

Ugwalo Lwesibili LwemiLando

USolomoni Ucela Inhlakanipho

¹ USolomoni indodana kaDavida waqina embusweni wakhe, ngoba UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe wayelaye njalo wamenza waba mkhulu kakhulu.

² Kwathi uSolomoni wakhuluma kubo bonke abako-Israyeli kusukela kubalawuli bezinkulungwane labalawuli bamakhulu, kusiya kubahluleli lakubo bonke abakhokheli bako-Israyeli, abazinhloko zezimuli ³ kwaze kwathi yena uSolomoni lebandla lonke baya endaweni ephakemeyo yokukhonzela eGibhiyoni, njen-goba ithente lokuhlanganela likaNkulunkulu, elalenziwe nguMosi inceku KATHIXO enkangala lalikuleyondawo. ⁴ UDavida wayeselethe

ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu lisuka eKhiriya-ji-Jeyarimi elisa endaweni ayelilungisele yona, ngoba wayeselimizele ithente eJerusalema. ⁵ Kodwa i-alithari lethusi elalaxhiwe nguBhezaleli indodana ka-Uri, indodana kaHuri, laliseGibhiyoni phambi kwethabanikeli LIKATHIXO; ngakho uSolomoni lebandla lonke bahamba ukuyafuna intando yakhe khona. ⁶ USolomoni wasesiya e-

Alithareni lethusi phambi KUKATHIXO ethenteni lokuhlanganela wafika wanikela iminikelo yokutshiswa eyinkulungwane phezu kwalo.

⁷ Ngalobobusuku uNkulunkulu wabonakala kuSolomoni wathi kuye: “Cela loba kuyini okufunayo ukuze ngikunike khona.”

⁸ USolomoni ephendula uNkulunkulu wathi: “Utshengisile umusa omkhulu kakhulu kubaba uDavida njalo mina usungibeke ngaba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe. ⁹ Khathesi, THIXO Nkulunkulu, gcwalisa isithembiso owasenza kubaba uDavida, ngoba ungenze inkosi phezu kwabantu abanengi okothuli lomhlabathi. ¹⁰ Nginika ukuhlakanipha lolwazi, ukuze ngikhokhele lababantu, ngoba ngubani ongabusa abantu bakho abanengi kangaka?”

¹¹ UNkulunkulu wathi kuSolomoni, “Njengoba lesi kuyisifiso somoya wakho njalo kawucelanga impahla lenotho lodumo, lokubhubha kwalabo abakuzondayo, lokuthi awucelanga impilo ende kodwa ucele inhlakanipho lolwazi ukuze ubuse phezu kwabantu bami engikwenze waba yinkosi yabo, ¹² ngenxa yalokho ngizakunika inhlakanipho lolwazi. Njalo ngizakunika impahla, lenotho lodumo, okungakaze kwenzakale emakhosini akwandulelayo njalo akuyikwenzaka lakumakhosi alandelayo.”

¹³ Ngakho uSolomoni waya eJerusalema esuka endaweni yokukhonzela eGibhiyoni, evela phambi kwethente lokuhlanganela. Wabusa phezu kuka-Israyeli.

¹⁴ USolomoni wabuthanisa izingqola zokulwa lamabhiza; wayelezingqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu alitshumi lane lamabhiza azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili, ayekugcina emizini yezinqola zezimpi okunye ekugcina

yena eJerusalema. ¹⁵ Inkosi yandisa isiliva legolide eJerusalema kwangani ngamatshe, lezihlahla zomsedari zanda kwangani yizihlahla zomkhiwa wesikhamore emawatheni ezintaba. ¹⁶ Amabhiza kaSolomoni ayethengwe eGibhithe laseKhuwe, abathengi besikhosini babewathenga eKhuwe. ¹⁷ Bathenga inqola yempi eGibhithe ngamashekeli esiliva angamakhulu ayisithupha kanye lebhiza ngamashekeli alikhulu elilamatshumi amahlanu. Babuya bawedlulisa wonke bayawathengisela amakhosi amaHithi kanye lawama-Aramu.

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Amalungiselelo Okwakha IThempeli

¹ USolomoni wathi akwakhiwe ithempeli leBizo LIKATHIXO kanye lesigodlo sakhe.

² Wabutha amadoda azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa (70,000) awokuthwala imithwalo, lamadoda azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisificaminwembili (80,000) awokubaza amatshe emaqaqeni, lazinkulungwane ezintathu lamakhulu ayisithupha (3,600) ayezakhangela abasebenzayo.

³ USolomoni wakhupha ilizwi elalisiya kuHiramu inkosi yaseThire lisithi:

“Ngithumela izigodo zomsedari njengalokhu owakwenza kubaba uDavida owawumthumela umsedari ukuthi azakhele isigodlo ayezahlala kuso. ⁴ Sengilungiselela ukwakha ithempeli leBizo LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wami lokulinikela kuye

ukutshisela impepha eloqhatshi olumnandi phambi kwakhe, lokunikela isinkwa esingcwele ngezikhathi zonke, lokunikela iminikelo yokutshiswa ekuseni lantambama langeSabatha langokuThwasa kweziNyanga kanye lasemikhosini emisiweyo KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu. Lokhu ngokumiselwe u-Israyeli ngokungapheliyo.

⁵ Ithempeli engizalakha lizaqakatheka, ngoba uNkulunkulu wethu mkhulu kulabo bonke onkulunkulu. ⁶ Ngubani ozamakhela ithempeli, njengoba lamazulu, kanye lamazulu aphezulu engqongeni, angeke amanele. Pho ngingubani mina ukuba ngimakhele ithempeli, ngaphandle kwendawo yokutshisela imihlatshelo phambi kwakhe?

⁷ Ngakho, ngithumela indoda eyingcitshi ekusebenzeni ngegolide langesiliva, ithusi lensimbi, langamalembu ayibubende labomvu laluhlaza, ekwaziyo ukubalaza, ukuthi izosebenzela koJuda laseJerusalema labami abazingcitshi emisebenzini yezandla, labo abalethwa ngubaba uDavida.

⁸ Ngithumela izigodo zomседари lezephayini leze-aligumi ezivela eLebhanoni, ngoba ngiyakwazi ukuthi abantu bakho bazingcitshi ekugamuleni izigodo khonale. Abantu bami bazasebenza labakho ⁹ bengilethela izigodo ezinengi, ngoba ithempeli engilakhayo kufanele libe ngelikhulu njalo elibukekayo. ¹⁰ Ngizanika izinceku zakho, abagamuli bezigodo, ingqoloyi ecolekileyo eyizilinganiso ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili,

izilinganiso zebhali ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili, amatshumi amabili ezinkulungwane zezilinganiso zewayini kanye lezilinganiso zezithelo ze-oliva eziyizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili.”

¹¹ UHiramu inkosi yaseThire waloba incwadi ephendula uSolomoni wathi:

“Kungenxa yokuthi uTHIXO uyabathanda abantu bakhe, kungakho ukwenze waba yinkosi yabo.”

¹² UHiramu wabuye wengezelela wathi:

“Udumo kuye uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena owadala izulu lomhlaba! Unike inkosi uDavida indodana ehlananiphileyo, egcwele ukukhalipha lombono, ezakwakhela uTHIXO ithempeli njalo izakhele layo isigodlo sayo.

¹³ Ngikuthumela uHuramu-Abhi, indoda eyingcitshi kakhulu, ¹⁴ unina wayo wayed-abuka koDani loyise evela eThire. Wafundela ukusebenza igolide lesiliva, ithubi lensimbi, ilitshe lezigodo, kanye lamalembu ayibubende, aluhlaza labomvu lelineni elicolekileyo. Ulobuciko kukho konke ukubalaza lokulungisa amise izimo zezifanekiso aziphiveyo. Uzasebenza lezingcitshi zakho lalaba abenkosi yami, enguyihlo uDavida.

¹⁵ Ngakho inkosi yami kayithumele izinceku zayo ingqoloyi lebhali lamafutha e-oliva kanye lewayini njengokuthembisa kwayo. ¹⁶ Thina sizagamula zonke izigodo zeLebhanoni ozifunayo, sizenze iminyaba ezandanda olwandle

igelezele eJopha. Wena uyihlangabeze uyithwalele eJerusalema.”

¹⁷ USolomoni wasebala bonke abezizweni ababeko-Israyeli, ngemva kokubalwa okwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida; kwatholakala kuyikuthi babezinkulungwane ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amahlanu lantathu, lamakhulu ayisithupha (153,600). ¹⁸ Wasesithi abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa (70,000) ababengabokuthwala, kuthi abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisificaminwembili (80,000) babengabokubaza amatshe emaqaqeni, abazinkulungwane ezintathu lamakhulu ayisithupha (3,600) babengabokukhangela abasebenzayo.

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USolomoni Wakha Ithempeli

¹ USolomoni waseqalisa ukwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO eJerusalema eNtabeni yaseMoriya, lapho UTHIXO wayeke waziveza khona phambi kukayise uDavida. Kwakusesizeni sokubhulela amabele sika-Onani umJebusi, indawo eyayilungiselelwe nguDavida. ² Waqalisa ukwakha ngosuku lwesibili lwenyanga yesibili ngomnyaka wesine wokubusa kwakhe.

³ Isisekelo sesakhiwo sethempeli likaNkulunkulu esasimiswe nguSolomoni sasizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha ubude baso njalo sibanzi okwezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili (kuyisilinganiso sezingalo zakudala).

⁴ Umkhandlwana owawuphambi kwethempeli wawubanzi okwezingalo ezingamatshumi

amabili ulingana lowethempeli njalo umude ukuyaphezulu lakho kuzingalo ezingamatshumi amabili.

Ngaphakathi wagudula ngegolide elihle. ⁵ Wabethela indlu yalo enkulu ngamapulanka ephayini wasehuqa ngegolide elicengekileyo wacecisa ngokucomba amalala lemiceco yamaketane. ⁶ Wagqizisa ithempeli ngamatshe aligugu. Igolide alisebenzisayo kwakuligolide lePharivayimu. ⁷ Wasegudula ingaphakathi yophahla lemijabo yakhona, imigubazi, imiduli lezivalo zethempeli ngegolide, njalo wabazela amakherubhi emidulini.

⁸ Wakha iNdawo eNgcwelengcwele, ubude bayo bulingana lobubanzi bethempeli, izingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude njalo ezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi bayo. Wagudula ngaphakathi ngamathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha egolide elicengekileyo. ⁹ Izipikili zegolide zilesisindo samashekeli angamatshumi amahlanu. Wabuye wagudula ngegolide izindawo ezingaphezulu.

¹⁰ ENdaweni eNgcwelengcwele wenza amakherubhi abaziweyo wawahuqa ngegolide. ¹¹ Amaphiko amakherubhi nxa evulekile eyizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili. Uphiko olulodwa lwekherubhi lakuqala lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo njalo luthinta umduli wethempeli, kusithi olunye uphiko, lalo luzingalo ezinhlanu, luthinta uphiko lwelinye ikherubhi. ¹² Ngokufananayo uphiko lwekherubhi lesibili lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo lalo luthinta omunye

umduli wethempeli, njalo kusithi olunye uphiko lalo oluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo, luthinta uphiko lwekherubhi lakuqala. ¹³ Amaphiko amakherubhi ayechaye okuzingalo ezingamatshumi amabili. Ayemi ngezinyawo zawo, ekhangele indlu enkulu.

¹⁴ Wenza ikhetheni ngelembu eliluhlaza, leliy-ibubende lelibomvu, langeleneni elicolekileyo, welukela imifanekiso yamakherubhi kilo.

¹⁵ Ngapha ngaphambi kwethempeli wamisa insika ezimbili, zona zombili zazizinde okwezingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu, ngalinye lilesiduku phezulu esilingana izingalo ezinhlanu. ¹⁶ Wenza amaketane aphotheneyo wawabeka phezu kwezinsika. Njalo wenza amaphomegranathi alikhulu wawanamathisela emaketaneni. ¹⁷ Wasesakha izinsika zaphansi kwethempeli, eyinye ngezansi eyinye layo ngenyakatho. Insika engezansi wayibiza ngokuthi Jakhini kwathi eyenyakatho wayibiza ngokuthi Bhowazi.

4

Impahla ZeThempeli

¹ Wenza i-alithari lethusi elizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude balo, lezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi njalo izingalo ezilitshumi ukuyaphezulu. ² Wasesenza uLwandle ngethusi elincibilikisiweyo, luyisizingelezi, luzingalo ezilitshumi ukusuka okhunjini

kusiya kolunye ukhumbi njalo luzingalo ezinhlanu ukuyaphezulu. Isilinganiso sokuluzingelezela sizingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu. ³ Ngaphansi komphetho, kulenkunzi eziluzingelezileyo, ingalo nganye iletshumi. Inkunzi zazibunjelwe emizileni emibili ndawonye loLwandle.

⁴ ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwenkunzi ezilitshumi lambili, ezintathu zikhangele enyakatho, ezintathu zikhangele entshonalanga, ezintathu eningizimu kanye lezintathu zikhangele empumalanga. ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwazo, izinge zazo zazifulathele ngaphakathi. ⁵ Uhlonzi lwalungangobubanzi besandla, umphetho walo unjengomphetho wenkomitsho njengeluba liqhakaza. Lwaluthwala amatanka azinkulungwane ezintathu.

⁶ Wasesenza izinditshi zokugezela ezilitshumi, ezinhlanu wazifaka eceleni laseningizimu ezinye ezinhlanu wazifaka enyakatho. Zazingezokuhlambululela izinto zokusetshenziswa eminikelweni yokutshiswa, kodwa uLwandle lwalungolokugezela abaphristi.

⁷ Wenza izinti zezibane zegolide ezilitshumi elandela isilinganiso sazo, wazifaka ethempelini, ezinhlanu zazo eceleni leningizimu ezinye ezinhlanu ngenyakatho.

⁸ Wenza amatafula alitshumi wawafaka ethempelini, amahlanu ngeningizimu kwathi amahlanu ngenyakatho. Njalo wenza imiganu elikhulu eyegolide eyokuchela.

⁹ Wenza iguma labaphristi, leguma elikhulu kanye lezivalo zeguma, wasehuqa izivalo ngeth-usi. ¹⁰ Wafaka uLwandle eceleni leningizimu ejikweni leningizimu yempumalanga.

¹¹ Wenza njalo lezimbiza lamafotsholo lemi-ganu yokuchela.

Kwaba yikuqeda kukaHiramu umsebenzi ayezinikele ukuwenzela inkosi uSolomoni ethempelini likaNkulunkulu:

¹² izinsika ezimbili;
iziduku eziyingubhe phezu kwezinsika;
okwelukiweyo kungakubili kucesise iziduku eziyingubhe phezu kwezinsika;

¹³ amaphomegranathi angamakhulu amane ezalukweni zombili (imizila emibili yamaphomegranathi esalukweni ngasinye, kucesisa iziduku eziyingubhe phezu kwensika);

¹⁴ izinqodlana ezilenkonxa phezulu;

¹⁵ uLwandle lenkunzi ezilitshumi lambili ngaphansi kwalo;

¹⁶ imbiza, amafotsholo, izinti zenyama lakho konke okuhambelana lalokho.

Zonke izinto uHuramu-Abhi azenzela inkosi uSolomoni ezethempeli LIKATHIXO zazingezethusi elilolongiweyo. ¹⁷ Inkosi

yabumbela lezozinto ngebumba emagcekeni aseJodani phakathi kweSukhothi leZereda.

¹⁸ Zonke lezizinto ezenziwa nguSolomoni zazinengi okukuthi isisindo sethusi lazo sasingalinganiswanga.

19 USolomoni wenza zonke izinto ezazisethempelini likaNkulunkulu:

i-alithari legolide;

amatafula esinkwa esiNgcwele;

20 izinti zezibane zegolide elihle lezibane zazo zokukhanyisa endlini engaphakathi njen-gokumisiweyo,

21 lamaluba, lezibane lezindlawu (zazenziwe ngegolide elihle);

22 izihlokozo zezibane ezegolide, imiganu yokuchela, lezindengezi zokuthwala umlilo, lezivalo zethempeli eziligolide, izivalo zangaphakathi eNdaweni eNgcwele Kakhulu lezivalo zendlu enkulu.

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1 USolomoni eseqedile wonke umsebenzi wethempeli LIKATHIXO ayewenzile, waletha zonke izinto ezazinikelwe nguyise uDavida, isiliva legolide lempahla wazibeka endaweni yezenotho ethempelini likaNkulunkulu.

Ibhokisi Lesivumelwano SikaThixo Lingeniswa EThempelini

2 USolomoni wasebiza abadala bako-Israyeli ebanxusela eJerusalema, lezinhloko zezizwana kanye lezinduna zezimuli zako-Israyeli ukuthi bathathe ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO eZiy-oni, balise eMzini kaDavida. ³ Wonke amadoda ako-Israyeli ahlangu ndawonye enkosini ngesikhathi somkhosi ngenyanga yesikhombisa.

⁴ Kwathi bonke abadala bako-Israyeli sebefikile, abaLevi bathatha ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO, ⁵ balithwala kanye lethente lokuhlanganela lazozonke izinto ezingcwele ezaziphakathi kwalo. Abaphristi, ababengabaLevi, bazithwala; ⁶ njalo iNkosi uSolomoni kanye labo bonke abako-Israyeli ababebuthene kuye babephambi kwebhokisi lesivumelwano, benikela imihlatshelo eminengi yezimvu lenkomo ezazingeke zilotshwe loba zibalwe.

⁷ Abaphristi basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO endaweni yalo engcwele engaphakathi ethempelini, iNdawo eNgcwele Kakhulu, balifaka ngaphansi kwamaphiko amakherubhi. ⁸ Amakherubhi avula amaphiko awo phezu kwendawo yebhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO, amboza ibhokisi lesivumelwano kanye lemijabo yalo yokulithwala. ⁹ Imijabo yayimide kakhulu okokuthi izihloko zayo, zisuka ebhokisini, zazibonakala endlini engcwele yangaphakathi, kodwa hatshi eNdaweni eNgcwelengcwele; zisekhona lanamhlanje. ¹⁰ Kwakungelalutho ebhokisini ngaphandle kwezibhebhedu zombili uMosi azifaka kulo eHorebhi, lapho uTHIXO enza khona isivumelwano lo-Israyeli sebephumile eGibhithe.

¹¹ Abaphristi basebesuka eNdaweni eNgcwelengcwele. Bonke abaphristi abalapho babezingcwelisile, kungananzwa ixuku labo. ¹² Bonke abaLevi ababengabahlabeleli, u-Asafi, uHemani, uJeduthuni lamadodana abo lezihlobo

zabo bamela ngempumalanga kwe-alithari, begqoke ilineni elihle njalo betshaya izigubhu, amachacho lemiqangala. Babephelekezelwa ngabaphristi abalikhulu lamatshumi amabili (120) bekhalisa amacilongo. ¹³ Abatshayi bamacilongo labahlabeleli bahlanganyela ndawonye, kungathi yilizwi linye, ukuba badumise njalo bebonga UTHIXO. Sekuhlangene amacilongo lezigubhu lokunye okukhaliswayo, baphakamisa amazwi abo bedumisa UTHIXO behlabela besithi:
 “Ulungile;

uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini.”

Ithempeli LIKATHIXO lagcwala iyezi, ¹⁴ ngakho abaphristi babengeke benze inkonzo yabo ngenxa yeyezi, ngoba inkazimulo KATHIXO yagcwala ithempeli likaNkulunkulu.

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¹ USolomoni wasesithi, “UTHIXO usetshilo ukuthi uzahlala eyezini elimnyama, ² sengikwakhele ithempeli elimangalisayo, indawo yakho ozahlala kuyo kuze kube nininini.”

³ Ibandla lonke lako-Israyeli lisemi khonapho, inkosi yaphenduka yababusisa. ⁴ Yasisithi:

“Kadunyiswe UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena osegcwalise ngezandla zakhe ayekuthembise ubaba uDavida ngomlomo wakhe. Ngoba wathi, ⁵ ‘Kusukela ngelanga engakhupha ngalo abantu bami eGibhithe, akuladolobho engalikhethayo laloba kusiphi isizwana sako-Israyeli, ukuba

iBizo lami lakhelwe ithempeli khona, njalo angikhethanga loba ngubani ukuba abe ngumkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli. ⁶ Kodwa khathesi sengikhethe iJerusalema ukuba iBizo lami libe khonale, njalo sengikhethe uDavida ukuba abuse abantu bami bako-Israyeli.'

⁷ Ubaba uDavida wayetshiseka enhliziyweni yakhe ukuba akhele iBizo LIKATHIXO ithempeli, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ⁸ Kodwa UTHIXO wathi kubaba uDavida, 'Wenza kuhle ngokuba lesifiso sokungakhela ithempeli leBizo lami enhliziyweni yakho. ⁹ Lanxa kunjalo, kayisuwe ozakwakha ithempeli, kodwa indodana yakho eyinyama yakho legazi lakho, yiyo eza-kwakhela iBizo lami ithempeli.'

¹⁰ UTHIXO usigcinile isithembiso asenzayo. Sengiyinkosi esikhundleni sikababa uDavida njalo khathesi sengihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi sika-Israyeli njengokuthembisa KUKATHIXO, njalo sengakhele iBizo LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ithempeli. ¹¹ Kulapho engibeke khona ibhokisi, phakathi kwalo kulesivumelwano SIKATHIXO asenza labantu bako-Israyeli."

Umkhuleko KaSolomoni WokuNikela

¹² USolomoni wasesima phambi kwe-alithari LIKATHIXO phambi kwalo lonke ibandla lako-Israyeli welula izandla zakhe. ¹³ Wayenze isitubhu sethusi, ubude baso buzingalo ezinhlanu, lobubanzi baso buzingalo ezinhlanu njalo buzingalo ezintathu ukuyaphezulu, sona

wayesimise phakathi laphakathi kweguma elingaphandle. Wema phezu kwesitubhu waseguqa phambi kwalo lonke ibandla lako-Israyeli waphakamisela izandla zakhe ezulwini.

¹⁴ Wasesithi:

“Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kakho uNkulunkulu ofanana lawe ezulwini lasemhlabeni, wena ogcina isivumelwano sakho sothando lezinceku zakho eziqhubeka endleleni yakho ngezinhliziyi ezipheleleyo.

¹⁵ Usigcinile isithembiso sakho encekwini yakho uDavida ongubaba; ngomlomo wakho uthembisile njalo ngesandla sakho ukugcwalisile lokho njengoba kunjalo lamuhla.

¹⁶ Ngakho THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, gcinela inceku yakho uDavida ubaba isithembiso owasenza kuye usithi, ‘Kawuyikuswela umuntu ozakuma phambi kwami esihlalweni sobukhosi buka-Israyeli, nxa amadodana akho ezahamba ngokomthetho wami phambi kwami, njengalokhu okwenzileyo wena.’ ¹⁷ Ngakho khatesi, THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kaligcwaliseke ilizwi lesithembiso owalikhuluma kuDavida inceku yakho.

¹⁸ Kambe uNkulunkulu uzahlala labantu emhlabeni na? Amazulu, kanye lamazulu aphezulu kakhulu, kawakulingani. Pho lisilela kangani lelithempeli engilakhileyo!

¹⁹ Kodwa-ke akuzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho lokucela kwayo umusa, Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu wami. Zwana ukukhala lokukhuleka kwenceku yakho phambi kwakho. ²⁰ Ebusuku lemini amehlo akho

kakhangele lindlu, yona eyindawo owathi iBizo lakho lizakuba kuyo. Akuzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho ngalindawo. ²¹ Akulalele ukucela kwenceku yakho lokwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kule indawo. Akuzwe ezulwini, lona eliyindawo yakho yokuhlala; ukuze uthi ungezwa, uthethelele.

²² Nxa umuntu angonela umakhelwane wakhe, afungiswe, abesefunga isifungo phambi kwe-alithari lakho kulelithempeli, ²³ zwana usezulwini, uthethelele. Zahlulele izinceku zakho, uyigwebe leyo elecala ngalokho ekwenzileyo, njalo uyidedele engonanga uyiphe umvuzo ofanele ukuba msulwa kwayo.

²⁴ Kuthi lapho abantu bakho bako-Israyeli behlulwe yizitha ngoba bonile kuwe, akuthi lapho bephenduka befakaza ibizo lakho, bekhuleka njalo becela phambi kwakho kulelithempeli, ²⁵ zwana usezulwini uthethelele izono zabantu bakho bako-Israyeli ubabuyisele elizweni owabapha lona kanye laboyise.

²⁶ Akuthi nxa emazulwini kuvalekile lingasani izulu ngoba abantu bakho bonile kuwe, njalo bathi nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kulin-dawo befakaza ibizo lakho betshiya izono zabo ngoba ubajezisile, ²⁷ zwana usezul-wini uthethelele izono zenceku zakho, abantu bakho u-Israyeli. Bafundise indlela eqondileyo yokuphila uthumele izulu elizweni owalinika abantu bakho ukuba libe yilifa labo.

²⁸ Nxa kufika indlala loba isifo elizweni, loba ingumane loba isikhwekhwe, intethe loba isikhongwane, loba izitha zibavimbezela loba kukuyiphi imizi yabo, loba kufika incithakalo kumbe umkhuhlane bani, ²⁹ kuthi lanxa umkhuleko kumbe isicelo sisenziwa ngomunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli, ngulowo lalowo ebona inhlupheko lezinsizi zakhe njalo ephakamisela izandla zakhe kulelithempeli, ³⁰ lalela usezulwini, okuyindawo yakho yokuhlala. Thethelela, wenzele umuntu munye ngamunye lokho okuhambelana lezenzo zakhe, ngoba wena uyazazi inhliziyo zabo (futhi nguwe wedwa owazi inhliziyo zabantu), ³¹ ukuze bakwesabe bahambe ezindleleni zakho besaphila elizweni owalipha okhokho bethu.

³² Akuthi owezizweni ongasuye omunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli kodwa evela elizweni elikhatshana ngenxa yodumo lwebizo lakho lesandla sakho esilamandla lengalo yakho elulekileyo, nxa esiza ekhuleka ekhangele kulelithempeli, ³³ umuzwe usezulwini, lona eliyindawo yakho yokuhlala, umenzele owezizweni loba kuyini akucela kuwe, ukuze kuthi abantu bonke emhlabeni balazi ibizo lakho bakwesabe, njengalokhu abantu bakho bako-Israyeli bekwenza, ukuze bazi ukuthi lindlu engiyakhileyo ngeyeBizo lakho.

³⁴ Nxa abantu bakho bephuma besiya empini ukuyakulwa lezitha zabo, loba kungaphi lapho obathuma khona, njalo kuthi

nxa bekhuleka kuwe bekhangele lelidolobho olikhethileyo kanye lalelithempeli engilakhele iBizo lakho, ³⁵ uzwe usezulwini imikhuleko yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubamele wena.

³⁶ Nxa bonile phambi kwakho, ngoba kakho ongoniyo njalo uze ubathukuthelele ubanikele ezitheni zabo ezibathumba zibase elizweni elikhatshana loba eliseduzane, ³⁷ kuthi nxa bengaguquka ezinhliziyweni zabo besemazweni abayabe bethunjelwe kuwo, baphenduke bakuncenge besemazweni abathunjelwa khona bathi, 'Sonile, senza okungalunganga lokubi,' ³⁸ loba nxa bephendukela kuwe ngezinhliziyiyo zabo zonke langemiphefumulo yabo elizweni njalo bekhuleka bekhangele elizweni owalinika oyise, edolobheni owalikhethayo lasethempelini engilakhele iBizo lakho; ³⁹ ngakho wena osezulwini, endaweni yakho yokuhlala, akuzwe imikhuleko yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubamele. Njalo ubathethelele abantu bakho, bona abakoneleyo.

⁴⁰ Ngakho-ke, Nkulunkulu wami sengathi amehlo akho angavuleka lezindlebe zakho zilalele imikhuleko eyenziwa kule indawo.

⁴¹ Ngakho phakama, Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu,
 uze endaweni yakho yokuphumula,
 wena lebhokisi lesivumelwano samandla
 akho.

Sengathi abaphristi bakho, Oh THIXO Nku-
 lunkulu,
 bangembathiswa ngensindiso,

sengathi labathembekileyo bakho bangathokoza ngokulunga kwakho.

42 Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu, ungafulatheli ogcotshweyo wakho.

Khumbula uthando olukhulu olwathenjiswa uDavida inceku yakho.”

7

Ukunikelwa KweThempeli

1 Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile ukukhuleka, kwehla umlilo uvela ezulwini, waqhungisa umnikelo wokutshiswa lemihlatshelo, inkazimulo KATHIXO yagcwalisa ithempeli.

2 Abaphristi behluleka ukungena ethempelini LIKATHIXO ngoba laligcwele inkazimulo KATHIXO.

3 Kwathi lapho bonke abako-Israyeli bebona umlilo usehla lenkazimulo KATHIXO ethempelini, bathi mbo ngobuso phansi embundwini weguma, badumisa bebonga UTHIXO besithi:

“Yena ulungile;

uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini.”

4 Inkosi labantu bonke banikela imihlatshelo KU THIXO. 5 Ngalokho inkosi uSolomoni yanikela umhlatshelo wenkomo ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lambili kanye lezimvu lembuzi ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili. Ngakho inkosi labantu bonke banikela ithempeli likaNkulunkulu.

6 Abaphristi bema ngezindawo zabo, njengoba labaLevi labo bema ngamachacho lawo inkosi uDavida eyayivele iwenzele ukudumisa UTHIXO njalo ayevele esetshenziswa nxa ebonga, esithi, “Uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini.”

Maqondana labaLevi, abaphristi babevuthela amacilongo abo, njalo bonke abako-Israyeli babemi.

⁷ USolomoni wahlukanisela UTHIXO indawo yaphakathi laphakathi kweguma phambi kwethempeli LIKATHIXO, njalo kulapho anikelela khona iminikelo yokutshiswa lamafutha eminikelo yobudlelwano, ngoba i-alithari lethusi ayelenzile lalingeke lenele iminikelo yokutshiswa, iminikelo yamabele kanye lamafutha.

⁸ Ngakho ngalesosikhathi uSolomoni wathakazelela umkhosi okwensuku eziyisikhombisa, labo bonke abako-Israyeli ababelaye, ababelibandla elikhulu, abanye bevela eLebho Hamathi kusiya eSihotsheni saseGibhithe.

⁹ Ngosuku lwesificaminwembili benza umhlangano, ngoba babekhonze ngokunikela i-alithari okwensuku eziyisikhombisa lomkhosi wezinye insuku eziyisikhombisa phezulu.

¹⁰ Ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili lantathu lwenyanga yesikhombisa wakhulula abantu ukuthi babuyele emakhaya abo bethokoza njalo bejabula ngenhliziyo ngenxa yezinto ezinhle UTHIXO ayezenzele uDavida loSolomoni kanye labantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

UTHIXO Uzibonakalisa KuSolomoni

¹¹ Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile ithempeli LIKATHIXO lesigodlo, esenelisile lokwenza konke ayekunakana ngethempeli LIKATHIXO kanye lesigodlo sakhe, ¹² UTHIXO wabonakala kuye ebusuku wathi:

“Ngiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho njalo sen-gizikhethele indawo le ukuba ibe lithempeli lemihlatshelo.

¹³ Nxa ngivala iphezulu ukuze kungabi lezulu, loba ngithumela intethe ukuchitha ilizwe, ingabe ngithumela isifo phakathi kwabantu bami, ¹⁴ nxa abantu bami, ababizwa ngebizo lami, bezazithoba bakhuleke badinge ubuso bami njalo batshiye izindlela zabo ezimbi, kulapho ngizakuzwa khona ngisezulwini ngithethelele izono zabo njalo ngiphephise ilizwe labo. ¹⁵ Ngalokho amehlo ami azavuleka, lezindlebe zami zizalalela imikhuleko eyenziwa kulindawo.

¹⁶ Ngilikhethile ngizahlukanisela lelithempeli ukuze iBizo lami libe kulo kuze kube nininini. Amehlo ami lenhliziyo yami kuzakuba kulo ngazononke izikhathi.

¹⁷ Wena, nxa unгахamba phambi kwami njengalokhu okwenziwa nguyihlo uDavida, wenze konke engikulaya ngakho, ulandele izimiso lemithetho yami, ¹⁸ ngizaqinisa isihlalo sakho sobukhosi, njengesivumelwano engasenza loyihlo uDavida ngisithi: ‘Kawuyikuswela umuntu ozabusa u-Israyeli.’

¹⁹ Kodwa ungafulathela utshiye izimiso lemilayo engikunika yona usuke uyekhothamela abanye onkulunkulu ubakhonze, ²⁰ kulapho ngizakhucula abako-Israyeli elizweni lami, engabanika lona, kuthi lelithempeli engilahlukanisele iBizo lami ngilichithe, ngilenze libe yinto ekhohlakeleyo into eyinhlekisa kubo bonke abantu.

21 Loba lelithempeli likhanga amehlo, bonke abedlula lapha bazamangala bathi, 'Kanti kungani UTHIXO ekwenzile lokhu okunje kulelizwe kanye lakulelithempeli?' 22 Abantu bazaphendula bathi, 'Ngoba bamfulathele UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, owabakhupha eGibhithe, basuka bayabambelela kwabanye onkulunkulu, bebakhonza njalo bebakhothamela, yikho ebehlisele incithakalo yonke le.'"

8

Ezinye Izenzo ZikaSolomoni

1 Ekupheleni kweminyaka engamatshumi amabili, leyo uSolomoni akha ngayo ithempeli LIKATHIXO kanye lesigodlo sakhe, 2 uSolomoni wabuye wavusa imizi uHiramu ayemnike yona, wahlalisa abako-Israyeli kuyo. 3 USolomoni wayahlasela iHamathi-Zobha wayithumba. 4 Wakha njalo leThamari enkangala layo yonke imizi yeziphala ayakha eHamathi. 5 Wavusa iBhethi-Horoni elingaphezu kanye leBhethi-Horoni elingaphansi, imizi ebiyelweyo elemithangala lamasongo alemigoqo, 6 kanye leBhalathi lamadolobho akhe wonke ayeyiziphala lemizi yezinqola zakhe zempi kanye lamabhiza akhe lakho konke nje ayengafisa ukukwakha eJerusalema leLebhanoni kanye lakulo lonke ilizwe ayelibusa.

7 Abantu bonke ababesele kumaHithi, lama-Amori, lamaPherizi, lamaHivi kanye

lamaJebusi (lababantu babengasiwo ama-Israyeli), ⁸ kutshiwo labo inzalo yabo eyayisele elizweni, labo abangabhujiswanga ngama-Israyeli, uSolomoni wababutha baba yizigqili: njengoba kunjalo kuze kube lanamhla. ⁹ Kodwa abako-Israyeli uSolomoni kabenzanga izigqili emsebenzini wakhe; babengamadoda akhe empi, abalawuli bezinduna zebutho, labalawuli bezingqola zokulwa labokulwa ngezingqola zokulwa. ¹⁰ Njalo babeyizikhulu zenkosi uSolomoni, bengamakhulu amabili alamatshumi amahlanu ababephethe abantu.

¹¹ USolomoni wasusa indodakazi kaFaro eMzini kaDavida wayisa esigodlweni asakhela yona, ngoba wathi, “Umkami kamelanga ahlale esigodlweni sikaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli, ngoba izindawo esezike zangena ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO zingcwele.”

¹² USolomoni wasenikela KUTHIXO umnikelo wokutshiswa phezu kwe-alithari LIKATHIXO ayelakhele phambi komkoto, ¹³ kulandelwa umkhuba wemihla ngemihla njengokulaya kukaMosi eqakathekisa iSabatha, lokuThwasa kweNyanga kanye lokwemikhosi emithathu yomnyaka, uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo, uMkhosi wamaViki loMkhosi weziHonqo. ¹⁴ Elandela isimiso sikayise uDavida wamisa izigaba zabaphristi ngezinkonzo zabo, njalo abaLevi bekhokhela ekudumiseni lokuphathisa abaphristi kusiya ngemfanelo yemihla ngemihla. Wakhetha abalindi bamasango ngezigaba ukulinda amasango ehlukeneyo

ngoba yikho okwakutshiwo nguDavida umuntu kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁵ Kabaphambukanga kulokho inkosi uDavida eyayikutshilo mayelana labaphristi labaLevi kanye lezindlu zenotho.

¹⁶ Wonke umsebenzi kaSolomoni wenziwa, kusukela ngosuku lokubekwa kwesisekelo sethempeli LIKATHIXO kwaze kwaba sekupheleni kwawo. Kwaba yikuphela kokwakhiwa kwethempeli LIKATHIXO.

¹⁷ Ngakho uSolomoni wasesiya e-Eziyoni-Gebheri lase-Elathi ngasemakhunjini ase-Edomi. ¹⁸ UHiramu wathumela kuye imikhumbi eyayiphethwe yizinduna zakhe, amadoda ayelwazi ulwandle. Zona, kanye lezinceku zikaSolomoni zaya e-Ofiri, zayathwala igolide elingamathalenta angamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu, zaya lethula enkosini uSolomoni.

9

Inkosikazi YaseShebha Yethekelela USolomoni

¹ Indlovukazi yaseShebha isizwile ngodumo lukaSolomoni, yaya eJerusalema ukuba iyemlinga ngemibuzo enzima. Yayiphelekezelwa ludwende olukhulu, amakamela ayethwele iziyoliso, igolide elinengi kakhulu lamatshe aligugu, yafika kuSolomoni yaxoxa laye ngakho konke eyayikumumethe. ² USolomoni wayiphendula yonke imibuzo yayo, akubanga lalutho olwaba nzima ukuthi aluchasisele yona. ³ Inkosikazi yaseShebha isibonile konke ukuhlakanipha kukaSolomoni, lesigodlo ayesakhile, ⁴ lokudla kwakhe, lokuhlaliswa

kwezinduna zakhe, lokuhlelwa kwezinceku zakhe lezigqoko zazo, labaphathi benkezo lezigqoko zabo, leminikelo yokutshiswa ayeyinikela ethempelini LIKATHIXO, kwayiqeda amandla.

⁵ Yathi enkosini, “Imibiko ebifika ezindlebeni zami elizweni lami ngengqubelaphambili langenhlakanipho yakho iqotho. ⁶ Ngibe ngingayikholwa leyo mbiko ngaze ngazibonela ngawami amehlo. Ngeqiniso, akufiki engxenyeni engikuzwileyo ngokujula kwenhlakanipho yakho; engikubonileyo kwedlula engakuzwayo ngawe ngokuphindwe kanengi. ⁷ Yeka ukujabula kwabantu bakho! Yeka ziyadela izikhulu zakho, ezihlezi zimi phambi kwakho zizizwela inhlakanipho yakho! ⁸ Udumo kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho, obe lokuthokoza ngawe wakufaka esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi ukuba ube yinkosi ubusele uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho. Ngenxa yothando lukaNkulunkulu wakho ngo-Israyeli, lokuzimisela ukubamela kuze kube nininini, ukubekile waba yinkosi phezu kwabo, ukuze ulondoloze ukwahlulela ngemfanelo langokulunga.”

⁹ Indlovukazi yasinika uSolomoni amathalenta egolide alikhulu elilamatshumi amabili (120), iziyoliso ezinengi, lamatshe aligugu. Kwakungakaze kube leziyoliso ezinjengalezo ezaphiwa inkosi uSolomoni yindlovukazi yaseShebha.

¹⁰ (Izinceku zikaHiramu lezikaSolomoni za-letha igolide livela e-Ofiri; za-letha lezigodo zom’aligumu lamatshe aligugu. ¹¹ Inkosi

yasebenzisa izigodo zom'aligumu ukwakha inyathelo lethempeli LIKATHIXO lenyathelo lesigodlo sesikhosini, kanye lokwenza imihubhe lemiqangala yabahlabeleli. Kwakungakaze kubonakale okunjengalokhu kwelakoJuda).

¹² Inkosi uSolomoni yapha inkosikazi yaseShebha okwedlula lokho eyayikucelile, kwakukunengi kugabhela lokho ayekuphathelwe yinkosikazi. Yavalelisa-ke inkosikazi yabuyela elizweni layo lobhobo lwezindwendwe zayo.

Inotho Lodumo LukaSolomoni

¹³ Isisindo segolide elalifika kuSolomoni minyaka yonke lalingamathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi ayisithupha lasithupha (666), ¹⁴ kungabalwa inzuzo eyayivela emithelweni yabathengisi labathengi. Kunjalonje amakhosi ase-Arabhiya leziphathamandla zelizwe zaletha igolide lesiliva kuSolomoni.

¹⁵ Inkosi uSolomoni yenza amahawu amakhulu angamakhulu amabili ngegolide elikhandiweyo; lilinye langena amashekeli angamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹⁶ Inkosi yasisenza ezinye ezincinyane ezingamakhulu amathathu ngegolide elikhandiweyo, sisinye sithatha amashekeli egolide elikhandiweyo angamakhulu amathathu. Inkosi yazibeka eSigodlweni saseGuswini laseLebhanoni.

¹⁷ Ngakho inkosi yasisenza isihlalo esikhulu sinanyekwe ngempondo zendlovu ngaphakathi kodwa ngaphandle kuligolide elihle. ¹⁸ Isihlalo sobukhosi sasilezinyathelo eziyisithupha

njalo kulesenabelo segolide esasixhunywe kuso. Emaceleni esihlalo kwakulezeyamelo zengalo, yilesa laleso kumi isilwane eceleni kwaso. ¹⁹ Izilwane ezilitshumi lambili zazimi kulawomakhwelelo ayisithupha, sisinye simi nganxanye kwekhwelelo ngalinye. Kakukho okunjalo okwakuke kwenzekala loba kuwuphi umbuso. ²⁰ Zonke inkezo zenkosi uSolomoni zazingezegolide, lazozonke izitsha zeSigodlweni saseGuswini laseLebhanoni zazingezegolide elicolekileyo. Akukho okwakwenziwe ngesiliva ngoba ngensuku zikaSolomoni igugu lesiliva lalilincinyane kakhulu. ²¹ Inkosi yayilodibi lwemikhumbi yezokuthengiselana eyayigwedlwa ngabantu bakaHiramu. Yayiphenduka kanye ngemva kohambo lweminyaka emithathu, iphenduka ithwele igolide, isiliva lempondo zendlovu, inkawu lendwangu.

²² Inkosi uSolomoni yawedlula wonke amakhosi omhlaba ngenotho langenhlakanipho.

²³ Amakhosi wonke omhlaba eza kuSolomoni ukuzokuzwa inhlakanipho uNkulunkulu ayeyifake enhliziyweni yakhe. ²⁴ Minyaka

yonke amlethela izipho zesiliva lezegolide, izembatho, izikhali leziyoliso, lamabhiza kanye lezimbongolo.

²⁵ USolomoni wayelezibaya zamabhiza lezezingqola zokulwa ezizinkulungwane ezine, kanye lamabhiza azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili, ayekugcina emizini yezinqola zokulwa okunye njalo kukuye khonapho eJerusalema.

²⁶ Wabusa wonke amakhosi kusukela emfu-

leni iYufathe kusiya elizweni lamaFilistiya, lasemngceleni weGibhithe. ²⁷ Inkosi yandisa isiliva kwangani ngamatshe eJerusalema, lezihlahla zomsedari zanda kwangani yizihlahla zomkhiwa wesikhamore emawatheni ezintaba. ²⁸ USolomoni wayezuza amabhiza ayevela eGibhithe lakuwo wonke amanye amazwe.

Ukufa KukaSolomoni

²⁹ Ezinye izehlakalo ezenzakala ekubuseni kukaSolomoni kazilotshwanga yini kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekucineni, ezindabeni zomlandu kaNathani umphrofethi, lasesiphrofethini sika-Ahija waseShilo, lasemibonweni ka-Ido umboni emayelana loJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi? ³⁰ USolomoni wabusa u-Israyeli wonke eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. ³¹ Waya kwabaphansi, wangcwatshwa emzini kaDavida uyise. URehobhowami indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

10

Abako-Israyeli Bavukela URehobhowami

¹ URehobhowami waya eShekhemu ngoba bonke abako-Israyeli babeye khona ukuze bamethese ubukhosi. ² Kwathi uJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi ekuzwa lokhu (wayeseGibhithe lapho abuya evela khona ngoba wayebalekele inkosi uSolomoni.) ³ Abako-Israyeli basebethumela ilizwi bembiza uJerobhowamu, kwathi-ke yena kanye labo bonke abako-Israyeli baya kuRehobhowami

bafika bathi: ⁴ “Uyihlo wasithwalisa umthwalo onzima, kodwa wena khathesi ake uphungule ubunzima asethesa bona, wethule lemithwalo yethu enzima abesithwalise yona, yikho sizakukhonza.”

⁵ URehobhowami wabaphendula wathi: “Libobuya ngemva kwensuku ezintathu.” Ngakho abantu basuka bahamba.

⁶ INkosi uRehobhowami yasicebisana labadala ababeloyise uSolomoni esaphila, yathi: “Lingicebisa ukuthi ngibanike mpendulo bani lababantu?”

⁷ Baphendula bathi, “Ungaba lomusa kulabantu, ubathokozise, ukhulumisane labo kuhle, bazahlala bezinceku zakho.”

⁸ Kodwa uRehobhowami kazange akwamukele ukucebisa kwabadala wakhetha ukudinga ulwazi kwabayintanga yakhe ababekhule bonke njalo kuyibo abasebezinceku zakhe. ⁹ Wababuza wathi, “Seluleko bani elilaso? Singabaphendula sithini lababantu abathi kimi, ‘Ake uphungule ubunzima esabetheswa nguyihlo?’”

¹⁰ Amajaha ayeyintanga yakhe amphendula athi, “Batshele lababantu abathi kuwe, ‘Uyihlo wasethesa ubunzima, akusiphungulele lobubunzima’ uthi kubo, ‘Ucikilicane wami uqatha kulokhalo lukababa. ¹¹ Ubaba walethesa ubunzima, mina ngizabungezelela. Ubaba walitshaya ngezaswebhu, mina ngizalilumisa ngenkume.’”

¹² UJerobhowamu labo bonke abantu babuyela kuRehobhowami ngosuku lwesithathu njen-gokutsho kwakhe ukuthi, “Phendukani lize kimi ngemva kwensuku ezintathu.” ¹³ Lakanye inkosi yaphendula abantu ngolaka, yalahla iseluleko

sabadala, ¹⁴ yalandela iseluleko samajaha yathi, “Ubaba walethwesa ubunzima, mina ngizakwengezelela kubo. Walitshaya ngezaswebhu, mina ngizalilumisa ngezinkume.” ¹⁵ Ngakho inkosi kayibalalelanga abantu, ngoba lokhu kwenziwa nguNkulunkulu, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi LIKATHIXO ayelikhulume ngo-Ahija wase-Shilo kuJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi.

¹⁶ Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli bebona ukuthi inkosi iyala ukubalalela bayiphendula bathi:

“Silesabelo bani kuDavida na,
silengxenywe bani endodaneni kaJese na?

Yanini emizini yenu lina bako-Israyeli!

Sala lendlu yakho, Davida!”

Ngakho bonke abako-Israyeli babuyela emakhaya. ¹⁷ Kodwa uRehobhowami waqhubeka ebusa abako-Israyeli ababehlala emizini yakoJuda.

¹⁸ Inkosi uRehobhowami yasithuma u-Adoniram uwayengumphathi wezibhalwa, kodwa abako-Israyeli bamkhanda ngamatshe wafa. Kodwa inkosi uRehobhowami yaphanga yakhwela enqoleni yayo yokulwa, yabalekela eJerusalema. ¹⁹ Kusukela ngalesosikhathi abako-Israyeli bayihlamukela indlu kaDavida kuze kube lamuhla.

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¹ Kwathi uRehobhowami esefike eJerusalema, wabuthanisa abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini, amadoda empi azinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi ayisificaminwembali ukuba

bayekulwa labako-Israyeli ukuze babuyisele uRehobhowami embusweni.

² Kodwa ilizwi LIKATHIXO lafika kuShemaya umuntu kaNkulunkulu lisithi: ³ “Tshela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni inkosi yakoJuda, labo bonke abako-Israyeli koJuda lakoBhenjamini uthi, ⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: Lingaphumi ukuthi liyekulwa labafowenu. Buyelani emizini yenu, lina lonke, ngoba lokhu kuyikwenza kwami.’” Ngakho balalela ilizwi LIKATHIXO, babuyela emizini yabo, kabasayanga kulwa loJerobhowamu.

URehobhowami Wakha Izingaba KoJuda

⁵ URehobhowami wahlala eJerusalema njalo wakha imizi eyizingaba koJuda: ⁶ iBhethilehema, le-Ethamu, leThekhowa, ⁷ leBhethi Zuri, leSokho, le-Adulami, ⁸ leGathi, leMaresha, leZifi, ⁹ le-Adorayimi, leLakhishi, le-Azekha, ¹⁰ leZora, le-Ayijaloni, kanye leHebhroni. Le kwakuyimizi ebiyelweyo koJuda lakoBhenjamini. ¹¹ Waqinisa izingaba zayo wabeka abalawuli bempi kuyo, wabuthela ezingabeni ukudla lamafutha om’oliva lewayini. ¹² Wafaka izihlangu lemikhonto kuyo yonke imizi, wayiqinisa kakhulu. Ngakho-ke wabusa koJuda lakoBhenjamini.

¹³ Abaphristi labaLevi kulezozabelo kulolonke elako-Israyeli bamsekela. ¹⁴ AbaLevi bahle batshiya amadlelo abo lempahla, baya koJuda laseJerusalema, ngoba uJerobhowamu lamadodana akhe wala ukuthi bangabaphristi BAKATHIXO. ¹⁵ Wasekhetha abakhe abaphristi

wababeka ezindaweni zokukhonzela, labezithombe zembuzi lezamathole ayezenzile. ¹⁶ Abezizwana zonke zako-Israyeli ababezimisele ukukhonza UTHIXO uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, balandela abaLevi eJerusalema ukuyanikela imihlatshelo yabo KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo. ¹⁷ Baqinisa umbuso kaJuda basekela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni iminyaka emithathu, belandela indlela kaDavida lekaSolomoni ngalesosikhathi.

Abemuli KaRehobhowami

¹⁸ URehobhowami wathatha uMahalathi, indodakazi kaJerimothi indodana kaDavida, leka-Abhihayili indodakazi ka-Eliyabi indodana ka-Jese, waba ngumkakhe, ¹⁹ wamzalela amadodana la: uJewushi loShemariya loZhamu. ²⁰ Wasethatha njalo uMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhisalomu owamzalela o-Abhija lo-Athayi loZiza loShelomithi. ²¹ URehobhowami wathanda kakhulu uMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhisalomu ukwedlula bonke omkakhe labafazi beceleni; wathatha abafazi abalitshumi lasificaminwembili, labafazi beceleni abangamatshumi ayisithupha.

²² URehobhowami wabeka u-Abhija indodana kaMahakha ukuba abe yinkosana enkulu kubafowabo ngoba wayeqonde ukumenza inkosi. ²³ Wenza ngokuhlakanipha, amadodana akhe wawabeka ezindaweni zonke zakoJuda lakoBhenjamini, kuyo yonke imizi ebiyelweyo. Wasebanika ukudla okunengi, wabadingela labafazi abanengi.

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UShishakhi Uhlasela IJerusalema

¹ Ngemva kokuba uRehobhowami eselamandla, lombuso wakhe usuqinile, yena kanye labo bonke abako-Israyeli bawudela umlayo KATHIXO. ² Kodwa ngoba bona KUTHIXO, uShishakhi inkosi yaseGibhithe wahlasela iJerusalema ngomnyaka wesihlanu wokubusa kwenkosi uRehobhowami. ³ Wahlasela ngezingqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu alitshumi lambili labagadi bamabhiza abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisithupha, labantu abangelakubalwa ubunengi babo abanye bengabeLibhiya, lamaSukhi labaKhushi abeza laye bevelela ngaseGibhithe, ⁴ wathumba imizi yakoJuda ebiyelweyo waze wayafika leJerusalema.

⁵ Ngakho uShemaya umphrofethi waya kuRehobhowami kanye lakubakhokheli bakoJuda ababebuthene eJerusalema ngokwesaba uShishakhi, wafika wathi kubo, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO uthi, ‘Lingilahle lina; ngakho sengilinkela kuShishaki.’”

⁶ Abakhokheli bako-Israyeli lenkosi yabo bazithoba batsho bathi, “UTHIXO ulungile.”

⁷ Kwathi UTHIXO esebonile ukuzithoba kwabo ilizwi lakhe lafika kuShemaya lisithi: “Njengoba bezithobile, kangisayikubabhuhisa, kodwa ngizabakhulula emva kwesikhatshana, lolaka lwami kalusayikwehliselwa eJerusalema ngesandla sikaShishakhi. ⁸ Kodwa bazakuba yizinceku zakhe ukuze bazi umahluko phakathi

kokungikhonza lokukhonza amakhosi amanye amazwe.”

⁹ UShishakhi inkosi yaseGibhithe wasehlasela iJerusalema, wabutha yonke inotho yasethempelini LIKATHIXO kanye lenotho yasesigodlweni sesikhosini. Wathatha konke waze wathatha lezihlangu zegolide ezazenziwe nguSolomoni. ¹⁰ Ngakho iNkosi uRehobhowami yasisenza izihlangu zethusi endaweni yalezo njalo yazibeka ngaphansi kwabalawuli babalindi bamasango asesigodlweni sesikhosini. ¹¹ Kwakusithi lapho inkosi isiya ethempelini LIKATHIXO, abalindi babehamba layo bephethe izihlangu, kuze kuthi emva kwesikhathi bazibuyisele endlini yabalindi.

¹² Ngenxa yokuthi uRehobhowami wazithoba, ulaka LUKATHIXO lwadeda kuye, kasazange abe esabhujiswa. Ngempela kwakukhona okuhle koJuda.

¹³ Inkosi uRehobhowami yaqinisa umbuso wayo eJerusalema njalo yaqhubeka ibusa. Ekugcotshweni kwakhe ubukhosi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa eJerusalema umuzi KATHIXO ayewukhethile phakathi kwezizwana zako-Israyeli ukuze abeke iBizo lakhe. Ibizo likanina linguNahama, engowako-Amoni. ¹⁴ Wenza okubi wona ngoba engazange abeke inhliziyi yakhe ekumdingeni UTHIXO.

¹⁵ Okumayelana lokubusa kukaRehobhowami, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, akulotshwanga na emibhalweni kaShemaya

umphrofethi leka-Ido umboni mayelana lokuzalana kwabantu? Kwaba lempi njalo phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowamu. ¹⁶ URehobhowami wakhothama, wangcwatshwa labokhokho bakhe eMzini kaDavida. U-Abhija, indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi waba yinkosi ngemva kukayise.

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U-Abhija Ubusa Kojuda

¹ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili wokubusa kukaJerobhowamu, u-Abhija waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ² njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emithathu. Ibizo likanina lalingu-Mikhaya, indodakazi ka-Uriyeli waseGibhiya.

Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Abhija loJerobhowamu. ³ Bathi behlangana ekulweni, u-Abhija wayelamadoda aqinileyo azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amane, kanti uJerobhowamu wahlangabezana laye elamadoda azinkulungwane ezificaminwembili.

⁴ U-Abhija wema phezu kweNtaba iZemarayimu, elizweni lamaqaqa lako-Efrayimi, wathi: “Wena Jerobhowamu kanye laye wonke u-Israyeli, lalalani kimi, lizwe! ⁵ Alikwazi na ukuthi uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, unikele ubukhosi bako-Israyeli kuDavida lenzalo yakhe kuze kube nininini ngesivumelwano setswayi na? ⁶ Kukanti uJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, isikhulu sikaSolomoni indodana kaDavida, uhlamukele inkosi yakhe. ⁷ Abantu ababi

bamlandela behlamukela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni esesemncinyane engakaqedisi njalo engakabi lamandla okumelana labo.

⁸ Khathesi licabanga ukumelana lombuso KATHIXO, ophethwe ngamadodana kaDavida ngoba libona libanengi kakhulu, lilmathole eGolide elawenzelwa nguJerobhowamu ukuba abe ngonkulunkulu. ⁹ Kalibaxotshanga yini abaphristi BAKATHIXO, amadodana ka-Aroni, kanye labaLevi, lazibekela abenu abaphristi njengalokhu okwenziwa ngabantu bamanye amazwe na? Kuthi lowo ofika elenkunzi loba inqama eziyisikhombisa ukuba ahlukaniselwe UTHIXO waba ngumphristi walokho okungayisikho onkulunkulu.

¹⁰ Kodwa thina, UTHIXO uNkulunkulu ngowethu, asindelanga. Thina abaphristi esilabo ngamadodana ka-Aroni, amkhonzayo UTHIXO, njalo baphathiswa ngabaLevi.

¹¹ Bayanikela kuUTHIXO ekuseni lantambama insuku zonke iminikelo yokutshiswa lempepha elephunga elihle. Bayalungisa izinkwa ezahlukaniselwe UTHIXO etafuleni legolide elihle, balumathise izibane oluthini lwegolide ntambama nsuku zonke. Thina siyawulalela umlayo KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu. Kodwa lina limdelile. ¹² UNkulunkulu ulathi, nguye osikhokhelayo. Abaphristi bakhe abaphethe amacilongo bazawavuthela besibizela ekulweni lani. Madoda ako-Israyeli, lingabokulwa LOETHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu, ngoba aliyikuphumelela.”

¹³ UJerobhowamu wayesethumele elinye

iviyo lamabutho akhe ngemva ukuze athi yena ejamelane labakoJuda phambili lona licathamele ngemva kwabo. ¹⁴ AbakoJuda bafulathela kodwa babona ukuthi babehlaselwa inxa zonke phambili langemva kwabo. Bakhala KUTHIXO. Abaphristi bevuthela amacilongo abo ¹⁵ kwathi abakoJuda bakhwaza ngephimbo lokuhlasela empini. Kuthe kuzwakala ukukhwaza ngephimbo lokuhlasela, uNkulunkulu wabhuya uJerobhowamu labo bonke abako-Israyeli phambi kuka-Abhija labakoJuda. ¹⁶ Abako-Israyeli babalekela abakoJuda njalo uNkulunkulu wabanikela ezandleni zabo. ¹⁷ U-Abhija lamabutho akhe babulala amadoda amanengi kakhulu, kwafa amadoda ako-Israyeli aqinileyo empini azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amahlanu. ¹⁸ Amadoda ako-Israyeli aqinileyo ngalesosikhathi anqotshwa, kwathi abakoJuda baphumelela ngoba babethembele KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo.

¹⁹ U-Abhija waxotshana loJerobhowamu wamthathela amadolobho eBhetheli, leleJeshana kanye lele-Efroni, lemizi eyayiseduzane khonapho. ²⁰ UJerobhowamu kazange abuse futhi kusabusa u-Abhija. UTHIXO wantshaya wafa.

²¹ Kodwa u-Abhija waqina waba lamandla embusweni. Wathatha abafazi abalitshumi lane waba lamadodana angamatshumi amabili lamadodakazi alitshumi lesithupha.

²² Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kuka-Abhija, akwenzayo lakutshoyo, kulotshiwe ezindabeni

zomphrofethi u-Ido.

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¹ Ngakho u-Abhija waya kubokhokho bakhe wembelwa eMzini kaDavida. Indodana yakhe u-Asa wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi, njalo ngezinsuku zokubusa kwakhe kwaba lokuthula elizweni okweminyaka elitshumi.

U-Asa Uba Yinkosi Yakojuda

² U-Asa wenza okuhle lokulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe.

³ Wasusa wonke ama-alithare ezizweni lezindawo zokukhonzela, wadiliza izinsika zakhona lezithombe zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera. ⁴ Walaya abakoJuda ukuba bakhonze UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, balandele yonke imithetho lemilayo yakhe.

⁵ Wavala izindawo zokukhonzela lama-alithare empepha kuwo wonke amadolobho akoJuda, ngakho kwaba lokuthula ekubuseni kwakhe.

⁶ Wakha imizi ebiyelweyo koJuda, njengoba kwakulokuthula elizweni. Kakho owalwa impi laye ngaleyominyaka, ngoba UTHIXO wamnika ukuphumula.

⁷ Wathi kwabakoJuda, “Kasakheni imizi le siyizinglezele ngemiduli, lemiphotshongo, lamasango leminxibo. Ilizwe lilokhu lingelethu, ngoba simtholile UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu; simkhonzile usesilethele ukuthula inxa zonke.” Basebesakha njalo baphumelela.

⁸ U-Asa wayelamabutho empi azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu koJuda, ayehlome ngamahawu amakhulu lemikhonto, lamanye

azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili alamatshumi ayisificaminwembili koBhenjamini, ayehlome ngezihlangu ezincinyane lamadandili. Wonke kungamadoda alezibindi zokulwa.

⁹ UZera umKhushi waphuma ebathukuthelele ephelekezelwa libutho elikhulu lezingqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu amathathu, waze wayafika eMaresha. ¹⁰ U-Asa waphuma laye ukuyamjamela, bafika bajama eSigodini saseZefatha phansi kweMaresha.

¹¹ U-Asa wasekhuleka kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe wathi: “Thixo, kakho omunye onjengawe ongavikela ababuthakathaka kwabalamandla. Sisize, Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu wethu, ngoba thina sithembele kuwe, ngebizo lakho siphumile ukuba silwe lalelibutho lempi elikhulu kangaka. Oh THIXO, unguNkulunkulu wethu; umuntu angezake amelane lawe.”

¹² UTHIXO wawatshaya wawabhuga amaKhushi phambi kuka-Asa labakoJuda. AmaKhushi abaleka, ¹³ kodwa u-Asa lamabutho akhe waxotshana lawo waze wayawafikisa eGerari. Kwafa amaKhushi amanengi okokuthi kasazange azame ukuqoqana kutsha; abhugwa phambi KUKATHIXO laphambi kwamabutho akhe. Amadoda akoJuda atshuquluza impango enengi kakhulu. ¹⁴ Atshabalalisa yonke imizi yaseGerari, ngoba ukuthukuthela KUKATHIXO kwakuphezu kwayo. Atshuquluza yonke imizi ngoba impango yayinengi kuyo. ¹⁵ Ahlasela izihongo zabelusi njalo abutha imihlambi yezimvu, imbuzi kanye lamakamela. Asebuyela eJerusalema.

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Imvuselelo Ka-Asa

¹ Umoya kaNkulunkulu wehlela phezu kuka-Azariya indodana ka-Odedi. ² Waphuma ukuba ayehlangabezana lo-Asa wasesithi kuye, “Lalela kimi, Asa labo bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini. UTHIXO ulawe nxa wena ukuye. Nxa umfuna, uzamthola, kodwa nxa umlahla uzakulahla. ³ Okwesikhathi eside abako-Israyeli babengelaye uNkulunkulu weqiniso, bengelaye umphristi wokufundisa njalo bengelawo umthetho. ⁴ Kodwa osizini lwabo baphendukela KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, bamdinga bamthola. ⁵ Ngalezonsuku, ngenxa yokuxokozela okukhulu kwezizwe, kwakungelula ukuhambahamba. ⁶ Kwakulencithakalo isizwe sichithwa ngesinye, umuzi uchithwa ngomunye, ngoba uNkulunkulu wabehlisela zonke inhlobonhlobo zosizi. ⁷ Kodwa wena, qina ungayekethisi, ngoba owakho umsebenzi uzakuba lomvuzo.”

⁸ U-Asa wathi ewezwa lamazwi lesiphrofethi sika-Azariya indodana ka-Odedi umphrofethi, waqina waba lesibindi. Wasusa zonke izithombe ezinengisayo kulolonke ilizwe lakoJuda lelakoBhenjamini lasemizini ayeyithumbile emaqaqeni ako-Efrayimi. Wavuselela i-alithari LIKATHIXO elaliphambi komkoto wethempeli LIKATHIXO.

⁹ Wasebuthanisa bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini kanye labantu ababevela ko-Efrayimi, lakoManase kanye lakoSimiyoni ababehlezi phakathi kwabo, ngoba babebanengi kakhulu abako-Israyeli ababethe ngokubona

ukuthi uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wayelaye bathutha beza ngakuye.

¹⁰ Babuthana eJerusalema ngenyanga yesithathu ngomnyaka wetshumi lanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa. ¹¹ Ngalesosikhathi

benza imihlatshelo kuTHIXO eyezinkomo ezingamakhulu ayisikhombisa lezimvu kanye lembuzi eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa kulezo ababezithumbe babuya lazo.

¹² Benza isivumelwano sokuba bamdinge uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, ngezinhliziyo zabo ezipheleleyo langomoya.

¹³ Bonke ababengayi kumdinga uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, babefanele babulawe, loba bebancinyane loba bebakhulu, loba kungowesilisa kumbe owesifazane. ¹⁴ Benza

isifungo kuTHIXO ngokuvungama, bememeza njalo bevuthela lamacilongo lempondo.

¹⁵ AbakoJuda bathokoza bonke ngesifungo ngoba babesenze ngenhliziyo yabo yonke. Bamdinga uTHIXO ngokulangatha, wabavumela ukuthi bamthole. Ngakho uTHIXO wabanika ukuthula inxa zonke.

¹⁶ Inkosi u-Asa yasusa ugogo wayo uMahakha esikhundleni sokuba yindlovukazi ngoba wayenze insika yokukhonzela unkulunkulukazi u-Ashera oyisinengiso. U-Asa wayidiliza insika, wayiqumaquma wayitshisela eSigodini saseKhidironi. ¹⁷ Lanxa engasusanga izindawo

zokukhonzela ko-Israyeli, u-Asa wayezinikele kuTHIXO ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke empilweni yakhe yonke. ¹⁸ Wangenisa ethempelini likaNkulunkulu isiliva legolide lezinto lezo yena kanye

loyise ababezahlukanisele uTHIXO.

¹⁹ Akusazange kube lempi kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa.

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Iminyaka Ka-Asa Yokucina

¹ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesithupha wokubusa kuka-Asa uBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli wasuka wayavimbezela uJuda wakhela iRama inqaba ukunqabela loba ngubani ukuthi angaphumi loba angangeni elizweni lika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda.

² Ngakho u-Asa wathatha isiliva legolide esiphaleni senotho sethempeli LIKATHIXO lakwesakhe esigodlweni sakhe wakuthumela kuBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu, owayebusa eDamaseko. ³ Wathi, “Kasenze isivumelwano mina lawe njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngubaba loyihlo. Uyabona, nanku mina ngikuthumele isiliva legolide. Wena yesula isivumelwano sakho loBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli yikho ezahlehla angiyekele.”

⁴ UBheni-Hadadi wavumelana lenkosi u-Asa wahle wathumela abalawuli bamabutho akhe ukuba bayehlasela imizi yako-Israyeli. Banqoba elako-Ijoni, lelakoDani le-Abheli-Mayimi kanye layo yonke imizi yeziphala zakoNafithali.

⁵ UBhasha wathi ekuzwa lokhu wema ukwakha iRama wahle wayekela umsebenzi wakhe.

⁶ Ngakho inkosi u-Asa yaletha wonke amadoda akoJuda athutha amatshe lezigodo eRama

okwakusetshenziswa nguBhasha. Wakha ngakho iGebha leMizipha.

⁷ Ngalesosikhathi uHanani umboni wafika ku-Asa inkosi yakoJuda wathi kuye: “Ngenxa yokuthi wethembele enkosini yase-Aramu wadela ukwethembela KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho, ibutho lenkosi yase-Aramu seliphunyukile esandleni sakho. ⁸ Kanti amaKhushi lamaLibhiya babengelabutho elilamandla amakhulu lamanani amanengi ezinqola zokulwa lamadoda alwa ngamabhiza na? Kodwa-ke kwathi usuthembele KUTHIXO, wabanikela esandleni sakho. ⁹ Ngoba amehlo KATHIXO athungatha umhlaba wonke ukuze aqinise labo abanhliziyo zabo zizimisele kuye. Usuwenze ubuwula, ngakho kusukela khathesi uzahlala usempini.”

¹⁰ U-Asa wazondela umboni ngenxa yalokho; wathukuthela wahle wamfaka entolongweni. Kusenjalo u-Asa waphatha abanye babantu ngochuku.

¹¹ Izehlakalo zombuso ka-Asa, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, zilotshwe egwalweni lwamakhosi akoJuda lawako-Israyeli. ¹² Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu layisificamunwemunye wokubusa kwakhe u-Asa wahlaselwa ngumkhuhlane ezinyaweni zakhe. Loba umkhuhlane wakhe wawubuhlungu kakhulu, kazange adinge usizo KUTHIXO, kodwa wayesiya ezinyangeni. ¹³ Kwathi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amane lowodwa u-Asa wafa walala kunye laboyise. ¹⁴ Bamngcwaba ethuneni ayezenzele lona eMzini kaDavida. Bambeka

phezu kwethala elaligcwele amakha enhlobo ngenhlobo ayexutshwe ngokuhlakanipha kwezingcitshi zamakha, babasa umlilo omkhulu wokumhlonipha.

17

UJehoshafathi Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ UJehoshafathi indodana ka-Asa waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe; wazilungisela ukumelana lo-Israyeli empini. ² Wabeka amabutho emizini ebiyelweyo yakoJuda wafaka amaviyo koJuda kanye lasemizini yako-Efrayimi eyayithunjwe nguyise u-Asa.

³ UTHIXO wayelaye uJehoshafathi ngoba ngeminyaka yakuqala wayehamba ngezindlela ezalandelwa nguyise uDavida. Kabadinganga oBhali, ⁴ kodwa wadinga uNkulunkulu kayise njalo walalela imilayo yakhe kazange alingisele okwakusenziwa ngabako-Israyeli. ⁵ UTHIXO wawuqinisa umbuso wakhe, bonke abakoJuda baletha izipho kuJehoshafathi, ngakho wanotha kakhulu njalo wahlonitshwa kakhulu. ⁶ Inhliziyo yakhe yayi kuTHIXO ngokuzinikela okukhulu ezindleleni zakhe; njalo wasusa zonke izindawo zokukhonzela wadiliza lezinsika zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera koJuda.

⁷ Ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kwakhe wathuma izikhulu zakhe oBheni-Hali, lo-Obhadaya, loZakhariya, loNethaneli kanye loMikhaya ukuba ziyefundisa emizini yakoJuda. ⁸ Ndawonye lazo kwakulabanye abaLevi uShemaya loNethaniya, loZebhadiya, lo-Asaheli,

loShemiramothi, loJehonathani, lo-Adonija, loThobhija kanye loThobhi-Adonija lo-Elishama loJehoramu abaphristi. ⁹ Bafundisa kulolonke elakoJuda, bethwele uGwalo lwemiThetho KATHIXO; babhoda yonke imizi yakoJuda befundisa abantu.

¹⁰ Ukumesaba uTHIXO kwagcwala kuyo yonke imibuso yamazwe akhelane loJuda, ngakho abasayanga empini loJehoshafathi.

¹¹ Amanye amaFilistiya alethela uJehoshafathi izipho lesiliva njengomthelo, lama-Arabhu aletha imihlambi yezimvu: izinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lamakhulu ayisikhombisa enqama, lembuzi eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lamakhulu ayisikhombisa.

¹² UJehoshafathi waba lamandla amakhulu angezelelweyo, wakha izingqaba lamadolobho eziphala koJuda ¹³ njalo wayelokudla okunengi emizini yakoJuda. Wayelamabutho akwaziyo ukulwa ayehlala eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Wona ayemi kanje ngezimuli:

KwabakoJuda, abalawuli bamaviyo enkulungwane babeyilaba:

u-Adina umlawuli wayelamaqhawe alamandla azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu (300,000);

¹⁵ kulandele uJehohanani umlawuli, elamabutho azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili lamatshumi ayisificaminwembili (280,000);

¹⁶ kulandele u-Amasiya indodana kaZikhiri, owazinikela ukusebenzela uTHIXO

elamaqhawe alamandla azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili (200,000).

¹⁷ KwabakoBhenjamini:

kwakungu-Eliyada, indoda eliqhawe, elamadoda azinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili (200,000) ayehlome ngamadandili lezihlangu;

¹⁸ kulandele uJehozabhadi elamadoda azinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi ayisificaminwembili (180,000) ayehlomele ukulwa impi.

¹⁹ Yiwo la amadoda ayesebenzela inkosi, ngaphandle kwalawo ayesemzini ebiyelweyo kulolonke elakoJuda.

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UMikhaya Uphrofetha Okubi Ngo-Ahabi

¹ Ngakho uJehoshafathi wayenotho kakhulu njalo ehlonipheka, waba lobunini lo-Ahabi ngokwendiselana. ² Ngemva kweminyaka ethile wayakwethekelela u-Ahabi eSamariya. U-Ahabi wamhlabela izimvu ezinengi lenkomo yena kanye labantu ayelabo njalo wamkhuthaza ukuba ahlasele iRamothi Giliyadi. ³ U-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli yabuza uJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wathi: “Uzahamba lami na ukuyahlasela iRamothi Giliyadi?”

UJehoshafathi waphendula wathi, “Mina nginjengawe, abantu bami banjengabantu bakho; sizakuba lawe empini.” ⁴ Kodwa

uJehoshafathi waphinda wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Akubuze kuTHIXO kuqala.”

⁵ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibuthanisa abaphrofethi, amadoda angamakhulu amane, yababuza yathi, “Siphume impi siyehlasela iRamothi Giliyadi, loba ngizithibe na?”

Bayiphendula bathi, “Hamba, ngoba uNkulunkulu uzayinikela esandleni senkosi.”

⁶ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, “Kambe kakusela mphrofethi kaTHIXO lapha esingabuza kuye na?”

⁷ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Ukhona oyedwa esingabuza uTHIXO ngaye kodwa ngiyamzonda ngoba kakaze aphrofethe okuhle ngami, uhlala ekhuluma okubi. Ibizo lakhe nguMikhaya indodana ka-Imla.”

UJehoshafathi wathi, “Inkosi kayimelanga itsho njalo.”

⁸ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yabiza esinye sezikhulu zayo yathi kuso, “Ngibizela uMikhaya indodana ka-Imla khathesi.”

⁹ Bembethe izembatho zabo zobukhosi, inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda babehezi ezihlalweni zabo zobukhosi esizeni sokubhulela amabele esangweni laseSamariya labo bonke abaphrofethi bephrofetha phambi kwabo. ¹⁰ UZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana wayekhande impondo zensimbi, wasesithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO, uthi: ‘Ngempondo lezi uzagwaza ama-Aramu uwabhuhise.’”

¹¹ Bonke abaphrofethi babevele bephrofetha okufananayo besithi, “Hlasela iRamothi Giliyadi

unqobe, ngoba UTHIXO uyinikile esandleni senkosi.”

12 Isithunywa esasithunywe ukuyabiza uMikhaya sathi kuye, “Khangela, abanye abaphrofethi bafakaza bengela kuthandabuza ukuthi inkosi izanqoba. Lawe vumelana labo, ukhulume okuyithokozisayo.”

13 Kodwa uMikhaya wathi, “Ngeqiniso njen-goba UTHIXO ekhona, engingamtshela khona yilokhu okutshiwo NGUTHIXO.”

14 Uthe efika, inkosi yambuza yathi, “Mikhaya, siye empini eRamothi Giliyadi, loba ngizithibe na?”

Yena waphendula wathi: “Hlasela unqobe, ngoba bazanikelwa ezandleni zakho.”

15 Inkosi yathi kuye, “Kumele ngikufungise kangaki ukuze ungangikhohlisi kodwa ungit-shele iqiniso ebizweni LIKATHIXO?”

16 Ngakho uMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Ngabona abako-Israyeli bonke behlakazekile emaqaqeni njengezimvu ezingelamelusi, UTHIXO wathi, ‘Lababantu kabalamkhokheli. Kabazibuyelele emakhaya ngokuthula.’”

17 Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Kangikutshelanga yini ukuthi uvele kaphrofethi lutho oluhle ngami kodwa okubi kuphela na?”

18 UMikhaya waqhubeka wathi, “Ngakho zwanini ilizwi LIKATHIXO: Ngabona UTHIXO ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lebutho lonke lasezulwini limi ngakwesokudla langak-wesokhohlo. 19 Njalo UTHIXO wathi, ‘Ngubani ozakhohlisa u-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli ukuba

ahlasele eRamothe Giliyadi njalo ayofela khona na?’

Omunye wabonisa lokhu, omunye laye lokhuyana. ²⁰ Ekucineni kwavela umoya, wema phambi KUKATHIXO wathi: ‘Mina ngizamhuga.’

UTHIXO wathi kuwo: ‘Ngendlela bani na?’

²¹ Wona wathi: ‘Ngizahamba ngiyekuba ngumoya wokuqamba amanga emilonyeni yabo bonke abaphrofethi bakhe.’

UTHIXO wathi: ‘Uzaphumelela ukumhuga. Hamba-ke uyekwenza lokho.’

²² Ngakho khathesi UTHIXO usefake umoya wenkohliso emilonyeni yabaphrofethi bakho bonke laba. UTHIXO usekumisele ukubhujiswa.”

²³ Ngakho uZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana waphakama wayawakala uMikhaya ngempama ebusweni, watsho embuza wathi, “Umoya KATHIXO wasuka njani kimi ukuyakhuluma kuwe na?”

²⁴ UMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Wena ngokwakho uzakubona lokho mhla ubalekela endlini engaphakathi usiyacatsha.”

²⁵ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi, “Bambani uMikhaya, limbuyisele ku-Amoni umbusi wedolobho lakuJowashi indodana yenkosi

²⁶ lithi: ‘Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi, ithi: Valelani umuntu lo entolongweni, lingamniki lutho ngaphandle kwesinkwa lamanzi ngize ngiphenduke kukuhle.’”

²⁷ UMikhaya waqongosela wathi: “Nxa ungaphenduka kuhle, UTHIXO uyabe engakhumanga ngami.” Waqhubeka wathi, “Lani lonke bantu abambisiseni amazwi ami!”

Ukubulawa Kuka-Ahabi ERamothi Giliyadi

²⁸ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda baya eRamothi Giliyadi.

²⁹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi: “Mina ngizakuya empini ngizazifihla ngokulahlisa isimo sami, kodwa wena gqoka ezakho ezobukhosi.” Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yazifihla ngokulahlisa isimo sayo yangena empini.

³⁰ Ngakho inkosi yase-Aramu yayiqonqosele abalawuli bezingola zokulwa yathi, “Lingalwi lamuntu, loba ngomncinyane loba ngomkhulu, ngaphandle kwenkosi yako-Israyeli.”

³¹ Abalawuli bezingola zokulwa bathi bebona uJehoshafathi bathi, “Yiyonale inkosi yako-Israyeli.” Ngakho bamphendukela ukuba bamhlasele, kodwa uJehoshafathi wahlaba umkhosi, UTHIXO wamsiza. UNkulunkulu wabenza baya khatshana laye, ³² ngoba abalawuli bezingola zokulwa bathi sebebonile ukuthi kasiyo inkosi yako-Israyeli, abazange besaxotshana laye.

³³ Kodwa omunye watshoka kungananzelelwe umtshoko waphutsha emkhandlwini wesikhali wagwaza inkosi yako-Israyeli. Inkosi yatshela umtshayeli wenqola yokulwa yathi, “Phendula inqola yakho ungisuse lapha, sengilimele.”

³⁴ Impi yalwiwa ilanga lonke, njalo inkosi yako-Israyeli yeyama enqoleni yayo yokulwa ikhangele ama-Aramu kwaze kwaba ntambama. Kuthe litshona layo yabe isifa.

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¹ UJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wathi esebuyela eJerusalema esigodlweni sakhe ephephile, ² uJehu umboni, indodana kaHanani, waphuma ukuba ayomhlangabeza wasesithi enkosini, “Kufanele yini ukuba uncedise ababi njalo uthande abamzondayo UTHIXO? Ngenxa yalokho, ulaka lukaThixo luphezu kwakho. ³ Kodwa-ke kukhona okuhle ngawe, ngoba uziquedile elizweni lonke izinsika zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera, inhliziyo yakho wayimisela ukudinga uNkulunkulu.”

UJehoshafathi Ukhetha Abehluleli

⁴ UJehoshafathi wayehlala eJerusalema, waphuma wahambela abantu kusukela eBherishebha kusiya elizweni lamaqaqa lako-Efrayimi wabaphendula ukuba bamkhonze UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo. ⁵ Wakhetha abehluleli elizweni, kuwo wonke amadolobho abiyelweyo akoJuda. ⁶ Wabatshela wathi: “Linanzelele elikwenzayo, ngoba kalehluleli umuntu kodwa lehlulela UTHIXO, yena uzalisiza ekwahluleleni. ⁷ Ngakho mesabeni UTHIXO linanzelele elikwenzayo, yahlulelani ngonanzelelo ngoba kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu kakukho ukwehlulela kubi loba ubandlululo loba ukufumbathisana.”

⁸ Lakhona eJerusalema, uJehoshafathi wabeka abaLevi abathile labaphristi lezinhloko zezindlu zabako-Israyeli ukuba balawule umthetho kaTHIXO balamule lemibango. Babehlala eJerusalema. ⁹ Wabanika iziqondiso ezithi: “Kumele lethembeke ngokumesaba UTHIXO,

ngobuqotho langenhliziyi nye epheleleyo.
¹⁰ Wonke amacala eza kini evela ezihlotsheni zenu kuwo wonke amadolobho elihlala kiwo loba kungamacala okuchitha igazi loba awokwephula umthetho, imilayo, izimiso loba iziqondiso, baxwayiseni ukuba bangoni kuTHIXO, funa ulaka lwakhe lwehlele phezu kwenu labafowenu. Lingenza lokho aliyikwenza isono.

¹¹ U-Amariya umphristi omkhulu nguye ozalikhangelala emsebenzini wonke KATHIXO, kuthi uZebhadiya indodana ka-Ishumayeli, umkhokheli wesizwe sakoJuda alikhokhele ezintweni eziqondane lenkosi, abaLevi labo bazakuba yizikhulu zenu. Yenzani ngesibindi, njalo sengathi uTHIXO angaba lalabo abazakwenza ngobuqotho.”

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UJehoshafathi Unqoba AmaMowabi Lama-Amoni

¹ Ngemva kwalokho amaMowabi lama-Amoni kanye labanye bamaMewuni baphuma impi ukuba bayehlasela uJehoshafathi.

² Amanye amadoda aya kuJehoshafathi afika athi kuye, “Kulempi enkulu ezayo ukuzakuhlasele evela ngase-Edomi, ngaphetsheya kolwandle. IsiseHazazoni Thamari” (okuyikuthi, Eni-Gedi). ³ Ngokwethuka, uJehoshafathi wazimisela ukumdinga uTHIXO, wamemezela ukuba akuzilwe ukudla kulolonke elakoJuda. ⁴ Abantu bakoJuda baqoqana bahlangana bezodinga usizo

KUTHIXO, lakanye baphuma kuyo yonke imizi yakoJuda.

⁵ Ngakho uJehoshafathi wema phambi kwebandla lakoJuda lelaseJerusalema ethempelini LIKATHIXO phambi kweguma elitsha ⁶ wathi,

“Oh THIXO, Nkulunkulu wabokhokho, kakusuwe yini uNkulunkulu osezulwini? Ubusa phezu kwemibuso yezizwe zonke. Amandla asesandleni sakho, njalo kakho ongamelana lawe. ⁷ Oh Nkulunkulu wethu, awubaxotshanga ababekuleli lizwe phambi kwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli wabanika ukuba libe ngelabo nini lanini abesizukulwane sika-Abhrahama umngane wakho na?

⁸ Sebehlale kulo njalo sebakhe indawo yokukhonzela yeBizo lakho, besithi, ⁹ ‘Nxa sisehlelwa zinhlupheko, loba yinkemba yokwahlulela, loba yizifo loba yindlala, sizakuma ngobukhona bakho phambi kwalelithempeli elileBizo lakho sikhale kuwe ekuhlukuluzweni kwethu, wena uzasizwa njalo usisindise.’

¹⁰ Kodwa khathesi nanka amadoda ama-Amoni lamaMowabi labeNtabeni yaseSeyiri, abelizwe owalela u-Israyeli ukuba alingobe ekuphumeni kwakhe eGibhithe; okwaban-gela ukuthi babatshiye abaze bababhuhisa.

¹¹ Khangela ukuthi khathesi baphindisela ngokunganani ngokusemuka isipho owasipha sona ukuba sibe yilifa lethu. ¹² Oh Nkulunkulu wethu, awuyikubahlulela na? Ngoba asilamandla okumelana lebutho elikhulu kangaka elisihlaselayo. Asikwazi esingakwenza, kodwa

amehlo ethu aphezu kwakho.”

¹³ Wonke amadoda akoJuda, labomkabo labantwabawo lensane, bema lapho phambi KUKATHIXO.

¹⁴ UMoya KATHIXO wehlela kuJahaziyeli indodana kaZakhariya, indodana kaBhenaya, indodana kaJeyiyeli, indodana kaMathaniya, umLevi oyisizukulwane sika-Asafi, emi phambi kwebandla.

¹⁵ Wasesithi: “Lalela, wena Nkosi Jehoshafathi labo bonke abahlala koJuda labaseJerusalema! Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO kini: ‘Lingesabi njalo lingadediswa yibukhulu bebutho laley-ompi. Ngoba ukulwa akusikwenu, kodwa ngokukaNkulunkulu. ¹⁶ Kusasa hambani liyepamelana labo. Bona bazakhwela ngokhalo lwaseZizi, lina lizabathola ekucineni kodonga eNkangala yaseJeruweli. ¹⁷ Aliyikuyilwa limpi. Lunganini ezindaweni; lime ngesibindi lizabona ukuhlenga KUKATHIXO azalenzela khona, Oh lina bakaJuda lani beJerusalema. Lingesabi, lingadangani. Phumani kusasa liyehlasela, UTHIXO uzakuba lani.’ ”

¹⁸ UJehoshafathi wakhothama ubuso buphansi kanti njalo bonke abakoJuda labaseJerusalema bawela phansi ngobuso bemkhonza UTHIXO.

¹⁹ Ngakho abanye abaLevi bamaKhohathi, lamaKhora bema bamdumisa UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ngelizwi eliphakemeyo okuphezulu.

²⁰ Kwathi ekuseni kakhulu basuka baya eNkangala yaseThekhowa. Bathi besuka lapho, uJehoshafathi waphakama wathi, “Lalelani

kimi, bantu bakoJuda lani baseJerusalema! Thembelani KU^{THIXO} uNkulunkulu wenu uzaliphathisa; likholwe abaphrofethi bakhe, lizaphumelela.” ²¹ Ngemva kokubuza abantu, uJehoshafathi wakhetha amadoda okuhlabelela U^{THIXO} lokumdumisa ngenxa yenkazimulo yobungcwele bakhe bekhokhele amabutho, besithi:

“Mbongeni U^{THIXO},
ngoba uthando lwakhe lumi nininini.”

²² Bathi beqalisa ukuhlabelela njalo bedumisa, U^{THIXO} wabeka abantu bokucathamela abase-Amoni labase-Mowabi labaseNtabeni iSeyiri ababedinga ukuhlasela uJuda, behlulwa. ²³ Amadoda ako-Amoni lawamaMowabi avukela amadoda ayevela eNtabeni yaseSeyiri ukuba bawabulale bawatshabalalise. Ngemva kokuba sebeqedile ukubulala abaseSeyiri, banceda ngokubulalana bodwa.

²⁴ Amadoda akoJuda athe efika endaweni emalungana lenkangala bakhangela lapho okwakulebutho elikhulu khona babona ngezidumbu zelekene phansi, kungekho loyedwa owayebalekile. ²⁵ Ngakho uJehoshafathi lamanye amadoda bahamba bayabutha impango, njalo phakathi kwayo bafumana impahla zokusebenzisa lezembatho lezinye njalo impahla eziligugu ukwedlula lezo ababengazithwala. Impango yayinengi kwaze kwathatha insuku ezintathu beyithutha. ²⁶ Ngosuku lwesine babuthana eSigodini saseBherakha, lapho abadumisela khona U^{THIXO}. Kungenxa yalokho yonale indawo

yabizwa ngokuthi iSigodi saseBherakha kuze kube lamuhla.

²⁷ Ngakho wonke amadoda akoJuda lawase-Jerusalem abuyela ngokuthokoza eJerusalem, bekhokhelwa nguJehoshafathi ngoba UTHIXO wayebenzele lokho okwakubajabulisile phezu kwezitha zabo. ²⁸ Bangena eJerusalem baya ethempelini LIKATHIXO betshaya imihubhe lemiqangala lamacilongo.

²⁹ Ukwesaba uNkulunkulu kwehlela phezu kwayo yonke imibuso emazweni besizwa ngokulwa KUKATHIXO esilwa lezitha zika-Israyeli. ³⁰ Lakanye umbuso kaJehoshafathi waba lokuthula, ngoba uNkulunkulu wakhe wayemnike ukuphumula inxa zonke.

Isiphetho Sombuso KaJehoshafathi

³¹ Ngakho uJehoshafathi wabusa koJuda. Waba yinkosi yakoJuda eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu, wabusa eJerusalem okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu. Unina wayengu-Azubha indodakazi kaShilihi. ³² Wahamba ngezindlela zikayise u-Asa njalo kazange aphambuke kuzo; wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO. ³³ Izindawo zokukhonzela kazisuswanga njalo abantu babelokhu bengazimiselanga ngezinhliziyo zabo ngokupheleleyo kuNkulunkulu waboyise.

³⁴ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJehoshafathi kusukela ekuqaleni kusiya ekucineni, zilotshiwe embalini kaJehu, indodana kaHanani, yona elotshwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

³⁵ Ngokuqhubeka kwezikhathi, uJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda waba lesibopho asenza lo-Ahaziya inkosi yako-Israyeli, owayelecala lokwenza okubi. ³⁶ Wavumelana laye ukuba bakhe imikhumbi yokuthwala impahla zokuthengiselana. Ngemva kokuba isiyakhiwe e-Eziyoni-Gebheri, ³⁷ u-Eliyezari indodana kaDodavahu waseMaresha wakhuluma isiphrofethi esilahla uJehoshafathi, esithi, “Ngenxa yokuthi wenza isibopho lo-Ahaziya, UTHIXO uzadiliza lokho okwenzileyo.” Imikhumbi yabhidlika ayaze yenelisa ukungena olwandle isiyathengisa.

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¹ Ngakho uJehoshafathi waphumula labokhokho bakhe, wangcwatshwa kanye labo emzini kaDavida uyise. UJehoram indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe. ² Abafowabo bakaJehoram, amadodana kaJehoshafathi, babengo-Azariya, loJehiyeli, loZakhariya, lo-Azariyahu, loMikhayeli kanye loShefathiya. Bonke laba babengamadodana kaJehoshafathi inkosi yako-Israyeli. ³ Uyise wayebanike izipho ezinengi zesiliva lezegolide kanye lezinye impahla eziligugu, lamadolobho abiyelweyo koJuda, kodwa ubukhosi wayebunike uJehoram ngoba eyindodana yakhe yamazibulo.

UJehoram Inkosi YakoJuda

⁴ UJehoram esengenile esikhundleni sikayise waqinisa umbuso wakhe, wabulala bonke abafowabo ngenkemba kanye lamanye amakhosana ako-Israyeli. ⁵ UJehoram

waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eyisificaminwembali. ⁶ Walandela izindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli, njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wathatha indodakazi ka-Ahabi. Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO. ⁷ Lanxa kunjalo, ngenxa yesivumelwano uThixo ayesenze loDavida, UTHIXO kathandanga ukuyidiliza indlu kaDavida. Wayethembise ukumbekela isibane yena kanye lesizukulwane sakhe nini lanini.

⁸ Ngensuku zikaJehoram, abase-Edomi bahlamukela uJuda babeka eyabo inkosi. ⁹ Ngakho uJehoram waya khonale lezikhulu zakhe lazozonke izinqola zakhe zempi. Abase-Edomi bamhanga kanye labalawuli bezingola zakhe zempi, kodwa wavuka ebusuku waphunyuka. ¹⁰ Kuze kube lamhla abase-Edomi balokhu behlamukela uJuda.

AbaseLibhina labo bahlamuka ngasolesi isikhathi, ngoba uJehoram wayefulathele UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyise. ¹¹ Njalo wamisa izindawo zokukhonzela emaqaqeni akoJuda, wenza abaseJerusalema ukuba bakhonze izithombe, wadukisa abakoJuda.

¹² UJehoram wemukela incwadi eyayivela ku-Elija umphrofethi isithi:

“Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu kayihlo uDavida, uthi: ‘Kawuhambanga ezindleleni zikaJehoshafathi uyihlo lezika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda. ¹³ Kodwa ulandele izindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli, waholela abakoJuda labantu baseJerusalema ekuzingcoliseni

njengalokhu indlu ka-Ahabi eyakwenzayo njalo usubulele abafowenu abendlu kayihlo ababengcono kulawe. ¹⁴ Ngakho-ke UTHIXO usezabatshaya abantu bakini lamadodana akho, labomkabo lakho konke okungokwakho, ngesidutshulo esikhulu. ¹⁵ Lawe uqobo uzagula umkhuhlane omubi owesifo samathumbu akho, amathumbu akho aze ahotshuke ngokuhamba kwensuku ngenxa yesifo.’”

¹⁶ UTHIXO wamvusela uJehoram u ulaka lwamaFilistiya lama-Arabhu ayehlala eduzane lamaKhushi. ¹⁷ Bahlasela koJuda, bangena khona bathutha zonke impahla ababezitholile esigodlweni senkosi, labantwabayo labomkayo. Akulandodana eyasalayo ngaphandle kuka-Ahaziya isicino sabo.

¹⁸ Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu UTHIXO wehlisela uJehoram isifo samathumbu esingelaphekiyo. ¹⁹ Ngokuqhubeka kwesikhathi ekupheleni komnyaka wesibili, amathumbu akhe ahotshuka ngenxa yesifo, wafa esebuhlungwini obukhulu. Abantu bakhe abazange babase umlilo wokumhlonipha njengalokhu ababekwenza kuboyise.

²⁰ UJehoram waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eyisificaminwembali. Wafa engakhalelwa muntu, wabekwa eMzini kaDavida, kodwa kungesikho emangcwabeni amakhosi.

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U-Ahaziya iNkosi YakoJuda

¹ Abantu baseJerusalema babeka u-Ahaziya, indodana encinyane kaJehoram, ukuba abe yinkosi esikhundleni sikayise, njengoba abahlaseli ababeze lama-Arabhu enkambeni, babebulele wonke amadodana akhe amadala. Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa.

² U-Ahaziya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili ekubeni kwakhe yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okomnyaka owodwa. Unina wayengu-Athaliya, umntanomntanakhe ka-Omri.

³ Laye ngomunye owalandela izindlela zabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba unina wamkhuthaza ukwenza okubi. ⁴ Wona phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba ngemva kokufa kukayise bahle baba ngabacebisi bakhe, babangela ukuchitheka kwakhe. ⁵ Walalela ukweluleka kwabo aze ahambe loJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli empini yokuhlasela uHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu eRamothe Gilyadi. Ama-Aramu alimaza uJoram; ⁶ wahle wabuyela eJezerili ukuba ayephozisa amanxeba okulinyazwa kwakhe eRama ekulweni kwakhe loHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu.

Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda waya eJezerili ukuyabona uJoram indodana ka-Ahabi njengoba wayeselimele.

⁷ Ngokwethekelela kuka-Ahaziya kuJoramu, uNkulunkulu wayemise ukumbhubhisa u-Ahaziya. Ngoba ekufikeni kwakhe khonale wahle waphuma loJoramu ukuyahlangabeza uJehu indodana kaNimishi owayegcotshwe NGUTHIXO ukubhubhisa indlu ka-Ahabi. ⁸ Kwathi lapho uJehu esenza lokhu okuyifaneleyo indlu ka-Ahabi, wahlangana lezikhulu zakoJuda lamadodana abafowabo baka-Ahaziya ababesebenzela u-Ahaziya, wababulala. ⁹ Wasedinga u-Ahaziya abantu bakhe bambamba esecatshile eSamariya, bamletha kuJehu, wabulawa. Bamngcwaba ngoba bathi: “Wayeyindodana kaJehoshafathi owadinga UTHIXO ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke.” Ngakho kwakungaselamuntu endlini ka-Ahaziya olamandla okuwumisa umbuso.

U-Athaliya LoJowashi

¹⁰ Kwathi u-Athaliya unina ka-Ahaziya esebonile ukuthi indodana yakhe isifile, waqhubekela phambili edinga ukubhubhisa umndlunkulu wendlu yakoJuda. ¹¹ Kodwa uJehoshabhiyathi, indodakazi yenkosi uJehoram, watshontsha uJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya phakathi kwamakhosana omndlunkulu ayesezabhujiswa wamfihla endlini yakhe yokulala kanye lomlizane wakhe. Njengoba uJehoshebha indodakazi yenkosi uJehoram wayengumkaJehoyada umphristi njalo engudadewabo ka-Ahaziya, wamfihla umntwana ukuze angabulawa ngu-Athaliya. ¹² Wacatsha labo ethempelini likaNkulunkulu

okweminyaka eyisithupha yokubusa kuka-Athaliya elizweni.

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¹ Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa uJehoyada waqunga isibindi. Wenza isivumelwano labalawuli bamakhulu embuthweni: o-Azariya indodana kaJerohamu lo-Ishumayeli indodana kaJehohanani, lo-Azariya indodana ka-Obhedi, loMaseya indodana ka-Adaya kanye lo-Elishafathi indodana kaZikhiri. ² Bangena kulolonke elakoJuda, baqoqa abaLevi kuyo yonke imizi yakoJuda labayizinhloko zezimuli zako-Israyeli. Ekufikeni kwabo eJerusalema, ³ ibandla lonke lenza isivumelwano lenkosi ethempelini likaNkulunkulu.

UJehoyada wathi kubo, “Indodana yenkosi izabusa, njengoba UTHIXO wathembisa abayinzalo kaDavida. ⁴ Ngakho nanku okumele likwenze: Ingxenye yesithathu yenu baphristi labaLevi abalinda ngeSabatha bafanele balinde eminyango, ⁵ eyinye ingxenye yesithathu esigodlweni somndlunkulu kanye lenye njalo ingxenye yesithathu ezalinda eSangweni leSisekelo, kuthi wonke amanye amadoda abesemagumeni ethempeli LIKATHIXO. ⁶ Kakho ozangena ethempelini LIKATHIXO ngaphandle kwabaphristi labaLevi abazabe besemsebenzini; labo bezangena ngoba behlanjululwe, kodwa wonke amanye amadoda azalinda lokho azabe ekutshengiswe NGUTHIXO. ⁷ AbaLevi bazahonqolozela inkosi, ngulowo lalowo wabo ehlo mile. Loba ngubani ozangena ethempelini

kumele abulawe. Lingaxekelani lenkosi loba kungaphi lapho ezabe ikhona.”

⁸ AbaLevi lawo wonke amadoda akoJuda benza khonokho kanye ababekutshelwe nguJehoyada umphristi. Kwaba ngulowo lalowo wathatha abantu bakhe, kulabanye ababesiyaqalisa amazopho abo ngeSabatha labanye ababetshayisa ngemva kwamazopha abo ngoba uJehoyada umphristi wayelokhu engakakhululi loba iviyo elilodwa. ⁹ Wasenika abalawuli bamaviyo amabutho alikhulu imikhonto lamahawu amakhulu lamancinyane ayekade engawenkosi uDavida ayesethempelini likaNkulunkulu. ¹⁰ Wasemisa wonke amadoda, ngamunye ephethe izikhali zakhe ezandleni, ezingelezele inkosi eduze kwe-alithari lethempeli, kusukela eceleni langezansi kusiya enyakatho yethempeli.

¹¹ UJehoyada lamadodana akhe basebeveza indodana yenkosi njalo bayethesa umqhele; bayiqhubela lencwadi yesivumelwano bayibeka yaba yinkosi. Bayigcoba bavungama bathi: “Mpilonde nkosi!”

¹² U-Athaliya uthe esizwa umsindo wabantu begijima njalo behalalisa inkosi, wasuka waya kubo ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹³ Lakanye wayibona inkosi imi ensikeni yayo ngasemangenelweni. Izikhulu labavutheli bamacilongo be-sekele inkosi, njalo bonke abantu belizwe bejabula bevuthela amacilongo, kanye labahlabeleli bephethe izinto zokuhlabelela bekhokhela emkhosini wokuhaya inkosi. U-Athaliya wad-

abula izigqoko zakhe njalo wamemeza ethi: “Umvukela! Umvukela!”

¹⁴ UJehoyada umphristi wathumela abalawuli bamaviyo amabutho alikhulu, ababelawula amabutho, wathi: “Mkhupheleni phandle u-Athaliya phakathi kwamaviyo kuthi loba ngubani omlandelayo limbulale ngenkamba.” Ngoba umphristi wayethe, “Lingambulaleli ethempelini LIKATHIXO.”

¹⁵ Ngakho bambamba esefikile emangenelweni eSango laMabhiza emagumeni esigodlo, njalo kulapho abambulalela khona.

¹⁶ UJehoyada wasesenza isivumelwano sokuthi yena kanye labantu lenkosi bazakuba ngabantu BAKATHIXO ¹⁷ Bonke abantu baya ethempelini likaBhali, balidilizela phansi, babhidliza lama-alithare akhe lezithombe zakhe, babulala uMathani umphristi kaBhali phambi kwama-alithare.

¹⁸ UJehoyada wabeka abalindi bethempeli LIKATHIXO ezandleni zabaphristi, ababengabaLevi, bona uDavida ayevele ebenzele amazopho abo ethempelini, ukuze balethe iminikelo yokutshiswa KATHIXO njengokulotshwa kwayo eMthethweni kaMosi, kulokujabula lokuhlabelela njengokulaya kukaDavida.

¹⁹ Wahlalisa njalo abalindiminyango emasangweni ethempeli LIKATHIXO ukuze kungangeni loyedwa ongahlanjululwanga.

²⁰ Wasethatha abalawuli bamabutho alikhulu, lezikhulu lababusi babantu kanye labantu bonke belizwe basebeletha inkosi ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Bangena esigodlweni ngeSango elingaPhezulu bahlalisa khona inkosi

esihlalweni soBukhosi, ²¹ njalo bonke abantu elizweni bajabula. Kwaba lokuthula kulolonke idolobho ngoba u-Athaliya wayesebulewe ngenkamba.

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UJowashi Ulungisa IThempeli

¹ UJowashi waba yinkosi eleminyaka eyisikhombisa yokuzalwa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. Ibizo likanina linguZibhiya owayevela eBherishebha. ² UJowashi wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO iminyaka yonke uJehoyada engumphristi. ³ UJehoyada wamdingela abafazi ababili, wazala amadodana lamadodakazi.

⁴ Ngemva kwesikhathi esithile uJowashi wabona kufanele ukuthi alungise kutsha ithempeli LIKATHIXO. ⁵ Wabuthanisa abaphristi labaLevi wathi kubo: “Yanini emizini yakoJuda liyeqoqa imali yomnyaka ngomnyaka kuye wonke um’Israyeli, lilungiswe kutsha ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wenu. Kwenzeni khathesi.” Kodwa abaLevi abazange bakwenze masinyane.

⁶ Ngakho inkosi yabiza uJehoyada umphristi omkhulu yathi kuye, “Kungani ungatshelanga abaLevi ukuba baqoqe koJuda laseJerusalema umthelo owabekwa nguMosi inceku KATHIXO kanye lasebandleni lako-Israyeli okweThente loBufakazi na?”

⁷ Amadodana ka-Athaliya umfazi oxhwalileyo adiliza ithempeli likaNkulunkulu abuye azisebenzisela lezinto zalo ezingcwele kuboBhali.

8 Ngokulaya kwenkosi, kwenziwa ibhokisi labekwa phandle, esangweni lethempeli LIKATHIXO. 9 Kwasekumenyezelwa kulolonke elakoJuda laseJerusalema ukuba kulethwe KUTHIXO, umthelo owawumiswe nguMosi inceku kaNkulunkulu enkangala ukuba uzakhitshwa ngabako-Israyeli. 10 Izikhulu zonke labantu bonke baletha okwabo ngokujabula, bakufaka ebhokisini laze lagcwala. 11 Kwakusithi nxa ibhokisi lingalethwa ngabaLevi ezikhulwini zenkosi zithi zingabona ukuthi sekulemali enengi, unobhala wesigodlweni lesikhulu somphristi omkhulu bafike bathulule okwakusebhokisini babe sebelibuyisela endaweni yalo. Bakwenza lokho ngezikhathi zonke baze babuthelela imali enengi kakhulu. 12 Inkosi loJehoyada baholisa abantu ababesenza umsebenzi owawufanele wenziwe ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Baqhatsha ababazi bamatshe lababazi ukuze bakhe kutsha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, labakhandi bezinsimbi kanye labakhandi bethusi besakha kutsha ithempeli.

13 Amadoda ayebona ngokuqhutshwa komsebenzi ayekhaliphile, njalo umsebenzi ayewukhangele waqhubeka kuhle. Lakhiwa kutsha ithempeli likaNkulunkulu labuyela esimeni salo elaliyiso njalo baliqinisa. 14 Bathe sebeqedile, baletha imali eyasalayo enkosini lakuJehoyada, benza ngayo impahla zethempeli LIKATHIXO: izitsha zokusebenzela kanye lezeminikelo yokutshiswa, izinditshi lezinye izitsha zegolide lezesiliva. UJehoyada esaphila, iminikelo yokutshiswa yayihlezi ikhona

ethempelini LIKATHIXO.

¹⁵ UJehoyada wayeseluphele eleminyaka em-inengi, wafa eleminyaka yokuzalwa elikhulu elilamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁶ Wangcwatshwa lamakhosi eMzini kaDavida ngenxa yalokho okuhle akwenza ko-Israyeli ekwenzela uNkulunkulu ethempelini lakhe.

Ububi BukaJowashi

¹⁷ Ngemva kokufa kukaJehoyada, izikhulu zakoJuda zayakhonza enkosini uJowashi, yazilalela. ¹⁸ Balidela ithempeli LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyise, basebekhonza izinsika zika-Ashera, lezithombe zakhe. Ngenxa yalesisono, ulaka lukaNkulunkulu lwehlela phezu kwabakoJuda laseJerusalema. ¹⁹ Lanxa UTHIXO wathumela abaphrofethi ebantwini ukuba bababuyisele kuye njalo lanxa bafakaza ngokungavumelani labo, abazange babalalele.

²⁰ Ngakho uMoya kaNkulunkulu wehlela kuZakhariya indodana yomphristi uJehoyada. Wema phambi kwabantu wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguNkulunkulu: ‘Kungani lingalaleli imilayo KATHIXO? Aliyikuphumelela. Ngenxa yokumlahla UTHIXO elikwenzileyo, laye uselilahlele.’”

²¹ Kodwa bamhlamukela, kwathi ngokuqondisa kwenkosi bamkhanda bambulala ngamatshe egumeni lethempeli LIKATHIXO. ²² INkosi uJowashi ayizange izihluphe ngomusa eyayiwenzelwe nguJehoyada uyise kaZakhariya kodwa yabulala indodana yakhe, yona yathi ekufeni kwayo, “UTHIXO kakubone lokhu, aphindisele.”

²³ Ekupheleni komnyaka amabutho amAramu ahlasela uJowashi; ahlasela koJuda laseJerusalema abulala bonke abakhokheli babantu. Impango yonke ayithumela enkosini yawo eDamaseko. ²⁴ Kwathi loba impi yamaAramu yayikade ize lamadoda amalutshwana, uTHIXO wanikela ezandleni zawo ibutho elikhulu kakhulu. Njengoba abakoJuda babemlahlile uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, uJowashi wehlulelwa ngokufaneleyo. ²⁵ AmaAramu athi esehlehla, atshiya uJowashi elimele kakhulu. Izikhulu zakhe zamhlamukela ngokubulala kwakhe indodana kaJehoyada umphristi, zahle zambulalela embhedeni wakhe. Ngakho wafa wayangcwatshwa eMzini kaDavida, kodwa kungasikho emathuneni amakhosi.

²⁶ Laba abaceba ukumbulala kwakunguZabhadi, indodana kaShimeyathi owesifazane wamaAmoni loJehozabhadi, indodana kaShimirithi owesifazane wamaMowabi. ²⁷ Imbali yamadodana akhe, iziphrofethi ezinengi ngaye, lembali yokwakhiwa kutsha kwethempeli likaNkulunkulu kulotshiwe egwalweni lwezindaba zamakhosi. U-Amaziya indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

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U-Amaziya Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ U-Amaziya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala ekubekweni kwakhe ukuba yinkosi, njalo wabusa

eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lasificamunwemunye. Ibizo likanina linguJehowadani evela eJerusalema. ² Wenza okulungileyo emehlweni KATHIXO, kodwa kakwenzanga ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. ³ Kwathi umbuso wakhe usuqinile, wabulala izikhulu zakhe ezazibulele inkosi uyise. ⁴ *Kodwa amadodana azo kawabulalanga, wenza okuseMthethweni, eNcwadini kaMosi, lapho UTHIXO wapha umlayo wathi: “Oyise kabayikubulawa ngenxa yabantwababo, labantwababo kabayikubulawa ngenxa yaboyise; ngulowo lalowo uzafela izono zakhe.”

⁵ U-Amaziya wabuthanisa abantu bakoJuda wabamisa ngezindlu zabo bephethwe yizinduna zezinkulungwane lezamaxhulu kwelakoJuda lelakoBhenjamini. Wasebutha kusukela kwabaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili kusiya phezulu, wathola bezinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu, amadoda akhethiweyo, angaphuma impi, angahloma ngemikhonto langezihlangu. ⁶ Wabuya waqhatsha ko-Israyeli amaqhawe alamandla azinkulungwane ezilikhulu ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu.

⁷ Kodwa kwafika kuye inceku kaNkulunkulu yathi: “Nkosi yami, amabutho ako-Israyeli la akufanelanga aphume impi kanye lawe ngoba UTHIXO kakho kwabako-Israyeli, kakho lakubani ebantwini bako-Efrayimi. ⁸ Loba ungaze uhambe uyekulwa ngesibindi empini, uNkulunkulu uza-

* 25:4 25.4 UDutheronomi 24.16

kuchitha phambi kwesitha ngoba uNkulunkulu ulamandla okukusiza loba ukukuchitha.”

⁹ U-Amaziya wasebuza inceku kaNkulunkulu wathi, “Pho ngizakuthini ngamathalenta alikhulu engiwabhadalele amabutho ako-Israyeli?”

Inceku kaNkulunkulu yaphendula yathi, “UTHIXO angakunika okunengi kakhulu kulalokho.”

¹⁰ U-Amaziya wawakhulula amabutho ayevela ko-Efrayimi wathi kawabuyele kibo. Lokhu amabutho abazondela abakoJuda abuyela kibo ngokufuthelana okukhulu.

¹¹ U-Amaziya wasequnga isibindi, waphuma lamabutho akhe, waya eSigodini seTswayi, lapho abulala khona amadoda aseSeyiri azinkulungwane ezilitshumi. ¹² Ibutho lakoJuda lathumba amadoda azinkulungwane ezilitshumi ephila, lawaqhuba layawafikisa engqongeni yeliwa lapho awaphosela khona phansi aphahlazeka wonke aba yizicucu.

¹³ Kwathi amabutho ayebuyiselwe emuva ngu-Amaziya ngoba engasafuni ukuthi amlwele impi, ahamba ehlasela imizi yaseSamariya laseBhethi-Horoni kwelakoJuda. Abulala abantu abazinkulungwane ezintathu njalo athutha impango enengi kakhulu.

¹⁴ U-Amaziya wathi esevela bulala ama-Edomi wabuya ethwele onkulunkulu babantu baseSeyiri. Wabamisa baba ngonkulunkulu bakhe wakhothama kubo wanikela iminikelo yokutshiswa. ¹⁵ Ulaka LUKATHIXO lwavutha wathukuthelela u-Amaziya, wasethuma

umphrofethi owafika wambuza wathi, “Kungani udinga uncedo kubonkulunkulu balababantu na, abehluleka ukuvikela abantu babo ekubahlaseleni kwakho?”

¹⁶ Wathi esakhuluma, inkosi yathi kuye, “Sikubekile yini ukuba ngumcebisi wenkosi na? Thula! Kungani udinga ukubulawa na?”

Ngakho umphrofethi wema kodwa wasesithi, “Ngiyakwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzimisele ukuthi akubhubhise, ngoba lokhu akwenzileyo kutsho ukuthi awuzange ulalele ukucebisa kwami.”

¹⁷ Ngemva kokuba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda eseke wabuza abacebisi bakhe, wathumela ilizwi kuJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi, indodana kaJehu, inkosi yako-Israyeli wathi: “Woza, siqondane ubuso ngobuso.”

¹⁸ Kodwa uJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waphendula u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda wathi: “Isihlahla sameva saseLebhanoni sathumela umbiko kwesomsedari waseLebhanoni sathi: ‘Yendisela indodakazi yakho endodaneni yami ibe ngumkayo.’ Ngakho kwavela isilo saseLebhanoni sanyathela safohloza isihlahla sameva. ¹⁹ Uzitshela ukuthi usuyinqobile i-Edomi, khathesi usuziqhenya. Kodwa hlala ekhaya! Kungani uzibangela uhlu pho oluzakuchitha luze luchithe loJuda na?”

²⁰ Kodwa u-Amaziya kazange alalele ngoba uNkulunkulu wayekumisile ukuthi uzabanikela kuJowashi, ngenxa yokukhonza kwabo onkulunkulu bama-Edomi. ²¹ Ngakho uJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wasehlasela. Yena kanye

lo-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda baqondana ubuso ngobuso eBhethi-Shemeshi koJuda. ²² UJuda wachithwa ngu-Israyeli, kwathi amadoda wonke abalekela emizini yawo. ²³ UJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wathumba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, indodana kaJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya, eBhethi-Shemeshi. Ngakho uJowashi waya laye eJerusalema njalo wadiliza umduli weJerusalema kusukela eSangweni lika-Efrayimi kusiya eSangweni laseJikweni isibanga esingaba ngamanyathelo angamakhulu ayisithupha ubude baso. ²⁴ Wasethatha lonke igolide lesiliva lazozonke impahla azithola ethempelini likaNkulunkulu ezazilindwe ngu-Obhedi-Edomi, kanye leziligugu zenotho yesigodlweni lezithunjwa, wasebuyela eSamariya.

²⁵ U-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waphila okweminyaka elitshumi lemihlanu ngemva kokufa kukaJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Amaziya, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, azilotshwanga yini egwalweni lwamakhosi akoJuda lako-Israyeli na? ²⁷ Kusukela ekuphambukeni kuka-Amaziya engasalandeli UTHIXO, bamsongela eJerusalema wabalekela eLakhishi, kodwa bathumela amadoda amlandela eLakhishi ambulalela khonale. ²⁸ Wabuyiswa esethwelwe ngebhiza wangcwatshwa labokhokho bakhe eMzini kaJuda.

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U-Uziya Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ Ngakho bonke abantu bakoJuda bathatha u-Uziya, owayeleminyaka elitshumi lesithupha ubudala, bambeka waba yinkosi esikhundleni sikayise u-Amaziya. ² Nguye owakha kutsha umuzi we-Elathi wawubuyisela koJuda ngemva kokufa kwenkosi u-Amaziya owangcwatshwa kubokhokho bakhe.

³ U-Uziya wayeleminyaka elitshumi lesithupha ubudala ekubeni kwakhe yinkosi njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lambili. Ibizo likanina linguJekholiya; evela eJerusalema.

⁴ Wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Amaziya. ⁵ Wazimisela ukumdinga uNkulunkulu ngezinsuku zikaZakhariya, owamfundisa ukumesaba uNkulunkulu. Esamlandela UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wamphumelelisa.

⁶ Waphuma impi wayakulwa lamaFilistiya wadiliza imiduli yaseGathi, laseJabhine lase-Ashidodi. Wasesakha kutsha imizi eseduzane le-Ashidodi leminyane kwezinye iziqinti phakathi kwamaFilistiya.

⁷ UNkulunkulu wayelaye ekuhlaseleni kwakhe amaFilistiya kanye lama-Arabhu ayehlala eGuri Bhali kanye lekuhlaseleni amaMewuni. ⁸ Ama-Amoni aletha umthelo wawo ku-Uziya, udumo lwakhe lwanda lasemingceleni kusiyafika eGibhithe, ngoba wayeselamandla amakhulu.

⁹ U-Uziya wakha imiphotshongo eJerusalema ngaseSangweni leNgosi langaseSangweni

leSigodi langasengosini yomdule, wayivikela ngezingaba. ¹⁰ Wakha njalo imiphotshongo enkangala, wemba imithombo eminengi, ngoba wayefuyile elemihlambi yezifuyo emawatheni amaqaqa lasemagekeni. Wayelabantu bokulima lababesezivinini emaqaqeni lasemhlabeni ovundileyo, ngoba wayethanda ukulima.

¹¹ U-Uziya wayelamabutho ayekwazi ukulwa ebuthwe ngamaviyo ayeqoqwe nguJeyiyeli umabhalane loMaseya isikhulu esasiqondiswa nguHananiya, omunye wezikhulu zomndlunkulu. ¹² Inani labakhokheli lonke ngezimuli emadodeni okulwa lalizinkulungwane ezimbili lamakhulu ayisithupha (2,600). ¹³ Babelawula ibutho elilamadoda abazinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu lesikhombisa lamakhulu amahlanu (307,500) ayefundele ukulwa, amaviyo alamandla okuhlomulela inkosi ezitheni zayo. ¹⁴ U-Uziya wahlomisa amabutho akhe wonke ngezihlangu, imikhonto, ingowane zensimbi lamabhatshi ensimbi, lemitshoko lamatshe ezavutha. ¹⁵ EJerusalema wakhandisa imitshina yokufutha imitshoko leyokujikijela amatshe amakhulu ayikhandisa emadodeni ayezingcitshi eyayisetshenziswa emiphotshongweni esemajikweni. Udumo lwakhe lwanda lwayafika kude, ngoba wancediswa kakhulu waze waba lamandla amakhulu kakhulu.

¹⁶ Kodwa kwathi u-Uziya eselamandla amakhulu, ukuziqhenya kwakhe kwamlethela incithakalo. Kazange athembeke kuTHIXO

uNkulunkulu wakhe, waze wangena ethempelini LIKATHIXO, ukuba ayetshisa impepha e-alithareni lempepha. ¹⁷ U-Azariya umphristi labanye abaphristi BAKATHIXO abangamatshumi ayisificaminwembili abalezibindi bamlandela phakathi ethempelini. ¹⁸ Bajamelana laye bathi kuye, “Akulunganga ukuthi wena, Uziya, utshisele uTHIXO impepha. Lokho ngokwabaphristi, abenzalo ka-Aroni, abehlukaniselwa ukutshisa impepha. Phuma kulindawo engcwele, ngoba awuzange wethembeke, njalo awuyikuphakanyiswa nguTHIXO uNkulunkulu.”

¹⁹ U-Uziya owayephethe udengezi lokutshisela impepha esandleni sakhe, wathukuthela. Uthe elokhu esakhwazela abaphristi ngoba kwabo phambi kwe-alithari lempepha ethempelini LIKATHIXO, kwaqalisa ubulephero ebunzini lobuso bakhe. ²⁰ Kwathi u-Azariya umphristi omkhulu labanye abaphristi bemkhangela, babona eselobulephero ebunzini lakhe, ngakho baphanga bamkhuphela phandle. Lakanye yena ngokwakhe wayevele esefisa ukuphuma, ngoba uTHIXO wayesemtshayile.

²¹ U-Uziya inkosi waba lobulephero kwaze kwaba lilanga lakhe lokufa. Wayesehlala endlini yakhe eyayimi yodwa ngoba elobulephero njalo engasavunyelwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO. UJothamu indodana yakhe yaphatha isigodlo njalo yaphatha abantu bonke belizwe.

²² Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso ka-Uziya, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekucineni,

zilotshwe ngumphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi. ²³ U-Uziya waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa eduze kwabo ensimini yokungcwaba eyayingeyamakhosi ngoba abantu bathi, “Wayelobulephero.” Ngakho uJothamu indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi.

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UJothamu Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ UJothamu wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Ibizo likanina lalinguJerusha indodakazi kaZadokhi. ² Wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO njengalokhu okwenziwa nguyise u-Uziya kodwa yena kasangenanga ethempelini LIKATHIXO njengoyise. Lanxa kunjalo, abantu baqhubeka besenza okubi. ³ UJothamu wakha wavuselela iSango langaPhezulu lethempeli LIKATHIXO wenza njalo umsebenzi omkhulu emdulini ngapha ngaseqaqeni lwe-Ofeli. ⁴ Wakha amadolobho emaqaqeni aseJuda lemiphotshongo ezindaweni ezenileyo.

⁵ UJothamu wahlasela inkosi yama-Amoni wawangoba. Ngalowomnyaka ama-Amoni athela kuye ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu, lezilinganiso zezilimo zengqoloyi ezizinkulungwane ezilitshumi lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi zebhali. Ama-Amoni amlethela inani

elifananayo ngomnyaka wesibili langomnyaka wesithathu.

⁶ UJothamu waba lamandla amakhulu ngoba waqina kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁷ Ezinye izehlakalo embusweni kaJothamu, kanye lezimpi azilwayo lokunye ayekwenza, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda. ⁸ Waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu, njalo wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha eJerusalema.

⁹ UJothamu waphumula labokhokho bakhe, wangcwatshwa eMzini kaDavida. U-Ahazi indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

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U-Ahazi Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ U-Ahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili ubudala nyakana esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Kenzanga njengoyise uDavida, kazange enze okulungileyo emehlweni kaTHIXO.

² Wahamba ngezindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli njalo wabaza izithombe zokukhonza oBhali.

³ Watshisa imihlatshelo eSigodini saseBheni-Hinomu wanikela amadodana akhe emlilweni, elandela izindlela ezenyanyekayo zezizwe uTHIXO ayezixotshe mandulo kokufika kwabako-Israyeli. ⁴ Wanikela imihlatshelo njalo watshisa impepha ezindaweni zokukhonzela phezu kwamaqaqa langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

⁵ Ngakho uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe wamnikela enkosini yama-Aramu. Ama-Aramu amnqoba athumba abantu bakhe abanengi abaletha eDamaseko.

Yena njalo wanikelwa ezandleni zenkosi yako-Israyeli, yona eyambulalela abantu abanengi kakhulu. ⁶ Kwathi ngelanga elilodwa uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya wabulala amabutho azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili koJuda ngoba abakoJuda babemfulathele uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyise. ⁷ Uzikhiri ibutho lako-Efrayimi, wabulala uMaseya indodana yenkosi, lo-Azirikhamu isikhulu somndlunkulu, kanye lo-Elikhana, owayengumsekeli wenkosi. ⁸ Abako-Israyeli bathumba ezihlotsheni zabo zakoJuda omkabo, lamadodana lamadodakazi abazinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili. Babutha njalo impango enengi kakhulu, abayithwala babuyela layo eSamariya.

⁹ Kodwa umphrofethi wenkosi okwakuthiwa ngu-Odedi wayekhonale, ngakho waphuma ukuyahlangabeza ibutho ekuphendukeni kwalo eSamariya. Wathi kulo, “Ngenxa yokuthi uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyihlo wayethukuthelele abakoJuda, wabanikela ezandleni zenu. Kodwa lina selibabhuhhise ngolaka oluze lwayathinta ezulwini. ¹⁰ Khathesi selifuna ukuthi amadoda labesifazane bakoJuda laseJerusalema babe yizigqili zenu. Kodwa lina ngokwenu kalonanga yini kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu na? ¹¹ Lalelani kimi! Buyiselani amadoda akini eliwenze izibotshwa, ngoba ulaka LUKATHIXO olwesabekayo luphezu kwenu.”

¹² Abanye babakhokheli bako-Efrayimi u-Azariya indodana kaJehohanani, loBherekhiya indodana kaMeshilemothi, loJehizikhiya indodana kaShalumi, kanye lo-Amasa indodana kaHadilayi bamelana lalabo ababevela empini bathi kubo, ¹³ “Lingaletshi lezozibotshwa lapha, ngoba kungenzeka sibe lecala phambi KUKATHIXO. Selidinga ukuthi lengezelele lelocala phezu kwesono sethu na? Ngoba icala lethu livele likhulu, njalo lentukuthelo yakhe eyesabekayo iphezu kwabako-Israyeli.”

¹⁴ Ngakho amabutho akhulula ababebotshiwe asebuyisela lempahla ezaziyimpango phambi kwezikhulu laphambi kwebandla. ¹⁵ Amadoda ayeqanjwe ngamabizo abuyisela izibotshwa ezimpahleni zempango bagqokisa ababenqunu. Babanika izigqoko lamanyathelo, ukudla lokunathwayo, kanye lomuthi wokwelapha. Bonke ababuthakathaka babagadisa obabhemi. Ngakho babathatha bababuyisela kwabanye babo eJerikho, iDolobho lamaLala, basebebuyela eSamariya.

¹⁶ Ngalesosikhathi inkosi u-Ahazi yacela uncedo enkosini yase-Asiriya. ¹⁷ Ama-Edomi ayesehendukile ezohlasela abakoJuda njalo asuka eqhuba izibotshwa, ¹⁸ kanti amaFilistiya lawo ngapha ayesehlasele amadolobho angaphansi kwamaqaga kanye laseNegebi yakoJuda. Bathumba basebehlala khona eBhethi-Shemeshi, le-Ayijaloni leGederothi, kanye laseSokho, leThimina leGimizo lemizana eyayiseduze lalapho. ¹⁹ UTHIXO wabatshaya

abakoJuda ngoba u-Ahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli wayekhuthaze ukona kwabakoJuda watshengisela ukungathembeki okukhulu kuTHIXO. ²⁰ UThigilathi-Philesa inkosi yase-Asiriya esikhundleni sokumsiza laye wafika wengezelela uhlupho. ²¹ U-Ahazi wathatha ezinye zezimpahla zasethempelini LIKATHIXO lezinye azithatha endlini yomndlunkulu esigodlweni waze wathatha lezamakhosana wayaziqhubela inkosi yase-Asiriya, kodwa lakho lokhu akumncedanga.

²² Kwathi lanxa inkosi u-Ahazi iphakathi kobunzima, yandisa ukona kwayo kuTHIXO. ²³ Yanikela imihlatshelo kubonkulunkulu baseDamaseko, ababeyehlule, ngoba yakhumbula yathi, “Njengoba onkulunkulu bamakhosi ama-Aramu bewancedile, ngizanikela imihlatshelo kubo ukuze bangisize lami.” Kodwa-ke kwahle kwaba yikuwa kwayo lokuchitheka kwabako-Israyeli.

²⁴ U-Ahazi wabutha zonke izitsha ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wazisusa. Wavala iminyango yethempeli LIKATHIXO wasesakha ama-alithare kuwo wonke amajiko eJerusalema. ²⁵ Wakha izindawo zokukhonzela kuwo wonke amadolobho akoJuda ukuze atshisele onkulunkulu imihlatshelo; wathukuthelisa uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo.

²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso wakhe lezindlela zakhe zonke, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, zilotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda lako-Israyeli. ²⁷ U-Ahazi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe

wangcwatshwa labo emzini waseJerusalema, kodwa kabekwanga emathuneni amakhosi ako-Israyeli. UHezekhiya indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

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UHezekhiya Uhlambulula IThempeli

¹ UHezekhiya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lemihlanu ubudala ethatha ubukhosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lasificamunwemunye. Ibizo likanina lalingu-Abhija indodakazi kaZakhariya. ² Wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO, njen-galokho okwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida.

³ Ngenyanga yakuqala ngomnyaka wakuqala wokubusa kwakhe, wavula iminyango yethempeli LIKATHIXO wayilungisa. ⁴ Wamema abaphristi kanye labaLevi, wababuthanisa egumeni eliseceleni langempumalanga ⁵ wathi: "Lalelani kimi, lina baLevi! Zihlambululeni khathesi njalo lihlambulule lethempeli LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyihlo. Lisuse amanyala endaweni engcwele. ⁶ Obaba babengathembekanga; benza okubi emehlweni KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu bamdela. Indawo KATHIXO bayincitsha ubuso bakhangela eceleni njalo bamfulathela UTHIXO. ⁷ Bavala njalo izivalo zomphepe bacitsha izibane. Abazange batshise impepha njalo kaba lethanga iminikelo yokutshiswa endaweni engcwele kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ⁸ Ngakho ulaka lukaThixo selwehlele phezu kwabakoJuda laphezu kwabaseJerusalema; UTHIXO usebenze besabeka,

bathuthumelisa baba yinto yokweyiswa, njengoba lizibonela ngawenu amehlo. ⁹ Lokhu sekubangele ukubulawa kwabo ngenkemba njalo lokuthi amadodana lamadodakazi labomkethu babe sekuthunjweni. ¹⁰ Khathesi ngifuna ukwenza isivumelwano LOThixo, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ukuze ulaka lwakhe oluvuthayo lusidedele. ¹¹ Madodana ami, kalingabi ngabangananziyo ngoba uThixo uselikhethile lina ukuma phambi kwakhe limkhonze, limsebenzele lokutshisa impepha.”

¹² Ngakho laba abaLevi bahle baqalisa umsebenzi:

KwabakaKhohathi,
 uMahathi indodana ka-Amasayi loJoweli indodana ka-Azariya;
 kwabakaMerari,
 uKhishi indodana ka-Abhidi lo-Azariya indodana kaJehaleleli;
 kwabakaGeshoni,
 uJowa indodana kaZima lo-Edeni indodana kaJowa;
¹³ kwabosendo luka-Elizafani,
 kunguShimiri loJeyiyeli;
 kwabosendo luka-Asafi,
 kunguZakhariya loMathaniya;
¹⁴ kwabosendo lukaHemani,
 kunguJehiyeli loShimeyi;
 kwabosendo lukaJeduthuni,
 kunguShemaya lo-Uziyeli.

15 Bathi seabuthanise abafowabo bazihlambulula bona, bangena ukuyahlambulula ithempeli LIKATHIXO, njengokuqondisa kwenkosi, eyayilandela ilizwi LIKATHIXO.

16 Abaphristi bangena endaweni engcwele KATHIXO ukuba bayeyihlambulula. Konke okwakungcolile ethempelini LIKATHIXO bakukhuphela egumeni lethempeli LIKATHIXO. AbaLevi bakuthwala baya lakho eSigodini saseKhidironi. 17 Baqalisa ukwahlukanisela ngosuku lwakuqala lwenyanga yakuqala, kwathi ngosuku lwesificaminwembili lwenyanga bafika emphempeni KATHIXO. Ngezinsuku ezilandelayo ezificaminwembili bangcwelisa ithempeli LIKATHIXO uqobo, baze baqeda ngosuku lwetshumi lesithupha lwenyanga yakuqala.

18 Basebengena enkosini uHezekhiya ukuba bayembikela bathi: “Sesihlambulule lonke ithempeli LIKATHIXO, le-alithari lomnikelo wokutshiswa lezitsha zalo zonke, kanye lethala lokwendlalela isinkwa esingcwelisiweyo kanye lazozonke impahla zakhona. 19 Sesilungise sangcwelisa zonke izitsha ezasuswa yinkosi u-Ahazi ngokungathembeki kwakhe eseseyinkosi. Khathesi seziphambi kwe-alithari LIKATHIXO.”

20 Ekuseni ngosuku olulandelayo inkosi uHezekhiya wabuthanisa izikhulu zedolobho ndawonye wasesiya ethempelini LIKATHIXO.

21 Baletha inkunzi eziyisikhombisa, lenqama eziyisikhombisa, lamazinyane ezimvu amaduna ayisikhombisa kanye lempongo eziyisikhombisa kungumnikelo wesono sombuso, lesendlu

yokukhonzela kanye lesikaJuda. Inkosi yalaya abaphristi, abenzalo ka-Aroni, ukunikela ngalokho e-alithareni LIKATHIXO. ²² Ngakho babulala inkunzi, abaphristi bathatha igazi bachela ngalo e-alithareni; kwalandela inqama abazibulala bachela igazi lazo e-alithareni; basebebulala amazinyane ezimvu bachela igazi lawo e-alithareni. ²³ Impongo zomnikelo wesono zalethwa phambi kwenkosi laphambi kwebandla, babeka izandla zabo phezu kwazo. ²⁴ Abaphristi basebebulala impongo baletha igazi lazo e-alithareni kungumnikelo wesono ukuze kwenzelwe wonke u-Israyeli indlela yokubuyisana, ngoba inkosi yayilaye ukuthi kube lomnikelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wesono kunikelelwa wonke u-Israyeli.

²⁵ AbaLevi yababeka phakathi kwethempeli LIKATHIXO belezigubhu, lamachacho lemihubhe njengalokho okwakumiswe nguDavida loGadi umboni wenkosi loNathani umphrofethi; lokhu kwakungumlayo KATHIXO oweza ngabaphrofethi bakhe. ²⁶ Ngakho abaLevi balinda belamachacho kaDavida, abaphristi belamacilongo.

²⁷ UHezekhiya wakhupha isiqondiso sokuba kwenziwe umnikelo wokutshiswa e-alithareni. Kuthe kuqalisa umnikelo, ukuhlabelela UTHIXO lakho kwaqalisa, kwahamba kanyekanye lamacilongo kanye lamachacho kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁸ Ibandla lonke lakhothama lakhonza, abahlabeleli behlabelelabamacilongo bewavuthela. Konke lokhu kwaqhubeka kwaze kwaphela umnikelo wokutshiswa.

²⁹ Ngemva kokuphela kweminikelo inkosi labo

bonke ababekhona baguqa bakhonza. ³⁰ Inkosi uHezekhiya lezikhulu zayo yatshela abaLevi ukuba badumise UTHIXO ngamazwi kaDavida kanye laka-Asafi umboni. Ngakho badumisa ngokuhlabelela ngenjabulo bakhothamisa amakhanda abo bakhonza.

³¹ UHezekhiya wasesithi, “Selizinikele kuTHIXO khathesi. Wozani lilethe imihlatshelo leminikelo yokubonga ethempelini LIKATHIXO.” Ngakho ibandla laletha imihlatshelo leminikelo, yokubonga, njalo ababelenhliziyo ezivumayo baletha iminikelo yokutshiswa.

³² Inani leminikelo yokutshiswa eya lethwa libandla kwakuzinkunzi ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa, inqama ezikhulu lamazinyane amaduna ezimvu angamakhulu amabili, konke kungokomnikelo wokutshiswa kuTHIXO.

³³ Izifuyo ezahlukaniselwa ukuba ngumhlatshelo kwakuzinkunzi ezingamakhulu ayisithupha lezimvu lembuzi ezizinkulungwane ezintathu.

³⁴ Kodwa, abaphristi babebalutshwana kakhulu ekuhlinzeni ezomnikelo wokutshiswa; ngakho basebencediswa ngabafowabo abaLevi waze waphela umsebenzi njalo abanye abaphristi baze bangcweliswa ngoba abaLevi babekunanzelele kakhulu ukuzingcwelisa kulabaphristi.

³⁵ Umnikelo wokutshiswa wawumnengi, kanye lamafutha omnikelo wobudlelwano kanye lomnikelo wokunathwayo okwakuhambelana lomnikelo wokutshiswa.

Ngakho lokhu kwaba yikuvuselelwa kwenkonzo ethempelini LIKATHIXO.

³⁶ UHezekhiya labo bonke abantu bajabula

ngababekuphiwe nguNkulunkulu ekwenzela
 abantu bakhe, ngoba kwakwenzakale
 ngokuphangisa.

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UHezekhiya Ugcina IPhasika

¹ UHezekhiya wanxusa bonke abako-Israyeli labakoJuda, wanxusa labako-Efrayimi labakoManase ngezincwadi eJerusalema, ukuthi bazokudla iPhasika ethempelini LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ² Inkosi lezikhulu zayo lebandla lonke eJerusalema bavumelana ukwenza ukugcina iPhasika ngenyanga yesibili. ³ Babengenelisanga ukwenza umkhosi ngesikhathi sawo ngoba abaphristi babebalutshwana ababezingcwelisile njalo labantu babengabuthananga eJerusalema. ⁴ Icebo leli lakhanya lilihle enkosini lasebandleni lonke. ⁵ Baquma ukuthi kukhutshwe ilizwi kulolonke elako-Israyeli kusukela eBherishebha kusiya koDani, kunxuswa abantu ukuthi beze eJerusalema emkhosini wePhasika LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Umkhosi lo wawungakaze wenziwe ngabanengi kusiya ngomthetho owalotshwa phansi.

⁶ Ngokulaya kwenkosi, izithunywa zangena kulolonke elako-Israyeli lelakoJuda ziphethe izincwadi ezazivela enkosini lasezikhulwini zayo, ezazilotshwe ukuthi:

“Bantu bako-Israyeli, buyelani KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama lo-Isaka lo-Israyeli, ukuze abuyele kulabo benu abaseleyo

abaphunyuke ezandleni zamakhosi ase-Asiriya. ⁷ Lingabi njengaboyihlo lezihlobo zenu ababengathembekanga KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, waze wabenza baba yisibonelo sokwesabekayo njengoba libona. ⁸ Lingabi ntamolukhuni njengaboyihlo; zehliseni KUTHIXO. Wozani endlini yokukhonza aseyingcwelisile kuze kube nininini. Mkhonzeni UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu, ukuze ulaka lwakhe olwesabekayo lusuke kini. ⁹ Nxa libuyela KUTHIXO, abafowenu labantwabenu bazathola umusa kulabo ababathumbayo, babuye kulelilizwe, ngoba UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu ulomusa lesihawu. Kayikulifulathela nxa libuyela kuye.”

¹⁰ Ngakho izithunywa zaphuma zangena kuyo yonke imizi lemizana ko-Efrayimi lakoManase, zayafika lakhonale koZebhuluni, kodwa abantu bazihleka ulunya njalo baziklolodela.

¹¹ Lanxa kunjalo, abanye abantu bako-Asheri labakoManase labakoZebhuluni bazithoba baya eJerusalema. ¹² Njalo lakoJuda isandla sikaNkulunkulu sasisebantwini ukubapha ukubambana engqondweni ukuze benze lokho inkosi lezikhulu zayo eyayithe abakwenze, njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO.

¹³ Kwabuthana abantu abalixuku elikhulu eJerusalema bethakazelela uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo ngenyanga yesibili. ¹⁴ Basusa ama-alithare eJerusalema bakhucula ama-alithare empepha bawathwala bayawaphosela eSigodini saseKhidironi.

15 Babulala amazinyane ezimvu awePhasika ngosuku lwetshumi lane lwenyanga yesibili. Abaphristi labaLevi bayangeka bazihlambulula baletha iminikelo yokutshiswa ethempelini LIKATHIXO. 16 Basebebuyela ezikhundleni zabo zenjayelo njengokumisiweyo emthethweni kaMosi umuntu kaNkulunkulu. Abaphristi bachela igazi ababeliqhutshelwa ngabaLevi. 17 Njengoba babebanengi ababengazihlambululanga exukwini, abaLevi bahlaba amanye amazinyane ezimvu awePhasika besenzela labo ababengahlanjululwanga ngokomkhuba njalo bengelakho ukuzahlukanisela izimvu zabo phambi KUKATHIXO. 18 Lanxa abantu abanengi ababevela ko-Efrayimi, koManase, ko-Isakhari lakoZebhuluni babengakazihlambululi, kodwa badla iPhasika, okwakungekho emthethweni olotshiweyo. Kodwa uHezekhiya wabakhulekela wathi: “Kungathi UTHIXO, olungileyo, angathethelela bonke 19 abamdingayo uNkulunkulu UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo loba bengahlambulukanga ngokomthetho wendawo engcwele.” 20 Lakanye UTHIXO wawuzwa umkhuleko kaHezekhiya wasilisa abantu.

21 Ama-Israyeli ayeseJerusalema athakazelela uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwensuku eziyisikhombisa ngokujabula okukhulu, abaLevi labaphristi behlabelela kuTHIXO insuku zonke, bephathiswa ngamachacho okudumisa UTHIXO.

22 UHezekhiya wabakhuthaza bonke abaLevi abatshengisela ukuzinikela emsebenzini

KATHIXO. Ngalezonsuku eziyisikhombisa badla leyongxenyeyayiyisabelo sabo njalo banikela umnikelo wobudlelwano bamdumisa UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu waboyise.

²³ Ibandla lonke laselivumelana ukuthakazelela umkhosi lo okwezinye insuku eziyisikhombisa; ngakho umkhosi bawuqhuba okwezinye insuku eziyisikhombisa bejabula. ²⁴ UHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda walethela ibandla inkunzi eziyinkulungwane lezimvu ezizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lembuzi zingezebandla, kwathi izikhulu lazo zaletha inkunzi eziyinkulungwane lezimvu lembuzi ezizinkulungwane ezilitshumi. Abaphristi abanengi kakhulu bazihlambulula. ²⁵ Ibandla lonke lakoJuda lajabula, ndawonye labaphristi labaLevi labo bonke ababebuthene bevela ko-Israyeli, ndawonye labezizweni ababevela ko-Israyeli lababehlala koJuda. ²⁶ Kwaba lokujabula okukhulu eJerusalema, ngoba kusukela ensukwini zikaSolomoni indodana kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli kwakungazange kube lomkhosi onjalo eJerusalema. ²⁷ Abaphristi labaLevi bema babusisa abantu, uNkulunkulu wabezwa, ngoba imikhuleko yabo yafika ezulwini, endaweni yakhe engcwele ahlala kiyo.

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¹ Sekuphelile konke lokhu abako-Israyeli ababesemkhosini bangena emizini yakoJuda, badiliza izinsika zokukhonzela u-Ashera. Badiliza izindawo zokukhonzela lama-alithare kulolonke elakoJuda lakoBhenjamini kanye

lako-Efrayimi lakoManase. Bathe sebekudilizile konke lokhu, abako-Israyeli babuyela emizini yabo, ezindaweni zabo.

Iminikelo Yenkonzo

² UHezekhiya wamisa abaphristi labaLevi ngezigaba ngamunye wabo kusiya ngemisebenzi yabo yobuphristi kumbe eyabaLevi eyokunikela ngeminikelo yokutshiswa leminikelo yobudlelwano, ukukhonza, ukubonga kanye lokuhlabelela indumiso emasangweni endaweni ehlala UTHIXO. ³ Inkosi yapha okuvela kweyayo inotho iminikelo yokutshiswa yekuseni lantambama kanye lokweminikelo yokutshiswa ngamaSabatha, leyokuThwasa kweziNyanga kanye leyemikhosi emisiweyo njengokulotshiweyo eMthethweni KATHIXO. ⁴ Inkosi yathi abantu abahlala eJerusalema kumele banike abaphristi labaLevi imfanelo yabo ukuze basebenze ngokuzinikela eMthethweni KATHIXO. ⁵ Masinyazana ngemva kwesiqondiso, abako-Israyeli banikela kakhulu ngokwesivuno sakuqala samabele, lokwewayini elitsha, lokwamafutha lokwenyosi lakho konke okwakutholakala emasimini. Baletha okunengi kakhulu, okwetshumi kukho konke. ⁶ Amadoda ako-Israyeli lawakoJuda ayehlala emizini yakoJuda lawo aletha okwetshumi kwemihlambi yenkomo leyezimvu zawo lezinto ezingcwele zokunikela KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wawo, azibuthelala inqwabanqwaba. ⁷ Baqalisa ukukwenza lokhu ngenyanga yesithathu baze baqeda ngenyanga yesikhombisa.

⁸ UHezekhiya lezikhulu zakhe befika bebona lezoziqwanqwana badumisa uTHIXO njalo babusisa abantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

⁹ UHezekhiya wabuza abaphristi labaLevi ngenqwanqwana; ¹⁰ u-Azariya umphristi omkhulu, owendlu kaZadokhi wamphendula wathi, “Kusukela abantu beqalise ukuletha iminikelo yabo ethempelini LIKATHIXO, sesizuze ukudla okunengi njalo okusalayo kunengi kakhulu, ngoba uTHIXO ubabusisile abantu bakhe, yikho kulalokhu okunengi kangaka okuseleyo.”

¹¹ UHezekhiya wapha imilayo yokuba kwakhiwe iziphala ethempelini LIKATHIXO, lakanye lokho kwenziwa. ¹² Ngakho baqhubeka beletha izipho ngokwethembeka, lokwethumi kanye lezipho eziqakathekileyo. UKhenaniya induna enkulu, umLevi, wayephethe lezizinto, njalo umfowabo uShimeyi wayengumsekeli wakhe. ¹³ UJehiyeli, lo-Azaziya, loNahathi, lo-Asaheli, loJerimothi, loJozabhadi, lo-Eliyeli, lo-Isimakhiya loMahathi kanye loBhenaya babekhangele umsebenzi bengaphansi kukaKhenaniya lomfowabo uShimeyi, njengokukhethwa kwabo yinkosi uHezekhiya lo-Azariya isikhulu esasikhangele ithempeli likaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ UKhore indodana ka-Imna umLevi, owayengumlindi weSango langeMpumalanga, wayephethe iminikelo yokuzithandela kuNkulunkulu, enguye owaba okunikelwe kuTHIXO kanye lezipho ezingcwelisiweyo. ¹⁵ U-Edeni, loMiniyamini, loJeshuwa, loShemaya,

lo-Amariya kanye loShekhaniya bamncedisa kakhulu bethembekile emizini yabaphristi, besabelana kusiya ngezigaba zabaphristi, abadala labatsha, ngokufananayo.

¹⁶ Phezu kwalokho, babesabela abesilisa kusukela kwabaleminyaka emithathu ngokulotshwa egwalweni lokuzalana kwabo bonke ababezangena ethempelini LIKATHIXO besiyakwenza imisebenzi etshiyeneyo kusiya ngemilandu yabo ngezigaba zabo. ¹⁷ Babela abaphristi ngezimuli zabo njengokulotshiweyo egwalweni lokuzalana kwabo njalo kwabanjalo lakubaLevi abaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili yokuzalwa labadala, kusiya ngemisebenzi yabo langezigaba zabo. ¹⁸ Lokhu kwakuhlanganisa abantwana, abesifazane kanye lamadodana lamadodakazi esigaba sonke kwabasegwalweni lokuzalana kwabo. Ngoba babethembekile ngokuzahlala bengcwele.

¹⁹ Abaphristi abayinzalo ka-Aroni, ababehlala eziqintini eduzane lamadolobho loba kwamanye amadolobho, babeqanjwe ngamabizo ukuthi babelane iziqa baze babele lalabo bonke ababelotshiwe ezingwalweni zokuzalana kwabaLevi.

²⁰ Lokhu yikho okwenziwa nguHezekhiya kulolonke elakoJuda, esenza okufaneleyo lokulungileyo ngokwethemba KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe. ²¹ Kukho konke ayekwenza emsebenzini wethempeli likaNkulunkulu lasekulaleleni kwakhe umthetho lemilayo, wadinga uNkulunkulu njalo wasebenza ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. Ngalokho waphumelela.

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USenakheribhi Usongela IJerusalema

¹ Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu uHezekhiya ayekwenze ngokwethembeka, kweza uSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela elakoJuda. Wavimbezela amadolobho ayeleziqaba, edinga ukuwanqoba abe ngawakhe. ² UHezekhiya uthe ebona ukuthi uSenakheribhi usefikile njalo uhlose ukuhlasela iJerusalema, ³ wabuza izikhulu zakhe kanye labebutho ukuthi kwakungaba njani ukuthi kuvalwe amanzi avela emithonjeni engaphandle kwedolobho, bahle bamncedisa. ⁴ Ixuku elikhulu lamadoda labuthana, lakanye bawavala amanzi awemthonjeni lawesifula esasidabula phakathi kwelizwe. Bathi, “Kungani amakhosi ase-Asiriya afanele afice amanzi amanengi na?” ⁵ Ngakho wasebenza ngamandla evuselela umduli lokwakha imiphotshongo phezu kwawo. Wakha omunye umduli ngaphandle kwalowo waseqinisa imithangala eyayivele ingeyoMuzi kaDavida. Wenza lezikhali lezihlangu ezinengi kakhulu.

⁶ Wabeka izikhulu zebutho zaphatha abantu wasezimisa phambi kwakhe egcekeni lesango elingasedolobheni wazikhuthaza ngalamazwi: ⁷ “Qinani libe lesibindi. Lingesabi njalo lingethuselwa libutho elikhulu kangaka lenkosi yase-Asiriya ngoba kulamandla amakhulu akithi adlula akuye. ⁸ Yena ulengalo yenyama kuphela, kodwa thina SILOTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu ukusisiza lokusilwela izimpi zethu.” Abantu baba

lesibindi ngenxa yalokho okwatshiwo yinkosi yakoJuda uHezekhiya.

⁹ Muva, uSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya lawo wonke amabutho akhe esavimbezele eLakhishi, wathuma izikhulu zakhe eJerusalema ziphethe lelizwi elalisiya kuHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda kanye labantu bonke abakoJuda abebekhona lapho wathi:

¹⁰ “Nanku okutshiwo nguSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya uthi: Usithatha ngaphi wena isibindi, esokuthi wale ulokhu useJerusalema yona ivinjezelwe? ¹¹ Nxa uHezekhiya esithi, ‘UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu uzasisindisa ezandleni zenkosi yase-Asiriya,’ uyalikhohlisa, ukuba life ngendlala langomhawu wamanzi. ¹² UHezekhiya akasuye yini ngokwakhe owasusa izindawo zikankulunkulu lowu eziphakemeyo lama-alithare, esithi kuJuda leJerusalema, ‘Kumele likhonzele e-alithareni elilodwa njalo litshisele kulo imihlatshelo na’?

¹³ Kutsho ukuthi alikwazi yini lokho engikwenzileyo lalokho okwenziwa ngobaba ebantwini bamanye amazwe na? Kambe onkulunkulu balezozizwe benelisa yini ukukhulula ilizwe labo esandleni sami na? ¹⁴ Nguphi kubo bonke onkulunkulu bamazwe balezozizwe ezabhujiswa ngobaba owake wenelisa ukukhulula abantu bakhe kimi na? UNkulunkulu wenu angalikhulula njani esandleni sami? ¹⁵ Qaphelani lingakhohliswa nguHezekhiya limyekele elilahlekisa. Lingamethembi, ngoba kakho

unkulunkulu loba ngowasiphi isizwe loba yiwuphi umbuso oseke wenelisa ukukhulula abantu bakhe esandleni sami loba esandleni sabokhokho. Pho kanganani ukuba owenu unkulunkulu angalikhulula yini esandleni sami!”

¹⁶ Izikhulu zikaSenakheribi zaqhubekela phambili zikhuluma kubi uNGOTHIXO uNkulunkulu langenceku yakhe uHezekhiya.

¹⁷ Inkosi yaloba lezincwadi ithuka uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, isitsho lokhu okubi ngaye: “Njengoba onkulunkulu babantu bamanye amazwe behluleka ukukhulula abantu babo esandleni sami, kuyafanana kunjalo uNkulunkulu kaHezekhiya kasoze enelise ukukhulula abantu bakhe esandleni sami.”

¹⁸ Basebememeza ngesiHebheru ebantwini baseJerusalema ababephezu komduli, bebethusela ukuze besabe babesebethumba idolobho. ¹⁹ Bakhuluma ngoNkulunkulu weJerusalema njengalokho abakwenza ngabonkulunkulu babanye abantu bemhlabeni, izinto ezibunjwe yizandla zabantu.

²⁰ INkosi uHezekhiya lomphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi bakhala ngomkhuleko ngalokhu.

²¹ UTHIXO wathuma ingilosu, eyabhubhisa wonke amadoda empi labakhokheli lezikhulu enkambeni yenkosi yase-Asiriya. Ngakho wabuyela elizweni lakhe ngokuyangeka. Esengene ethempelini likankulunkulu wakhe, amanye amadodana akhe amjuqa ngenkemba.

²² Ngalokho uTHIXO wamsindisa uHezekhiya

labantu baseJerusalema esandleni sikaSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya lakuzo zonke ezinye izitha. UTHIXO wabavikela wabaphatha kuhle inxa zonke. ²³ Abanengi balethela UTHIXO iminikelo eJerusalema kanye lezipho eziligugu kuHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda. Kusukela lapho waba lesithunzi wahlonitshwa yizizwe zonke.

Ukuziqhenya, Ukuphumelela Lokufa Kuka-Hezekhiya

²⁴ Ngalezonsuku uHezekhiya wagula eselengela ekufeni. Wakhuleka KUTHIXO, wamphendula ngokumnika isibonakaliso.

²⁵ Kodwa inhliziyo kaHezekhiya yagcwala ngokuzikhukhumeza ngakho kazange azihluphe ngesihawu ayesitshengisiwe; ngakho intukuthelo KATHIXO yehlela phezu kwakhe lasebantwini bakoJuda labaseJerusalema.

²⁶ Ngakho uHezekhiya waphenduka ukuzikhukhumeza ngenhliziyo yakhe, labantu baseJerusalema labo benza njalo; ngalokho ulaka LUKATHIXO alusabehlelanga ngezinsuku zikaHezekhiya.

²⁷ UHezekhiya wayelenotho enengi njalo elodumo, wasesakha izindlu zokulondolozela isiliva sakhe legolide kanye lamatshe akhe aligugu, iziyoliso, izihlangu lakho konke okunye okuligugu.

²⁸ Wakha njalo iziphala zokugcinela amabele, iwayini elitsha lamafutha, wakha izibaya zemihlobo eyehlukeneyo yenkomo, lezibaya zemihlambi yezimvu. ²⁹ Wakha imizi wazuza imihlambi yezimvu leyenkomo, ngoba uNkulunkulu wamnika inotho enkulu kakhulu.

³⁰ UHezekhiya nguyey owavala amanzi entombo yangaphezulu kweGihoni wawadonsa agelezela ngentshonalanga koMuzi kaDavida. Waphumelela kukho konke ayekwenza.

³¹ Ekufikeni kwamanxusa ayethunywe ngababusi beBhabhiloni bezobuza ngomangaliso owawenzakele elizweni, uNkulunkulu wantshiya ukuze amhlole ukuthi azi konke okwakusenhliziyweni yakhe.

³² Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kuka-Hezekhiya lemisebenzi yakhe yokuzinikela kulotshiwe embonweni womphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi egwalweni lwamakhosi akoJuda lawako-Israyeli.

³³ UHezekhiya waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa eqaqeni lapha okulamangcwaba abosendo lukaDavida. AbakoJuda bonke labantu baseJerusalema bamhlonipha ekufeni kwakhe. Kwathi uManase indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

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UManase Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ UManase waba yinkosi eleminyaka elitshumi lambili ubudala njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lanhlanu. ² Wenza ububi emehlweni KATHIXO, elandela imikhuba eyenyanyekayo yezizwe UTHIXO ayezixotshile phambi kuka-Israyeli. ³ Wavuselela izindawo zokukhonzela ezazibhidlizwe nguyise uHezekhiya; waphinda wakhela oBhali ama-alithare kanye lezinsika

zika-Ashera. Wakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu wazikhonza. ⁴ Wakha ama-alithare ethempelini LIKATHIXO, lona UTHIXO ayekhulume ngalo wathi: “IBizo lami lizahlala eJerusalema kuze kube nininini.” ⁵ Emagumeni womabili ethempeli LIKATHIXO wakhela izinkanyezi zezulu ama-alithare. ⁶ Wanikela amadodana akhe emlilweni eSigodini saseBheni-Hinomu, wenza imilingo, ukuvumisa, lokuthakatha njalo wayahlahlula lakwabalamadlozi. Wenza okubi kakhulu phambi KUKATHIXO, wamthukuthelisa.

⁷ Wathatha isithombe ayesibazile wasibeka ethempelini likaNkulunkulu, lelo uNkulunkulu ayethe kuDavida lasendodaneni yakhe uSolomoni, “Kulelithempeli kanye laseJerusalema, engilikhethileyo ezizwaneni zako-Israyeli, ngizafaka iBizo lami kuze kube nininini. ⁸ Angiyikuyekela inyawo zabako-Israyeli zisuke kulelilizwe engalabela okhokho babo, nxa bezananzelela benze konke engabalaya ngakho okwemithetho, izimiso leziqondiso ezaphiwa uMosi.” ⁹ Kodwa uManase wakhokhelela abakoJuda labaseJerusalema ekulahlekeni, benza ububi okwedlula izizwe UTHIXO azibhubhisa mandulo kokufika kwabako-Israyeli.

¹⁰ UTHIXO wakhuluma kuManase labantu bakhe, kodwa kabalalelanga. ¹¹ Ngakho UTHIXO wabehlisela abalawuli bamabutho enkosi yase-Asiriya, abathumba uManase, bamfaka umkhala emakhaleni, bambopha ngamaketane ethusi bamusa eBhabhiloni. ¹² Ekuhlulukelweni kwakhe wacela umusa KATHIXO uNkulunkulu waboyise. ¹³ Ngakho uthe esekhuleka KUTHIXO,

wezwa ukuncenga kwakhe walalela isicelo sakhe; wambuyisela eJerusalema ebukhosini bakhe. Ngalokho uManase wakwazi ukuthi UTHIXO unguNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho wakha kutsha umduli wangaphandle owoMuzi kaDavida, entshonalanga kwentombo yesigodini seGihoni, kusiya emangenelweni eSango leNhlanzi kubhoda uqaqa lwe-Ofeli; njalo wawakha waba mude kulakuqala. Wafaka abalawuli bamabutho kuwo wonke amadolobho alezingaba koJuda.

¹⁵ Wasusa bonke onkulunkulu bezizweni wasusa lesithombe ethempelini LIKATHIXO, lawo wonke ama-alithare ayewakhele eqaqeni lwethempeli kanye laseJerusalema; konke lokhu wakulahlela ngaphandle kwedolobho.

¹⁶ Wavuselela i-alithari LIKATHIXO wenza iminikelo yobudlelwano leminikelo yokubonga phezu kwalo njalo watshela uJuda ukumkhonza UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁷ Kodwa abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo ezindaweni zokukhonzela, kodwa benikela kuphela kuUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wabo.

¹⁸ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaManase, kanye lomkhuleko wakhe kuNkulunkulu wakhe lamazwi akhulunywa ngababoni kuye ngebizo LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kulotshiwe embalini yamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ¹⁹ Umkhuleko wakhe lokuthi uNkulunkulu wakwamukela njani ukuncenga kwakhe, lokona kwakhe konke, kanye lokungathembeki, lalezozindawo zokukhonzela ayezakhile lezinsika zika-Ashera lezithombe engakazehlisi ngokuzithoba,

kulotshiwe konke emibhalweni yababoni.
²⁰ UManase waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa esigodlweni sakhe. U-Amoni indodana yakhe yathatha isikhundla sakhe.

U-Amoni Inkosi Yakojuda

²¹ U-Amoni wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emibili.

²² Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise uManase. U-Amoni wakhonza njalo wanikela imihlatshelo kuzozonke izithombe ezazenziwe nguManase.

²³ Kodwa kenzanga njengoyise uManase, ngoba yena kazehlisanga phansi KUKATHIXO; u-Amoni wenza amacala ngokuphindiweyo.

²⁴ Izikhulu zika-Amoni zathama icebo zambulalela esigodlweni sakhe. ²⁵ Kodwa abantu belizwe babulala bonke labo ababethame amacebo ngenkosi u-Amoni, babeka uJosiya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

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Imvuselelo KaJosiya

¹ UJosiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka eyisificaminwembili ubudala njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lanye. ² Wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO njalo wahamba ngenyathelo likayise uDavida, kazange aphambukele kwesokudla loba esokhohlo.

³ Ngomnyaka wesificaminwembili wokubusa kwakhe, elokhu esesengumntwana,

waqalisa ukumdinga uNkulunkulu kakhokho wakhe uDavida. Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili waqalisa ukuhlambulula elakoJuda laseJerusalema, wavala izindawo zokukhonzela, izinsika zika-Ashera, izithombe ezibaziweyo lezikhandiweyo. ⁴ Ngeziqondiso zakhe kwabhidlizwa ama-alithare aboBhali; waqoba ama-alithare empepha ayengaphezu kwawo; wahlikiza izinsika zika-Ashera, izithombe kanye lemifanekiso. Lokhu wakuvadlaza wasekuchithizela phezu kwamangcwaba alabo ababenikele imihlatshelo kulezozithombe. ⁵ Watshisela amathambo abaphristi emalithareni abo, ngalokho wahlambulula elakoJuda laseJerusalema. ⁶ Emizini yakoManase, lako-Efrayimi lakoSimiyoni, kuze kuyefika koNafithali, lasemanxiweni aseduzane layo, ⁷ wadiliza ama-alithare lezinsika zika-Ashera njalo wahlifiza izithombe zaba yimpuphu wachithiza ama-alithare empepha kulolonke elako-Israyeli aba yizicucu. Wasebuyela eJerusalema.

⁸ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili wokubusa kukaJosiya, ukuze ahlambulule ilizwe kanye lethempeli, wathumela uShafani indodana ka-Azaliya loMaseya umbusi wedolobho, loJowa indodana kaJowahazi, umlobi, ukuba bavuselele ithempeli LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁹ Baya kuHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu bamnika imali eyayilethwe ethempelini likaNkulunkulu, eyayiqoqwe ngabaLevi ababengabagcini beminyango beyiqoqa

ebantwini bakoManase, lako-Efrayimi layo yonke insalela yabako-Israyeli lakubo bonke abantu bakoJuda labakoBhenjamini lababehlala eJerusalema. ¹⁰ Basebeyiqhubela amadoda ayekhethelwe ukukhangela ukuqhubeka komsebenzi wasethempelini LIKATHIXO. Lamadoda ayeholisa ababevuselela lokwakha kutsha ithempeli. ¹¹ Eyinye bayiqhubela ababazi labakhi ukuze bathenge amatshe abaziweyo lezigodo lezintungo zezindlu ezadilika amakhosi akoJuda engananzelele.

¹² Amadoda ayisebenza imisebenzi yawo ngokwethembeka. Ayekhokhelwa njalo eqondiswa ngoJahathi lo-Obhadaya, abaLevi bosendo lukaMerari, uZakhariya loMeshulami abosendo lukaKhohathi. AbaLevi bonke ababengamagabazi kwezamachacho omculo, ¹³ babephethe izisebenzi njalo bekhangele izisebenzi kulowo lalowo umsebenzi. Abanye abaLevi babengonobhala, labalobi kanye labalindi beminyango.

Ukutholakala KoGwalo LwemiThetho

¹⁴ Besakhipha imali eyayingeniswe ethempelini LIKATHIXO, uHilikhiya umphristi wafumana uGwalo loMthetho KATHIXO owawuphiwe uMosi. ¹⁵ UHilikhiya wathi kuShafani unobhala, “Sengilutholile uGwalo loMthetho ethempelini LIKATHIXO.” Waselunika uShafani.

¹⁶ Ngalokho uShafani waluthatha walusa enkosini wayibikela wathi: “Izikhulu zakho ziyakwenza konke ozilaye ukuba zikwenze.

¹⁷ Sebeyibhadele imali leyo eyayisethempelini

LIKATHIXO njalo sebeyitshiyele abakhangeli bomsebenzi kanye lezisebenzi.”¹⁸ Ngakho uShafani unobhala wabikela inkosi, wathi, “UHilikhiya umphristi usengiphe ugwalo.” Ngakho uShafani waselubala phambi kwenkosi.

¹⁹ Inkosi yonela ukuzwa amazwi oMthetho, yadabula izembatho zayo ²⁰ yapha leziziqondiso kuHilikhiya, lo-Ahikhami indodana kaShefani, lo-Abhidoni indodana kaMikha, loShafani unobhala kanye lo-Asaya inceku yenkosi yathi: ²¹ “Hambani liyengibuzela kuTHIXO lensalela yako-Israyeli labakoJuda ngalokhu okulotshwe kulolugwalo olutholakeleyo. Lukhulu ulaka LUKATHIXO phezu kwethu ngenxa yabokhokho abangazange balilalele ilizwi LIKATHIXO; kabenzanga ngendlela okulotshwe ngayo kulolugwalo.”

²² UHilikhiya lalabo ayethunywe labo yinkosi bahamba ukuba bayekhuluma loHulida umphrofethikazi owayengumkaShalumi indodana kaThokhathi, indodana kaHasira, umlondolozzi wezembatho. UHulida wayehlala eJerusalema endaweni yeSiqinti Sesibili.

²³ Wathi kubo, “Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: Tshelani umuntu olithume kimi lithi, ²⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO uthi: Ngizakwehlisela lindawo labantu bayo incithakalo lazozonke izithuko ezilotshiweyo egwalweni olufundwe phambi kwenkosi yakoJuda. ²⁵ Ngoba bangidelile batshisela abanye onkulunkulu impepha njalo bangithukuthelisile ngakho konke abakwenze ngezandla zabo, ulaka lwami luzakwehlela

phezu kwalindawo njalo aluyikucitshwa.’
²⁶ Tshelani inkosi yakoJuda, elithume ukuzabuza
 kuTHIXO lithi: ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO,
 uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, mayelana lamazwi
 owezwileyo: ²⁷ Njengoba uzisolile wazehlisa
 ngaphansi kukaNkulunkulu wezwa ukuthi
 utheni ngalindawo labantu bayo njalo langenxa
 yokuthi uzehlisele wazithoba phambi kwami
 wadabula izembatho zakho walila phambi
 kwami, ngikuzwile, utsho njalo uTHIXO. ²⁸ Wena
 ngizakususa ngikuse kubokhokho bakho, njalo
 uzangcwatshwa ngokuthula. Amehlo akho
 awayikubona leyoncithakalo engizayehlisele
 indawo le lakulabo abahlala khona.’”

Ngempela bayithatha leyompendulo baya layo
 enkosini.

²⁹ Inkosi yasibuthanisa bonke abadala
 bakoJuda labaseJerusalema. ³⁰ Yaya
 ethempelini LIKATHIXO labantu bakoJuda, kanye
 labaseJerusalema, labaphristi kanye labaLevi
 labantu bonke kusukela komncinyane kusiya
 komkhulu. Inkosi yabafundela wonke amazwi
 ayeseGwalweni lweSivumelwano, olwatholakala
 ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ³¹ Inkosi yema ensikeni
 yayo yavuselela isivumelwano sayo phambi
 kuKATHIXO, ukumkhonza uTHIXO lokwamukela
 imilayo yakhe, leziqondiso, lezimiso zakhe
 ngenhliziyo yayo yonke langomphefumulo
 wayo wonke, lokulalela amazwi esivumelwano
 esilotshiweyo ogwalweni.

³² Yasifungisa bonke ababeseJerusalema
 labakoBhenjamini ukuba bazasigcina; abantu
 baseJerusalema bakwenza lokho belandela

isivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo.

³³ UJosiya wasusa zonke izithombe ezenyanyekayo ezabelweni zonke ezazingezako-Israyeli, wenza bonke abako-Israyeli bamkhonza UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wabo. Ngezinsuku zokuphila kwakhe kazange aphambuke endleleni KATHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo.

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UJosiya Wenza UMkhosi WePhasika

¹ UJosiya wenza uMkhosi wePhasika kuTHIXO eJerusalema, iwundlu lePhasika lahlathswa ngosuku lwetshumi lane lwenyanga yakuqala.

² Wabeka abaphristi ngemisebenzi yabo njalo wabakhuthaza emsebenzini wethempeli LIKATHIXO.

³ KubaLevi, ababefundisa abako-Israyeli bonke njalo ababevele behlukaniselwe UTHIXO wathi: “Bekani ibhokisi lesivumelwano elingcwele ethempelini elakhiwa nguSolomoni indodana kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. Akumelanga libe lithwalwa ngamahlombe enu. Khathesi khonzani UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu labantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

⁴ Hlanganani ngezindlu zenu langezigaba zenu, kusiya ngezinqondiso ezalotshwa nguDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye loSolomoni indodana yakhe.

⁵ Manini endaweni engcwele leqembu labaLevi kuzozonke izigaba ngezindlu zezihlobo zenu, kube ngabemuli. ⁶ Hlabani amawundlu ePhasika, lizihlambulule lilungisele izihlobo

zenu lenze njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO ngoMosi.”

⁷ UJosiya wanika abantu makhaza bonke ababekhona izimvu lembuzi eziyizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amathathu zomnikelo wePhasika, kanye lenkomo eziyizinkulungwane ezintathu, zonke zingezayo inkosi.

⁸ Izikhulu zakhe lazo zapha ngokuzinikela ebantwini zapha labaphristi labaLevi. UHilikhiya, loZakhariya loJehiyeli, abaphrofethi bethempeli likaNkulunkulu, bapha abaphristi iminikelo yePhasika engamakhulu angamatshumi amabili lesithupha lenkomo ezingamakhulu amathathu. ⁹ Abanye abapha kanye loKhenaniya loShemaya, loNethaneli, abafowabo, kanye loHashabhiya, loJeyiyeli, loJozabhadi, abakhokheli babaLevi, bapha okomnikelo wePhasika izinkulungwane ezinhlanu kanye lenkomo ezingamakhulu amahlanu ezabaLevi.

¹⁰ Inkonzo yalungiswa kwathi abaphristi bema ezindaweni zabo labaLevi ezigabeni zabo ngeziqondiso zenkosi. ¹¹ Amawundlu ePhasika ahlatshwa, abaphristi bemukela igazi bachela ngalo, abaLevi ngalesosikhathi babehlinza. ¹² Babeka eceleni iminikelo yokutshiswa ukuze banike izigaba ngezigaba zezimuli zabantu ukuze banikele KUTHIXO, njengokulotshiweyo eGwalweni lukaMosi. Benza okufaneleyo lasenkomeni. ¹³ Bosa izinyamazana zePhasika emlilweni njengokulaywa kwabo, babilisa iminikelo engcwele ezimbizeni, ezindengezini lasemapaneni baphanga

bakuphakela abantu. ¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho, bazilungisela okwabo ndawonye lokwabaphristi, ngoba abaphristi, abayinzalo ka-Aroni, babephathekile ngeminikelo yokutshiswa kanye leyamahwahwa kwaze kwaba kusihlwa. Ngakho abaLevi bazilungisela okwabo lokwabaphristi abangabendlu ka-Aroni.

¹⁵ Abahlabeleli, abenzalo ka-Asafi, babesezindaweni ezaqanjwa nguDavida, lo-Asafi, loHemani kanye loJeduthuni umboni wenkosi. Abalindi bamasango esangweni linye ngalinye akuzange kudingeke ukuthi basuke ezindaweni zabo, ngoba abaLevi abayizihlobo zabo babebalungisele okwabo.

¹⁶ Ngakho ngalesosikhathi umsebenzi KATHIXO wenzelwa ukugcinwa kwePhasika lokunikelwa kweminikelo yokutshiswa e-alithareni LIKATHIXO, njengoba inkosi uJosiya yayitshilo. ¹⁷ Abako-Israyeli ababekhona bathakazelela iPhasika ngalesosikhathi njalo bathakazelela uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwensuku eziyisikhombisa.

¹⁸ IPhasika lalingazange ligcinwe ngalindlela ko-Israyeli kusukela ngezinsuku zomphrofethi uSamuyeli; njalo kayikho leyodwa inkosi yako-Israyeli eyayike yathakazelela iPhasika elinjengaleli elenziwa nguJosiya, labaphristi, labaLevi labo bonke abakoJuda labako-Israyeli ababelapho labantu baseJerusalema.

¹⁹ LeliPhasika lathakazelelwa ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili mibili wokubusa kukaJosiya.

Ukufa KukaJosiya

²⁰ Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu uJosiya eseqondisile konke ngeThempeli, uNekho inkosi yaseGibhithe wayahlasela iKharikhemishi eYufrathe, uJosiya waphuma ukuyadibana laye empini. ²¹ Kodwa uNekho wamthumela amanxusa esithi, “Kulokuxabana bani phakathi kwami lawe, we nkosi yakoJuda? Phela angihlaseli wena khathesi, ngihlaselana laleyondlu engilwa layo impi. UNkulunkulu ungitshela ukuba ngiphangise; wena mana ungaphikisani loNkulunkulu, yena olami, funa akubhubhise.”

²² Kodwa uJosiya kazange amyekele, wazifihla ukuze abe sempini. Kazange alalele akutshelwa nguNekho kuvela kuNkulunkulu kodwa laye wayakulwa emagcekeni aseMegido.

²³ Abatshoki bayiciba inkosi uJosiya, yatshela izikhulu zayo yathi, “Ngisusani lapha, sengilimele kakubi.” ²⁴ Ngakho bamethula enqoleni yakhe yokulwa, bamfaka kweyinye ayelayo bamusa eJerusalema, lapho afela khona. Wangcwatshwa emathuneni abokhokho bakhe, bonke abakoJuda labako-Israyeli bamlilela.

²⁵ UJeremiya laye waloba isililo ngoJosiya, njalo kuze kube lamuhla abahlabeleli bonke abesilisa labesifazane lokhu behaya isililo ngoJosiya. Lokhu kulila kwaba ngumkhuba ko-Israyeli njalo kubhaliwe eZililweni.

²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kukaJosiya lezinye izenzo zokuzinikela kwakhe, mayelana lokulotshiweyo eMthethweni KATHIXO

²⁷ zonke izehlakalo, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze

kube sekuphetheni, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda.

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¹ Abantu belizwe bathatha uJehowahazi indodana kaJosiya bamenza inkosi eJerusalema esikhundleni sikayise.

Ukubusa KukaJehowahazi

² UJehowahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lantathu yobudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwezinyanga ezintathu. ³ Inkosi yaseGibhithe yamethula ubukhosi eJerusalema njalo yathelisa abakoJuda amathalenta alikhulu esiliva kanye lethalenta legolide. ⁴ Inkosi yaseGibhithe, yabeka u-Eliyakhimu, umfowabo kaJehowahazi, ukuba abe yinkosi yakoJuda laseJerusalema yasiguqula ibizo lika-Eliyakhimu laba nguJehoyakhimi. Kodwa uNekho wathatha umfowabo ka-Eliyakhimu uJehowahazi wamusa eGibhithe.

UJehoyakhimi Inkosi YakoJuda

⁵ UJehoyakhimi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe. ⁶ UNEbhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wamhlasela wambopha ngamaketane ethusi wasemusa eBhabhiloni. ⁷ UNEbhukhadineza wasuka lezinye impahla zethempeli LIKATHIXO wazisa ethempelini lakhe elaliseBhabhiloni.

⁸ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJehoyakhimi, lamanyala awenzayo lakho konke okwatholakala kulihlazo ngaye, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda. UJehoyakhini indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

UJehoyakhini Inkosi YakoJuda

⁹ UJehoyakhini wayeleminyaka elitshumi lasificaminwembili ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwezinyanga ezintathu lezinsuku ezilitshumi. Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO. ¹⁰ Kwathi entwasa, inkosi uNebhukhadineza yathumela ukuthi bamlethe eBhabhiloni, kanye lempahla eziligugu ezazivela ethempelini LIKATHIXO, wabeka uZedekhiya isinini sikaJehoyakhini ukuba yinkosi yakoJuda laseJerusalema.

UZedekhiya Inkosi YakoJuda

¹¹ UZedekhiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanye, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. ¹² Wenza okubi emehlweni KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe njalo kazange azithobe ngaphansi komphrofethi uJeremiya, owayekhulumela UTHIXO. ¹³ Wahlamukela inkosi uNebhukhadineza, owayemfungise ngebizo likaNkulunkulu. Waba lenkani, lenhliziyo elukhuni, kazange azithobe KUETHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁴ Abakhokheli bonke babaphristi lababantu baqhubeka ngokungathembeki, belandela izenzo

ezingamanyala zezizwe, bengcolisa ithempeli
LIKATHIXO, ayezehlukanisele lona eJerusalema.

Ukuwa KweJerusalema

¹⁵ UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, wathumela ilizwi ephindaphinda ngezithunywa zakhe, ngoba wayelesihawu ebantwini bakhe kanye lendawo yakhe yokuhlala. ¹⁶ Kodwa izithunywa zikaNkulunkulu babezihleka ulunya, beseyisa amazwi akhe njalo beklolodela abaphrofethi bakhe lwaze lwavutha ulaka LUKATHIXO ebantwini bakhe kungasekho okunganceda. ¹⁷ Ngakho wathuma inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, yabulala amajaha akibo ngenkemba endlini engcwele, njalo akusindanga jaha loba ntombi, indoda endala loba oseluphele. UNkulunkulu wabanikela bonke esandleni sikaNebhukhadineza. ¹⁸ Wathutha zonke impahla zethempeli likaNkulunkulu wazisa eBhabhiloni, zonke ezincinyane lezinkulu, kanye lezenotho yethempelini LUKATHIXO lezenotho yenkosi leyezikhulu zayo. ¹⁹ Batshisa ithempeli likaNkulunkulu njalo badiliza umduli weJerusalema; batshisa zonke izigodlo batshabalalisa lakho konke okwakuligugu khonapho.

²⁰ Wathatha bonke ababesele bengadliwanga yinkemba wabasa eBhabhiloni baba yizichaka zakhe lezamadodana akhe kwaze kwangena umbuso wasePhezhiya. ²¹ Ilizwe lazuya ukuphumula kwalo kwamasabatha; kusosonke isikhathi salo sencithakalo laphumula kwaze kwaphela iminyaka engamatshumi

ayisikhombisa ukugcwalisa ilizwi LIKATHIXO elakhulunywa nguJeremiya.

²² Ngomnyaka wakuqala wenkosi yasePhezhiya uKhurosi, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi LIKATHIXO elakhulunywa nguJeremiya, UTHIXO wathinta inhliziyo kaKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya ukuba yenze isimemezelo kuwo wonke umbuso wayo, ukuthi sibhalwe phansi kuthiwe:

²³ “Nanti ilizwi likaKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya elithi:

‘UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wasezulwini unginike yonke imibuso yomhlaba njalo ungikhethile ukuba ngimakhele ithempeli eJerusalema koJuda. Loba ngubani, wabantu bakhe phakathi kwenu sengathi UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe angaba laye, kahambe.’”

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