

Table 8: Mention of Moses in Genesis through 2 Kings

<i>Book</i>	<i>Occurrences</i>
Genesis	None
Exodus	290 times
Leviticus	86 times
Numbers	233 times
Deuteronomy	38 times
Joshua	58 times
Judges	1:16, 20; 3:4; 4:11
1 Samuel	12:6, 8 (Samuel's speech to the people in preparation for the monarchy)
2 Samuel	None
1 Kings	2:3 (David's deathbed speech to Solomon); 8:9, 53, 56 (Solomon's temple dedication speech)
2 Kings	14:6 (re: Amaziah); 18:4, 6, 12 (re: Hezekiah); 21:8 (re: Manasseh); 23:25 (re: Josiah)

the closing verse of the preceding chapter: "So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon" (2:46). Table 9 outlines the narrated sequence of events that follows.

Let's observe several aspects of this introduction to Solomon's reign. First, it all seems to happen out of nowhere and all at once. Where Saul and David each struggled with local enemies and with each other over the course of decades, Solomon's tremendous wealth and power seem to appear out of thin air. Suddenly, Solomon has an army of horses and charioteers to rival any empire in the region. Already we can guess that there must be more than meets the eye in the relationship between this account and the "facts on the ground."

Second, we hear that Solomon has organized the region around a twelve-unit administrative structure. If one reads the description of the twelve regions carefully (which the writer lays out in detail), we note that only the "tribes" of Naphtali, Asher, Issachar, and Benjamin are within "Israel," while "Judah" is a separate region outside the twelve-unit body referred to collectively as "all Israel" (4:7). The king does not oversee Judah directly, but has delegated authority to an unnamed royal official (4:19). None of these four "tribes" is referred to *as* a "tribe," nor are the four distinguished from other geographic descriptors within each official's region of authority. There is not a hint that what Solomon has done was to rearrange or destroy "traditional" tribal boundaries, an assumption many scholars make. The reason, as we've seen, is that the biblical descriptions of tribal allotments