

## Kings II (2 Samuel)

<sup>1</sup> AND it came to pass after Saul was dead, that David returned from smiting Amalek, and David abode two days in Ziklag. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came from the camp, from the people of Saul, and his garments were rent, and earth *was* upon his head: and it came to pass when he went in to David, that he fell upon the earth, and did obeisance to him.

<sup>3</sup> And David said to him, Whence comest thou? and he said to him, I have escaped out of the camp of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And David said to him, What is the matter? tell me. And he said, The people fled out of the battle, and many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead.

<sup>5</sup> And David said to the young man who brought him the tidings, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead? <sup>6</sup> And the young man that brought the tidings, said to him, I happened accidentally to be upon Mount Gilboa; and, behold, Saul was leaning upon his spear, and, behold, the chariots and captains of horse pressed hard upon him. <sup>7</sup> And he looked behind him, and saw me, and called me; and I said, Behold, *here am I*. <sup>8</sup> And he said to me, Who art thou? and I said, I am an Amalekite. <sup>9</sup> And he said to me, Stand, I pray thee, over me, and slay

me, for a dreadful darkness has come upon me, for all my life is in me. <sup>10</sup> So I stood over him and slew him, because I knew he would not live after he was fallen; and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was upon his arm, and I have brought them hither to my lord.

<sup>11</sup> And David laid hold of his garments, and rent them; and all the men who were with him rent their garments. <sup>12</sup> And they lamented, and wept, and fasted till evening, for Saul and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of Judah, and for the house of Israel, because they were smitten with the sword.

<sup>13</sup> And David said to the young man who brought the tidings to him, Whence art thou? and he said, I am the son of an Amalekite sojourner.

<sup>14</sup> And David said to him, How was it thou wast not afraid to lift thy hand to destroy the anointed of the Lord? <sup>15</sup> And David called one of his young men, and said, Go and fall upon him: and he smote him, and he died. <sup>16</sup> And David said to him, Thy blood *be* upon thine own head; for thy mouth has testified against thee, saying, I have slain the anointed of the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son. <sup>18</sup> And he gave orders to teach it the sons of Judah: behold, it is written in the book of Right.

<sup>19</sup> Set up a pillar, O Israel, for the slain that died upon thy high places:

How are the mighty fallen!

<sup>20</sup> Tell it not in Gath,

And tell it not as glad tidings in the streets of  
Ashkelon,  
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,  
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised tri-  
umph.

<sup>21</sup> Ye mountains of Gilboa,  
Let not dew nor rain descend upon you, nor  
fields of firstfruits *be upon you*,  
For there the shield of the mighty ones has been  
grievously assailed;  
The shield of Saul was not anointed with oil.

<sup>22</sup> From the blood of the slain, and from the fat  
of the mighty,

The bow of Jonathan returned not empty;  
And the sword of Saul turned not back empty.

<sup>23</sup> Saul and Jonathan, the beloved and the beau-  
tiful, were not divided:  
Comely *were they* in their life, and in their death  
they were not divided:

*They were* swifter than eagles,  
And they were stronger than lions.

<sup>24</sup> Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul,  
Who clothed you with scarlet together with your  
adorning,  
Who added golden ornaments to your apparel.

<sup>25</sup> How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the  
battle!

O Jonathan, even the slain ones upon thy high  
places!

<sup>26</sup> I am grieved for thee, my brother Jonathan;  
Thou wast very lovely to me;  
Thy love to me was wonderful  
Beyond the love of women.

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

## 2

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass after this that David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into one of the cities of Judah? and the Lord said to him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? and he said, To Hebron. <sup>2</sup> And David went up thither to Hebron, *he* and both his wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite, <sup>3</sup> and the men that were with him, every one and his family; and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

<sup>4</sup> And the men of Judea come, and anoint David there to reign over the house of Judah; and they reported to David, saying, The men of Jabesh of the country of Gilead have buried Saul. <sup>5</sup> And David sent messengers to the rulers of Jabesh of the country of Gilead, and David said to them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, because ye have wrought this mercy toward your lord, even toward Saul the anointed of the Lord, and ye have buried him and Jonathan his son. <sup>6</sup> And now may the Lord deal in mercy and truth toward you: and I also will requite toward you this good deed, because ye have done this.

<sup>7</sup> And now let your hands be made strong, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and moreover the house of Judah have anointed me to be king over them.

<sup>8</sup> But Abner, the son of Ner, the commander-in-chief of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth son of Saul,

and brought him up from the camp to Mahanaim<sup>9</sup> and made him king over the land of Gilead, and over Thasiri, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.<sup>10</sup> Ish-bosheth, Saul's son *was* forty years old, when he reigned over Israel; and he reigned two years, but not over the house of Judah, who followed David.

<sup>11</sup> And the days which David reigned in Hebron over the house of Judah were seven years and six months.

<sup>12</sup> And Abner the son of Ner went forth, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, from Mahanaim to Gibeon.<sup>13</sup> And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went forth from Hebron, and met them at the fountain of Gibeon, at the same place: and these sat down by the fountain on this side, and those by the fountain on that side.<sup>14</sup> And Abner said to Joab, Let now the young men arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.<sup>15</sup> And there arose and passed over by number twelve of the children of Benjamin, belonging to Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.<sup>16</sup> And they seized every one the head of his neighbor with his hand, and his sword *was thrust* into the side of his neighbor, and they fall down together: and the name of that place was called The portion of the treacherous ones, which is in Gibeon.<sup>17</sup> And the battle was very severe on that day; and Abner and the men of Israel were worsted before the servants of David.<sup>18</sup> And there were there the three sons

of Zeruiah, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was swift in his feet as a roe in the field.

<sup>19</sup> And Asahel followed after Abner, and turned not to go to the right hand or to the left from following Abner. <sup>20</sup> And Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel himself? and he said, I am. <sup>21</sup> And Abner said to him, Turn thou to the right hand or to the left, and lay hold for thyself on one of the young men, and take to thyself his armor: but Asahel would not turn back from following him. <sup>22</sup> And Abner said yet again to Asahel, Stand aloof from me, lest I smite thee to the ground? and how should I lift up my face to Joab? <sup>23</sup> And what does this mean? return to Joab thy brother. But he would not stand aloof; and Abner smites him with the hinder end of the spear on the loins, and the spear went out behind him, and he falls there and dies on the spot: and it came to pass that everyone that came to the place where Asahel fell and died, stood still. <sup>24</sup> And Joab and Abishai pursued after Abner, and the sun went down: and they went as far as the hill of Ammah, which is in the front of Giah, by the desert way of Gibeon.

<sup>25</sup> And the children of Benjamin who followed Abner gather themselves together, and they formed themselves into one body, and stood on the top of a hill. <sup>26</sup> And Abner called Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour perpetually? knowest thou not that it will be bitter at last? How long then wilt thou refuse to tell the people to turn from following our brethren? <sup>27</sup> And Joab said, As the Lord lives, if thou hadst not spoken,

even from the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother. <sup>28</sup> And Joab sounded the trumpet, and all the people departed, and did not pursue after Israel, and did not fight any longer.

<sup>29</sup> And Abner and his men departed at evening, *and went* all that night, and crossed over Jordan, and went along the whole adjacent *country*, and they come to the camp. <sup>30</sup> And Joab returned from following Abner, and he assembled all the people, and there were missing of the people of David, nineteen men, and Asahel. <sup>31</sup> And the servants of David smote of the children of Benjamin, of the men of Abner, three hundred and sixty men belonging to him.

<sup>32</sup> And they take up Asahel, and bury him in the tomb of his father in Bethlehem. And Joab and the men with him went all the night, and the morning rose upon them in Hebron.

### 3

<sup>1</sup> And there was war for a long time between the house of Saul and the house of David; and the house of David grew continually stronger; but the house of Saul grew continually weaker.

<sup>2</sup> And sons were born to David in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess. <sup>3</sup> And his second son *was* Daluia, the son of Abigail the Carmelitess; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur. <sup>4</sup> And the fourth *was* Adonijah, the son of Haggith, and the fifth *was* Shephatiah, the son of Abital. <sup>5</sup> And the sixth

was Ithream, the son of Eglah the wife of David. These were born to David in Hebron.

<sup>6</sup> And it came to pass while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner was governing the house of Saul. <sup>7</sup> And Saul had a concubine, Rizpah, the daughter of Jol; and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul said to Abner, Why hast thou gone in to my father's concubine? <sup>8</sup> And Abner was very angry with Ish-bosheth for this saying; and Abner said to him, Am I a dog's head? I have this day wrought kindness with the house of Saul thy father, and with his brethren and friends, and have not gone over to the house of David, and dost thou this day seek a charge against me concerning injury to a woman? <sup>9</sup> God do thus and more also to Abner, if as the Lord swore to David, so do I not to him this day; <sup>10</sup> to take away the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to raise up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beersheba. <sup>11</sup> And Ish-bosheth could not any longer answer Abner a word, because he feared him.

<sup>12</sup> And Abner sent messengers to David to Thaelam where he was, immediately, saying, Make thy covenant with me, and, behold, my hand is with thee to bring back to thee all the house of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And David said, With a good will I will make with thee a covenant: only I demand one condition of thee, saying, Thou shalt not see my face, unless thou bring Michal the daughter of Saul, when thou comest to see my face. <sup>14</sup> And David sent messengers

to Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, saying, Restore me my wife Michal, whom I took for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines. <sup>15</sup> And Ish-bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, *even* from Paltiel the son of Selle. <sup>16</sup> And her husband went with her weeping behind her as far as Bahurim. And Abner said to him, Go, return; and he returned.

<sup>17</sup> And Abner spoke to the elders of Israel, saying, In former days ye sought David to reign over you; <sup>18</sup> and now perform *it*: for the Lord has spoken concerning David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save Israel out of the hand of all their enemies. <sup>19</sup> And Abner spoke in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went to speak in the ears of David at Hebron, all that seemed good in the eyes of Israel and in the eyes of the house of Benjamin. <sup>20</sup> And Abner came to David to Hebron, and with him twenty men: and David made for Abner and his men with him a banquet of wine. <sup>21</sup> And Abner said to David, I will arise now, and go, and gather to my lord the king all Israel; and I will make with him a covenant, and thou shalt reign over all whom thy soul desires. And David sent away Abner, and he departed in peace.

<sup>22</sup> And, behold, the servants of David and Joab arrived from their expedition, and they brought much spoil with them: and Abner was not with David in Hebron, because he had sent him away, and he had departed in peace. <sup>23</sup> And Joab and all his army came, and it was reported to Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner is come to David,

and David has let him go, and he has departed in peace. <sup>24</sup> And Joab went in to the king, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? behold, Abner came to thee; and why hast thou let him go, and he has departed in peace? <sup>25</sup> Knowest thou not the mischief of Abner the son of Ner; that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all things that thou doest?

<sup>26</sup> And Joab returned from David, and sent messengers to Abner after *him*; and they bring him back from the well of Sirah: but David knew *it* not. <sup>27</sup> And he brought back Abner to Hebron, and Joab caused him to turn aside from the gate to speak to him, laying wait for him: and he smote him there in the loins, and he died for the blood of Asahel the brother of Joab.

<sup>28</sup> And David heard *of it* afterward, and said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the Lord even forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner. <sup>29</sup> Let it fall upon the head of Joab, and upon all the house of his father; and let there not be wanting of the house of Joab one that has an issue, or a leper, or that leans on a staff, or that falls by the sword, or that wants bread. <sup>30</sup> For Joab and Abishai his brother laid wait continually for Abner, because he slew Asahel their brother at Gibeon in the battle.

<sup>31</sup> And David said to Joab and to all the people with him, Rend your garments, and gird yourselves with sackcloth, and lament before Abner. And King David followed the bier. <sup>32</sup> And they bury Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted

up his voice, and wept at his tomb, and all the people wept for Abner.

<sup>33</sup> And the king mourned over Abner, and said, Shall Abner die according to the death of Nabal?

<sup>34</sup> Thy hands were not bound,  
And thy feet *were* not *put* in fetters:  
*One* brought *thee* not near as Nabal;  
Thou didst fall before children of iniquity.

<sup>35</sup> And all the people assembled to weep for him. And all the people came to cause David to eat bread while it was yet day: and David swore, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if I eat bread or anything else before the sun goes down.

<sup>36</sup> And all the people took notice, and all things that the king did before the people were pleasing in their sight. <sup>37</sup> So all the people and all Israel perceived in that day, that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

<sup>38</sup> And the king said to his servants, Know ye not that a great prince is this day fallen in Israel?

<sup>39</sup> And that I am this day a *mere* kinsman *of his*, and *as it were* a subject; but these men the sons of Zeruah are too hard for me: the Lord reward the evildoer according to his wickedness.

## 4

<sup>1</sup> And Ish-bosheth the son of Saul heard that Abner the son of Ner had died in Hebron; and his hands were paralyzed, and all the men of Israel grew faint. <sup>2</sup> And Ish-bosheth the son of Saul had two men that were captains of bands: the name of the one *was* Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite

of the children of Benjamin; for Beeroth was reckoned to the children of Benjamin. <sup>3</sup> And the Beerothites ran away to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.

<sup>4</sup> And Jonathan Saul's son *had* a son lame of his feet, five years old, and he was *in the way* when the news of Saul and Jonathan his son came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled; and it came to pass as he hastened and retreated, that he fell, and was lamed. And his name *was* Mephibosheth.

<sup>5</sup> And Rechab and Baanah the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite went, and they came in the heat of the day into the house of Ish-bosheth; and he was sleeping on a bed at noon. <sup>6</sup> And, behold, the porter of the house winnowed wheat, and he slumbered and slept: and the brothers Rechab and Baanah went privily into the house: <sup>7</sup> and Ish-bosheth was sleeping on his bed in his chamber: and they smite him, and slay him, and take off his head: and they took his head, and went all the night by the western road.

<sup>8</sup> And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David to Hebron, and they said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thy enemy, who sought thy life; and the Lord has executed for my lord the king vengeance on his enemies, as *it is* this day: even on Saul thy enemy, and on his seed.

<sup>9</sup> And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul out of all affliction; <sup>10</sup> he that

reported to me that Saul was dead, even he was as one bringing glad tidings before me: but I seized him and slew him in Ziklag, to whom I ought, *as he thought*, to have given a reward for his tidings. <sup>11</sup> And now evil men have slain a righteous man in his house on his bed: now then I will require his blood of your hand, and I will destroy you from off the earth. <sup>12</sup> And David commanded his young men, and they slay them, and cut off their hands and their feet; and they hung them up at the fountain in Hebron: and they buried the head of Ish-bosheth in the tomb of Abner the son of Ner.

## 5

<sup>1</sup> And all the tribes of Israel come to David to Hebron, and they said to him, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh. <sup>2</sup> And heretofore Saul being king over us, thou wast he that didst lead out and bring in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be for a leader to my people Israel. <sup>3</sup> And all the elders of Israel come to the king to Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anoint David king over all Israel. <sup>4</sup> David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> Seven years and six months he reigned in Hebron over Judah, and thirty-three years he reigned over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> And David and his men departed to Jerusalem, to the Jebusite that inhabited the land: and it was said to David, Thou shalt not

come in hither: for the blind and the lame withstood him, saying, David shall not come in hither. <sup>7</sup> And David took first the hold of Zion: this is the city of David. <sup>8</sup> And David said on that day, Every one that smites the Jebusite, let him attack with the dagger both the lame and the blind, and those that hate the soul of David. Therefore they say, The lame and the blind shall not enter into the house of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And David dwelt in the hold, and it was called the city of David, and he built the city itself round about from the citadel, and *he built* his own house. <sup>10</sup> And David advanced and became great, and the Lord Almighty *was* with him.

<sup>11</sup> And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar wood, and carpenters, and stonemasons: and they built a house for David.

<sup>12</sup> And David knew that the Lord had prepared him to be king over Israel, and that his kingdom was exalted for the sake of his people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And David took again wives and concubines out of Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron: and David had still more sons and daughters born to him. <sup>14</sup> And these *are* the names of those that were born to him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon. <sup>15</sup> And Ibhar, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia. <sup>16</sup> And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphelet, <sup>16a</sup> Samae, Jessibath, Nathan, Galamaan, Jebaar, Theesus, Eliphalat, Naged, Naphec, Janathan, Leasamys, Baalimath, Eliphaath.

<sup>17</sup> And the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over Israel; and all the Philistines

went up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the stronghold. <sup>18</sup> And the Philistines came, and assembled in the Valley of the Giants.

<sup>19</sup> And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into my hands? and the Lord said to David, Go up, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into thy hands. <sup>20</sup> And David came from Upper Breaches, and smote the Philistines there: and David said, The Lord has destroyed the hostile Philistines before me, as water is dispersed; therefore the name of that place was called Over Breaches. <sup>21</sup> And they leave there their gods, and David and his men with him took them.

<sup>22</sup> And the Philistines came up yet again, and assembled in the Valley of Giants. <sup>23</sup> And David inquired of the Lord: and the Lord said, Thou shalt not go up to meet them: turn from them, and thou shalt meet them near the place of weeping. <sup>24</sup> And it shall come to pass when thou hearest the sound of a clashing together from the grove of weeping, then thou shalt go down to them, for then the Lord shall go forth before thee to make havoc in the battle with the Philistines. <sup>25</sup> And David did as the Lord commanded him, and smote the Philistines from Gibeon as far as the land of Gezer.

## 6

<sup>1</sup> And David again gathered all the young men of Israel, about seventy thousand. <sup>2</sup> And David arose, and went, he and all the people that were

with him, and some of the rulers of Judah, on an expedition *to a distant place*, to bring back thence the ark of God, on which the name of the Lord of Hosts who dwells between the cherubs upon it is called.

<sup>3</sup> And they put the ark of the Lord on a new wagon, and took it out of the house of Abinadab who lived on the hill: and Uzzah and his brethren the sons of Abinadab drove the wagon with the ark. <sup>4</sup> And his brethren went before the ark. <sup>5</sup> And David and the children of Israel *were* playing before the Lord on well-tuned instruments mightily, and with songs, and with harps, and with lutes, and with drums, and with cymbals, and with pipes.

<sup>6</sup> And they come as far as the threshing floor of Nacon: and Uzzah reached forth his hand to the ark of God to keep it steady, and took hold of it; for the ox shook it out of its place. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord was very angry with Uzzah; and God smote him there: and he died there by the ark of the Lord before God. <sup>8</sup> And David was dispirited because the Lord made a breach upon Uzzah; and that place was called the breach of Uzzah until this day. <sup>9</sup> And David feared the Lord in that day, saying, How shall the ark of the Lord come in to me? <sup>10</sup> And David would not bring in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to himself into the city of David: and David turned it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. <sup>11</sup> And the ark of the Lord lodged in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed all the house of Obed-edom, and all his possessions.

<sup>12</sup> And it was reported to King David, saying, The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he has, because of the ark of the Lord. And David went, and brought up the ark of the Lord from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with gladness. <sup>13</sup> And there were with him bearing the ark seven bands, and for a sacrifice a calf and lambs. <sup>14</sup> And David sounded with well-tuned instruments before the Lord, and David *was* clothed with a fine long robe. <sup>15</sup> And David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of a trumpet.

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass as the ark arrived at the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looked through the window, and saw King David dancing and playing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

<sup>17</sup> And they bring the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle which David pitched for it: and David offered whole burnt offerings before the Lord, *and* peace offerings. <sup>18</sup> And David made an end of offering the whole burnt offerings and peace offerings, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Hosts. <sup>19</sup> And he distributed to all the people, even to all the host of Israel from Dan to Beersheba, both men and women, to everyone a cake of bread, and a joint of meat, and a cake from the frying pan: and all the people departed every one to his home.

<sup>20</sup> And David returned to bless his house. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and saluted him, and said, How

was the king of Israel glorified today, who was today uncovered in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the dancers wantonly uncovers himself! <sup>21</sup> And David said to Michal, I will dance before the Lord. Blessed *be* the Lord who chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to make me head over his people, even over Israel: therefore I will play, and dance before the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And I will again uncover myself thus, and I will be vile in thine eyes, and with the maidservants by whom thou saidst that I was not had in honor. <sup>23</sup> And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child till the day of her death.

## 7

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had given him an inheritance on every side *free* from all his enemies round about him; <sup>2</sup> that the king said to Nathan the prophet, Behold now, I live in a house of cedar, and the ark of the Lord dwells in the midst of a tent. <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, Go and do all that *is* in thy heart, for the Lord *is* with thee.

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass in that night, that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, <sup>5</sup> Go, and say to my servant David, Thus says the Lord, Thou shalt not build me a house for me to dwell in. <sup>6</sup> For I have not dwelt in a house from the day that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt to this day, but I have been walking in a lodge and in a tent, <sup>7</sup> wheresoever I went with all Israel. Have I ever spoken to any of the tribes

of Israel, which I commanded to tend my people Israel, saying, Why have ye not built me a house of cedar?

<sup>8</sup> And now thus shalt thou say to my servant David, Thus says the Lord Almighty, I took thee from the sheepcote, that thou shouldest be a prince over my people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I was with thee wheresoever thou wentest, and I destroyed all thine enemies before thee, and I made thee renowned according to the renown of the great ones on the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell by themselves, and shall be no more distressed; and the son of iniquity shall no more afflict them, as he *has done* from the beginning, <sup>11</sup> from the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel: and I will give thee rest from all thine enemies, and the Lord will tell thee that thou shalt build a house to him. <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass when thy days shall have been fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, even thine own issue, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build for me a house to my name, and I will set up his throne even forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. And when he happens to transgress, then will I chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup> But my mercy I will not take from him, as I took it from those whom I removed from my presence. <sup>16</sup> And his house shall be made sure, and his kingdom forever before me, and his throne shall be set up

forever.

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

<sup>18</sup> And King David came in, and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord, my Lord, and what *is* my house, that thou hast loved me hitherto? <sup>19</sup> Whereas I was very little before thee, O Lord, my Lord, yet thou spokest concerning the house of thy servant for a long time *to come*. And *is* this the law of man, O Lord, my Lord? <sup>20</sup> And what shall David yet say to thee? and now thou knowest thy servant, O Lord, my Lord. <sup>21</sup> And thou hast wrought for thy servant's sake, and according to thy heart thou hast wrought all this greatness, to make it known to thy servant, <sup>22</sup> that he may magnify thee, O my Lord; for there is no one like thee, and there is no God but thou among all of whom we have heard with our ears. <sup>23</sup> And what other nation in the earth *is* as thy people Israel? whereas God was his guide, to redeem for himself a people to make thee a name, to do mightily and nobly, so that thou shouldest cast out nations and *their* tabernacles from the presence of thy people, whom thou didst redeem for thyself out of Egypt? <sup>24</sup> And thou hast prepared for thyself thy people Israel to be a people forever, and thou, Lord, art become their God. <sup>25</sup> And now, O my Lord, the Almighty Lord God of Israel, confirm the word forever which thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and his house: and now as thou hast said, <sup>26</sup> Let thy name be magnified forever. <sup>27</sup> Almighty

Lord God of Israel, thou hast uncovered the ear of thy servant, saying, I will build thee a house: therefore thy servant has found *in* his heart to pray this prayer to thee. <sup>28</sup> And now, O Lord my Lord, thou art God; and thy words will be true, and thou hast spoken these good things concerning thy servant. <sup>29</sup> And now begin and bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee; for thou, O Lord, my Lord, hast spoken, and the house of thy servant shall be blessed with thy blessing so as to continue forever.

## 8

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass after this, that David smote the Philistines, and put them to flight, and David took the tribute from out of the hand of the Philistines.

<sup>2</sup> And David smote Moab, and measured them out with lines, having laid them down on the ground: and there were two lines for slaying, and two lines he kept alive: and Moab became servants to David, yielding tribute.

<sup>3</sup> And David smote Hadadezer the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to extend his power to the river Euphrates. <sup>4</sup> And David took a thousand of his chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all his chariot *horses*, and he reserved to himself a hundred chariots. <sup>5</sup> And Syria of Damascus comes to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, and David smote twenty-two thousand men belonging to the Syrian. <sup>6</sup> And David placed

a garrison in Syria near Damascus, and the Syrians became servants and tributaries to David: and the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went. <sup>7</sup> And David took the golden bracelets which were on the servants of Hadadezer king of Zobah, and brought them to Jerusalem. And Shishak king of Egypt took them, when he went up to Jerusalem in the days of Rehoboam son of Solomon. <sup>8</sup> And King David took from Betah, and from the choice cities of Hadadezer, very much brass: with that Solomon made the brazen sea, and the pillars, and the lavers, and all the furniture.

<sup>9</sup> And Toi the king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer. <sup>10</sup> And Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to ask him of his welfare, and to congratulate him on his fighting against Hadadezer and smiting him, for he was an enemy to Hadadezer: and in his hands were vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass. <sup>11</sup> And these King David consecrated to the Lord, with the silver and with the gold which he consecrated out of all the cities which he conquered, <sup>12</sup> out of Edom, and out of Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek, and from the spoils of Hadadezer son of Rehob king of Zobah.

<sup>13</sup> And David made *himself* a name: and when he returned he smote Edom in Gebelem to *the number of* eighteen thousand. <sup>14</sup> And he set garrisons in Edom, even in all Edom: and all the Edomites were servants to the king. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.

<sup>15</sup> And David reigned over all Israel: and David wrought judgment and justice over all his people. <sup>16</sup> And Joab the son of Zeruah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was keeper* of the records. <sup>17</sup> And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech son of Abiathar, *were* priests; and Seraiah *was* the scribe, <sup>18</sup> and Benaiah son of Jehoiada *was* counselor, and the Cherethite and the Pelethite, and the sons of David, were princes of the court.

## 9

<sup>1</sup> And David said, Is there yet anyone left in the house of Saul, that I may deal kindly with him for Jonathan's sake? <sup>2</sup> And there was a servant of the house of Saul, and his name was Ziba: and they call him to David; and the king said to him, Art thou Ziba? and he said, I *am* thy servant. <sup>3</sup> And the king said, Is there yet a man left of the house of Saul, that I may act toward him with the mercy of God? and Ziba said to the king, There is yet a son of Jonathan, lame *of* his feet. <sup>4</sup> And the king said, Where *is* he? and Ziba said to the king, Behold, *he is* in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-debar. <sup>5</sup> And King David sent, and took him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-debar.

<sup>6</sup> And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan the son of Saul comes to King David, and he fell upon his face and did obeisance to him: and David said to him, Mephibosheth: and he said, Behold thy servant. <sup>7</sup> And David said to him, Fear not, for I will surely deal mercifully with thee

for the sake of Jonathan thy father, and I will restore to thee all the land of Saul the father of thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. <sup>8</sup> And Mephibosheth did obeisance, and said, Who am I thy servant, that thou hast looked upon a dead dog like me?

<sup>9</sup> And the king called Ziba the servant of Saul, and said to him, All that belonged to Saul and to all his house have I given to the son of thy lord. <sup>10</sup> And thou, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him; and thou shalt bring in bread to the son of thy lord, and he shall eat bread: and Mephibosheth the son of thy lord shall eat bread continually at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. <sup>11</sup> And Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will thy servant do. And Mephibosheth did eat at the table of David, as one of the sons of the king. <sup>12</sup> And Mephibosheth had a little son, and his name *was* Mica: and all the household of Ziba *were* servants to Mephibosheth. <sup>13</sup> And Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he continually ate at the table of the king; and he was lame in both his feet.

## 10

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass after this that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. <sup>2</sup> And David said, I will show mercy to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt mercifully with me. And David sent to comfort him concerning his father by the hand

of his servants; and the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon. <sup>3</sup> And the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, *Is it* to honor thy father before thee that David has sent comforters to thee? Has not David rather sent his servants to thee that they should search the city, and spy it out and examine it? <sup>4</sup> And Hanun took the servants of David, and shaved their beards, and cut off their garments in the midst as far as their haunches, and sent them away.

<sup>5</sup> And they brought David word concerning the men; and he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly dishonored: and the king said, Remain in Jericho till your beards have grown, and *then* ye shall return.

<sup>6</sup> And the children of Ammon saw that the people of David were ashamed; and the children of Ammon sent, and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, and Rehob, twenty thousand footmen, and the king of Amalek with a thousand men, and Tob with twelve thousand men.

<sup>7</sup> And David heard, and sent Joab and all his host, *even* the mighty men. <sup>8</sup> And the children of Ammon went forth, and set the battle in array by the door of the gate: *those* of Syria, Zobah, and Rehob, and Tob, and Amalek, being by themselves in the field. <sup>9</sup> And Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him from that which was opposed in front and from behind, and he chose out *some* of all the young men of Israel, and they set themselves in array against Syria. <sup>10</sup> And the rest of the people he gave into

the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set the battle in array opposite to the children of Ammon. <sup>11</sup> And he said, If Syria be too strong for me, then shall ye help me: and if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then will we be ready to help thee. <sup>12</sup> Be thou courageous, and let us be strong for our people, and for the sake of the cities of our God, and the Lord shall do that which is good in his eyes.

<sup>13</sup> And Joab and his people with him advanced to battle against Syria, and they fled from before him. <sup>14</sup> And the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, and they fled from before Abishai, and entered into the city: and Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> And the Syrians saw that they were worsted before Israel, and they gathered themselves together. <sup>16</sup> And Hadadezer sent and gathered the Syrians from the other side of the river Chalamak, and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadadezer *was* at their head.

<sup>17</sup> And it was reported to David, and he gathered all Israel, and went over Jordan, and came to Helam: and the Syrians set the battle in array against David, and fought with him. <sup>18</sup> And Syria fled from before Israel, and David destroyed of Syria seven hundred chariots, and forty thousand horsemen, and he smote Shobach the captain of his host, and he died there. <sup>19</sup> And all the kings the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, and

they went over to Israel, and served them: and Syria was afraid to help the children of Ammon anymore.

## 11

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass when the time of the year for kings going out *to battle* had come round, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah: but David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass toward evening, that David arose off his couch, and walked on the roof of the king's house, and saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. <sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired about the woman: and *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

<sup>4</sup> And David sent messengers, and took her, and went in to her, and he lay with her: and she was purified from her uncleanness, and returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, I am with child. <sup>6</sup> And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite; and Joab sent Uriah to David.

<sup>7</sup> And Uriah arrived and went in to him, and David asked him how Joab was, and how the people were, and how the war went on. <sup>8</sup> And David said to Uriah, Go to thy house, and wash thy feet: and Uriah departed from the house of the king, and a portion *of meat* from the king followed him. <sup>9</sup> And Uriah slept at the door of the

king with the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. <sup>10</sup> And they brought David word, saying, Uriah has not gone down to his house. And David said to Uriah, Art thou not come from a journey? why hast thou not gone down to thy house? <sup>11</sup> And Uriah said to David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah dwell in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; and shall I go into my house to eat and drink, and lie with my wife? how *should I do this?* as thy soul lives, I will not do this thing. <sup>12</sup> And David said to Uriah, Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee go. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the day following.

<sup>13</sup> And David called him, and he ate before him and drank, and he made him drunk: and he went out in the evening to lie upon his bed with the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> And the morning came, and David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

<sup>15</sup> And he wrote in the letter, saying, Station Uriah in front of the severe *part* of the fight, and retreat from behind him, so shall he be wounded and die.

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass while Joab was watching against the city, that he set Uriah in a place where he knew that valiant men were. <sup>17</sup> And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and some of the people of the servants of David fell, and Uriah the Hittite died also.

<sup>18</sup> And Joab sent, and reported to David all the events of the war, so as to tell them to the king.

<sup>19</sup> And he charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast finished reporting all the events of the war to the king, <sup>20</sup> then it shall come to pass if the anger of the king shall arise, and he shall say to thee, Why did ye draw nigh to the city to fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from off the wall? <sup>21</sup> Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal son of Ner? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from above the wall, and he died in Thebez? why did ye draw near to the wall? then thou shalt say, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.

<sup>22</sup> And the messenger of Joab went to the king to Jerusalem, and he came and reported to David all that Joab told him, all the affairs of the war. And David was very angry with Joab, and said to the messenger, Why did ye draw nigh to the wall to fight? knew ye not that ye would be wounded from off the wall? Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? did not a woman cast upon him a piece of millstone from the wall, and he died in Thebez? why did ye draw near to the wall? <sup>23</sup> And the messenger said to David, The men prevailed against us, and they came out against us into the field, and we came upon them even to the door of the gate. <sup>24</sup> And the archers shot at thy servants from off the wall, and some of the king's servants died, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. <sup>25</sup> And David said to the messenger, Thus shalt thou say to Joab, Let not the matter be grievous in thine eyes, for the sword devours one way at one time and another way at another: strengthen thine array against

the city, and destroy it, and strengthen him.

<sup>26</sup> And the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, and she mourned for her husband. <sup>27</sup> And the time of mourning expired, and David sent and took her into his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son: but the thing which David did was evil in the eyes of the Lord.

## 12

<sup>1</sup> And the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David; and he went in to him, and said to him, There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> And the rich *man* had very many flocks and herds. <sup>3</sup> But the poor *man had* only one little ewe lamb, which he had purchased, and preserved, and reared; and it grew up with himself and his children in common; it ate of his bread and drank of his cup, and slept in his bosom, and was to him as a daughter. <sup>4</sup> And a traveler came to the rich man, and he spared to take of his flocks and of his herds, to dress for the traveler that came to him; and he took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that came to him. <sup>5</sup> And David was greatly moved with anger against the man; and David said to Nathan, As the Lord lives, the man that did this thing shall surely die. <sup>6</sup> And he shall restore the lamb sevenfold, because he has not spared.

<sup>7</sup> And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man that has done this. Thus says the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee to be king over Israel, and I rescued thee out of the hand of Saul; <sup>8</sup> and I gave thee the house of thy lord, and the wives of

thy lord into thy bosom, and I gave to thee the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been little, I would have given thee yet more. <sup>9</sup> Why hast thou set at nought the word of the Lord, to do that which is evil in his eyes? thou hast slain Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and thou hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and thou hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall not depart from thy house forever, because thou hast set me at nought, and thou hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite, to be thy wife. <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will raise up against thee evil out of thy house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and will give them to thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For thou didst it secretly, but I will do this thing in the sight of all Israel, and before this sun.

<sup>13</sup> And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, And the Lord has put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

<sup>14</sup> Only because thou hast given great occasion of provocation to the enemies of the Lord by this thing, thy son also that is born to thee shall surely die.

<sup>15</sup> And Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord smote the child, which the wife of Uriah the Hittite bore to David, and it was ill. <sup>16</sup> And David inquired of God concerning the child, and David fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the ground. <sup>17</sup> And the elders of his house arose *and went* to him to raise him up from the ground, but he would not *rise*, nor did he eat bread with

them.

<sup>18</sup> And it came to pass on the seventh day that the child died: and the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive we spoke to him, and he hearkened not to our voice; and how should we tell him that the child is dead?—so would he do *himself* harm.

<sup>19</sup> And David understood that his servants were whispering, and David perceived that the child was dead: and David said to his servants, Is the child dead? and they said, He is dead. <sup>20</sup> Then David rose up from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his raiment, and went into the house of God, and worshiped him; and went into his own house, and called for bread to eat, and they set bread before him and he ate. <sup>21</sup> And his servants said to him, What is this thing that thou hast done concerning the child? while it was yet living thou didst fast, and weep, and watch: and when the child was dead thou didst rise up, and didst eat bread, and drink.

<sup>22</sup> And David said, While the child yet lived, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who knows if the Lord will pity me, and the child live? <sup>23</sup> But now it is dead, why should I fast thus? shall I be able to bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

<sup>24</sup> And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and he went in to her, and lay with her; and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Solomon, and the Lord loved him. <sup>25</sup> And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and called his name Jedidiah, for the Lord's sake.

<sup>26</sup> And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.  
<sup>27</sup> And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and taken the city of waters. <sup>28</sup> And now gather the rest of the people, and encamp against the city, and take it beforehand; lest I take the city first, and my name be called upon it.

<sup>29</sup> And David gathered all the people, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.  
<sup>30</sup> And he took the crown of Molchom their king from off his head, and the weight of it was a talent of gold, with precious stones, and it was upon the head of David; and he carried forth very much spoil of the city. <sup>31</sup> And he brought forth the people that were in it, and put them under the saw, and under iron harrows, and axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus he did to all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

## 13

<sup>1</sup> And it happened after this that Absalom the son of David had a very beautiful sister, and her name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. <sup>2</sup> And Amnon was distressed even to sickness, because of Tamar his sister; for she was a virgin, and it seemed very difficult for Amnon to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup> And Amnon had a friend, and his name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah the brother of David: and Jonadab *was* a very cunning man. <sup>4</sup> And he said to him, What

ails thee that thou art thus weak, O son of the king, morning by morning? wilt thou not tell me? and Amnon said, I love Tamar the sister of my brother Absalom. <sup>5</sup> And Jonadab said to him, Lie upon thy bed, and make thyself sick, and thy father shall come in to see thee; and thou shalt say to him, Let, I pray thee, Tamar my sister come, and feed me with morsels, and let her prepare food before my eyes, that I may see and eat at her hands. <sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick; and the king came in to see him: and Amnon said to the king, Let, I pray thee, my sister Tamar come to me, and make a couple of cakes in my sight, and I will eat them at her hand.

<sup>7</sup> And David sent to Tamar to the house, saying, Go now to thy brother's house, and dress him food. <sup>8</sup> And Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, and he *was* lying down: and she took the dough and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. <sup>9</sup> And she took the frying pan and poured them out before him, but he would not eat. And Amnon said, Send out every man from about me. And they removed every man from about him. <sup>10</sup> And Amnon said to Tamar, Bring in the food into the closet, and I will eat of thy hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to her brother Amnon into the chamber. <sup>11</sup> And she brought *them* to him to eat, and he caught hold of her, and said to her, Come, lie with me, my sister. <sup>12</sup> And she said to him, Nay, my brother, do not humble me, for it ought not to be so done

in Israel; do not this folly. <sup>13</sup> And I, whither shall I remove my reproach? and thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. And now, speak, I pray thee, to the king, for surely he will not keep me from thee. <sup>14</sup> But Amnon would not hearken to her voice; and he prevailed against her, and humbled her, and lay with her.

<sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her, for the last wickedness was greater than the first: and Amnon said to her, Rise, and begone. <sup>16</sup> And Tamar spoke to him concerning this great mischief, greater, *said she*, than the other that thou didst me, to send me away: but Amnon would not hearken to her voice. <sup>17</sup> And he called his servant who had charge of the house, and said to him, Put now this *woman* out from me, and shut the door after her. <sup>18</sup> And she had on her a variegated robe, for so were the king's daughters that were virgins attired in their apparel: and his servant led her forth, and shut the door after her.

<sup>19</sup> And Tamar took ashes, and put them on her head; and she rent the variegated garment that was upon her: and she laid her hands on her head, and went crying continually. <sup>20</sup> And Absalom her brother said to her, Has thy brother Amnon been with thee? now then, my sister, be silent, for he is thy brother: be not careful to mention this matter. So Tamar dwelt as a widow in the house of her brother Absalom.

<sup>21</sup> And King David heard of all these things, and was very angry; but he did not grieve the

spirit of his son Amnon, because he loved him, for he was his firstborn. <sup>22</sup> And Absalom spoke not to Amnon, good or bad, because Absalom hated Amnon, on account of his humbling his sister Tamar. <sup>23</sup> And it came to pass at the end of two whole years, that they were shearing *sheep* for Absalom in Baal-hazor near Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. <sup>24</sup> And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold, thy servant has a sheepshearing; let now the king and his servants go with thy servant. <sup>25</sup> And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all go, and let us not be burdensome to thee. And he pressed him; but he would not go, but blessed him. <sup>26</sup> And Absalom said to him, And if not, let, I pray thee, my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said to him, Why should he go with thee? <sup>27</sup> And Absalom pressed him, and he sent with him Amnon and all the king's sons; and Absalom made a banquet like the banquet of the king.

<sup>28</sup> And Absalom charged his servants, saying, Mark when the heart of Amnon shall be merry with wine, and I shall say to you, Smite Amnon, and slay him: fear not; for is it not I that command you? Be courageous, and be valiant. <sup>29</sup> And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom commanded them: and all the sons of the king rose up, and they mounted every man his mule, and fled.

<sup>30</sup> And it came to pass, when they were in the way, that a report came to David, saying, Absalom has slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left. <sup>31</sup> Then the king arose, and

rent his garments, and lay upon the ground: and all his servants that were standing round him rent their garments. <sup>32</sup> And Jonadab the son of Shimeah brother of David, answered and said, Let not my lord the king say that he has slain all the young men the sons of the king, for Amnon only of them all is dead; for he was appointed *to death* by the mouth of Absalom from the day that he humbled his sister Tamar. <sup>33</sup> And now let not my lord the king take the matter to heart, saying, All the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only of them all is dead.

<sup>34</sup> And Absalom escaped: and the young man the watchman lifted up his eyes, and looked; and, behold, much people went in the way behind him from the side of the mountain in the descent: and the watchman came and told the king, and said, I have seen men by the way of Horonaim, by the side of the mountain. <sup>35</sup> And Jonadab said to the king, Behold, the king's sons are present: according to the word of thy servant, so has it happened. <sup>36</sup> And it came to pass when he had finished speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voices and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept with a very great weeping.

<sup>37</sup> But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai son of Ammihud king of Geshur to the land of Chamaachad: and King David mourned for his son continually. <sup>38</sup> So Absalom fled, and departed to Geshur, and was there three years. <sup>39</sup> And King David ceased to go out after Absalom, for he was comforted concerning Amnon,

touching his death.

## 14

<sup>1</sup> And Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the heart of the king was toward Absalom. <sup>2</sup> And Joab sent to Tekoa, and took thence a cunning woman, and said to her, Mourn, I pray thee, and put on mourning apparel, and anoint thee not with oil, and thou shalt be as a woman mourning for one that is dead thus for many days. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt go to the king, and speak to him according to this word. And Joab put the words in her mouth.

<sup>4</sup> So the woman of Tekoa went in to the king and fell upon her face to the earth, and did him obeisance, and said, Help, O king, help. <sup>5</sup> And the king said to her, What is the matter with thee?

And she said, I am indeed a widow woman, and my husband is dead. <sup>6</sup> And moreover thy handmaid had two sons, and they fought together in the field, and there was no one to part them; and the one smote the other his brother, and slew him. <sup>7</sup> And behold the whole family rose up against thy handmaid, and they said, Give up the one that smote his brother, and we will put him to death for the life of his brother, whom he slew, and we will take away even your heir: so they will quench my coal that is left, so as not to leave my husband remnant or name on the face of the earth.

<sup>8</sup> And the king said to the woman, Go in peace to thy house, and I will give commandment concerning thee. <sup>9</sup> And the woman of Tekoa said

to the king, On me, my lord, O king, and on my father's house *be* the iniquity, and the king and his throne *be* guiltless. <sup>10</sup> And the king said, Who was it that spoke to thee? thou shalt even bring him to me, and *one* shall not touch him anymore. <sup>11</sup> And she said, Let now the king remember concerning his Lord God in that the avenger of blood is multiplied to destroy, and let them not take away my son. And he said, As the Lord lives, not a hair of thy son shall fall to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> And the woman said, Let now thy servant speak a word to my lord the king. And he said, Say on. <sup>13</sup> And the woman said, Why hast thou devised this thing against the people of God? or *is* this word out of the king's mouth as a transgression, so that the king should not bring back his banished? <sup>14</sup> For we shall surely die, and be as water poured upon the earth, which shall not be gathered up, and God shall take the life, even as he devises to thrust forth from him his outcast. <sup>15</sup> And now whereas I came to speak this word to my lord the king, *the reason is* that the people will see me, and thy handmaid will say, Let one now speak to my lord the king, if peradventure the king will perform the request of his handmaid; <sup>16</sup> for the king will hear. Let him rescue his handmaid out of the hand of the man that seeks to cast out me and my son from the inheritance of God. <sup>17</sup> And the woman said, If now the word of my lord the king be gracious —*well*: for as an angel of God, so *is* my lord the king, to hear good and evil: and the Lord thy God shall be with thee.

18 And the king answered, and said to the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the matter which I ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king by all means speak. 19 And the king said, *Is not the hand of Joab in all this matter with thee?* and the woman said to the king, *As thy soul lives, my lord, O king, there is no turning to the right hand or to the left from all that my lord the king has spoken; for thy servant Joab himself charged me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thy handmaid.* 20 In order that this form of speech might come about *it was* that thy servant Joab has framed this matter: and my lord is wise as *is* the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

21 And the king said to Joab, Behold now, I have done to thee according to this thy word: go, bring back the young man Absalom. 22 And Joab fell on his face to the ground, and did obeisance, and blessed the king: and Joab said, Today thy servant knows that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, for my lord the king has performed the request of his servant. 23 And Joab arose, and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 And the king said, Let him return to his house, and not see my face. And Absalom returned to his house, and saw not the king's face.

25 And there was not a man in Israel so very comely as Absalom: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. 26 And when he polled his head (and it was at the beginning of every year that he polled it,

because it grew heavy upon him), even when he polled it, he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels according to the royal shekel.

<sup>27</sup> And there were born to Absalom three sons and one daughter, and her name was Tamar: she was a very beautiful woman, and she becomes the wife of Rehoboam son of Solomon, and she bears to him Abijah.

<sup>28</sup> And Absalom remained in Jerusalem two full years, and he saw not the king's face. <sup>29</sup> And Absalom sent to Joab to bring him in to the king, and he would not come to him: and he sent to him the second time, and he would not come.

<sup>30</sup> And Absalom said to his servants, Behold, Joab's portion in the field is next to mine, and he has in it barley; go and set it on fire. And the servants of Absalom set the field on fire: and the servants of Joab come to him with their clothes rent, and they said to him, The servants of Absalom have set the field on fire. <sup>31</sup> And Joab arose, and came to Absalom into the house, and said to him, Why have thy servants set my field on fire? <sup>32</sup> And Absalom said to Joab, Behold, I sent to thee, saying, Come hither, and I will send thee to the king, saying, Why did I come out of Geshur? it would have been better for me to have remained there: and now, behold, I have not seen the face of the king; but if there is iniquity in me, then put me to death.

<sup>33</sup> And Joab went in to the king, and brought him word: and he called Absalom, and he went in to the king, and did him obeisance, and fell upon his face to the ground, even in the presence of the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

# 15

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass after this that Absalom prepared for himself chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. <sup>2</sup> And Absalom rose early, and stood by the side of the way of the gate: and it came to pass that every man who had a cause, came to the king for judgment, and Absalom cried to him, and said to him, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel. <sup>3</sup> And Absalom said to him, See, thy affairs *are* right and clear, yet thou hast no one *appointed* of the king to hear thee. <sup>4</sup> And Absalom said, O that one would make me a judge in the land; then every man who had a dispute or a cause would come to me, and I would judge him! <sup>5</sup> And it came to pass when a man came near to do him obeisance, that he stretched out his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him. <sup>6</sup> And Absalom did after this manner to all Israel that came to the king for judgment; and Absalom gained the hearts of the men of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said to his father, I will go now, and pay my vows, which I vowed to the Lord in Hebron. <sup>8</sup> For thy servant vowed a vow when I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the Lord should indeed restore me to Jerusalem, then will I serve the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And the king said to him, Go in peace. And he arose and went to Hebron.

<sup>10</sup> And Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, When ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then shall ye say, Absalom is become king in Hebron. <sup>11</sup> And there went

with Absalom two hundred chosen men from Jerusalem; and they went in their simplicity, and knew not anything. <sup>12</sup> And Absalom sent to Ahithophel the Theconite, the counselor of David, from his city, from Giloh, where he was sacrificing: and there was a strong conspiracy; and the people with Absalom were increasingly numerous.

<sup>13</sup> And there came a messenger to David, saying, The heart of the men of Israel is gone after Absalom. <sup>14</sup> And David said to all his servants who were with him in Jerusalem, Rise, and let us flee, for we have no refuge from Absalom: make haste and go, lest he overtake us speedily, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword. <sup>15</sup> And the king's servants said to the king, In all things which our lord the king chooses, behold *we are* thy servants.

<sup>16</sup> And the king and all his house went out on foot: and the king left ten women of his concubines to keep the house. <sup>17</sup> And the king and all his servants went out on foot; and abode in a distant house. <sup>18</sup> And all his servants passed on by his side, and every Cherethite, and every Pelethite, and they stood by the olive tree in the wilderness: and all the people marched near him, and all his court, and all the men of might, and all the men of war, six hundred: and they were present at his side: and every Cherethite, and every Pelethite, and all the six hundred Gittites that came on foot out of Gath, and they went on before the king.

<sup>19</sup> And the king said to Ittai the Gittite, Why

dost thou also go with us? return, and dwell with the king, for thou art a stranger, and thou hast come forth as a sojourner out of thy place. <sup>20</sup> Whereas thou camest yesterday, shall I today cause thee to travel with us, and shalt thou *thus* change thy place? thou didst come forth yesterday, and today shall I set thee in motion to go along with us? I indeed will go whithersoever I may go: return then, and cause thy brethren to return with thee, and may the Lord deal mercifully and truly with thee. <sup>21</sup> And Ittai answered the king and said, As the Lord lives and as my lord the king lives, in the place wheresoever my lord shall be, whether it be for death or life, there shall thy servant be. <sup>22</sup> And the king said to Ittai, Come and pass over with me. So Ittai the Gittite and the king passed over, and all his servants, and all the multitude with him.

<sup>23</sup> And all the country wept with a loud voice. And all the people passed by over the brook of Kidron; and the king crossed the brook Kidron: and all the people and the king passed on toward the way of the wilderness.

<sup>24</sup> And behold also Zadok, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Baethar: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had passed out of the city. <sup>25</sup> And the king said to Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I should find favor in the eyes of the Lord, then will he bring me back, and he will show me it and its beauty. <sup>26</sup> But if he should say thus, I

have no pleasure in thee; behold, *here* I am, let him do to me according to that which is good in his eyes.

<sup>27</sup> And the king said to Zadok the priest, Behold, thou shalt return to the city in peace, and Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar, your two sons with you. <sup>28</sup> Behold, I continue in arms in Araboth of the desert, until there come tidings from you to report to me. <sup>29</sup> So Zadok and Abiathar brought back the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, and it continued there.

<sup>30</sup> And David went up by the ascent of *the mount of Olives*, ascending and weeping, and had his head covered, and went barefooted: and all the people that were with him covered *every* man his head; and they went up, ascending and weeping. <sup>31</sup> And it was reported to David, saying, Ahithophel also *is* among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O Lord my God, disconcert, I pray thee, the counsel of Ahithophel.

<sup>32</sup> And David came as far as Ros, where he worshiped God: and behold, Hushai the chief friend of David came out to meet him, having rent his garment, and earth *was* upon his head. <sup>33</sup> And David said to him, If thou shouldst go over with me, then wilt thou be a burden to me; <sup>34</sup> but if thou shall return to the city, and shalt say to Absalom, Thy brethren are passed over, and the king thy father is passed over after me: and now I am thy servant, O king, suffer me to live: at one time even of late I was the servant of thy father, and now I *am* thy humble servant—so shalt thou disconcert for me the counsel of

Ahithophel. <sup>35</sup> And, behold, *there are* there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests; and it shall be that every word that thou shalt hear of the house of the king, thou shalt report it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. <sup>36</sup> Behold, *there are* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar; and by them ye shall report to me every word which ye shall hear. <sup>37</sup> So Hushai the friend of David went into the city, and Absalom was lately gone into Jerusalem.

## 16

<sup>1</sup> And David passed on a little way from Ros; and, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth *came* to meet him; and he had a couple of asses laden, and upon them two hundred loaves, and a hundred *bunches of* raisins, and a hundred *cakes of* dates, and a bottle of wine. <sup>2</sup> And the king said to Ziba, What meanest thou by these? and Ziba said, The asses *are* for the household of the king to sit upon, and the loaves and the dates *are* for the young men to eat, and the wine *is* for them that are faint in the wilderness to drink. <sup>3</sup> And the king said, And where *is* the son of thy master? and Ziba said to the king, Behold, he remains in Jerusalem; for he said, Today shall the house of Israel restore to me the kingdom of my father. <sup>4</sup> And the king said to Ziba, Behold, all Mephibosheth's property *is* thine. And Ziba did obeisance and said, My lord, O king, let me find grace in thine eyes.

<sup>5</sup> And King David came to Bahurim; and, behold, there came out from thence a man of the family of the house of Saul, and his name *was* Shimei the son of Gera. He came forth and cursed as he went, <sup>6</sup> and cast stones at David, and at all the servants of King David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on the right and left hand of the king. <sup>7</sup> And thus Shimei said when he cursed him, Go out, go out, thou bloody man, and man of sin. <sup>8</sup> The Lord has returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, because thou hast reigned in his stead; and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou *art taken* in thy mischief, because thou *art* a bloody man.

<sup>9</sup> And Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, Why does this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over now and take off his head. <sup>10</sup> And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? even let him alone, and so let him curse, for the Lord has told him to curse David: and who shall say, Why hast thou done thus? <sup>11</sup> And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, Behold, my son who came forth out of my bowels seeks my life; still more now may the son of Benjamin: let him curse, because the Lord has told him. <sup>12</sup> If by any means the Lord may look on my affliction, thus shall he return me good for his cursing this day.

<sup>13</sup> And David and all the men with him went on the way: and Shimei went by the side of the hill next to him, cursing as he went, and casting stones at him, and sprinkling him with

dirt. <sup>14</sup> And the king, and all the people with him, came away and refreshed themselves there.

<sup>15</sup> And Absalom and all the men of Israel went into Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. <sup>16</sup> And it came to pass when Hushai the chief friend of David came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, Let the king live. <sup>17</sup> And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not forth with thy friend?* <sup>18</sup> And Hushai said to Absalom, Nay, but following whom the Lord, and this people, and all Israel have chosen—his will I be, and with him will I dwell. <sup>19</sup> And again, whom shall I serve? should I not in the presence of his son? As I served in the sight of thy father, so will I be in thy presence.

<sup>20</sup> And Absalom said to Ahithophel, Deliberate among yourselves concerning what we should do. <sup>21</sup> And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to thy father's concubines, whom he left to keep his house; and all Israel shall hear that thou hast dishonored thy father; and the hands of all that are with thee shall be strengthened. <sup>22</sup> And they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. <sup>23</sup> And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counseled in former days, *was as if one should inquire of the word of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both to David and also to Absalom.*

## 17

<sup>1</sup> And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Let me now choose out for myself twelve thousand men, and

I will arise and follow after David this night: <sup>2</sup> and I will come upon him when he *is* weary and weakhanded, and I will strike him with terror; and all the people with him shall flee, and I will smite the king only of all. <sup>3</sup> And I will bring back all the people to thee, as a bride returns to her husband: only thou seekest the life of one man, and all the people shall have peace. <sup>4</sup> And the saying *was* right in the eyes of Absalom, and in the eyes of all the elders of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> And Absalom said, Call now also Hushai the Archite, and let us hear what *is* in his mouth, even in his also. <sup>6</sup> And Hushai went in to Absalom, and Absalom spoke to him, saying, After this manner spoke Ahithophel: shall we do according to his word? but if not, do thou speak.

<sup>7</sup> And Hushai said to Absalom, This counsel which Ahithophel has counseled this one time *is* not good. <sup>8</sup> And Hushai said, Thou knowest thy father and his men, that they are very mighty, and bitter in their spirit, as a bereaved bear in the field, and as a wild boar in the plain: and thy father *is* a man of war, and will not give the people rest. <sup>9</sup> For, behold, he is now hidden in one of the hills or in some *other* place: and it shall come to pass when he falls upon them at the beginning, that *someone* will certainly hear, and say, There has been a slaughter among the people that follow after Absalom. <sup>10</sup> Then even he *that is* strong, whose heart is as the heart of a lion—it shall utterly melt: for all Israel knows that thy father *is* mighty, and they that are with him *are* mighty men. <sup>11</sup> For thus I have

surely given counsel, that all Israel be generally gathered to thee from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is upon the seashore for multitude: and that thy presence go in the midst of them.

<sup>12</sup> And we will come upon him in one of the places where we shall find him, and we will encamp against him, as the dew falls upon the earth; and we will not leave of him and of his men so much as one. <sup>13</sup> And if he shall have taken refuge with his army in a city, then shall all Israel take ropes to that city, and we will draw it even into the river, that there may not be left there even a stone.

<sup>14</sup> And Absalom, and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the Lord ordained to disconcert the good counsel of Ahithophel, that the Lord might bring all evil upon Absalom.

<sup>15</sup> And Hushai the Archite said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counseled. <sup>16</sup> And now send quickly and report to David, saying, Lodge not this night in Araboth of the wilderness: even go and make haste, lest *one* swallow up the king, and all the people with him.

<sup>17</sup> And Jonathan and Ahimaaz stood by the well of Rogel, and a maidservant went and reported to them, and they go and tell King David; for they might not be seen to enter into the city. <sup>18</sup> But a young man saw them and told Absalom: and the two went quickly, and entered into the house of a man in Bahurim; and he had a well in his court, and they went down into it. <sup>19</sup> And a woman

took a covering, and spread it over the mouth of the well, and spread out ground corn upon it to dry, and the thing was not known. <sup>20</sup> And the servants of Absalom came to the woman into the house, and said, Where *are* Ahimaaz and Jonathan? and the woman said to them, They are gone a little way beyond the water. And they sought and found them not, and returned to Jerusalem. <sup>21</sup> And it came to pass after they were gone, that they came up out of the pit, and went on their way; and reported to King David, and said to David, Arise ye and go quickly over the water, for thus has Ahithophel counseled concerning you.

<sup>22</sup> And David rose up and all the people with him, and they passed over Jordan till the morning light; there was not one missing who did not pass over Jordan.

<sup>23</sup> And Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, and he saddled his ass, and rose and departed to his house into his city; and he gave orders to his household, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulcher of his father.

<sup>24</sup> And David passed over to Mahanaim: and Absalom crossed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. <sup>25</sup> And Absalom appointed Amasa in the room of Joab over the host. And Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Jether of Jezreel: he went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, the sister of Zeruiah the mother of Joab. <sup>26</sup> And all Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

<sup>27</sup> And it came to pass when David came to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and Machir son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, <sup>28</sup> brought ten embroidered beds (with double coverings), and ten caldrons, and earthenware, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and meal, and beans, and pulse, <sup>29</sup> and honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheeses of kine: and they brought them to David and to his people with him to eat; for *one* said, The people *is* faint and hungry and thirsty in the wilderness.

## 18

<sup>1</sup> And David numbered the people with him, and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds. <sup>2</sup> And David sent away the people, the third part under the hand of Joab, and the third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, the brother of Joab, and the third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And David said to the people, I also will surely go out with you. <sup>3</sup> And they said, Thou shalt not go out: for if we should indeed flee, they will not care for us; and if half of us should die, they will not mind us; for thou *art* as ten thousand of us: and now *it is* well that thou shalt be to us an aid to help us in the city. <sup>4</sup> And the king said to them, Whatsoever shall seem good in your eyes I will do. And the king stood by the side of the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

<sup>5</sup> And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Spare for my sake the young man Absalom. And all the people heard the king charging all the commanders concerning Absalom.

<sup>6</sup> And all the people went out into the wood against Israel; and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim. <sup>7</sup> And the people of Israel fell down there before the servants of David, and there was a great slaughter in that day, *even* twenty thousand men. <sup>8</sup> And the battle there was scattered over the face of all the land: and the wood consumed more of the people than the sword consumed among the people in that day. <sup>9</sup> And Absalom went to meet the servants of David: and Absalom was mounted on his mule, and the mule came under the thick boughs of a great oak; and his head was entangled in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth; and the mule passed on from under him.

<sup>10</sup> And a man saw it, and reported to Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak. <sup>11</sup> And Joab said to the man who reported it to him, And, behold, thou didst see him: why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten *pieces* of silver, and a girdle. <sup>12</sup> And the man said to Joab, Were I even to receive a thousand shekels of silver, I would not lift my hand against the king's son; for in our ears the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Take care of the young man Absalom for me, <sup>13</sup> so as to do no harm to his life: and nothing of the matter will be concealed from the king,

and thou wilt set thyself against me. <sup>14</sup> And Joab said, I will begin this; I will not thus remain with thee. And Joab took three darts in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the heart of the oak. <sup>15</sup> And ten young men that bore Joab's armor compassed Absalom, and smote him and slew him.

<sup>16</sup> And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab spared the people. <sup>17</sup> And he took Absalom, and cast him into a great cavern in the wood, into a deep pit, and set up over him a very great heap of stones: and all Israel fled every man to his tent. <sup>18</sup> Now Absalom while yet alive had taken and set up for himself the pillar near which he was taken, and set it up so as to have the pillar in the king's dale; for he said he had no son to keep his name in remembrance: and he called the pillar, Absalom's hand, until this day.

<sup>19</sup> And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, Let me run now and carry glad tidings to the king, for the Lord has delivered him from the hand of his enemies. <sup>20</sup> And Joab said to him, Thou *shalt* not *be* a messenger of glad tidings this day; thou shalt bear them another day; but on this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. <sup>21</sup> And Joab said to Hushai, Go, report to the king all that thou hast seen. And Hushai did obeisance to Joab, and went out. <sup>22</sup> And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, Nay, let me also run after Hushai. And Joab said, Why wouldest thou thus run, my son? attend, thou hast no tidings for profit if thou go. <sup>23</sup> And he said, Why should I not

run? and Joab said to him, Run. And Ahimaaz ran along the way of Kechar, and outran Hushai.

<sup>24</sup> And David was sitting between the two gates: and the watchman went up on the top of the gate of the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone before him.

<sup>25</sup> And the watchman cried out, and reported to the king. And the king said, If he be alone, *there are* good tidings in his mouth. And the man came and drew near.

<sup>26</sup> And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman cried at the gate, and said, And look, another man running alone. And the king said, He also brings glad tidings. <sup>27</sup> And the watchman said, I see the running of the first as the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and will come to *report* glad tidings.

<sup>28</sup> And Ahimaaz cried out and said to the king, Peace. And he did obeisance to the king with his face to the ground, and said, Blessed *be* the Lord thy God, who has delivered up the men that lifted up their hands against my lord the king. <sup>29</sup> And the king said, *Is* the young man Absalom safe? and Ahimaaz said, I saw a great multitude *at the time* of Joab's sending the king's servant and thy servant, and I knew not what was there. <sup>30</sup> And the king said, Turn aside, stand still here. And he turned aside, and stood.

<sup>31</sup> And, behold, Hushai came up, and said to the king, Let my lord the king hear glad tidings, for the Lord has avenged thee this day upon all them that rose up against thee. <sup>32</sup> And the king said to

Hushai, Is it well with the young man Absalom? and Hushai said, Let the enemies of my lord the king, and all whosoever have risen up against him for evil, be as that young man.

## 19

<sup>1</sup> And the king was troubled, and went to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and thus he said as he went, My son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom; would God I had died for thee, *even I had died* for thee, Absalom, my son, my son!

<sup>2</sup> And they brought Joab word, saying, Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Absalom. <sup>3</sup> And the victory was turned that day into mourning to all the people, for the people heard say that day, The king grieves after his son. <sup>4</sup> And the people stole away that day to go into the city, as people steal away when they are ashamed as they flee in the battle. <sup>5</sup> And the king hid his face: and the king cried with a loud voice, My son Absalom! Absalom my son!

<sup>6</sup> And Joab went in to the king, into the house, and said, Thou hast this day shamed the faces of all thy servants that have delivered thee this day, and *have saved* the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and of thy concubines, <sup>7</sup> forasmuch as thou lovest them that hate thee, and hatest them that love thee; and thou hast this day declared, that thy princes and thy servants are nothing *in thy sight*: for I know this day, that if Absalom were alive, *and* all of us dead today, then it would have been right in thy sight. <sup>8</sup> And now arise, and go forth,

and speak comfortably to thy servants; for I have sworn by the Lord, that unless thou wilt go forth today, there shall not a man remain with thee this night: and know for thyself, this thing *will* indeed *be* evil to thee beyond all the evil that has come upon thee from thy youth until now.

<sup>9</sup> Then the king arose, and sat in the gate: and all the people reported, saying, Behold, the king sits in the gate. And all the people went in before the king to the gate; for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

<sup>10</sup> And all the people disputed among all the tribes of Israel, saying, King David delivered us from all our enemies, and he rescued us from the hand of the Philistines: and now he has fled from the land, and from his kingdom, and from Absalom. <sup>11</sup> And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle: and now why are ye silent about bringing back the king? And the word of all Israel came to the king.

<sup>12</sup> And King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak to the elders of Israel, saying, Why are ye the last to bring back the king to his house? whereas the word of all Israel is come to the king to his house. <sup>13</sup> Ye *are* my brethren, ye *are* my bones and my flesh: why are ye the last to bring back the king to his house?

<sup>14</sup> And ye shall say to Amasa, *Art* thou not my bone and my flesh? and now God do so to me, and more also, if thou shalt not be commander of the host before me continually in the room of Joab. <sup>15</sup> And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah as that of one man; and they sent to the

king, saying, Return thou, and all thy servants.  
<sup>16</sup> And the king returned, and came as far as Jordan. And the men of Judah came to Gilgal on their way to meet the king, to cause the king to pass over Jordan.

<sup>17</sup> And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, of Bahurim, hastened and went down with the men of Judah to meet King David. <sup>18</sup> And a thousand men of Benjamin *were* with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons with him, and his twenty servants with him: and they went directly down to Jordan before the king, <sup>19</sup> and they performed the service of bringing the king over; and there went over a ferryboat to remove the household of the king, and to do that which was right in his eyes. And Shimei the son of Gera fell on his face before the king, as he went over Jordan; <sup>20</sup> and said to the king, Let not my lord now impute iniquity, and remember not all the iniquity of thy servant in the day in which my lord went out from Jerusalem, so that the king should mind it. <sup>21</sup> For thy servant knows that I have sinned: and, behold, I am come today before all Israel and the house of Joseph, to go down and meet my lord the king.

<sup>22</sup> And Abishai the son of Zeruah answered and said, Shall not Shimei therefore be put to death, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?  
<sup>23</sup> And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah, that ye as it were lie in wait against me this day? today no man in Israel shall be put to death, for I know not if I this day reign

over Israel. <sup>24</sup> And the king said to Shimei, Thou shalt not die: and the king swore to him.

<sup>25</sup> And Mephibosheth the son of Saul's son went down to meet the king, and had not dressed his feet, nor pared his nails, nor shaved himself, neither had he washed his garments, from the day that the king departed, until the day when he arrived in peace.

<sup>26</sup> And it came to pass when he went into Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, Why didst thou not go with me, Mephibosheth? <sup>27</sup> And Mephibosheth said to him, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for thy servant said to him, Saddle me the ass, and I will ride upon it, and go with the king; for thy servant is lame. <sup>28</sup> And he has dealt deceitfully with thy servant to my lord the king: but my lord the king is as an angel of God, and do thou that which is good in thine eyes. <sup>29</sup> For all the house of my father were but as dead men before my lord the king; yet thou hast set thy servant among them that eat at thy table: and what right have I any longer even to cry to the king?

<sup>30</sup> And the king said to him, Why speakest thou any longer of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba shall divide the land. <sup>31</sup> And Mephibosheth said to the king, Yea, let him take all, since my lord the king has come in peace to his house.

<sup>32</sup> And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and crossed over Jordan with the king, that he might conduct the king over Jordan. <sup>33</sup> And Barzillai was a very old man, eighty years old; and he had maintained the king when he

dwelt in Mahanaim; for he was a very great man. <sup>34</sup> And the king said to Barzillai, Thou shalt go over with me, and I will nourish thine old age with me in Jerusalem. <sup>35</sup> 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? <sup>36</sup> I am this day eighty years old: can I then distinguish between good and evil? Can thy servant taste any longer what I eat or drink? can I any longer hear the voice of singing men or singing women? and wherefore shall thy servant any longer be a burden to my lord the king? <sup>37</sup> Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why does the king return me this recompense? <sup>38</sup> Let, I pray thee, thy servant remain, and I will die in my city, by the tomb of my father and of my mother. And, behold, thy servant Chimham shall go over with my lord the king; and do thou to him as it seems good in thine eyes. <sup>39</sup> And the king said, Let Chimham go over with me, and I will do to him what is good in my sight; and whatsoever thou shalt choose at my hand, I will do for thee.

<sup>40</sup> And all the people went over Jordan, and the king went over; and the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned to his place. <sup>41</sup> And the king went over to Gilgal, and Chimham went over with him: and all the men of Judah went over with the king, and also half the people of Israel.

<sup>42</sup> And behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away,

and caused the king and all his house to pass over Jordan, and all the men of David with him? <sup>43</sup> And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, and said, Because the king is near of kin to us: and why were you thus angry concerning this matter? have we indeed eaten of the king's food? or has he given us a gift, or has he sent us a portion? <sup>44</sup> And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we are older than you, we have also an interest in David above you: and why have ye thus insulted us, and why was not our advice taken before that of Judah, to bring back our king? And the speech of the men of Judah was sharper than the speech of the men of Israel.

## 20

<sup>1</sup> And there was a transgressor *so* called there, and his name was Sheba, a Benjaminite, the son of Bichri: and he blew the trumpet, and said, We have no portion in David, neither have we *any* inheritance in the son of Jesse: to thy tents, O Israel, every one. <sup>2</sup> And all the men of Israel went up from following David after Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah adhered to their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And David went into his house at Jerusalem: and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and he put them in a place of custody, and maintained them, and went not in to them; and they were kept living as widows, till the day of their death.

<sup>4</sup> And the king said to Amasa, Call to me the men of Judah for three days, and do thou be present here. <sup>5</sup> And Amasa went to call Judah, and delayed beyond the time which David appointed him. <sup>6</sup> And David said to Amasa, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than Absalom: now then take thou with thee the servants of thy lord, and follow after him, lest he find for himself strong cities, so will he blind our eyes. <sup>7</sup> And there went out after him Amasa and the men of Joab, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out from Jerusalem to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

<sup>8</sup> And they *were* by the great stone that is in Gibeon: and Amasa went in before them: and Joab had upon him a military cloak over his apparel, and over it he was girded with a dagger fastened upon his loins in its scabbard: and the dagger came out, it even came out and fell.

<sup>9</sup> And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, *my* brother? and the right hand of Joab took hold of the beard of Amasa to kiss him. <sup>10</sup> And Amasa observed not the dagger that was in the hand of Joab: and Joab smote him with it on the loins, and his bowels were shed out upon the ground, and he did not repeat the blow, and he died: and Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri. <sup>11</sup> And there stood over him one of the servants of Joab, and said, *Who is he that is for Joab, and who is on the side of David following Joab?* <sup>12</sup> And Amasa *was* weltering in blood in the midst of the way. And a man saw

that all the people stood still; and he removed Amasa out of the path into a field, and he cast a garment upon him, because he saw everyone that came to him standing still. <sup>13</sup> And when he was quickly removed from the road, every man of Israel passed after Joab to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

<sup>14</sup> And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, and to Beth-maacah; and all in Charri too were assembled, and followed after him. <sup>15</sup> And they came and besieged him in Abel and Beth-maacah: and they raised a mound against the city and it stood close to the wall; and all the people with Joab proposed to throw down the wall. <sup>16</sup> And a wise woman cried from the wall, and said, Hear, hear; say, I pray ye, to Joab, Draw near hither, and I will speak to him.

<sup>17</sup> And he drew nigh to her, and the woman said to him, Art thou Joab? and he said, I *am*. And she said to him, Hear the words of thy handmaid; and Joab said, I do hear. <sup>18</sup> And she spoke, saying, Of old time they said thus, Surely one was asked in Abel, and Dan, whether the faithful in Israel failed in what they purposed; they will surely ask in Abel, even in like manner, whether they have failed. <sup>19</sup> I am a peaceable one of the strong ones in Israel; but thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother-city in Israel: why dost thou seek to ruin the inheritance of the Lord? <sup>20</sup> And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should ruin or destroy. <sup>21</sup> Is not the case thus, that a man of Mount Ephraim, Sheba son of Bichri by name, has even

lifted up his hand against King David? Give him only to me, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said to Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.

<sup>22</sup> And the woman went in to all the people, and she spoke to all the city in her wisdom; and they took off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri; and took it away and threw it to Joab: and he blew the trumpet, and the people separated from the city away from him, every man to his tent: and Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

<sup>23</sup> And Joab *was* over all the forces of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites. <sup>24</sup> And Adoram *was* over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder. <sup>25</sup> And Sheva *was* scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar *were* priests. <sup>26</sup> Moreover Ira the *son of* Jair was priest to David.

## 21

<sup>1</sup> And there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David sought the face of the Lord. And the Lord said, *There is guilt upon Saul and his house because of his bloody murder, whereby he slew the Gibeonites.*

<sup>2</sup> And King David called the Gibeonites, and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites are not the children of Israel, but *are* of the remnant of the Amorite, and the children of Israel had sworn to them: but Saul sought to smite them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.)

<sup>3</sup> And David said to the Gibeonites, What shall I do to you? and wherewithal shall I make

atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the Lord? <sup>4</sup> And the Gibeonites said to him, We have no *question about* silver or gold with Saul and with his house; and there is no man for us to put to death in Israel. <sup>5</sup> And he said, What say ye? speak, and I will do it for you. And they said to the king, The man who would have made an end of us, and persecuted us, who plotted against us to destroy us, let us utterly destroy him, so that he shall have no standing in all the coasts of Israel. <sup>6</sup> Let one give us seven men of his sons, and let us hang them up in the sun to the Lord in Gibeon of Saul, as chosen out for the Lord. And the king said, I will give *them*.

<sup>7</sup> But the king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the oath of the Lord that was between them, even between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

<sup>8</sup> And the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth, and the five sons of Michal daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. <sup>9</sup> And he gave them into the hand of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them up to the sun in the mountain before the Lord: and they fell, even the seven together: moreover they were put to death in the days of harvest at the commencement, in the beginning of barley harvest. <sup>10</sup> And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and fixed it for herself on the rock in the beginning of barley harvest, until water dropped upon them out of heaven: and she did not suffer the birds of the air to rest

upon them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

<sup>11</sup> And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah the concubine of Saul had done, and they were faint, and Dan the son of Joa of the offspring of the giants overtook them. <sup>12</sup> And David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of the sons of Jabesh-gilead, who stole them from the street of Beth-shan; for the Philistines set them there in the day in which the Philistines smote Saul in Gilboa. <sup>13</sup> And he carried up thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son, and gathered the bones of them that had been hanged. <sup>14</sup> And they buried the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son, and the bones of them that had been hanged, in the land of Benjamin in the hill, in the sepulcher of Kish his father; and they did all things that the king commanded: and after this God hearkened to *the prayers of the land*.

<sup>15</sup> And there was yet war between the Philistines and Israel: and David went down and his servants with him, and they fought with the Philistines, and David went. <sup>16</sup> And Ishbi, who was of the progeny of Rapha, and the head of whose spear *was* three hundred shekels of brass in weight, who also was girded with a club, even he thought to smite David. <sup>17</sup> And Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him and smote the Philistine, and slew him. Then the men of David swore, saying, Thou shalt not any longer go out with us to battle, and thou shalt not quench the lamp of

Israel.

<sup>18</sup> And after this there was a battle again with the Philistines in Gath: then Sibbecai the Hushathite slew Saph of the progeny of Rapha.

<sup>19</sup> And there was a battle in Gob with the Philistines; and Elhanan son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite slew Goliath the Gittite; and the staff of his spear *was* as a weaver's beam. <sup>20</sup> And there was yet a battle in Gath: and there was a man of stature, and the fingers of his hands and the toes of his feet *were* six on each, four and twenty in number: and he also was born to Rapha. <sup>21</sup> And he defied Israel, and Jonathan son of Shimei brother of David, smote him.

<sup>22</sup> These four were born descendants of the giants in Gath, the family of Rapha; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

## 22

<sup>1</sup> And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song, in the day in which the Lord rescued him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul. <sup>2</sup> And the song was thus:

O Lord, my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer,

<sup>3</sup> My God; he shall be to me my guard, I will trust in him:

*He is my protector, and the horn of my salvation, My helper, and my sure refuge;*

Thou shalt save me from the unjust man.

<sup>4</sup> I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised,

And I shall be saved from my enemies.

<sup>5</sup> For the troubles of death compassed me,  
The floods of iniquity amazed me:

<sup>6</sup> The pangs of death surrounded me,  
The agonies of death prevented me.

<sup>7</sup> When I am afflicted I will call upon the Lord,  
And will cry to my God,  
And he shall hear my voice out of his temple,  
And my cry shall come into his ears.

<sup>8</sup> And the earth was troubled and quaked,  
And the foundations of heaven were confounded  
and torn asunder,

Because the Lord was wroth with them.

<sup>9</sup> There went up a smoke in his wrath,  
And fire out of his mouth devours:  
Coals were kindled at it.

<sup>10</sup> And he bowed the heavens, and came down,  
And *there was* darkness under his feet.

<sup>11</sup> And he rode upon the cherubs and did fly,  
And was seen upon the wings of the wind.

<sup>12</sup> And he made darkness his hiding place;  
His tabernacle round about him was the dark-  
ness of waters,

He condensed it with the clouds of the air.

<sup>13</sup> At the brightness before him

Coals of fire were kindled.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord thundered out of heaven,  
And the Most High uttered his voice.

<sup>15</sup> And he sent forth arrows, and scattered them,  
And he flashed lightning, and dismayed them.

<sup>16</sup> And the channels of the sea were seen,  
And the foundations of the world were discov-  
ered,

At the rebuke of the Lord,

At the blast of the breath of his anger.

17 He sent from above and took me;

He drew me out of many waters.

18 He delivered me from my strong enemies,  
From them that hated me, for they were stronger  
than I.

19 The days of my affliction prevented me;

But the Lord was my stay.

20 And he brought me into a wide place,  
And rescued me, because he delighted in me.

21 And the Lord recompensed me according to  
my righteousness;

Even according to the purity of my hands did he  
recompense me.

22 Because I kept the ways of the Lord,  
And did not wickedly depart from my God.

23 For all his judgments and his ordinances *were*  
before me:

I departed not from them.

24 And I shall be blameless before him,  
And will keep myself from my iniquity.

25 And the Lord will recompense me according  
to my righteousness,

And according to the purity of my hands in his  
eyesight.

26 With the holy thou wilt be holy,

And with the perfect man thou wilt be perfect,

27 And with the excellent thou wilt be excellent,  
And with the froward thou wilt be froward.

28 And thou wilt save the poor people,  
And wilt bring down the eyes of the haughty.

29 For thou, Lord, *art* my lamp,  
And the Lord shall shine forth to me in my  
darkness.

30 For by thee shall I run *as* a girded man,  
And by my God shall I leap over a wall.

31 As for the Mighty One, his way *is* blameless:  
The word of the Lord *is* strong *and* tried in the  
fire:

He is a protector to all that put their trust in him.

32 Who *is* strong, but the Lord?

And who will be a Creator except our God?

33 *It is* the Mighty One who strengthens me with  
might,

And has prepared my way without fault.

34 He makes my feet like harts' feet,

And sets me upon the high places.

35 He teaches my hands to war,

And has broken a brazen bow by my arm.

36 And thou hast given me the shield of my  
salvation,

And thy propitious dealing has increased me,

37 So as to make room under me for my going,

And my legs did not totter.

38 I will pursue my enemies, and will utterly  
destroy them;

And I will not turn again till I have consumed  
them.

39 And I will crush them, and they shall not rise;  
And they shall fall under my feet.

40 And thou shalt strengthen me with power for  
the war;

Thou shalt cause them that rise up against me to  
bow down under me.

41 And thou hast caused mine enemies to flee  
before me,

Even them that hated me, and thou hast slain  
them.

42 They shall cry, and there shall be no helper;  
To the Lord, but he hearkens not to them.

43 And I ground them as the dust of the earth,  
I beat them small as the mire of the streets.

44 And thou shalt deliver me from the striving of  
the peoples,

Thou shalt keep me *to be* the head of the Gentiles:  
A people which I knew not served me.

45 The strange children feigned *obedience* to me;  
They hearkened to me as soon as they heard.

46 The strange children shall be cast away,  
And shall be overthrown out of their hiding  
places.

47 The Lord lives, and blessed *be* my guardian,  
And my God, my strong keeper, shall be exalted.

48 The Lord who avenges me *is* strong,  
Chastening the nations under me,

49 And bringing me out from my enemies:  
And thou shalt set me on high from among those  
that rise up against me:

Thou shalt deliver me from the violent man.

50 Therefore will I confess to thee, O Lord, among  
the Gentiles,

And sing to thy name.

51 He magnifies the salvation of his king,  
And works mercy for his anointed,  
Even for David and for his seed forever.

## 23

<sup>1</sup> And these *are* the last words of David.  
Faithful *is* David the son of Jesse,  
And faithful the man whom the Lord raised up  
to be the anointed of the God of Jacob,  
And beautiful *are* the psalms of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,  
And his word *was* upon my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> The God of Israel says,  
A watchman out of Israel spoke to me a parable:  
I said among men, How will ye strengthen the  
fear of the anointed?

<sup>4</sup> And in the morning light of God, let the sun  
arise in the morning,  
From the light of which the Lord passed on,  
And as it were from the rain of the tender grass  
upon the earth.

<sup>5</sup> For my house *is* not so with the Mighty One:  
For he has made an everlasting covenant with  
me,

Ready, guarded at every time;  
For all my salvation and all my desire *is*,  
That the wicked should not flourish.

<sup>6</sup> All these *are* as a thorn thrust forth,  
For they shall not be taken with the hand,

<sup>7</sup> And a man shall not labor among them;  
And *one shall have* that which is fully armed with  
iron,

And the staff of a spear,  
And he shall burn them with fire, and they shall  
be burned in their shame.

<sup>8</sup> These *are* the names of the mighty men  
of David: Josheb-basshebeth the Canaanite *is* a

captain of the third *part*: Adinon the Asonite, he drew his sword against eight hundred soldiers at once. <sup>9</sup> And after him Elhanan the son of his uncle, son of Dodo who was among the three mighty men with David; and when he defied the Philistines they were gathered there to war, and the men of Israel went up. <sup>10</sup> He arose and smote the Philistines, until his hand was weary, and his hand clove to the sword: and the Lord wrought a great salvation in that day, and the people rested behind him only to strip *the slain*.

<sup>11</sup> And after him Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite: and the Philistines were gathered to Theria; and there was there a portion of ground full of lentils; and the people fled before the Philistines. <sup>12</sup> And he stood firm in the midst of the portion, and rescued it, and smote the Philistines; and the Lord wrought a great deliverance.

<sup>13</sup> And three out of the thirty went down, and came to Cason to David, to the cave of Adullam; and *there was* an army of the Philistines, and they encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>14</sup> And David *was* then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem. <sup>15</sup> And David longed, and said, Who will give me water to drink out of the well that is in Bethlehem by the gate? now the band of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem. <sup>16</sup> And the three mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well that was in Bethlehem in the gate: and they took it, and brought it to David, and he would not drink it, but poured it out before the Lord. <sup>17</sup> And he

said, O Lord, forbid that I should do this, that I should drink the blood of the men who went at *the risk of* their lives: and he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

<sup>18</sup> And Abishai the brother of Joab the son of Zeruah, he *was* chief among the three, and he lifted up his spear against three hundred whom he slew; and he had a name among three.

<sup>19</sup> Of those three *he was* most honorable, and he became a chief over them, but he reached not to the *first* three.

<sup>20</sup> And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, he was abundant in *mighty* deeds, from Kabzeel, and he smote the two sons of Ariel of Moab: and he went down and smote a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. <sup>21</sup> He smote an Egyptian, a wonderful man, and in the hand of the Egyptian *was* a spear as the side of a ladder; and he went down to him with a staff, and snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. <sup>22</sup> These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he had a name among the three mighty men. <sup>23</sup> He was honorable among the *second* three, but he reached not to the *first* three: and David made him his reporter.

And these *are* the names of King David's mighty men. <sup>24</sup> Asahel Joab's brother; he *was* among the thirty. Elhanan son of Dodo his uncle in Bethlehem. <sup>25</sup> Shammah the Rudaeon. <sup>26</sup> Helez the Kelothite: Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite. <sup>27</sup> Abiezer the Anothite, of the sons of the Anothite. <sup>28</sup> Zalmon the Ahohite; Maharai the Netophatite. <sup>29</sup> Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, son of Benjamin the Ephrathite;

Asmoth the Bardiamite; Emasu the Shaalbonite: <sup>32</sup> the sons of Jashen, Jonathan; <sup>33</sup> Shammah the Hararite; Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite. <sup>34</sup> Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maacah; Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite. <sup>35</sup> Hezro the Carmelite the son of Uraeoerchi. <sup>36</sup> Igal the son of Nathan. The son of much valor; *the son* of Galaaddi. <sup>37</sup> Elie the Ammonite. <sup>37a</sup> Adroi of the brooks. <sup>37b</sup> Abi-albon son of the Arbathite. <sup>37c</sup> Gelore the Beerothite, armor bearer to Joab, son of Zeruah. <sup>38</sup> Ira the Ithrite. Gareb the Ithrite. <sup>39</sup> Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

## 24

<sup>1</sup> And the Lord caused his anger to burn forth again in Israel, and *Satan* stirred up David against them, saying, Go, number Israel and Judah. <sup>2</sup> And the king said to Joab commander of the host, who was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel and Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number the people, and I will know the number of the people. <sup>3</sup> And Joab said to the king, Now may the Lord add to the people a hundredfold as many as they are, and *may* the eyes of my lord the king see it: but why does my lord the king desire this thing? <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless the word of the king prevailed against Joab and the captains of the host:

And Joab and the captains of the host went out before the king to number the people of Israel. <sup>5</sup> And they went over Jordan, and encamped in Aroer, on the right of the city which is in the

midst of the Valley of Gad and Eliezer. <sup>6</sup> And they came to Gilead, and into the land of Thabason, which is Adasai, and they came to Danidan and Udan, and compassed Sidon. <sup>7</sup> And they came to Mapsar of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivite and the Canaanite: and they came by the south of Judah to Beersheba. <sup>8</sup> And they compassed the whole land; and they arrived at Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. <sup>9</sup> And Joab gave in the number of the census of the people to the king: and Israel consisted of eight hundred thousand men of might that drew sword; and the men of Judah, five hundred thousand fighting men.

<sup>10</sup> And the heart of David smote him after he had numbered the people; and David said to the Lord, I have sinned grievously, O Lord, *in* what I have now done: remove, I pray thee, the iniquity of thy servant, for I have been exceedingly foolish.

<sup>11</sup> And David rose early in the morning, and the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, the seer, saying, Go, and speak to David, saying, <sup>12</sup> Thus saith the Lord, I bring *one of* three things upon thee: now choose thee one of them, and I will do *it* to thee. <sup>13</sup> And Gad went in to David, and told him, and said to him, Choose *one of these things* to befall thee, whether there shall come upon thee *for* three years famine in thy land; or that thou shouldest flee three months before thine enemies, and they should pursue thee; or that there should be *for* three days mortality in thy land. Now then decide, and see what answer

I shall return to him that sent me. <sup>14</sup> And David said to Gad, On every side I am much straitened: let me fall now into the hands of the Lord, for his compassions *are* very many; and let me not fall into the hands of man.

<sup>15</sup> So David chose for himself the mortality: and *they were* the days of wheat harvest; and the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from morning till noon, and the plague began among the people; and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. <sup>16</sup> And the angel of the Lord stretched out his hand against Jerusalem to destroy it, and the Lord repented of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, *It is enough now, withhold thy hand.* And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. <sup>17</sup> And David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel smiting the people, and he said, Behold, it is I that have done wrong, but these sheep what have they done? Let thy hand, I pray thee, be upon me, and upon my father's house.

<sup>18</sup> And Gad came to David in that day, and said to him, Go up, and set up to the Lord an altar in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. <sup>19</sup> And David went up according to the word of Gad, as the Lord commanded him. <sup>20</sup> And Araunah looked out, and saw the king and his servants coming on before him: and Araunah went forth, and did obeisance to the king with his face to the earth. <sup>21</sup> And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? and David said, To buy of thee the threshing floor,

in order to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be restrained from off the people. <sup>22</sup> And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer to the Lord that which is good in his eyes: behold, *here are* oxen for a whole burnt offering, and the wheels and furniture of the oxen for wood. <sup>23</sup> Araunah gave all to the king: and Araunah said to the king, The Lord thy God bless thee. <sup>24</sup> And the king said to Araunah, Nay, but I will surely buy it of thee at a fair price, and I will not offer to the Lord my God a whole burnt offering for nothing. So David purchased the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. <sup>25</sup> And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered up whole burnt offerings and peace offerings: and Solomon made an addition to the altar afterward, for it was little at first. And the Lord hearkened to the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

**Updated Brenton English Septuagint  
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