

The Second Book of SAMUEL

2 Samuel 1

1 The Amalekite, who brought tidings of the overthrow, and accused himself of Saul's death, is executed. 17 David laments Saul and Jonathan.

1 ¶ And it happened, after the dying of Saul, David returned from striking the Amalekites; and David remained in Ziklag two days.

2 And it happened in the third day, behold, a man came in out of the camp from Saul. And his garments were torn, and earth on his head. And it happened as he came to David, he fell to the earth and bowed himself.

3 And David said to him, From where do you come? And he said to him, I have escaped out of the camp of Israel.

4 And David said to him, How was the matter? Please tell me. And he answered, The people fled from the battle and also a multitude of the people have fallen, and they died, and also Saul and his son Jonathan have died.

5 And David said to the youth who was telling him, How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan have died?

6 And the youth who was telling him said, Drawing near I happened to be on Mount Gilboa. And behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And, behold, the chariots and the masters of horses closely pursued him!

7 And he turned behind him and he saw me and called to me. And I said, Behold me.

8 And he said to me, Who *are* you? And I said, I *am* an Amalekite.

9 And he said to me, Please stand over me and kill me, for agony has seized me; for all my life is still in me.

10 And I stood over him and caused him to die, for I knew that he could not live after his falling. And I took the crown on his head, and *the* bracelet on his arm, and I brought them to my lord here.

11 ¶ And David took hold on his garments and tore them; and also all the men with him *did* so.

12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until the evening, for Saul, and for his son Jonathan, and for the people of Jehovah, and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 And David said to the youth who told him, From where *are* you? And he said, I *am* the son of a foreign man, an Amalekite.

14 And David said to him, Why were you not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the anointed of Jehovah?

15 And David called to one of the young men, and said, Draw near and fall on him. And he struck him, and he died.

16 And David said to him, Your blood *be* on your own head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, I caused to die the anointed of Jehovah.

17 ¶ And David chanted this dirge over Saul, and over his son Jonathan;

18 and he said to teach the sons of Judah *The Song of the Bow*. Behold, it is written in the Book of Jasher:

19 The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places. How are the mighty fallen!

20 Tell it not in Gath; do not make *it* known in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

21 Mountains of Gilboa, *let* not dew and not do *let* rain *be* on you, and not fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not *being* anointed with oil.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back; and the sword of Saul did not return empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan! *They* were beloved and delightful in their lives; and in their death they were not parted. They

were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.

24 Daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with scarlet delights, who brought ornaments of gold on your clothing.

25 How *are* the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slain on your high places!

26 Distress *is* to me over you, my brother Jonathan. You were very delightful to me; your love was wonderful to me, more than the love of women.

27 How *are* the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

2 Samuel 2

1 David goes to Hebron; he is made king of Judah.

8 Abner makes Ishbosheth king of Israel. 12 A mortal skirmish between twelve of Abner's and twelve of Joab's men. 18 Asahel is slain.

1 ¶ And it happened after this, David asked of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up to one of the cities of Judah? And Jehovah said to him, Go up. And David said, Where shall I go up? And He said, To Hebron.

2 And David went up there, and also his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail the *former* wife of Nabal of Carmel.

3 And his men that *were* with him, David brought up, *each* man and his household. And they lived in the city of Hebron.

4 And the men of Judah came and anointed David to *be* king over the house of Judah there. And they told David, saying, *It was* the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul.

5 And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, Blessed *are* you of Jehovah that you have done this kindness with your lord, with Saul, that you have buried him.

6 And now, may Jehovah do with you *in* kindness and truth. And I also will do good to you because you have done this thing.

7 And now, let your hands be made strong, and be sons of strength, for your lord Saul *is* dead. And also, the house of Judah has anointed me to *be* king over them.

8 ¶ And Abner the son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and caused him to cross over to Mahanaim.

9 And *he* caused him to reign over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

10 Ishbosheth the son of Saul *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah *followed* after David.

11 And it happened, the number of the days that David was king in Hebron, over the house of Judah, was seven years and six months.

12 And Abner the son of Ner and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

13 And Joab the son of Zeruah, and David's servants went out. And they met by the pool of Gibeon together and sat down, these by the pool on this *side*, and those by the pool on that *side*.

14 And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men rise up now and make sport before us. And Joab said, Let them rise.

15 And they rose up and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin, and for Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

16 And *each* man seized the head of his companion, and *thrust* his sword into the side of his companion. And they fell together. And *one* called that place The Field of Rocks, which is in Gibeon.

17 And the battle was very hard on that day, and the men of Israel and Abner were stricken before David's servants.

18 ¶ And there were three sons of Zeruah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel. And Asahel *was* swift with his feet, like one of the gazelles which *is* in the field.

19 And Asahel pursued after Abner, and did not turn to go to the right or to the left from *following* after Abner.

20 And Abner looked behind him, and said, *Is* this you Asahel? And he said, *It is* I.

21 And Abner said to him, Turn aside to your right, or to your left, and seize one of the young men for yourself, and take his plunder for yourself. And Asahel was not willing to turn aside from after him.

22 And Abner said yet again to Asahel, Turn aside yourself from after me. Why

should I strike you to the ground? And how shall I lift up my face to your brother Joab?

23 And he refused to turn aside. And Abner struck him *in* the fifth rib with the butt of the spear. And the spear came out from behind him; and he fell there, and died in his place. And it happened that all who came to the place, there where Asahel fell and died, they stood still.

24 And Joab and Abishai ran after Abner, and the sun was going. And they came to the hill of Ammah which is before Giah, *by* the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

25 ¶ And the sons of Benjamin gathered themselves after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of a certain hill.

26 And Abner called to Joab, and said, Does *the* sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the end? And until when will you say to the people to turn back from after their brothers?

27 And Joab said, As God lives, for if you had not spoken, surely then in the morning the people would have gone up, *each* man from after his brother.

28 And Joab blew the rams' horn. And all the people stood still, and did not still pursue after Israel; and not did they still fight again.

29 And Abner and his men went through the Arabah all that night, and crossed the Jordan, and went all the forenoon, and came to Mahanaim.

30 And Joab returned from after Abner. And *he* gathered all the people. And there were lacking nineteen men of David's servants, and Asahel.

31 And David's servants had struck three hundred and sixty men of Benjamin, even among the men of Abner *who* died.

32 And they lifted up Asahel and buried him in the grave of his father, which *is in* Bethlehem. And they went all night, Joab and his men; and it was light to them *coming* into Hebron.

2 Samuel 3

1 David is stronger. 2 Six sons were born to him in Hebron. 12 Abner joins David. 22 Joab murders Abner. 31 David mourns for Abner.

1 ¶ And there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And

David *was* going on and *was* strong, but the house of Saul *was* going on and *was* weak.

2 And sons were born to David in Hebron. And his first-born *was* Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel.

3 And his second *was* Chileab, of Abigail the *former* wife of Nabal of Carmel. And the third *was* Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur.

4 And the fourth *was* Adonijah the son of Haggith. And the fifth *was* Shephatiah the son of Abital.

5 And the sixth *was* Ithream, of Eglah the wife of David. These were born to David in Hebron.

6 And it happened while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

7 ¶ And to Saul *was* a concubine, and her name was Rizpah the daughter of Aiah. And *Ishbosheth* said to Abner, Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?

8 And Abner was exceedingly angry over the words of Ishbosheth. And he said, *Am* I a dog's head, that I act with kindness with the house of your father Saul *in regards* to Judah today, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not caused you to be found in the hand of David, and you charge a stroke against me *with* the woman today?

9 May God do so to Abner, and add to it so, if I do not do to David as Jehovah has sworn,

10 that thus I will do for him, to cause to pass over the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan even to Beer-sheba.

11 And he was not able yet to return a word to Abner, because he feared him.

12 And Abner sent messengers to David in his place, saying, Whose *is* the land? And saying, Cut your covenant with me, and, behold, my hand *shall be* with you, to bring all Israel around to you.

13 And he said, Good, I will cut a covenant with you, but one thing I ask of you, saying, You shall not see my face except you first bring Michal the daughter of Saul when you come to see my face.

14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, saying, Give up my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to myself with a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

15 And Ishbosheth sent and took her from *her* man, from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

16 And her man went with her, going on and weeping behind her to Bahurim. And Abner said to him, Go, return. And he returned.

17 And the word of Abner was with the elders of Israel, saying, Before now you have been seeking David for king over you.

18 And now do *it*. For Jehovah has spoken of David, saying, By the hand of My servant David he 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 spoke in the ears of Benjamin. And Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that *was* good in the eyes of Israel, and in the eyes of all the house of Benjamin.

20 And Abner came to David, to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made a feast for Abner and for the men with him.

21 And Abner said to David, let me rise up and go, and gather to my lord the king all Israel. And they shall cut a covenant with you. And you shall reign over all that your soul desires. And David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

22 ¶ And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from *pursuing* a troop. And *they* brought much plunder with them. And Abner *was* not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away; and he had gone in peace.

23 And Joab and all the army that *was* with him had come. And they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner has come to the king. And he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace.

24 And Joab came to the king, and said, What have you done? Behold, Abner has come to you; why *is* this, that you have sent him away, and going he is gone?

25 You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you, and to know your

going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing.

26 And Joab went out from David, and sent messengers after Abner. And they brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it.

27 And Abner returned *to* Hebron. And Joab turning him aside into the middle of the gate, to speak with him privately, even *he* struck him *in* the fifth rib there, and he died, because of the blood of his brother Asahel.

28 And afterward David heard, and said, I and my kingdom *are* innocent from before Jehovah forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

29 May it whirl about the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that has a discharge, or that is leprous, or that leans on a staff, or who falls by the sword, or that lacks bread!

30 And Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner because he had caused their brother Asahel to die in Gibeon, in battle.

31 And David said to Joab, and to all the people with him, Tear your garments and gird on sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And King David walked after 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 for Abner, and said, Should Abner die like the death of a foolish *one*?

34 Your hands *were* not bound, and your feet were not brought into bronze *fetters*. As one falls before *sons* of evil, you have fallen! And all the people wept again over him.

35 And all the people came to cause David to eat food while *it was* yet day. But David swore, saying, So may God do to me, and still more, if I taste bread or *anything* before the sun goes in.

36 And all the people took notice, and it was good in their eyes. As to all the king did, *it was* good in the eyes of all the people.

37 And all the people, even all Israel, knew in that day that it was not from the king to cause Abner the son of Ner to die.

38 And the king said to his servants, Do you not know that a leader and a great one has fallen this day in Israel?

39 And I *am* weak today, though anointed king. And these men, the sons of Zeruiah, *are* too hard for me. May Jehovah reward the doer of evil according to his evil!

2 Samuel 4

1 The Israelites troubled by the death of Abner.

2 Baanah and Rechab kill Ishbosheth and bring his head to Hebron.

1 ¶ And the son of Saul heard that Abner was dead in Hebron. And his hands were feeble; and all *those in* Israel were terrified.

2 And Saul's son had two men, troop commanders, one's name *being* Baanah, and the other's name Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth also is counted to Benjamin).

3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and are aliens there to this day.

4 And to Jonathan the son of Saul was a son *with* crippled feet. He was a son of five years when the news of Saul and Jonathan came out of Jezreel; and his nurse lifted him up and fled; and it happened as she hurried to flee, that he fell and became lame; and his name *was* Mephibosheth.

5 And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went and came at the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth. And he was lying *on his* bed *at* noon.

6 And they came to the middle of the house, bringing wheat. And they struck him to the fifth rib. And Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped.

7 And they entered the house, and he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; and they struck him and killed him, and took off his head. And they took his head and went the way of the Arabah all the night.

8 And *they* brought Ishbosheth's head to David in Hebron, and said to the king, Behold, the head of Ishbosheth the son of your enemy Saul, who sought your life. And may Jehovah give to my lord the king vengeance this day, on Saul and on his seed.

9 ¶ And David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the

Beerothite, and said to them, As Jehovah lives, who has redeemed my life out of all distress,

10 when one spoke to me, saying, Behold Saul *is* dead, and he was as a bearer of good news in his own eyes; even I seized and killed him in Ziklag. I gave that to him as a reward.

11 And when wicked men have slain a righteous man in his own house on his bed, should I not even now seek his blood from your hand, and burn you from the earth?

12 And David commanded his young men. And they killed them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hung *them* over the pool in Hebron. And they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it *in the* burying place of Abner in Hebron.

2 Samuel 5

1 The tribes come to Hebron to anoint David over Israel. 4 David's age. 6 He takes Zion from the Jebusites and lives in it. 13 Eleven sons are born to him in Jerusalem. 17 David kills the Philistines at the Breaches of Baal, 22 and again at the weeping trees.

1 ¶ And all the tribes of Israel came to David, to Hebron, and spoke, saying, Behold, we *are* your bone and we *are* your flesh.

2 Both yesterday and the day before, when Saul was king over us, you were he who led out and brought in Israel. And Jehovah said to you, You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be for a leader over Israel.

3 And all the elders of Israel came to the king, to Hebron. And King David cut a covenant with them in Hebron before Jehovah. And they anointed David to *be* king over Israel.

4 And David was a son of thirty years when he became king; 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, to the Jebusites, *those* dwelling in the land. And one spoke to David, saying, You shall not come in here except the blind *ones* and the lame *ones* will turn you away, saying, David cannot come in here.

7 And David captured the stronghold of Zion. *It is the city of David.*

8 And David said on that day, Anyone who strikes the Jebusite, let him reach by the water shaft and *take the lame ones and the blind ones, the hated of the soul of David.* On account of this they say, The blind *one* and the lame *one* shall not enter into the house.

9 And David lived in the stronghold, and called it *the city of David.* And David built all around from the Millo and inward.

10 And David went on and became great. And Jehovah the God of Hosts *was with him.*

11 ¶ And Hiram the king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and craftsmen in wood, and craftsmen in stone *for the wall; and they built a house for David.*

12 And David knew that Jehovah had established him for king over Israel, and that He had lifted up his kingdom because of His people Israel.

13 And David again took concubines and wives out of Jerusalem after he came from Hebron. And again sons and daughters were born to David.

14 These *are* the names of those born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

15 and Ibhaz, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

16 and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

17 ¶ And the Philistines heard that they had anointed David to *be king over Israel.* And all the Philistines came up to seek David. And David heard and went down to the stronghold.

18 And the Philistines came and were spread out in the Valley of the Giants.

19 And David asked of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? Will You give them into my hand? And Jehovah said to David, Go up, for giving I will give the Philistines into your hand.

20 And David came to the Breaches of Baal. And David struck them there, and said, Jehovah has broken forth *on my enemies before me as the breaking forth of waters.* On account of this he called the name of that place The Breaches of Baal.

21 And they abandoned their idols there; and David and his men took them away.

22 And the Philistines again came up and were spread out in the Valley of the Giants.

23 And David asked of Jehovah, and He said, You shall not go up. Turn around to *go after them, and come to them in front of the weeping trees.*

24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of the marching in the tops of the weeping trees, then you shall strike. For then Jehovah shall go out before you to strike the army of the Philistines.

25 And David did so, *that which Jehovah commanded him.* And *he* struck the Philistines from Geba until you come to Gezer.

2 Samuel 6

1 David gets the ark from Kirjath-jearim on a new cart. 6 Uzzah is killed at The Breach of Uzzah. 12 David brings the ark to Zion with sacrifices and dances before it. 17 He places it in a tent with great joy and feasting.

1 ¶ And David again gathered every chosen one in Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David rose up and went, and all the people with him, from Baal-judah, to bring up the ark of God from there which *is called by the Name, the Name of Jehovah of Hosts, who dwells above the cherubs.*

3 And they caused the ark of God to ride on a new cart, and took it from the house of Abinadab, which *is on the hill.* And Uzzah and Ahio the sons of Abinadab *were leading the new cart.*

4 And they took it from the house of Abinadab, which *is on the hill, with the ark of God.* And Ahio *was going before the ark.*

5 And David and all the house of Israel *were dancing before Jehovah with all instruments of fir wood, with lyres and with harps, and with tambourines, and with sistra, and with cymbals.*

6 ¶ And when they came to the threshing-floor of Nachon, and Uzzah reached out to the ark of God, and took hold of it, for the oxen *nearly upset it,*

7 then the anger of Jehovah burned against Uzzah. And God struck him there for the fault. And he died there by the ark of God.

8 And it angered David because Jehovah broke out a break against Uzzah. And one calls that place The Breach of Uzzah to this day.

9 And David feared Jehovah on that day, and said, How shall the ark of Jehovah come to me?

10 And David was not willing to bring the ark of Jehovah to himself, to the city of David. And David turned it aside to 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 to King David, saying, Jehovah has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that *is* his, because of the ark of God. And David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with joy.

13 And it happened, when those bearing the ark of Jehovah had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.

14 And David was dancing with all *his* might before Jehovah. And David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

15 And David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of Jehovah with shouting, and with the sound of a rams' horn.

16 And it happened, *when* the ark of Jehovah had come to the city of David, and Michal the daughter of Saul looked through the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before Jehovah, she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought the ark of Jehovah in, and set it up in its place, in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it. And David caused burnt offerings to be offered before Jehovah, and peace offerings.

18 And David finished offering the burnt offerings, and the peace offerings, and blessed the people in the name of Jehovah of Hosts.

19 And he shared out to all the people, to all the multitude of Israel, from man even to woman, to *each* man a cake of bread and one date cake and one raisin cake. And all the people left, *each* man to his house.

20 ¶ And David returned to bless his house. And Michal the daughter of Saul

went out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovering was uncovered today before the eyes of the slave-girls of his servants, as one of the vain *ones* uncovers himself.

21 And David said to Michal, Before Jehovah, who chose me over your father and over all your father's house, to command me *to be* leader over the people of Jehovah, and over Israel, so I danced before Jehovah.

22 And I will be yet lighter than this, and shall be lowly in my own eyes. But with the slave-girls of whom you spoke, with them I will be honored.

23 And there was no child to Michal the daughter of Saul until the day of her death.

2 Samuel 7

1 Nathan first approves of David building Jehovah a house 4 later Jehovah forbids him. 12 He promises him benefits and blessings in his seed.

18 David's prayer and thanksgiving.

1 ¶ And it happened, when the king lived in his house, and Jehovah had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, See, now, I am living in a house of cedar, and the ark of God dwells within tent curtains.

3 And Nathan said to the king, All that *is* in your heart, go, do. For Jehovah *shall be* with you.

4 ¶ And it happened in that night, the Word of Jehovah was to Nathan, saying,

5 Go, and you shall say to My servant, to David, So says Jehovah, Will you build a house for Me, for My dwelling?

6 For I have not dwelt in a house even from the day of My bringing the sons of Israel out of Egypt, I have been going about in a tent, even in a tabernacle.

7 In all *places* in which I have gone with all of the sons of Israel, have I spoken a word with one of the tribes of Israel, *those* I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built for me a house of cedars?

8 And now, so you shall say to My servant, to David, So says Jehovah of Hosts, I have taken you from the resting place, from following the flock, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

9 And I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you and have made you a great name, like the name of the great *men* who are on the earth.

10 And I will appoint a place for My people, for Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and not be made to tremble any more; and not shall the sons of evil afflict them again, as at the first,

11 even from the day I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. And I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. And Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house.

12 When your days *are* fulfilled, and you lie with your fathers, even I shall raise up your seed after you, who shall come out from your loins, and I shall establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My Name, and I shall establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I shall be to him for a father, and he shall be to Me for a son. When he sins, then I will chasten him with a rod of men, and with strokes of the sons of men.

15 But My kindness shall not be turned aside from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I turned aside from before you.

16 And your house shall be established, and your kingdom before you forever. Your throne *shall be* established forever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

18 ¶ And King David came in and sat before Jehovah, and said: Who *am* I, O Lord Jehovah, and what *is* my house, that You have brought me to here?

19 And this was yet but little in Your eyes, O Lord Jehovah. But You have spoken also of Your servant's house for a time afar off; and *is* this the law of men, O Lord Jehovah?

20 And what more can David add to say to You? And You know Your servant, O Lord Jehovah.

21 Because of Your Word, and according to Your heart, You have done all this greatness to make Your servant know.

22 On account of this, O Jehovah God, You are great; for there is none like You;

and there is no God except You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation in the earth that God went to redeem to be a people for Himself, and to make Himself a name, and to do for You great and fearful things for Your land, before Your people which You redeemed to You from Egypt, *from* nations and their gods?

24 Yea, You have established Your people Israel to Yourself, to You for a people forever. And You, O Jehovah, have become to them for God.

25 And now, O Jehovah God, establish the Word which You have spoken concerning Your servant, and concerning his house, forever. And do as You have spoken.

26 And Your name shall be great forever, saying, Jehovah of Hosts *is* God over Israel, and the house of Your servant David is established before You.

27 For You, O Jehovah of Hosts, the God of Israel, You have uncovered the ear of Your servant, saying, I will build a house for you. On account of this Your servant has found his heart to pray to You this prayer.

28 And now, O Lord Jehovah, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You speak this goodness to Your servant.

29 And now, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, to be forever before You. For You, O Lord Jehovah, have spoken, and with Your blessing shall the house of Your servant be blessed forever.

2 Samuel 8

1 David subdues the Philistines and the Moabites.

3 He kills Hadadezer and the Syrians. 9 Toi sends Joram with presents to bless him.

1 ¶ And it happened afterward, David struck the Philistines, and humbled them. And David took the Bridle of the Mother City out of the hand of the Philistines.

2 And he struck Moab, and measured them with a line; making them to lie down on the ground. And he measured two lines to cause *them* to die, and the fulness of the line to keep alive. And the Moabites were slaves to David, bearing a gift.

3 And David struck Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the River.

4 And David captured from him seventeen hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen. And David hamstringed all of the chariot *horses*; but he left a hundred chariots of them.

5 And the Syrians of Damascus came to give help to Hadadezer the king of Zobah. And David struck twenty-two thousand men of the Syrians.

6 And David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus. And the Syrians became servants to David, bearing a gift. And Jehovah saved David in all *places* in which he went.

7 And David took the shields of gold which were on Hadadezer's servants and bore them to Jerusalem.

8 And King David took very much bronze from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer.

9 ¶ And Toi the king of Hamath heard that David had struck all the army of Hadadezer.

10 And Toi sent his son Joram to King David to ask of his peace, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and struck him. For Hadadezer had been a man of wars against Toi. And in his hand were silver articles, and golden articles, and bronze articles.

11 King David also dedicated them to Jehovah, with the silver and the gold which he dedicated of all the nations which he subdued:

12 from Syria, and from Moab, and from the sons of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek, and from the plunder of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, the king of Zobah.

13 And David made a name *for himself* when he returned, after he had struck the Syrians in the Valley of Salt, eighteen thousand *men*.

14 And he put garrisons in all Edom, in all Edom he put garrisons, and all Edom became servants to David. And Jehovah saved David in all places in which he went.

15 ¶ And David reigned over all Israel, and David did judgment and righteousness to all his people.

16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the army; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* the recorder;

17 and Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar *were* priests; and Seraiah *was* scribe;

18 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were priests.

2 Samuel 9

1 David by Ziba sends for Mephibosheth. 7 For Jonathan's sake he entertains him at his table and returns to him all that was Saul's. 9 He makes Ziba the manager of his estate.

1 ¶ And David said, Is there yet *any* who remain left to the house of Saul, that I may do with him kindness because of Jonathan?

2 And to the house of Saul *was* a servant, and his name *was* Ziba. And they called him to David. And the king said to him, *Are* you Ziba? And he said, Your servant!

3 And the king said, *Is there* not yet a man to the house of Saul, that I may do with him the kindness of God to him? And Ziba said to the king, *There is* yet a son to Jonathan, lame in both feet.

4 And the king said to him, *Where is* he? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar.

5 And King David sent and took him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, of Lo-debar.

6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan the son of Saul came to David and fell on his face, and prostrated himself. And David said, Mephibosheth! And he said, Behold, your servant.

7 And David said to him, Do not be afraid, for doing I will do with you kindness because of your father Jonathan. And I will give back to you all the land of your father Saul. And you shall eat bread at my table continually.

8 And he bowed and said, *What is* your servant, that you should turn to *a* dead dog which *is* like me?

9 ¶ And the king called to Ziba the servant of Saul, and said to him, All that *belonged* to Saul and to all his house, I have given to the son of your lord.

10 And you shall till the land for him, you and your sons and your servants. And you shall bring in *the fruits*, so that your master's son may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread continually at my table. And Ziba had fifteen sons, and twenty servants.

11 And Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do. And Mephibosheth *was* eating at my table like one of the king's sons.

12 And Mephibosheth *had* a young son, and his name *was* Micha. And everyone living in Ziba's house were servants to Mephibosheth.

13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the table of the king. And he *was* lame in both his feet.

2 Samuel 10

1 David's servants are sent to comfort Hanun.

Hanun humiliates them. 6 The Ammonites are overcome by Joab and Abishai. 15 Shobach is slain by David.

1 ¶ And it happened afterward, the king of the Ammonites died. And his son Hanun reigned in his place.

2 And David said, I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me. And David sent to comfort him concerning his father by the hand of his servants. And David's servants came into the land of the sons of Ammon.

3 And the leaders of the sons of Ammon said to their lord Hanun, Is David honoring your father in your eyes, because he has sent comforters to you? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

4 And Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half of their beards, and cut off their long robes in the center, to their buttocks; and *he* sent them away.

5 And they told David, and he sent to meet them; for the men were very humiliated. And the king said, Remain in Jericho until your beard grows; then you shall return.

6 ¶ And the sons of Ammon saw that they were odious to David. And the sons of

Ammon sent and hired Syrians from Beth-rehob, and Syrians from Zobah, twenty thousand footmen; and the king of Maacah *with* a thousand men; and the men of Tob *with* twelve thousand men.

7 And David heard, and he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty *men*.

8 And the sons of Ammon came out and set in order *for* battle *at* the opening of the gate. And the Syrians of Zobah, and Rehob, and the men of Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

9 And Joab saw that the face of the battle from the front was against him before and behind. And he chose from all the chosen in Israel, and set *them* in order to meet the Syrians.

10 And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of his brother Abishai, and he set in order to meet the sons of Ammon.

11 And he said, If the Syrians are stronger than I, then you shall be for me for help; and if the sons of Ammon are stronger than you, then I will come to help you.

12 Be strong, and let us be strong for our people, and for the cities of our God. And may Jehovah do that which seems good in His eyes.

13 And Joab and the people who *were* with him drew near to battle against the Syrians; and they fled before him.

14 And the sons of Ammon saw that the Syrians fled, and they fled before Abishai, and went into the city. And Joab returned from the sons of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

15 ¶ And the Syrians saw that they were stricken before Israel. And they gathered together.

16 And Hadarezer sent and brought out the Syrians which *were* beyond the River. And they came to Helam, and Shobach *was* the commander of the army of Hadarezer before them.

17 And it was told to David. And he gathered all Israel, and passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in order to meet David. And they fought with him.

18 And the Syrians fled before Israel. And David killed from Syria seven hundred *in* chariots, and forty thousand horsemen. And

he struck Shobach the commander of the army, and he died there.

19 And all the kings, the servants of Hadarezer, saw that they had been stricken before Israel. And *they* made peace with Israel, and served them. And Syria feared to help the sons of Ammon any more.

2 Samuel 11

1 While Joab besieged Rabbah, David commtted adultery with Bath-sheba. 6 Uriah, sent for by David to cover the adultery, would not go home. 14 He carries to Joab the letter of his death. 18 Joab sends news to David. 26 David weds Bath-sheba.

1 ¶ And it happened at the turn of the year, at the time *when* messengers go out, David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they destroyed the sons of Ammon, and lay siege to Rabbah. But David abode at Jerusalem.

2 And it happened at evening time, David rose up from his bed and walked up and down on the roof of the king's house. And *he saw* from the roof a woman bathing. And the woman *was* very good of form.

3 And David sent and asked about the woman. And one said, Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers and took her. And she came to him, and he lay with her. And she purified herself from uncleanness, and she returned to her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and sent, and told David. And *she* said, I *am* pregnant.

6 ¶ And David sent to Joab, Send Uriah the Hittite to me. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 And Uriah came to him. And David asked the peace of Joab, and the peace of the people, and of the success of the war.

8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to your house and wash your feet. And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a gift from the king went out after him.

9 Uriah lay down at the entrance of the king's house, with all the servants of his lord. And *he* did not go down to his house.

10 And they told David, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house. And David said to Uriah, Have you not come from a journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?

11 And Uriah said to David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah dwell in booths. And my lord Joab, and my lord's servants are camping on the face of the field. And I, shall I go into my house to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *As* you live, and *as* your soul lives, I will not do this thing.

12 And David said to Uriah, Abide here today also, and tomorrow I will send you away. And Uriah remained in Jerusalem on that day, and on the next day.

13 And David called for him, and he ate and drank before him. And he made him drunk, and he went out in the evening to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord. And he did not go down to his house.

14 ¶ And it happened in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Place Uriah in the front of the strongest battle, and withdraw from him, that he may be struck, and die.

16 And it happened, as Joab watched the city, that he sent Uriah to the place where he knew *would be* men of strength.

17 And the men of the city went out and fought with Joab, and *some* of the people fell of David's servants. And Uriah the Hittite also died.

18 And Joab sent and told David all the matters of the war.

19 And *he* commanded the messenger, saying, As you finish all the matters of the war, speaking to the king,

20 even it shall be, if the king's fury rises, and he says to you, Why did you draw near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from off the wall?

21 Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubesheth? Did not a woman throw a piece of a riding millstone on him from the wall, and he died in Thebez? Why did you draw near to the wall? Then you shall say, Also your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.

22 And the messenger went and came and told David all that which Joab had sent him to *tell*,

23 and the messenger said to David, Surely the men have been mighty against us, and came out to us *into* the field. And we were on them to the entrance of the gate.

24 And those shooting shot at your servants from off the wall, and *some* of the servants of the king are dead; and also your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.

25 And David said to the messenger, You shall say to Joab, Do not let this thing be evil in your eyes; for as this *one* so that *one* the sword devours. Make your battle stronger against the city, and overthrow it. And make him strong.

26 And Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah *was* dead. And *she* mourned for her husband.

27 And the mourning time passed by. And David sent and gathered her to his house; and she became to him for a wife, and bore a son to him. And the thing which David had done was evil in the eyes of Jehovah.

2 Samuel 12

1 Nathan's parable of the ewe lamb. 13 David confesses his sin, and is pardoned. 15 David mourns and prays for the child, while it lived.

24 Solomon is born, and named Jedidiah.

26 David takes Rabbah.

1 ¶ And Jehovah sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said to him, There were two men in one city, one rich, and one poor.

2 The rich one had flocks and very many herds.

3 But the poor one had nothing except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and kept alive. And it grew up with him, and with his sons together, and it ate of his morsel, and it drank from his cup, and it lay in his bosom. And it was like a daughter to him.

4 And a traveler came to the rich one, and he spared to take of his own flock, and of his own herd, to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. And he took the ewe lamb of the poor man, and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

5 And David's anger glowed greatly against the man. And he said to Nathan, As Jehovah lives, surely the man who did this is a son of death.

6 And he shall repay fourfold for the ewe lamb, because he has done this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 And Nathan said to David, You *are* the man! So says Jehovah, the God of Israel,

I anointed you as king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.

8 And I gave you the house of your master, and your master's wives into your bosom. And I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if *that were* too little, then I would have added to you these and these *things*.

9 Why have you despised the Word of Jehovah, to do the evil in His eyes? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite by the sword, and you have taken his wife to yourself for a wife. And you have killed him by the sword of the sons of Ammon.

10 And now the sword shall not turn aside from your house forever, because even you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be a wife to you.

11 So says Jehovah, Behold, I *am* raising up evil against you out of your house, and shall take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun.

12 For you acted in secret, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.

13 And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah. And Nathan said to David, Jehovah also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 Only, because you have made the enemies of Jehovah to scorn derisively by this thing, also the son who shall be born to you dying shall die.

15 ¶ And Nathan went to his house, and Jehovah struck the boy whom the *former* wife of Uriah had borne to David. And it became sick.

16 And David sought God for the boy. And David fasted a fast, and went in and stayed the night, and lay on the earth.

17 And the elders of his house rose up toward him, to raise him up from the earth. But he was not willing; and he ate no bread with them.

18 And it happened on the seventh day, the boy died. And David's servants feared to tell him that the boy has died, for they said, Behold, while the boy was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not listen to our voice. And how shall we tell

him that the boy had died? And he may do harm.

19 And David saw that his servants were whispering among themselves. And David understood that the boy had died. And David said to his servants, Has the boy died? And they said, He has died.

20 And David rose up from the earth, and bathed, and anointed. And *he* changed his clothing, and came into the house of Jehovah, and worshiped. And he came to his house, and commanded, and they brought bread for him; and he ate.

21 And his servants said to him, What *is* this thing you have done? You fasted and wept because of the living boy, yet when the boy has died, you have risen up and have eaten food?

22 And he said, While the boy was alive, I fasted and wept. For I said, Who knows? Jehovah may be gracious to me and the boy *may stay* alive.

23 And now he has died. Why this, that I should fast? Am I able to bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

24 And David comforted his wife Bathsheba. And he went in to her, and lay with her. And she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And Jehovah loved him,

25 and sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and called his name Jedidiah, because of Jehovah.

26 ¶ And Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and captured the royal city.

27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and I have captured the city of waters.

28 And now gather the rest of the people, and encamp against the city, and take it; that I not take the city, and my name be called over it.

29 And David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

30 And he took the crown of their king from off his head. And its weight *was* a talent of gold, and a precious stone in it. And it was set on David's head. And he brought out the plunder of the city in great abundance.

31 And he brought out the people in it, and put them to the saw, and to sharp tools of iron, and to axes of iron. And he caused them to go over into the brick kiln. And so he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 13

1 Amnon loves Tamar and pretends to be ill and he rapes her. 19 Absalom comforts her. 23 At a sheepshearing he kills Amnon. 37 Absalom flees to Talmai at Geshur.

1 ¶ And afterward it happened that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister, and her name *was* Tamar. And Amnon the son of David loved her.

2 And Amnon was distressed, even to becoming sick, because of his sister Tamar. For she *was* a virgin, and it was hard in the eyes of Amnon to do anything to her.

3 And Amnon had a friend, and his name *was* Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab *was* a very shrewd man.

4 And *he* said to him, Why *are* you, the king's son, so low morning by morning? Will you not tell me? And Amnon said to him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

5 And Jonadab said to him, Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And your father will come in to see you, and you shall say to him, Please let my sister Tamar come in and give me food to eat. And she shall make the food before my eyes, so that I may see and may eat from her hand.

6 And Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And the king came to see him. And Amnon said to the king, Please let my sister Tamar come, and she shall make two cakes before my eyes, and I shall eat from her hand.

7 And David sent home to Tamar, saying, Please go to the house of your brother Amnon and make food for him.

8 And Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house. And he was lying down. And she took the dough, and kneaded it, and made cakes before his eyes, and baked the cakes.

9 And she took the baking pan and poured out before him. But he refused to eat, and

Amnon said, Cause every man to go out from me. And every one of them went out from him.

10 And Amnon said to Tamar, Bring the food into the inner room, and I shall eat from your hand. And Tamar took the cakes that she had made and brought them in to her brother Amnon, into the inner room.

11 And she brought near to him to eat. And he lay hold on her, and said to her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12 And she said to him, No, my brother, do not humble me, for it is not done so in Israel. Do not do this foolishness.

13 And I, where should I cause my disgrace to go? And you, you shall be as one of the foolish *ones* in Israel. But now, please speak to the king; for he shall not withhold me from you.

14 But he was not willing to listen to her voice. And he was stronger than she, and humbled her, and lay with her.

15 And Amnon hated her *with* a very great hatred, so that the hatred *with* which he hated her *was* greater than the love *with* which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, Get up and go!

16 And she said to him, No, for this evil is greater than the other that you have done to me, to send me away. But he was not willing to listen to her.

17 And he called his young man who attended him, and said, Now put this *one* out from me and bolt the door after her.

18 And a long tunic was on her, for so usually dressed the daughters of the king who *were* virgins. And *the one* attending him brought her robes outside, and bolted the door after her.

19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore the long tunic on her, and put her hand on her head, and left; going on and crying out.

20 And her brother Absalom said to her, Has your brother Amnon been with you? But now, my sister, keep silent. He *is* your brother. Do not set your heart on this thing. And Tamar lived in the house of her brother Absalom, but *she was* desolate.

21 ¶ And King David heard all these things, and it angered him very much.

22 But Absalom did not speak either good or evil with Amnon, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had humbled his sister Tamar.

23 And after two years it happened that Absalom had shearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim. And Absalom called to all the sons of the king.

24 And Absalom came to the king and said, Behold, shearers *are* to your servant. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant.

25 And the king said to Absalom, No, my son, let us not all go now, and we shall not be too heavy on you. But he urged him, and he was not willing to go, but he blessed him.

26 And Absalom said, If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said to him, Why should he go with you?

27 And Absalom urged him, and he sent Amnon with him, and all the king's sons.

28 And Absalom commanded his young men, saying, Now watch when Amnon's heart is glad with wine, and when I say to you, Strike Amnon, you shall cause him to die. Do not fear. *Is it* not that I commanded you? Be strong, and become sons of strength.

29 And the young men of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom commanded. And all the king's sons rose up, and they *each* man rode on his mule, and fled.

30 ¶ And it happened while they *were* in the way, even the report had come to David, saying, Absalom has stricken all the sons of the king, and not one of them is left.

31 And the king rose up and tore his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants were standing by with torn garments.

32 And Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, Do not let my lord say, They have caused all of the young men, the king's sons to die; for only Amnon has died. For by the mouth of Absalom it has been settled from the day of his humbling of his sister Tamar.

33 And now, do not let my lord the king lay the word to heart, saying, All the king's sons have died; for only Amnon has died.

34 And Absalom fled. And the young man who was watching lifted up his eyes and

saw. And, behold! Many people were coming by the highway behind him, by the side of the hill.

35 And Jonadab said to the king, See, the sons of the king have come; as the word of your servant, so it has been.

36 And it happened as he finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came. And they lifted up their voice and wept. And also the king and all his servants wept with a very great weeping.

37 And Absalom fled, and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. And *David* mourned for his son all the time.

38 And Absalom had fled, and had gone to Geshur, and was there three years.

39 And ended *the anger of King David* to go out to Absalom, for he had been comforted for Amnon, for he had died.

2 Samuel 14

1 The woman of Tekoah pretends to be a widow.

13 She asks for Absalom to come back to Jerusalem. 25 Absalom's beauty. 28 After two years, Joab brings Absalom to the king's presence.

1 ¶ And Joab the son of Zeruah knew that the king's heart *was* on Absalom.

2 And Joab sent to Tekoah and took a wise woman from there, and said to her, Pretend yourself to be a mourner now, and please put on garments of mourning. And do not anoint yourself with oil, and you shall be a woman who *has been* mourning many days for one who died.

3 And you shall go to the king and speak with him according to this word. And Joab put the words into her mouth.

4 And the woman of Tekoah spoke to the king, and fell on her face to the earth, and bowed and said, Save, O king!

5 And the king said to her, What shall be to you? And she said, Truly I *am* a widow woman, and my husband died.

6 And your servant had two sons. And the two of them fought in the field, and there *was* no deliverer between them. And the one struck the other, and caused him to die.

7 And, behold, the whole family has risen against your servant, and said, Give up him who struck his brother, and we will cause him to die for the life of his

brother whom he has killed. And we will also destroy the heir. And they will quench my coal which is left, so as not to set to my husband a name and remnant on the face of the earth.

8 And the king said to the woman, Go to your house, and I will give command concerning you.

9 And the woman of Tekoah said to the king, My lord, O king, let the iniquity *be* on me, and on my father's house; and the king and his throne shall be guiltless.

10 And the king said, Whoever speaks to you, you also shall bring him to me, and he shall not touch you any more.

11 And she said, Please let the king remember Jehovah your God, that the avenger of blood not destroy any more, and that they may not destroy my son. And he said, As Jehovah lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the earth.

12 And the woman said, Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king. And he said, Speak.

13 And the woman said, And why have you thought in this way about the people of God? Yea, the king is speaking this thing as a guilty one, in that the king has not brought back his outcast.

14 For dying we die and *are* as water which is spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up. And God does not take a life, but has devised plans so that the outcast is not cast out from Him.

15 And now that I have come to speak this word to my lord the king, because the people made me afraid; and your servant said, Please let me speak to the king; it may be the king shall do the word of his servant.

16 For the king has listened, to deliver his servant out of the hand of the man seeking to destroy me and my son together, out of the inheritance of God.

17 And your servant said, Please let the word of my lord the king rest. For as a messenger of God, so is my lord the king, to understand the good and the evil. And Jehovah your God shall be with you.

18 And the king answered and said to the woman, Please do not hide from me the thing that I am asking you. And the woman said, Now let my lord the king speak.

19 And the king said, *Is* the hand of Joab with you in all this? And the woman answered and said, *As* your soul lives, my lord, O king, none *shall turn* to the right or to the left from all that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab ordered me, and he put all these words in your servant's mouth.

20 Your servant Joab has done this thing to turn about the face of the matter, and my lord *is* wise according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all that is in the land.

21 ¶ And the king said to Joab, Behold, now, I have done this thing. Then go, bring back the young man Absalom.

22 And Joab fell on his face to the earth, and bowed, and blessed the king. And Joab said, Today your servant has known that I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, O king, in that the king has done the word of his servant.

23 And Joab rose up and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

24 And the king said, Let him turn to his house, and he shall not see my face. And Absalom turned to his house, and he did not see the king's face.

25 And no man was handsome like Absalom in all Israel, to *be so* greatly praised. From the sole of his foot to his crown there was not a blemish in him.

26 And when he sheared his head (for it was at the end of days of days that he sheared *it*, because the hair was heavy on him, and he sheared *it*), he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels by the king's weight.

27 And three sons were born to Absalom, and one daughter. And her name *was* Tamar; she was a woman of a beautiful form.

28 ¶ And Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years, and had not seen the king's face.

29 And Absalom sent to Joab, to send him to the king. But he was not willing to come to him. And he sent again a second time, and he was not willing to come.

30 And he said to his servants, Behold, Joab's allotment *is* to my hand, and to him *is* barley there. Go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the allotment on fire.

31 And Joab rose up and came to Absalom, to the house, and said to him, Why have your

servants set fire on the allotment which *is* to me?

32 And Absalom said to Joab, Behold, I sent to you, saying, Come here, and I will send you to the king to say, Why have I come from Geshur? It *was* good for me *to be* there still. And now, let me see the king's face, and if there is guilt in me, then you shall cause me to die.

33 And Joab came to the king and told him. And he called to Absalom; and he came to the king, and bowed to him on his nose to the earth before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

2 Samuel 15

1 Absalom steals the hearts of Israel. 7 He obtains leave to go to Hebron. 10 He makes there a great conspiracy. 13 David flees from Jerusalem. 24 Zadok and Abiathar are sent back with the ark. 32 Hushai is sent to deceive Absalom.

1 ¶ And it happened afterward that Absalom prepared a chariot for himself, and horses, and fifty men running before him.

2 And Absalom rose up and stood by the side of the way of the gate. And it happened that every man who had a cause to come to the king for judgment, Absalom called to him and said, Of what city *are* you? And he said, Your servant *is* from one of the tribes of Israel.

3 And Absalom said to him, Behold, your matters *are* good and right. And there is no listener to you from the king.

4 And Absalom said, Who shall make me a judge in the land, that every man who has a dispute, I will then declare him right, even *with* judgment?

5 And it happened, when a man drew near to bow himself to him, he put out his hand and laid hold on him, and gave him a kiss.

6 And Absalom acted this way to all Israel who came in to the king for judgment. And Absalom stole the heart of the men of Israel.

7 ¶ And at the end of forty years, it happened, Absalom said to the king, Please let me go and I shall pay my vow that I have vowed to Jehovah, in Hebron.

8 For your servant has vowed a vow when I lived in Geshur in Syria, saying,

If bringing Jehovah shall bring me back to Jerusalem, then I shall serve Jehovah.

9 And the king said to him, Go in peace. And he rose up and went to Hebron.

10 And Absalom sent spies among all the tribes of Israel, saying, When you hear the sound of the rams' horn, then you shall say, Absalom is king in Hebron.

11 And two hundred men went out of Jerusalem with Absalom, chosen ones. And they went out in their simplicity and did not know anything.

12 And Absalom sent Ahithophel the Gilonite, a counselor of David, out of his city, out of Giloh, as he offered the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong. And the people were going on and increasing with Absalom.

13 ¶ And a messenger came to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.

14 And David said to all his servants who *were* with him in Jerusalem, Rise up, and we will flee; for there *is* no escape from the face of Absalom. Hurry to leave, lest he overtake us and bring evil down on us, and strike the city with the mouth of the sword.

15 And the king's servants said to the king, According to all that my lord the king chooses, behold, your servants *will do*.

16 And the king went out, and all his household at his feet. And the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.

17 And the king went out, and all the people at his feet. And they stood still at the house farthest away.

18 And all his servants were passing on by his side, and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who came at his feet from Gath. *These* were passing on before the king.

19 And the king said to Ittai the Gittite, Why do you go, even you, with us? Turn back and remain with the king, for you are a foreigner, and also you *are* an exile. Go to your place.

20 You came in yesterday and today. Should I make you roam with us, to go while I go, where I go? Turn back, and turn back your brothers *to go* with you *in* kindness and truth.

21 And Ittai answered to the king and said, As Jehovah lives, and my lord the king lives, surely in the place where my lord the king is, there your servant shall be, whether for death or for life.

22 And David said to Ittai, Go on and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones who *were* with him.

23 And all the land was weeping *with* a loud voice. And all the people were passing over. And the king was passing over through the torrent Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

24 ¶ And, behold, Zadok also *came*, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set the ark of God down. And Abiathar went up until all the people finished passing on out of the city.

25 And the king said to Zadok, Take the ark of God back to the city. If I find grace in the eyes of Jehovah, then He will bring me back and make me see it and His dwelling place.

26 And if He says this, I have not delighted in you, behold, I am here. He shall do to me as *seems* good in His eyes.

27 And the king said to Zadok the priest, *Are* you a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, your son Ahimaaz, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

28 Behold, I will wait in the plain of the wilderness until word comes from you to report to me.

29 And Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

30 And David was going up in the Ascent of the Olives, going up and weeping. And his head *was* covered, and he was going barefooted. And all the people who *were* with him *each* man had covered his head, and had gone up, going up and weeping.

31 ¶ And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O Jehovah, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolish.

32 And it happened *as* David had come to the top, there where he bowed himself to God. And, behold, Hushai the Archite came

to meet him, his tunic torn, and earth on his head.

33 And David said to him, If you pass on with me, then you shall be a burden to me.

34 But if you return to the city, and shall say to Absalom, I also *will be* your servant, O king; I *was* servant of your father before now; and now I *am* also your servant. Then you can break down the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

35 And *are* not there with you Zadok and Abiathar, the priests? And it shall be, you shall declare everything that you hear from the house of the king; you shall report to Zadok and to Abiathar, the priests.

36 Behold, there *are* with them their two sons, Ahimaaz to Zadok, and Jonathan to Abiathar. And you shall send to me by their hand anything that you hear.

37 And David's friend Hushai came into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 16

1 Ziba lies to steal his master's inheritance.

5 Shimei curses David. 9 David abstains against revenge. 15 Hushai insinuates himself into Absalom's favor. 20 Ahithophel's advice.

1 ¶ And David had passed on a little from the top. And behold, Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, came to meet *him* with a team of saddled asses, and on them two hundred loaves and a hundred bunches of raisins, and a hundred of summer fruit, and a skin of wine.

2 And the king said to Ziba, What *are* these to you? And Ziba said, The asses *are* for the king's household to ride on, and the bread and the summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine for the wearied to drink in the wilderness.

3 And the king said, And where *is* the son of your lord? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, *he is* staying in Jerusalem, for he said, Today the house of Israel will turn back to me the kingdom of my father.

4 And the king said to Ziba, Behold, to you *is* all that *is* Mephibosheth's. And Ziba said, I bow myself; may I find favor in your eyes, my lord, O king.

5 ¶ And King David came to Bahurim. And, behold, a man was coming out from

there, of the family of the house of Saul; and his name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera. He came out, and he came cursing.

6 And he stoned David with stones and all the servants of King David, and all the people, and all the mighty *men* on his right and on his left.

7 And Shimei said this in his cursing, Go out! Go out, man of blood, man of worthlessness!

8 Jehovah has turned back on you all the blood of the house of Saul, of whom instead of him you have reigned. And Jehovah shall give the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And, behold, you *are taken* in your mischief, for you *are* a man of blood.

9 And Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, Why does this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please let me pass over, and I will take off his head.

10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, sons of Zeruiah? For let him curse, even because Jehovah has said to him, Curse David. And who shall say, Why have you done so?

11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son who came out of my loins is seeking my life, and surely now also the Benjamite. Leave him alone, and let him curse, for Jehovah has spoken to him.

12 It may be Jehovah will look on my affliction, and Jehovah will return good to me for his cursing this day.

13 And David went with his men in the way, and Shimei was going along at the side of the hill across from him. *As* he went, he cursed, and stoned with stones across from him, and dusted with dust.

14 And the king came in wearied, and all the people who *were* with him; and he was refreshed there.

15 ¶ And Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, had come into Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

16 And it happened, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, Let the king live! Let the king live!

17 And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this your kindness with your friend? Why have you not gone with your friend?

18 And Hushai said to Absalom, No, for he whom Jehovah and this people have chosen, even all the men of Israel, his I shall be, and I shall remain with him.

19 And a second time, Whom should I serve? *Should* I not *be* before the face of his son. As I served before the face of your father, so shall I be before your face.

20 And Absalom said to Ahithophel, Give your counsel, what we shall do.

21 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to your father's concubines, *those* he left to keep the house. And all Israel shall hear that you have become odious with your father. And the hands of all who *are* with you will be strong.

22 And they stretched out a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines before the eyes of all Israel.

23 And the counsel of Ahithophel which he counseled in those days *was* as one who had inquired at the Word of God. So *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel, both to David and to Absalom.

2 Samuel 17

1 Ahithophel's advice is overthrown by Hushai's.

15 Secret intelligence sent to David.

23 Ahithophel hangs himself. 25 Amasa is made commander.

1 ¶ And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Please let me choose twelve thousand men, and I shall rise up and pursue David tonight.

2 And *I* shall come on him, and he shall be weary and feeble handed. And I will make him tremble, and the people with him shall flee. And I shall strike the king by himself.

3 And I shall turn all the people back to you when all return, except the man whom you *are* seeking. All the people shall be in peace.

4 And the thing was pleasing in Absalom's eyes, and in the eyes of all the elders of Israel.

5 And Absalom said, Please call for Hushai the Archite also. And we shall hear what is in his mouth, also he.

6 And Hushai came in to Absalom. And Absalom spoke to him, saying, Ahithophel has spoken according to this word. Shall we do this word? If not, you speak.

7 And Hushai said to Absalom, The counsel Ahithophel counseled *is* not good at this time.

8 And Hushai said, You have known your father and his men, that they *are* mighty *men*. And they *are* bitter of soul, like a bear bereaved of cubs in the field. And your father *is* a man of war, and shall not stay the night with the people.

9 Behold, now he is hidden in one of the pits, or in one of the places. And it shall be, at the falling among them at the beginning, that whoever hears even shall say, There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.

10 And also he, the son of strength, whose heart *is* as the heart of the lion, shall utterly melt. For all Israel knows that your father *is* a mighty *man*, and those with him sons of strength.

11 So I counsel *this*: Gathering, let all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, as the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude. And you in person shall go into battle.

12 And we shall come in to him, in one of the places, there where he shall be found. And we shall fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of all the men who *are* with him, not even one shall be left.

13 And if he is taken into a city, then all Israel shall bear ropes to that city. And we shall draw it into the torrent bed, until there shall not be found even a pebble.

14 And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, Good *is* the counsel of Hushai the Archite from the counsel of Ahithophel. And Jehovah had ordained to break down the good counsel of Ahithophel, for the sake of bringing the evil of Jehovah to Absalom.

15 ¶ And Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar, the priests, Ahithophel has counseled this and this to Absalom and the elders of Israel. And I have counseled this and this.

16 And now send quickly and tell David, saying, Do not stay in the fords of the wilderness tonight. And, also, passing pass over, that there not be a swallowing up of the king and of all the people with him.

17 And Jonathan and Ahimaaz were standing at En-rogel, for they were not able to

be seen going into the city. And a slave-girl went and told them. And they went and told *it* to King David.

18 And a youth saw them, and told Absalom. And they went on, both of them in haste, and came into the house of a man in Bahurim. And to him *was* a well in his court, and they went down there.

19 And the woman took and spread the covering over the well, and spread ground grain on it. And the thing was not known.

20 And the servants of Absalom came in to the woman, to the house, and said, Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said to them, They passed over the river of water. And they looked and did not find *them*. And *they* returned to Jerusalem.

21 And it happened after they left, they came up out of the well and went and told King David. And *they* said to David, Rise up and quickly pass over the waters, for Ahithophel has counseled this against you.

22 ¶ And David and all the people with him rose up, and they passed over the Jordan until the light of the morning, until there was not one lacking who had not crossed the Jordan.

23 And Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not done. And he saddled the ass and rose up and went to his house, to his city. And *he* gave command to his household, then hanged himself, and died. And he was buried in the grave of his father.

24 And David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

25 And Absalom had set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. And Amasa *was* the son of a man *whose* name *was* Ithra the Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail, the daughter of Nahash, the sister of Zeruah, the mother of Joab.

26 And Israel camped with Absalom in the land of Gilead.

27 And it happened as David came into Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash, from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite, from Rogelim,

28 *brought* beds, and basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour,

and parched grain, and beans, and lentils, and roasted grain,

29 and honey, and curds, and sheep, and cheese from the herd, for David, and for the people who *were* with him to eat. For they said, The people *are* hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.

2 Samuel 18

1 David views the armies as they go out; asks them to treat Absalom gently. 6 The Israelites are killed in the forest of Ephraim. 9 Absalom is killed by Joab. 19 Ahimaaz and Cushie bring tidings to David. 33 David mourns for Absalom.

1 ¶ And David mustered the people who were with him, and *he* set over them commanders of hundreds.

2 And David sent one third of the people by the hand of Joab, and one third by the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, and one third by Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, Going out I will go with you, I also.

3 And the people said, You shall not go out, for if we flee they will not set *their* heart on us even if half of us die; for now *you are* like ten thousand to us. And now *it is* good that you be for us from the city to help.

4 And the king said to them, I will do that which is good in your eyes. And the king stood at the side of the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And the king commanded Joab, and Abishai, and Ittai, saying, For my sake deal gently with the young man, with Absalom. And all the people heard as the king commanded the commanders concerning Absalom.

6 And the people went *into* the field to meet Israel. And the battle was in the forest of Ephraim.

7 And the people of Israel were stricken before David's servants. And there was a great destruction on that day of twenty thousand.

8 And it happened, there the battle was scattered over the face of all the land, and the forest devoured among the people more than the sword had devoured in that day.

9 ¶ And Absalom happened to come before David's servants. And Absalom was

riding on a mule, and the mule came in under the thick branches of a great oak. And his head was firmly held in the oak, and he was lifted up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him passed on.

10 And one man saw *it* and told Joab, and said, Behold! I saw Absalom hanging in the oak;

11 and Joab said to the man who told him, And behold, you have seen. And why did you not strike him to the earth there and call on me to give you ten silverlings and a girdle?

12 And the man said to Joab, Yes, though I weighed a thousand silverlings in my hand, I would not put forth my hand to the king's son. For in our ears the king commanded you, and Abishai, and Ittai saying, Take heed, *you* who go against the youth, against Absalom.

13 Or I would have dealt falsely against my soul. For not any matter is hidden from the king, and you, you yourself would have set against me.

14 And Joab said, I will not wait this way before you. And he took three darts in his hand and struck them into Absalom's heart while he *was* alive, in the midst of the oak.

15 And they went around, ten young men bearing Joab's weapons, and struck Absalom, and caused him to die.

16 And Joab blew the rams' horn, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab had held the people back.

17 And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest, and set up a very great heap of stones over him. And all Israel fled, *each* man to his tent.

18 And during his lifetime Absalom had taken and set up for himself a standing-pillar, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, I have no son to cause my name to be remembered. And he called the standing pillar by his name and it is called Absalom's Monument to this day.

19 ¶ And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, Please let me run, and I will bear news to the king. For Jehovah has judged him from the hand of his enemies.

20 And Joab said to him, You are not a man of news this day; but you shall bear news

another day. And today you shall not bear news, because the king's son has died.

21 And Joab said to Cushie, Go, tell the king that which you have seen. And Cushie bowed to Joab, and ran.

22 And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said yet again to Joab, Yet whatever may be, please let me run after the Cushite, I also. And Joab said, Why is this that you are running, my son? Also for you there is no news found.

23 And he said, Yet whatever it may be, let me run. And he said to him, Run. And Ahimaaz ran the way of the circuit and passed by the Cushite.

24 And David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went to the roof of the gate and lifted up his eyes and saw; and, behold, a man running by himself!

25 And the watchman called and told the king. And the king said, If he *is* by himself, tidings *are* in his mouth. And he came, coming on, and drawing near.

26 And the watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, Behold, a man running by himself! And the king said, Also this one is bearing news.

27 And the watchman said, I see the running of the first as the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, This is a good man and he comes with good news.

28 And Ahimaaz called and said to the king, Peace! And he bowed on his face to the earth to the king and said, Blessed *be* Jehovah your God who has shut up the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, Peace to the young man, to Absalom? And Ahimaaz said, I saw the great tumult, at the sending away of the servant of the king, even your servant *sent* by Joab, but I do not know what.

30 And the king said, Turn aside, stand here. And he turned aside and stood.

31 And, behold, the Cushite had come. And the Cushite said, News is borne, my lord, O king! For Jehovah has judged you today out of the hand of those rising up against you.

32 And the king said to the Cushite, Peace to the young man, to Absalom? And the Cushite said, Let them be as the young man,

the enemies of my lord the king, and all who have risen up against you for evil.

33 And the king trembled. And he went up to the upper room of the gate and wept. And he said this as he went, My son! My son Absalom! My son Absalom! Oh that I had died instead of you, my son Absalom, my son!

2 Samuel 19

1 Joab causes the king to cease his weeping. 9 The Israelites are earnest to bring the king back.

24 Mephibosheth excused and given back half of his lands.

1 ¶ And it was announced to Joab, Behold, the king is weeping and mourning over Absalom.

2 And the deliverance on that day became mourning to all the people, for the people had heard on that day, saying, The king is grieving for his son.

3 And the people stole away on that day to go into the city, as the people steal away who are ashamed as they flee in battle.

4 And the king had covered his face. Yea, the king cried *with* a loud voice, My son Absalom! Absalom my son, my son!

5 And Joab came in to the king *to* the house, and said, You have put to shame today the faces of all your servants, those delivering your life today, and the life of your sons, and of your daughters, and the life of your wives, and the life of your concubines,

6 by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you, for you have declared today that there are no leaders and servants to you. For I know today that if Absalom were alive and all of us had died today, that *it would be* right in your eyes.

7 And now rise up; go out and speak to the heart of your servants. For I have sworn by Jehovah that *if* you do not go out, not a man shall remain with you tonight. And this *would be* worse for you than all the evil that has come on you from your youth until now.

8 And the king rose up and sat in the gate. And they told *it* to all the people, saying, Behold, the king is sitting in the gate. And all the people came in before the king. And Israel had fled, *each* man to his tents.

9 ¶ And it happened, all the people *were* quarreling through all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king delivered us out of the hand of our enemies. Yea, he himself delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines. And now he has fled out of the land because of Absalom.

10 And Absalom whom we anointed over us *is* dead in battle. And now why are you silent as to bringing back the king?

11 And King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, Why are you the last to bring back the king to his house? For the word of all Israel had come to the king, to his house.

12 You *are* my brother; you *are* my bone and my flesh. And why are you the last to bring back the king?

13 And say to Amasa, *Are* you not my bone and my flesh? So shall God do to me, and more so He shall do, if you *are* not commander of the army before me all the days, instead of Joab.

14 And he inclined *the heart of* all the men of Judah as one man, and they sent to the king, Return, you and all your servants.

15 And the king returned and came in to the Jordan. And Judah had come 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* from Bahurim, hastened and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

17 And a thousand men *were* with him from Benjamin; also Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him. And they had rushed over the Jordan before the king.

18 And *they* had crossed over the ford to carry over the king's household, and to do the good in his eyes. And Shimei the son of Gera had fallen before the face of the king as he crossed over the Jordan.

19 And *he* said to the king, Do not let my lord charge iniquity to me, nor shall you remember that which your servant *per-*versely did in the day that my lord the king went out from Jerusalem, for the king to lay it to his heart.

20 For your servant knows that I have sinned; and behold, I come today, the first of the house of Joseph, to go down to meet my lord the king.

21 And Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei die for this, because he cursed the anointed of Jehovah?

22 And David said, What *is* to me and to you, sons of Zeruiah, that you are as an adversary to me today? Shall *any* man die today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?

23 And the king said to Shimei, You shall not die. And the king swore to him.

24 ¶ And Mephibosheth the son of Saul had come down to meet the king. And he had not dressed his feet, nor had shaved his upper lip. Yea, he had not washed his garment, even from the day that he went away till the day that he came in peace.

25 And it happened when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?

26 And he said, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, I will saddle the ass for myself and ride on it and go with the king, for your servant is lame.

27 And he spoke slander against your servant to my lord the king. And my lord the king *is* as a messenger of God; yet you do that which is good in your eyes.

28 For all the house of my father would be nothing except men of death before my lord the king, and you have set your servant among those eating at your table. And what right is there to me any more, even to cry any more to the king?

29 And the king said to him, Why do you speak any more of your matters? I have said, You and Ziba divide the land.

30 And Mephibosheth said to the king, Yes, let him take all, since my lord the king has come in peace to his house.

31 ¶ And Barzillai the Gileadite had gone down from Rogelim and had crossed over the Jordan with the king, to send him away over the Jordan.

32 And Barzillai was very old, a son of eighty years, and he had sustained the king

as he abode in Mahanaim, for he *was* a very great man.

33 And the king said to Barzillai, You pass over with me and I will sustain you with me in Jerusalem.

34 And Barzillai said to the king, How many are the days of the years of my life, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?

35 I am a son of eighty years today. Can I distinguish between good and evil? Can your servant taste that which I am eating, and that which I drink? Can I any more listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? And why should your servant be any more as a burden to my lord the king?

36 Just a little *way* your servant shall cross over the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me *with* this reward?

37 Please let your servant return, and I shall die in my own city, near the grave of my father and my mother. And, behold your servant Chimham! Let him cross over with my lord the king, and you do to him the good in your eyes.

38 And the king said, Chimham shall go over with me, and I shall do to him that which *is* good in your eyes. Yea, all that you shall choose of me I will do for you.

39 And all the people crossed over the Jordan, and the king crossed over. And the king gave a kiss to Barzillai and blessed him. And he returned to his place.

40 ¶ And the king crossed over to Gilgal. And Chimham crossed over with him, and all the people of Judah. And they brought the king over, and also half of the people of Israel.

41 And, behold, all the men of Israel were coming to the king. And they said to the king, Why have they, our brothers, the men of Judah, stolen you away? For they brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all the men of David with him.

42 And, behold, all the men of Judah answered against the men of Israel, Because the king *is* near to us. And why is this that you are angry about this matter? Have we at all eaten from the king, or has he given a gift to us?

43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah and said, We have ten hands in the king, and we also have more in David than you. Why then did you despise us, that our word was not first to bring back our king? And the word of the men of Judah was more fierce than the word of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 20

1 Sheba causes a rebellion in Israel. 10 Amasa is murdered by Joab. 14 Joab pursues Sheba to Abel. 16 A wise woman saves the city by throwing down Sheba's head.

1 ¶ And a man of worthlessness met *them* there, and his name *was* Sheba, the son of Bichri, a man of Benjamin. And he blew the rams' horn and said, We have no part in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; *each* man to his tents, O Israel.

2 And every man of Israel went up from following David, *going* after Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah stayed close to their king, from the Jordan even to Jerusalem.

3 And David came into his house at Jerusalem. And the king took *the* ten women, *the* concubines whom he had left to guard the house, and fed them. But he did not go in to them, and they were shut up to the day of their death in widowhood.

4 ¶ And the king said to Amasa, Call for me the men of Judah *within* three days; and you stand here.

5 And Amasa went to call Judah, but delayed beyond the set time which he had set for him.

6 And David said to Abishai, Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do more evil to us than Absalom. You take the servants of your lord and pursue him, that he not find fortified cities for himself, and deliver himself *from* our eye.

7 And the men of Joab went out after him, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty *men*. And they went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

8 They *were* near the great stone in Gibeon, and Amasa had gone before them. And Joab *was* girded *with* his war coat as his clothing; and over it *was* a belt *with* a sword fastened on his loins in its sheath. And as he went out, it fell out.

9 And Joab said to Amasa, *Is it well with* you, my brother? And Joab's right hand took hold of Amasa's beard to give a kiss to him.

10 And Amasa was not on guard against the sword in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it *in* the fifth *rib*, and poured out his bowels to the ground, and did not strike him again. And he died. And Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

11 And a man stood beside him, of the young men of Joab; and he said, Whoever delights in Joab, and whoever is for David *follow* after Joab!

12 And Amasa was wallowing in blood in the middle of the highway. And the man saw that all the people stood still. And he turned away Amasa from the highway *to* the field, and threw a garment over him, when he saw that all who came beside him stood still.

13 When he was taken from the highway, every man passed on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

14 ¶ And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, and to Beth-maachah, and to all the Berites. And they were gathered, and went after him also.

15 And they went in and lay siege against him in Abel-beth-maachah, and mounded up a siege-mound against the city. And it stood against the outermost wall, and all the people with Joab were undermining, to cause the wall to fall.

16 And a wise woman called out of the city, Hear! Hear! Please say to Joab, Come near here and I will speak to you.

17 And he came near to her. And the woman said, *Are* you Joab? And he said, *I am*. And she said to him, Hear the words of your handmaid. And he said, *I am* listening.

18 And she spoke, saying, They spoke often formerly saying, Asking they will ask at Abel, and so they ended *all dispute*.

19 *I am of* the peaceful, faithful ones of Israel. You are seeking to cause to die a city, and a mother in Israel. Why will you 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 case *is* not such. For a man of the hills of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri *is*

his name, has lifted up his hand against the king, against David. Give him up by himself and I will go away from the city. And the woman said to Joab, Behold, his head will be thrown over the wall to you.

22 And the woman came to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw *it* to Joab. And he blew the rams' horn, and they were dispersed from the city, *each* man to his tents. And Joab went back *to* Jerusalem to the king.

23 ¶ And Joab *was* over all the army of Israel, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites.

24 And Adoram *was* over the forced labor, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud recorded to make remembrance.

25 And Sheva *was* the scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

26 And also Ira the Jairite *was* a priest to David.

2 Samuel 21

1 The three years of famine for the Gibeonites ceases by hanging seven of Saul's sons.

10 Rizpah's kindness to the dead. 12 David buries the bones of Saul and Jonathan in his father's grave.

1 ¶ 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 caused the Gibeonites to die.

2 And the king called for the Gibeonites and said to them (as to the Gibeonites, they *were* not of the sons of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the sons of Israel had sworn to them and Saul sought to strike them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah.)

3 And David said to the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? And with what shall I atone, and you bless the inheritance of Jehovah?

4 And the Gibeonites said to him, We will have neither silver nor gold by Saul and by his house. Also, we will have no man in Israel die. And he said, What you say, I will do for you.

5 And they said to the king, The man who destroyed us and thought to waste

us from standing in all the border of Israel *was* Saul.

6 Let be given to us seven men of his sons to us. And we will expose them to Jehovah in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of Jehovah. And the king said, I will deliver them.

7 But the king spared Jonathan's son Mephibosheth the son of Saul because of the oath of Jehovah that *was* between them, between David and Jonathan, the son of Saul.

8 And the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth. And he *took* the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.

9 And *he* gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites. And they hanged them in the mountain before Jehovah. And *the* seven fell together. And they were caused to die in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

10 ¶ And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and stretched it out for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water poured on them out of the heavens. And *she* did not allow a bird of the heavens to rest on them by day nor the beast of the field by night.

11 And that which Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Saul's concubine, had done was told to David.

12 And David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of his son Jonathan from the rulers of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the plaza of Beth-shan, there where the Philistines hanged them in the day the Philistines struck Saul in Gilboa.

13 And he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from there, and they gathered up the bones of those hanged.

14 And *they* buried the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin, in Zelah, in the grave of his father Kish, and did all that the king had commanded. And afterward God heard prayer for the land.

15 ¶ And there was war again for the Philistines with Israel. And David went down, and his servants with him. And they fought with the Philistines. And David was weary.

16 And Ishbibenob, who *was* of the sons of Rapha *the giant*, the weight of his spear *being* three hundred bronze shekels in weight, and was girded with a new *sword*; and he said to strike David.

17 And Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him, and struck the Philistine, and caused him to die. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, You shall not again go out with us to battle, that you not cause to go out the lamp of Israel.

18 And it happened after this that the battle was again in Gob of the Philistines. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite struck Saph, who *was* among the sons of Rapha.

19 And again the battle was in Gob with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite struck Goliath the Gittite, and the wood of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam.

20 And it happened again *that* the battle *was* in Gath, and it happened *there was* a man of stature, and the fingers of his hands *were* six, and the toes of his feet six, twenty-four *in* number; and he also had been born to Rapha.

21 And he taunted Israel; and Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shimeah, struck him.

22 These four were born to Rapha *the giant* in Gath. And they fell by the hand of David, by the hand of his servants.

2 Samuel 22

A psalm of thanksgiving for Jehovah's powerful deliverance and manifold blessings.

1 ¶ And David spoke to Jehovah the words of this song in the day 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.

3 My God is my rock; I shall take refuge in Him; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge! My Savior, You save me from violence.

4 I call on Jehovah, *the One to be* praised; and I am saved from my enemies.

5 When the waves of death surround me, the torrents of wickedness terrify me,

6 the cords of Sheol are all around me, the snares of death confronted me;

7 in my distress I called on Jehovah, and I called to my God; and He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry *was* in His ears.

8 And the earth shook and quaked, the foundations of the heavens were quaking and were shaken; for there was anger to Him.

9 Smoke rose up in His nostrils, and fire devoured out of His mouth; coals were kindled by it.

10 And He bowed the heavens and came down, and thick darkness *was* under His feet.

11 And He rode on a cherub, and did fly, and was seen on the wings of the wind.

12 And He made darkness pavilions all around Him, the gathering of waters, thick clouds of the skies.

13 From the brightness before Him were brands of fire kindled!

14 Jehovah thundered from the heavens, and the Most High gave forth His voice,

15 and He sent forth arrows and scattered them; lightning, and confused them;

16 and the channels of the sea were seen; the world's foundations were seen by the rebuke of Jehovah, from the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

17 He sent from above; He took me; He drew me out of many waters.

18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were stronger than I.

19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, and Jehovah was a support to me;

20 and He brought me out to a broad place; He delivered me, for He delighted in me.

21 Jehovah rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands, He has repaid me.

22 For I have kept the ways of Jehovah, and have not acted wickedly against my God.

23 For all His judgments *were* before me. And I do not turn away from His statutes.

24 And I was blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.

25 And Jehovah gave back to me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes.

26 With the kind You show Yourself kind. With the blameless man, You show Yourself perfect.

27 With the pure, You will show Yourself pure, and with the perverted *one* You will appear perverse.

28 And You shall save the afflicted people, and Your eyes *are* on the exalted *one, whom* You bring low.

29 For You *are* my lamp, O Jehovah; and Jehovah shall enlighten my darkness.

30 For by You I run *through* a troop; by my God I leap over a wall.

31 *As for* God, His way *is* perfect; the Word of Jehovah *is* tested; He is a shield to all those who seek refuge in Him.

32 For who *is* God except Jehovah? And who *is* a rock except our God?

33 God is my strong fortress; and He sets the blameless free *in* his way,

34 making my feet like hinds' *feet*, even causing me to stand on my high places;

35 teaching my hands for battle, so that my hands may bend a bow of bronze.

36 And You have given to me the shield of Your salvation; and You afflicted me to make me great.

37 You enlarged my steps under me, and my ankles have not slipped.

38 I pursued my enemies and destroyed them; and I did not turn back until they were consumed.

39 And I consumed them, and struck them, and they did not rise; but fell under my feet.

40 Yea, You girded me *with* might for battle; You caused those rising against me to bow under me.

41 And You gave to me the necks of my enemies; those hating me I silenced.

42 They looked, and there *was* none to save; to Jehovah, and He did not answer them.

43 And I pulverized them as the dust of the earth; I crushed them as the mire of the streets; I stamped them.

44 And You delivered me from the strife of my people; You kept me as the head of the nations; a people I have not known serve me.

45 The sons of strangers feign obedience to me; at the hearing of *the* ear they listen to me.

46 The sons of strangers fade away, and shall come trembling out of their strongholds.

47 Jehovah lives! And blessed is the Rock,

and exalted be the God of the Rock of my salvation;

48 the God who is giving vengeance for me, and brings down peoples under me,

49 and brings me forth from my enemies; yea, You raise me up above those rising up against me; You deliver me from the violent man.

50 On account of this I will confess You, Jehovah, among nations; and I will sing praise to Your name.

51 A tower of salvation *is He* to His king; even doing mercy to His anointed, to David and to his seed, until forever!

2 Samuel 23

1 David, in his last words, professes his faith in Jehovah's promises. 8 David's mighty men.

1 ¶ And these *are* the last words of David, a saying of David the son of Jesse, and a statement of the man raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet singer of Israel:

2 The Spirit of Jehovah has spoken by me, and His Word *is* on my tongue.

3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: One ruling over a righteous man, who rules *in* the fear of God,

4 is as the light of the morning, as the sun shines; a morning without clouds; through shining after rain the tender grass *sprouts* from the earth.

5 For *is* not my house so with God? For He has made an everlasting covenant with me, ordered in all things, and sure; for all my salvation, and all my desire, will He not make *it* grow?

6 As to the ungodly, all of them *shall be* as a thorn driven away; for they cannot be taken by the hand;

7 but the man who shall touch them must be armed *with* iron and the shaft of a spear; they shall be utterly burned with fire in *their* place.

8 ¶ These *are* the names of the mighty who *were called* to David: he who sat in the seat of the Tachmonite, chief of the captains; he *was called* Adino the Eznite, because of the eight hundred *he* wounded at one time.

9 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo, the son of *the* Ahohi; *He was* of the

three mighty *men* with David when they taunted the Philistines, *when they* were gathered there to battle; and the men of Israel went up;

10 he rose up and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And Jehovah worked a great salvation on that day, and the people went back after him only to plunder.

11 And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines had gathered into a company, and there was a plot of the field full of lentils, and the people had fled before the Philistines.

12 And he set himself in the midst of the plot, and saved it, and struck the Philistines. And Jehovah worked out a great salvation.

13 And three of the thirty head men went down and came to the harvest, to David, to the cave of Adullam. And the company of the Philistines *was* camping in the Valley of the Giants.

14 And David *was* then in a stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Who shall give me drink, water from the well of Bethlehem which *is* by the gate?

16 And the three mighty *ones* broke through the camp of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem beside the gate, and took *it* up, and brought *it* to David. But he was not willing to drink it, and poured it out to Jehovah;

17 and *he* said, Far be it from me, O Jehovah, to do this; *is it not* the blood of the men who went with their lives? And he was not willing to drink it. The three mighty *ones* did these *things*.

18 And Abishai the son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab, *was* the head of three. And he raised up his spear against three hundred, and wounded *them*. And to him *was* a name among the three.

19 *With* honor he was honored more than the three. And he was the commander to them, but he did not come to the *first* three.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada from Kabzeel, a son of a mighty *man*, great in deeds; he struck two lionlike men of Moab. And he went down and struck a lion in the middle of a pit in a day of snow.

21 And he struck an Egyptian, a man of form; and a spear *was* in the Egyptian's hand; and he went down to him with a staff and tore away the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

22 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did these *things*, and had a name among three mighty *ones*.

23 He was more honored *than* the thirty, but he did not come to the *first* three. And David set him over his guard.

24 Asahel the brother of Joab *was* of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem;

25 Shammah of Harodite; Elikah of Harod; 26 Helez the Paltite; Ira the son of Ikkesh, of Tekoa;

27 Abiezer of Anathoth; Mebunnai of Hushath;

28 Zalmon of Ahoah; Maharai of Netophath;

29 Heleb the son of Baanah, of Netophath; Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin;

30 Benaiah of Pirathon; Hiddai of the torrent of Gaash;

31 Abialbon of Beth-arabah; Azmaveth of Barhum;

32 Eliahba of Shaalbim, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan;

33 Shammah of Harar Ahiam the son of Sharar, of Harar;

34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of Maachah; Eliam the son of Ahithophel, of Gilon;

35 Hezrai of Carmel; Paarai of Arab;

36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah; Bani of Gad;

37 Zelek of Ammon; Naharai of Beeroth, armor-bearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah;

38 Ira the Ithrite; Gareb, an Ithrite;

39 Uriah the Hittite; thirty-seven in all.

2 Samuel 24

1 David, tempted by Satan, forces Joab to number the people. 15 After the death of seventy thousand, David by repentance prevents the destruction of Jerusalem. 18 David, by Jehovah's direction, purchases Araunah's threshing-floor; where having sacrificed, the plague is stayed.

1 ¶ And again the anger of Jehovah burned against Israel, and moved David against them, to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 And the king said to Joab, the commander of the army that *was* with him, Go about now to and fro through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people.

3 And Joab said to the king, Yea, may Jehovah your God add to the people like them, however many they may be, and like them a hundred times. And may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king delight in this thing?

4 But the word of the king prevailed against Joab, and against the army commanders. And Joab and the army commanders went out *from* the presence of the king to number the people of Israel.

5 And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right of the city, in the middle of the Valley of Gad, and to Jazer.

6 And they came into Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi (*Lowest Moon*). And they came to Dan-jaan, and around to Sidon.

7 And they came into the fortress of Tyre, and all the cities of the Hivite, and *of* the Canaanite. And *they* went out to the south of Judah, *to* Beer-sheba.

8 And they had gone into all the land through all the land, and came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

9 And Joab gave the count from the mustering of the people to the king. And Israel mighty *men* drawing sword; and the men of Judah five hundred thousand men.

10 ¶ And after he had numbered the people, the heart of David struck him. And David said to Jehovah, I have sinned greatly *in* that which I have done. And now, O Jehovah, I pray, take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.

11 And David rose up in the morning; and the Word of Jehovah came to Gad the prophet, the seer of David's, saying,

12 Go and you shall speak to David, So says Jehovah, I am setting up three *things* for you; you choose one of them and I will do *it* for you.

13 And Gad came in to David and told him, and said to him, Shall seven years of

famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee before your adversary three months, and he pursues you? Or shall three days' plague in your land? Now consider, and see what I shall take back to Him who sent word to me.

14 And David said, Because of this *it is* great distressing to me. Let us fall now into the hand of Jehovah, for many *are* His mercies; and do not let me fall into the hand of man.

15 And Jehovah sent a plague on Israel from the morning even to the time appointed. And from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand of the people died.

16 And the angel put forth his hand *to* Jerusalem, to destroy it. And Jehovah had pity as to the evil, and said to the angel who was destroying among the people, Enough! Now drop your hand. And the angel of Jehovah was near the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 And when he saw the angel who was striking among the people, David spoke to Jehovah and said, Behold, I have sinned. Yea, I have acted perversely. And these, the flock, what have they done? Now let your hand be on me, and on my father's house.

18 ¶ And Gad came in to David on that day and said to him, Go up, raise up an altar to Jehovah in the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

19 And David went up according to Gad's word, as Jehovah commanded.

20 And Araunah looked and saw the king and his servants crossing over to him. And Araunah went out and bowed himself to the king, his nose to the earth.

21 And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing-floor from you, in order to build an altar to Jehovah; and the plague will be stayed from the people.

22 And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer up that which is good in his eyes. Behold, the oxen for a burnt offering, and the threshing instruments, for the yokes of the oxen for wood.

23 O king, all these Araunah gives to the king. And Araunah said to the king, May Jehovah your God accept you.

24 And the king said to Araunah, No, for buying I will buy from you for a price, and I will not offer to Jehovah my God burnt offerings for nothing. And David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

25 And David built an altar there to Jehovah, and offered burnt offering and peace offerings. And Jehovah was entreated for the land; and the plague was stayed from Israel.