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.

34 Abraham fathered Isaac, and Isaac's sons were Esau and Israel.

35 The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah.

36 The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek.[8]

37 The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah.

38 The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.

39 The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

40 The sons of Shobal: Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.

41 The son of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hamran, Eshban, Ithran and Cheran.

42 The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan:[9] Uz and Aran.

43 Before any king ruled the Israelites, the land of Edom had these kings: Bela son of Beor, from the city of Dinhabah.

44 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah succeeded him as king.

45 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites succeeded him as king.

46 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king. His city was named Avith.

47 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah succeeded him as king.

48 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the River succeeded him as king.

49 When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor succeeded him as king.

50 When Baal-hanan died, Hadad succeeded him as king. His city was named Pai, and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred, daughter of Me-zahab.

51 Then Hadad died. The chiefs of Edom were: Chief Timna, Chief Aliah, Chief Jetheth,

52 Chief Oholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,

53 Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,

54 Chief Magdiel and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

1 Chapter 1 summarises Genesis 5; 10; 11:10–26; 25:1–4, 12–16; 36:10–43. Small differences in the spelling of names are noted where they matter.

2 'And Noah's sons' is supplied from Genesis 5:32 and the Greek; the Hebrew simply lists the names.

3 Genesis 10:3 has 'Riphath'; the Hebrew letters for D and R are very alike. So also Rodanim/Dodanim in verse 7.

4 'The sons of Aram' is supplied from Genesis 10:23 and one Hebrew manuscript.

5 Genesis 10:23 has 'Mash'.

6 Peleg means 'division'.

7 Genesis 10:28 has 'Obal'.

8 So the Greek, following Genesis 36:12, where Timna is Eliphaz's concubine; the Hebrew lists Timna among his sons.

9 So Genesis 36:28; the Hebrew here has 'Dishon'.

Chapter 2

1 Chronicles 2 lists the twelve sons of Israel and begins with the descendants of Judah, the royal tribe. Through Judah's sons by the daughter of Shua and by Tamar it traces the line of Perez and Hezron, including Ram, from whom come Amminadab, Nahshon, Salma, Boaz, Obed and Jesse, the father of David and his brothers and of Zeruiah and Abigail and their sons. It then records the descendants of Hezron's sons Jerahmeel and Caleb, including the founders of towns such as Bethlehem and Kiriath-jearim, and the clans of scribes and Kenites.

1 These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,

2 Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

3 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan and Shelah. These three were born to him by the daughter of Shua, a Canaanite woman. Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD put him to death.

4 Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar bore him Perez and Zerah.[1] Judah had five sons in all.

5 The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

6 The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Dara, five in all.

7 The son of Carmi: Achar,[2] who brought trouble on Israel by violating the ban on the devoted things.

8 The son of Ethan: Azariah.

9 The sons born to Hezron: Jerahmeel, Ram and Chelubai.[3]

10 Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, the leader of the people of Judah.

11 Nahshon was the father of Salma,[4] and Salma the father of Boaz.

12 Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed the father of Jesse.

13 Jesse was the father of Eliab his firstborn, Abinadab the second, Shimea the third,

14 Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,

15 Ozem the sixth and David the seventh.[5]

16 Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah's three sons were Abishai, Joab and Asahel.

17 Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was Jether the Ishmaelite.[6]

18 Caleb son of Hezron had children by his wife Azubah, and by Jerioth.[7] These were her sons: Jesher, Shobab and Ardon.

19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur.

20 Hur's son was Uri, and Uri's son was Bezalel.[8]

21 Later Hezron slept with the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead. He had married her when he was sixty years old, and she bore him Segub.

22 Segub was the father of Jair, who controlled twenty-three towns in the land of Gilead.

23 But Geshur and Aram captured Havvoth-jair from them, along with Kenath and its villages, sixty towns. All these were descendants of Machir the father of Gilead.

24 After Hezron's death in Caleb-ephrathah, his wife Abijah bore him a son, Ashhur, who founded Tekoa.[9]

25 The sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron: Ram his firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem and Ahijah.

26 Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

27 The sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel: Maaz, Jamin and Eker.

28 The sons of Onam: Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur.

29 Abishur's wife was named Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid.

30 The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim. Seled died without children.

31 The son of Appaim: Ishi. The son of Ishi: Sheshan. The son of Sheshan: Ahlai.

32 The sons of Jada, Shammai's brother: Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without children.

33 The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

34 Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. But he had an Egyptian slave named Jarha,

35 and Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to his slave Jarha, and she bore him Attai.

36 Attai was the father of Nathan, and Nathan the father of Zabad.

37 Zabad was the father of Ephlal, and Ephlal the father of Obed.

38 Obed was the father of Jehu, and Jehu the father of Azariah.

39 Azariah was the father of Helez, and Helez the father of Eleasah.

40 Eleasah was the father of Sismai, and Sismai the father of Shallum.

41 Shallum was the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah the father of Elishama.

42 Caleb, Jerahmeel's brother, had these sons: his firstborn Mesha, founder of Ziph, and his son Mareshah,[10] founder of Hebron.

43 The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem and Shema.

44 Shema was the father of Raham, the father of Jorkeam, and Rekem was the father of Shammai.

45 The son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth-zur.

46 Caleb's concubine Ephah bore Haran, Moza and Gazez. Haran was the father of Gazez.

47 The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah and Shaaph.

48 Caleb's concubine Maacah bore Sheber and Tirhanah.

49 She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, and Sheva the father of Machbenah and of Gibea. Caleb's daughter was Achsah.

50 These were Caleb's descendants. The sons of Hur, Ephrathah's firstborn, were Shobal, founder of Kiriath-jearim,

51 Salma, founder of Bethlehem, and Hareph, founder of Beth-gader.

52 The descendants of Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim were Haroeh and half the Menuhoth,

53 and the clans of Kiriath-jearim: the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites and Mishraites. From these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.

54 Salma's descendants were Bethlehem and the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab, half of the Manahathites, and the Zorites,

55 together with the families of scribes living at Jabez, namely the Tirathites, Shimeathites and Sucathites. These were the Kenites descended from Hammath, ancestor of the Rechabites.

1 See Genesis 38. Tamar is named in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:3).

2 'Troubler', a play on Achan's name (Joshua 7:1, 25–26); he was a descendant of Zimri (Zabdi in Joshua 7:1).

3 Another form of Caleb (verse 18).

4 Called Salmon in Ruth 4:21 and Matthew 1:4–5.

5 1 Samuel 16:10–11 and 17:12 speak of eight sons; one may have died without children.

6 Compare 2 Samuel 17:25, 'Ithra the Israelite'.

7 The Hebrew is unclear; perhaps 'by Azubah his wife, the daughter of Jerioth'.

8 The craftsman of the tabernacle (Exodus 31:2).

9 The Hebrew is difficult. The Greek and Latin have 'After Hezron died, Caleb went in to Ephrathah, his father Hezron's wife, and she bore him Ashhur'. 'Father of' in these lists often means 'founder of' a town.

10 The Hebrew is uncertain; perhaps 'the sons of Mareshah'.

Chapter 3

1 Chronicles 3 lists the sons born to David: six in Hebron, where he reigned seven years and six months, and thirteen in Jerusalem, where he reigned thirty-three years, besides the sons of his concubines, and their sister Tamar. It then traces the royal line of Solomon through the kings of Judah to Josiah and his sons, and on beyond the exile through Jeconiah to Zerubbabel and his descendants.

1 David’s sons born at Hebron were these: his
eldest, Amnon, whose mother was Ahinoam of
Jezreel; second, Daniel,[1] whose mother was
Abigail of Carmel;
2 third, Absalom, son of Maacah the daughter of
King Talmai of Geshur; fourth, Adonijah, Haggith’s
son;
3 the fifth Shephatiah, by Abital; and the sixth
Ithream, by his wife Eglah.
4 These six were born at Hebron, where he ruled
for seven and a half years. He then ruled for
thirty-three years in Jerusalem,
5 and these were born to him there: Shimea,
Shobab, Nathan and Solomon, four by Bathshua[2]
daughter of Ammiel;
6 also Ibhar, Elishama,[3] Eliphelet,
7 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,
8 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet, nine in all.
9 All these were David’s sons, besides his sons by
his concubines; and Tamar was their sister.
10 Solomon’s son was Rehoboam, whose son was
Abijah, whose son was Asa, whose son was
Jehoshaphat,
11 whose son was Joram, whose son was Ahaziah,
whose son was Joash,
12 whose son was Amaziah, whose son was
Azariah, whose son was Jotham,
13 whose son was Ahaz, whose son was Hezekiah,
whose son was Manasseh,
14 whose son was Amon, whose son was Josiah.
15 The sons of Josiah: the firstborn Johanan, the
second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah and the
fourth Shallum.[4]
16 The descendants of Jehoiakim: his son Jeconiah,
and his son Zedekiah.[5]
17 The descendants of Jeconiah the captive:[6] his
son Shealtiel,
18 Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah,
Hoshama and Nedabiah.
19 The sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel[7] and Shimei.
The sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and
Hananiah; and Shelomith was their sister.
20 There were also five others: Hashubah, Ohel,
Berechiah, Hasadiah and Jushab-hesed.
21 The descendants of Hananiah: Pelatiah and
Jeshaiah, and the sons of Rephaiah, of Arnan, of
Obadiah and of Shecaniah.
22 The descendants of Shecaniah: Shemaiah, and
the sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, Igal, Bariah,
Neariah and Shaphat, six in all.[8]
23 The sons of Neariah: Elioenai, Hizkiah and
Azrikam, three in all.
24 The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, Eliashib,
Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah and Anani, seven
in all.

1 Called Chileab in 2 Samuel 3:3.

2 That is, Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:3); her father Ammiel is called Eliam there.

3 Called Elishua in 2 Samuel 5:15 and 1 Chronicles 14:5.

4 Shallum is Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:30; Jeremiah 22:11). Johanan is not otherwise known.

5 Probably a different Zedekiah from Josiah’s son in verse 15.

6 Or ‘of Jeconiah: Assir’; Hebrew *assir* means ‘prisoner’.

7 Elsewhere called ‘son of Shealtiel’ (Ezra 3:2; Haggai 1:1; Matthew 1:12), perhaps as his legal heir.

8 Only five names are given; one may have been lost in copying.

Chapter 4

1 Chronicles 4 continues the clans of Judah, with many founders of towns. Among them is Jabez, more honoured than his brothers, whose mother named him in her pain; he prays to the God of Israel to bless him and enlarge his territory and keep him from harm, and God grants his request. The chapter records the families of craftsmen, linen workers and potters who served the king. It then lists the descendants of Simeon, a tribe that never grew as large as Judah, the towns where they lived until David's time, and how in Hezekiah's days some of them seized good pastureland from earlier inhabitants and others went to Mount Seir and destroyed the last of the Amalekites.

1 The descendants of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi,[1] Hur and Shobal.

2 Reaiah son of Shobal was the father of Jahath, and Jahath the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites.

3 These were the sons[2] of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash; and their sister was named Hazzelelponi.

4 Penuel founded Gedor, and Ezer founded Hushah. These were Hur's descendants; Hur was Ephrathah's firstborn and the founder of Bethlehem.

5 Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

6 Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah.

7 The sons of Helah: Zereth, Izhar[3] and Ethnan.

8 Koz was the father of Anub and Zobebah, and of the clans of Aharhel son of Harum.

9 Jabez was more honoured than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I bore him in pain."[4]

10 Jabez called on the God of Israel: "Bless me richly, I pray, and extend my borders! May Your hand be with me, and guard me from trouble, so that it will not bring me pain." And God granted what he asked.

11 Chelub the brother of Shuhah was the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

12 Eshton was the father of Beth-rapha, Paseah and Tehinnah the father of Ir-nahash. These were the men of Recah.

13 The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel: Hathath and Meonothai.[5]

14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah. Seraiah was the father of Joab, the father of Ge-harashim,[6] so called because its people were craftsmen.

15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah and Naam. The son of Elah: Kenaz.

16 The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria and Asarel.

17 Ezrah's sons were Jether, Mered, Epher and Jalon. Mered's wife became pregnant and gave birth to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah, the founder of Eshtemoa.

18 His wife from Judah gave birth to Jered, founder of Gedor, Heber, founder of Soco, and Jekuthiel, founder of Zanoah. These were the sons of Pharaoh's daughter Bithiah, whom Mered had taken as his wife.[7]

19 The sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of Naham: the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

20 The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan and Tilon. The descendants of Ishi: Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

21 Shelah son of Judah had these descendants: Er, founder of Lecah, Laadah, founder of Mareshah, and the families of linen workers at Beth-ashbea,

22 Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, who ruled in Moab and returned to Lehem.[8] These records are ancient.

23 They were the potters who lived at Netaim and Gederah; they lived there with the king and worked for him.

24 The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah and Shaul.[9]

25 Shaul's son was Shallum, whose son was Mibsam, whose son was Mishma.

26 The descendants of Mishma: his son Hammuel, whose son was Zaccur, whose son was Shimei.

27 Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but his brothers did not have many children, and their whole clan did not become as numerous as the people of Judah.

28 They lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual,

29 Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

30 Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

31 Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri and Shaaraim. These were their towns until David became king.

32 Their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen
and Ashan, five towns,
33 together with all the villages around these towns
as far as Baal. These were their settlements, and
they kept a genealogical record.
34 Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah,
35 Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah, son of Seraiah, son of
Asiel,
36 Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel,
Jesimiel, Benaiah,
37 and Ziza son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of
Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah:
38 these men named here were leaders of their
clans. Their families increased greatly,
39 and they went to the outskirts of Gedor,[10] to the
east side of the valley, in search of pasture for
their flocks.
40 There they found rich, good pasture, and the
land was spacious, quiet and peaceful, for some
Hamites had lived there formerly.
41 In the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, these
men whose names are recorded came and
attacked their tents and the Meunites who were
found there, and devoted them to destruction, as
is still the case today. Then they settled in their
place, because there was pasture there for their
flocks.
42 Some of these Simeonites, five hundred men,
went to Mount Seir, led by Pelatiah, Neariah,
Rephaiah and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.
43 They wiped out what remained of the Amalekites
who had survived, and they still live there today.

1 Probably a scribal slip for ‘Caleb’ (Chelubai, 2:9); the list is of successive generations rather than brothers.
2 So the Greek; the Hebrew has ‘These were the father’.
3 So the traditional reading; the written Hebrew has ‘Zohar’.
4 Jabez sounds like the Hebrew for ‘he causes pain’; the same word is echoed in his prayer (verse 10).
5 ‘And Meonothai’ is supplied from the Greek and Latin, following verse 14.
6 ‘Valley of Craftsmen’.
7 The order of verses 17–18 is uncertain; the last sentence of verse 18 probably belongs with verse 17.
8 The Hebrew is obscure; perhaps ‘who married into Moab’.
9 Genesis 46:10 has ‘Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar and Shaul’.
10 The Greek has ‘Gerar’, which suits the region better.

Chapter 5

1 Chronicles 5 explains that although Reuben was Israel’s firstborn, his birthright passed to the sons of Joseph because he defiled his father’s bed, while leadership came from Judah. It lists the descendants of Reuben down to Beerah, whom Tiglath-pileser of Assyria carried into exile, and the families of Gad in Bashan. The Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh, forty-four thousand fighting men, cry out to God in battle against the Hagrites and are given victory and much plunder, because they trust in Him. But the eastern tribes are unfaithful to the God of their ancestors and prostitute themselves to other gods, so God stirs up the kings of Assyria to carry them into exile.

1 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel. He
was the firstborn, but because he defiled his
father’s marriage bed,[1] his birthright was given to
the sons of Joseph son of Israel, so he is not
reckoned in the genealogy as the firstborn.
2 Though Judah became the strongest of his
brothers and a ruler came from him, the birthright
belonged to Joseph.
3 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel:
Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.
4 The descendants of Joel:[2] his son Shemaiah,
whose son was Gog, whose son was Shimei,
5 whose son was Micah, whose son was Reaiah,
whose son was Baal,
6 whose son was Beerah, whom Tiglath-pileser[3]
king of Assyria carried into exile. He was a leader
of the Reubenites.
7 His kinsmen by their clans, as recorded in their
genealogies: Jeiel the chief, Zechariah,
8 and Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel.
They lived in Aroer and as far as Nebo and Baal-
meon.
9 Eastwards they occupied the land up to the edge
of the desert that extends to the River Euphrates,

because their livestock had increased in the land of Gilead.

10 In Saul's days they made war on the Hagrites,[4] who fell into their hands, and they lived in their tents throughout the region east of Gilead.

11 The Gadites lived next to them in the land of Bashan, as far as Salecah:

12 Joel was the chief, Shapham the second, then Janai and Shaphat in Bashan.

13 Their kinsmen by families were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia and Eber, seven in all.

14 These were the sons of Abihail son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz.

15 Ahi son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was head of their family.

16 They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its towns, and in all the pasturelands of Sharon to their limits.

17 All these were entered in the genealogical records in the days of Jotham king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel.

18 The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty men ready for military service, valiant men who carried shield and sword, drew the bow and were trained for war.

19 They waged war against the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish and Nodab.

20 They were helped against them, and the Hagrites and all their allies were handed over to them, because they cried out to God in the battle. He answered their prayer, because they trusted in Him.

21 They captured the Hagrites' livestock: fifty thousand camels, two hundred and fifty thousand sheep and two thousand donkeys. They also took a hundred thousand people captive.

22 Many others fell slain, because the battle was God's. And they occupied the land until the exile.

23 The half-tribe of Manasseh was a large one. Its people settled the region stretching from Bashan to Baal-hermon, Senir and Mount Hermon.

24 These were the heads of their families: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah and Jahdiel. They were valiant warriors, men of renown and heads of their families.

25 But they were unfaithful to the God of their ancestors and prostituted themselves to the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.

26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria,[5] who carried the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh into exile. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara and the river of Gozan, where they are to this day.

1 See Genesis 35:22 and 49:3–4.

2 His link to Reuben is not given.

3 Hebrew 'Tilgath-pilneser', a variant spelling; so also in verse 26.

4 Probably an Arab people; compare Psalm 83:6.

5 Pul was another name for Tiglath-pileser III; see the note at 2 Kings 15:19.

Chapter 6

1 Chronicles 6 traces the line of the high priests from Levi through Aaron and Eleazar to Jehozadak, who went into exile when the LORD sent Judah away by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. It lists the clans of Levi's sons Gershom, Kohath and Merari, including the ancestry of the prophet Samuel. It records the musicians David appointed to lead the singing in the LORD's house after the ark came to rest: Heman the Kohathite, with Asaph the Gershonite on his right and Ethan the Merarite on his left. The priests, Aaron's descendants, make offerings and atonement for Israel, while the other Levites do the work of the tabernacle. The chapter closes with the towns and pasturelands assigned by lot to the priests and Levites throughout the tribes, including the cities of refuge.

1 The sons of Levi: Gershon,[1] Kohath and Merari.

2 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

3 The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses and Miriam. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

4 Eleazar was the father of Phinehas, Phinehas the
father of Abishua,
5 Abishua the father of Bukki, Bukki the father of
Uzzi,
6 Uzzi the father of Zerahiah, Zerahiah the father
of Meraioth,
7 Meraioth the father of Amariah, Amariah the
father of Ahitub,
8 Ahitub the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of
Ahimaaz,
9 Ahimaaz the father of Azariah, Azariah the father
of Johanan,
10 and Johanan the father of Azariah, who served
as priest in the house Solomon built in Jerusalem.
11 Azariah was the father of Amariah, Amariah the
father of Ahitub,
12 Ahitub the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of
Shallum,
13 Shallum the father of Hilkiah, Hilkiah the father
of Azariah,
14 Azariah the father of Seraiah, and Seraiah the
father of Jehozadak.
15 Jehozadak went into exile when the LORD sent
Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of
Nebuchadnezzar.[2]
16 The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath and Merari.
17 These are the names of the sons of Gershom:
Libni and Shimei.
18 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and
Uzziel.
19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are
the clans of the Levites by their ancestral families.
20 Of Gershom: his son Libni, whose son was
Jahath, whose son was Zimmah,
21 whose son was Joah, whose son was Iddo, whose
son was Zerah, whose son was Jeatherai.
22 The descendants of Kohath: his son
Amminadab,[3] whose son was Korah, whose son
was Assir,
23 whose son was Elkanah, whose son was
Ebiasaph, whose son was Assir,
24 whose son was Tahath, whose son was Uriel,
whose son was Uzziah, whose son was Shaul.
25 The descendants of Elkanah: Amasai and
Ahimoth,
26 whose son was Elkanah, whose son was Zophai,
whose son was Nahath,
27 whose son was Eliab, whose son was Jeroham,
whose son was Elkanah, whose son was Samuel.[4]
28 The sons of Samuel: Joel[5] the firstborn, and
Abijah the second.
29 The descendants of Merari: Mahli, whose son
was Libni, whose son was Shimei, whose son was
Uzzah,
30 whose son was Shimea, whose son was Haggiah,
whose son was Asaiah.
31 These are the men David put in charge of the
music in the house of the LORD after the ark came
to rest there.
32 They ministered with song before the
tabernacle, the tent of meeting, until Solomon
built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and
they carried out their duties according to the
order set for them.
33 These are the men who served, together with
their sons. From the Kohathites: Heman the
singer, son of Joel, son of Samuel,
34 son of Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Eliel, son
of Toah,
35 son of Zuph,[6] son of Elkanah, son of Mahath, son
of Amasai,
36 son of Elkanah, son of Joel, son of Azariah, son
of Zephaniah,
37 son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebiasaph, son
of Korah,
38 son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, son of
Israel.
39 Heman’s associate Asaph stood at his right
hand: Asaph son of Berechiah, son of Shimea,
40 son of Michael, son of Baaseiah, son of
Malchijah,
41 son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Adaiah,
42 son of Ethan, son of Zimmah, son of Shimei,
43 son of Jahath, son of Gershom, son of Levi.
44 Their associates the Merarites stood at his left
hand: Ethan son of Kishi, son of Abdi, son of
Malluch,
45 son of Hashabiah, son of Amaziah, son of
Hilkiah,
46 son of Amzi, son of Bani, son of Shemer,
47 son of Mahli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of
Levi.
48 Their fellow Levites were appointed to all the
other service of the tabernacle, the house of God.

49 But Aaron and his sons made the offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense. They did all the work of the Most Holy Place and made atonement for Israel, in keeping with all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

50 These were the descendants of Aaron: his son Eleazar, whose son was Phinehas, whose son was Abishua,

51 whose son was Bukki, whose son was Uzzi, whose son was Zerahiah,

52 whose son was Meraioth, whose son was Amariah, whose son was Ahitub,

53 whose son was Zadok, whose son was Ahimaaz.

54 These were their settlements within their borders, allotted as camps[7] to the descendants of Aaron of the clan of the Kohathites, for the first lot fell to them:

55 they were given Hebron in the land of Judah with its surrounding pasturelands.

56 But the fields of the city and its villages were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.[8]

57 To the descendants of Aaron they gave the cities of refuge: Hebron, Libnah with its pasturelands, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its pasturelands,

58 Hilen with its pasturelands, Debir with its pasturelands,

59 Ashan with its pasturelands and Beth-shemesh with its pasturelands.

60 From the tribe of Benjamin they were given Geba with its pasturelands, Alemeth with its pasturelands and Anathoth with its pasturelands. Their towns among their clans numbered thirteen in all.[9]

61 To the rest of the Kohathites ten towns were allotted from the clans of the half-tribe of Manasseh.

62 To the Gershomites, clan by clan, were allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Issachar, Asher and Naphtali, and from the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

63 To the Merarites, clan by clan, were allotted twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun.

64 So the Israelites gave the Levites these towns with their pasturelands.

65 From the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin they allotted the towns already mentioned by name.

66 Some of the Kohathite clans were given towns from the tribe of Ephraim as their territory.

67 They were given the cities of refuge: Shechem with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer with its pasturelands,

68 Jokmeam with its pasturelands, Beth-horon with its pasturelands,

69 Aijalon with its pasturelands and Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands.

70 From the half-tribe of Manasseh the rest of the Kohathite clans were given Aner with its pasturelands and Bileam with its pasturelands.

71 The Gershomites received from the clan of the half-tribe of Manasseh Golan in Bashan with its pasturelands and Ashtaroth with its pasturelands;

72 from the tribe of Issachar, Kedesh with its pasturelands, Daberath with its pasturelands,

73 Ramoth with its pasturelands and Anem with its pasturelands;

74 from the tribe of Asher, Mashal with its pasturelands, Abdon with its pasturelands,

75 Hukok with its pasturelands and Rehob with its pasturelands;

76 and from the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its pasturelands, Hammon with its pasturelands and Kiriathaim with its pasturelands.

77 The rest of the Merarites received from the tribe of Zebulun Rimmono with its pasturelands and Tabor with its pasturelands;

78 from beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, from the tribe of Reuben, Bezer in the wilderness with its pasturelands, Jahzah with its pasturelands,

79 Kedemoth with its pasturelands and Mephaath with its pasturelands;

80 and from the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its pasturelands, Mahanaim with its pasturelands,

81 Heshbon with its pasturelands and Jazer with its pasturelands.

1 Verses 1–15 are 5:27–41 in the Hebrew text, and verses 16–81 are 6:1–66 in Hebrew. ‘Gershon’ and ‘Gershom’ (verse 16) are both used for Levi’s son.

2 His son Jeshua was high priest after the return (Ezra 3:2; Haggai 1:1).

3 Called Izhar in verses 2, 18 and 38.

4 ‘Whose son was Samuel’ is supplied from the Greek and verse 33–34; compare 1 Samuel 1:1, 20.

5 ‘Joel’ is supplied from 1 Samuel 8:2 and verse 33; the Hebrew has ‘the firstborn, and the second’ (*vashni*).

6 So the traditional reading; the written Hebrew has ‘Ziph’.

7 Or ‘encampments’; the word suggests settlements built round a central space.

8 See Joshua 14:13–14 and 21:11–12. Verses 54–81 summarise Joshua 21.

9 Only eleven are named; Joshua 21:16–17 adds Juttah and Gibeon.

Chapter 7

1 Chronicles 7 lists the families and fighting men of the northern tribes: Issachar, whose warriors numbered eighty-seven thousand in David’s time; Benjamin; Naphtali; the half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan, including Zelophehad, who had only daughters; Ephraim, whose sons were killed by the men of Gath when they went down to raid their cattle, so that Ephraim named a later son Beriah because of the disaster; and Asher. It records the line from Ephraim to Joshua son of Nun, the towns of Ephraim and Manasseh, and the twenty-six thousand fighting men of Asher.

1 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron, four in all.

2 The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam and Shemuel, heads of their families. In the days of David the descendants of Tola listed in their genealogy numbered twenty-two thousand six hundred valiant warriors.

3 The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah. The sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel and Isshiah. All five of them were chiefs.

4 According to their family genealogy, they had thirty-six thousand men ready for battle, for they had many wives and sons.

5 Their kinsmen belonging to all the clans of Issachar, valiant warriors, numbered eighty-seven thousand in all, as listed in their genealogy.

6 The sons of Benjamin:[1] Bela, Becher and Jediael, three in all.

7 The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth and Iri, five in all, heads of families and valiant warriors. Their genealogy listed twenty-two thousand and thirty-four men.

8 The sons of Becher: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth and Alemeth. All these were the sons of Becher.

9 Their genealogy, by the heads of their families, listed twenty thousand two hundred valiant warriors.

10 The son of Jediael: Bilhan. The sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish and Ahishahar.

11 All these were sons of Jediael, heads of families. There were seventeen thousand two hundred valiant warriors ready to go out to war.

12 Shuppim and Huppim were the sons of Ir, and Hushim the son of Aher.[2]

13 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shallum, the descendants of Bilhah.

14 The descendants of Manasseh: Asriel, whom his Aramean concubine bore; she also bore Machir the father of Gilead.

15 Machir took a wife from among the Huppim and the Shuppim.[3] His sister’s name was Maacah. Another descendant was named Zelophehad, who had only daughters.[4]

16 Machir’s wife Maacah bore a son and named him Peresh. His brother was named Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rakem.

17 Ulam’s son was Bedan. These were the descendants of Gilead son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.

18 His sister Hammolecheth bore Ishhod, Abiezer and Mahlah.

19 The sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi and Aniam.

20 The descendants of Ephraim: Shuthelah, whose son was Bered, whose son was Tahath, whose son was Eleadah, whose son was Tahath,

21 whose son was Zabad, whose son was Shuthelah. Ezer and Elead were killed by the native-born men of Gath when they went down to raid their livestock.

22 Their father Ephraim mourned for them many days, and his relatives came to comfort him.

23 Then he slept with his wife again, and she conceived and bore a son. He named him Beriah, because disaster had come on his family.[5]

24 His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth-horon and Uzzen-sheerah.

25 Rephah was his son, and Resheph, whose son was Telah, whose son was Tahan,

26 whose son was Ladan, whose son was Ammihud, whose son was Elishama,

27 whose son was Nun, whose son was Joshua.

28 Their lands and settlements included Bethel and its villages, Naaran to the east, Gezer and its villages to the west, and Shechem and its villages as far as Ayyah and its villages.

29 Along the borders of Manasseh were Beth-shean, Taanach, Megiddo and Dor, each with its villages. The descendants of Joseph son of Israel lived in these towns.

30 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah.

31 The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel, who was the father of Birzaith.

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

33 The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal and Ashvath. These were Japhlet's sons.

34 The sons of Shemer: Ahi,[6] Rohgah, Hubbah and Aram.

35 The sons of his brother Helem: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh and Amal.

36 The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,

37 Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran and Beera.

38 The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispa and Ara.

39 The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel and Rizia.

40 All these were descendants of Asher, heads of families, choice and valiant warriors, leading chiefs. The number of men ready for battle, as listed in their genealogy, was twenty-six thousand.

1 The lists of Benjamin's sons differ (compare 8:1–2; Genesis 46:21; Numbers 26:38–41). Some think verses 6–12 originally concerned Zebulun, who is otherwise missing.

2 The verse is obscure. 'Aher' may mean 'another', and some read 'the sons of Dan: Hushim' (Genesis 46:23).

3 The Hebrew of verses 14–15 is confused; perhaps 'Machir took a wife whose name was Maacah'.

4 See Numbers 27:1–11.

5 Beriah sounds like the Hebrew *bera'ah*, 'in disaster'.

6 Or 'his brother'.

Chapter 8

1 Chronicles 8 gives a fuller genealogy of Benjamin, with the clans that lived in Geba, Ayyalon and Jerusalem, including the families that drove out the people of Gath and those that were exiled to Manahath. It traces the family of the founder of Gibeon and the line of Saul: Ner was the father of Kish, Kish of Saul, and Saul of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal. Jonathan's son was Merib-baal, whose descendants are listed through many generations to the sons of Ulam, valiant archers with many sons and grandsons.

1 Benjamin was the father of Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,

2 Nohah the fourth and Rapha the fifth.

3 The sons of Bela were Addar, Gera, Abihud,[1]

4 Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

5 Gera, Shephuphan and Huram.

6 These were the descendants of Ehud, heads of families of those who lived in Geba, who were deported to Manahath:

7 Naaman, Ahijah and Gera. Gera deported them; he was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

8 Shaharaim had sons in the country of Moab after he had divorced his wives Hushim and Baara.

9 By his wife Hodesh he had Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

10 Jeuz, Sachia and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of families.

11 By Hushim he had Abitub and Elpaal.

12 Elpaal's sons were Eber, Misham and Shemed; it was Shemed who built Ono and Lod and the villages round it,

13 and Beriah and Shema, who were heads of families of those who lived in Aijalon and who drove out the inhabitants of Gath.

14 Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth,

15 Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

16 Michael, Ishpah and Joha were the sons of Beriah.

17 Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

18 Ishmerai, Izliah and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal.

19 Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

20 Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

21 Adaiah, Beraiah and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei.

22 Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

23 Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

24 Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah,

25 Iphdeiah and Penuel were the sons of Shashak.

26 Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah,

27 Jaareshiah, Elijah and Zichri were the sons of Jeroham.

28 All these were heads of families, chiefs as listed in their genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.

29 In Gibeon lived the father of Gibeon,[2] whose wife's name was Maacah.

30 His firstborn son was Abdon, followed by Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,[3]

31 Gedor, Ahio and Zecher.

32 Mikloth was the father of Shimeah. They too lived near their kinsmen in Jerusalem.

33 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish the father of Saul, and Saul the father of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal.[4]

34 Jonathan's son was Merib-baal,[5] who became the father of Micah.

35 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea and Ahaz.

36 Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, and Jehoaddah the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza.

37 Moza was the father of Binea, whose son was Raphah, whose son was Eleasah, whose son was Azel.

38 Azel had six sons, and these were their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel.

39 The sons of his brother Eshek: Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second and Eliphelet the third.

40 The sons of Ulam were valiant warriors who could handle the bow. They had many sons and grandsons, a hundred and fifty in all. All these were descendants of Benjamin.

1 Or 'Gera the father of Ehud'; compare verse 6 and Judges 3:15.
2 His name, Jeiel, is supplied in 9:35.
3 The Greek and 9:36 add 'Ner'.
4 Called Ish-bosheth in 2 Samuel 2:8; see the note there.
5 Called Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 4:4.

Chapter 9

1 Chronicles 9 notes that all Israel was recorded in the genealogies, and that Judah was carried into exile in Babylon for its unfaithfulness. It lists those who resettled in their towns, and especially in Jerusalem, after the exile: families of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh, priests, Levites and gatekeepers. The gatekeepers, whose office goes back to David and Samuel the seer, guard the four sides of the house of God in turns, keep its keys and open it each morning, while other Levites care for the vessels, the flour, wine, oil, incense and spices, the baked offerings and the bread set out each Sabbath, and the singers are on duty day and night. The chapter closes by repeating the family of Saul, as a bridge to the story of his death.

1 So all Israel was recorded in the genealogies, and these are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. Judah was carried into exile to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.

2 The first to resettle on their own property in their towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites and temple servants.[1]

3 Some of the people of Judah, of Benjamin, and of Ephraim and Manasseh lived in Jerusalem:

4 Uthai son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, a descendant of Perez son of Judah.

5 Of the Shilonites:[2] Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

6 Of the descendants of Zerah: Jeuel and their kinsmen, six hundred and ninety in all.

7 Of the Benjaminites: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah;

8 Ibneiah son of Jeroham; Elah son of Uzzi, son of Michri; and Meshullam son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah.

9 Their kinsmen, as listed in their genealogies, numbered nine hundred and fifty-six. All these men were heads of their families.

10 Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib and Jachin;

11 Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief officer of the house of God;

12 Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah; and Maasai son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer.

13 Their kinsmen, heads of their families, numbered one thousand seven hundred and sixty, very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

14 Of the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, a Merarite;

15 Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah son of Mica, son of Zichri, son of Asaph;

16 Obadiah son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

17 The gatekeepers: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman and their kinsmen. Shallum was their chief,

18 stationed until now at the King’s Gate on the east. These were the gatekeepers from the camps of the Levites.

19 Shallum son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, and his kinsmen from his family, the Korahites, were in charge of the work of the service, keepers of the thresholds of the tent, as their ancestors had been in charge of the camp of the LORD, keepers of the entrance.

20 Phinehas son of Eleazar was their leader in earlier times, and the LORD was with him.

21 Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was gatekeeper at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

22 All those chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds numbered two hundred and twelve. They were registered by genealogy in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their positions of trust.

23 They and their descendants were in charge of guarding the gates of the house of the LORD, the house called the tent.

24 The gatekeepers were on the four sides: east, west, north and south.

25 Their kinsmen in their villages had to come from time to time and share their duties for seven-day periods.

26 But the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted with the responsibility for the rooms and treasuries in the house of God.

27 They would spend the night stationed round the house of God, because they had to guard it, and they had charge of the key for opening it every morning.

28 Some of them were in charge of the articles used in the service; they counted them when they were brought in and when they were taken out.

29 Others were assigned to the furnishings and all the holy articles, and to the fine flour, the wine, the oil, the incense and the spices.

30 Some of the priests prepared the mixing of the spices.

31 A Levite named Mattithiah, the firstborn son of Shallum the Korahite, was entrusted with baking the offering bread.

32 Some of their Kohathite kinsmen were in charge of preparing the rows of bread to be set out every Sabbath.

33 These were the singers, heads of Levite families, who stayed in the rooms of the temple and were exempt from other duties, because they were on duty day and night.

34 All these were heads of Levite families, chiefs as listed in their genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.

35 In Gibeon lived Jeiel the father of Gibeon. His wife’s name was Maacah,

36 and his firstborn son was Abdon, followed by Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

37 Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah and Mikloth.

38 Mikloth was the father of Shimeam. They too lived near their kinsmen in Jerusalem.

39 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish the father of Saul, and Saul the father of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal.

40 The son of Jonathan was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal was the father of Micah.

41 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea and Ahaz.[3]

42 Ahaz was the father of Jarah, and Jarah the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza.

43 Moza was the father of Binea, whose son was Rephaiah, whose son was Eleasah, whose son was Azel.

44 Azel had six sons, and these were their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. These were the sons of Azel.

1 Hebrew *nethinim*, ‘those given’; compare Ezra 2:43. Verses 2–17 are closely parallel to Nehemiah 11:3–19.

2 Probably ‘Shelanites’, descendants of Shelah son of Judah (Numbers 26:20).

3 ‘And Ahaz’ is supplied from 8:35.

Chapter 10

1 Chronicles 10 retells the death of Saul from 1 Samuel 31. The Philistines defeat Israel on Mount Gilboa and kill Saul’s sons. Saul, wounded by archers, falls on his own sword when his armour-bearer will not kill him, and he and his three sons and all his house die together. The Philistines fasten his armour in their temple and his head in the temple of Dagon, and the valiant men of Jabesh-gilead bury the bodies of Saul and his sons under the oak at Jabesh. Saul died for his unfaithfulness to the LORD: he did not keep the LORD’s word, and he consulted a medium rather than the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

1 The Philistines went into battle against Israel. The Israelites ran from them, and many lay dead on Mount Gilboa.[1]

2 The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

3 The battle went hard against Saul. The archers found him, and he was wounded by them.

4 Then Saul said to his armour-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through with it, or these uncircumcised men will come and make sport of me.” But his armour-bearer would not, for he was terrified. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

5 Seeing Saul dead, his armour-bearer also threw himself on his sword and died.

6 So Saul and his three sons died; his whole house perished together.[2]

7 When all the Israelites in the valley saw that the army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they deserted their towns and ran, and the Philistines moved in and occupied them.

8 On the following day, when the Philistines came to plunder the dead, they discovered Saul and his sons where they had fallen on Mount Gilboa.

9 They stripped his body, removed his head and armour, and sent word all round the Philistine country to spread the news among their idols and their people.

10 His armour they placed in the temple of their gods, and his skull they hung up in Dagon’s temple.

11 When all the people of Jabesh-gilead heard everything the Philistines had done to Saul,

12 all their bravest men set out, took the bodies of Saul and his sons and brought them to Jabesh. They buried their bones beneath the oak[3] at Jabesh, and they fasted for seven days.

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness to the LORD. He did not keep the word of the LORD, and he even consulted a medium for guidance[4]

14 instead of enquiring of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

1 Verses 1–12 follow 1 Samuel 31:1–13 closely; the wording here is kept close to our 1 Samuel.

2 1 Samuel 31:6 has ‘his armour-bearer and all his men’; Saul’s dynasty in fact continued briefly through Ish-bosheth (2 Samuel 2:8–10).

3 1 Samuel 31:13 has ‘tamarisk’.

4 See 1 Samuel 28:7–25.

Chapter 11

1 Chronicles 11 tells how all Israel gathers to David at Hebron and anoints him king, as the LORD had promised through Samuel. David and all Israel capture Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, and the stronghold of Zion becomes the City of David; Joab, first to attack, becomes commander. David grows greater, for the LORD of Armies is with him. The chapter lists the mighty men who, with all Israel, gave strong support to his kingship: Jashobeam, Eleazar, and the three who broke through the Philistine lines to bring him water from the well of Bethlehem, which he poured out to the LORD; Abishai and Benaiah; and the long roll of the warriors, including Uriah the Hittite and others not named in Samuel.

1 Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood.[1]

2 Even in the past, when Saul was king, it was you who led Israel out to war and brought them home again. And the LORD your God said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be leader over My people Israel.’”

3 So all Israel’s elders came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the LORD had promised through Samuel.

4 David and all Israel marched to Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, where the Jebusites lived, the people of that region.

5 The people of Jebus told David, “You will never get in here.” Yet David captured the fortress of Zion, which is now the City of David.

6 David had said, “Whoever is first to strike the Jebusites shall be chief and commander.” Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he became chief.

7 David took up residence in the fortress, and so it was called the City of David.

8 He built up the city all round, from the Millo to the surrounding wall, while Joab restored the rest of the city.

9 So David’s power kept on increasing, because the LORD of Armies was with him.

10 These were the chiefs of David’s mighty men, who together with all Israel gave his kingship strong support, to make him king as the LORD had promised concerning Israel.

11 This is the list of David’s mighty men: Jashobeam, a Hachmonite,[2] chief of the Thirty.[3] He wielded his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed at one time.

12 Next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar son of Dodo the Ahohite.

13 He was with David at Pas-dammim, when the Philistines gathered there for battle. There was a plot of ground full of barley, and the troops fled from the Philistines.[4]

14 But they took their stand in the middle of the plot, defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD saved them with a great victory.

15 Three of the thirty chiefs went down to the rock, to David at the cave of Adullam, while a Philistine army was camped in the Valley of Rephaim.

16 David was then in the stronghold, and a Philistine garrison was then at Bethlehem.

17 David said longingly, “If only someone would give me water to drink from the well by the gate of Bethlehem!”

18 So the Three broke through the Philistine camp, drew water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem and brought it to David. But David would not drink it; he poured it out to the LORD

19 and said, “My God forbid that I should do this! Should I drink the blood of these men who went at the risk of their lives? For they brought it at the risk of their lives.” So he would not drink it. These were the things the three mighty men did.

20 Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of the Thirty.[5] He wielded his spear against three hundred men and killed them, and he won a name beside the Three.

21 He was doubly honoured among the Thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the Three.

22 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a valiant man from Kabzeel, who did great deeds. He struck down two champions of Moab. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

23 And he struck down an Egyptian, a man of great size, five cubits[6] tall. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand like a weaver’s beam, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff, snatched the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with his own spear.

24 These were the things Benaiah son of Jehoiada did, and he won a name beside the three mighty men.

25 He was honoured above the Thirty, but he did not attain to the Three. And David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

26 The mighty warriors were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

27 Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,

28 Ira son of Ikkesh of Tekoa, Abiezer of Anathoth,

29 Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

30 Maharai of Netophah, Heled son of Baanah of Netophah,

31 Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjaminites, Benaiah of Pirathon,

32 Hurai of the ravines of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

33 Azmaveth of Baharum, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

34 the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite,

35 Ahiam son of Sachar the Hararite, Eliphal son of Ur,

36 Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

37 Hezro of Carmel, Naarai son of Ezbai,

38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar son of Hagri,

39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armour-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah,

40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad son of Ahlai,

42 Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, a chief of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,[7]

43 Hanan son of Maacah, Joshaphat the Mithnite,

44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,

45 Jediael son of Shimri, and his brother Joha the Tizite,

46 Eliel the Mahavite, Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam, Ithmah the Moabite,

47 Eliel, Obed and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

1 Verses 1–9 follow 2 Samuel 5:1–10, and verses 10–41 follow 2 Samuel 23:8–39; the wording is kept close to our 2 Samuel.

2 Called Josheb-basshebeth the Tahchemonite in 2 Samuel 23:8, where he kills eight hundred.

3 So the written Hebrew; the traditional reading has ‘of the officers’. Compare the note at 2 Samuel 23:8.

4 Something appears to have dropped out between Eleazar’s deed and Shammah’s (2 Samuel 23:9–11); here the field and its defence belong to Eleazar’s story.

5 So the Syriac; the Hebrew has ‘the Three’. Compare 2 Samuel 23:18.

6 About 2.3 metres (7½ feet).

7 The names from here to verse 47 are not in 2 Samuel 23.

Chapter 12

1 Chronicles 12 lists the warriors who joined David while he was still a fugitive from Saul: ambidextrous Benjaminite archers and slingers of Saul’s own kin, Gadites as fierce as lions and swift as gazelles, who crossed the Jordan in flood, and men of Benjamin and Judah whom David receives when Amasai, clothed by the Spirit, pledges their loyalty. Men of Manasseh join him at Ziklag, until he has a great army like the army of God. The chapter then numbers the armed men from every tribe who came to Hebron to make David king over all Israel, among them the men of Issachar who understood the times. All Israel is of one mind, and they feast with David for three days, with food brought from as far as Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali, for there is joy in Israel.

1 These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish. They were among the mighty men who helped him in battle.

2 They were armed with bows and could use either the right hand or the left to sling stones or shoot arrows with the bow. They were kinsmen of Saul from Benjamin:

3 Ahiezer the chief, and Joash, the sons of Shemaah of Gibeah; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Beracah, Jehu of Anathoth,

4 and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a warrior among the Thirty and one of their leaders. Also Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite,[1]

5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite,

6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer and Jashobeam, the Korahites,

7 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

8 Some Gadites also went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness. They were valiant warriors, trained for battle, able to handle shield and spear. Their faces were the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles on the hills.

9 Ezer was the chief, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

13 Jeremiah the tenth and Machbannai the eleventh.

14 These Gadites were army commanders; the least was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand.[2]

15 It was they who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it was overflowing all its banks, and put to flight everyone living in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

16 Other Benjaminites and some men from Judah also came to David at the stronghold.

17 David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in peace, to help me, then my heart is ready to be one with you. But if you have come to betray me to my enemies, though my hands are free from violence, may the God of our ancestors see it and judge."

18 Then the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the Thirty, and he said: "We are yours, David! We are with you, son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers, for your God helps you." So David received them and made them leaders of his raiding bands.

19 Some men from Manasseh went over to David when he went with the Philistines to fight against Saul. But he did not help the Philistines, because after consultation their rulers sent him away, saying, "It will cost us our heads if he deserts to his master Saul."[3]

20 When David went to Ziklag, these men of Manasseh went over to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu and Zillethai, commanders of thousands in Manasseh.

21 They helped David against the raiding bands, for they were all valiant warriors, and they became commanders in his army.

22 Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God.

23 These are the numbers of the armed men who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him, as the LORD had said:

24 from Judah, carrying shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for battle;

25 from Simeon, valiant warriors ready for war, seven thousand one hundred;

26 from Levi, four thousand six hundred,

27 including Jehoiada, leader of the family of Aaron, with three thousand seven hundred men,

28 and Zadok, a valiant young warrior, with twenty-two officers from his family;

29 from Benjamin, Saul's kinsmen, three thousand, most of whom had until then kept their allegiance to Saul's house;

30 from Ephraim, twenty thousand eight hundred valiant warriors, men of renown in their own clans;

31 from the half-tribe of Manasseh, eighteen thousand, designated by name to come and make David king;

32 from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do, two hundred chiefs, with all their kinsmen under their command;

33 from Zebulun, fifty thousand experienced soldiers ready for battle with every kind of weapon, to help David with undivided loyalty;

34 from Naphtali, a thousand officers, with thirty-seven thousand men carrying shield and spear;

35 from Dan, twenty-eight thousand six hundred ready for battle;

36 from Asher, forty thousand experienced soldiers ready for battle;

37 and from beyond the Jordan, from Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, a hundred and twenty thousand armed with every kind of weapon.

38 All these fighting men, ready for battle, came to Hebron with a whole heart to make David king over all Israel. All the rest of Israel too were of one mind to make David king.

39 They stayed there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had provided for them.

40 Their neighbours as far away as Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules and oxen: plenty of flour, cakes of figs, bunches of raisins, wine and oil, cattle and sheep. For there was joy in Israel.

1 The names from ‘Jeremiah’ are 12:5 in the Hebrew text, and 12:5–40 in English are 12:6–41 in Hebrew.
2 Or ‘the least was over a hundred, and the greatest over a thousand’.
3 See 1 Samuel 29.

Chapter 13

1 Chronicles 13 tells how David consults his commanders and proposes to the whole assembly of Israel that they summon their kinsmen, priests and Levites from every town and bring back the ark of God, which was neglected in Saul’s days, and all the people agree. They bring the ark from Kiriath-jearim on a new cart, with David and all Israel celebrating before God with songs and music. At the threshing floor of Chidon the oxen stumble, Uzzah puts out his hand to steady the ark, and the LORD strikes him dead. David, angry and afraid, will not take the ark to the City of David and leaves it at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite, whose household the LORD blesses for three months.

1 David took counsel with all his leaders, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds.

2 Then he said to the whole assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you, and if it is from the LORD our God, let us send word far and wide to our kinsmen who remain in all the territories of Israel, and to the priests and Levites with them in their towns and pasturelands, to come and join us.

3 Then we shall bring back the ark of our God among us, for in Saul’s time we paid it[1] no attention.”

4 The whole assembly agreed to do this, for it seemed right to all the people.

5 So David assembled all Israel, from the Shihor of Egypt[2] to Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned above the cherubim, which is called by the Name.[3]

7 They carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, with Uzza and Ahio guiding the cart.

8 David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their strength, with songs, lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets.

9 When they reached the threshing floor of Chidon,[4] Uzza reached out his hand to take hold of the ark, because the oxen stumbled.

10 The LORD’s anger blazed against Uzza, and He struck him down because he had put out his hand to the ark. So he died there before God.

11 David was angry because the LORD had burst out against Uzza, and that place is called Perez-uzza to this day.

12 That day David was afraid of God. “How can I bring the ark of God home to me?” he said.

13 So David did not take the ark to be with him in the City of David. Instead he had it taken aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

14 For three months the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house, and the LORD blessed his household and everything he had.

1 Or ‘Him’.
2 Probably the easternmost branch of the Nile, or the Brook of Egypt.
3 Verses 6–14 follow 2 Samuel 6:2–11; the wording is kept close to our 2 Samuel.
4 Called Nacon in 2 Samuel 6:6.

Chapter 14

1 Chronicles 14 tells how Hiram king of Tyre sends David cedar logs and craftsmen to build him a palace, and David knows that the LORD has established him as king and exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people. More sons and daughters are born to him in Jerusalem. Twice the Philistines spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; David enquires of God and defeats them, first at Baal-perazim, where their gods are left behind and burned at David's command, and then by circling behind them and attacking at the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees. David's fame spreads through every land, and the LORD makes all the nations fear him.

1 Hiram[1] king of Tyre sent envoys to David, with
cedar logs, stonemasons and carpenters, to build
him a palace.
2 And David understood that the LORD had made
him secure as king over Israel and that his
kingdom had been raised high for the sake of His
people Israel.
3 In Jerusalem David took more wives, and he
became the father of more sons and daughters.
4 These are the names of the children born to him
in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan,
Solomon,
5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,
6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,
7 Elishama, Beeliada[2] and Eliphelet.
8 When the Philistines heard that David had been
anointed king over all Israel, they all marched up
in search of him. David heard of it and went out to
meet them.
9 The Philistines had arrived and were raiding the
Valley of Rephaim.
10 David asked God, "Should I attack the
Philistines? Will You hand them over to me?" The
LORD answered him, "Attack, and I will hand
them over to you."
11 So they went up to Baal-perazim, and David
defeated them there. He said, "God has broken
through my enemies by my hand like water
bursting through." So that place was named Baal-
perazim.
12 The Philistines left their gods behind there, and
at David's command they were burned in the fire.[3]
13 Once again the Philistines made a raid in the
valley.
14 When David enquired of God again, God said to
him, "Do not go up after them. Circle round away
from them and come at them opposite the balsam
trees.
15 As soon as you hear a sound like marching in the
tops of the balsam trees, go out to battle, for that
will mean God has gone out ahead of you to strike
down the Philistine army."
16 David did as God commanded him, and they
struck down the Philistine army all the way from
Gibeon to Gezer.
17 So David's fame spread through every land, and
the LORD made all the nations afraid of him.

1 So the traditional reading; the written Hebrew has 'Huram'. Verses 1–16 follow 2 Samuel 5:11–25.
2 Called Eliada in 3:8 and 2 Samuel 5:16, with 'El', 'God', in place of 'Baal'.
3 As the law required (Deuteronomy 7:5, 25); 2 Samuel 5:21 says only that they were carried off.

Chapter 15

1 Chronicles 15 tells how David prepares a place and pitches a tent for the ark of God in the City of David, and declares that only the Levites may carry it, for the LORD chose them. He assembles all Israel and gathers the priests and Levites, and tells their leaders to consecrate themselves, because the LORD broke out against them when they did not seek Him in the proper way. The Levites carry the ark on poles on their shoulders, as Moses commanded. David appoints singers and musicians, Heman, Asaph and Ethan with bronze cymbals and others with harps and lyres, with Chenaniah in charge of the singing and gatekeepers for the ark. With God helping the Levites, David and the elders bring the ark up from Obed-edom's house with sacrifices and rejoicing, David robed in fine linen and wearing a linen ephod, amid shouts, horns, trumpets and cymbals. Michal, Saul's daughter, watches from a window and despises him in her heart as he dances.

1 David built houses for himself in the City of
David, and he prepared a place for the ark of God

and pitched a tent for it.

2 Then David said, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister to Him for ever.”[1]

3 David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it.

4 He gathered together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

5 of the descendants of Kohath, Uriel the chief, with a hundred and twenty of his kinsmen;

6 of the descendants of Merari, Asaiah the chief, with two hundred and twenty of his kinsmen;

7 of the descendants of Gershom, Joel the chief, with a hundred and thirty of his kinsmen;

8 of the descendants of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, with two hundred of his kinsmen;

9 of the descendants of Hebron, Eliel the chief, with eighty of his kinsmen;

10 of the descendants of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, with a hundred and twelve of his kinsmen.

11 Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab.

12 He said to them, “You are the heads of the Levite families. Consecrate yourselves, you and your kinsmen, and bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it.

13 It was because you did not carry it the first time that the LORD our God broke out against us, for we did not seek Him in the proper way.”

14 The priests and Levites then made themselves holy for the task of carrying up the ark of the LORD, Israel’s God.

15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their kinsmen as singers, to play loudly on musical instruments, harps, lyres and cymbals, and to raise their voices with joy.

17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his kinsmen, Asaph son of Berechiah; and from their kinsmen the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah.

18 With them were their kinsmen of the second rank: Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.

19 The singers Heman, Asaph and Ethan were to sound the bronze cymbals;

20 Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah and Benaiah were to play harps set to Alamoth;[2]

21 and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel and Azaziah were to lead with lyres set to Sheminith.

22 Chenaniah, the leader of the Levites, was in charge of the singing;[3] he directed it, because he was skilful at it.

23 Berechiah and Elkanah were gatekeepers for the ark.

24 The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah and Eliezer were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were also gatekeepers for the ark.

25 Then David, Israel’s elders and the commanders of thousands set out joyfully to fetch the ark of the LORD’s covenant from Obed-edom’s house.

26 Because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

27 David was robed in a cloak of fine linen, as were all the Levites who carried the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah, who was in charge of the singing. David also wore a linen ephod.

28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts of joy, with the sound of the ram’s horn, trumpets and cymbals, and the playing of harps and lyres.

29 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked down from a window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing, she despised him in her heart.

1 See Numbers 4:15 and Deuteronomy 10:8.

2 Alamoth and Sheminith (verse 21) are musical terms of uncertain meaning, also found in psalm titles (Psalms 6; 12; 46). Alamoth may mean ‘for young women’s voices’, and Sheminith ‘on the eighth’ or ‘an octave lower’.

3 Or ‘of carrying’; the Hebrew word can mean either.

Chapter 16

1 Chronicles 16 tells how the ark is set in the tent David has pitched for it, and after burnt offerings and peace offerings David blesses the people in the name of the LORD and gives every man and woman bread, a portion of meat and a cake of raisins. He appoints Levites under Asaph to minister before the ark, to give thanks and praise the LORD, and that day he first commits to Asaph and his kinsmen a song of thanksgiving: give thanks to the LORD and make His deeds known; remember His everlasting covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and His protection of them as wanderers; let all the earth sing to Him, for He is great and to be feared above all gods, which are idols; let the heavens and earth rejoice, for He comes to judge the earth; give thanks, for His loyal kindness endures for ever; save us and gather us. The people say “Amen” and praise the LORD. David leaves Asaph to minister daily before the ark, and Zadok and the priests to offer the regular burnt offerings at the tabernacle at Gibeon, with Heman and Jeduthun to give thanks.

1 They brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.[1]

2 Once David had completed the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he pronounced a blessing on the people in the LORD’s name.

3 Then he gave out to all the Israelites, men and women alike, a loaf of bread, a portion of meat and a cake of raisins each.

4 He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to celebrate, to give thanks and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel:

5 Asaph was the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom and Jeiel, who were to play the harps and lyres, while Asaph sounded the cymbals,

6 and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel were to blow the trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

7 That day David first appointed Asaph and his kinsmen to give thanks to the LORD in this way:[2]

8 “Give thanks to the LORD; call on His name; make His deeds known among the peoples.

9 Sing to Him, make music to Him; tell of all His wonderful works.

10 Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

11 Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.

12 Remember the wonders He has done, His marvels and the judgements He pronounced,

13 O descendants of His servant Israel, O sons of Jacob whom He chose!

14 He is the LORD our God; His rulings reach through all the earth.

15 Remember His covenant for ever, the word He commanded for a thousand generations,

16 the covenant He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

17 He confirmed it to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

18 saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance.’

19 When you[3] were few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it,

20 they roamed from one nation to another, from kingdom to kingdom.

21 He let no one oppress them; for their sake He rebuked kings:

22 ‘Do not touch My anointed ones; do My prophets no harm.’

23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day.

24 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

26 The gods of the nations are all mere idols,[4] but it was the LORD who made the heavens.

27 Splendour and majesty are before Him; strength and joy are in His dwelling place.

28 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name;
bring an offering and come before Him. Worship
the LORD in the splendour of holiness.[5]
30 Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world is
firmly established; it cannot be moved.
31 Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad;
let it be said among the nations, 'The LORD is
King!'
32 Let the sea roar, and everything in it; let the
fields exult, and all that is in them.
33 Then the forest trees will shout for joy in the
LORD's presence, for He is coming to judge the
world.
34 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His
loyal kindness endures for ever.
35 Say, 'Save us, God our Saviour; gather us and
rescue us from the nations, so that we may give
thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your
praise.'
36 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from
everlasting to everlasting." Then all the people
said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.
37 David left Asaph and his kinsmen there before
the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister
before the ark regularly, as each day's duties
required,
38 and also Obed-edom and his sixty-eight kinsmen.
Obed-edom son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, were
gatekeepers.
39 He left Zadok the priest and his fellow priests
before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high
place in Gibeon
40 to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar
of burnt offering regularly, morning and evening,
in keeping with everything written in the law of
the LORD, which He had commanded Israel.
41 With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the
rest of those chosen and designated by name to
give thanks to the LORD, "for His loyal kindness
endures for ever."
42 Heman and Jeduthun had trumpets and cymbals
for the music, and instruments for the songs of
God. The sons of Jeduthun were stationed at the
gate.
43 Then all the people went home, each to his
house, and David returned to bless his household.

1 Verses 1–3 follow 2 Samuel 6:17–19.
2 Verses 8–22 are also Psalm 105:1–15, verses 23–33 are Psalm 96, and verses 34–36 are Psalm 106:1, 47–48.
3 Psalm 105:12 has 'they'.
4 Hebrew *elilim*, 'nothings', a play on *elohim*, 'gods'.
5 Or 'in holy attire'.

Chapter 17

1 Chronicles 17 tells how David, settled in his house, tells Nathan the prophet that he lives in a house of cedar while the ark of the covenant is under curtains. That night God sends Nathan back: David is not the one to build Him a house, for He has never lived in a house but has gone from tent to tent. He took David from the pasture to lead His people, and He will build David a house. He will raise up one of David's sons, who will build Him a house, and He will establish his throne for ever. "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to Me a son"; His loyal kindness will never be taken from him, and He will set him over His house and His kingdom for ever. David goes in and sits before the LORD and prays in wonder: there is none like the LORD and no people like Israel, whom He redeemed from Egypt; may the LORD confirm His promise for ever, so that His name is great and David's house is blessed for ever.

1 Once David was settled in his house, he said to
Nathan the prophet, "Look, here I am living in a
house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of
the LORD stays under tent curtains."[1]
2 Nathan told David, "Do whatever you have in
mind, for God is with you."
3 But that same night the word of God came to
Nathan:
4 "Go and tell My servant David, 'This is what the
LORD says: You are not the one to build Me the
house to live in.
5 From the day I brought Israel up to this day I
have never lived in a house. I have gone from tent
to tent and from one dwelling place to another.[2]
6 In all My journeys among all Israel, did I ever say
a word to any of the judges of Israel whom I

commanded to shepherd My people, asking, “Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?”

7 Now then, say this to My servant David: This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over My people Israel.

8 Wherever you have gone I have been with you, and I have destroyed every enemy in your path. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men on earth.

9 I will provide a place for My people Israel and will plant them there, so that they may live in their own home and be disturbed no more. Wicked men will no longer wear them down as they did at first,

10 ever since the time I appointed judges over My people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies. And I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house.

11 When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will make his kingdom secure.

12 It is he who will build a house for Me, and I will make his throne secure for all time.

13 I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to Me a son.[3] I will not take My loyal kindness away from him, as I took it from the one who was before you.

14 I will set him over My house and My kingdom for ever, and his throne will be established for ever.’”[4]

15 Nathan reported to David all these words and this whole vision.

16 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, LORD God, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?

17 And as if this were too little in Your eyes, O God, You have spoken about Your servant’s house for a long time to come, and You have regarded me as a man of high rank,[5] LORD God.

18 What more can David say to You for honouring Your servant? You know Your servant.

19 LORD, for the sake of Your servant and as You Yourself intended, You have done all this great thing and made known all these great things.

20 LORD, there is no one like You, and there is no God but You, according to everything we have heard with our own ears.

21 And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem as a people for Himself, making a name for Yourself by great and awesome deeds, driving out nations before Your people, whom You redeemed from Egypt?

22 You made Your people Israel Your very own people for ever, and You, LORD, have become their God.

23 Now, LORD, let the promise You have made concerning Your servant and his house be confirmed for ever, and do as You have said,

24 so that it may be confirmed and Your name may be great for ever, and people will say, ‘The LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God,’ and the house of Your servant David will stand firm before You.

25 You, my God, have made it known to Your servant that You will build a house for him. That is what has given Your servant the courage to offer this prayer to You.

26 And now, LORD, You alone are God, and You have made this good promise to Your servant.

27 Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, so that it may continue for ever before You. For You, LORD, have blessed it, and it will be blessed for ever.”

1 Chapter 17 follows 2 Samuel 7; the wording is kept close to our 2 Samuel, and the word ‘house’ is again kept throughout for both the temple and the dynasty.

2 Hebrew ‘from tent to tent and from tabernacle’; the phrase appears to be shortened.

3 Quoted of Christ in Hebrews 1:5. Chronicles leaves out the warning of discipline in 2 Samuel 7:14b.

4 2 Samuel 7:16 has ‘your house and your kingdom’; here the kingdom is the LORD’s own.

5 The Hebrew is obscure; compare the note at 2 Samuel 7:19.

Chapter 18

1 Chronicles 18 tells of David's victories. He subdues the Philistines and takes Gath and its villages; he defeats Moab, and the Moabites become his tributaries. He defeats Hadadezer king of Zobah and the Arameans of Damascus who come to help him, puts garrisons in Aram, and brings back gold shields and a great quantity of bronze, from which Solomon later makes the bronze Sea, the pillars and the bronze vessels. Tou king of Hamath sends his son with gifts, which David dedicates to the LORD with the silver and gold from the nations. Abishai defeats eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt, and David puts garrisons in Edom. The LORD gives David victory wherever he goes, and he reigns over all Israel with justice and righteousness. The chapter lists his officials.

1 Some time later David struck the Philistines and
subdued them, and he took Gath and its villages[1]
out of the hands of the Philistines.

2 He also defeated Moab, and the Moabites
became his subjects and paid him tribute.

3 David also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah,
near Hamath, when he went to set up his
monument[2] by the River Euphrates.

4 David captured from him a thousand chariots,
seven thousand horsemen and twenty thousand
foot soldiers. He hamstrung all the chariot horses,
but kept enough of them for a hundred chariots.

5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to the aid
of Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-
two thousand of their men.

6 Then David stationed garrisons in Aram of
Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to
him and brought him tribute. The LORD gave
David victory wherever he went.

7 David took the gold shields that belonged to
Hadadezer's officers and brought them to
Jerusalem.

8 And from Tibhath and Cun, towns of Hadadezer,
David took a very large quantity of bronze, from
which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars
and the bronze vessels.[3]

9 When Tou king of Hamath learned that David had
routed the entire army of Hadadezer king of
Zobah,

10 So he sent his son Hadoram[4] to King David to
greet him and to congratulate him on fighting
Hadadezer and defeating him, for Hadadezer had
often been at war with Tou. Hadoram brought all
kinds of articles of gold, silver and bronze.

11 These too King David dedicated to the LORD,
along with the silver and gold he had carried off
from all the nations: from Edom, Moab, the
Ammonites, the Philistines and Amalek.

12 Abishai son of Zeruiah struck down eighteen
thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.[5]

13 He put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites
became subject to David. The LORD gave David
victory wherever he went.

14 David reigned over all Israel, doing what was
just and right for all his people.

15 Joab son of Zeruiah was commander of the
army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder;

16 Zadok son of Ahitub and Abimelech[6] son of
Abiathar served as priests, and Shavsha as
secretary;

17 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the
Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons
were the chief officials at the king's side.[7]

1 2 Samuel 8:1 has 'Metheg-ammah'. Chapter 18 follows 2 Samuel 8.

2 Hebrew 'his hand'; perhaps a victory monument (compare 1 Samuel 15:12).

3 2 Samuel 8:8 has 'Betah and Berothai'. For Solomon's work see 1 Kings 7:15–47.

4 Called Joram in 2 Samuel 8:10.

5 2 Samuel 8:13 credits the victory to David, and the heading of Psalm 60 to Joab.

6 So the Hebrew; many manuscripts and 2 Samuel 8:17 have 'Ahimelech'.

7 2 Samuel 8:18 has 'David's sons were priests'.

Chapter 19

1 Chronicles 19 tells how, when Nahash king of the Ammonites dies, David sends envoys to comfort his son Hanun. Hanun's officials persuade him that they are spies, so he shaves them and cuts their garments off at the hips; David tells them to wait at Jericho until their beards have grown. The Ammonites spend a thousand talents of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Aram, and Joab, finding himself with enemies in front and behind, divides the army with Abishai and urges him to fight bravely and leave the outcome to the LORD. The Arameans and Ammonites flee. When the Arameans bring troops from beyond the Euphrates under Shophach, David himself defeats them and kills their commander, and the vassals of Hadadezer make peace with David and will no longer help the Ammonites.

1 Some time later Nahash king of the Ammonites
died, and his son succeeded him as king.[1]

2 David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun
son of Nahash, for his father showed kindness to
me." So David sent messengers to express his
sympathy to him over his father. When David's
officials came to Hanun in the land of the
Ammonites to console him,

3 the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun, "Do
you really think David is honouring your father by
sending you men to console you? Have his
servants not come to you to explore, to overthrow
and to spy out the land?"

4 So Hanun seized David's officials, shaved them,
cut off their garments in the middle as far as their
buttocks, and sent them away.

5 When David was told about the men, he sent
messengers to meet them, for they were deeply
humiliated. The king said, "Stay at Jericho until
your beards have grown again, and then come
back."

6 When the Ammonites realised that they had
made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the
Ammonites sent a thousand talents[2] of silver to
hire chariots and horsemen from Aram-naharaim,
Aram-maacah and Zobah.

7 They hired thirty-two thousand chariots[3] and the
king of Maacah with his army, who came and
camped near Medeba, while the Ammonites
gathered from their towns and came out to fight.

8 Hearing of this, David sent out Joab with the
whole army of fighting men.

9 The Ammonites came out and drew up for battle
at the entrance to the city, while the kings who
had come stood by themselves in the open
country.

10 Joab saw that the battle lines were facing him
both in front and behind. So he chose some of the
best troops in Israel and lined them up against the
Arameans.

11 The rest of the army he put under the command
of his brother Abishai, and they lined up against
the Ammonites.

12 Joab said, "If the Arameans prove too strong for
me, you are to come and rescue me; but if the
Ammonites prove too strong for you, I will rescue
you.

13 Take heart, and let us fight bravely for our
people and for the cities of our God. And may the
LORD do what He thinks best."

14 Then Joab and the troops with him advanced to
fight the Arameans, and they fled before him.

15 When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans
had fled, they too fled before his brother Abishai
and went inside the city. So Joab came to
Jerusalem.

16 When the Arameans saw that they had been
routed by Israel, they sent messengers and
brought out the Arameans from beyond the
Euphrates, led by Shophach[4] the commander of
Hadadezer's army.

17 When David was told, he gathered all Israel,
crossed the Jordan, advanced against them and
drew up his forces facing them. David formed his
lines to meet the Arameans in battle, and they
fought against him.

18 But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David
killed seven thousand of their charioteers and
forty thousand foot soldiers.[5] He also put to death
Shophach, the commander of their army.

19 When the vassals of Hadadezer saw that they
had been defeated by Israel, they made peace
with David and became subject to him. And the
Arameans were unwilling to help the Ammonites
any more.

1 Chapter 19 follows 2 Samuel 10; the wording is kept close to our 2 Samuel.
2 About 34 tonnes.
3 Perhaps ‘chariot troops’; 2 Samuel 10:6 counts thirty-three thousand foot soldiers.
4 Called Shobach in 2 Samuel 10:16.
5 2 Samuel 10:18 has ‘seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen’.

Chapter 20

1 Chronicles 20 tells how, in the spring, Joab leads the army against the Ammonites and besieges Rabbah while David stays in Jerusalem, and Joab captures the city and destroys it. David takes the crown of their king, weighing a talent of gold and set with a precious stone, and much plunder, and puts the people to forced labour. The chapter then records three battles with the Philistines in which David’s men kill descendants of the giants: Sibbecai kills Sippai, Elhanan kills Lahmi the brother of Goliath, and Jonathan son of Shimea kills a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot.

1 In the spring, at the time when kings go out to war, Joab led out the army. He devastated the land of the Ammonites and went and besieged Rabbah, while David remained in Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah and destroyed it.[1]

2 David took the crown from the head of their king,[2] and found that it weighed a talent of gold and was set with a precious stone; and it was placed on David’s head. He also brought out a vast amount of plunder from the city.

3 He brought out the people who were in it and set them to work[3] with saws, iron picks and axes. David did the same to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and all the army returned to Jerusalem.

4 Some time after this, war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Sippai, who was one of the descendants of the giants,[4] and the Philistines were subdued.

5 In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair struck down Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam.[5]

6 There was yet another battle, at Gath, where there was a giant of a man with six fingers and six toes on each hand and foot, twenty-four in all. He too was descended from Rapha.

7 When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of David’s brother Shimea struck him down.

8 These were descended from Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men.

1 Chronicles passes over David’s sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2–12:25) and goes on to 2 Samuel 12:26–31.
2 Or ‘of Milcom’, the god of the Ammonites.
3 So 2 Samuel 12:31; the Hebrew here has ‘and he sawed them’, which may be a copying error.
4 Hebrew ‘the Rephaim’; compare the note at 2 Samuel 21:16. Verses 4–8 follow 2 Samuel 21:18–22.
5 2 Samuel 21:19 reads ‘Elhanan son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite struck down Goliath the Gittite’; see the note there.

Chapter 21

1 Chronicles 21 tells how Satan stands against Israel and incites David to count the people. Joab protests that it will bring guilt on Israel, but the king insists, and Joab reports over a million fighting men in Israel and four hundred and seventy thousand in Judah, though he leaves out Levi and Benjamin, finding the order abhorrent. God is displeased and strikes Israel, and David confesses that he has sinned and acted very foolishly. Through Gad the seer the LORD offers three punishments, and David chooses to fall into the hand of the LORD, whose mercy is very great. Seventy thousand die in the plague. As the angel stands over Jerusalem with drawn sword, the LORD relents. David and the elders fall on their faces in sackcloth, and David asks that the LORD’s hand fall on him and his family rather than the people. At the angel’s command David buys the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite for six hundred shekels of gold, refusing to offer the LORD what costs him nothing. He builds an altar, and the LORD answers him with fire from heaven and the angel sheathes his sword. Because David is afraid of the angel’s sword, he sacrifices there instead of at the tabernacle in Gibeon.

1 Satan[1] set himself against Israel and stirred
David up to number the Israelites.
2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the
troops, “Go and count Israel from Beersheba to
Dan, and bring me a report so that I may know
how many there are.”
3 But Joab replied, “May the LORD make His
people a hundred times as many as they are! My
lord the king, are they not all my lord’s servants?
Why should my lord want to do this? Why should
he bring guilt on Israel?”
4 But the king’s word prevailed over Joab. So Joab
left and went through the whole of Israel, and
then came back to Jerusalem.
5 Joab reported the number of those registered to
David: in all Israel there were one million one
hundred thousand men who could draw the sword,
and in Judah four hundred and seventy thousand.[2]
6 But he did not include Levi and Benjamin in the
count, because the king’s order was abhorrent to
him.
7 This thing was evil in the sight of God, and He
struck Israel.
8 Then David said to God, “I have sinned greatly in
doing this. Now, please take away the guilt of Your
servant, for I have acted very foolishly.”
9 The LORD spoke to Gad, David’s seer:
10 “Go and tell David, ‘This is what the LORD says:
I am offering you three things. Choose one of
them, and I will carry it out against you.’”
11 So Gad went to David and said to him, “This is
what the LORD says: ‘Take your choice:
12 three years of famine, or three months of being
swept away before your foes, with the sword of
your enemies overtaking you, or three days of the
sword of the LORD, a plague in the land, with the
angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the
territory of Israel.’ Now consider what answer I
should give to the One who sent me.”
13 David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let
me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercy is
very great; but do not let me fall into human
hands.”
14 So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and
seventy thousand men of Israel died.
15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy
it. But as he was destroying it, the LORD saw and
relented concerning the disaster, and said to the
angel who was destroying, “Enough! Now hold
back your hand.” The angel of the LORD was
standing by the threshing floor of Ornan[3] the
Jebusite.
16 Looking up, David saw the angel of the LORD
poised between earth and sky, sword drawn and
held out over Jerusalem. At this David and the
elders, dressed in sackcloth, threw themselves
face down.
17 David said to God, “Was it not I who ordered the
people to be counted? It is I who have sinned and
done great wrong. But these sheep, what have
they done? LORD my God, let Your hand fall on me
and on my father’s family, but do not let this
plague remain on Your people.”
18 Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell
David to go up and set up an altar to the LORD on
the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
19 So David went up at the word Gad had spoken in
the name of the LORD.
20 Ornan was threshing wheat. He turned and saw
the angel, and his four sons who were with him
hid themselves.
21 When David approached, Ornan looked up and
saw David. He went out from the threshing floor
and bowed to David with his face to the ground.
22 David said to Ornan, “Let me have the site of the
threshing floor, so that I can build an altar to the
LORD on it, so that the plague on the people may
be stopped. Sell it to me for the full price.”
23 Ornan said to David, “Take it! Let my lord the
king do whatever seems good to him. Look, I give
the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing
sledges for the wood and the wheat for the grain
offering. I give it all.”
24 But King David said to Ornan, “No, I insist on
paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD
what is yours, or offer burnt offerings that cost me
nothing.”
25 So David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of
gold[4] for the site.
26 David built an altar to the LORD there and
offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. He
called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him
with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt
offering.
27 Then the LORD spoke to the angel, and he put
his sword back into its sheath.
28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had
answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the

Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.

29 The tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

30 David was unable to go there to seek God, for the sword of the LORD's angel filled him with terror.

1 Or 'an adversary'. 2 Samuel 24:1 says that the LORD's anger incited David; see the note there. Chapter 21 follows 2 Samuel 24.

2 2 Samuel 24:9 has 800,000 for Israel and 500,000 for Judah.

3 Called Araunah in 2 Samuel 24:16.

4 About 6.9 kilograms (15 pounds). 2 Samuel 24:24 has fifty shekels of silver, perhaps for the threshing floor and oxen alone.

Chapter 22

1 Chronicles 22 tells how David declares that the threshing floor is to be the site of the house of the LORD God and the altar of burnt offering for Israel. Because his son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house must be magnificent and famous in every land, David makes great preparations before his death: he sets foreigners to cut stone and gathers iron, bronze beyond weighing and cedar beyond counting. He charges Solomon to build the house, explaining that the LORD would not let him build it because he had shed much blood, but promised him a son who would be a man of rest, named Solomon, in whose days He would give Israel peace and quiet; he will build the house, and the LORD will be his Father and establish his throne for ever. David prays that the LORD will give Solomon wisdom to keep His law, urges him to be strong and courageous, and shows him the vast stores of gold, silver, bronze and iron he has gathered. He commands Israel's leaders to help Solomon and to set their hearts on seeking the LORD and building His sanctuary for the ark of the covenant.

1 Then David said, "Here shall be the house of the LORD God, and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel."[1]

2 So David gave orders to gather the foreigners living in the land of Israel, and he appointed stonecutters from among them to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God.

3 David provided a great quantity of iron for the nails for the doors of the gates and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed,

4 and cedar logs beyond number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought great quantities of cedar to David.

5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all the lands. So I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.

6 He then summoned his son Solomon and gave him the task of building a house for the LORD, Israel's God.

7 David said to Solomon, "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the name of the LORD my God.

8 But this word of the LORD came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought great wars. You shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth in My sight.

9 But a son will be born to you who will be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon,[2] and I will grant Israel peace and quiet in his days.

10 It is he who will build a house for My name. He will be a son to Me, and I will be a Father to him, and I will make his royal throne over Israel secure for all time.'

11 Now, my son, may the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as He has said you will.

12 Only may the LORD give you discretion and understanding when He puts you in charge of Israel, so that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

13 Then you will prosper, if you are careful to observe the statutes and rules that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed.[3]

14 With great effort I have provided for the house of the LORD a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver,[4] and bronze and

iron beyond weighing, because there is so much of it. I have also provided timber and stone, and you may add to them.

15 You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, and every kind of craftsman skilled in every kind of work

16 in gold, silver, bronze and iron, beyond number. Now begin the work, and may the LORD be with you!”

17 David also ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon, saying,

18 “The LORD your God is with you, is He not? He has given you peace on every side, for He handed the people of the land over to me, and the land now lies subject to the LORD and to His people.

19 So now devote yourselves heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Set to work and build the LORD God’s sanctuary, so that the ark of the LORD’s covenant and God’s holy vessels can be brought into the house built for the LORD’s name.”

1 The site of Solomon’s temple on Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1).

2 Solomon (*Shelomoh*) sounds like *shalom*, ‘peace’.

3 The words spoken to Joshua (Joshua 1:6–9).

4 About 3,400 tonnes of gold and 34,000 tonnes of silver; the figures may be meant to show the scale of David’s devotion rather than as an inventory.

Chapter 23

1 Chronicles 23 tells how David, old and full of days, makes his son Solomon king over Israel and gathers the leaders, priests and Levites. The Levites aged thirty and over number thirty-eight thousand; David assigns twenty-four thousand to oversee the work of the LORD’s house, six thousand as officials and judges, four thousand as gatekeepers and four thousand to praise the LORD with instruments. He organises them in divisions by the families of Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Aaron and his sons are set apart to consecrate the most holy things, to burn incense, minister and bless in the LORD’s name for ever, while the descendants of Moses are counted among the Levites. Because the LORD has given rest and dwells in Jerusalem, the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle; from the age of twenty they assist the priests with the courts, the rooms, the purification of holy things, the bread and offerings, the morning and evening praise and the burnt offerings at the appointed feasts.

1 When David had grown old and had lived a full life, he made Solomon his son king of Israel.

2 He called together all Israel’s leaders, with the priests and the Levites.

3 The Levites thirty years old and over were counted, and the total number of men was thirty-eight thousand.

4 David said, “Of these, twenty-four thousand are to oversee the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand are to be officials and judges,

5 four thousand are to be gatekeepers, and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the instruments I have made for praise.”

6 David divided them into divisions according to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

7 Belonging to the Gershonites: Ladan and Shimei.

8 The sons of Ladan: Jehiel the chief, Zetham and Joel, three in all.

9 The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziel and Haran, three in all. These were the heads of the families of Ladan.[1]

10 The sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina,[2] Jeush and Beriah. These were the sons of Shimei, four in all.

11 Jahath was the chief and Zizah the second. But Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they were counted as one family with one assignment.

12 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel, four in all.

13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart, he and his sons for ever, to consecrate the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him and to pronounce blessings in His name for ever.

14 As for Moses the man of God, his sons were counted as part of the tribe of Levi.

15 The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer.

16 Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel was the chief.

17 Of the descendants of Eliezer, Rehabiah was the chief. Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very numerous.

18 Of the sons of Izhar, Shelomith was the chief.

19 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth.

20 The sons of Uzziel: Micah the chief and Isshiah the second.

21 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish.

22 Eleazar died without sons; he had only daughters. Their cousins, the sons of Kish, married them.[3]

23 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth, three in all.

24 These were the descendants of Levi by their families, the heads of families as they were registered by name, one by one, who did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from twenty years old and over.

25 For David said, "The LORD, Israel's God, has given His people rest, and has made His dwelling in Jerusalem for all time.

26 So the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of the articles used in its service."

27 According to the last instructions of David, the Levites were counted from twenty years old and over.[4]

28 Their duty was to help the descendants of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD: to look after the courts and the side rooms, the purification of all the holy things and the other work of the service of the house of God;

29 to take charge of the rows of bread, the fine flour for the grain offerings, the unleavened wafers, the baking and the mixing, and all the measures of quantity and size;

30 to stand every morning to give thanks and praise to the LORD, and likewise in the evening;

31 and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on Sabbaths, New Moons and appointed feasts, to serve before the LORD regularly in the proper number and in the way prescribed for them.

32 So they kept the charge of the tent of meeting, the charge of the Holy Place, and the charge of their kinsmen the descendants of Aaron, for the service of the house of the LORD.

1 This Shimei is probably different from the Shimei of verse 10.

2 Called Zizah in verse 11.

3 Keeping the inheritance within the clan, as in Numbers 36:6–12.

4 Compare verse 3 (thirty years) and Numbers 4:3 and 8:24 (twenty-five).

Chapter 24

1 Chronicles 24 tells how the descendants of Aaron are organised. Nadab and Abihu died before their father without sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests. With Zadok of Eleazar's line and Ahimelech of Ithamar's, David divides the priests by lot into twenty-four divisions, sixteen from Eleazar's larger family and eight from Ithamar's, and the scribe Shemaiah records them before the king and the leaders. The twenty-four lots fall in order to Jehoiarib, Jedaiah, Harim and the rest, and this is the order in which they come to serve in the LORD's house. The remaining Levites also cast lots in the same way, the head of each family on equal terms with his youngest brother.

1 The descendants of Aaron were organised in divisions as follows. Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons;[1] so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.

3 With the help of Zadok, a descendant of Eleazar, and Ahimelech, a descendant of Ithamar, David divided them into divisions for their appointed order of service.

4 A larger number of leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than among Ithamar's, and they were divided accordingly: sixteen heads of families from Eleazar's descendants and eight heads of families from Ithamar's descendants.

5 They divided them impartially by lot, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of God among both Eleazar's and Ithamar's descendants.

6 The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded their names in the presence of the king and the officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son

of Abiathar, and the heads of the families of the priests and of the Levites, one family being taken for Eleazar and then one for Ithamar.

7 The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

9 the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,[2]

11 the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

12 the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

13 the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

14 the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

15 the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez,

16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel,

17 the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

18 the twenty-third to Delaiah and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

19 This was their appointed order of service when they entered the house of the LORD, according to the procedure laid down for them by their ancestor Aaron, as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded him.

20 As for the rest of the descendants of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

21 As for Rehabiah: of his sons, Isshiah was the chief.

22 Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

23 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief,[3] Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth.

24 The son of Uzziel: Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir.

25 The brother of Micah: Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The son of Jaaziah: Beno.[4]

27 The descendants of Merari through Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri.

28 Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

29 Of Kish: the son of Kish, Jerahmeel.

30 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth. These were the Levites by their families.

31 They too cast lots, just as their kinsmen the descendants of Aaron did, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the families of the priests and of the Levites. The families of the eldest brother were treated in the same way as those of the youngest.

1 See Leviticus 10:1–2.

2 Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, belonged to the division of Abijah (Luke 1:5).

3 ‘Hebron’ and ‘the chief’ are supplied from 23:19.

4 Or ‘his son’; so also in verse 27.

Chapter 25

1 Chronicles 25 tells how David and the army commanders set apart the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying with lyres, harps and cymbals. Asaph prophesies under the king’s direction, Jeduthun gives thanks and praise to the LORD with the lyre, and Heman, the king’s seer, is given fourteen sons and three daughters by God. Under their fathers’ direction they serve in the music of the LORD’s house, two hundred and eighty-eight trained and skilled musicians in all. They cast lots for their duties, young and old, teacher and pupil alike, and the twenty-four lots fall in turn to the sons of Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman, each with his sons and kinsmen, twelve to a division.

1 David and the commanders of the army also set apart for the service some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun, who were to prophesy[1] with lyres, harps and cymbals. This is the list of the men who did this work:

2 Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under Asaph’s direction, who prophesied under the king’s direction.

3 Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah, Shimei,[2] Hashabiah and Mattithiah,

six in all, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with the lyre in giving thanks and praise to the LORD.

4 Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir and Mahazioth.[3]

5 All these were sons of Heman the king's seer, given to him through the promises of God to exalt him.[4] God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

6 All these were under the direction of their fathers for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the direction of the king.

7 Their number, together with their kinsmen, all trained and skilled in singing to the LORD, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

8 They cast lots for their duties, young and old alike, teacher as well as pupil.

9 The first lot, for Asaph, fell to Joseph, his sons and kinsmen,[5] twelve; the second to Gedaliah, he and his kinsmen and sons, twelve;

10 the third to Zaccur, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

11 the fourth to Izri, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

12 the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

13 the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

14 the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

15 the eighth to Jeshaiah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

16 the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

17 the tenth to Shimei, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

18 the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

19 the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

20 the thirteenth to Shubael, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

21 the fourteenth to Mattithiah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

22 the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

23 the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

24 the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

25 the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

26 the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

27 the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

28 the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

29 the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

30 the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and kinsmen, twelve;

31 the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons and kinsmen, twelve.

1 Their music and song were seen as a kind of inspired speech; compare 1 Samuel 10:5 and 2 Kings 3:15.

2 'Shimei' is supplied from one Hebrew manuscript and the Greek, to make the six named.

3 The last nine names, read together, make a short prayer: 'Be gracious to me, LORD, be gracious to me; You are my God. I have magnified and exalted help; sitting in hardship I have spoken; give visions in abundance.'

4 Hebrew 'to lift up a horn'.

5 'His sons and kinsmen, twelve' is supplied from the pattern of the following verses.

Chapter 26

1 Chronicles 26 lists the divisions of the gatekeepers, from the Korahites through Meshelemiah and from Obed-edom, whom God blessed with many sons, all capable men, and from the Merarites through Hosah. Like their kinsmen they cast lots, small and great alike, for each gate: east, north, south with the storehouse, and west. It then records the Levites in charge of the treasuries of the house of God and of the dedicated gifts, which David, Samuel the seer, Saul, Abner, Joab and the army commanders had dedicated from the spoils of war to maintain the LORD's house. Other Levites serve as officials and judges over Israel, those of Hebron's family being responsible, west and east of the Jordan, for all the work of the LORD and the service of the king.

1 The divisions of the gatekeepers: from the Korahites, Meshelemiah son of Kore, one of the sons of Asaph.[1]

2 Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

3 Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth and Eliehoenai the seventh.

4 Obed-edom also had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sachar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh and Peullethai the eighth, for God had blessed Obed-edom.[2]

6 To his son Shemaiah also were born sons who were leaders in their families, for they were capable men.

7 The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed and Elzabad; and his kinsmen Elihu and Semachiah were also capable men.

8 All these were descendants of Obed-edom; they and their sons and kinsmen were able men, strong for the work, sixty-two in all from Obed-edom.

9 Meshelemiah had sons and kinsmen, capable men, eighteen in all.

10 Hosah, of the Merarites, had sons: Shimri the chief (though he was not the firstborn, his father made him chief),

11 Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third and Zechariah the fourth. All the sons and kinsmen of Hosah numbered thirteen.

12 These divisions of the gatekeepers, through their chief men, had duties, just as their kinsmen had, ministering in the house of the LORD.

13 They cast lots for each gate, family by family, small and great alike.

14 The lot for the East Gate fell to Shelemiah.[3] Then they cast lots for his son Zechariah, a wise counsellor, and the lot for the North Gate fell to him.

15 The lot for the South Gate fell to Obed-edom, and the lot for the storehouse to his sons.

16 The lots for the West Gate and the Shallecheth Gate on the upper road fell to Shuppim and Hosah. Guard corresponded to guard.

17 There were six Levites a day on the east, four a day on the north, four a day on the south, and two at a time at the storehouse.

18 As for the colonnade[4] on the west, there were four at the road and two at the colonnade itself.

19 These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the Korahites and the Merarites.

20 Their fellow Levites[5] were in charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries for the dedicated gifts.

21 The descendants of Ladan, Gershonites through Ladan, heads of families belonging to Ladan the Gershonite, were the Jehielites.

22 The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and his brother Joel, were in charge of the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

23 From the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites and the Uzzielites:

24 Shebuel, a descendant of Gershom son of Moses, was the officer in charge of the treasuries.

25 His kinsmen through Eliezer were Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiah his son, Joram his son, Zichri his son and Shelomoth his son.

26 This Shelomoth and his kinsmen were in charge of all the treasuries of the dedicated gifts that King David, the heads of families, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the other army commanders had dedicated.

27 Some of the plunder taken in battle they dedicated for the upkeep of the house of the LORD.

28 And everything dedicated by Samuel the seer, by Saul son of Kish, by Abner son of Ner and by Joab son of Zeruiah, and all the other dedicated gifts, were in the care of Shelomith[6] and his kinsmen.

29 From the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were assigned duties outside the temple, as officials and judges over Israel.

30 From the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his kinsmen, seventeen hundred capable men, were responsible in Israel west of the Jordan for all the work of the LORD and for the king's service.

31 As for the Hebronites, Jerijah was their chief according to the genealogical records of their families. In the fortieth year of David's reign a search was made in the records, and capable men among them were found at Jazer in Gilead.

32 Jerijah had two thousand seven hundred kinsmen, capable men and heads of families, and King David put them in charge of the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh for every matter relating to God and to the king.

1 Probably 'Ebiasaph' (9:19).
2 Compare 13:14.
3 Another form of Meshelemiah.
4 Hebrew *parbar*, a word of uncertain meaning, perhaps a court or open building.
5 So the Greek; the Hebrew has 'And the Levites, Ahijah'.
6 Another form of Shelomoth.

Chapter 27

1 Chronicles 27 lists the twelve army divisions, each of twenty-four thousand men, that serve the king in monthly turns under commanders drawn from David's mighty men, among them Jashobeam, Benaiah and Asahel. It names the leaders of the tribes of Israel, and notes that David did not count those under twenty, because the LORD had promised to make Israel as many as the stars; Joab began a census but did not finish it, for wrath came on Israel because of it. It lists the officials in charge of the king's treasuries, fields, vineyards, wine cellars, olive and sycamore groves, oil, cattle, camels, donkeys and flocks, and closes with David's counsellors: his uncle Jonathan, Jehiel, Ahithophel, Hushai the king's friend, Jehoiada and Abiathar, and Joab the commander of the army.

1 This is the list of the Israelites, heads of families, commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers, who served the king in all that concerned the divisions that came and went month by month throughout the year. Each division numbered twenty-four thousand men.

2 The first division, on duty in the first month, was commanded by Jashobeam son of Zabdiel; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

3 He was a descendant of Perez and chief of all the army commanders for the first month.

4 In charge of the division for the second month was Dodai[1] the Ahohite. Mikloth was the leader of his division, and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

5 The third army commander, on duty in the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest, as chief; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

6 This was the Benaiah who was a mighty man among the Thirty and in command of the Thirty. His son Ammizabad was in charge of his division.

7 Fourth, for the fourth month: Asahel the brother of Joab, followed by his son Zebadiah; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.[2]

8 Fifth, for the fifth month: the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

9 Sixth, for the sixth month: Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

10 Seventh, for the seventh month: Helez the Pelonite, an Ephraimite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

11 Eighth, for the eighth month: Sibbecai the Hushathite, a Zerahite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

12 Ninth, for the ninth month: Abiezer the Anathothite, a Benjaminite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

13 Tenth, for the tenth month: Maharai the Netophathite, a Zerahite; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

14 Eleventh, for the eleventh month: Benaiah the Pirathonite, an Ephraimite; his division numbered

twenty-four thousand.

15 Twelfth, for the twelfth month: Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel's family; his division numbered twenty-four thousand.

16 Over the tribes of Israel: for the Reubenites, Eliezer son of Zichri was the leader; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah son of Maacah;

17 for Levi, Hashabiah son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

18 for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers;[3] for Issachar, Omri son of Michael;

19 for Zebulun, Ishmaiah son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jerimoth son of Azriel;

20 for the Ephraimites, Hoshea son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel son of Pedaiah;

21 for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel son of Abner;

22 for Dan, Azarel son of Jeroham. These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.[4]

23 David did not count those twenty years old or under, because the LORD had promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars of the heavens.

24 Joab son of Zeruiah began to count them but did not finish. Wrath came on Israel because of this census, and the number was not entered in the records of King David.[5]

25 Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the king's treasuries. Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the country, in the towns, in the villages and in the towers.

26 Ezri son of Chelub was in charge of the workers who farmed the land.

27 Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards. Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars.

28 Baal-hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive trees and sycamore-fig trees in the lowlands. Joash was in charge of the supplies of oil.

29 Shitrai the Sharonite was in charge of the herds grazing in Sharon. Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the herds 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 flocks. All these were the officials in charge of King David's property.

32 Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counsellor, a man of insight and a scribe. Jehiel son of Hachmoni looked after the king's sons.

33 Ahithophel served as the king's counsellor, and Hushai the Archite as the king's friend.

34 Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah and by Abiathar. Joab was the commander of the king's army.

1 Probably 'Eleazar son of Dodai' (11:12).

2 Asahel had been killed early in David's reign (2 Samuel 2:23); the division may have been named after him.

3 Perhaps Eliab (2:13; 1 Samuel 16:6).

4 Gad and Asher are not listed.

5 See chapter 21.

Chapter 28

1 Chronicles 28 tells how David assembles all the leaders of Israel at Jerusalem and, standing before them, explains that he had wanted to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant, the footstool of God, but God forbade him because he was a warrior who had shed blood. The LORD chose Judah, David's family and David himself, and of all his sons He chose Solomon to sit on the throne of the LORD's kingdom over Israel and build His house; He will be his Father and establish his kingdom for ever, if he keeps His commandments. David charges the people to keep and seek all the LORD's commands so that they may possess the good land. He urges Solomon to know the God of his father and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart; if Solomon seeks Him, He will be found. David gives Solomon the plans for the temple, its rooms, courts and treasuries, the divisions of priests and Levites, and the weight of gold and silver for every vessel and for the chariot of the cherubim, all written down by the LORD's hand. He tells him to be strong and courageous, for the LORD God will not leave him until the work is done.

1 David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel: the leaders of the tribes, the commanders

of the divisions who served the king, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the valiant warriors.

2 King David rose to his feet and said, “Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, a footstool for the feet of our God, and I made preparations to build it.

3 But God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for My name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’

4 Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me out of all my father’s family to be king over Israel for ever. He chose Judah as leader, and within the tribe of Judah my father’s family, and among my father’s sons it pleased Him to make me king over all Israel.

5 And out of all my sons, of whom the LORD has given me many, He has chosen Solomon to sit on the throne of the LORD’s kingdom over Israel.

6 He told me, ‘It is your son Solomon who will build My house and its courts, for I have chosen him as My son, and I will be his Father.

7 I will establish his kingdom for ever if he is steadfast in carrying out My commandments and My rules, as he is today.’

8 So now, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: keep and seek all the commandments of the LORD your God, so that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants after you for ever.

9 As for you, Solomon my son, acknowledge your father’s God and serve Him wholeheartedly and willingly, for the LORD examines every heart and discerns every intention behind people’s thoughts. Seek Him, and He will let you find Him; abandon Him, and He will cast you off for ever.

10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as His sanctuary. Be strong, and do it.”

11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and the room for the mercy seat.[1]

12 He gave him the plans of all that he had in mind[2] for the courts of the house of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries for the dedicated gifts,

13 and for the priestly and Levitical divisions, for every task in the service of the LORD’s house, and for every article to be used in that service.

14 He gave instructions concerning the weight of gold for all the gold articles for every kind of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles for every kind of service,

15 the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand;

16 the weight of gold for each table for the rows of bread, and the silver for the silver tables;

17 the pure gold for the forks, the sprinkling bowls and the jars; the weight of gold for each gold dish and of silver for each silver dish;

18 and the weight of refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.[3]

19 “All this,” David said, “the LORD made plain to me in writing by His hand on me, all the details of the plan.”

20 Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and do it. Do not be afraid or dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.

21 Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God, and with you in all the work will be every willing man skilled in any kind of service. The officials and all the people will be wholly at your command.”

1 Hebrew ‘the house of the atonement cover’, the Most Holy Place (Exodus 25:17–22).

2 Or ‘all that he had by the Spirit’.

3 The cherubim are pictured as the LORD’s throne-chariot; compare Ezekiel 1 and Psalm 18:10.

Chapter 29

1 Chronicles 29 tells how David tells the assembly that Solomon is young and the task great, for the temple is not for man but for the LORD God. He has provided gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and precious stones, and from his own treasure he gives three thousand talents of gold of Ophir and seven thousand talents of refined silver, and he invites others to give willingly. The leaders give generously, and the people rejoice because they have given with a whole heart. David blesses the LORD before the assembly: greatness, power, glory, victory and majesty are His, for everything in heaven and earth is His; riches and honour come from Him; all they have given comes from His hand, for they are strangers and sojourners, their days like a shadow. He prays that the LORD will keep this purpose in His people's hearts and give Solomon a whole heart to keep His commandments and build the temple. The assembly blesses the LORD, offers a thousand bulls, rams and lambs, and with great joy makes Solomon king a second time and anoints Zadok as priest. Solomon sits on the throne of the LORD and prospers, and all Israel obeys him. David dies in a good old age after reigning forty years, and his acts are recorded in the writings of Samuel the seer, Nathan the prophet and Gad the seer.

1 Then King David said to the whole assembly, "My
son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is
young and inexperienced, and the work is great,
for this palace[1] is not for a human being but for
the LORD God.

2 With all my resources I have provided for the
house of my God gold for the things of gold, silver
for the things of silver, bronze for the things of
bronze, iron for the things of iron and wood for
the things of wood, as well as onyx stones and
stones for setting, stones of antimony[2] and of
various colours, every kind of precious stone, and
marble in abundance.

3 Moreover, because of my delight in the house of
my God, I now give my own personal treasure of
gold and silver to the house of my God, over and
above all that I have provided for the holy house:

4 three thousand talents of gold, gold of Ophir, and
seven thousand talents of refined silver,[3] for
overlaying the walls of the buildings,

5 gold for the things of gold and silver for the
things of silver, and for all the work to be done by
the craftsmen. Now who is willing to consecrate
himself today to the LORD?"[4]

6 Then the leaders of the families, the leaders of
the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands
and of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the
king's work gave willingly.

7 They gave for the service of the house of God five
thousand talents and ten thousand darics[5] of gold,
ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand
talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents
of iron.

8 Whoever had precious stones gave them to the
treasury of the house of the LORD, in the care of
Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 The people rejoiced at their willing response, for
they had given freely to the LORD with a whole
heart. King David also rejoiced greatly.

10 Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of
the whole assembly. David said, "Blessed are You,
LORD, the God of our father Israel, for ever and
ever.

11 Yours, LORD, are the greatness and the power,
the glory, the victory and the majesty, for
everything in heaven and on earth is Yours. Yours,
LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head
over all.[6]

12 Riches and honour come from You, and You rule
over all. In Your hand are strength and might, and
in Your hand it lies to make great and to give
strength to all.

13 So now, our God, we give You thanks and praise
Your glorious name.

14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we
should be able to give as generously as this?
Everything comes from You, and we have given
You only what comes from Your own hand.

15 For we are strangers and sojourners before You,
as all our ancestors were. Our days on earth are
like a shadow, and there is no hope of staying.

16 LORD our God, all this abundance that we have
provided for building You a house for Your holy
name comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs
to You.

17 I know, my God, that You test the heart and
delight in uprightness. With an upright heart I
have freely offered all these things, and now I
have seen with joy how willingly Your people who
are present here have given to You.

18 LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel our
fathers, keep this purpose for ever in the thoughts

of the hearts of Your people, and direct their hearts towards You.

19 Give my son Solomon a whole heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do everything, and to build the palace for which I have made provision.”

20 Then David said to the whole assembly, “Bless the LORD your God.” And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and they bowed low and paid homage to the LORD and to the king.

21 On the following day they sacrificed to the LORD and presented burnt offerings: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand lambs, together with their drink offerings, and many other sacrifices on behalf of all Israel.

22 They ate and drank before the LORD that day with great joy. Then they made Solomon son of David king a second time,[7] and anointed him before the LORD as leader, and Zadok as priest.

23 So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his father David. He prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

24 All the officials and the mighty men, and also all of King David’s sons, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon.

25 The LORD made Solomon exceedingly great in the sight of all Israel and gave him royal majesty such as no king over Israel had had before him.

26 So David son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

27 He reigned over Israel forty years: seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

28 He died at a good old age, full of days, riches and honour, and his son Solomon succeeded him as king.

29 The events of King David’s reign, from first to last, are recorded in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer,[8]

30 together with all the details of his reign and his power, and the circumstances that came upon him and upon Israel and upon all the kingdoms of the lands.

1 Hebrew *birah*, a late word for a fortress or palace; so also in verse 19.

2 Perhaps a dark stone or mortar; the meaning is uncertain, as with several of the stones in this verse.

3 About 100 tonnes of gold and 240 tonnes of silver.

4 Hebrew ‘to fill his hand’, the expression for ordaining a priest; here, to make an offering.

5 A Persian gold coin weighing about 8.4 grams; the use of the term reflects the time when Chronicles was written.

6 These words lie behind the doxology added to the Lord’s Prayer in some manuscripts of Matthew 6:13.

7 The first time was in 23:1; compare 1 Kings 1:32–40.

8 Compare 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel and the prophetic records now lost.