

Marti Steussy's Commentary on I Kings 1-11 with Side-by-Side Translations from the CEB and NRSV

CEB	Marti's Notes	NRS
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 1:1 King David had become very old. His servants covered him with blankets, but he couldn't stay warm. ² They said to him, "Allow us to find a young woman for our master the king. She will serve the king and take care of him by lying beside our master the king and keeping him warm." ³ So they looked in every corner of Israel until they found Abishag from Shunem. They brought her to the king. ⁴ She was very beautiful. She cared for the king and served him, but the king didn't have sex with her.</p> <p>⁵ Adonijah, Haggith's son, bragged about himself and said, "I'll rule as king myself." He got his own chariot and horses with fifty runners to go in front. ⁶ Now Adonijah's father had never given him direction; he never questioned why Adonijah did what he did. He was very handsome and was born after Absalom. ⁷ He took advice from Joab, Zeruiah's son, and from the priest Abiathar. They assisted Adonijah. ⁸ But Zadok the priest, Jehoiada's son Benaiah, the prophet Nathan, Shimei and his friends, and David's veterans didn't join Adonijah. ⁹ So Adonijah prepared lamb, oxen, and fattened cattle at the Stone of Zohemoth, next to En-rogel. He invited his brothers (the royal princes) and all the citizens of Judah who were the royal servants to come. ¹⁰ But he didn't invite the prophet Nathan, Benaiah, David's veterans, or his brother Solomon.</p> <p>¹¹ Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Did you hear that Adonijah, Haggith's son, has become king, but our master David doesn't know about it? ¹² Let me give you some advice on how you and your son Solomon can survive this. ¹³ Go to King David and say, 'Didn't my master the king</p>	<p>Failure to have sex with her probably demonstrates failure to meet qualifications of kingly office, rather than virtue.</p> <p>See 2 Sam 3:2-5. Haggith's ancestry unknown.</p> <p>Adonijah's supporters are the "old guard" from David's wilderness days, with Abiathar being Eli's last surviving son (1 Sam 22:20-23). Zadok doesn't appear until David moves into Jerusalem (2 Sam 8:17) and may be a local Jebusite priest. Benaiah commanded some of David's mercenary troops (who remained loyal to David when the Israelites mostly follow Absalom, 2 Sam 15). Shimei (2 Sam 16:5ff, 19:16ff, see David's instructions on him in the next chapter) is a surprise in the list of Solomon's supporters.</p> <p>Nathan earlier appears only to give the temple oracle and in Solomon's birth story (2 Sam 7, 12), unless he is the same as the king's son mentioned in 2 S 5:14. Bathsheba has appeared only in Solomon's birth story (2 S 11-12), not in the earlier lists of David's wives. Baruch Halpern asks if Solomon was actually Uriah's legitimate son, with the adultery story an invention to support his claim to the Judean throne.</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 1:1 King David was old and advanced in years; and although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. ² So his servants said to him, "Let a young virgin be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king, and be his attendant; let her lie in your bosom, so that my lord the king may be warm." ³ So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴ The girl was very beautiful. She became the king's attendant and served him, but the king did not know her sexually.</p> <p>⁵ Now Adonijah son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶ His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. ⁷ He conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with the priest Abiathar, and they supported Adonijah. ⁸ But the priest Zadok, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and the prophet Nathan, and Shimei, and Rei, and David's own warriors did not side with Adonijah. ⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fatted cattle by the stone Zohemoth, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰ but he did not invite the prophet Nathan or Benaiah or the warriors or his brother Solomon.</p> <p>¹¹ Then Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king and our lord David does not know it? ¹² Now therefore come, let me give you advice, so that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go in at once</p>

swear to your servant, "Your son Solomon will certainly rule after me. He will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?"¹⁴ While you are speaking there with the king, I'll come along and support your words."¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to the king in his bedroom. The king was very old, and Abishag from Shunem was serving the king.¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed down on her face before the king. The king asked, "What do you want?"¹⁷ She said to him, "Your Majesty, you swore by the LORD your God to your servant, 'Your son Solomon will certainly rule after me. He will sit on my throne.'¹⁸ But now, look, Adonijah has become king, and my master the king doesn't know about it.¹⁹ He has prepared large quantities of oxen, fattened cattle, and lamb. He has invited all the royal princes as well as Abiathar the priest and Joab the general. However, he didn't invite your servant Solomon.²⁰ As for you, my master the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you to tell them who will follow you on the throne of my master the king.²¹ When my master the king lies down with his ancestors, then I and my son Solomon will become outlaws."

²² While she was still speaking with the king, the prophet Nathan arrived.²³ The king was informed, "The prophet Nathan is here." Then Nathan came in before the king and bowed his face to the ground.²⁴ He said, "My master the king, you must have said, 'Adonijah will become king after me and will sit on my throne.'²⁵ Indeed, today he went down and prepared oxen, fattened cattle, and lamb in large numbers. He invited all the royal princes, the generals, and Abiathar the priest. They are eating and drinking with him, and they said, 'Long live King Adonijah!'²⁶ Adonijah didn't invite me, your servant, Zadok the priest, Jehoiada's son Benaiah, or your servant Solomon.²⁷ If this message was from my master the king, you didn't make it known to your servant. Who should follow

This promise by David not hitherto mentioned, and oddly enough the narrator doesn't claim that David did actually made it. Looks like a plot hatched by Nathan and Bathsheba, not clear who is engineering it.

What is the genre of the "succession narrative" running from mid-2 Samuel to here? Leonhard Rost says it is to justify Solomon's succession, as Halpern also presumes. Rost's student Lienhard Delekat says that such details as Absalom's playing on disgruntlement with David (2 Sam 15:3-4) and the bloodbath surrounding Solomon's coup suggest instead an attack on Solomon—"if only Absalom or Adonijah had succeeded David, as they should have." James Flanagan questions whether 2 S 11-12 and 1 K 1-2 were part of the original sequence at all. David Gunn departs from the "propaganda" assumption and proposes that what we have instead is a serious literary exploration of politics and human nature, albeit playing on people's natural interest in the rich and famous.

There may be some reference here to a practice of co-regency (also known in Egypt) in which the new king began his reign before the old one died, to avoid the instability of the transitional moment between kings.

Nathan's rhetorical cleverness here should be obvious.

to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying: Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne? Why then is Adonijah king?'¹⁴ Then while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words."¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to the king in his room. The king was very old; Abishag the Shunammite was attending the king.¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed and did obeisance to the king, and the king said, "What do you wish?"¹⁷ She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, saying: Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne.¹⁸ But now suddenly Adonijah has become king, though you, my lord the king, do not know it.¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen, fatted cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the children of the king, the priest Abiathar, and Joab the commander of the army; but your servant Solomon he has not invited.²⁰ But you, my lord the king-- the eyes of all Israel are on you to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.²¹ Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his ancestors, that my son Solomon and I will be counted offenders."

²² While she was still speaking with the king, the prophet Nathan came in.²³ The king was told, "Here is the prophet Nathan." When he came in before the king, he did obeisance to the king, with his face to the ground.²⁴ Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne?'²⁵ For today he has gone down and has sacrificed oxen, fatted cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's children, Joab the commander of the army, and the priest Abiathar, who are now eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'²⁶ But he did not invite me, your servant, and the priest Zadok, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon.²⁷ Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and

you on the throne of my master the king?"

²⁸ King David answered, "Bring me Bathsheba." She came and stood before the king. ²⁹ The king made a solemn pledge and said, "As surely as the LORD lives, who rescued me from every trouble, ³⁰ regarding what I swore to you by the LORD, Israel's God, 'Your son Solomon will certainly succeed me; he will sit on the throne after me'--I'll see that it happens today." ³¹ Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground. She honored the king and said, "May my master King David live forever!" ³² King David said, "Bring me Zadok the priest, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah, Jehoiada's son." They came to the king, ³³ who said to them, "Take with you the servants of your masters. Put my son Solomon on my mule and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There Zadok the priest and the prophet Nathan will anoint him king over Israel. Blow the ram's horn and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵ You will follow him. He will enter and sit on my throne, and so he will succeed me as king. I have appointed him to become ruler over Israel and Judah." ³⁶ Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, responded to the king, "Yes, may it happen as the LORD, the God of my king, says. ³⁷ Just as the LORD was with my master the king, so may he be with Solomon. May his throne be even greater than the throne of my master King David."

³⁸ Zadok the priest, the prophet Nathan, Jehoiada's son Benaiah, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule. They led him to Gihon. ³⁹ Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. They blew the ram's horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" ⁴⁰ All the people followed him playing flutes and celebrating. The ground shook at their noise. ⁴¹ Adonijah and all his invited guests heard this when they had finished eating. When Joab heard the

Clearly, she has real influence over him. It is not clear, however, whether this is a real memory on his part or implanted by the talk he has just had with Nathan.

See the earlier comment on Benaiah as commander of the foreign hired soldiers ("Cherethites and Pelethites," probably Cretans and perhaps a subgroup of the Philistines).

you have not let your servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

²⁸ King David answered, "Summon Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. ²⁹ The king swore, saying, "As the LORD lives, who has saved my life from every adversity, ³⁰ as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so will I do this day." ³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and did obeisance to the king, and said, "May my lord King David live forever!" ³² King David said, "Summon to me the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king, ³³ the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There let the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him king over Israel; then blow the trumpet, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵ You shall go up following him. Let him enter and sit on my throne; he shall be king in my place; for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah." ³⁶ Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so ordain. ³⁷ As the LORD has been with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

³⁸ So the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and led him to Gihon. ³⁹ There the priest Zadok took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" ⁴⁰ And all the people went up following him, playing on pipes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth quaked at their noise. ⁴¹ Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as

<p>sound of the ram's horn, he said, "What's that noise coming from the city?"⁴² While he was still speaking, Jonathan, Abiathar the priest's son, arrived. Adonijah said, "Come on in! You are an honest man and will bring a good report."⁴³ Jonathan replied to Adonijah, "No! Our master King David has made Solomon king!⁴⁴ To support him, the king sent along Zadok the priest; the prophet Nathan; Benaiah, Jehoiada's son; and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. They've put Solomon on the royal mule.⁴⁵ Zadok the priest and the prophet Nathan have anointed him king at Gihon. They went up from there celebrating so that the city was thrown into a commotion. That is the sound you heard.⁴⁶ There's more: Solomon has taken over the throne of the kingdom.⁴⁷ The royal attendants blessed our master King David: 'May your God make Solomon's name better than your name. May God elevate his throne above your throne.'" The king then worshipped on his bed⁴⁸ and said, "Bless Israel's God, the LORD, who today has set my son on my throne, and has allowed my eyes to see it."⁴⁹ Trembling with fear, all of Adonijah's guests got up and fled, each going a different way.⁵⁰ Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, so he got up and went to grab hold of the horns of the altar.⁵¹ Solomon was told, "Look! Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and has grabbed the horns of the altar. He's saying, 'King Solomon must swear to me first that he won't execute his servant with the sword.'"⁵² Solomon said, "If he shows himself to be an honorable person, then not a hair of his head will be harmed. But if any evil is found in him, he will die."⁵³ King Solomon sent word and had him brought down from the altar. He came and bowed down to King Solomon. Solomon said to him, "Go home!"</p>	<p>See earlier note on Joab and Abiathar (loyal to David from before Saul's death). These two and also A's son Jonathan remained loyal to David during Absalom's rebellion, although on that occasion Zadok also stayed with David.</p> <p>Adonijah's fear says something about Solomon's reputation (as, perhaps, not a man of <i>shalom</i>). The altar was supposed to be a sanctuary, and it would be desecrated if human blood was spilled on it.</p>	<p>they finished feasting. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "Why is the city in an uproar?"⁴² While he was still speaking, Jonathan son of the priest Abiathar arrived. Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and surely you bring good news."⁴³ Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king;⁴⁴ the king has sent with him the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and they had him ride on the king's mule;⁴⁵ the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you heard.⁴⁶ Solomon now sits on the royal throne.⁴⁷ Moreover the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' The king bowed in worship on the bed⁴⁸ and went on to pray thus, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who today has granted one of my offspring to sit on my throne and permitted me to witness it.'"⁴⁹ Then all the guests of Adonijah got up trembling and went their own ways.⁵⁰ Adonijah, fearing Solomon, got up and went to grasp the horns of the altar.⁵¹ Solomon was informed, "Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; see, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not kill his servant with the sword.'"⁵² So Solomon responded, "If he proves to be a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the ground; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."⁵³ Then King Solomon sent to have him brought down from the altar. He came to do obeisance to King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go home."</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 2:1 David's time was coming to an end. So he commanded Solomon his son,² "I'm following the path that the whole earth takes. Be strong and be a man.³ Guard what is owed to the</p>	<p>Verses 2-4 have a distinctly Deuteronomistic tone, emphasizing commandments and an if/then relationship between obedience and success. (Contrast the statement of the Davidic covenant in</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 2:1 When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying:² "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous,³ and keep the charge of the LORD</p>

LORD your God, walking in his ways and observing his laws, his commands, his judgments, and his testimonies, just as it is written in the Instruction from Moses. In this way you will succeed in whatever you do and wherever you go. ⁴ So also the LORD will confirm the word he spoke to me: 'If your children will take care to walk before me faithfully, with all their heart and all their being, then one of your own children will never fail to be on the throne of Israel.' ⁵ You should know what Joab, Zeruiah's son, has done to me and what he did to the two generals of Israel, Abner, Ner's son, and Amasa, Jether's son. He murdered them, spilling blood at peacetime and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. ⁶ So act wisely: Don't allow him to die a peaceful death. ⁷ As for Barzillai's sons from Gilead, show them kindness. Let them eat with you. When I was running away from your brother Absalom, they came to me. ⁸ Now as for this Shimei, Gera's son--a Benjaminite from Bahurim--who is with you, he cursed me viciously when I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, 'Surely I won't execute you with the sword.' ⁹ But you don't need to excuse him. You are wise and know what to do to him. Give him a violent death." ¹⁰ Then David lay down with his ancestors and was buried in David's City. ¹¹ He ruled over Israel forty years--seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his royal power was well established.

¹³ Adonijah, Haggith's son, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. She said, "Are you coming in peace?" He said, "Yes." ¹⁴ I have something to say to you." She said, "Say it." ¹⁵ He said, "You know

Ps 89:28-27, in which the throne is guaranteed *even if* the descendants are disobedient; 2 Sam 7:12-16 seems to point in this direction also, although both of these do allow for punishment—although not to the point of taking down the kingdom—of disobedient descendants.)

In 2:5 the tone shifts markedly to revenge, hearkening back less to the language of Deuteronomy than the stories in 2 Sam. While David has disclaimed any desire for the deaths of Saul's general Abner and Absalom's general Amasa, accusing Joab for acting against his orders (also true in the death of Absalom himself), there is no question that David benefitted from the murders and considerable reason to suspect that Joab did what David wanted even if David publicly condemned the results.

Shimei: another person with regard to whom David's public pronouncements were generous to a fault (2 Sam 16:5-13; 19:16-23), but now we see what David really intends for the man.

In Egypt, it may well have been the rule that one became king by marrying the king's daughter rather than by being the king's son (although with a brother/sister marriage this usually didn't make

your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. ⁴ Then the LORD will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: 'If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.' ⁵ "Moreover you know also what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner son of Ner, and Amasa son of Jether, whom he murdered, retaliating in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist, and on the sandals on his feet. ⁶ Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. ⁷ Deal loyally, however, with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from your brother Absalom. ⁸ There is also with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a terrible curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim; but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' ⁹ Therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man; you will know what you ought to do to him, and you must bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol." ¹⁰ Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

¹³ Then Adonijah son of Haggith came to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. She asked, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably." ¹⁴ Then he said, "May I have a word with you?" She said,

how the kingdom was mine. All Israel had appointed me as their king. Then suddenly the kingdom went to my brother as the LORD willed.¹⁶ Now I have just one request of you. Don't refuse me!" She said to him, "Go on."¹⁷ Adonijah continued, "Ask King Solomon to let me marry Abishag from Shunem--he won't refuse you."¹⁸ Bathsheba said, "Okay; I'll speak to the king for you."¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to talk with him about Adonijah. The king stood up to meet her and bowed low to her. Then he returned to his throne and had a throne set up for the queen mother. She sat to his right.²⁰ She said, "I have just one small request for you. Don't refuse me." The king said to her, "Mother, ask me. I won't refuse you."²¹ "Let Abishag from Shunem be married to your brother Adonijah," she said.²² King Solomon replied to his mother, "Why ask only for Abishag from Shunem for Adonijah? Why not ask for the entire kingdom for him? After all, he is my older brother and has the support of Abiathar the priest and Joab, Zeruiah's son."²³ King Solomon swore by the LORD, "May God do to me as he sees fit! Adonijah has made this request at the cost of his life!²⁴ Now, as surely as the LORD lives--the one who supported me, put me on the throne of my father David, and provided a royal house for me exactly as he promised-- Adonijah will be executed today."²⁵ So King Solomon sent Benaiah, Jehoiada's son. He attacked Adonijah, and Adonijah died.

²⁶ The king said to the priest Abiathar, "Go to your fields at Anathoth, because you are a condemned man. However, I won't kill you today because you carried the LORD's chest in front of my father David and because you shared in all my father's sufferings."²⁷ So Solomon expelled Abiathar from the LORD's priesthood in order to fulfill the LORD's word that was spoken against Eli's family

much difference). There are a lot of events in the Samuel books which make it look as if a similar custom pertains in early Israel: see 1 S 17:25; 14:50/25:43/20:30/2 S 8 (did David run off with Saul's wife?), 2 Sam 3:7 (why is Abner's liaison with Rizpah so disturbing to Ishbaal, and where did Ahinoam disappear to?), 2 S 3:13-14, and 2 Sam 16:22, in all of which, as here (see 2:22!), sex with a woman associated with the former king seems to function as a claim upon the kingdom.

If this is true, it is absolutely unbelievable that Adonijah or Haggith would ask that Adonijah have access to Abishag; it is much more plausible as a manufactured excuse to execute Adonijah.

See also Levenson, Jon D. 1978. "1 Samuel 25 as literature and as history." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 40, no. 1: 11-28.

Note again how weighty Joab's and Abiathar's support is.

"Go on."¹⁵ He said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel expected me to reign; however, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the LORD.¹⁶ And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me." She said to him, "Go on."¹⁷ He said, "Please ask King Solomon-- he will not refuse you-- to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."¹⁸ Bathsheba said, "Very well; I will speak to the king on your behalf."¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. The king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right.²⁰ Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother; for I will not refuse you."²¹ She said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to your brother Adonijah as his wife."²² King Solomon answered his mother, "And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom as well! For he is my elder brother; ask not only for him but also for the priest Abiathar and for Joab son of Zeruiah!"²³ Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, "So may God do to me, and more also, for Adonijah has devised this scheme at the risk of his life!²⁴ Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of my father David, and who has made me a house as he promised, today Adonijah shall be put to death."²⁵ So King Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he struck him down, and he died.

²⁶ The king said to the priest Abiathar, "Go to Anathoth, to your estate; for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you shared in all the hardships my father endured."²⁷ So Solomon banished Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had

at Shiloh.²⁸ Now the news reached Joab because he had supported Adonijah, though he hadn't supported Absalom. Joab ran to the LORD's tent and grabbed the horns of the altar.²⁹ King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the LORD's tent and was now beside the altar. So Solomon sent Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, instructing him, "Go. Attack Joab!"³⁰ Benaiah came to the LORD's tent and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!'" Joab said, "No! I'd rather die here." Benaiah sent a report back to the king: "This is what Joab said and how he answered me."³¹ The king said to him, "Do as he said. Attack him and then bury him. In doing this, you will remove from me and from my father's royal house the guilt over the innocent blood that Joab shed."³² May the LORD return that bloodguilt back on his own head for attacking the two men who were better and more righteous than he was. He murdered those two with the sword: Abner, Ner's son and Israel's general, and Amasa, Jether's son and Judah's general. But my father David didn't know about it.³³ May the bloodguilt for their deaths return on Joab's head and on the head of his family line forever. But may the LORD's peace be on David, his family, and his royal house forever."³⁴ So Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, went and attacked Joab and killed him. Joab was buried at his home in the wilderness.³⁵ In his place, the king gave leadership of the army to Benaiah, Jehoiada's son. The king put the priest Zadok in Abiathar's position.

³⁶ Then he sent for Shimei and said, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem and stay in the city. Don't leave to go anywhere else."³⁷ If you try to leave, be advised that on the day you cross the Kidron Valley you will most certainly die. Your bloodguilt will be on your own head."³⁸ Shimei said to the king, "This is a good idea. Your servant will do just what my master the king said." So

Another reference to the altar as sanctuary. Even Benaiah initially hesitates to carry out an execution of someone clinging to its horns!

Well, that's what David and Solomon say....

Interestingly, Joab gets an honorable burial.

A new priestly line displaces the old one at the altar.

spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.²⁸ When the news came to Joab-- for Joab had supported Adonijah though he had not supported Absalom-- Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and grasped the horns of the altar.²⁹ When it was told King Solomon, "Joab has fled to the tent of the LORD and now is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."³⁰ So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, "The king commands, 'Come out.'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."³¹ The king replied to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him; and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause."³² The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah.³³ So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever; but to David, and to his descendants, and to his house, and to his throne, there shall be peace from the LORD forevermore."³⁴ Then Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and killed him; and he was buried at his own house near the wilderness.³⁵ The king put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in his place, and the king put the priest Zadok in the place of Abiathar.

³⁶ Then the king sent and summoned Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem, and live there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever."³⁷ For on the day you go out, and cross the Wadi Kidron, know for certain that you shall die; your blood shall be on your own head."

³⁸ And Shimei said to the king, "The sentence is fair; as my lord the king has said, so will your

<p>Shimei stayed in Jerusalem for a long time.³⁹ After three years, two of Shimei's servants fled to the king of Gath, Achish, Maacah's son. Shimei was informed, "Your servants are now in Gath."⁴⁰ Shimei saddled his donkey and went to Achish in Gath to look for his servants. Shimei then brought his servants back from Gath.⁴¹ Solomon was told that Shimei had left Jerusalem for Gath and then returned.⁴² The king sent for Shimei and asked him, "Didn't I make you swear a solemn pledge by the LORD? And didn't I swear to you, 'If you try to leave and go anywhere, be advised that on that very day you will most certainly die'? You said to me, 'This is a good idea. I agree to it.'⁴³ Why didn't you keep your solemn promise to the LORD and the command that I gave you?"⁴⁴ The king said further, "You know quite well all the evil that you did to my father David. May the LORD return your evil on your own head."⁴⁵ However, may King Solomon be blessed and David's throne be secure before the LORD forever."⁴⁶ Then the king commanded Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, who went and attacked Shimei, and he died. In these ways royal power was handed over to Solomon.</p>	<p>Benaiah makes Joab look like a pacifist.</p>	<p>servant do." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.³⁹ But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's slaves ran away to King Achish son of Maacah of Gath. When it was told Shimei, "Your slaves are in Gath,"⁴⁰ Shimei arose and saddled a donkey, and went to Achish in Gath, to search for his slaves; Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.⁴¹ When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned,⁴² the king sent and summoned Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and solemnly adjure you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die'? And you said to me, 'The sentence is fair; I accept.'⁴³ Why then have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the commandment with which I charged you?"⁴⁴ The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the evil that you did to my father David; so the LORD will bring back your evil on your own head."⁴⁵ But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."⁴⁶ Then the king commanded Benaiah son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.</p>
<p>CEB 1 Kings 3:1 Solomon became the son-in-law of Pharaoh, Egypt's king, when he married Pharaoh's daughter. He brought her to David's City until he finished building his royal palace, the LORD's temple, and the wall around Jerusalem.² Unfortunately, the people were sacrificing at the shrines because a temple hadn't yet been built for the LORD's name in those days.³ Now Solomon loved to walk in the laws of his father David, with the exception that he also sacrificed and burned incense at the shrines.⁴ The king went to the great shrine at Gibeon in order to sacrifice there. He used to offer a thousand entirely burned offerings on that altar.⁵ The LORD appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."⁶</p>	<p>See above on the implications of marrying a royal daughter. Even if, as probable, this is not the daughter who carries right to the throne, the Egyptians were not inclined to send their royalty out of the country; in this case, it could probably happen because Egypt is in the Third Intermediary Period and under foreign rule. It is nonetheless a huge claim to fame for Solomon that he was important enough to have such a marriage.</p> <p>See below on diplomatic marriages.</p>	<p>NRS 1 Kings 3:1 Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem.² The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD.³ Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places.⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."⁶ And</p>

Solomon responded, "You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You've kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne.⁷ And now, LORD my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David's place. But I'm young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing.⁸ But I'm here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can't be numbered or counted due to its vast size.⁹ Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help."¹⁰ It pleased the LORD that Solomon had made this request.¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies--asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment--¹² I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward.¹³ I now also give you what you didn't ask for: wealth and fame. There won't be a king like you as long as you live.¹⁴ And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life."¹⁵ Solomon awoke and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem and stood before the chest containing the LORD's covenant. Then he offered entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices, and held a celebration for all his servants.

¹⁶ Sometime later, two prostitutes came and stood before the king.¹⁷ One of them said, "Please, Your Majesty, listen: This woman and I have been living in the same house. I gave birth while she was there.¹⁸ This woman gave birth three days after I did. We stayed together. Apart from the two of us, there was no one else in the house."¹⁹ This

Deuteronomistic language again.

Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you.¹⁴ If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶ Later, two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.¹⁷ The one woman said, "Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house.¹⁸ Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house, only

<p>woman's son died one night when she rolled over him.²⁰ She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I was asleep. She laid him on her chest and laid her dead son on mine.²¹ When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, he was dead! But when I looked more closely in the daylight, it turned out that it wasn't my son-- not the baby I had birthed."²² The other woman said, "No! My son is alive! Your son is the dead one." But the first woman objected, "No! Your son is dead! My son is alive!" In this way they argued back and forth in front of the king.²³ The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead.' The other one says, 'No! Your son is dead and my son is alive.'²⁴ Get me a sword!" They brought a sword to the king.²⁵ Then the king said, "Cut the living child in two! Give half to one woman and half to the other woman."²⁶ Then the woman whose son was still alive said to the king, "Please, Your Majesty, give her the living child; please don't kill him," for she had great love for her son. But the other woman said, "If I can't have him, neither will you. Cut the child in half."²⁷ Then the king answered, "Give the first woman the living newborn. Don't kill him. She is his mother."²⁸ All Israel heard about the judgment that the king made. Their respect for the king grew because they saw that God's wisdom was in him so he could execute justice.</p>		<p>the two of us were in the house.¹⁹ Then this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.²⁰ She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast.²¹ When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead; but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne."²² But the other woman said, "No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours." The first said, "No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine." So they argued before the king.²³ Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; while the other says, 'Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'"²⁴ So the king said, "Bring me a sword," and they brought a sword before the king.²⁵ The king said, "Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one, and half to the other."²⁶ But the woman whose son was alive said to the king-- because compassion for her son burned within her-- "Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!" The other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it."²⁷ Then the king responded: "Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother."²⁸ All Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 4:1 King Solomon became king of all Israel.² These were his officials: the priest Azariah, Zadok's son;³ the scribes Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha; Jehoshaphat, the recorder, Ahilud's son;⁴ the general Benaiah, Jehoiada's son; the priests Zadok and Abiathar;⁵ Azariah, Nathan's son, who was in charge of the officials; Zabud, Nathan's son, a priest and royal friend;⁶ Ahishar, who was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram, Abda's son, who was supervisor of the work gangs.⁷ Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel. They supplied the king and his</p>	<p>See the "law of the king" in Dt 17:14-20, which seems comfortable with the prospect of kingship (even with Israel being "like all the nations"), but contrast the limits it poses on power and acquisitions with Solomon's activities here and further on in the story.</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 4:1 King Solomon was king over all Israel,² and these were his high officials: Azariah son of Zadok was the priest;³ Elihoreph and Ahijah sons of Shisha were secretaries; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder;⁴ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was in command of the army; Zadok and Abiathar were priests;⁵ Azariah son of Nathan was over the officials; Zabud son of Nathan was priest and king's friend;⁶ Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor.⁷ Solomon had twelve officials over all Israel, who provided food</p>

palace with food. Each would provide the supplies for one month per year.⁸ Here are their names: Ben-hur in the highlands of Ephraim;⁹ Ben-deker in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elon-bethhanan;¹⁰ Ben-hesed in Arubboth, who had Socoh and all the land of Hephher;¹¹ Ben-abinadab in all of Naphath-dor (Taphath, Solomon's daughter, was his wife);¹² Baana, Ahilud's son, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean beside Zarethan and below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah and over to the region opposite Jokmeam;¹³ Ben-geber in Ramoth-gilead, who controlled the villages of Jair, Manasseh's son, which were in Gilead, and who had the Argob region that was in Bashan--sixty large walled cities with bronze bars;¹⁴ Ahinadab, Iddo's son, in Mahanaim;¹⁵ Ahimaaz in Naphtali, who also took Solomon's daughter Basemath as his wife;¹⁶ Baana, Hushai's son, in Asher and Bealoth;¹⁷ Jehoshaphat, Paruah's son, in Issachar;¹⁸ Shimei, Ela's son, in Benjamin;¹⁹ Geber, Uri's son, in the land of Gilead, the land of the Amorite king Sihon and of King Og of Bashan; and there was a single officer who was in the land of Judah.²⁰ Judah and Israel grew numerous like the sand alongside the sea. They ate, drank, and celebrated.²¹ Solomon ruled over all the states from the Euphrates River through the Philistines' land and as far as the border of Egypt. These areas brought tribute to Solomon and served him all the days of his life.

²² Solomon's food requirements for a single day included thirty kors of refined flour; sixty kors of flour;²³ ten head of grain-fattened cattle; twenty head of pastured cattle; one hundred sheep; as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks, and the best of fowl.²⁴ He ruled over all the lands west of the Euphrates River, from Tiphseh to Gaza, and over all the kings west of the Euphrates. He had peace on all sides.²⁵ The people of Judah and Israel from Dan all the way to Beer-sheba lived securely under their vines and fig trees throughout the days of Solomon.²⁶ Solomon had forty thousand horse

Current epic plan excludes 4:8-19.

These districts do not conform to the prescribed tribal allotments mentioned elsewhere in the DtrH.

Continue to compare with Dt 17:14-20. Something mixed is going on here: there is a real sense of pride in a glorious rich powerful past (that bit about the vines and fig trees sounds like it has the rosy glow of looking back from a fairly far time in the future), at the same time that the final layer of the book also knows that it begin to disintegrate in the next generation, and that ultimately kings were a disaster and

for the king and his household; each one had to make provision for one month in the year.⁸ These were their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;⁹ Ben-deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elon-beth-hanan;¹⁰ Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (to him belonged Socoh and all the land of Hephher);¹¹ Ben-abinadab, in all Naphath-dor (he had Taphath, Solomon's daughter, as his wife);¹² Baana son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, and from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as the other side of Jokmeam;¹³ Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (he had the villages of Jair son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars);¹⁴ Ahinadab son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;¹⁵ Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he had taken Basemath, Solomon's daughter, as his wife);¹⁶ Baana son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;¹⁷ Jehoshaphat son of Paruah, in Issachar;¹⁸ Shimei son of Ela, in Benjamin;¹⁹ Geber son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of King Sihon of the Amorites and of King Og of Bashan. And there was one official in the land of Judah.²⁰ Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea; they ate and drank and were happy.²¹ Solomon was sovereign over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, even to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Solomon's provision for one day was thirty cors of choice flour, and sixty cors of meal,²³ ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.²⁴ For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates; and he had peace on all sides.²⁵ During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all of them under their vines and fig trees.²⁶ Solomon also had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand

<p>stalls for his chariots and twelve thousand additional horses.²⁷ The officials provided King Solomon and all who joined him at the royal table with monthly food rations. They left out nothing.²⁸ Each brought their share of barley and straw for the horses and for the chariot horses, bringing it to its proper place.</p> <p>²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and very great understanding--insight as long as the seashore itself.³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than all the famous Easterners, greater even than all the wisdom of Egypt.³¹ He was wiser than anyone, more wise than Ethan the Ezrahite or Mahol's sons: Heman, Calcol, and Darda. His reputation was known throughout the region.³² Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs and one thousand five songs.³³ He described the botany of trees, whether the cedar in Lebanon or the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He also described cattle, birds, anything that crawls on the ground, and fish.³⁴ People came from everywhere to listen to Solomon's wisdom; even the earth's kings who had heard about his wisdom came!</p>	<p>the whole nation (soon to be two nations) came crashing down.</p> <p>Notice that wisdom is here defined in terms of “science,” knowledge of botany and zoology, and of proverbs. Again we hear a later voice relishing the dream of a glorious past.</p>	<p>horsemen.²⁷ Those officials supplied provisions for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month; they let nothing be lacking.²⁸ They also brought to the required place barley and straw for the horses and swift steeds, each according to his charge.</p> <p>²⁹ God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore,³⁰ so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt.³¹ He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations.³² He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five.³³ He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish.³⁴ People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.</p>
<p><small>CEB</small> 1 Kings 5:1 Because King Hiram of Tyre was loyal to David throughout his rule, Hiram sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that Solomon had become king after his father.² Solomon sent the following message to Hiram:³ "You know that my father David wasn't able to build a temple for the name of the LORD my God. This was because of the enemies that fought him on all sides until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.⁴ Now the LORD my God has given me peace on every side, without enemies or misfortune.⁵ So I'm planning to build a temple for the name of the LORD my God, just as the LORD indicated to my father David, 'I will give you a son to follow you on your throne. He will build the temple for my name.'⁶ Now give the order and have the cedars of</p>	<p>Even Egyptian pharaohs desired the materials and craftsmanship of Tyre for their building projects.</p>	<p><small>NRS</small> 1 Kings 5:1 Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David.² Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying,³ "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.⁴ But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune.⁵ So I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'⁶ Therefore command that cedars from the Lebanon be cut for me. My servants will join</p>

Lebanon cut down for me. My servants will work with your servants. I'll pay your servants whatever price you set, because you know we have no one here who is skilled in cutting wood like the Sidonians." ⁷ Hiram was thrilled when he heard Solomon's message. He said, "Today the LORD is blessed because he has given David a wise son who is in charge of this great people." ⁸ Hiram sent word back to Solomon: "I have heard your message to me. I will do as you wish with the cedar and pinewood. ⁹ My servants will bring the wood down the Lebanon Mountains to the sea. I'll make rafts out of them and float them on the sea to the place you specify. There I'll dismantle them, and you can carry them away. Now, as for what you must do for me in return, I ask you to provide for my royal house." ¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon all the cedar and pinewood that he wanted. ¹¹ In return, Solomon gave an annual gift to Hiram of twenty thousand kors of wheat to eat, and twenty thousand kors of pure oil for his palace use. ¹² Now the LORD made Solomon wise, just as he had promised. Solomon and Hiram made a covenant and had peace.

¹³ King Solomon called up a work gang of thirty thousand workers from all over Israel. ¹⁴ He sent ten thousand to work in Lebanon each month. Then they would spend two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the work gang. ¹⁵ Solomon had 70,000 laborers and 80,000 stonecutters in the highlands. ¹⁶ This doesn't include Solomon's 3,300 supervisors in charge of the work, who had oversight over the laborers. ¹⁷ At the king's command, they quarried huge stones of the finest quality in order to lay the temple's foundation with carefully cut stone. ¹⁸ The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram, along with those of Byblos, prepared the timber and the stones for the construction of the temple.

Dt 17 again, and again the kings description can be read as either unalloyed bragging or uneasy reporting.

your servants, and I will give you whatever wages you set for your servants; for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians." ⁷ When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly, and said, "Blessed be the LORD today, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people." ⁸ Hiram sent word to Solomon, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me; I will fulfill all your needs in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. ⁹ My servants shall bring it down to the sea from the Lebanon; I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will have them broken up there for you to take away. And you shall meet my needs by providing food for my household." ¹⁰ So Hiram supplied Solomon's every need for timber of cedar and cypress. ¹¹ Solomon in turn gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty cors of fine oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. ¹² So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and the two of them made a treaty.

¹³ King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. ¹⁴ He sent them to the Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts; they would be a month in the Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor. ¹⁵ Solomon also had seventy thousand laborers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hill country, ¹⁶ besides Solomon's three thousand three hundred supervisors who were over the work, having charge of the people who did the work. ¹⁷ At the king's command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. ¹⁸ So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did the stonecutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house.

^{CEB} **1 Kings 6:1** In the four hundred eightieth year after the Israelites left Egypt, in the month of Ziv, the second month, in the fourth year of Solomon's rule over Israel, he built the LORD's temple. ² The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was ninety feet long, thirty feet wide, and forty-five feet high. ³ The porch in front of the temple's main hall was thirty feet long. It ran across the whole width of the temple and extended fifteen feet in front of the temple. ⁴ He made recessed and latticed windows for the temple ⁵ and built side rooms against the temple walls around both the main hall and the most holy place. ⁶ The lower walls were seven and a half feet wide. At the second floor the walls were nine feet wide, and at the third floor they were ten and a half feet wide. He made niches around the outside of the temple so the beams wouldn't be inserted into the temple walls. ⁷ When the temple was built, they did all the stonecutting at the quarry. No hammers, axes, or any iron tools were heard in the temple during its construction. ⁸ The door to the stairs was at the south side of the temple. Winding stairs went up to the second floor and from there to the third floor. ⁹ He completed the temple with a roof of cedar beams and cross-planks. ¹⁰ Then he built the side rooms all around the temple. They were seven and a half feet high. He attached them to the temple with cedarwood.

¹¹ The LORD's word came to Solomon, ¹² Regarding this temple that you are building: If you follow my laws, enact my regulations, and keep all my commands faithfully, then I will fulfill for you my promise that I made to your father David. ¹³ I will live among the Israelites. I won't abandon my people Israel. ¹⁴ So Solomon constructed the temple and completed it. ¹⁵ He built the walls within the temple with cedar planks, paneled from the floor to the ceiling. He overlaid the floor of the

^{NRS} **1 Kings 6:1** In the four hundred eightieth year after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD. ² The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. ³ The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits wide, across the width of the house. Its depth was ten cubits in front of the house. ⁴ For the house he made windows with recessed frames. ⁵ He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary; and he made side chambers all around. ⁶ The lowest story was five cubits wide, the middle one was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. ⁷ The house was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron was heard in the temple while it was being built. ⁸ The entrance for the middle story was on the south side of the house: one went up by winding stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. ⁹ So he built the house, and finished it; he roofed the house with beams and planks of cedar. ¹⁰ He built the structure against the whole house, each story five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar.

¹¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, ¹² "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you, which I made to your father David. ¹³ I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel." ¹⁴ So Solomon built the house, and finished it. ¹⁵ He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor

temple with pine planks.¹⁶ At the back of the temple he built thirty feet of cedar panels from the floor to the ceiling. Solomon built the inner sanctuary, the most holy place.¹⁷ In front of this, the main hall was sixty feet.¹⁸ The cedar inside the temple was carved with gourds and blossoming flowers. The whole thing was cedar. No stone was seen.¹⁹ He set up the inner sanctuary inside the temple so that he could put the chest containing the LORD's covenant there.²⁰ The inner sanctuary was thirty feet in length, width, and height. Solomon overlaid it with pure gold and covered the altar with cedar.²¹ Solomon covered the temple's interior with pure gold. He placed gold chains in front of the inner sanctuary and covered it with gold.²² He overlaid the whole temple inside with gold until the temple was completely covered. He covered the whole altar that was in the inner sanctuary with gold.

²³ He made two winged creatures of olive wood for the inner sanctuary, each fifteen feet high.²⁴ The wings of the first winged creature were each seven and a half feet long. It was fifteen feet from the end of one wing to the end of the other.²⁵ The second winged creature also measured fifteen feet. Both winged creatures had identical measurements and form.²⁶ The height of both winged creatures was fifteen feet.²⁷ Solomon placed the winged creatures inside the temple. Their wings spread out so that the wing of the one touched one wall and the wing of the other touched the other wall. In the middle of the temple, the wings of the two winged creatures touched each other.²⁸ He covered the winged creatures with gold.²⁹ Solomon carved all the walls of the temple--inner and outer rooms--with engravings of winged creatures, palm trees, and blossoming flowers.³⁰ He also covered the

Cherubim: not fat babies with wings, but hybrid creatures whose bodies were a mix of eagle, lion, bull, and/or human parts: “winged sphinxes” gives the right impression.

of the house to the rafters of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress.¹⁶ He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the rafters, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the most holy place.¹⁷ The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long.¹⁸ The cedar within the house had carvings of gourds and open flowers; all was cedar, no stone was seen.¹⁹ The inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.²⁰ The interior of the inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high; he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar with cedar.²¹ Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, then he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.²² Next he overlaid the whole house with gold, in order that the whole house might be perfect; even the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

²³ In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high.²⁴ Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.²⁵ The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the same measure and the same form.²⁶ The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub.²⁷ He put the cherubim in the innermost part of the house; the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one was touching the one wall, and a wing of the other cherub was touching the other wall; their other wings toward the center of the house were touching wing to wing.²⁸ He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ He carved the walls of the house all around

<p>floor of the temple with gold, in both the inner and the outer rooms.³¹ He made the doors of the inner sanctuary from olive wood and carved the doorframes with five recesses.³² He overlaid the two olive-wood doors with gold-plated carvings of winged creatures, palm trees, and blossoming flowers.³³ He made the door of the main hall with doorframes of olive wood with four recesses.³⁴ The two doors of pinewood each pivoted on a socket.³⁵ Solomon carved winged creatures, palm trees, and blossoming flowers, and covered them with gold.³⁶ He built the inner courtyard with three rows of cut stone followed by one row of trimmed cedar.³⁷ Solomon laid the foundation of the LORD's temple in the fourth year in the month of Ziv.³⁸ He finished the temple in all its details and measurements in the eleventh year during the eighth month, the month of Bul. He built it in seven years.</p>		<p>about with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms.³⁰ The floor of the house he overlaid with gold, in the inner and outer rooms.³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors of olivewood; the lintel and the doorposts were five-sided.³² He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; he overlaid them with gold, and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.³³ So also he made for the entrance to the nave doorposts of olivewood, four-sided each,³⁴ and two doors of cypress wood; the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.³⁵ He carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, overlaying them with gold evenly applied upon the carved work.³⁶ He built the inner court with three courses of dressed stone to one course of cedar beams.³⁷ In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.³⁸ In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts, and according to all its specifications. He was seven years in building it.</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 7:1 Now as for Solomon's palace, it took thirteen years for him to complete its construction.² He built the Forest of Lebanon Palace one hundred fifty feet in length, seventy-five feet in width, and forty-five feet in height. It had four rows of cedar columns with cedar engravings above the columns.³ The palace's cedar roof stood above forty-five beams resting on the columns, fifteen beams to each row.⁴ Three sets of window frames faced each other.⁵ All the doorframes were rectangular, facing each other in three sets.⁶ He made a porch with columns seventy-five feet long and forty-five feet wide. Another porch was in front of these with roofed columns in front of them.⁷ He made the throne room the Hall of Justice, where he would judge. It</p>	<p>Interesting that the palace takes longer and is larger than the temple.</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 7:1 Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished his entire house.² He built the House of the Forest of the Lebanon one hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high, built on four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams on the pillars.³ It was roofed with cedar on the forty-five rafters, fifteen in each row, which were on the pillars.⁴ There were window frames in the three rows, facing each other in the three rows.⁵ All the doorways and doorposts had four-sided frames, opposite, facing each other in the three rows.⁶ He made the Hall of Pillars fifty cubits long and thirty cubits wide. There was a porch in front with pillars, and a canopy in front of them.⁷ He made the Hall of the Throne where he was to pronounce judgment, the Hall of Justice, covered with cedar</p>

was covered with cedar from the lower to the upper levels.⁸ The royal residence where Solomon lived was behind this hall. It had a similar design. Solomon also made a similar palace for his wife, Pharaoh's daughter.⁹ He built all these with the best stones cut to size, sawed with saws, back and front, from the foundation to the highest points and from the outer boundary to the great courtyard.¹⁰ The foundation was laid with large stones of high quality, some of fifteen feet and some of twelve feet.¹¹ Above them were high-quality stones cut to measure, as well as cedar.¹² The surrounding great courtyard had three rows of cut stones and a row of trimmed cedar just like the inner courtyard of the LORD's temple and its porch.

¹³ Then King Solomon sent a message and brought Hiram from Tyre.¹⁴ Hiram's mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali. His father was a Tyrian skilled in bronze work. He was amazingly skillful in the techniques and knowledge for doing all kinds of work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.¹⁵ He cast two bronze pillars. Each one was twenty-seven feet high and required a cord of eighteen feet to reach around it.¹⁶ He made two capitals of cast bronze for the tops of the columns. They were each seven and a half feet high.¹⁷ He made an intricate network of chains for the capitals on top of the columns, seven for each capital.¹⁸ He made the pillars and two rows of pomegranates for each network to adorn each of the capitals.¹⁹ The capitals on top of the columns in the porch were made like lilies, each six feet high.²⁰ Above the round-shaped part and next to the network were two hundred pomegranates. These were placed in rows around both of the capitals on top of the columns.²¹ He set up the columns at the temple's porch. He named the south column Jachin. The north column he named Boaz.²² After putting the lily shapes on top of the columns, he was finished with the columns.²³ He also made a tank of cast metal called the Sea. It was circular in shape,

Current epic telling excludes 7:15-44

from floor to floor.⁸ His own house where he would reside, in the other court back of the hall, was of the same construction. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken in marriage.⁹ All these were made of costly stones, cut according to measure, sawed with saws, back and front, from the foundation to the coping, and from outside to the great court.¹⁰ The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits.¹¹ There were costly stones above, cut to measure, and cedarwood.¹² The great court had three courses of dressed stone to one layer of cedar beams all around; so had the inner court of the house of the LORD, and the vestibule of the house.

¹³ Now King Solomon invited and received Hiram from Tyre.¹⁴ He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, whose father, a man of Tyre, had been an artisan in bronze; he was full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge in working bronze. He came to King Solomon, and did all his work.¹⁵ He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of the one, and a cord of twelve cubits would encircle it; the second pillar was the same.¹⁶ He also made two capitals of molten bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits.¹⁷ There were nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals on the tops of the pillars; seven for the one capital, and seven for the other capital.¹⁸ He made the columns with two rows around each latticework to cover the capitals that were above the pomegranates; he did the same with the other capital.

¹⁹ Now the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars in the vestibule were of lily-work, four cubits high.²⁰ The capitals were on the two pillars and also above the rounded projection that was beside the latticework; there were two hundred pomegranates in rows all around; and so with the

fifteen feet from rim to rim, seven and a half feet high, forty-five feet in circumference.²⁴ Under the rim were two rows of gourds completely encircling it, ten every eighteen inches, each cast in its mold.²⁵ The Sea rested on twelve oxen with their backs toward the center, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east.²⁶ The Sea was as thick as the width of a hand. Its rim was shaped like a cup or an open lily blossom. It could hold two thousand baths.²⁷ He also made ten bronze stands. Each was six feet long, six feet wide, and four and a half feet high.²⁸ This is how each stand was made: There were panels connected between the legs.²⁹ Lions, bulls, and winged otherworldly creatures appeared on the panels between the legs. On the legs above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths on panels hanging off the stands.³⁰ There were four bronze wheels with bronze axles for each stand. There were four feet and supports cast for each basin with wreaths on their sides.³¹ Inside the bowl was an opening eighteen inches deep. The opening was round, measuring twenty-seven inches, with engravings. The panels of the stands were square rather than round.³² There were four wheels beneath the panels. The axles of the wheels were attached to the stand. Each wheel was twenty-seven inches in height.³³ The construction of the wheels resembled chariot wheels. The axles, rims, spokes, and hubs were all made of cast metal.³⁴ There was a handle on each of the four corners of every stand, projecting from the side of the stand.³⁵ The top of the stand had a band running around the perimeter that was nine inches deep. The stand had its own supports and panels.³⁶ On the surfaces of the supports and panels he carved winged otherworldly creatures, lions, and palm trees with wreaths everywhere.³⁷ In this manner he made ten stands, each one cast in a single mold of the same size and shape.³⁸ He made ten bronze washbasins, each able to hold forty baths. Every washbasin was six feet across, and there was one for each of the ten stands.³⁹ He placed five stands on the south of

other capital.²¹ He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the south and called it Jachin; and he set up the pillar on the north and called it Boaz.²² On the tops of the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.²³ Then he made the molten sea; it was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high. A line of thirty cubits would encircle it completely.²⁴ Under its brim were panels all around it, each of ten cubits, surrounding the sea; there were two rows of panels, cast when it was cast.²⁵ It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east; the sea was set on them. The hindquarters of each were toward the inside.²⁶ Its thickness was a handbreadth; its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily; it held two thousand baths.²⁷ He also made the ten stands of bronze; each stand was four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high.²⁸ This was the construction of the stands: they had borders; the borders were within the frames;²⁹ on the borders that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work.³⁰ Each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze; at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each.³¹ Its opening was within the crown whose height was one cubit; its opening was round, as a pedestal is made; it was a cubit and a half wide. At its opening there were carvings; its borders were four-sided, not round.³² The four wheels were underneath the borders; the axles of the wheels were in the stands; and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half.³³ The wheels were made like a chariot wheel; their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all cast.³⁴ There were four supports at the four corners of each stand; the supports were of one piece with the stands.³⁵ On the top of the stand there was a round band half a cubit high; on the top of the stand, its stays and its borders were of

the temple and five on the north of the temple. He placed the Sea at the southeast corner of the temple.⁴⁰ Hiram made the basins, shovels, and bowls. And so Hiram finished his work on the LORD's temple for King Solomon:⁴¹ two columns; two circular capitals on top of the columns; two networks, adorning the two circular capitals on top of the columns;⁴² four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, with two rows of pomegranates for each network that adorned the two circular capitals on top of the columns;⁴³ ten stands with ten basins on them;⁴⁴ one Sea; twelve oxen beneath the Sea;⁴⁵ and the pots, shovels, and bowls. All the equipment that Hiram made for King Solomon for the LORD's temple was made from polished bronze.⁴⁶ The king cast it in clay molds in the Jordan Valley between Succoth and Zarethan.⁴⁷ Due to the very large number of objects, Solomon didn't even try to weigh the bronze.⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the equipment for the LORD's temple: the golden altar; the golden table for the bread of the presence;⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs of gold;⁵⁰ the cups, wick trimmers, bowls, ladles, and censers of pure gold; and the gold sockets for the doors to the most holy place and for the doors to the main hall.⁵¹ When all King Solomon's work on the LORD's temple was finished, he brought the silver, gold, and all the objects his father David had dedicated and put them in the treasuries of the LORD's temple.

In the ancient world, temples were not just places of worship (in fact, they were not necessarily places of public worship; one scholar has described the First Temple as “the private chapel of the Davidic kings”); they were also treasury buildings. So the temple is where national wealth is kept...

one piece with it.³⁶ On the surfaces of its stays and on its borders he carved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, where each had space, with wreaths all around.³⁷ In this way he made the ten stands; all of them were cast alike, with the same size and the same form.³⁸ He made ten basins of bronze; each basin held forty baths, each basin measured four cubits; there was a basin for each of the ten stands.³⁹ He set five of the stands on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house; he set the sea on the southeast corner of the house.⁴⁰ Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the LORD:⁴¹ the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars, the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars;⁴² the four hundred pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars;⁴³ the ten stands, the ten basins on the stands;⁴⁴ the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath the sea.⁴⁵ The pots, the shovels, and the basins, all these vessels that Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze.⁴⁶ In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan.⁴⁷ Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not determined.⁴⁸ So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of the LORD: the golden altar, the golden table for the bread of the Presence,⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold, five on the south side and five on the north, in front of the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold;⁵⁰ the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and firepans, of pure gold; the sockets for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the nave of the temple, of gold.⁵¹ Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the LORD was finished. Solomon brought in the things that his

		<p>father David had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled Israel's elders, all the tribal leaders, and the chiefs of Israel's clans at Jerusalem to bring up the chest containing the LORD's covenant from David's City Zion. ² Everyone in Israel assembled before King Solomon in the seventh month, the month of Ethanim, during the festival. ³ When all of Israel's elders had arrived, the priests picked up the chest. ⁴ They brought the LORD's chest, the meeting tent, and all the holy equipment that was in the tent. The priests and the Levites brought them up, ⁵ while King Solomon and the entire Israelite assembly that had joined him before the chest sacrificed countless sheep and oxen. ⁶ The priests brought the chest containing the LORD's covenant to its designated spot beneath the wings of the winged creatures in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the most holy place. ⁷ The winged creatures spread their wings over the place where the chest rested, covering the chest and its carrying poles. ⁸ The carrying poles were so long that their tips could be seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, though they weren't visible from outside. They are still there today. ⁹ Nothing was in the chest except the two stone tablets Moses had placed there while at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they left Egypt. ¹⁰ When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD's temple, ¹¹ and the priests were unable to carry out their duties due to the cloud because the LORD's glory filled the LORD's temple. ¹² Then Solomon said, "The LORD said that he would live in a dark cloud, ¹³ but I have indeed built you a lofty temple as a place where you can live forever."</p>	<p>Heb 9:4 says Aaron's rod and a golden urn full of manna were also in the ark (cf Ex 16:33).</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. ² All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. ³ And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. ⁴ So they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. ⁵ King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. ⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. ⁸ The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. ⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. ¹² Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. ¹³ I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."</p>

¹⁴ The king turned around, and while the entire assembly of Israel was standing there, he blessed them, ¹⁵ saying, "Bless Israel's God, the LORD, who spoke directly to my father David and now has kept his promise: ¹⁶ 'From the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt I haven't selected a city from any Israelite tribe as a site for the building of a temple for my name. But now I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.' ¹⁷ My father David wanted to build a temple for the name of the LORD, Israel's God. ¹⁸ "But the LORD said to my father David, 'It is very good that you thought to build a temple for my name. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, you yourself won't build that temple. Instead, your very own son will build the temple for my name.' ²⁰ The LORD has kept his promise-- I have succeeded my father David on Israel's throne just as the LORD said, and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD, Israel's God. ²¹ There I've placed the chest that contains the covenant that the LORD made with our ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt."

²² Solomon stood before the LORD's altar in front of the entire Israelite assembly and, spreading out his hands toward the sky, ²³ he said: LORD God of Israel, there's no god like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep the covenant and show loyalty to your servants who walk before you with all their heart. ²⁴ This is the covenant you kept with your servant David, my father, which you promised him. Today, you have fulfilled what you promised. ²⁵ So now, LORD, Israel's God, keep what you promised my father David, your servant, when you said to him, "You will never fail to have a successor sitting on Israel's throne as long as your descendants carefully walk before me just as you walked before me." ²⁶ So now, God of Israel, may your promise to your servant David, my father, come true. ²⁷ But how could God possibly

¹⁴ Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. ¹⁵ He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David, saying, ¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any of the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.' ¹⁷ My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, 'You did well to consider building a house for my name; ¹⁹ nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.' ²⁰ Now the LORD has upheld the promise that he made; for I have risen in the place of my father David; I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ²¹ There I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt."

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵ Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be

live on earth? If heaven, even the highest heaven, can't contain you, how can this temple that I've built contain you? ²⁸ LORD my God, listen to your servant's prayer and request, and hear the cry and prayer that your servant prays to you today. ²⁹ Constantly watch over this temple, the place about which you said, "My name will be there," and listen to the prayer that your servant is praying toward this place. ³⁰ Listen to the request of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive! ³¹ If someone wrongs another and must make a solemn pledge asserting innocence before your altar in this temple, ³² then listen from heaven, act, and decide which of your servants is right. Condemn the guilty party, repaying them for their conduct, but justify the innocent person, repaying them for their righteousness. ³³ If your people Israel are defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, but then they change their hearts and lives, give thanks to your name, and ask for mercy before you at this temple, ³⁴ then listen from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel. Return them to the land you gave their ancestors. ³⁵ When the sky holds back its rain because Israel has sinned against you, but they then pray toward this place, give thanks to your name, and turn away from their sin because you have punished them for it, ³⁶ then listen from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the best way for them to follow, and send rain on your land that you gave to your people as an inheritance. ³⁷ Whenever there is a famine or plague in the land; or whenever there is blight, mildew, locust, or grasshopper; or whenever someone's enemy attacks them in their cities; or any plague or illness comes; ³⁸ whatever prayer or petition is made by any individual or by all of your people Israel--because people will recognize their own pain and spread out their hands toward this temple-- ³⁹ then listen from heaven where you live. Forgive, act, and repay each person according to

Even for those of us who are a bit cynical about Solomon and about the agendas of the DtrH, the characterization of God here, as a forgiving and listening God, is impressive.

Likely this prayer is supplied for Solomon much later, after Jerusalem has fallen; thus the prayer to “return them to the land you gave their ancestors” would be highly meaningful for the audience.

confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. ³¹ "If someone sins against a neighbor and is given an oath to swear, and comes and swears before your altar in this house, ³² then hear in heaven, and act, and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing their conduct on their own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding them according to their righteousness. ³³ "When your people Israel, having sinned against you, are defeated before an enemy but turn again to you, confess your name, pray and plead with you in this house, ³⁴ then hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them again to the land that you gave to their ancestors. ³⁵ "When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, and then they pray toward this place, confess your name, and turn from their sin, because you punish them, ³⁶ then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk; and grant rain on your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance. ³⁷ "If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is; ³⁸ whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the afflictions of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house;

all their conduct, because you know their hearts. You alone know the human heart.⁴⁰ Do this so that they may revere you all the days they live on the land that you gave to our ancestors.⁴¹ Listen also to the immigrant who isn't from your people Israel but who comes from a distant country because of your reputation--⁴² because they will hear of your great reputation, your great power, and your outstretched arm. When the immigrant comes and prays toward this temple,⁴³ then listen from heaven, where you live, and do everything the immigrant asks. Do this so that all the people of the earth may know your reputation and revere you, as your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I have built bears your name.⁴⁴ When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you may send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city you have chosen and toward this temple that I have built for your name,⁴⁵ then listen from heaven to their prayer and request and do what is right for them.⁴⁶ When they sin against you (for there is no one who doesn't sin) and you become angry with them and hand them over to an enemy who takes them away as prisoners to enemy territory, whether distant or nearby,⁴⁷ if they change their heart in whatever land they are held captive, changing their lives and begging for your mercy, saying, "We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly!"⁴⁸ and if they return to you with all their heart and all their being in the enemy territory where they've been taken captive, and pray to you, toward their land, which you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen, and toward the temple I have built for your name,⁴⁹ then listen to their prayer and request from your heavenly dwelling place. Do what is right for them,⁵⁰ and forgive your people who have sinned against you. Forgive all their wrong that they have done against you. See to it that those who captured them show them mercy.⁵¹ These are your people and your inheritance. You brought them out of Egypt, from the iron furnace.⁵² Open your eyes to your

In the days of David and Solomon a very ethnically mixed population seems to have been taken for granted—note the role of foreign mercenaries, “Uriah the Hittite,” and so forth. Later, however, an emphasis on ethnic purity emerged—at least in some quarters. This prayer seems to take sides with those who thought immigrants should be welcomed and incorporated into Israel.

“See to it that those who captured them show them mercy...”: another bit that would have a special ring for exiles and is perhaps supplied later for precisely that reason.

³⁹ then hear in heaven your dwelling place, forgive, act, and render to all whose hearts you know-- according to all their ways, for only you know what is in every human heart--⁴⁰ so that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors.⁴¹ "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name⁴² -- for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm-- when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.⁴⁴ "If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,⁴⁵ then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.⁴⁶ "If they sin against you-- for there is no one who does not sin-- and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near;⁴⁷ yet if they come to their senses in the land to which they have been taken captive, and repent, and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have done wrong; we have acted wickedly!';⁴⁸ if they repent with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies, who took them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their ancestors, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name;⁴⁹ then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, maintain their cause⁵⁰ and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you; and grant them compassion in the sight of their captors, so that they may have compassion on them⁵¹ (for they are your people and heritage,

servant's request and to the request of your people Israel. Hear them whenever they cry out to you.⁵³ You set them apart from all the earth's peoples as your own inheritance, LORD, just as you promised through your servant Moses when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt.

⁵⁴ As soon as Solomon finished praying and making these requests to the LORD, he got up from before the LORD's altar, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out to heaven.⁵⁵ He stood up and blessed the whole Israelite assembly in a loud voice:⁵⁶ "May the LORD be blessed! He has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. He hasn't neglected any part of the good promise he made through his servant Moses.⁵⁷ May the LORD our God be with us, just as he was with our ancestors. May he never leave us or abandon us.⁵⁸ May he draw our hearts to him to walk in all his ways and observe his commands, his laws, and his judgments that he gave our ancestors.⁵⁹ And may these words of mine that I have cried out before the LORD remain near to the LORD our God day and night so that he may do right by his servant and his people Israel for each day's need,⁶⁰ and so that all the earth's peoples may know that the LORD is God. There is no other God!⁶¹ Now may you be committed to the LORD our God with all your heart by following his laws and observing his commands, just as you are doing right now."

⁶² Then the king and all Israel with him sacrificed to the LORD.⁶³ Solomon offered well-being sacrifices to the LORD: twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty thousand sheep when the king and all Israel dedicated the LORD's temple.⁶⁴ On that day the king made holy the middle of the courtyard in front of the LORD's temple. He had to offer the entirely burned offerings, grain

Continuing with classic Deuteronomistic language.

This is an incredible amount of wealth; the typical peasant farmer probably couldn't afford even one ox (they farmed with hand labor and donkeys).

Entirely burned offerings leave nothing for the worshippers, but the meat from

which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron-smelter).⁵² Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant, and to the plea of your people Israel, listening to them whenever they call to you.⁵³ For you have separated them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be your heritage, just as you promised through Moses, your servant, when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt, O Lord GOD."

⁵⁴ Now when Solomon finished offering all this prayer and this plea to the LORD, he arose from facing the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven;⁵⁵ he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice:⁵⁶ "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses.⁵⁷ The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us,⁵⁸ but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors.⁵⁹ Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires;⁶⁰ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.⁶¹ Therefore devote yourselves completely to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."

⁶² Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.⁶³ Solomon offered as sacrifices of well-being to the LORD twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.⁶⁴ The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD; for there

<p>offerings, and the fat of well-being sacrifices there, because the bronze altar that was in the LORD's presence was too small to contain the entirely burned offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the well-being sacrifices. ⁶⁵ At that time Solomon, together with all Israel, held a celebration. It was a large assembly from Lebo-hamath to the border of Egypt. They celebrated for seven days and then for another seven days in the presence of the LORD our God: fourteen days in all. ⁶⁶ On the eighth day, Solomon dismissed the people. They blessed the king and went back to their tents happy and pleased about all the good that the LORD had done for his servant David and for his people Israel.</p>	<p>“well-being” sacrifices would be largely shared among worshipers, with only token portions being burned on the altar for God or given to the priests as their pay.</p>	<p>he offered the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the sacrifices of well-being, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the sacrifices of well-being. ⁶⁵ So Solomon held the festival at that time, and all Israel with him-- a great assembly, people from Lebo-hamath to the Wadi of Egypt-- before the LORD our God, seven days. ⁶⁶ On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents, joyful and in good spirits because of all the goodness that the LORD had shown to his servant David and to his people Israel.</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 9:1 Now once Solomon finished building the LORD's temple, the royal palace, and everything else he wanted to accomplish, ² the LORD appeared to him a second time in the same way he had appeared to him at Gibeon. ³ The LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your cry to me. I have set apart this temple that you built, to put my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. ⁴ As for you, if you walk before me just as your father David did, with complete dedication and honesty, and if you do all that I have commanded, and keep my regulations and case laws, ⁵ then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, just as I promised your father David, 'You will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.' ⁶ However, if you or your sons turn away from following me and don't observe the commands and regulations that I gave you, and go to serve other gods, and worship them, ⁷ then I will remove Israel from the land I gave them and I will reject the temple that I dedicated for my name. Israel will become a joke, insulted by everyone. ⁸ Everyone who passes by this temple, so lofty now, will be shocked and will whistle, wondering, Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and this temple? ⁹ The answer will come: Because they</p>	<p>A warning, again in characteristically Dtr language, and looking ahead to the fall of Jerusalem centuries later in 586.</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 9:1 When Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house and all that Solomon desired to build, ² the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. ³ The LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you made before me; I have consecrated this house that you have built, and put my name there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. ⁴ As for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, ⁵ then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised your father David, saying, 'There shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.' ⁶ "If you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut Israel off from the land that I have given them; and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight; and Israel will become a proverb and a taunt among all peoples. ⁸ This house will become a heap of ruins; everyone passing by it will be astonished, and will hiss; and</p>

deserted the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt's land. They embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them. That is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them."

¹⁰ It took twenty years for Solomon to build the two structures, the LORD's temple and the royal palace. ¹¹ King Hiram of Tyre gave Solomon all the cedar, pinewood, and gold that he wanted. Then King Solomon gave Hiram twenty towns in the region of Galilee. ¹² Hiram went from Tyre to inspect the towns Solomon had given him. They didn't seem adequate in his view. ¹³ So Hiram remarked, "My brother, are these towns you've given me good for anything?" The cities are thus called the land of Cabul to this very day. ¹⁴ But Hiram sent the king one hundred twenty gold kikkars, nevertheless. ¹⁵ This is the story of the labor gang that King Solomon put together to build the LORD's temple and his own palace, as well as the stepped structure, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer: (¹⁶ Pharaoh, Egypt's king, had attacked and captured Gezer, setting it on fire. He killed the Canaanites who lived in the city and gave it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.) ¹⁷ Solomon built Gezer, Lower Beth-horon, ¹⁸ Baalath, and Tamar in the wilderness (within the land), ¹⁹ along with all the storage cities that belonged to Solomon, as well as the cities used for storing chariots and cavalry and whatever he wanted to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout his kingdom. ²⁰ Any non-Israelite people who remained of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites-- ²¹ that is, the descendants of such people who were still in the land because the Israelites weren't able to wipe them out--Solomon forced into the labor gangs that are still in existence today. ²² However, Solomon didn't force the Israelites to work as slaves; instead, they became warriors, his servants, his leaders, his officers, and those in charge of his chariots and cavalry. ²³ These were the chief

Current epic telling excludes 9:15-24

Contrast 5:13-18 and 12:4 on the question of whether Israelites were also pressed into service.

they will say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this house?' ⁹ Then they will say, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, worshipping them and serving them; therefore the LORD has brought this disaster upon them.'"

¹⁰ At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house, ¹¹ King Hiram of Tyre having supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress timber and gold, as much as he desired, King Solomon gave to Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. ¹² But when Hiram came from Tyre to see the cities that Solomon had given him, they did not please him. ¹³ Therefore he said, "What kind of cities are these that you have given me, my brother?" So they are called the land of Cabul to this day. ¹⁴ But Hiram had sent to the king one hundred twenty talents of gold. ¹⁵ This is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon conscripted to build the house of the LORD and his own house, the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer ¹⁶ (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it down, had killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and had given it as dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife; ¹⁷ so Solomon rebuilt Gezer), Lower Beth-horon, ¹⁸ Baalath, Tamar in the wilderness, within the land, ¹⁹ as well as all of Solomon's storage cities, the cities for his chariots, the cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build, in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. ²⁰ All the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the people of Israel-- ²¹ their descendants who were still left in the land, whom the Israelites were unable to destroy completely-- these Solomon conscripted for slave labor, and so they are to this day. ²² But of the Israelites Solomon made no slaves; they were the soldiers, they were his officials, his commanders, his captains, and the

<p>officers over Solomon's work: five hundred fifty had charge of the people who did the work. ²⁴ When Pharaoh's daughter went up from David's City to the palace he had built for her, Solomon built the stepped structure. ²⁵ Three times a year Solomon would offer entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices on the altar that he had built for the LORD. Along with this he would burn incense to the LORD. In this way, he completed the temple. ²⁶ King Solomon built a fleet near Eloth in Ezion-geber, on the coast of the Reed Sea in the land of Edom. ²⁷ Hiram sent his expert sailors on the fleet along with Solomon's workers. ²⁸ They went to Ophir for four hundred twenty kikkars of gold, which they brought back to King Solomon.</p>		<p>commanders of his chariotry and cavalry. ²³ These were the chief officers who were over Solomon's work: five hundred fifty, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. ²⁴ But Pharaoh's daughter went up from the city of David to her own house that Solomon had built for her; then he built the Millo. ²⁵ Three times a year Solomon used to offer up burnt offerings and sacrifices of well-being on the altar that he built for the LORD, offering incense before the LORD. So he completed the house. ²⁶ King Solomon built a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. ²⁷ Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, sailors who were familiar with the sea, together with the servants of Solomon. ²⁸ They went to Ophir, and imported from there four hundred twenty talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.</p>
<p>CEB 1 Kings 10:1 When the queen of Sheba heard reports about Solomon, due to the LORD's name, she came to test him with riddles. ² Accompanying her to Jerusalem was a huge entourage with camels carrying spices, a large amount of gold, and precious stones. After she arrived, she told Solomon everything that was on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for him to answer. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw how wise Solomon was, the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the servants' quarters, the function and dress of his attendants, his cupbearers, and the entirely burned offerings that he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away. ⁶ "The report I heard about your deeds and wisdom when I was still at home is true," she said to the king. ⁷ "I didn't believe it until I came and saw it with my own eyes. In fact, the half of it wasn't even told to me! You have far more wisdom and wealth than I was told. ⁸ Your people and these servants who continually serve you and get to listen to your wisdom are truly happy! ⁹ Bless the LORD your God because he was pleased to place you on Israel's throne.</p>	<p><i>10:1</i> On "riddles," see Num 12:8; Jdg 14; Pss 49:4 and 78:2; Pro 1:6; Ezek 17:2; Dan 8:23 (here often translated as "intrigue"); Hab 2:6. The word's overtones seem at least competitive and in some cases downright unfriendly; "test" earlier in this verse sometimes indicates hard probing and sometimes an unjustified harassment. <i>10:2</i> "retinue": Could be military force, wealth, or even personal virtue, although the subsequent material suggests "wealth." <i>"Mind"</i>: As others have noted, <i>leb</i> can be "mind" or "heart" or even "will." The verb could be "spoke" or "told": notice how different the English nuances are between "spoke her mind" and "told him her heart," although they are possible translations of the same Hebrew. <i>10:4</i> to my eye, this verse clusters wisdom (or even "unpacks" it) less as a separate item than alongside the food and servants as part of Solomon's wealth and power. <i>10:5</i> "attendance": "Standing" is a word derived from the word "stand," and is routinely used to designate what a courtier or cabinet official does before a king. "Positions" would also be a decent</p>	<p>NRS 1 Kings 10:1 When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon (fame due to the name of the LORD), she came to test him with hard questions. ² She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵ the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. ⁶ So she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, ⁷ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard. ⁸ Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom! ⁹</p>

Because the LORD loved Israel with an eternal love, the LORD made you king to uphold justice and righteousness." ¹⁰ The queen gave the king one hundred twenty kikkars of gold, a great quantity of spice, and precious stones. Never again has so much spice come to Israel as when the queen of Sheba gave this gift to King Solomon.

translating option, catching the overtones of both physical presence/posture and official duties/position, but losing the contrast with "sitting" in the previous phrase. "cupbearers": This could be "cupbearers," or "valets" as in NRSV, but none of these options quite captures the importance of the position: this was not a low-status position but an immensely privileged one given only to an absolutely trusted person: without a trustworthy cupbearer, the king could easily find himself poisoned. This paragraph is in line with other biblical accounts of royalty that emphasize the food and drink at royal feasts (see especially Esther).

"offerings": In most types of sacrifice, a token portion of the animal was burned on the altar, some meat was given to the priests as their pay, and the rest would be eaten at a banquet (one of the side benefits of this system was that it got the meat eaten before it decayed, in a hot refrigerator-less climate, and probably most people would eat meat only at such banquets). However, in the type of offering mentioned here, none of the meat was eaten by worshipers; thus, to make whole burnt offerings was a very public display of wealth (not just piety). In that way, this fits right in with the rest of the verse.

10:7 "reports": "Thing(s)" or "word(s)"; I translate "things" because I think the story is primarily about the very wealthy queen being intimidated by Solomon's even greater wealth, but if we said "words" we would tend to understand it as a statement focused primarily on his (nonmaterial) wisdom.

10:8 *serve/attend you*: Or "stand before you," see earlier note on the overtones of "standing."

10:11-12 It could be that this paragraph further expands upon the queen's gifts: not only did she bring riches from her own land, but those she had acquired from other lands as well. More likely, the storyteller is adding a side note on the theme of the wealth and luxury of Solomon's building

Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel forever, he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness." ¹⁰ Then she gave the king one hundred twenty talents of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again did spices come in such quantity as that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ Hiram's fleet went to Ophir and brought back gold, much almuq wood, and precious stones. ¹² The king used the almuq wood to make parapets for the LORD's temple and for the royal palace as well as lyres and harps for the musicians. To this day, that much almuq wood hasn't come into or

¹¹ Moreover, the fleet of Hiram, which carried gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a great quantity of almuq wood and precious stones. ¹² From the almuq wood the king made supports for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers; no such almuq wood has

been seen in Israel.¹³ King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she wanted and all that she had asked for, in addition to what he had already given her from his own personal funds. Then she and her servants returned to her homeland.¹⁴ Solomon received an annual income of six hundred sixty-six kikkars of gold,¹⁵ not including income from the traders, the merchants and their profits, all the Arabian kings, and the officials of the land.¹⁶ King Solomon made two hundred body-sized shields of hammered gold, using fifteen pounds of gold in each shield,¹⁷ and three hundred small shields of hammered gold, using sixty ounces of gold in each shield. The king placed these in the Forest of Lebanon Palace.¹⁸ The king also made a large ivory throne and covered it with pure gold.¹⁹ Six steps led up to the throne, and the back of the throne was rounded at the top. Two lions stood beside the armrests on both sides of the throne.²⁰ Another twelve lions stood on both sides of the six steps. No other kingdom had anything like this.²¹ All of King Solomon's drinking cups were made of gold, and all the items in the Forest of Lebanon Palace were made of pure gold, not silver, since even silver wasn't considered good enough in Solomon's time!²² The royal fleet of Tarshish-style ships was at sea with Hiram's fleet, returning once every three years with gold, silver, ivory, monkeys, and peacocks.

²³ King Solomon far exceeded all the earth's kings in wealth and wisdom,²⁴ and so the whole earth wanted an audience with Solomon in order to hear his God-given wisdom.²⁵ Year after year they came with tribute: objects of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.²⁶ Solomon acquired more and more chariots and horses until he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses that he kept in chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.²⁷ In Jerusalem, the king made silver as common as

projects, suggesting that the emphasis on wealth in the preceding verses represents the narrator's point of view and not simply the queen's. The Egyptian pharaohs also bragged about wood imported by the Tyrian fleet.

"temple/palace": In English we say "temple" rather than "Lord's house" and "palace" rather than "king's house," but the more literal phrasing brings out the parallelism, seen in both Samuel and Kings, between the two building complexes in Jerusalem, both of which functioned to underscore the king's power and wealth.

come or been seen to this day.¹³ Meanwhile King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba every desire that she expressed, as well as what he gave her out of Solomon's royal bounty. Then she returned to her own land, with her servants.¹⁴ The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred sixty-six talents of gold,¹⁵ besides that which came from the traders and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land.¹⁶ King Solomon made two hundred large shields of beaten gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each large shield.¹⁷ He made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.¹⁸ The king also made a great ivory throne, and overlaid it with the finest gold.¹⁹ The throne had six steps. The top of the throne was rounded in the back, and on each side of the seat were arm rests and two lions standing beside the arm rests,²⁰ while twelve lions were standing, one on each end of a step on the six steps. Nothing like it was ever made in any kingdom.²¹ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver-- it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.²² For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²³ Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.²⁴ The whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.²⁵ Every one of them brought a present, objects of silver and gold, garments, weaponry, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.²⁶ Solomon gathered together chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.²⁷ The king made silver

<p>stones and cedar as plentiful as sycamore trees that grow in the foothills.²⁸ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue, purchased from Kue by the king's agents at the going price.²⁹ They would import a chariot from Egypt for six hundred pieces of silver and a horse for one hundred fifty, and then export them to all the Hittite and Aramean kings.</p>		<p>as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as numerous as the sycamores of the Shephelah.²⁸ Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's traders received them from Kue at a price.²⁹ A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred fifty; so through the king's traders they were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Aram.</p>
<p>^{CEB} 1 Kings 11:1 In addition to Pharaoh's daughter, King Solomon loved many foreign women, including Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites.² These came from the nations that the LORD had commanded the Israelites about: "Don't intermarry with them. They will definitely turn your heart toward their gods." Solomon clung to these women in love.³ He had seven hundred royal wives and three hundred secondary wives. They turned his heart.⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods. He wasn't committed to the LORD his God with all his heart as was his father David.⁵ Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom the detestable god of the Ammonites.⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's eyes and wasn't completely devoted to the LORD like his father David.⁷ On the hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a shrine to Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and to Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.</p> <p>⁹ The LORD grew angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from being with the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.¹⁰ The LORD had commanded Solomon about this very thing, that he shouldn't follow other gods. But Solomon didn't do what the LORD commanded.¹¹ The LORD said to</p>	<p>A reminder that ancient treaty language typically spoke of the participating kings as entering into a family relationship, which would be concretely symbolized by marriage to a member of the other king's family. (The woman was thus both a spy for her family of origin and a hostage to help ensure that they would abide by the treaty.) The gods of each participating nation were also called as witnesses to the treaty. So this isn't so much about Solomon's personal behavior as that he gets all these foreign wives as part of his extensive international dealings, and he has to build the shrines to their gods so that they can stand witness to the treaties. In the eyes of the Deuteronomistic historians, all this is very bad policy; Israel's king should have only one suzerain = LORD.</p> <p>Meanwhile, it provides a useful way to explain how the kingdom could be torn apart at the end of the reign of a king hitherto described as so good and faithful.</p>	<p>^{NRS} 1 Kings 11:1 King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the Israelites, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you; for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods"; Solomon clung to these in love.³ Among his wives were seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.⁴ For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.⁵ For Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not completely follow the LORD, as his father David had done.⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who offered incense and sacrificed to their gods.</p> <p>⁹ Then the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not follow other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD commanded.¹¹ Therefore the LORD said to</p>

Solomon, "Because you have done all this instead of keeping my covenant and my laws that I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant.¹² Even so, on account of your father David, I won't do it during your lifetime. I will tear the kingdom out of your son's hands.¹³ Moreover, I won't tear away the entire kingdom. I will give one tribe to your son on account of my servant David and on account of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

¹⁴ So the LORD raised up an opponent for Solomon: Hadad the Edomite from the royal line of Edom.¹⁵ When David was fighting against Edom, Joab the general had gone up to bury the Israelite dead, and he had killed every male in Edom.¹⁶ Joab and all the Israelites stayed there six months, until he had finished off every male in Edom.¹⁷ While still a youth, Hadad escaped to Egypt along with his father's Edomite officials.¹⁸ They set out from Midian and went to Paran. They took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt and to Pharaoh its king. Pharaoh assigned him a home, food, and land.¹⁹ Pharaoh was so delighted with Hadad that he gave him one of his wife's sisters for marriage, a sister of Queen Tahpenes.²⁰ This sister of Tahpenes bore Hadad a son, Genubath. Tahpenes weaned him in Pharaoh's house. So it was that Genubath was raised in Pharaoh's house, among Pharaoh's children.²¹ While in Egypt, Hadad heard that David had lain down with his ancestors and that Joab the general was also dead. Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me go to my homeland."²² Pharaoh said to him, "What do you lack here with me that would make you want to go back to your homeland?" Hadad said, "Nothing, but please let me go!"

²³ God raised up another opponent for Solomon: Rezon, Eliada's son, who had escaped from Zobah's King Hadadezer.²⁴ Rezon recruited men and became leader of a band when David was

Solomon, "Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant.¹² Yet for the sake of your father David I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.¹³ I will not, however, tear away the entire kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

¹⁴ Then the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of the royal house in Edom.¹⁵ For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the dead, he killed every male in Edom¹⁶ (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had eliminated every male in Edom);¹⁷ but Hadad fled to Egypt with some Edomites who were servants of his father. He was a young boy at that time.¹⁸ They set out from Midian and came to Paran; they took people with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, assigned him an allowance of food, and gave him land.¹⁹ Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him his sister-in-law for a wife, the sister of Queen Tahpenes.²⁰ The sister of Tahpenes gave birth by him to his son Genubath, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the children of Pharaoh.²¹ When Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his ancestors and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country."²² But Pharaoh said to him, "What do you lack with me that you now seek to go to your own country?" And he said, "No, do let me go."

²³ God raised up another adversary against Solomon, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, King Hadadezer of Zobah.²⁴ He gathered followers around him and became leader

killing them. They went to Damascus, stayed there, and ruled it. ²⁵ Throughout Solomon's lifetime, Rezon was Israel's opponent and added to the problems caused by Hadad. Rezon hated Israel while he ruled as king of Aram. ²⁶ Now Nebat's son Jeroboam was an Ephraimite from Zeredah. His mother's name was Zeruah; she was a widow. Although he was one of Solomon's own officials, Jeroboam fought against the king. ²⁷ This is the story of why Jeroboam fought against the king: Solomon had built the stepped structure and repaired the broken wall in his father David's City. ²⁸ Now Jeroboam was a strong and honorable man. Solomon saw how well this youth did his work. So he appointed him over all the work gang of Joseph's house.

²⁹ At that time, when Jeroboam left Jerusalem, Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him along the way. Ahijah was wearing a new garment. The two of them were alone in the country. ³⁰ Ahijah tore his new garment into twelve pieces. ³¹ He said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces, because Israel's God, the LORD, has said, 'Look, I am about to tear the kingdom from Solomon's hand. I will give you ten tribes.' ³² But I will leave him one tribe on account of my servant David and on account of Jerusalem, the city I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel. ³³ I am doing this because they have abandoned me and worshipped the Sidonian goddess Astarte, the Moabite god Chemosh, and the Ammonite god Milcom. They haven't walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes--keeping my laws and judgments--as Solomon's father David did. ³⁴ But I won't take the whole kingdom from his hand. I will keep him as ruler throughout his lifetime on account of my servant David, who did keep my commands and my laws. ³⁵ I will take the kingdom from the hand of Solomon's son, and I will give you ten tribes. ³⁶ I will give his son a single tribe so that my servant David will always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city that I chose for myself to place my name. ³⁷ But I will accept you,

of a marauding band, after the slaughter by David; they went to Damascus, settled there, and made him king in Damascus. ²⁵ He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, making trouble as Hadad did; he despised Israel and reigned over Aram. ²⁶ Jeroboam son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, rebelled against the king. ²⁷ The following was the reason he rebelled against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the gap in the wall of the city of his father David. ²⁸ The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ About that time, when Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Ahijah had clothed himself with a new garment. The two of them were alone in the open country ³⁰ when Ahijah laid hold of the new garment he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹ He then said to Jeroboam: Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "See, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes. ³² One tribe will remain his, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. ³³ This is because he has forsaken me, worshiped Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and has not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, as his father David did. ³⁴ Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom away from him but will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of my servant David whom I chose and who did keep my commandments and my statutes; ³⁵ but I will take the kingdom away from his son and give it to you-- that is, the ten tribes. ³⁶ Yet to his son I will give one tribe, so that my servant David may always

and you will rule over all that you could desire. You will be king of Israel. ³⁸ If you listen to all that I command and walk in my ways, if you do what is right in my eyes, keeping my laws and my commands just as my servant David did, then I will be with you and I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I did for David. I will give you Israel. ³⁹ I will humble David's descendants by means of all this, though not forever." ⁴⁰ Then Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam fled to Egypt and its king Shishak. Jeroboam remained in Egypt until Solomon died.

⁴¹ The rest of Solomon's deeds, including all that he did and all his wisdom, aren't they written in the official records of Solomon? ⁴² The amount of time Solomon ruled over all Israel in Jerusalem was forty years. ⁴³ Then Solomon lay down with his ancestors. He was buried in his father David's City, and Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name. ³⁷ I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires; you shall be king over Israel. ³⁸ If you will listen to all that I command you, walk in my ways, and do what is right in my sight by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you, and will build you an enduring house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. ³⁹ For this reason I will punish the descendants of David, but not forever." ⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam; but Jeroboam promptly fled to Egypt, to King Shishak of Egypt, and remained in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

⁴¹ Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did as well as his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? ⁴² The time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. ⁴³ Solomon slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam succeeded him.