

2 CHRONICLES

Chapter 3



2 chronicles CHAPTER 8

king Solomon rules
Over his people



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Various Activities of Solomon.

1

At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon had built the house of the Lord and his own house,

2

Solomon rebuilt the cities that Hiram had given to him, and settled the people of Israel in them.

3

Solomon went to Hamath-zobah, and captured it.

4

He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all the storage towns that he built in Hamath. He also built Upper Beth-horon and Lower Beth-horon,
fortified cities, with walls, gates, and bars,⁵ and Baalath,
as well as all Solomon's storage towns, and all the towns for his chariots, the towns for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build, in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.⁶ All

the people who were left of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were

not of Israel,⁸ from their descendants who were still left in the land, whom the people of Israel had not destroyed - these Solomon conscripted for forced labour, as is still the case to-day.

⁹ But of the people Israel Solomon made no slaves for his work; they were soldiers, and his officers, the commanders of his chariotry and ~~cavalry~~ cavalry.

¹⁰ These were the chief officers of King Solomon, two hundred and fifty of them, who exercised authority over the people.

¹¹ Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter from the city of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said, 'My wife shall not live in the house of king David of Israel, for the places to which the ark of the Lord has come are holy.'

¹² Then Solomon offered up burnt-offerings to the Lord on the altar of the Lord that he had built in front of the Lord's Vestibule, ¹³ as the duty of each day required, offering according to the commandment of Moses for the sabbaths, the new moons, and the three annual festivals - the festival of unleavened bread, the festival of weeks, and the festival of booths. ¹⁴ According to the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priest for Handwritten Bible

their service, and the Levites for their offices of praise and ministry alongside the priests as the duty of each day required, and the gatekeepers in their divisions for the several gates; for so David the man of God had commanded.

¹⁵ They did not turn away from what the king had commanded the priests and Levites regarding anything at all, or regarding the treasures.

¹⁶ Then all the work of Solomon was accomplished from the day the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid until the house of the Lord was finished completely.

¹⁷ Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and Eloth on the shore of the sea, in the land of Edom. ¹⁸ Huram sent him, in the case of his servants, ships and servants familiar with the sea. They went to Ophir, together with the servants of Solomon, and returned from there four hundred and fifty talents of gold and brought it to King Solomon.

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9

Visit of the Queen of Sheba

1. When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions, having a very great retinue and camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she discussed with him all that was on her mind ² Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from Solomon that he could not explain to her.

³ When the Queen of Sheba had observed the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁴ the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, and their clothing, his valets and their clothing, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit left in her.

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⁵

So she said to the King, 'The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom,
⁶ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes saw it. Not even half of the greatness of your wisdom had been told to me; you far surpass the report that I had heard.⁷ Happy are your people! Happy are those your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom!
⁸ Blessed be the Lord your God. ~~Because~~ who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the Lord your God. Because your God loved Israel and wished to establish them for ever, he has made you king over them, so that you may execute justice and righteousness.' Then she gave the King one hundred and twenty talents of gold, a very great quantity of spurs, and precious stones; there were no spurs such as those that the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

2 Chronicles 9:8

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10

Moreover, the servants of Huram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir brought al-gum wood and precious stones,

"From the al-gum wood, the king made steps for the house of the Lord and for the king's horse, lyres also and harps for the singers; there never was seen the like of them before in the land of Judah.

12.

Meanwhile, King Solomon granted the queen of Sheba every desire that she expressed, well beyond what she had brought to the king. Then she returned to her own land, with her servants.

Solomon's Great Wealth

13

The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold,¹⁴ besides that which the traders and merchants brought; and all kinds the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land

brought gold and silver to Solomon. 15. King Solomon made two hundred large shields of beaten gold; six hundred shekels of beaten gold went into each large shield. 16. He made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three hundred shekels of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon. 17. The king also made a great iron throne, and overlaid it with pine gold. 18. The throne had six steps and a footstool of gold, which were attached to the throne, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the arm rests. 19. While twelve lions were standing one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom. 20. All king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels

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and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; Silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.

²¹ For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Huram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, iron, apes and peacocks.²² Thus king Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.²³ All the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.²⁴ Every one of them brought a present, objects of silver and gold, garments, weaponry, spices, horses, and mules, so much year after year.²⁵ Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horses, which he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.²⁶ He ruled over all the kings

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from the Gophrætes to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.

27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.²⁸ Horses were imported for Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.

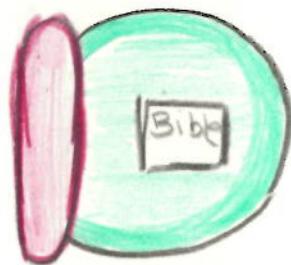
Death of Solomon

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of the Seer Iddo concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat? ³⁰ Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years. ³¹ Solomon slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam succeeded him.

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THE REVOLT AGAINST REHOBOAM

¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. ³ They sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ "Your Father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your Father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us and we will serve you."⁵ He said to them, "Come to me again in three days." So the people went away.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" ⁷ They answered him, "If you will be kind to this people and please them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants for ever."⁸ But he rejected the advice that the older men gave him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. ⁹ He said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your Father put on us'?" ¹⁰ The young men

who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus should you speak to the people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us'; tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my Father's loins. Now, whereas my Father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My Father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, "Come to me again the third day." ¹³ The king answered them harshly. King Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men;

¹⁴ he spoke to them in accordance with the advice of the young men, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, because it was a turn of affairs brought about by God so that the LORD might fulfil his word, which he had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents

O Israel! Look now to your own house, O David." So all Israel departed to their tents.¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who were living in the cities of Judah.¹⁸ When King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labour, the people of Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam hurriedly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.