

The Second Book of  
**Samuel**

1:1 David learns of Saul's Defeat in the Battle of Gilboa. 1:17 David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan.

1 And it came to pass after *the* death of Saul, when David was returned from *the* slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag; 2 it came to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and *so* it was, when he came to David, that he fell to *the* earth, and did obeisance. 3 And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of *the* camp of Israel am I escaped. 4 And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, The people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also. 5 And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead? 6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul was leaning upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and the horsemen followed hard after him. 7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am* I. 8 And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite. 9 And he said unto me, Stand, I pray thee, <sup>1</sup>beside me, and slay me; for <sup>2</sup>anguish hath taken hold of me, because my soul *is* yet whole in me. 10 So I stood beside him, <sup>3</sup>and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that *was* upon his head, and *the* bracelet that *was* on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him: 12 and they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for *the* people of Jehovah, and for *the* house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword. 13 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* *the* son of a sojourner, an Amalekite. 14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to put forth thy hand to destroy Jehovah's anointed? 15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him, so that he died. 16 And David said unto him, Thy blood *be* upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain Jehovah's anointed.

<sup>1</sup> Or, over Also in vs. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Or, giddiness

<sup>3</sup> Questionable if this could be true while the armorbearer was yet alive. Cf. 1Sa 31:4-5.

17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son 18 (and he bade them teach *the* children of Judah *the* song of the bow: behold, *it is* written in <sup>4</sup>the book of Jashar):

19 <sup>5</sup>Thy glory, O Israel, is slain upon thy high places!

How are *the* mighty fallen!

20 Tell *it* not in Gath,

Publish it not in *the* streets of Ashkelon;

Lest *the* daughters of *the* Philistines rejoice,

Lest *the* daughters of *the* uncircumcised triumph.

21 Ye mountains of Gilboa,

Let *there be* no dew nor rain upon you, neither fields of offerings:

For *there the* shield of *the* mighty was <sup>6</sup>vilely cast away,

*The* shield of Saul, <sup>7</sup>not anointed with oil.

22 From *the* blood of *the* slain, from *the* fat of *the* mighty,

*The* bow of Jonathan turned not back,

And *the* sword of Saul returned not empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives,

And in their death they were not divided:

They were swifter than eagles,

They were stronger than lions.

24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,

Who clothed you in scarlet <sup>8</sup>delicately,

Who put ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25 How are *the* mighty fallen in *the* midst of the battle!

<sup>9</sup>Jonathan *is* slain upon thy high places.

26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan:

Very pleasant hast thou been unto me:

Thy love to me was wonderful,

Passing *the* love of women.

27 How are *the* mighty fallen,

And *the* weapons of war perished!

2 And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up into any of *the* cities of Judah? And Jehovah said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron. 2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail *the* wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 3 And his men that *were* with

<sup>4</sup> Or, *the* Book of the Upright

<sup>5</sup> Or, The gazelle,

<sup>6</sup> Or, defiled,

<sup>7</sup> Or, *as of one* not anointed.

<sup>8</sup> Hb. With delights,

<sup>9</sup> Or, O Jonathan, slain upon *etc.*

him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in *the* cities of Hebron. 4 And *the* men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over *the* house of Judah.

And they told David, saying, *The* men of Jabesh-gilead *were they* that buried Saul. 5 And David sent messengers unto *the* men of Jabesh-gilead, and said unto them, Blessed *be* ye of Jehovah, that ye have showed this kindness unto your lord, *even* unto Saul, and have buried him. 6 And now Jehovah show lovingkindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing. 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be ye valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also *the* house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

8 Now Abner *the* son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, had taken <sup>10</sup>Ish-bosheth *the* son of Saul, and brought him over to <sup>11</sup>Mahanaim; 9 and he made him king over Gilead, and over the <sup>12</sup>Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But *the* house of Judah followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over *the* house of Judah was <sup>13</sup>seven years and six months.

12 And Abner *the* son of Ner, and *the* servants of Ish-bosheth *the* son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 And Joab *the* son of Zeruiah, and *the* servants of David, went out, and met <sup>14</sup>them by *the* pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, *the* one on *the* one side of the pool, and *the* other on *the* other side of the pool. 14 And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men, I pray thee, arise and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise. 15 Then they arose and went over by number: twelve <sup>15</sup>for *the* Benjaminites of Ish-bosheth *the* son of Saul, and twelve of *the* servants of David. 16 And they caught every one his fellow by *the* head, and *thrust* his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called <sup>16</sup>Chelqath-hazzurim, which *is* in Gibeon. 17 And the battle was very sore that day; and Abner was beaten, and *the* men of Israel, before *the* servants of David.

18 And *the* three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel *was as* light of

foot <sup>17</sup>as *a* wild roe. 19 And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right *hand* nor to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him, and said, *Is it* thou, Asahel? And he answered, *It is* I. 21 And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his <sup>18</sup>armor. But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. 22 And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to *the* ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother? 23 Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with *the* hinder end of the spear smote him in the body, so that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in *the* same place: and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

24 But Joab and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they were come to *the* hill of Ammah, that *lieth* before Giah by *the* way of *the* wilderness of Gibeon. 25 And *the* children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one band, and stood on *the* top of a hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall *the* sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren? 27 And Joab said, As God liveth, if thou hadst not spoken, surely then <sup>19</sup>in the morning the people had gone away, nor followed every one his brother. 28 So Joab blew the trumpet; and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more. 29 And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah; and they passed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and came to Mahanaim.

30 And Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel. 31 But *the* servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, *so that* three hundred sixty men died. 32 And they took up Asahel, and buried him in *the* sepulchre of his father, which *was in* Beth-lehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and *the* day brake upon them at Hebron.

3 Now there was long war between *the* house of Saul and *the* house of David: and David waxed stronger and stronger, but *the* house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

2 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

<sup>10</sup> In 1Chr 8:33; 9:39, Esh-baal

<sup>11</sup> East of Jordan, and far from the Philistine front.

<sup>12</sup> Aram., Vg. Read Geshurites,

<sup>13</sup> It is thus implied that the six months did not include a New Year's day (Tishri 1). Hence, David was anointed king over Israel in the Spring or Summer.

<sup>14</sup> Hb. them together by the pool

<sup>15</sup> So Sept., 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Aram., Vg. Massoretic reads for Benjamin, and for Ish-bosheth

<sup>16</sup> That is, The field of the sharp knives,

<sup>17</sup> Hb. as one of the roes that are in the field.

<sup>18</sup> Or, spoil. See Jg 14:19.

<sup>19</sup> Hb. from the morning

3 and his second, <sup>20</sup>Chileab, of Abigail *the* wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom *the* son of Maacah *the* daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; 4 and the fourth, Adonijah *the* son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah <sup>21</sup>*the* son of Abital; 5 and the sixth, Ithream of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

6 And it came to pass, while there was war between *the* house of Saul and *the* house of David, that Abner <sup>22</sup>made himself strong in *the* house of Saul. 7 Now Saul had a concubine, whose name *was* Rizpah, *the* daughter of Aiah: and *Ish-bosheth* said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine? 8 Then was Abner very wroth for *the* words of *Ish-bosheth*, and said, *Am* I a dog's head that *belongeth* to Judah? *To* this day do I show kindness unto *the* house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into *the* hand of David; and yet thou chargest me *this* day with <sup>23</sup>a fault concerning *this* woman. 9 God do so to Abner, and more also, if, as Jehovah hath sworn to David, I do not even so to him; 10 to transfer the kingdom from *the* house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba. 11 And he could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

12 And Abner sent messengers to David <sup>24</sup>on his behalf, saying, Whose *is* *the* land? saying, *also*, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand *shall be* with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. 13 And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee; but one thing I require of thee: that is, thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. 14 And David sent messengers to *Ish-bosheth*, Saul's son, saying, Deliver *me* <sup>25</sup>my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to me for a hundred foreskins of *the* Philistines. 15 And *Ish-bosheth* sent, and took her from *her* husband, *even* from <sup>26</sup>*Paltiel* *the* son of Laish. 16 And her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return: and he returned.

17 And Abner had communication with *the* elders of Israel, saying, In times past ye sought for David *to be* king over you: 18 now then do *it*; for Jehovah hath

spoken of David, saying, By *the* hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines, and out of *the* hand of all their enemies. 19 And Abner also spake in *the* ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in *the* ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and to *the* whole house of Benjamin. 20 So Abner came to David to Hebron and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that *were* with him a feast. 21 And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thy soul desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

22 And, behold, *the* servants of David and Joab came from <sup>27</sup>*a* foray, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner *was* not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace. 23 When Joab and all the host that *was* with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner *the* son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace. 24 Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why *is* it *that* thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone? 25 Thou knowest Abner *the* son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest. 26 And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the <sup>28</sup>well of Sirah: but David knew *it* not.

27 And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into *the* midst of the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there *in* the body, so that he died, for *the* blood of Asahel his brother. 28 And afterward, when David heard *it*, he said, I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before Jehovah for ever of *the* blood of Abner *the* son of Ner: 29 let it fall upon *the* head of Joab, and upon all his father's house; and let there not fail from *the* house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on *a* staff, or that falleth by the sword, or that lacketh bread. 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

31 And David said to Joab, and to all the people that *were* with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David followed the bier. 32 And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at *the* grave of Abner; and all the people wept. 33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said,

Should Abner die as a fool dieth?

<sup>20</sup> Sept., 4QSam<sup>a</sup> read Dalujah, In 1Chr 3:1, Daniel,

<sup>21</sup> So Massoretic, Aram, Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. read by Abital;

<sup>22</sup> Or, showed himself strong for *the* house of Saul.

<sup>23</sup> Or, *the* fault of *this* woman.

<sup>24</sup> Or, where he was,

<sup>25</sup> As long as Michal remained with her second husband, Palti could be a rival claimant to the throne of Israel.

<sup>26</sup> In 1Sa 25:44, Palti

<sup>27</sup> Hb. the troop,

<sup>28</sup> Or, cistern of Sirah:

34 Thy hands *were* not bound, nor thy feet put into <sup>29</sup>fetters:

As <sup>30</sup>a man falleth before <sup>31</sup>the sons of iniquity, so didst thou fall.

And all the people wept again over him. 35 And all the people came to cause David to eat bread while it was yet day; but David sware, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or aught else, till the sun be down. 36 And all the people took notice *of it*, and it pleased them; as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner *the* son of Ner. 38 And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? 39 And I *am* this day weak, though anointed king; and these men *the* sons of Zeruiah *are* too hard for me: Jehovah reward the evil-doer according to his wickedness.

4 And when *Ish-bosheth*, Saul's son, heard that Abner *was* dead in Hebron his hands became feeble, and all *the* Israelites were troubled. 2 And *Ish-bosheth*, Saul's son, *had* two men *that were* captains of bands: *the* name of the one *was* Baanah, and *the* name of the other Rechab, *the* sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, *of the* children of Benjamin (for Beeroth also is reckoned to Benjamin: 3 and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have been sojourners there until this day).

4 Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was* lame of *his* feet. He was five years old when *the* tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel; and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name *was* <sup>32</sup>Mephibosheth.

5 And *the* sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about *the* heat of the day to *the* house of *Ish-bosheth*, as he took *his* rest at noon. 6 And <sup>33</sup>they came thither into *the* midst of the house, *as though* they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him in the body: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 Now when they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and went by *the* way of the Arabah all night. 8 And they brought the head of *Ish-bosheth* unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold, *the* head of *Ish-bosheth*, *the* son of Saul, thine enemy, who sought thy soul; and Jehovah hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed. 9 And David

<sup>29</sup> *Hb.* coppers:

<sup>30</sup> So Massoretic, Aram., Vg. Sept., 4QSam<sup>a</sup> read one who falleth before *the* sons of iniquity,

<sup>31</sup> *That is*, men schooled in *the* ways of iniquity

<sup>32</sup> In 1Chr 8:34; 9:40, Merib-baal.

<sup>33</sup> *Or*, there came thither into *the* midst of the house men fetching wheat;

answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, *the* sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As Jehovah liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, 10 when one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, *thinking* to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, which was *the* reward I gave him for his tidings. 11 How much more, when wicked men have slain *a* righteous man in his own house upon his bed, shall I not now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth? 12 And David commanded *his* young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of *Ish-bosheth*, and buried *it* in *the* grave of Abner in Hebron.

5 Then came all *the* tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was thou *that* ledest out and broughtest in Israel: and Jehovah said to thee, Thou shalt be shepherd of my people Israel, and thou shalt be <sup>34</sup>prince over Israel. 3 So all *the* elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a covenant with them in Hebron before Jehovah: and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, *the* inhabitants of the land, who spake unto David, saying, <sup>35</sup>Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither; thinking, David cannot come in hither. 7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion; *the same is* the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, Whosoever smiteth *the* Jebusites, let him get up to the watercourse, <sup>36</sup>and *smite* these lame and these blind, <sup>37</sup>*that are* hated of David's soul. Wherefore they say, <sup>38</sup>There are *the* blind and *the* lame; he cannot come into the house. 9 And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it *the* city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. 10 And David waxed greater and greater; for Jehovah, *the* God of hosts, *was* with him.

<sup>34</sup> *Or*, leader over Israel.

<sup>35</sup> *Or*, Thou shalt not come in hither, but the blind and the lame shall turn thee away;

<sup>36</sup> *Or*, and *as for* the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of David's soul — ... [*Likely sarcasm.*]

Lamsa *says*, and whosoever strikes with a weapon the blind and the lame, he is a hater of David's soul.

<sup>37</sup> So Hb<sup>txt</sup> 4Sam<sup>a</sup>. Hb<sup>mg</sup> Sept. (Vg.) read that hate David's soul. (שנא vs. ראי)

<sup>38</sup> *Or*, *The* blind and *the* lame shall not come into the house.

11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons; and they built David a house. 12 And David perceived that Jehovah had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

13 And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron; and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. 14 And these *are the* names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem: Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, 15 and I Bhar, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, 16 and Elishama, and <sup>39</sup>Eliada, and Eliphelet.

17 And when *the* Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all *the* Philistines went up to seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread themselves in *the* valley of Rephaim. 19 And David inquired of <sup>40</sup>Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up against *the* Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into my hand? And Jehovah said unto David, Go up; for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into thy hand. 20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there; and he said, Jehovah hath <sup>41</sup>broken mine enemies before me, like *the* breach of waters. Therefore he called *the* name of that place <sup>42</sup>Baal-perazim. 21 And they left their images there; and David and his men took them away.

22 And *the* Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in *the* valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of Jehovah, he said, Thou shalt not go up: make a circuit behind them, and come upon them over against *the* <sup>43</sup>mulberry trees. 24 And it shall be, when thou hearest the sound of marching in *the* tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then is Jehovah gone out before thee to smite *the* host of *the* Philistines. 25 And David did so, as Jehovah commanded him, and smote the Philistines from <sup>44</sup>Geba until thou come to Gezer.

6 And David again gathered together all *the* chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him, from Baale-judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, <sup>45</sup>which is called by *the* Name, *even the* name of Jehovah of hosts that <sup>46</sup>sitteth *above* the cherubim.

<sup>39</sup> In 1Chr 14:7, Beeliada,

<sup>40</sup> Sopherim changed Jehovah to Elohim (God) in vss. 19-25, and in ch. 6:9-17.

<sup>41</sup> Or, broken forth upon mine enemies,

<sup>42</sup> That is, *The* place of breakings forth.

<sup>43</sup> Or, balsam trees. Also in vs. 24.

<sup>44</sup> In 1Chr 14:16, Gibeon

<sup>45</sup> Hb. whereupon is called *the* Name,

<sup>46</sup> Or, is enthroned *above* the cherubim.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of *the* house of Abinadab that *was* in <sup>47</sup>the hill: and Uzzah and Ahio, *the* sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 4 And they brought it out of *the* house of Abinadab, which *was* in the hill, with the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. 5 And David and all *the* house of Israel played before Jehovah with all manner of *instruments made of* <sup>48</sup>fir wood, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with <sup>49</sup>castanets, and with cymbals.

6 And when they came to *the* threshing-floor of <sup>50</sup>Nacon, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen <sup>51</sup>stumbled. 7 And *the* anger of Jehovah *was* kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for <sup>52</sup>his error; and there he died by the ark of God. 8 And David *was* displeased, because Jehovah had broken forth upon Uzzah; and he called that place <sup>53</sup>Perez-uzzah, unto this day. 9 And David *was* afraid of Jehovah that day; and he said, How shall *the* ark of Jehovah come unto me? 10 So David would not remove the ark of Jehovah unto him into *the* city of David; but David carried it aside into *the* house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 And *the* ark of Jehovah remained in *the* house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months: and Jehovah blessed Obed-edom, and all his house.

12 And it was told king David, saying, Jehovah hath blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. And David went and brought up the ark of God from *the* house of Obed-edom into *the* city of David with joy. 13 And it was *so*, that, when they that bare *the* ark of Jehovah had gone six paces, he sacrificed <sup>54</sup>an ox and a fatling. 14 And David danced before Jehovah with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod. 15 So David and all *the* house of Israel brought up the ark of Jehovah with shouting, and with *the* sound of *the* trumpet.

16 And it was so, as *the* ark of Jehovah came into *the* city of David, that Michal *the* daughter of Saul looked out at the window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before Jehovah; and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of Jehovah, and set it in its place, in *the* midst of the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before Jehovah. 18 And when David had made an end of offering the burnt-offering and the peace-offerings, he blessed the people in *the* name of

<sup>47</sup> Or, Gibeah: Also in vs. 4.

<sup>48</sup> Or, cypress wood,

<sup>49</sup> Or, sistra,

<sup>50</sup> So Massoretic, Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. read Noran,

<sup>51</sup> Or, were restive. or, threw it down.

<sup>52</sup> Or, the rashness;

<sup>53</sup> That is, *The* breach of Uzzah,

<sup>54</sup> Or, ox and fatling. Compare 1Chr 15:26.

Jehovah of hosts. 19 And he dealt among all the people, *even among the* whole multitude of Israel, both to men and women, to every one a cake of bread, and a portion <sup>55</sup>*of flesh*, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal *the* daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was *the* king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in *the* eyes of *the* handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, *It was* before Jehovah, who chose me above thy father, and above all his house, to appoint me prince over *the* people of Jehovah, over Israel; therefore will I play before Jehovah. 22 And I will be yet more vile than this, and will be base in mine own sight: but of the handmaids of whom thou hast spoken, of them shall I be had in honor. 23 And Michal *the* daughter of Saul had no child unto *the* day of her death.

7 And it came to pass, when the king dwelt in his house, and Jehovah had given him rest from all his enemies round about, 2 that the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. 3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thy heart; for Jehovah *is* with thee. 4 And it came to pass the same night, that *the* word of Jehovah came unto Nathan, saying, 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith Jehovah, Shalt thou build me a house for me to dwell in? 6 for I have not dwelt in a house since *the* day that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 In all *places* wherein I have walked with all *the* children of Israel, spake I a word with <sup>56</sup>*any of the* tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to be shepherd of my people Israel, saying, Why have ye not built me a house of cedar? 8 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith Jehovah of hosts, I took thee from the <sup>57</sup>*sheepcote*, from following the sheep, that thou shouldst be <sup>58</sup>*prince* over my people, over Israel; 9 and I have been with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee; and I will make thee a great name, like unto *the* name of the great *ones* that *are* in the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be moved no more; neither shall *the* children of wickedness afflict them any more, as at the first, 11 and *as* from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel; and I <sup>59</sup>*will* cause thee to rest

<sup>55</sup> *Or, of wine,*

<sup>56</sup> *In 1Chr 17:6, any of the judges of Israel,*

<sup>57</sup> *Or, pasture,*

<sup>58</sup> *Or, leader*

<sup>59</sup> *Or, have caused thee to rest*

from all thine enemies. Moreover Jehovah telleth thee that Jehovah will make thee a house. 12 When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: if he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with *the* rod of men, and with *the* stripes of *the* children of men; 15 but my lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thy house and thy kingdom shall be made sure for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

18 Then David the king went in, and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord Jehovah; and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me thus far? 19 And this was yet a small thing in thine eyes, O Lord Jehovah; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come; <sup>60</sup>*and this too* after the manner of men, O Lord Jehovah! 20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou knowest thy servant, O Lord Jehovah. 21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou wrought all this greatness, to make thy servant know *it*. 22 Wherefore thou art great, O Jehovah God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 <sup>61</sup>*And* what one nation in the earth is like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem unto himself for a people, and to make him a name, and to do great things for you, and awesome things for thy land, before thy people, whom thou redeemedst to thee out of Egypt, *from the* nations and <sup>62</sup>*their* gods? 24 And thou didst establish to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever; and thou, Jehovah, becamest their God. 25 And now, O Jehovah God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, confirm thou *it* for ever, and do as thou hast spoken. 26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, Jehovah of hosts *is* God over Israel; and *the* house of thy servant David shall be established before thee. 27 For thou, O Jehovah of hosts, *the* God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee a house: therefore hath thy servant <sup>63</sup>*found* in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. 28 And now, O Lord Jehovah, thou *art* God, and thy words are truth, and thou hast promised this good thing unto thy

<sup>60</sup> *Or, and is this the law of man, O Lord Jehovah?*

<sup>61</sup> *Or, And who is like thy people, like Israel, a nation that is alone in the earth, etc.*

<sup>62</sup> *So Massoretic, Vg. (Aram.). QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. read tents*

<sup>63</sup> *Or, been bold in his heart to pray*

servant: 29 now therefore <sup>64</sup>let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee; for thou, O Lord Jehovah, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let *the* house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

8 And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took <sup>65</sup>the bridle of the mother city out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines.

2 And he smote Moab, and measured them with the line, making them to lie down on *the* ground; and he measured two lines to put to death, and one full line to keep alive. And *the* Moabites became servants to David, and brought tribute.

3 David smote also Hadadezer *the* son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his dominion at <sup>66</sup>*the* River. 4 And David took from him <sup>67</sup>a thousand seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David hocked all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them *for* a hundred chariots. 5 And when <sup>68</sup>*the* Syrians of Damascus came to succor Hadadezer king of Zobah, David smote of the Syrians twenty-two thousand men. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and *the* Syrians became servants to David, and brought tribute. And Jehovah <sup>69</sup>gave victory to David whithersoever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that were on *the* servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.<sup>70</sup> 8 And from <sup>71</sup>Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much copper.

9 And when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer, 10 then Toi sent <sup>72</sup>Joram his son unto king David, to <sup>73</sup>salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and smitten him: for Hadadezer <sup>74</sup>had wars with Toi. And <sup>75</sup>Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of copper: 11 these also did king David sanctify unto Jehovah, with the silver

<sup>64</sup> *Or*, begin and bless the house of thy servant,

<sup>65</sup> *Or*, Metheg-hammah out of *the* hand

<sup>66</sup> Sept. Aram., Vg. *read* the river Euphrates.  
[*This meaning is implied by the Massoretic text.*]

<sup>67</sup> *So* Massoretic, Vg. (Aram). *But* Sept. *reads* a thousand chariots, seven thousand horses, and twenty thousand footmen. *Compare* 1Chr 18:4

<sup>68</sup> *Hb.* Aram (*both times*) *Similarly twice in* vs. 5.

<sup>69</sup> *Or*, saved David *Also in* vs. 14.

<sup>70</sup> Sept. (4QSam<sup>a</sup>) *add* which, later on, were also taken by Shishak king of Egypt, when he went up to Jerusalem in *the* days of Rehoboam son of Solomon.

<sup>71</sup> *In* 1Chr 18:8, Tibhath

<sup>72</sup> *In* 1Chr 18:10, Hadoram

<sup>73</sup> *Hb.* ask him of his welfare,

<sup>74</sup> *Hb.* was a man of wars with Toi.

<sup>75</sup> *Hb.* in his hand were vessels of silver,

and the gold that he sanctified of all the nations which he subdued; 12 of <sup>76</sup>Syria, and of Moab, and of *the* children of Ammon, and of *the* Philistines, and of Amalek, and of *the* spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13 And David gat *him* a name when he returned from smiting the Syrians in *the* Valley of Salt, *even* eighteen thousand *men*. 14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all *the* Edomites became servants to David. And Jehovah gave victory to David whithersoever he went.

15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed justice and righteousness unto all his people. 16 And Joab *the* son of Zeruah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat *the* son of Ahilud was <sup>77</sup>recorder; 17 and <sup>78</sup>Zadok *the* son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech *the* son of Abiathar, were priests; and Seraiah was <sup>79</sup>scribe; 18 and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, <sup>80</sup>was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were <sup>81</sup>chief ministers.

9 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of *the* house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? 2 And *there was* of *the* house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba, and they called him unto David; and the king said unto him, *Art* thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is* *he*. 3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of *the* house of Saul, that I may show *the* kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *who is* lame of *his* feet. 4 And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in *the* house of Machir *the* son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar. 5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of *the* house of Machir *the* son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. 6 And Mephibosheth, *the* son of Jonathan, *the* son of Saul, came unto David, and fell on his face, and did obeisance. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold, thy servant! 7 And David said unto him, Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the <sup>82</sup>land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt <sup>83</sup>eat bread at my table continually. 8 And he did obeisance, and said, What *is* thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?

<sup>76</sup> *Hb.* Aram, *Similarly in* vs. 13.

<sup>77</sup> *Or*, chronicler;

<sup>78</sup> *Ten generations from* Aaron. *See* 1Chr 6:4-8.

<sup>79</sup> *Or*, secretary;

<sup>80</sup> *So* Vg. *As in* ch. 20:23, and 1Chr 18:17.

Massoretic, (Sept.) *read* and the Cherethites *etc.*  
*See footnote on* ch. 20:7.

<sup>81</sup> *Or*, priests.

<sup>82</sup> *Hb.* field

<sup>83</sup> *That is*, be supported from the king's treasury.

9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, All that pertained to Saul and to all his house have I given unto thy master's son. 10 And thou shalt till the land for him, thou, and thy sons, and thy servants; and thou shalt bring in *the fruits*, that thy master's son may have bread to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king commandeth his servant, so shall thy servant do. <sup>84</sup>As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all that dwelt in *the house of Ziba were* servants unto Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem; for he did eat continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

10 And it came to pass after this, that *the king of the children of Ammon* died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. 2 And David said, I will show kindness unto Hanun *the son of Nahash*, <sup>85</sup>as his father showed kindness unto me. So David sent by his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into *the land of the children of Ammon*. 3 But *the princes of the children of Ammon* said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honor thy father, in that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David sent his servants unto thee to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it? 4 So Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the *one* half of their beards, and cut off their garments in *the middle*, *even* to their buttocks, and sent them away. 5 When they told *it* unto David, he sent to meet them; for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and *then* return.

6 And when *the children of Ammon* saw that they were become odious to David, <sup>86</sup>*the children of Ammon* sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, twenty thousand footmen, and the king of Maacah with a thousand men, and the men of Tob twelve thousand men. 7 And when David heard of *it*, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. 8 And *the children of Ammon* came out, and put *the battle* in array at *the entrance of the gate*: and *the Syrians of Zobah* and of Rehob, and *the men of Tob* and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field.

9 Now when Joab saw that <sup>87</sup>*the battle* was set against him before and behind, he chose of all *the choice men* of Israel, and put *them* in array against *the Syrians*: 10 and the rest of the people he committed into *the*

hand of <sup>88</sup>Abishai his brother; and he put *them* in array against *the children of Ammon*. 11 And he said, If *the Syrians* be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me; but if *the children of Ammon* be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee. 12 Be of good courage, and <sup>89</sup>let us play *the man* for our people, and for *the cities of our God*: and Jehovah do that which seemeth him good. 13 So Joab and the people that *were* with him drew nigh unto the battle <sup>90</sup>against *the Syrians*: and they fled before him. 14 And when *the children of Ammon* saw that *the Syrians* were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai, and entered into the city. Then Joab returned from *the children of Ammon*, and came to Jerusalem.

15 And when *the Syrians* saw that they were put to *the worse* before Israel, they gathered themselves together. 16 And <sup>91</sup>Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that *were* beyond the River: and they came to Helam, with Shobach *the captain of the host of Hadarezer* at their head. 17 And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel together, and passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And *the Syrians* set themselves in array against David, and fought with him. 18 And *the Syrians* fled before Israel; and David slew of *the Syrians the men of* seven hundred chariots, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach *the captain of their host*, so that he died there. 19 And when all the kings that *were* servants to Hadarezer saw that they were put to *the worse* before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So *the Syrians* feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

11 And it came to pass, <sup>92</sup>at *the return of the year*, at *the time when kings go out to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem.

2 And it came to pass towards eventide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon *the roof of the king's house*: and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon. 3 And David sent and inquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite*<sup>93</sup>? 4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her (for she was purified from her uncleanness); and she returned unto her house. 5 And

<sup>84</sup> Or, But Mephibosheth eateth at my table,

<sup>85</sup> Probably while David was a fugitive from Saul.

<sup>86</sup> 4QSam<sup>a</sup> reads as 1Chr 19:6-7.

<sup>87</sup> Hb. *the face of the battle* was against him

<sup>88</sup> Hb. Abshai

<sup>89</sup> That is, let us show ourselves to be strong men

<sup>90</sup> The strategy put the strongest of Israel against a mercenary army with the least at stake.

<sup>91</sup> In ch. 8:3, Hadadezer

<sup>92</sup> That is, in the Spring,

<sup>93</sup> 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Josephus, Antiq. VII, vii, 1 add the armor-bearer of Joab



the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, I *am* with child.

6 And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David asked *of him* how Joab did, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a <sup>94</sup>mess *of food* from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at *the* door of the king's house with all *the* servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. 10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Art thou not come from a journey? wherefore didst thou not go down unto thy house? 11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in booths; and my lord Joab, and *the* servants of my lord, are encamped in the open field; shall I then go into my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as* thou livest, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. 12 And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem <sup>95</sup>that day, and the morrow. 13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and in the evening he went out to lie on his bed with *the* servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by *the* hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in *the* forefront of the <sup>96</sup>hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. 16 And it came to pass, when Joab <sup>97</sup>kept watch upon the city, that he assigned Uriah unto the place where he knew that valiant men *were*. 17 And *the* men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people, even of *the* servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. 18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; 19 and he charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling all the things concerning the war unto the king, 20 it shall be that, if the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore went ye so nigh unto the city to fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who smote Abimelech *the* son of <sup>98</sup>Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast an upper millstone upon him from the wall, so that he died at

<sup>94</sup> *Or*, present from the king.

<sup>95</sup> *Or*, that day. And on the morrow David called him, and he did eat and drink *etc.*

<sup>96</sup> *Hb.* strong

<sup>97</sup> *Or*, observed the city,

<sup>98</sup> *In* Jg 6:32, Jerubbaal

Thebez? why went ye so nigh the wall? then shalt thou say, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

22 So the messenger went, and came and showed David all that Joab had sent him for. 23 And the messenger said unto David, The men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto *the* entrance of the gate. 24 And the shooters shot at thy servants from off the wall; and *some* of the king's servants are dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. 25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another; make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26 And when *the* wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband. 27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased Jehovah.

**12** And Jehovah sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; *the* one rich, and *the* other poor. 2 *The* rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds; 3 but the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own morsel, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him, but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man *that* was come to him. 5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As Jehovah liveth, the man *that* hath done this is <sup>99</sup>worthy to die: 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of *the* hand of Saul; 8 and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added unto thee such and such things. 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the word of Jehovah to do *that* which is evil in his sight? thou hast smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with *the* sword of *the* children of Ammon. 10 Now therefore *the* sword shall never depart from thy house, because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith Jehovah, Behold,

<sup>99</sup> *Hb.* a son of death:

I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house; and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives <sup>100</sup>in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst *it* secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah. And Nathan said unto David, Jehovah also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. 14 Howbeit, because by this deed <sup>101</sup>thou hast greatly blasphemed Jehovah, the son also that *is* born unto thee shall surely *begin to die*. 15 And Nathan departed unto his house.

And Jehovah struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. 16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. 17 And the elders of his house arose, and stood beside him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. 18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he hearkened not unto our voice: <sup>102</sup>how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead! 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. 20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel; and he came into the house of Jehovah, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. 21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was alive*; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. 22 And he said, While the child was ye alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who knoweth *whether* Jehovah will not be gracious to me, that the child may live? 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

24 And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and <sup>103</sup>he called his name Solomon. And Jehovah loved him; 25 and he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name <sup>104</sup>Jedidiah, for Jehovah's sake.

<sup>100</sup> *That is*, in the broad daylight. Also in vs. 12.

<sup>101</sup> *The Sopherim changed this to* thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme,

<sup>102</sup> *Or*, how then shall we tell him that the child is dead, so that he do himself some harm?

<sup>103</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> Aram. read she called

<sup>104</sup> *That is*, Beloved of Jehovah,

26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city. 27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah; yes, I have taken the city of waters. 28 Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it; lest I take the city, and <sup>105</sup>it be called after my name. 29 And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. 30 And he took the crown of <sup>106</sup>their king from off his head; and the weight thereof was a <sup>107</sup>talent of gold, and in it were precious stones; and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city, exceeding much. 31 And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them <sup>108</sup>under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and <sup>109</sup>made them pass through the <sup>110</sup>brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

**13** And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 And Amnon was so vexed that he fell sick because of his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and it seemed hard to Amnon to do anything unto her. 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was <sup>111</sup>Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtle man. 4 And he said unto him, Why, O son of the king, art thou thus lean <sup>112</sup>from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. 5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and feign thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, Let my sister Tamar come, I pray thee, and give me bread to eat, and dress the food in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it from her hand. 6 So Amnon lay down, and feigned himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, Let my sister Tamar come, I pray thee, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.

7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him food. 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took dough, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. 9 And

<sup>105</sup> *Hb.* my name be called upon it.

<sup>106</sup> *Or*, Malcam See Zp 1:5.

<sup>107</sup> *About* 29 kg, or 63 pounds (avoirdupois measure).

<sup>108</sup> *Or*, to (three times)

<sup>109</sup> *Or*, with a slight change in the Hebrew text, made them labor at the brickkiln:

<sup>110</sup> *Or*, brick-mould: or, brick-work:

<sup>111</sup> 4QSam<sup>a</sup> and later Sept.<sup>L</sup> mss. read Jonathan

<sup>112</sup> *Hb.* morning by morning

she took the pan, and poured *them* out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. 10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from thy hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 11 And when she had brought *them* near unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come, lie with me, my sister. 12 And she answered him, No, my brother, do not <sup>113</sup>force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. 13 And I, whither shall I carry my shame: and as for thee, thou wilt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. 14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice; but being stronger than she, he forced her, and lay with her.

15 Then Amnon hated her with exceeding great hatred; for the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than *the* love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. 16 And she said unto him, <sup>114</sup>Not so, because this great wrong in putting me forth *is worse* than *the* other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. 17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her. 18 And *she had* <sup>115</sup>a garment of divers colors upon her; for with such robes were the king's daughters that *were* virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. 19 And Tamar put *ashes* on her head, and rent her garment of divers colors that *was* on her; and she laid her hand on her head, and went her way, crying aloud as she went.

20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath <sup>116</sup>Amnon thy brother been with thee? but now hold thy peace, my sister: he *is* thy brother; take not this thing to thy heart. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. 21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.<sup>117</sup> 22 And Absalom spake unto Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheep-shearers in Baal-hazor, which *is* beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. 24 And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheep-shearers; let the king, I pray thee, and his servants go with thy servant.

<sup>113</sup> *Hb.* humble

<sup>114</sup> *Or,* think not there is occasion for this great wrong in putting me forth, *which is worse* than *etc.*

<sup>115</sup> *Or,* a long garment with sleeves upon her;

<sup>116</sup> *Hb.* Aminon

<sup>117</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram. Sept. (4QSam<sup>a</sup>) Vg. *add* But he would not inflict pain on his son Amnon's spirit, because he loved him, because he *was* his firstborn.

25 And the king said to Absalom, No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. 26 Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? 27 But Absalom pressed him, and he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.<sup>118</sup> 28 And Absalom commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine; and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon, then kill him; fear not; have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. 29 And *the* servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

30 And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that the tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left. 31 Then the king arose, and rent his garments, and lay on *the* earth; and all his servants stood by with *their* clothes rent. 32 And Jonadab, *the* son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose *that* they have killed all the young men, *all* the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by *the* appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from *the* day that he forced his sister Tamar. 33 Now therefore let not my lord the king take *the* thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead; for Amnon only is dead.

34 But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept *the* watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by *the* way of the hillside behind him. 35 And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons are come: as thy servant said, so it is. 36 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice, and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept <sup>119</sup>very sore.

37 But Absalom fled, and went to <sup>120</sup>Talmai *the* son of <sup>121</sup>Ammihur, king of Geshur<sup>122</sup>. And David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom fled, and went to <sup>123</sup>Geshur, and was there three years. 39 And *the soul of* king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

**14** Now Joab *the* son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart *was* toward Absalom. 2 And Joab sent to Tekoa, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto

<sup>118</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram. Sept. (4QSam<sup>a</sup>) Vg. *add* Absalom prepared a feast like to the king's feast.

<sup>119</sup> *Hb.* with a very great weeping.

<sup>120</sup> *Absalom's maternal grandfather.* per ch. 3:3.

<sup>121</sup> *Hb*<sup>mg</sup> Sept., Aram., Vg. *read* Ammihud

<sup>122</sup> Sept. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> *add* in the land of his mother Maacah.

<sup>123</sup> *In the North, at the SE slope of Mt. Hermon.*

her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel, I pray thee, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that hath a long time mourned for *the* dead: 3 and go in to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4 And when the woman of Tekoa spake to the king, she fell on her face to *the* ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king. 5 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, Of a truth I *am* a widow, and my husband is dead. 6 And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and *there was* none to part them, but the one smote the other, and killed him. 7 And, behold, the whole family is risen against thy handmaid, and they say, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him for *the* soul of his brother whom he slew, and so destroy the heir also. Thus will they quench my coal which is left, and will leave to my husband *neither* name nor remainder upon *the* face of the earth.

8 And the king said unto the woman, Go to thy house, and I will give charge concerning thee. 9 And the woman of Tekoa said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity *be* on me, and on my father's house; and the king and his throne *be* guiltless. 10 And the king said, Whosoever saith *ought* unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more. 11 Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember Jehovah thy God, that the avenger of blood destroy not any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As Jehovah liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to *the* earth.

12 Then the woman said, Let thy handmaid, I pray thee, speak a word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on. 13 And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou devised such a thing against *the* people of God? for in speaking this word the king is as one that is guilty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished one. 14 For we <sup>124</sup>must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God take *away* a soul, but deviseth means, that he that is banished be not an outcast from him. 15 Now therefore seeing that I am come to speak this word unto my lord the king, *it is* because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant. 16 For the king will hear, to deliver his servant out of *the* hand of the man *that would* destroy me and my son together out of *the* inheritance of God. 17 Then thy handmaid said, Let, I pray thee, *the* word of my lord the king be <sup>125</sup>comfortable; for as <sup>126</sup>an angel of God, so *is* my lord

<sup>124</sup> *Or*, surely have begun to die,

<sup>125</sup> *Hb.* for rest;

<sup>126</sup> *Or*, the *Similarly* in vs. 20.

the king <sup>127</sup>to discern good and bad: and Jehovah thy God be with thee.

18 Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, aught that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak. 19 And the king said, *Is the* hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, *As* thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to *the* right *hand* or to *the* left from aught that my lord the king hath spoken; for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in *the* mouth of thy handmaid; 20 to change the face of the matter hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord *is* wise, according to *the* wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.

21 And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, <sup>128</sup>I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom back. 22 And Joab fell to *the* ground on his face, and did obeisance, and blessed the king; and Joab said, Today thy servant knoweth that I have found favor in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath performed the request of <sup>129</sup>his servant. 23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, but let him not see my face. So Absalom turned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

25 Now in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from *the* sole of his foot even to *the* crown of his head there was no blemish in him. 26 And when he cut the *hair* of his head (now it was at every year's end that he cut *it*; because *it* was heavy on him, therefore he cut it); he weighed the hair of his head at <sup>130</sup>two hundred shekels, after the king's weight. 27 And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name *was* Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

28 And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem; and he saw not the king's face. 29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king; but he would not come to him: and he sent again a second time, but he would not come. 30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. 31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto *his* house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire? 32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? *it were* better for me *to be* there still: now therefore let

<sup>127</sup> *Hb.* to hear the good and the bad.

<sup>128</sup> *Almost alone, most Hb<sup>ixt</sup> read* thou hast done

<sup>129</sup> *So most Hb<sup>ixt</sup> Sept. Aram. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> most Hb<sup>mg</sup> Vg. read* thy

<sup>130</sup> *About* 2.3 kg (5 pounds).

me see the king's face; and if there be iniquity in me, let him kill me. 33 So Joab came to the king, and told him; and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to *the* ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

15 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. 2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside *the* way of the gate: and it was *so*, that, when any man had a suit which should come to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of *the* tribes of Israel. 3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man deputized of the king to hear thee. 4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! 5 And it was so, that, when any man came nigh to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him. 6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of *the* men of Israel.

7 And it came to pass at *the* end of <sup>131</sup>forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto Jehovah, in Hebron. 8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in <sup>132</sup>Syria, saying, If Jehovah shall indeed bring me again to Jerusalem, then I will <sup>133</sup>serve Jehovah. 9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron. 10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all *the* tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom is king in Hebron. 11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *that were* invited, and went in their simplicity; and they knew not any thing. 12 And Absalom <sup>134</sup>sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

13 And there came *a* messenger to David, saying, *The* hearts of *the* men of Israel are after Absalom. 14 And David said unto all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for *else* none of us shall escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil upon us, and smite the city with *the* edge of *the* sword. 15 And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold,

<sup>131</sup> Possibly when Absalom was forty years old. [The Companion Bible says it is from David's anointing.]  
Aram., some later Sept. mss., read four years,

<sup>132</sup> Hb. Aram,

<sup>133</sup> Or, worship

<sup>134</sup> Or, sent Ahithophel the Gilonite,

thy servants *are ready to do* whatsoever my lord the king shall choose. 16 And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women *that were* concubines, to keep the house. 17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him; and they tarried <sup>135</sup>in Beth-merhak. 18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men that came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19 Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return, and abide with the king: for thou *art* a foreigner, and also an exile; *return* to thine *own* place. 20 Whereas thou camest *but* yesterday, should I *this* day make thee go up and down with us, seeing I go whither I may? return thou and take back thy brethren; mercy and truth *be* with thee. 21 And Ittai answered the king, and said, As Jehovah liveth, and *as* my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, even there also will thy servant be. 22 And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that *were* with him. 23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over <sup>136</sup>*the* brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward *the* way of the wilderness.

24 And, lo, Zadok also *came*, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of *the* covenant of God; and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city. 25 And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favor in *the* eyes of Jehovah, he will bring me again, and show me *both* it, and his habitation: 26 but if he say thus, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am* I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him. 27 The king said also unto Zadok the priest, <sup>137</sup>*Art* thou *not* a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan *the* son of Abiathar. 28 See, I will tarry <sup>138</sup>at the fords of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me. 29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they abode there.

30 And David went up by *the* ascent of the *mount of* Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered, and went barefoot: and all the people that *were* with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. 31 And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators

<sup>135</sup> Or, at the Far House.

<sup>136</sup> *The brook flowing southward on the east side of Jerusalem.*

<sup>137</sup> Or, Seest thou? return *etc.*

<sup>138</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> Sept., Aram., Vg. read in the plains,

with Absalom. And David said, O Jehovah, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness. 32 And it came to pass, that, *when* David was come to the top of *the ascent*,<sup>139</sup> where God was worshipped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head. 33 And David said unto him, If thou passest on with me, then thou wilt be a burden unto me: 34 but if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; *as I have been* thy father's servant in time past, so *will* I now *be* thy servant; then wilt thou defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel. 35 And *hast thou* not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell *it* to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 Behold, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me everything that ye shall hear. 37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city; and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

16 And when David was a little past the top of *the ascent*, behold, Ziba *the* servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and a hundred of summer fruits, and a<sup>140</sup> bottle of wine. 2 And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses *are* for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, *that* such as are faint in the wilderness may drink. 3 And the king said, And where *is* thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem; for he said, Today will *the* house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father. 4 Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine *is* all that *pertaineth* unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I do obeisance; let me find favor in thy sight, my lord, O king.

5 And when king David came to<sup>141</sup> Bahurim, behold, there came out thence a man of *the* family of *the* house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei, *the* son of Gera; he came out, and cursed still as he came. 6 And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right *hand* and on his left. 7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Begone, begone, thou man of blood, and worthless man: 8 Jehovah hath returned upon thee all *the* blood of *the* house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and Jehovah hath delivered the kingdom into *the* hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou *art* taken in thine own mischief, because thou *art* a man of blood.

<sup>139</sup> *Or*, where he was wont to worship God,

<sup>140</sup> *Or*, skin

<sup>141</sup> *Hb.* Young men's village,

9 Then said Abishai *the* son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over *the valley*, I pray thee, and take off his head. 10 And the king said,<sup>142</sup> What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? <sup>143</sup> Because he curseth, and because Jehovah hath said unto him, Curse David; who then shall say, Wherefore hast thou done so? 11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, who came forth from my bowels, seeketh my soul: how much more *may this* Benjamite now *do it*? let him alone, and let him curse; for Jehovah hath bidden him. 12 It may be that<sup>144</sup> Jehovah will behold with his eye, and that Jehovah will requite me good for *his* cursing of me this day. 13 So David and his men went by the way; and Shimei went along on the hillside over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones<sup>145</sup> at him, and cast dust. 14 And the king, and all the people that *were* with him, came<sup>146</sup> weary; and he refreshed himself there.

15 And Absalom, and all the people, *the* men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. 16 And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, *Long* live the king, *Long* live the king. 17 And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend? 18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, No; but whom Jehovah, and this people, and all *the* men of Israel have chosen, his will I be, and with him will I abide. 19 And again, whom should I serve? *should I* not *serve* in *the* presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

20 Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give your counsel what we shall do. 21 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, that he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then will *the* hands of all that are with thee be strong. 22 So they spread Absalom *a* tent upon the roof of *the* house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in *the* sight of all Israel. 23 And *the* counsel of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, *was* as if a man inquired at *the*<sup>147</sup> Word of God: so *was* all *the* counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

17 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David *this* night: 2 and I will come

<sup>142</sup> *That is*, We are not likeminded, *And so elsewhere.*

<sup>143</sup> *So* Massoretic. *Or*, When he curseth, and when *etc.* Sept., Aram., Vg. *read* So let him curse, because

<sup>144</sup> Sopherim *changed this to* Jehovah will look on *the* wrong done unto me,

<sup>145</sup> *Hb.* over against him,

<sup>146</sup> *Or*, to Ayephim;

<sup>147</sup> *Hb.* d'biyr, *meaning*, word *or*, place of *the* word.

upon him while he *is* weary and weak-handed, and will make him afraid; and all the people that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only; 3 and I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest *is* as if all returned: *so* all the people shall be in peace. 4 And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all *the* elders of Israel.

5 Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith. 6 And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do *after* his saying? if not, speak thou. 7 And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given this time *is* not good. 8 Hushai said moreover, Thou knowest thy father and his men, that they *are* mighty men, and they are <sup>148</sup>chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field; and thy father *is* a man or war, and will not lodge with the people. 9 Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some *other* place: and it will come to pass, when some of them are fallen at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom. 10 And even he *that is* valiant, whose heart *is* as the heart of a lion, will utterly melt; for all Israel knoweth that thy father *is* a mighty man, and *they* that *are* with him *are* valiant men. 11 But I counsel that all Israel be gathered together unto thee, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, as the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude; and <sup>149</sup>that thou go to battle in thine own person. 12 So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground; and of him and of all the men that *are* with him we will not leave so much as one. 13 Moreover, if he <sup>150</sup>be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there. 14 And Absalom and all *the* men of Israel said, *The* counsel of Hushai the Archite *is* better than *the* counsel of Ahithophel. (For Jehovah had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to *the* intent that Jehovah might bring evil upon Absalom.)

15 Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled. 16 Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night <sup>151</sup>at *the* fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that *are* with him.

<sup>148</sup> *Hb.* bitter of soul,

<sup>149</sup> *Or,* that thy presence (*Hb.* face) go to the battle.

<sup>150</sup> *Or,* withdraw himself into a city,

<sup>151</sup> *Sept., Aram., Vg. read in the plains of the wilderness, [abarah vs. arabah]*

17 <sup>152</sup>Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying by En-rogel; and *a* maid-servant used to go and tell them; and they went and told king David: for they might not be seen to come into the city. 18 But a lad saw them, and told Absalom: and they went both of them away quickly, and came to *the* house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down thither. 19 And the woman took and spread the covering over the well's mouth, and strewed bruised grain thereon; and nothing was known. 20 And Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house; and they said, Where *are* Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They are gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

21 And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David; and they said unto David, Arise ye, and pass quickly over the water; for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you. 22 Then David arose, and all the people that *were* with him, and they passed over the Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over the Jordan. 23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home, unto his city, and set his house in order, and hanged himself; and he died, and was buried in *the* sepulchre of his father.

24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over the Jordan, he and all *the* men of Israel with him. 25 And Absalom set Amasa over the host instead of Joab. Now Amasa was <sup>153</sup>*the* son of a man, whose name was <sup>154</sup>Ithra the Israelite, that went in to <sup>155</sup>Abigail *the* daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruah, Joab's mother. 26 And Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi *the* son of Nahash of Rabbah of *the* children of Ammon, and Machir *the* son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and Bar-zillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, 28 brought beds, and basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and meal, and parched *grain*, and beans, and lentils, and parched *pulse*, 29 and honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of *the* herd, for David, and for the people that *were* with him, to eat: for they said, The people *are* hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

<sup>152</sup> *Or,* Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz are staying by En-rogel; so let the maid-servant go and tell them, and let them go and tell king David; for they may not be seen to come into the city.

<sup>153</sup> *That is, Amasa was Joab's first cousin.*

<sup>154</sup> *In 1Chr 2:17, Jether the Ishmaelite, Possibly an Israelite travelling merchant ("Ishmaelite").*

<sup>155</sup> *In 1Chr 2:16-17, Abigail*

18 And David numbered the people that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. 2 And David sent forth the people, *a* third part under *the* hand of Joab, and *a* third part under *the* hand of Abishai *the* son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and *a* third part under *the* hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also. 3 But the people said, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: <sup>156</sup>but *thou art* worth ten thousand of us; therefore now *it is* better that thou be ready to succor us out of *the* city. 4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate-side, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands. 5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, *Deal* gently for my sake with the young man, *even* with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

6 So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in *the* forest of Ephraim. 7 And *the* people of Israel were smitten there before *the* servants of David, and there was *a* great slaughter there that day of twenty thousand *men*. 8 For the battle was there spread over *the* face of all the country; and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9 And Absalom chanced to meet *the* servants of David. And Absalom was riding upon *his* mule, and the mule went under *the* thick boughs of *a* great <sup>157</sup>oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he <sup>158</sup>was taken up between heaven and earth; and the mule that *was* under him went on. 10 And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in *an* oak. 11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest *it*, and why didst thou not smite him there to *the* ground? and I would have given thee ten *pieces* of silver, and a girdle. 12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand *pieces* of silver in my hand, yet would I not put forth my hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, <sup>159</sup>Beware that none *touch* the young man Absalom. 13 Otherwise if I had dealt falsely against <sup>160</sup>his soul (and there is no matter hid from the king), then thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against *me*. 14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus

<sup>156</sup> So Vg. and some editions of Sept. Massoretic reads for now are there ten thousand such as we;

<sup>157</sup> Or, terebinth, (*both times*) And in vss. 10, 14.

<sup>158</sup> 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Aram, Vg. read hung between

<sup>159</sup> Hb. Have a care, whosoever ye be, of the young man

<sup>160</sup> So Hb<sup>txt</sup> Sept. or, his life Hb<sup>mg</sup> Aram., Vg. read my soul

with thee. And he took three <sup>161</sup>darts in his hand, and thrust them through *the* heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in *the* midst of the oak. 15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armor compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel; for Joab <sup>162</sup>held back the people. 17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into the great pit in the forest, and raised over him a very great heap of stones: and all Israel fled every one to his tent. 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself <sup>163</sup>the pillar, which *is* in the king's dale; for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name; and it is called Absalom's monument, unto this day.

19 Then said Ahimaaz *the* son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that Jehovah hath <sup>164</sup>avenged him of his enemies. 20 And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not be *the* bearer of tidings this day but thou shalt bear tidings another day; but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. 21 Then said Joab to the <sup>165</sup>Cushite, Go, tell the king what thou hast seen. And *the* Cushite bowed himself unto Joab, and ran. 22 Then said Ahimaaz *the* son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But come what may, let me, I pray thee, also run after the Cushite. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou <sup>166</sup>wilt have no reward for *the* tidings? 23 But come what may, *said he*, I will run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by *the* way of the Plain, and outran the Cushite.

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates: and the watchman went up to *the* roof of the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, a man running alone. 25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near. 26 And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold, *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. 27 And the watchman said, I think the running of the foremost is like *the* running of Ahimaaz *the* son of Zadok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

<sup>161</sup> Hb. staves

<sup>162</sup> Or, spared the people.

<sup>163</sup> "Absalom's pillar" is on the east side of the Kidron valley, opposite the Temple Mount, perhaps on the site of the monument Absalom built. (His three sons of ch. 14:27 must have died earlier.)

<sup>164</sup> Hb. judged him from *the* hand of his enemies.

<sup>165</sup> That is, black man, (*both times*) And so everywhere.

<sup>166</sup> Or, hast no sufficient tidings



28 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, <sup>167</sup>*All is well.* And he bowed himself before the king with his face to *the* earth, and said, Blessed *be* Jehovah thy God, who hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king. 29 And the king said, <sup>168</sup>*Is it well with the young man Absalom?* And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, even *me* thy servant, I saw *a* great tumult, but I knew not what *it was*. 30 And the king said, Turn aside, *and* stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, Tidings for my lord the king; for Jehovah hath avenged thee *this* day of all them *that* rose up against thee. 32 And the king said unto the Cushite, *Is it well with the young man Absalom?* And the Cushite answered, *The* enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise up against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that* young man *is*. 33 And the king was much moved, and went up to *the* chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

**19** And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. 2 And the <sup>169</sup>victory that day was *turned* into mourning unto all the people; for the people heard say that day, The king grieveth for his son. 3 And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people *that* are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 And the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son! 5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed *this* day the faces of all thy servants, who *this* day have saved thy soul, and the souls of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the souls of thy wives, and the souls of thy concubines; 6 in that thou lovest *them* that hate thee, and hatest *them* that love thee. For thou hast declared *this* day, that princes and servants are nought unto thee: for *this* day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died *this* day, then it had pleased thee well. 7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants; for I swear by Jehovah, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry a man with thee *this* night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that hath befallen thee from thy youth until now. 8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king is sitting in the gate: and all the people came before the king.

Now Israel had fled every man to his tent. 9 And all the people were at strife throughout all *the* tribes of

<sup>167</sup> *Hb.* שלום, shalom. Peace.

<sup>168</sup> *Hb.* *Is there* peace with the young man Absalom?

*And in vs. 32.*

<sup>169</sup> *Hb.* salvation

Israel, saying, The king delivered us out of *the* hand of our enemies, and he saved us out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land from Absalom. 10 And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

11 And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto *the* elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye *the* last to bring the king back to his house? seeing *the* speech of all Israel is come to the king, *to bring him* to his house. 12 Ye *are* my brethren, ye *are* my bone and my flesh: wherefore then are ye *the* last to bring back the king? 13 And say ye to Amasa, *Art* thou not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of *the* host before me continually in place of Joab. 14 And he bowed the heart of all *the* men of Judah, even as *the heart* of one man; so that they sent unto the king, *saying*, Return thou, and all thy servants. 15 So the king returned, and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to bring the king over the Jordan.

16 And Shimei *the* son of Gera, the Benjamite, who *was* of Bahurim, hasted and came down with *the* men of Judah to meet king David. 17 And *there were* a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba *the* servant of *the* house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went through the Jordan in *the* presence of the king. 18 And there went over <sup>170</sup>*a* ferry-boat to bring over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei *the* son of Gera fell down before the king, when he <sup>171</sup>*was* come over the Jordan. 19 And he said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king *went* out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. 20 For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come *this* day *the* first of all *the* house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

21 But Abishai *the* son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed Jehovah's anointed? 22 And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should *this* day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death *this* day in Israel? for do not I know that I *am* *this* day king over Israel? 23 And the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

24 And Mephibosheth *the* son of Saul came down to meet the king; and he had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came home in

<sup>170</sup> *Or*, the convoy

<sup>171</sup> *Or*, would go over the Jordan.

peace. 25 And it came to pass, <sup>172</sup>when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? 26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me *an* ass, that I may ride thereon, and go <sup>173</sup>with the king; because thy servant *is* lame. 27 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king *is* as <sup>174</sup>an angel of God: do therefore *what is* good in thine eyes. 28 For all my father's house were but <sup>175</sup>dead men before my lord the king; yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet that I should cry any more unto the king? 29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I say, Thou and Ziba divide the land. 30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yes, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king *is* come in peace unto his own house.

31 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim; and he went over the Jordan with the king, to conduct him over the Jordan. 32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, *even* eighty years old: and he had provided the king with sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he *was* a very great man. 33 And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will sustain thee with me in Jerusalem. 34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How many are *the* days of *the* years of my life, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem? 35 *I am* this day eighty years old: can I discern between good and bad? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more *the* voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king? 36 Thy servant would but just go over the Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such *a* reward? 37 Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, by *the* grave of my father and my mother. But behold, thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee. 38 And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him that which shall seem good unto thee; and whatsoever thou shalt <sup>176</sup>require of me, *that* will I do for thee. 39 And all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over: and the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.

40 So the king went over to Gilgal, and Chimham went over with him: and all *the* people of Judah brought the king over, and also half *the* people of

Israel. 41 And, behold, all *the* men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren *the* men of Judah stolen thee away, and brought the king, and his household, over the Jordan, and all David's men with him? 42 And all *the* men of Judah answered *the* men of Israel, Because the king *is* near of kin to us: wherefore then are ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all at the king's *cost*? or hath he given us any gift? 43 And *the* men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more *right* in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, <sup>177</sup>that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And *the* words of *the* men of Judah were fiercer than *the* words of *the* men of Israel.

20 And there happened to be there a man <sup>178</sup>of worthlessness, whose name *was* Sheba, *the* son of Bichri, a *Benjamite*: and he blew the trumpet, and said, We have no portion in David, neither have we inheritance in *the* son of Jesse: every man to his <sup>179</sup>gods, O Israel. 2 So all *the* men of Israel went up from following David, *and* followed Sheba *the* son of Bichri; but *the* men of Judah clave unto their king, from the Jordan even to Jerusalem.

3 And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and provided them with sustenance, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto *the* day of their death, <sup>180</sup>living in widowhood.

4 Then said the king to Amasa, Call me the men of Judah together within three days, and be thou here present. 5 So Amasa went to call the *men* of Judah together; but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him. 6 And David said to Abishai, Now will Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fortified cities, and escape out of our sight. 7 And there went out after him Joab's men, and <sup>181</sup>the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men; and they went out of Jerusalem to pursue after Sheba *the* son of Bichri. 8 When they *were* at the great stone which *is* in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. And Joab was girded with his apparel of war that he had put on, and thereon *was* a girdle *with* a sword fastened upon his loins in *the* sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out. 9 And Joab said to Amasa, *Is it* well with thee, my brother?

<sup>177</sup> *Or*, and were we not *the* first to speak of bringing back our king? (*Lit.* ...my king)

<sup>178</sup> *That is*, well-practiced in the ways of worthlessness,

<sup>179</sup> Sopherim *changed* gods (elohim) to tents (ohelim).

<sup>180</sup> *Hb.* in widowhood of life.

<sup>181</sup> *Likely*, the elite palace guard and the couriers, *And so elsewhere.*

<sup>172</sup> *Or*, when Jerusalem was come to meet the king,

<sup>173</sup> *Some* Massoretic mss. *alone read* to the king;

<sup>174</sup> *Or*, the angel of God:

<sup>175</sup> *Hb.* men of death before my lord the king;

<sup>176</sup> *Hb.* choose to lay upon me,

And Joab took Amasa by *the* beard with his right hand to kiss him. 10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that *was* in Joab's *other* hand: so he smote him therewith in the body, and shed out his bowels to *the* ground, and struck him not again; and he died.

And Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba *the* son of Bichri. 11 And there stood by him one of Joab's young men, and said, He that favoreth Joab, and he that *is* for David, *let him* follow Joab. 12 And Amasa lay wallowing in *his* blood in *the* midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a garment over him, when he saw that everyone that came by him stood still. 13 When he was removed out of the highway, all *the* men went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba *the* son of Bichri.

14 And he went through all *the* tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Beth-maacah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him. 15 And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah, and they cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart; and all the people that *were* with Joab <sup>182</sup>battered the wall, to throw *it* down. 16 Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee. 17 And he came near unto her; and the woman said, *Art* thou Joab? And he answered, *I am*. Then she said unto him, Hear *the* words of thy handmaid. And he answered, I do hear. 18 Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask *counsel* at Abel: and so they ended *the matter*. 19 *I am of them that are* peaceable *and* faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up *the* inheritance of Jehovah? 20 And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. 21 The matter *is* not so: but a man of *the* hill-country of Ephraim, Sheba *the* son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, *even* against David; deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall. 22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba *the* son of Bichri, and threw *it* out to Joab. And he blew the trumpet, and they were dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

23 Now Joab *was* over all the host of Israel; and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada *was* over the <sup>183</sup>Cherethites and over the Pelethites; 24 and Adoram *was* over the men subject to taskwork; and Jehoshaphat *the* son of

<sup>182</sup> *Or*, undermined the wall,

<sup>183</sup> *So* Hb<sup>mg</sup>, versions. Hb<sup>text</sup> reads Carians

*See* 2Ki 11:4. Lamsa says, freedmen...laborers;

Ahilud *was* the <sup>184</sup>recorder; 25 And Sheva *was* <sup>185</sup>scribe; and Zadok and Abiathar *were* priests; 26 and also Ira the Jairite *was* <sup>186</sup>chief minister unto David.

21 And there was a famine in *the* days of David three years, year after year; and David sought the face of Jehovah. And Jehovah said, *It is* for Saul, and for *his* bloody house, because he put to death the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them (now the Gibeonites *were* not of *the* children of Israel, but of *the* remnant of the Amorites; and *the* children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal for *the* children of Israel and Judah); 3 and David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of Jehovah? 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, It is no matter of silver or gold between us and Saul, or his house; <sup>187</sup>neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, *that* will I do for you. 5 And they said unto the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us, <sup>188</sup>*that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of *the* borders of Israel, 6 let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto Jehovah in Gibeah of Saul, *the* chosen of Jehovah. And the king said, I will give *them*.

7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, *the* son of Jonathan *the* son of Saul, because of Jehovah's oath that *was* between them, between David and Jonathan *the* son of Saul. 8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah *the* daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth: and the five sons of <sup>189</sup>Michal *the* daughter of Saul, whom she bare to Adriel *the* son of Barzillai the Meholathite: 9 and he delivered them into *the* hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the mountain before Jehovah, and they fell *all* seven together. And they were put to death in *the* days of harvest, in the first *days*, at *the* beginning of <sup>190</sup>barley harvest.

10 And Rizpah *the* daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from *the* beginning of harvest until water was poured upon them from heaven; and she suffered neither *the* birds of the heavens to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. 11 And it was told David what Rizpah *the* daughter of Aiah, *the* concubine of Saul, had done.

<sup>184</sup> *Or*, chronicler;

<sup>185</sup> *Or*, secretary;

<sup>186</sup> *Or*, priest unto David. *See* 1Chr 18:17.

<sup>187</sup> *Or*, neither for us shalt thou put any man to death in Israel.

<sup>188</sup> *Or*, so that we have been destroyed from

<sup>189</sup> *In* 1Sa 18:19, Merab *Cf.* ch. 6:23.

<sup>190</sup> *Usually late March, around the Feast of Passover.*

12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from *the* men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from *the* <sup>191</sup>street of Beth-shan, where *the* Philistines had hanged them, in *the* day that *the* Philistines slew Saul in Gilboa; 13 and he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son: and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged. 14 And they buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in *the* country of Benjamin in Zela, in *the* sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was entreated for the land.

15 And the Philistines had war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines. And David waxed faint; 16 and Ishbi-benob, who *was* of *the* sons of the <sup>192</sup>giant, *the* weight of whose spear *was* <sup>193</sup>three hundred *shekels* of copper in weight, he being girded with a new *sword*, thought to have slain David. 17 But Abishai *the* son of Zeruiah succored him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then *the* men of David sware *unto* *him*, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the lamp of Israel.

18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again war with *the* Philistines <sup>194</sup>at Gob: then Sibbecai the Hushathite slew <sup>195</sup>Saph, who *was* of *the* sons of the giant. 19 And there was again war with *the* Philistines at Gob; and Elhanan *the* son of Jaare *the* weaver, the Beth-lehemite, slew <sup>196</sup>Goliath the Gittite, *the* staff of whose spear *was* like a weaver's beam. 20 And there was again war at Gath, where was a man of *great* stature, that had on *each* hand six fingers, and on *each* foot six toes, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant. 21 And when he <sup>197</sup>defied Israel, Jonathan *the* son of <sup>198</sup>Shimei, David's brother, slew him. 22 These four were born to the giant in Gath; and they fell by *the* hand of David, and by *the* hand of his servants.

22 And David spake unto Jehovah the words of this song in *the* day that Jehovah delivered him out of *the* hand of all his enemies, and out of *the* hand of Saul: 2 and he said,

Jehovah *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine;

3 God, my rock, in him will I take refuge;

<sup>191</sup> *Or*, broad place of Beth-shan,

<sup>192</sup> *Hb.* Raphah, *And in* vss. 18, 20, *and* 22.

<sup>193</sup> *About* 3.5 kg (7.6 pounds).

<sup>194</sup> *In* 1Chr 20:4, at Gezer: 1QSam *alone reads* of mighty men: *Aram. reads* at Gath:

<sup>195</sup> *In* 1Chr 20:4, Sippai,

<sup>196</sup> *In* 1Chr 20:5, *the* brother of Goliath the Gittite,

<sup>197</sup> *Or*, reproached

<sup>198</sup> *In* 1Sa 16:9, Shammah, *In* 1Chr 2:13; 20:7, Shimea

My shield, and *the* horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge;

My saviour, thou savest me from violence.

4 I will call upon Jehovah, *who is* worthy to be praised:

So shall I be saved from mine enemies.

5 For *the* waves of death compassed me;

*The* floods of <sup>199</sup>worthlessness made me afraid:

6 *The* cords of Sheol were round about me;

*The* snares of death came upon me.

7 In my distress I called upon Jehovah;

Yes, I called unto my God:

And he heard my voice out of his temple,

And my cry *came* into his ears.

8 Then the earth shook and trembled,

*The* foundations of the heavens quaked

And were shaken, because he was wroth.

9 There went up a smoke <sup>200</sup>out of his nostrils,

And fire out of his mouth devoured:

Coals were kindled by it.

10 He bowed *the* heavens also, and came down;

And thick darkness *was* under his feet.

11 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly;

Yes, he was seen upon *the* wings of *the* wind.

12 And he made darkness booths round about him,

Gathering of waters, thick clouds of *the* skies.

13 At *the* brightness before him

Coals of fire were kindled.

14 Jehovah thundered from heaven,

And *the* Most High uttered his voice.

15 And he sent out arrows, and scattered them;

Lightning, and discomfited them.

16 Then *the* channels of *the* sea appeared,

*The* foundations of *the* world were laid bare,

By *the* rebuke of Jehovah,

At *the* blast of *the* breath of his nostrils.

17 He sent from on high, he took me;

He drew me out of <sup>201</sup>many waters;

18 He delivered me from my strong enemy,

From them that hated me; for they were too mighty for me.

19 They came upon me in *the* day of my calamity;

But Jehovah was my stay.

20 He brought me forth also into *a* large place;

He delivered me, because he delighted in me.

21 Jehovah rewarded me according to my

righteousness;

According to *the* cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

22 For I have kept the ways of Jehovah,

And have not wickedly departed from my God.

23 For all his ordinances *were* before me;

<sup>199</sup> *Hb.* Belial, *that is*, worthlessness

<sup>200</sup> *Or*, in his wrath,

<sup>201</sup> *Or*, great waters;

And *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them.  
 24 I was also perfect toward him;  
 And I kept myself from mine iniquity.  
 25 Therefore hath Jehovah recompensed me  
 according to my righteousness,  
 According to my cleanness in his eyesight.  
 26 With *the* merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful;  
 With *the* perfect man thou wilt show thyself perfect;  
 27 With *the* pure thou wilt show thyself pure;  
 And with *the* perverse thou wilt show thyself  
<sup>202</sup>froward.  
 28 And the afflicted people thou wilt save;  
 But thine eyes *are* upon *the* haughty, <sup>203</sup>*that* thou  
 mayest bring *them* down.  
 29 For thou *art* my lamp, O Jehovah;  
 And Jehovah will lighten my darkness.  
 30 For by thee I run <sup>204</sup>upon a troop;  
 By my God do I leap over a wall.  
 31 *As for* God, his way is perfect:  
*The* word of Jehovah *is* tried;  
 He *is* a shield unto all them *that* take refuge in him.  
 32 For who *is* God, save Jehovah?  
 And who *is* a rock, save our God?  
 33 God *is* my strong fortress;  
 And he <sup>205</sup>guideth my way in perfectness.  
 34 He maketh <sup>206</sup>his feet like hinds' *feet*,  
 And setteth me upon my high places.  
 35 He teacheth my hands to war,  
 So that mine arms do bend a bow of copper.  
 36 Thou hast also given me *the* shield of thy  
 salvation;  
 And thy <sup>207</sup>gentleness hath made me great.  
 37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me;  
 And my <sup>208</sup>feet have not slipped.  
 38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them;  
 Neither did I turn again till they were consumed.  
 39 And I have consumed them, and smitten them  
 through, so that they cannot arise:  
 Yes, they are fallen under my feet.  
 40 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the  
 battle;  
 Thou hast <sup>209</sup>subdued under me those that rose up  
 against me.  
 41 Thou hast also made mine enemies turn their  
 backs unto me.  
 That I might cut off them that hate me.

<sup>202</sup> So Ps 18:26. *The text reads* unsavory.

<sup>203</sup> Or, *whom* thou wilt bring down.

<sup>204</sup> Or, through

<sup>205</sup> So Hb<sup>mg</sup>, versions. Most Hb<sup>txt</sup> read *guideth the perfect in his way. or, setteth free the perfect.*

<sup>206</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup>, Aram., Vg. read *my feet*

<sup>207</sup> Or, condescension

<sup>208</sup> Hb. ankles

<sup>209</sup> Hb. caused to bow under me

42 They looked, but *there was* none to save;  
*Even* unto Jehovah, but he answered them not.  
 43 Then did I beat them small as *the* dust of *the* earth,  
 I did crush them as *the* mire of *the* streets, *and* did  
 spread them abroad.  
 44 Thou also hast delivered me from *the* strivings of  
 my people;  
 Thou <sup>210</sup>hast kept me *to be the* head of *the* nations:  
 A people *whom* I have not known shall serve me.  
 45 *The* foreigners shall <sup>211</sup>submit themselves unto me:  
 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me.  
 46 *The* foreigners shall fade away,  
 And shall <sup>212</sup>come trembling out of their close places.  
 47 Jehovah liveth; and blessed *be* my rock;  
 And exalted be God, *the* rock of my salvation.  
 48 *Even* the God *that* executeth vengeance for me,  
 And *that* bringeth down peoples under me,  
 49 And *that* bringeth me forth from mine enemies:  
 Yes, thou liftest me up above them that rise up  
 against me;  
 Thou deliverest me from *the* violent man.  
 50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O Jehovah,  
 among the nations,  
 And will sing praises unto thy name.  
 51 <sup>213</sup>Great <sup>214</sup>deliverance *giveth he to* his king,  
 And showeth lovingkindness to his anointed,  
 To David and to his seed, for evermore.  
**23** Now these *are* the last words of David.  
 David *the* son of Jesse saith,  
 And the man *who was* raised on high saith,  
*The* anointed of the God of Jacob,  
 And *the* sweet psalmist of Israel:  
 2 *The* Spirit of Jehovah spake by me,  
 And his word *was* upon my tongue.  
 3 *The* God of Israel said,  
*The* Rock of Israel spake to me:  
<sup>215</sup>One that ruleth over men <sup>216</sup>righteously,  
 That ruleth in *the* fear of God,  
 4 *He shall be* as *the* light of *the* morning, *when the*  
 sun riseth,  
 A morning without clouds,  
*When the* tender grass *springeth* out of *the* earth,  
 Through clear shining after rain.  
 5 <sup>217</sup>Truly my house *is* not so with God;

<sup>210</sup> Or, will keep me

<sup>211</sup> Or, yield feigned obedience Hb. lie

<sup>212</sup> So Ps 18:45. *The text reads* gird themselves out of

<sup>213</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> alone reads *He is* a tower of deliverance,

<sup>214</sup> So 4QSam<sup>a</sup>, versions. Massoretic reads *salvations*

<sup>215</sup> Or, *There shall be one ... and it shall be as etc.*

<sup>216</sup> Hb. a righteous one,

<sup>217</sup> Or, For is not my house so with God? for he ... for all my salvation, and all my desire, will he not make it to grow?

Yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant,  
Ordered in all *things*, and sure:

For *it is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire,  
Although he maketh it not to grow.

6 But <sup>218</sup>*the* worthless *shall be* all of them as thorns  
to be thrust away,

Because they cannot be taken with the hand;

7 But *the* man *that* toucheth them

Must be <sup>219</sup>armed with iron and *the* staff of a spear:  
And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their  
place.

8 These *are the* names of the mighty men whom  
David *had*: <sup>220</sup>Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite, chief  
of the three *captains*; the same *was called* Adino the  
Eznite, against <sup>221</sup>eight hundred slain at one time.

9 And after him *was* Eleazar *the* son of Dodai *the* son  
of an Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David,  
when they defied the Philistines *that* were there  
gathered together to battle, and *the* men of Israel  
<sup>222</sup>were gone away. 10 He arose, and smote the  
Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave  
unto the sword; and Jehovah wrought a great <sup>223</sup>victory  
that day; and the people returned after him only to take  
spoil.

11 And after him *was* Shammah *the* son of Agee a  
Hararite. And *the* Philistines were gathered together  
<sup>224</sup>into a troop, where was a plot of ground full of  
lentils; and the people fled from *the* Philistines. 12 But  
he stood in *the* midst of the plot, and defended it, and  
slew the Philistines; and Jehovah wrought a great  
victory.

13 And three of the thirty chief men went down, and  
came to David in *the* harvest time unto *the* cave of  
Adullam; and *the* troop of *the* Philistines was  
encamped in *the* valley of Rephaim. 14 And David  
*was* then in the stronghold; and *the* garrison of *the*  
Philistines *was* then in Beth-lehem. 15 And David  
longed, and said, Oh that one would give me water to  
drink of *the* well of Beth-lehem, which *is* by the gate!  
16 And the three mighty men brake through *the* host of  
*the* Philistines, and drew water out of *the* well of Beth-  
lehem, that *was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it*  
to David: but he would not drink thereof, but poured *it*  
out unto Jehovah. 17 And he said, Be it far from me,  
O Jehovah, that I should do this: *shall I drink the* blood  
of the men that went <sup>225</sup>in jeopardy of their souls:

<sup>218</sup> *Hb.* Belial *That is,* worthlessness

<sup>219</sup> *Hb.* filled

<sup>220</sup> *In* 1Chr 11:11, Jashobeam *ARV comments,* The  
Hebrew of this verse is obscure.

<sup>221</sup> *In* 1Chr 11:11, three hundred

<sup>222</sup> *Hb.* went up.

<sup>223</sup> *Hb.* salvation *Also in* vs. 12.

<sup>224</sup> *Or,* for foraging,

<sup>225</sup> *Hb.* with their lives:

therefore he would not drink it. These things did the  
three mighty men.

18 And Abishai, *the* brother of Joab, *the* son of  
Zeruiah, was chief of the three. And he lifted up his  
spear against three hundred <sup>226</sup>and slew *them*, and had a  
name among the three. 19 Was he not most honorable  
of the three? therefore he was made their captain:  
howbeit he attained not unto the *first* three.

20 And Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, *the* son of <sup>227</sup>a  
valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds,  
he slew the two *sons of* Ariel of Moab: he went down  
also and slew a lion in *the* midst of a pit in time of  
snow. 21 And he slew an Egyptian man, a goodly man:  
and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went  
down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of  
the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.  
22 These *things* did Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, and  
had a name among the three mighty men. 23 He was  
more honorable than the thirty, but he attained not to  
the *first* three. And David set him over his <sup>228</sup>guard.

24 Asahel *the* brother of Joab was one of the thirty;  
Elhanan *the* son of Dodo of Beth-lehem, 25 Shammah  
the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite, 26 Helez the Paltite,  
Ira *the* son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, 27 Abiezer the  
Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, 28 Zalmon the  
Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, 29 Heleb *the* son  
of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai *the* son of Ribai of  
Gibeah of *the* children of Benjamin, 30 Benaiah a  
Pirathonite, Hiddai of *the* brooks of Gaash,  
31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,  
32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, *the* sons of Jashen,  
Jonathan, 33 Shamma the Hararite, Ahiam *the* son of  
Sharar the Ararite, 34 Eliphelet *the* son of Ahasbai, *the*  
son of the Maacathite, Eliam *the* son of Ahithophel the  
Gilonite, 35 <sup>229</sup>Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,  
36 Igal *the* son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,  
37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite,  
<sup>230</sup>armor-bearers to Joab *the* son of Zeruiah, 38 Ira the  
Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, 39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty-  
seven in all.

24 And again *the* anger of Jehovah was kindled  
against Israel, and he moved David against them,  
saying, Go, number Israel and Judah. 2 And the king  
said to Joab *the* captain of the host, who *was* with him,  
Go now to and fro through all *the* tribes of Israel, from  
Dan even to Beer-sheba, and <sup>231</sup>number ye the people,  
that I may know the sum of the people. 3 And Joab  
said unto the king, Now Jehovah thy God add unto the  
people, how many soever they may be, a hundredfold;

<sup>226</sup> *Hb.* slain,

<sup>227</sup> *Hb*<sup>lxt</sup> Sept<sup>l</sup> read Ish-hai (*or,* lively man) of Kabzeel,

<sup>228</sup> *Or,* council.

<sup>229</sup> *Or,* Hezrai

<sup>230</sup> *Hb*<sup>mg</sup> Sept<sup>B</sup> Aram., *Vg.* read armorbearer (*singular*).

<sup>231</sup> *By implication, a military census, preparing for war.*

and may *the* eyes of my lord the king see *it*: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing? 4 Notwithstanding, the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against *the* captains of the host. And Joab and *the* captains of the host went out from *the* presence of the king, to number the people of Israel. 5 And they passed over the Jordan, and encamped in Aroer, on *the* right *side* of the city that *is* in *the* middle of the valley <sup>232</sup>of Gad, and unto Jazer: 6 then they came to Gilead, and to *the* land of Tahtim-hodshi; and they came to Dan-jaan, and round about to Sidon, 7 and came to *the* stronghold of Tyre, and to all *the* cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites; and they went out to *the* south of Judah, at Beer-sheba. 8 So when they had gone to and fro through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. 9 And Joab gave up the sum of *the* numbering of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew *the* sword; and *the* men of Judah *were* five hundred thousand men.

10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto Jehovah, I have sinned greatly in that which I have done: but now, O Jehovah, put away, I beseech thee, the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. 11 And when David rose up in the morning, *the* word of Jehovah came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and speak unto David, Thus saith Jehovah, I <sup>233</sup>offer thee three *things*: choose thee one of them, that I may *do it* unto thee. 13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thy foes while they pursue thee? or shall there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise thee, and consider what answer I shall return to him that sent me. 14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into *the* hand of Jehovah; for his mercies *are* <sup>234</sup>great; and let me not fall into *the* hand of man.

15 So Jehovah sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to *the* time appointed; and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men. 16 And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, Jehovah repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough; now stay thy hand. And *the* angel of Jehovah was by the threshing-floor of <sup>235</sup>Araunah the Jebusite. 17 And David spake unto Jehovah when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done perversely; but these sheep, what have they done? let thy hand,

<sup>232</sup> *Or*, toward Gad,

<sup>233</sup> *Or*, lay upon thee

<sup>234</sup> *Or*, many;

<sup>235</sup> *Or*, Ornan In 1Chr 21:15, Ornan.

I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto Jehovah in *the* threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 19 And David went up according to *the* saying of Gad, as Jehovah commanded. 20 And Araunah looked forth, and saw the king and his servants <sup>236</sup>coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king with his face to *the* ground. 21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing-floor of thee, to build an altar unto Jehovah, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seemeth* good unto him: behold, the *oxen* for the burnt-offering, and the threshing instruments and *the* yokes of the *oxen* for the wood: 23 <sup>237</sup>all *this*, O king, doth Araunah give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, Jehovah thy God accept thee. 24 And the king said unto Araunah, No; but I will truly buy *it* of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing. So David <sup>238</sup>bought the threshing-floor and the *oxen* for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar unto Jehovah, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. So Jehovah was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

*End of the Second Book of Samuel*

<sup>236</sup> *Or*, passing over toward him:

<sup>237</sup> *Or*, all this did Araunah the king give unto the king.

<sup>238</sup> *David bought also the land, for 600 shekels of gold. 1Chr 21:25. This land became the Temple Mount. The prices were 0.58 kg (1.3 pounds) of silver and 7 kg (15 pounds) of gold.*