

2CHRONICLES 31: 1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah, and broke in pieces the pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles, and broke down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

---

The people destroy all traces of idolatry throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh, 2Chr 31:1. Hezekiah reforms the state of religion in general; and the tithes are brought in from all quarters, and proper officers set over them, 2Chr 31:2-13. They bring to also the freewill-offerings, and regulate the priests and Levites and their families, according to their genealogies, 2Chr 31:14-19. Hezekiah does every thing in sincerity and truth, and is prosperous, 2Chr 31:20, 2Chr 31:21.

Verse 1

Brake the images in pieces - This species of reformation was not only carried on through Judah, but they carried it into Israel; whether through a transport of religious zeal, or whether with the consent of Hoshea the Israelitish king, we cannot tell.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 2 Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites after their divisions, every man according to his service, both the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

---

Verse 2

In the gates of the tents of the Lord - That is, in the temple; for this was the house, tabernacle, tent, and camp, of the Most High.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 3 He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the LORD's law.

---

Verse 3

The king's portion of his substance for the burnt-offerings - It is conjectured that the Jewish kings, at least from the time of David, furnished the morning and evening sacrifice daily at their own expense, and several others also.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 4 Moreover he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the LORD's law.

2CHRONICLES 31: 5 As soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

---

Verse 5

Brought - the first-fruits - These were principally for the maintenance of the priests and Levites; they brought tithes of all the produce of the field, whether commanded or not, as we see in the instance of honey, which was not to be offered to the Lord, Lev 2:11, yet it appears it might be offered to the priests as first-fruits, or in the way of tithes.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 6 The children of Israel and Judah, who lived in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of dedicated things which were consecrated to the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps.

2CHRONICLES 31: 7 In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

---

Verse 7

In the third month - "The month Sivan; the seventh, Tisri." - Targum.

The heaps - The vast collections of grain which they had from the tithes over and above their own consumption; see 2Chr 31:10.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 8 When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.

2CHRONICLES 31: 9 Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

2CHRONICLES 31: 10 Azariah the chief priest, of the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since people began to bring the offerings into the LORD's house, we have eaten and had enough, and have left plenty: for the LORD has blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store."

2CHRONICLES 31: 11 Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare rooms in the LORD's house; and they prepared them.

---

Verse 11

To prepare chambers - To make granaries to lay up this superabundance.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 12 They brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: and over them Conaniah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was second.

---

## Verse 12

Shimei - was the next - He was assistant to Cononiah.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 13 Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of God's house.

2CHRONICLES 31: 14 Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter at the east gate, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the offerings of the LORD, and the most holy things.

2CHRONICLES 31: 15 Under him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their office of trust, to give to their brothers by divisions, as well to the great as to the small:

---

## Verse 15

And Miniamin - Instead of מְנִימִן, Miniamin, בְּנֵימִן, Benjamin, is the reading of three of Kennicott's and De Rossi's MSS.; and this is the reading of the Vulgate, Syriac, Septuagint, and Arabic.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 16 besides those who were reckoned by genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even everyone who entered into the LORD's house, as the duty of every day required, for their service in their offices according to their divisions;

2CHRONICLES 31: 17 and those who were reckoned by genealogy of the priests by their fathers' houses, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their offices by their divisions;

---

## Verse 17

From twenty years old - Moses had ordered that the Levites should not begin their labor till they were thirty years of age; but David changed this order, and obliged them to begin at twenty.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 18 and those who were reckoned by genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their office of trust they sanctified themselves in holiness.

2CHRONICLES 31: 19 Also for the sons of Aaron the priests, who were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every city, there were men who were mentioned by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all who were reckoned by genealogy among the Levites.

2CHRONICLES 31: 20 Hezekiah did so throughout all Judah; and he worked that which was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

---

## Verse 20

Wrought - good and right and truth - Here is the proper character of a worthy king: he is Good, and he does good; he is Upright, and he acts justly and maintains justice; he is truly Religious, and he lives according to that truth which he receives as a revelation from God.

---

2CHRONICLES 31: 21 In every work that he began in the service of God's house, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

---

Verse 21

He did it with all his heart - In every respect he was a thoroughly excellent man, saw his duty to God and to his people, and performed it with becoming zeal and diligence. May God ever send such kings to the nations of the world; and may the people who are blessed with such be duly obedient to them, and thankful to the God who sends them!