

Imisebenzi YabaPostoli

UJesu Wenyukiselwa Ezulwini

¹ Encwadini yami yakuqala, Theyofelasi, ngalandisa ngakho konke uJesu akwenzayo lakufundisayo ² kwaze kwafika usuku enyukiswa ngalo esiya ezulwini, esenike izeluleko ngoMoya oNgcwele kubapostoli ayebakhethile. ³ Ngemva kokuhlupheka kwakhe, waziveza kubo, wabapha iziqiniseko ezinengi njengobufakazi bokuthi wayephila. Wabonakala kubo okwensuku ezingamatshumi amane, ekhuluma ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁴ Wathi esidla labo ngelinye ilanga wabalaya wathi, “**Lingasuki eJerusalema, lilindele isipho esathenjiswa nguBaba, elangizwa ngikhuluma ngaso.** ⁵ Ngoba uJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa ngemva kwensuku ezimbalwa lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya oNgcwele.”

⁶ Basebesithi gwaqa ndawonye bambuza bathi, “Nkosi, khathesi usuzabuyisela umbuso ko-Israeli na?”

⁷ Wathi kubo: “**Kakusikho kwenu ukwazi izikhathi loba insuku uBaba azimisileyo ngamandla akhe.** ⁸ Kodwa lina lizakwamukela amandla nxa uMoya oNgcwele esefikile kini, njalo lizakuba ngofakazi bami eJerusalema lakulo lonke eleJudiya laseSamariya kanye lasemikhawulweni yomhlaba.”

⁹ Esekutshilo lokhu, wenyukiswa phambi kwamehlo abo, iyezi lamfihla, abazabe besambona.

¹⁰ Babejolozele esibhakabhakeni ngesikhathi esenyuka, masinyazana nje kwema amadoda amabili eduze kwabo egqoke okumhlophe.

¹¹ Athi kubo, “Madoda aseGalile, limeleni lapha lijolozele esibhakabhakeni na? UJesu lo osethethwe kini wasiwa ezulwini uzabuya ngayonale indlela elimbone esenyuka ngayo esiya ezulwini.”

UMathiyasi Ukhethelwa Ukuba Sesikhundleni SikaJudasi

¹² Basebebuyela eJerusalema besuka eNtabeni yama-Oliva, okungumango ongaba likhilomitha kusuka edolobheni. ¹³ Ekufikeni kwabo bakhuphukela endlini ephezulu lapho ababehlala khona. Ababelapho babebalisa:

uPhethro, uJohane, uJakhobe lo-Andreya;
 uFiliphu loThomasi;
 uBhatholomewu loMatewu;
 uJakhobe indodana ka-Alifewu, uSimoni
 umZilothi, loJudasi indodana kaJakhobe.

¹⁴ Bonke laba bahlangana kokuphela bekhuleka, bendawonye labesifazane loMariya unina kaJesu kanye labafowabo bakaJesu.

¹⁵ Ngalezonsuku uPhethro wasukuma phakathi kwamakholwa (ixuku elalingafika ikhulu elilamatshumi amabili) ¹⁶ wathi, “Bazalwane, uMbhalo kwakumele ugcwaliseke, lokho okwakhulunywa nguMoya oNgcwele

endulo ngomlomo kaDavida mayelana loJudasi owaba ngumkhokheli walabo ababopha uJesu. ¹⁷ Wayengomunye wenani lethu njalo waba lengxenywe emsebenzini wethu wobuvangeli.”

¹⁸ (Ngomvuzo awuzuzayo ngenxa yobubi bakhe, uJudasi wathenga isiqinti; khonapho wawa ngekhandu, isidumbu sakhe sadubuka, amathumbu akhe wonke agcwala phansi.)

¹⁹ Bonke eJerusalema bezwa ngalokho, yikho babiza isiqinti leso ngolimi lwabo bathi yi-Akhelidama, okutsho iSiqinti seGazi.)

²⁰ UPhethro wathi, “Ngoba kulotshiwe encwadini yamaHubo ukuthi:

‘Sengathi indawo yakhe ingaba ngamanxiwa;

kungabi lamuntu ozahlala kuyo,’*

njalo,

‘Kakube lomunye ozathatha isikhundla sakhe sobukhokheli.’†

²¹ Ngakho kufanele ukuba sikhethe omunye wamadoda abekade elathi isikhathi sonke iNkosi uJesu isesephakathi kwethu, ²² kusukela ekubhaphathizweni kwakhe nguJohane kuze kufike esikhathini lapho uJesu athathwa khona kithi. Ukuze omunye wabo laba abe ngufakazi kanye lathi ngokuvuka kwakhe kwabafileyo.”

²³ Ngakho basebemisa amadoda amabili, uJosefa owayethiwa nguBhasabhasi (esaziwa njalo ngokuthi nguJustusi) loMathiyasi.

²⁴ Basebekhuleka bathi, “Nkosi, uyayazi inhliziyoyomuntu munye ngamunye. Sitshengise ukuthi nguphi phakathi kwalaba ababili

* **1:20** 1.20 AmaHubo 69.25 † **1:20** 1.20 AmaHubo 109.8

omkhethileyo ²⁵ ukuba athathe lesisikhundla sobupostoli, uJudasi asitshiyayo esiya lapho ayefanele khona.” ²⁶ Basebesenza inkatho, yadla uMathiyasi, wasesengezwa kubapostoli abalitshumi lanye.

2

UMoya ONgcwele Uyehla NgePhentekhosti

¹ Kwathi kufika usuku lwePhentekhosti, bonke babendawonye. ² Masinyane nje kwabakhona umsindo onjengokuvunguza komoya wesiphepho wehla uvela ezulwini, wagcwala indlu yonke ababehlezi kuyo. ³ Babona okwakungathi zinlimi ezingamalangabi omlilo ezehlukana zahlala komunye lomunye wabo. ⁴ Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya oNgcwele, basebeqalisa ukukhuluma ezinye izindimi njengokwaneliswa kwabo nguMoya.

⁵ Ngalesosikhathi kwakuhlala amaJuda ayemesaba uNkulunkulu eJerusalema, evela kuyo yonke imibuso yomhlaba. ⁶ Athi ngokuzwa umsindo lo, kwabuthana ixuku labantu bemangele ngoba omunye lomunye wabezwa bekhuluma ngolimi lwakhe. ⁷ Ngokumangala okukhulu babuza bathi, “Kanti bonke laba abakhulumayo kabasimaGalile na? ⁸ Pho kungani omunye lomunye wethu ebezwa bekhuluma ngolimi lwethu na? ⁹ AmaPhathiya, amaMede, ama-Elamu; izakhamizi zaseMesophothamiya, lezeJudiya leKhaphadokhiya, lePhontusi le-Ezhiya, ¹⁰ leFirigiya lePhamfiliya, leGibhithe lezingxeny

zeLibhiya eduze leKhureni; izethekeli ezivela eRoma ¹¹ (amaJuda lamakholwa aphendukele enkolweni yesiJuda); amaKhrethe lama-Arabhu, sibeziwa befakaza izimangaliso zikaNkulunkulu ngendimi zethu!" ¹² Babedidekile bengelankani, babuzana bathi, "Kutshoni lokhu?"

¹³ Kodwa abanye benza inhlekisa ngabo bathi, "Banathe iwayini enengi bedlulisa."

UPhethro Ukhuluma Phakathi Kwexuku Labantu

¹⁴ UPhethro wasesukuma labalitshumi lanye, waphakamisa ilizwi lakhe wakhuluma emphakathini wathi, "Bantu bakithi elingamaJuda, lani lonke eliseJerusalema, kahleni ngilichasisele lokhu; lalélisisani lokhu engikutshoyo.

¹⁵ Amadoda la kawadakwanga njengokucabanga kwenu. Kuseselihola lesificamunwemunye nje ekuseni! ¹⁶ Hatshi, lokhu yikho okwakhulunywa ngumphrofethi uJoweli ukuthi:

¹⁷ 'Ngezinsuku zokucina, uNkulunkulu uthi,
Ngizathululela uMoya wami kubo bonke abantu.

Amadodana lamadodakazi enu azaphrofitha,
izinsizwa zenu zizabona imibono,
lamaxhegu enu azaphupha amaphupho.

¹⁸ Lasezincekwini zami, ezesilisa lezesifazane,
ngizawuthulula uMoya wami ngalezonsuku,
njalo bazaphrofitha.

¹⁹ Ngizatshengisa izimanga ezulwini phezulu,
lezibonakaliso emhlabeni phansi,
igazi lomlilo lezikhatha zentuthu.

²⁰ Ilanga lizaphendulwa libe yibumnyama,
lenyanga ibeligazi

phambi kokuba kufike usuku olukhulu
lukaThixo, olukhazimulayo.

21 Njalo wonke obiza

ibizo likaThixo uzasindiswa.*

22 Bantu bako-Israyeli, lalelani lokhu:
UJesu waseNazaretha wayeyindoda eyamiswa
nguNkulunkulu kini, ngezimangaliso
lezibonakaliso uNkulunkulu azenzayo phakathi
kwenu ngaye, njengoba lina ngokwenu
lisazi. 23 Umuntu lo wanikelwa kini ngecebo
likaNkulunkulu ayelimisile langolwazi lokuzayo;
njalo lina lincediswa ngabantu ababi,†
lambulala ngokumbethela esiphambanweni.

24 Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo,
wamkhulula ebuhlungwini bokufa ngoba
ukufa kwakungelamandla okumncindezela.

25 UDavida wathi ngaye:

‘Ngayibona iNkosi iphambi kwami kokuphela.

Njengoba isesandleni sami sokunene,
angiyi kunyikinywa.

26 Ngakho inhliziyo yami iyathaba

lolimi lwami luyathokoza;

umzimba wami lawo uzahlala ulethemba,

27 ngoba kawuzukungidela ukuba ngiye en-
daweni yabafileyo,

njalo kawusoze wekele ongcwele wakho

ukuthi abone ukubola.

28 Ungazisile izindlela zempilo;

uzangigcwalisa ngentokozo phambi
kwakho.‡

* **2:21** 2.21 UJoweli 2.28-32 † **2:23** 2.23 kumbe ngabantu
abangelamthetho (okutsho abaZizwe) ‡ **2:28** 2.28 AmaHubo
16.8-11

²⁹ Bazalwane, ngilitshela ngilesibindi ukuthi ukhokho uDavida wafa wangcwatshwa, njalo ithuna lakhe likhona khonapha kuze kube lamuhla.

³⁰ Kodwa wayengumphrofethi, ekwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemthembisile ngesifungo ukuthi wayezabeka omunye we-sizukulwane sakhe esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi.

³¹ Ngoba ebona okwakuphambili, wakhuluma ngokuvuka kukaKhristu kwabafileyo, ukuthi kazange atshiywe endaweni yabafileyo njalo umzimba wakhe kawukubonanga ukubola.

³² UNkulunkulu usemvusile uJesu lo waphila, thina sonke singofakazi balokho.

³³ Njengoba esekhutshulelwe ngakwesokunene sikaNkulunkulu, usamukele kuYise uMoya oNgcwele owathenjiswa njalo usekuthulule lokho elikubonayo lelikuzwayo khathesi.

³⁴ Ngoba uDavida kenyukanga ukuya ezulwini, kodwa wathi,

‘INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

“Hlala ngakwesokunene sami

³⁵ ngize genze izitha zakho

zibe yisinyathelo senyawo zakho.”§’

³⁶ Ngakho-ke, u-Israyeli wonke kaqiniseke ngalokhu: uNkulunkulu usenze uJesu lo elambethelayo waba yiNkosi loKhristu.”

³⁷ Abantu bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathinteka kakhulu ezinhliziyweni, bathi kuPhethro labanye abapostoli, “Bazalwane, senze njani na?”

³⁸ Uphethro waphendula wathi, “Phendukani libhaphathizwe lonke, ebizweni likaJesu Khristu

ukuze lithethelelwe izono zenu. Njalo lizakwamukela isipho soMoya oNgcwele. ³⁹ Isithembiso ngesenu labantwabenu labo bonke abakude, lesabo bonke iNkosi uNkulunkulu wethu ezababiza.”

⁴⁰ Wabaxwayisa langamanye amazwi amanengi; njalo wabancenga wathi, “Zisindiseni kulesisizukulwane esonakeleyo.” ⁴¹ Labo abalemukelayo ilizwi lakhe babhaphathizwa, kwengezwa enanini labo mhlalokho abangaba zinkulungwane ezintathu.

Ubudlelwano Bamakholwa

⁴² Bayikhuthalela imfundiso yabapostoli kanye lokudlelana, lokuhlephuna isinkwa lokukhuleka. ⁴³ Wonke umuntu wagcwala ukwesaba ngezimanga lezibonakaliso ezenziwa ngabapostoli. ⁴⁴ Wonke amakholwa ayendawonye, ehlanganyela kukho konke. ⁴⁵ Athengisa izinto zawo lempahla zawo anika loba ngubani oswelayo. ⁴⁶ Insuku zonke aqhubeka ehlangana emagumeni ethempeli njalo ehlephuna isinkwa emakhaya awo esidla ndawonye ngezinhliziyi ezimhlophe lezithobekileyo, ⁴⁷ edumisa uNkulunkulu njalo ethakazelelwa ngabantu bonke. Njalo iNkosi yengeza inani lawo insuku zonke ngalabo abasebesindisiwe.

3

UPhethro Usilisa Isiceli Esigogekileyo

¹ Ngelinye ilanga uPhethro loJohane babesiya ethempelini ngesikhathi sokukhuleka, ngehola

lesithathu emini. ² Indoda eyayigogekile kusukele ekuzalweni kwayo, yayithwalwa isiwe esangweni lethempeli elalibizwa ngokuthi liSango Elihle, lapho eyayibekwa khona nsuku zonke ukuthi icele kulabo ababengena emagumeni ethempeli. ³ Yathi ibona uPhethro loJohane bengena yabacela imali. ⁴ UPhethro loJohane bayijolozela. UPhethro wasesithi, “Sikhangelala!” ⁵ Ngakho indoda yabakhangelala, ithembe ukuthi izazuza ulutho kubo.

⁶ UPhethro wasesithi, “Isiliva kumbe igolide kangilakho, kodwa engilakho ngiyakunika. Ebizweni likaJesu Khristu waseNazaretha, sukuma uhambe.” ⁷ Wambamba ngesandla sokudla wamsukumisa, masinyane nje inyawo lenqagala zakhe kwaqina. ⁸ Wathi lothu ngezinyawo zakhe wahle wahamba. Wasehamba labo ethempelini, ezihambela, eseqa njalo edumisa uNkulunkulu. ⁹ Kwathi abantu bonke bembona ehamba edumisa uNkulunkulu, ¹⁰ bamnanzelela ukuthi nguye owayehlala ecela esangweni lethempeli lelo, bamangala baphela amandla ngalokho okwakwenzakele kuye.

UPhethro Ukhuluma Lababukeleyo

¹¹ Isiceli sisathe sece kuPhethro loJohane, bonke abantu bamangala beza kubo begijima endaweni eyayithiwa liKhulusi likaSolomoni. ¹² UPhethro wathi ekubona lokhu wathi kubo, “Bantu bako-Israyeli, kungani kulimangalisa lokhu na? Kungani lisijolozela sengathi ngamandla ethu loba ukhohlo lwethu okwenze

umuntu lo wahamba na? ¹³ UNkulunkulu ka-Abhrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu useyikhazimulisile incekukhe yakhe uJesu. Lamnikela ukuba abulawe, lamphika phambi kukaPhilathu, loba yena wayesemise ukuthi amyekele ahambe. ¹⁴ Lamphika oNgcwele njalo oLungileyo, lacela ukuthi likhululelwe umbulali. ¹⁵ Lambulala umsunguli wokuphila, kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo. Singofakazi bakho lokhu. ¹⁶ Ngokukholwa ebizweni likaJesu, indoda le eliyibonayo, eliyaziyo, yenziwe yaqina. Kungenxa yebizo likaJesu lokukholwa okuza ngaye okulethe ukusila okupheleleyo kuyo njengoba lonke libona.

¹⁷ Manje-ke bazalwane, ngiyazi ukuthi lakwenza ngokungazi, njengoba labakhokheli benu labo babengazi. ¹⁸ Kodwa yiyo indlela uNkulunkulu agcwalisa ngayo lokho ayekutshilo ngaphambilini ngabo bonke abaphrofethi, esithi uKhristu wakhe wayezahlupheka. ¹⁹ Ngakho phendukani, libuyele kuNkulunkulu ukuze izono zenu zesulwe, ukuze kufike izikhathi zokuhlambulula okuvela eNkosini, ²⁰ lokuthi ithumele uKhristu omiselwe lina, yena uJesu. ²¹ Kumele ahlale ezulwini kuze kufike isikhathi lapho uNkulunkulu azaqondisa konke ngaso, njengokuthembisa kwakhe endulo ngabaphrofethi bakhe abangcwele. ²² Ngoba uMosi wathi, 'INkosi uNkulunkulu wenu uzalivusela umphrofethi phakathi kwabafowenu njengami; libokulalela konke alitshela khona. ²³ Loba ngubani ongayikumlalela uzakususwa ngokupheleleyo

ebantwini bakibo.’*

²⁴ Ngempela, bonke abaphrofethi kusukela kuSamuyeli, bonke abaphrofethi baphrofitha ngazo insuku lezi. ²⁵ Lina lizindlalifa zabo abaphrofethi kanye lesivumelwano uNkulunkulu asenza labokhokho benu. Wathi ku-Abrahama, ‘Bonke abantu bomhlaba bazabusiwa ngesizukulwane sakho.’† ²⁶ Kuthe uNkulunkulu eseyimisile inceku yakhe, wayithumela kuqala kini ukuba ilibusise ngokuphendula omunye lomunye wenu ezindleleni zenu zobubi.”

4

UPhethro LoJohane Phambi KweSanihedrini

¹ Abaphristi lomlawuli wabalindi bethempeli kanye lamaSadusi beza kuPhethro loJohane belokhu besakhuluma labantu. ² Bakhathazeka kakhulu ngoba abapostoli babefundisa abantu betshumayela ukuthi kuJesu kulokuvuka kwabafuleyo. ³ Babamba uPhethro loJohane, kwathi ngenxa yokuthi kwasekuntambama, babafaka entolongweni kwaze kwaba kusasa. ⁴ Kodwa abanengi abalizwayo ilizwi bakholwa, inani lamadoda lakhula okungaba zinkulungwane ezinhlanu.

⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo ababusi, abadala, labafundisi bomthetho babuthana eJerusalema.

⁶ U-Anasi umphristi omkhulu, uKhayifasi, uJohane, u-Alekizanda labanye abendlu yomphristi omkhulu. ⁷ Bathi uPhethro loJohane balethwe,

* **3:23** 3.23 UDutheronomi 18.15, 18, 19 † **3:25** 3.25 UGenesisi 22.18; 26.4

baqala ukubathonisa besithi, “Lokhu likwenze ngamandla bani kumbe ngaliphi ibizo na?”

⁸ UPhethro egcwele uMoya oNgcwele wathi kubo, “Babusi labadala babantu! ⁹ Nxa sibekwa umlandu lamuhla ngesenzo somusa owenzelwe indoda ebiyisigoga, besesibuzwa ukuthi isil-iswe njani, ¹⁰ yazini lokhu, lina kanye labo bonke abantu bako-Israyeli; kungenxa yamandla kaJesu Khristu waseNazaretha elambethelayo kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo, yiwo enza indoda le ime phambi kwenu isilile ngokupheleleyo. ¹¹ Yena uyilo

‘ilitshe lina abakhi elalilahlayo,

khathesi seliyilona ilitshe lekheneni.’*

¹² Kakho omunye okulensindiso kuye; phela kalikho elinye ibizo ngaphansi kwezulu elaphiwa abantu ukuthi sisindiswe ngalo.”

¹³ Bathi ngokubona isibindi sikaPhethro loJohane njalo benanzelela ukuthi ngabantu makhaza, ababengafundanga, batsha amathe, bakananzelela ukuthi amadoda la ake aphila loJesu. ¹⁴ Kodwa njengoba babeyibona indoda eyayisilisiwe imi khonapho labo, baswela ukuthi bangathini. ¹⁵ Ngakho kwathiwa kabasuke emphakathini weSanihedrini, umphakathi wasala uhlanganisa amakhanda. ¹⁶ Babuzana bathi, “Kambe senzeni ngamadoda la? Bonke abahlala eJerusalema bayakwazi ukuthi benze umangaliso obabazekayo, lathi asingeke sikulandule lokho. ¹⁷ Kodwa ukuze into le siyimise ukuthi

* **4:11** 4.11 AmaHubo 118.22

ingasabalali phakathi kwabantu, kasibaqonqoseleni ukuthi bangaphindi bakhulume lakubani ngebizo leli.”

¹⁸ Basebebabiza njalo, babalaya ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma loba ukufundisa ngebizo likaJesu. ¹⁹ Kodwa uPhethro loJohane baphendula bathi, “Yikuphi okuqondileyo emehlweni kaNkulunkulu ukulalela lina kumbe ukulalela uNkulunkulu? Kwahluleleni lokho. ²⁰ Thina ngokwethu asingeke siyekele ukukhuluma ngalokho esikubonileyo lesikuzwileyo.”

²¹ Sebebaqonqosele njalo babakhulula. Baswela ukuthi babengabajezisa njani, ngoba abantu bonke babemdumisa uNkulunkulu ngalokho okwakwenzakele. ²² Ngoba leyondoda eyasiliswa ngesimanga yayileminyaka engamatshumi amane ubudala.

Umkhuleko Wamakholwa

²³ Ekukhululweni kwabo uPhethro loJohane babuyela ebantwini bakibo, bababikela konke okwakukhulunywe kibo ngabaphristi abakhulu labadala. ²⁴ Sebekuzwile lokhu, baphakamisa amazwi abo bonke bakhuleka kuNkulunkulu. Bathi, “Thixo Nkosi, wena wenza amazulu lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukuwo. ²⁵ Wena wakhuluma ngoMoya oNgcwele ngomlomo wenceku yakho, ubaba wethu uDavida wathi:

‘Kungani izizwe zixokozela,
labantu besakha amacebo ngeze?

²⁶ Amakhosi omhlaba ayahloma ajame
lababusi bahlangana ndawonye
bemelana loThixo

lalowo Ogcotshiweyo wakhe.[†]

²⁷ Ngempela uHerodi loPhontiyasi Philathu bahlangana labeZizwe kanye labantu bako-Israyeli baceba ngenceku yakho engcwele, uJesu owamgcobayo. ²⁸ Benza lokho okwakumiswe ngaphambilini ngamandla akho layintando yakho ukuthi kwakuzakwenzakala. ²⁹ Ngakho, Nkosi, zwana ukusonga kwabo, uphe izinceku zakho amandla ukuthi zilikhulume ilizwi lakho ngesibindi esikhulu. ³⁰ Yelula isandla sakho ukusilisa lokwenza imimangaliso lezimanga ngebizo lenceku yakho engcwele uJesu.”

³¹ Sebekhulekile, indawo ababekuyo yazamazama. Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya oNgcwele, balikhuluma ngesibindi ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

Amakholwa Ayahlanganyela Kuyo Yonke Impahla Yawo

³² Wonke amakholwa ayenhliziyi nye njalo engqondo nye. Kakho owathi okwakhe ngokwakhe yedwa kodwa babelana konke ababelakho.

³³ Abapostoli baqhubeka ukufakaza ngamandla amakhulu ngokuvuka kweNkosi uJesu kwabafileyo, bonke babusiseka kakhulu. ³⁴ Kakho owayeswela phakathi kwabo. Kwakusithi izikhathi ngezikhathi labo ababe leziqinti loba izindlu bazithengise balethe imali abathengise ngayo ³⁵ bayethule ebapostolini, yabelwe loba ngubani ngokuswela kwakhe.

³⁶ UJosefa, umLevi waseSiphraasi, abapostoli ababembiza ngokuthi nguBhanabhasi (okutsho

[†] **4:26** 4.26 AmaHubo 2.1-2

ukuthi, iNdodana yeNkuthazo), ³⁷ wathengisa isivande sakhe waletha imali wayethula phambi kwabapostoli.

5

U-Ananiya LoSafira

¹ Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya ilomkayo uSafira labo bathengisa isiqinti sabo. ² Wavumelana lomkakhe ukuthi afihle enye imali ibe ngeyabo, kwathi enye wayethula kubapostoli.

³ UPhethro wasesithi, “Ananiya, kungani uSathane esegabhele inhliziyo yakho usuze uqamba amanga kuMoya oNgcwele, wazigcinela ingxenye yemali eliyizuzileyo ngesiqinti senu na? ⁴ Kanti besingesisenu yini singakathengiswa? Njalo lapho sesithengisiwe, imali ibingaqondananga lani na? Kuyini okubangele ukuthi ucabange ukwenza into enje na? Kawuqambelanga muntu lawo manga, kodwa uwaqambele uNkulunkulu.”

⁵ U-Ananiya wonela ukukuzwa lokhu, wawela phansi wafa. Bonke abezwa ngalesisehlakalo bangenwa yikwesaba okukhulu. ⁶ Kwasekungena amajaha agoqela isidumbu sakhe amthwalela phandle, ayamngcwaba.

⁷ Ngemva kwamahola amathathu umkakhe laye wangena engazi okwasekwenzakele. ⁸ UPhethro wambuza wathi, “Ake ungitshela, yiyo yini le intengo eliyizuzileyo wena lo-Ananiya esiqintini senu?”

Wathi, “Yebo, yiyo intengo yaso.”

⁹ UPhethro wathi kuye, “Kungani livumelane ukulinga uMoya weNkosi na? Lalela! Yizisinde zamadoda asengcwabe umkakho esezisemnyango, bazakuthwala lawe futhi.”

¹⁰ Khonokho wasakazeka phansi eduze kukaPhethro, wafa. Asengena amajaha yena esefile, amthwala aphuma laye ayamngcwaba malungana lomkakhe. ¹¹ Ibandla lonke lafikelwa yikwesaba okukhulu kanye labo bonke abazizwayo lezizehlakalo.

AbaPostoli Basilisa Abanengi

¹² Abapostoli benza imimangaliso lezimanga ezinengi ebantwini. Amakholwa wonke ayevame ukuhlangana ndawonye eKhulusini likaSolomoni. ¹³ Kakho omunye owaqunga isibindi wahlangana labo, lanxa kunjalo babalodumo ebantwini. ¹⁴ Lanxa kunjalo, amadoda labafazi abanengi bakholwa eNkosini, bengezelela ubunengi babo. ¹⁵ Kwathi ngenxa yalokho, abantu baletha abagulayo ezitaladini, babalalisa emibhedeni lemacansini ukuze isithunzi sikaPhethro sisithe abanye babo lapho esedlula kuphela nje. ¹⁶ Amaxuku abantu abuthana eqhamuka emizini eyayiseduze kweJerusalema, eletha abagulayo lalabo ababehlukuluzwa yimimoya emibi, bonke basiliswa.

Ukuhlukuluzwa Kwabapostoli

17 Kwasekusithi umphristi omkhulu kanye leqembu lakhe elalingelexuku labaSadusi bangenwa ngumhawu. 18 Bababopha abapostoli babaphosela entolongweni yomuntu wonke. 19 Kodwa ebusuku ingilosi yeNkosi yavula iminyango yentolongo yabakhupha. 20 Yathi, “Hambani liyekuma emagumeni ethempeli, litshela abantu lonke ilizwi lempilo entsha.”

21 Kwathi emadabukakusa bahle bangena emagumeni ethempeli, bafundisa abantu njen-gokutshelwa kwabo.

Ekufikeni komphristi omkhulu leqembu lakhe bahle babiza iSanihedrini; inkundla yonke yabadala bako-Israyeli bathumela ilizwi entolongweni lokuthi kulethwe abapostoli, 22 kodwa izithunywa zathi zifika entolongweni zafumana bengasekho. Ngakho zasezibuyela zayabika zathi, 23 “Sifumane intolongo ivalwe kuhle labalindi bemi eminyango; kodwa sithe siyivula kasibonanga muntu phakathi.” 24 Induna yabalindi bethempeli kanye labaphristi abakhulu bathi bekuzwa lokhu batsha amathe, bamangala ukuthi into le yayikhombani.

25 Kwasekufika omunye umuntu wathi, “Zwanini! Amadoda eliwaphosele entolongweni emi emagumeni ethempeli afundisa abantu.”

26 Besizwa lokho, induna yahle yasuka lamanxusa ayo bayabuya labapostoli. Kabasebenzisanga udlakela ngoba besesaba ukuthi abantu babengabakhanda ngamatshe.

27 Sebeba lethile abapostoli, babamisa phambi kweSanihedrini ukuthi bathonisiswe

ngumphristi omkhulu. ²⁸ Wathi, “Saliqonqosela ukuthi lingafundisi ngebizo leli. Kodwa seligcwalise iJerusalema ngemfundiso yenu njalo lizimisele ukuthesa umlandu ngegazi lomuntu lo.”

²⁹ UPhethro labanye abapostoli baphendula bathi, “Kumele silalele uNkulunkulu kulokulalela abantu! ³⁰ UNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu wamvusa uJesu kwabafileyo, yena elalimbulele ngokumlengisa esiphambanweni. ³¹ UNkulunkulu wamphakamisela kwesokunene sakhe waba yiNkosana loMsindisi ukuze anike ukuphenduka lokuthethelelwa kwezono ku-Israyeli. ³² Thina singofakazi balezizinto, njengaye uMoya oNgcwele, uNkulunkulu amnike kulabo abamlalelayo.”

³³ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathukuthela kakhulu, bafuna ukuthi babulawe. ³⁴ Kodwa umFarisi owayethiwa nguGamaliyeli, engumfundisi womthetho, ehlonitshwa ngabantu bonke, wasukuma wema phambi kweSanihedrini wathi amadoda lawo ake amiswe phandle kancane. ³⁵ Wasesithi emphakathini weSanihedrini, “Madoda ako-Israyeli, cabangani kuhle ngalokhu elifuna ukukwenza emadodeni la. ³⁶ Ngesikhathi esadlulayo kwafika uThewuda ezitshaya umuntu oqakathekileyo, wahuga amadoda angaba ngamakhulu amane. Wabulawa, bonke abalandeli bakhe bahlakazeka, konke kwaphelela emoyeni. ³⁷ Ngemva kwakhe, uJudasi umGalile laye wavela ngezinsuku zokubalwa kwabantu, wakhokhela ixuku labantu ukuba lihlahmuke. Laye wabulawa, labalandeli bakhe bonke

bahlakazeka. ³⁸ Ngakho, mayelana lalindaba yamanje ngixwayisa lokhu: Bayekeleni abantu laba! Kabahambe! Ngoba nxa inhloso yabo kumbe umkhankaso wabo uvela ebantwini, uzakuba yize. ³⁹ Kodwa nxa uvela kuNkulunkulu, kalisoze libe lamandla okubamisa lababantu; lizazifumana seliphikisana loNkulunkulu.”

⁴⁰ Inkulumo yakhe bayamukela. Bababiza abapostoli bangeniswa kwathiwa kabatshaywe. Basebeqonqoselwa ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma ngebizo likaJesu, basebekhululwa.

⁴¹ Abapostoli basuka eSanihedrini bethokoza ngoba basebebonakalisile ukuthi bangalimela ihlazo lokulihluphekela iBizo. ⁴² Insuku ngensuku, emagumeni ethempeli, njalo behamba bengena indlu ngendlu, kabazange bame ukufundisa lokutshumayela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

6

Ukukhethwa Kwabayisikhombisa

¹ Ngalezonsuku inani labafundi lisanda, amaJuda esiGrikhi ayephakathi kwabo akhonona kulabo ababengamaHebheru ngoba abafelokazi babo babengananzwa nxa kusabiwa ukudla ngezinsuku zonke. ² Ngakho abalitshumi lambili bahlanganisa bonke abafundi ndawonye bathi, “Kuyabe kungalunganga kithi ukuthi siyekethise ukutshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu silibale ngokulungiselana ukudla. ³ Bazalwane, khethani amadoda ayisikhombisa phakathi kwenu aziwayo ukuthi agcwele uMoya lokuhlakanipha.

Umlandu lo sizawubekela wona ⁴ thina siqinise ukukhuleka lokutshumayela ilizwi.”

⁵ Umbono lo walithokozisa ixuku lonke. Bakhetha uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele ukukholwa loMoya oNgcwele; uFiliphu, uPhrokhorusi, uNikhanori, uThimoni, uPhamenasi loNikholasi wase-Antiyokhi, ikholwa elaphendukela enkolweni yesiJuda. ⁶ Amadoda la ethulwa kubapostoli, abakhuleka bawabeka izandla.

⁷ Ngakho ilizwi likaNkulunkulu lamemetheka. Inani labafundi eJerusalema landa ngokuphangisa, kwathi lenani elikhulu labaphristi layilandela inkolo.

UStefane Uyabotshwa

⁸ Kwathi uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele umusa kaNkulunkulu, lamandla, yenza izimanga lemimangaliso phakathi kwabantu.

⁹ Kwasekuvela umona usuka emalungeni eSinagogu yabaKhululekileyo (njengokubizwa kwakhona) bengamaJuda aseKhureni le-Alekizandriya kanye lasemikhonweni yaseSilisiya le-Ezhiya. Abantu laba basuka basebephikisana loStefane, ¹⁰ kodwa behluleka ukumelana lenhlakanipho yakhe kumbe uMoya ayekhuluma ngawo.

¹¹ Basebefunza abanye abantu amazwi ngase ukuthi bathi, “Simzwile uStefane ekhuluma amazwi ahlambaza uMosi kanye loNkulunkulu.”

¹² Ngaleyondlela badungulula abantu labadala kanye labafundisi bomthetho. Bambopha uStefane bamletha phambi kweSanihedrini.

¹³ Baveza ofakazi bamanga abafakaza bathi, “Indoda le kayikhawuli ukukhuluma kubi ngen-dawo engcwele langomthetho. ¹⁴ Ngoba ses-imuzwe esithi uJesu lo waseNazaretha uzayib-hidliza indawo le njalo aguqule imikhuba uMosi asipha yona.”

¹⁵ Bonke ababehlezi phakathi kweSanihedrini bamnanzelela uStefane babona ukuthi ubuso bakhe babufana lobuso bengilosu.

7

Inkulumo KaStefane ESanihedrini

¹ Ngakho umphristi omkhulu wasembuza wathi, “Ukumangalelwa konke lokhu kuliqiniso na?”

² Kulokhu waphendula wathi: “Bafowethu labobaba ake lingilalele! UNkulunkulu wenkazimulo waziveza kubaba wethu u-Abhrahama esahlala eMesophothamiya, engakahlali eHarani. ³ UNkulunkulu wathi, ‘Tshiya ilizwe lakini labantu bakini uye elizweni engizakutshengisa lona.’* ”

⁴ Ngakho wasuka elizweni lamaKhaladiya wayahlala eHarani. Ngemva kokufa kukayise, uNkulunkulu wamletha kuleli ilizwe lapho eselihlala khona manje. ⁵ Kamuphanga lifa lapha loba nje isiqintshana somhlabathi. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamthembisa ukuthi yena lezizukulwane zakhe ngemva kwakhe babezalizusa ilizwe lelo libe ngelabo, loba nje ngalesosikhathi u-Abhrahama wayengelamntwana. ⁶ UNkulunkulu wakhuluma laye kanje:

* 7:3 7.3 UGenesisi 12.1

'Izizukulwane zakho zizakuba ngabezizweni elizweni elingayisilo lazo okweminyaka engamakhulu amane, njalo zizagqilazwa, zihlukuluzwe. ⁷ Ngizasijezisa lesosizwe esibagqilazayo,† kusitsho uNkulunkulu, 'emva kwalokho bazaphuma kulelolizwe bangikhonze kuyonale indawo.' ⁸ Wasenika u-Abhrahama isivumelwano sokusoka. U-Abhrahama waba nguyise ka-Isaka, wamsoka ngemva kwensuku eziyisificaminwembili ezelwe. Ngemva kwalokho u-Isaka waba nguyise kaJakhobe, uJakhobe yena waba nguyise wabokhokho abalitshumi lambili.

⁹ Ngenxa yokuthi okhokho babalomhawu ngo-Josefa, bamthengisela eGibhithe njengesigqili. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waba laye ¹⁰ wamephula kuzozonke inhlupho zakhe. Wanika uJosefa inhlakanipho, wamenza wathandwa nguFaro, inkosi yaseGibhithe. Yona yasimenza umbusi eGibhithe lakuso sonke isigodlo sakhe.

¹¹ Indlala yasihlasela lonke elaseGibhithe leleKhenani, kwaba lobunzima obukhulu ngoba okhokho bethu bakuswela ukudla. ¹² UJakhobe esezwile ukuthi amabele ayekhona eGibhithe, wathuma okhokho bethu ekuhambeni kwabo kwakuqala. ¹³ Sebesiya khona okwesibili, uJosefa wabatshela abanewabo ukuthi wayengubani, njalo uFaro waziswa ngabakibo ka-Josefa. ¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho uJosefa wasebiza uyise uJakhobe ukuthi eze labendlu yakhe bonke, kungabantu abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu sebebonke. ¹⁵ Ngakho uJakhobe

† 7:7 7.7 UGenesisi 15.13-14

wasesehlela kweleGibhithe lapho afela khona yena kanye labokhokho bethu. ¹⁶ Izidumbu zabo zabuyiswa eShekhemu zabekwa ethuneni elathengwa ngu-Abhrahama emadodaneni ka-Hamori eShekhemu ngemali ethile.

¹⁷ Kwathi isikhathi sesisondele esokuthi uNkulunkulu agcwalise isithembiso sakhe ku-Abhrahama, inani labantu bakithi eGibhithe landa ngamandla. ¹⁸ Kwasekusiba 'lenye inkosi eyayingazi lutho ngoJosefa yaba ngumbusi eGibhithe.'‡ ¹⁹ Yaba lesihluku ebantwini bakithi, yancindezela okhokho bethu ngokubabamba ngamandla ukuthi balahlele khatshana insane zabo ezisanda kuzalwa ukuthi zife.

²⁰ Ngalesosikhathi uMosi wazalwa, njalo engasumntwana makhaza. Okwezinyanga ezintathu wondliwa endlini kayise. ²¹ Kwathi esebekwe phandle, indodakazi kaFaro yamthatha yamkhulisa njengomntanayo. ²² UMosi wafundiswa kuyo yonke inhlakanipho yamaGibhithe, eligagu lokukhuluma lokwenza.

²³ Kwathi uMosi eseleminyaka engamatshumi amane obudala, wacabanga ukuya kwethekelela abantu bakibo, abako-Israyeli. ²⁴ Wabona omunye wabo ehluukuluzwa ngumGibhithe, ngakho wayamlamulela, wenanisa ngokubulala umGibhithe lowo. ²⁵ UMosi wakhumbula ukuthi abantu bakibo babezakunanzelela ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemsebenzisa ukuthi abakhulule, kodwa kabakunanzelelanga. ²⁶ Ngosuku olulandelayo uMosi wawela phezu kwabako-Israyeli ababili ababesilwa. Wazama

‡ 7:18 7.18 U-Eksodasi 1.8

ukubalamula ngokuthi, ‘Madoda, liyizinini; kungani lihlukuluzana kangaka na?’

²⁷ Kodwa leyondoda eyayihlukuluza eyinye, yamfuqela eceleni uMosi yathi, ‘Ngubani okwenze umbusi lomahluli phezu kwethu?’

²⁸ Ufuna ukungibulala njengomGibhithe ombuleleyo izolo?’[§] ²⁹ UMosi wathi ekuzwa lokho wabalekela eMidiyani, lapho ahlala khona njengesizwe, wazala khona amadodana amabili.

³⁰ Sekwedlule iminyaka engamatshumi amane, ingilosi yavela kuMosi iselangabini lesixuku esibhebhayo enkangala eduze kweNtaba iSinayi.

³¹ Wathi ekubona lokhu wamangala kakhulu ngalowombono. Wathi uyasondela ukuthi abonisise, wezwa ilizwi likaThixo lisithi: ³² ‘NginguNkulunkulu waboyihlo, uNkulunkulu ka-Abhrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe.’* UMosi wathuthumela ngokwesaba wehluleka ukukhangela.

³³ INkosi yasisithi kuye, ‘Khupha amanyathela akho, ngoba indawo omi kuyo ingumhlabathi ongcwele. ³⁴ Ngempela sengikubonile ukuhlukuluzeka kwabantu bami eGibhithe. Sengikuzwile ukububula kwabo, ngakho sengibuyile phansi lapha ukuzebakhulula. Manje-ke zwana, ngizakubuyisela eGibhithe.’†

³⁵ Nguye kanye uMosi lo ababemalile ngamazwi athi, ‘Ngubani okwenze umbusi lomahluli na?’ Wathunyelwa ukuba ngumbusi lomkhululi nguNkulunkulu mathupha,

§ 7:28 7.28 U-Eksodasi 2.14 * 7:32 7.32 U-Eksodasi 3.6 † 7:34 7.34 U-Eksodasi 3.5, 7, 8, 10

ngengilosi eyabonakala kuye isesixukwini.
³⁶ Wabakhokhela baphuma elizweni laseGibhithe, wenza izimanga lemimangaliso eGibhithe lasolwandle olubomvu kanye lasenkangala okweminyaka engamatshumi amane enkangala.

³⁷ Ngaye lo uMosi owatshela abako-Israyeli wathi, 'UNKulunkulu wenu uzalivusela umphrofethi phakathi kwabafowenu njengami.'‡

³⁸ Wayephakathi kwebandla enkangala, elabokhokho bethu njalo elayo ingilosi eyakhuluma kuye eNtabeni yaseSinayi; njalo wemukela amazwi okuphila ukuthi awedlulisele kithi.

³⁹ Kodwa okhokho bethu bala ukumlalela. Bamala, kwathi ezinhliziyweni zabo babuyela eGibhithe.

⁴⁰ Batshela u-Aroni bathi, 'Yenza onkulunkulu abazasikhokhela. UMosi lo owasikhupha eGibhithe asisakwazi ukuthi usedliwe yini!'

⁴¹ Yiso lesosikhathi abenza ngaso isithombe esasilesimo sethrole. Baletha imihlatshelo kulo, benza umkhosi wokuthakazelela lokho okwenziwa yizandla zabo.

⁴² Kodwa uNkulunkulu wabafulathela, wabakhalala ukuba bakhonze ilanga, inyanga lezinkanyezi. Lokhu kuvumelana lalokho okulotshiweyo encwadini yabaphrofethi ukuthi:

'Wena ndlu ka-Israyeli,

langilethela na imihlatshelo leminikelo

ngeminyaka engamatshumi amane enkan-gala?

‡ 7:37 7.37 UDutheronomi 18.15 § 7:40 7.40 U-Eksodasi 32.1

⁴³ Hatshi, lathwala isikhonzelo sikaMoleki
lenkanyezi kankulunkulu wenu uRefani,
izithombe elazenzayo ukuthi lizikhonze.

Ngakho-ke, ngizalixotshela ekuthunjweni*
ngale kweBhabhiloni.

⁴⁴ Okhokho bethu babelalo ithabanikeli lobu-
fakazi enkangala. Lalenziwe njengokuqondiswa
kukaMosi nguNkulunkulu elandela isimo ayesi-
bonile. ⁴⁵ Sebelamukele ithala okhokho bethu
bengaphansi kukaJoshuwa beza lalo ekuthum-
beni kwabo izizwe. Lahlala elizweni kwaze
kwaba yisikhathi sikaDavida, ⁴⁶ owathandwa
nguNkulunkulu, wacela ukuthi alungisele uNku-
lunkulu kaJakhobe indawo yokuhlala. ⁴⁷ Kodwa
kwaba nguSolomoni owamakhelayo leyondlu.

⁴⁸ Lanxa kunjalo, oPhezukonke kahlali
ezindlini ezakhiwe ngabantu. Njengoba esitsho
umphrofethi ukuthi:

⁴⁹ 'Izulu liyisihlalo sami sobukhosi,
lomhlaba uyisenabelo sami.

Lizangakhela ndlu bani?

kutsho iNkosi.

Kambe izaba ngaphi indawo yami yokuphu-
mula na?

⁵⁰ Izinto zonke lezi kazenziwanga yisandla sami
na?†

⁵¹ Lina ziqholo zabantu, abanhliziyo
lezindlebe ezingasokanga! Lifuze oyihlo:
Lihlezi lijamelene loMoya oNgcwele! ⁵² Kambe
kwake kwabakhona umphrofethi oyihlo
abangazange bamhlukuluze na? Baze
bababulala lalabo abaphrofetha ngokuza

* **7:43** 7.43 U-Amosi 5.25-27 † **7:50** 7.50 U-Isaya 66.1-2

koLungileyo. Khathezi selimnikele lambulala,
⁵³ lina eseliwemukele umthetho oweza
 ngezingilosi kodwa kaliwulandelanga.”

UStefane Ukhandwa Ngamatshe

⁵⁴ Amalunga eSanihedrini esekuzwile lokhu
 azonda, afuthelana, amgedlela amazinyo.

⁵⁵ Kodwa uStefane egcwele uMoya oNgcwele
 wakhangela ezulwini wabona inkazimulo
 kaNkulunkulu loJesu emi esandleni sokunene
 sikaNkulunkulu. ⁵⁶ Wathi, “Khangelani, ngibona
 izulu livuliwe leNdodana yoMuntu imi esandleni
 sokunene sikaNkulunkulu.”

⁵⁷ Besizwa lokhu bagcika indlebe zabo,
 baklabalala, bamdumela ⁵⁸ bamhudulela
 phandle kwedolobho, bamkhanda ngamatshe.
 Ofakazi babeka izigqoko zabo phambi kwejaha
 elalithiwa nguSawuli.

⁵⁹ Kwathi belokhu bemkhanda uStefane
 wakhuleka wathi, “Nkosi Jesu, yamukela umoya
 wami.” ⁶⁰ Wathi vutshalala ngamadolo phansi
 wamemeza wathi, “Nkosi, ungababekeli mlandu
 ngalesisono.” Kuthe esetsho lokho, walala.

8

¹ LoSawuli wayekhona evumelana lokubulawa
 kwakhe.

Ukuhlukuluzwa Lokuhlakazeka Kwebandla

Ngalelolanga kwaqalisa isiphithiphithi esibi
 sokuhlukuluzwa ibandla eJerusalema, kwathi
 bonke ngaphandle kwabapostoli bahlakazeka
 kulolonke iJudiya leSamariya. ² Abantu
 abakholwa kuNkulunkulu bamngcwaba
 uStefane bamlilela kabuhlungu. ³ Kodwa

uSawuli waqalisa ukulichitha ibandla. Wahamba engena izindlu ngezindlu ephuthuma abesilisa labesifazane esiyabaphosela entolongweni.

UFiliphu EseSamariya

⁴ Labo ababehlakazekile balitshumayela ilizwi loba kungaphi abaya khona. ⁵ UFiliphu wehlela edolobheni elithile eSamariya watshumayela ngoKhristu khonale. ⁶ Kwathi amaxuku abantu emuzwa uFiliphu njalo ebona izibonakaliso ayezenza bonke bakulalelisisa lokho ayekukhuluma. ⁷ Omoya ababi baphuma ebantwini abanengi beklabalala njalo abanengi ababome imihlubulo labayizilima basiliswa. ⁸ Ngakho kwaba lentokozo enkulu kulelodalobho.

USimoni Umenzi Wamasalamusi

⁹ Okwesikhathi esithile indoda eyayithiwa nguSimoni yayisenza amasalamusi edolobheni lelo yamangalisa bonke abantu baseSamariya. Wayezikhukhumeza ezitshaya umuntu omkhulu, ¹⁰ njalo bonke abantu, abaphakemeyo labantukazana bambuthanela bababaza bathi, "Indoda le kuqondile ibizwa ngokuthi ingaMandla amakhulu kaNkulunkulu." ¹¹ Bamlandela ngoba wayebamangalisile okwesikhathi eside ngamasalamusi akhe. ¹² Kodwa kwathi sebekholwe uFiliphu etshumayela izindaba ezinhle zombuso kaNkulunkulu kanye lebizo likaJesu Khristu, babhaphathizwa, abesilisa labesifazane. ¹³ USimoni laye ngokwakhe wakholwa wabhaphathizwa. Walandela uFiliphu zonke

indawo, emangaliswa yizibonakaliso ezinkulu lemimangaliso ayibonayo.

¹⁴ Kwathi abapostoli eJerusalema sebezwile ukuthi iSamariya yase ilamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, bathuma uPhethro loJohane kubo.

¹⁵ Sebefikile babakhulekela ukuthi bemukele uMoya oNgcwele, ¹⁶ ngoba uMoya oNgcwele wawulokhu ungakehleri lakubani kubo; babehaphathizelwe ebizweni leNkosi uJesu kuphela.

¹⁷ Ngakho uPhethro loJohane bababeka izandla, basebewemukela uMoya oNgcwele.

¹⁸ Kwathi uSimoni ebona ukuthi uMoya wawuphiwa ngokubekwa izandla ngabapostoli wabahuga ngemali ¹⁹ esithi, “Ngiphani lami lawomandla ukuze kuthi wonke lowo engimbeka izandla azuze uMoya oNgcwele.”

²⁰ UPhethro waphendula wathi, “Sengathi imali yakho ingabhubha kanye lawe ngoba ucabanga ukuthi ungasithenga isipho sikaNkulunkulu ngemali! ²¹ Kawulangxenye loba isabelo kulinkonzo ngoba inhliziyo yakho kayilunganga phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ²² Phenduka kulobububi ukhuleke eNkosini. Mhlawumbe izakuthethelela ngokuba lomcabango onje enhliziyweni yakho. ²³ Ngoba ngiyabona ukuthi ugcwalelene ngomona njalo ugqilazwe yisono.”

²⁴ USimoni wasephendula wathi, “Ngikhulekelani eNkosini ukuze ngingehlelwa laloba yikuphi lwalokho okutshiloyo.”

²⁵ Kwathi sebefakazile njalo balitshumayela ilizwi leNkosi, uPhethro loJohane babuyela eJerusalema, bahamba betshumayela ivangeli emizini eminengi yaseSamariya.

UFiliphu LomTopiya

²⁶ Ingilosi yeNkosi yathi kuFiliphu, “Yehlela ezansi emgwaqweni, umgwaqo wenkangala, osuka eJerusalema usiya eGaza.”

²⁷ Ngakho wasesuka, kwathi endleleni leyo wahlangana lomTopiya ongumthenwa, eyisikhulu esiqakathekileyo esasiphethe ingcebo kaKhandaki, indlovukazi yamaTopiya. Indoda le yayikade iye eJerusalema ukuyakhonza,

²⁸ isisendleleni yokubuyela ekhaya ihlezi enqoleni yayo ibala incwadi ka-Isaya umphrofethi. ²⁹ UMoya watshela uFiliphu wathi, “Hamba usondele enqoleni leyana walele eduze kwayo.”

³⁰ UFiliphu wasegijimela kuyo inqola wezwa indoda leyo ibala u-Isaya umphrofethi. UFiliphu wayibuza wathi, “Uyakuzwisisa yini lokho okubalayo?”

³¹ Yathi, “Ngingakuzwisisa kanjani kungekho muntu ongichazelayo na?” Yasicela uFiliphu ukuthi agade azohlala layo.

³² Indoda engumthenwa yayibala indima yombhalo ethi:

“Waqhutshwa njengemvu isiwa esilaheni,
njengezinyane lemvu elithula zwi phambi komgundi,
kanjalo kazange awuvule umlomo wakhe.

³³ Ekugconweni kwakhe wancitshwa ukwahlulelwa okulungileyo.
Ngubani ongakhuluma ngezizukulwane zakhe na?

Ngoba ukuphila kwakhe kwasuswa emhlabeni.”*

³⁴ Indoda engumthenwa yabuza uFiliphu yathi, “Ake ungitshela bakithi, umphrofethi ukhuluma ngobani, yena ngokwakhe kumbe ngomunye umuntu?” ³⁵ UFiliphu wahle waqalisa ngaleyondima yoMbhala, wayitshela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu.

³⁶ Bathi belokhu behamba ngomgwaqo bafika lapho okwakulamanzi khona, indoda engumthenwa yathi, “Khangela, nanka amanzi. Kulani ukuthi ngihle ngibhaphathizwe na?” [³⁷ UFiliphu wathi, “Nxa ukholwa ngenhliziyo yakho yonke ungabhaphathizwa.” Isikhulu saphendula sathi, “Ngiyakholwa ukuthi uJesu Khristu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.”]†

³⁸ Isikhulu sathi inqola kayimiswe. Ngakho bobabili, uFiliphu lendoda engumthenwa baya emanzini uFiliphu wayibhaphathiza. ³⁹ Bathi bephuma emanzini uMoya weNkosi wahle wamthatha uFiliphu, indoda engumthenwa ayabe isambona njalo, kodwa yaqhubeka ngendlela yayo ithokoza. ⁴⁰ Kodwa uFiliphu wabonakala e-Azotha, walidabula ilizwe etshumayela ivangeli kuyo yonke imizi waze wayafika eKhesariya.

9

Ukuphenduka KukaSawuli

* **8:33** 8.33 U-Isaya 53.7-8 † **8:37** 8.37 Livesi ayikho kwamanye amaBhayibhili esiLungu.

1 Kusenjalo, uSawuli wayelokhu esonga ngomvamvithi ukubulala abafundi beNkosi. Waya kuMphristi omkhulu ² wayacela izincwadi zokuya emasinagogweni aseDamaseko, ukuze kuthi nxa engafumana khonale labo abangabeNdlela, abesilisa loba abesifazane, abalethe eJerusalema beyizibotshwa. ³ Wathi esebanga eDamaseko ngohambo lwakhe, masinyane kwaphazima ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini kwamzingelezela. ⁴ Wawela phansi, wezwa ilizwi lisithi kuye, “Sawuli, Sawuli, unghlukuluzelani na?”

⁵ USawuli wabuza wathi, “Ungubani, Nkosi?”

Ilizwi lathi, “NginguJesu omhlukuluzayo.

⁶ Manje phakama uye edolobheni lapho ozatshelwa khona omele ukwenze.”

⁷ Amadoda ayehamba loSawuli ema lapho esetshe amathe; balizwa ilizwi, kodwa kababonanga muntu. ⁸ USawuli wavuka phansi, kodwa wathi evula amehlo akhe wayengasaboni lutho. Ngakho bamhola ngesandla bangena laye eDamaseko. ⁹ Waba yisiphofu okwensuku ezintathu, engadli njalo enganathi lutho.

¹⁰ EDamaseko kwakulomfundi owayethiwa ngu-Ananiya. INkosi yambiza ngombono yathi, “Ananiya!”

Waphendula wathi, “Yebo, Nkosi.”

¹¹ INkosi yamtshelela yathi, “Hamba uye endlini kaJudasi eMgwaqweni oQondileyo, ubuze khona ngendoda yaseThasasi ethiwa nguSawuli, ngoba iyakhuleka. ¹² Usebelombono wabona indoda ethiwa ngu-Ananiya ifika imbeka izandla ibuyisa ukubona kwakhe.”

¹³ U-Ananiya waphendula wathi, “Nkosi sen-giyizwile indumela yalumuntu mayelana lokubi konke akwenzayo ebantwini bakho eJerusalema.

¹⁴ Uze lapha ngamandla awaphiwe ngabaphristi abakhulu ukuzabopha bonke ababiza ibizo lakho.”

¹⁵ Kodwa iNkosi yathi ku-Ananiya, “Hamba! Indoda le iyisitsha sami engisikhethileyo ukuthwala ibizo lami phambi kwabeZizwe lamakhosi abo laphambi kwabantu bako-Israyeli. ¹⁶ Ngizamtshengisa ukuthi uzahlupheka kanganani ngenxa yebizo lami.”

¹⁷ U-Ananiya wasehamba esiya kuleyondlu wafika wangena. Wabeka izandla zakhe phezu kukaSawuli wathi, “Mzalwane, Sawuli, iNkosi uJesus obonakale kuwe endleleni usiza lapha ungithumile ukuze ukwazi ukubona njalo futhi ugcwaliswe ngoMoya oNgcwele.”

¹⁸ Masinyane, kwakhithika okwakungathi zinkwethu emehlweni kaSawuli, wasebona njalo. Wasukuma wabhaphathizwa, ¹⁹ kwathi esedlile, wathola amandla.

USawuli EseDamaseko LaseJerusalema

USawuli wahlala insuku ezithile labafundi eDamaseko. ²⁰ Waseqalisa ukutshumayela emasinagogweni ukuthi uJesus uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.

²¹ Bonke labo abamuzwayo bamangala babuza bathi, “Kasuye yini umuntu lo owenza isihluku eJerusalema kulabo abalibizayo lelibizo na? Njalo kabuyanga yini lapha ukuzabathatha beyizibotshwa abese kubaphristi abakhulu na?” ²² Kodwa uSawuli wasebenza ngamandla amakhulu wadidekisa

amaJuda ayehlala eDamaseko ngokubonisa kamhlophe ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

²³ Sekudlule insuku ezinengi amaJuda abumba icebo lokumbulala, ²⁴ kodwa uSawuli walizwa icebo labo. Emini lebusuku bamlindela emasingogweni edolobho ukuze bambulale. ²⁵ Kodwa abalandeli bakhe bamthatha ebusuku bamehlisa ngesilulu esikhaleni esasisemdulini.

²⁶ Wathi esefikile eJerusalema wazama ukuhlangana labafundi, kodwa bonke babemesaba, bengakholwa ukuthi ngempela wayesengumfundi. ²⁷ Kodwa uBhanabhasi

wamthatha wamusa kubapostoli. Wabatshela ngokuthi uSawuli wayibona njani iNkosi esendleleni esiya eDamaseko lokuthi watshumayela njani ngesibindi ngebizo likaJesu.

²⁸ USawuli wasehlala labo, wazihambela ekhululekile eJerusalema, ekhuluma ngesibindi ngebizo leNkosi. ²⁹ Wakhuluma njalo waphikisana lamaJuda esiGrikhi, kodwa

azama ukumbulala. ³⁰ Kwathi abazalwane bekuzwa lokhu, bambalekisela eKhesariya bafika bamedlulisela eThasasi.

³¹ Ngalesosikhathi ibandla kulolonke elaseJudiya leGalile leSamariya laba lesikhathi esihle sokuthula. Laqina, njalo ngokukhuthazwa nguMoya oNgcwele landa ngobunengi, lahlala liyesaba iNkosi.

U-Eniyasi LoDokhasi

³² Kwathi uPhethro ebhoda phakathi kwelizwe wayakwethekelela abangcwele eLida.

³³ Wafumana khonale indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Eniyasi, eyayiyisigulane esome umhlubulo

sihlezi silele okweminyaka eyisificaminwembali.

³⁴ UPhethro wathi kuye, “Eniyasi, uJesu Khristu uyakusilisa. Vuka uthathe icansi lakho.” Masinyane u-Eniyasi wasukuma. ³⁵ Bonke labo ababehlala eLida laseSharoni bambona baphendukela eNkosini.

³⁶ EJopha kwakulomfundi owayethiwa nguThabitha (ngesiGrikhi ibizo lakhe nguDokhasi), owayehlala esenza okuhle esiza abaswelayo. ³⁷ Ngalesosikhathi wagula wafa, isidumbu sakhe sageziswa, sabekwa endlini ephezulu. ³⁸ ILida yayiseduze kweJopha; yikho abafundi sebezwise ukuthi uPhethro wayeseLida, bathuma amadoda amabili kuye bamncenga bathi, “Sicela ukuthi uze ngokuphangisa!”

³⁹ UPhethro wahamba labo, wathi ekufikeni kwakhe wasiwa endlini ephezulu. Bonke abafelokazi bema bemhanqile, bekhala, bemtshengisa izembatho lezinye izigqoko ezazithungwe nguDokhasi esaphila.

⁴⁰ UPhethro wabakhupha bonke endlini; waseguqa ngamadolo wakhuleka. Wasephen-dukela esidunjini sowesifazane wathi, “Thabitha, vuka!” Owesifazane wasevula amehlo akhe, wathi ebona uPhethro wahlala.

⁴¹ Wambamba ngesandla wamsukumisa. Wasebiza amakholwa labafelokazi wamethula kubo esephila. ⁴² Lokhu kwasuka kwaziwa kulolonke iJopha, abantu abanengi bakholwa eNkosini. ⁴³ UPhethro wahlala okwesikhathi eJopha loSimoni umtshuki wezikhumba.

10

UKhoneliyasi Unxusa UPhethro

¹ EKhesariya kwakulendoda eyayithiwa nguKhoneliyasi, yayingumlawuli webutho lekhulu elalithiwa liViyo lase-Ithaliya. ² Yena lendlu yakhe yonke babekhonzwa njalo bemesaba uNkulunkulu. Wayenika ngesihle labo abaswelayo njalo ekhuleka kuNkulunkulu kokuphela. ³ Ngelinye ilanga, sokungaba lihola lesithathu emini waba lombono. Wabona kamhlophe ingilosi kaNkulunkulu, eyeza kuye yathi, “Khoneliyasi!”

⁴ UKhoneliyasi wayiqhuzulela amehlo ngokwesaba. Wabuza wathi, “Kuyini, Nkosi?”

Ingilosi yaphendula yathi, “Imikhuleko yakho lezipho zakho kwabaswelayo sekufinyelele kuNkulunkulu kwaba yisikhumbuzo. ⁵ Ngakho-ke, thumela amadoda eJopha ayebuya lendoda ethiwa nguSimoni owaziwa ngokuthi nguPhethro. ⁶ Ihlala loSimoni ongumtshuki wezikhumba, olendlu okhunjini lolwandle.”

⁷ Ingilosi eyakhuluma laye isihambile, uKhoneliyasi wabiza izinceku zakhe ezimbili kanye loyedwa owayengumncedisi webutho owayeyindoda ekhonzayo. ⁸ Wabatshela konke okwakwenzakele, wasebathuma eJopha.

Umbono KaPhethro

⁹ Sekungaba phakathi laphakathi kwemini sebebanga edolobheni, uPhethro wakhwela ophahleni ukuyakhuleka. ¹⁰ Wezwa eselambile esefuna ulutho lokudla, kwathi ukudla kusalungiswa wehlelwa yisiyeziphupho.

11 Wabona izulu livulekile, kusehliselwa emhlabeni ulutho olwalunjengelembu elikhulu libanjwe ngamagumbi alo womane.

12 Lalithwele yonke imihlobo yezinyamazana ezilenyawo ezine, kanye lezinanakazana ezihuquzelayo emhlabeni lezinyoni zemoyeni.

13 Ilizwi laselimtshela lathi, **“Vuka Phethro. Hlaba udle.”**

14 UPhethro waphendula wathi, “Hatshi, Nkosi! Kangikaze ngidle lutho olun-gahlanzekanga lolungcolileyo.”

15 Laphinda ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili kuye lathi, **“Ungabokuthi ulutho oseluhlanjulwe nguNkulunkulu kaluhlanzekanga.”**

16 Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, kwasekusithi masinyane ilembu labuyiselwa ezulwini.

17 Kwathi uPhethro esamangele ngokuthi um-bono lowo wawusitshoni, amadoda ayethunywe nguKhoneliyasi ayibona indlu kaSimoni, ema entubeni. 18 Akhuleka abuza ingabe uSimoni owayethiwa nguPhethro wayehlala khonapho yini.

19 Kwathi uPhethro elokhu esacabanga ngom-bono, uMoya wathi kuye, “Simoni, kulamadoda amathathu akudingayo. 20 Ngakho-ke, phakama wehlele phansi. Ungathandabuzi ukuhamba lawo, ngoba ngiwathumile.”

21 UPhethro wehla wathi emadodeni lawo, “Nginguye lowo elimdingayo. Lilandeni?”

22 Amadoda aphenndula athi, “Sivela kuKhoneliyasi umlawuli wekhulu lamabutho. Ungumuntu olungileyo owesaba uNkulunkulu, ohlonitshwa yibo bonke abangamaJuda. Ingilosi

engcwele imtshele ukuthi kakulethe endlini yakhe ukuze ezwe lokho ongabe uyakutsho.”
²³ UPhethro wasewangenisa endlini amadoda lawo njengezethekeli zakhe.

UPhethro Endlini KaKhoneliyasi

Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhethro wasuka labo, kwathi labanye abazalwane beJopha bahamba laye. ²⁴ Ngelanga elilandelayo wafika eKhesariya. UKhoneliyasi wayesebalindele esebize izihlobo zakhe labangane abaseduze. ²⁵ Kuthe uPhethro engena, uKhoneliyasi wamhlangabeza, wazilahla phansi ezinyaweni zakhe ngenhlonipho. ²⁶ Kodwa uPhethro wamsukumisa. Wathi, “Sukuma, mina ngingumuntu nje.”

²⁷ UPhethro wangena endlini elokhu ekhuluma laye, wafumana ixuku labantu elikhulu. ²⁸ Wathi kubo, “Liyakwazi ukuthi kungaphandle komthetho wethu ukuthi umJuda ahlanganyele loweZizwe loba ukuthi amethekelele. Kodwa uNkulunkulu usengitshengisile ukuthi kangingakutsho ukuthi omunye umuntu kahlanzekanga loba uncolile. ²⁹ Yikho kuthe lapho ngibizwa lapha, ngahle ngeza ngingazange ngibalise lokhu lalokhuyana. Sengibuza-ke manje, ungibizelani?”

³⁰ UKhoneliyasi waphendula wathi, “Ensukwini ezintathu ezedluleyo bengisendlini yami ngikhuleka ngasonalesi isikhathi, ngehola lesithathu emini. Masinyane indoda ebigqoke izigqoko ezikhazimulayo yema phambi kwami, ³¹ yathi, ‘Khoneliyasi, uNkulunkulu usewuzwile umkhuleko wakho wakhumbula lezipho

zakho kwabaswelayo. ³² Thumela ilizwi eJopha ubize uSimoni owaziwa ngokuthi nguPhethro. Wethekelele emzini kaSimoni umtshuki wezikhumba, ohlala malungana lolwandle.’ ³³ Yikho ngihle ngathuma abantu kuwe ngokuphangisa, kwaba kuhle ukuthi lawe uze. Manje sonke sesikhona lapha phambi kukaNkulunkulu ukuthi sizwe konke iNkosi ekuyale ukuthi usitshele khona.”

³⁴ UPhethro waseqalisa ukukhuluma wathi: “Sengibona khathesi ukuthi ngeqiniso uNkulunkulu kalabandlululo, ³⁵ kodwa wamukela abantu benhlanga zonke abamesabayo, abenza okulungileyo. ³⁶ Yilo leli ilizwi uNkulunkulu alithumela ebantwini bako-Israyeli, elikhuluma ngezindaba ezinhle zokuthula ngoJesu Khristu oyiNkosi yabo bonke. ³⁷ Liyakwazi osekwenzakele kulolonke elaseJudiya, kusukela eGalile ngemva kobhaphathizo olwatshunyayelwa nguJohane, ³⁸ ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamgcoba kanjani uJesu waseNazaretha ngoMoya oNgcwele langamandla, lokuthi wahamba izindawana zonke esenza ubuhle njalo esilisa bonke ababese-mandleni omubi, ngoba uNkulunkulu wayelaye.

³⁹ Singofakazi bakho konke akwenzayo elizweni lamaJuda laseJerusalema. Bambulala ngokumlengisa esiphambanweni, ⁴⁰ kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo ngosuku lwesithathu, wakwenza ukuthi abonakale. ⁴¹ Kabonwanga ngabantu bonke, kodwa ngofakazi uNkulunkulu ayevele esebakhethile, yithi thina esadla sanatha laye ngemva kokuvuka kwakhe kwabafileyo. ⁴² Wasilaya

ukuba sitshumayele ebantwini bonke njalo sifakaze ukuthi unguye uNkulunkulu ambekayo ukuba ngumahluleli wabaphilayo labafileyo. ⁴³ Bonke abaphrofethi bafakaza ngaye ukuthi bonke abakholwa kuye baphiwa ukuthethelelwa kwezono ngebizo lakhe.”

⁴⁴ UPhethro elokhu esakhuluma amazwi la uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo bonke abal-izwayo ilizwi. ⁴⁵ AmaJuda, amakholwa asoki-weyo ayeze loPhethro amangaliswa yikuthi uMoya oNgcwele wawuthululelwe lakwabeZ-izwe. ⁴⁶ Ngoba babezwa bekhuluma ngendimi bedumisa uNkulunkulu.

UPhethro wasesithi, ⁴⁷ “Kambe ukhona yini umuntu ongalela abantu laba ukuba bab-haphathizwe ngamanzi na? Sebemukele uMoya oNgcwele njengathi.” ⁴⁸ Wasesithi kabab-haphathizwe ebizweni likaJesu Khristu. Basebe-cela uPhethro ukuthi ahlale labo okwensukwana ezithile.

11

UPhethro Uchaza Ukwenza Kwakhe

¹ Abapostoli labazalwane kulolonke elaseJ-udiya bezwa ukuthi abeZizwe labo basebe-lamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ² Yikho kwathi uPhethro esebuyele eJerusalema, ama-Juda, amakholwa asokileyo, amsola ³ athi, “Wan-gena endlini yabantu abangasokanga wadla labo.”

⁴ UPhethro wabalondela konke kusukela ekuqaleni, wakuchasisa njengokwenzakala kwakho, wathi, ⁵ “Ngangisedolobheni laseJopha ngikhuleka, ngehlelwa yisiyeziphupho ngaba

lombono. Ngabona ulutho olwalunjengelembu elikhulu lisehliselwa phansi ngamagumbi alo womane livela ezulwini, lehlela phansi lapho engangikhona. ⁶ Ngakhangela phakathi kwalo ngabona izinyamazana zomhlaba zezinyawo ezine, izilo zeganga, izinanakazana ezihuquzelayo lezinyoni zemoyeni. ⁷ Ngasengisizwa ilizwi lingitshela lisithi, **'Vuka Phethro. Hlaba udle.'**

⁸ Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Hatshi bo, Nkosi! Kowami umlomo kakukaze kungene ulutho olungahlanzekanga loba olungcolileyo.'

⁹ Ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili livela ezulwini lathi, **'Ungabokuthi ulutho oseluhlanjululwe nguNkulunkulu kaluhlanzekanga.'** ¹⁰ Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, konke kwase kubuyiselwa njalo ezulwini.

¹¹ Ngalesosikhathi amadoda amathathu ayethunywe kimi evela eKhesariya afika endlini engangihlala kuyo. ¹² UMoya wangitshela ukuthi ngingathandabuzi ukuhamba lawo. Laba abazalwane abayisithupha labo bahamba lami sayangena endlini yendoda leyo. ¹³ Yasitshela ukuthi yabona ingilosi endlini yayo isithi, 'Thumela eJopha ubize uSimoni owaziwa ngokuthi nguPhethro. ¹⁴ Uzakulethela ilizwi eliyilo elizakusindisa wena kanye lendlu yakho.'

¹⁵ Kwathi ngiqalisa nje ukukhuluma, uMoya oNgcwele wehlela phezu kwabo njengoba wehlela kithi ekuqaleni. ¹⁶ Ngakho ngasengikhumbula okwatshiwo yiNkosi isithi, **'UJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa lina lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya oNgcwele.'**

17 Ngakho-ke, nxa uNkulunkulu wabanika sona lesosipho asinika sona thina esakholwa eNkosini uJesu Khristu, ngangingubani mina engangingakhumbula ukuthi ngingamelana loNkulunkulu na?"

18 Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu, kababe besaba lano solo, badumisa uNkulunkulu besithi, "Ngakho-ke, uNkulunkulu usebanikile labo abeZizwe ukuphendukela ekuphileni."

Ibandla E-Antiyokhi

19 Kwathi labo ababehlakazekile ngenxa yokuhlukunyezwa okwaqala ngokufa kukaStefane bahamba baze bayafika eFenikhiya, leSiphrazi le-Antiyokhi betshumayela ilizwi kumaJuda kuphela. 20 Kodwa abanye babo, amadoda ayevela eSiphrazi laseKhureni, aya e-Antiyokhi atshumayela lakumaGrikhi, ebatshela ngezindaba ezinhle ngeNkosi uJesu. 21 INkosi yaba labo, ngakho abantu abanengi bakholwa baphendukela eNkosini.

22 Ibandla eliseJerusalema lakuzwa lokhu laselithumela uBhanabhasi e-Antiyokhi.

23 Ekufikeni kwakhe wazibona izithelo zomusa kaNkulunkulu, wathokoza njalo wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi baqhubeke ngobuqotho eNkosini ngezinhliziyi zabo zonke.

24 Wayeyindoda elungileyo, egcwele uMoya oNgcwele lokukholwa. Abantu abanengi kakhulu balethwa eNkosini.

25 UBhanabhasi wasesiya eThasasi ukuyadinga uSawuli. 26 Esemfumene wahamba laye e-Antiyokhi. Ngakho okomnyaka wonke uBhanabhasi loSawuli babehlangana lebandla befundisa

abantu abanengi kakhulu. Abafundi baqalisa ukubizwa ngokuthi ngamaKhristu e-Antiyokhi.

²⁷ Ngalesosikhathi abanye abaphrofethi bafika e-Antiyokhi bevela eJerusalema. ²⁸ Omunye wabo owayethiwa ngu-Agabhasi wasukuma eholwa nguMoya wabonisa ukuthi kwakuzakuba lendlala embi eyayizakubakhona kulolonke ilizwe lombuso wamaRoma. (Lokhu kwenzakala ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaKlawudiyasi.) ²⁹ Abafundi bazimisela ukunika usizo kubazalwane ababehlala eJudiya, ngulowo enika ngokwenelisa kwakhe. ³⁰ Bakwenza lokhu, bathumeza izipho zabo ebadaleni ngoBhanabhasi loSawuli.

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Umangaliso Wokuphuma KukaPhethro Entolongweni

¹ Kungaba yisikhathi lapho iNkosi uHerodi eyabopha khona abanye ababe ngabebandla eqonde ukubahlukumeza. ² Wabulalisa uJakhobe umfowabo kaJohane ngenkemba. ³ Wathi esebone ukuthi lokho kwakuwathabisa amaJuda, wabopha loPhethro njalo. Lokho kwenzakala ngezinsuku zoMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo. ⁴ Esembophile wamphosela entolongweni, wamnikela ukuba alindwe ngamaviyo amane amabutho, ngalinye lilamabutho amane. UHerodi wayefuna ukuthi ngemva kwePhasika amkhuphele obala athonisiswe phambi kwabantu.

⁵ Ngakho uPhethro wagcinwa entolongweni, kodwa ibandla lamkhulekela njalonzalo kuNkulunkulu.

⁶ Ngobusuku obandulela ukuthonisiswa kukaPhethro nguHerodi, uPhethro wayelele ephahlwe ngamabutho amabili, ebotshe ngamaketane amabili, kumi abalindi emnyango wentolongo. ⁷ Masinyane ingilosi yeNkosi yavela, kwabakhona ukukhanya kulelokamela lentolongo. Yathinta uPhethro ohlangothini, yamvusa yathi, “Phangisa, vuka!” Amaketane akhithika ezingalweni zikaPhethro.

⁸ Ingilosi yasisithi kuye, “Gqoka, ufake lamanyathela akho.” UPhethro wenzenjalo. Ingilosi yamtshela yathi, “Yembatha ijazi lakho ungilandele.” ⁹ UPhethro wayilandela ngaphandle kwentolongo, kodwa wayedidekile engakwazi ukuthi lokho ingilosi eyayikwenza kwakusenzakala ngempela; wayekhumbula ukuthi ubona umbono. ¹⁰ Bedlula kubalindi, owokuqala lowesibili bafika esangweni lensimbi elaliphumela edolobheni. Lazivulekela baphuma. Kwathi sebehambe baphutsha umgwaqo wedolobho, ingilosi yamtshiya.

¹¹ Kwayikhona uPhethro enanzelela, wathi, “Khathesi sengisazi kungelakuthandabuza ukuthi iNkosi ithume ingilosi yayo yangihlenga ezibotshweni zikaHerodi lakukho konke obekufiswa ngamaJuda.”

¹² Sekumkhanyele kuhle lokhu, waqonda endlini kaMariya unina kaJohane, owayethiwa nguMakho njalo, khona lapho abantu abanengi

babebuthene bekhuleka. ¹³ UPhethro waqoqoda entubeni yangaphandle, kwathi incekekazi eyayithiwa nguRoda yayabuza ukuthi ngubani owayesemnyango. ¹⁴ Isilizwile ilizwi likaPhethro yathaba kakhulu, yagijimela phakathi ingasawuvulanga, yabika yathi, “UPhethro usemnyango!”

¹⁵ Bathi, “Uyahlanya wena.” Kwathi ngoba wala elokhu ephikelela ukuthi liqiniso, bathi, “Kutsho ukuthi yingilosi yakhe.”

¹⁶ Kodwa uPhethro wala elokhu eqoqoda, bathi bevula umnyango bambona, bamangala kakhulu. ¹⁷ UPhethro wabatshengisa ngesandla ukuthi bathule, wasebalandisela ukuthi iNkosi imkhuphe kanjani entolongweni. Wathi, “Libotshela uJakhobe labazalwane ngalokhu.” Wasesuka waya kwenye indawo.

¹⁸ Ekuseni kwaba lokunyakazela okukhulu phakathi kwabebutho. Babuza bathi, “Kambe ngabe uPhethro wenzenjani?” ¹⁹ Kwathi uHerodi esemthungathe waze wabeka phansi, wathonisisa abalindi wasesithi kababulawe.

Ukufa KukaHerodi

UHerodi wasuka eJudiya waya eKhesariya wayahlala khona okwesikhathi esithile. ²⁰ Wayekade exabana labantu beThire labeSidoni; basebehlangu ndawonye bacela ukukhuluma laye. Sebezuze ukusekelwa nguBhlastu inceku ethembekileyo enkosini, bacela ukuthula ngoba ukudla kwabo babekuthola elizweni lenkosi.

²¹ Ngosuku olumisiweyo, uHerodi wagqoka izigqoko zobukhosi wahlala esihlalweni

sakhe sobukhosi, wasekhuluma ebantwini. ²² Bamemeza bathi, “Leli yilizwi likaNkulunkulu, hatshi elomuntu.” ²³ Masinyane nje, ngenxa yokuthi uHerodi wayengamkhonzi uNkulunkulu, ingilosi yeNkosi yamtshaya yamlahla phansi, wadliwa zimpethu wafa.

²⁴ Kodwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu laqhubeka likhula njalo lisanda.

UBhanabhasi loSawuli Bayabuyela

²⁵ Kwathi uBhanabhasi loSawuli sebewuqedile umlandu wabo, babuyela besuka eJerusalema, bahamba loJohane, owayethiwa nguMakho.

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¹ Ebandleni elalise-Antiyokhi kwakulabaphrofethi labafundisi: uBhanabhasi, loSimiyoni owayethiwa nguNigeri, loLusiya waseKhureni, loManayeni (owayekhuliswe loHerodi umbusi) kanye loSawuli. ² Kwathi beyikhonza iNkosi njalo bezilile uMoya oNgcwele wathi, “Ngahlukaniselani uBhanabhasi loSawuli baye emsebenzini engibabizele wona.” ³ Ngakho bathi sebezilile njalo sebekhulekile, bababeka izandla babakhupha.

Kuyiwa ESiphra

⁴ Bonke bobabili baholwa nguMoya oNgcwele, behlela eSelusiya lapho abawela khona ngomkhumbi baya eSiphra. ⁵ Bathi sebefikile eSalami, balitshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu emasinagogweni amaJuda. UJohane wayelabo engumsizi wabo.

⁶ Basibhoda sonke isihlenge baze bafika ePhafosi. Khonapho bafumana umJuda oyisanuse, njalo engumphrofethi wamanga owayethiwa nguBha-Jesu, ⁷ wayeyinceku kasibalukhulu, uSegiyasi Phawuli. Usibalukhulu lowo, indoda ekhaliphileyo, yathumela ukuthi kubizwe uBhanabhasi loSawuli ngoba wayefuna ukuzwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ⁸ Kodwa u-Elima isanuse (phela yikho ibizo lakhe elikutshoyo) waphikisana labo wazama ukuphambula usibalukhulu ekukholweni. ⁹ Kwasekusithi uSawuli, owayethiwa njalo nguPhawuli, egcwele uMoya oNgcwele, wamjolozela u-Elima wathi, ¹⁰ “Wena ungumntakaSathane lesitha sakho konke okulungileyo! Ugcwele zonke inhlobo zenkohliso lokudlelezela. Kawuyikufa wakhawula yini ukuhlinikeza izindlela eziqondileyo? ¹¹ Khathezi-ke, isandla seNkosi sizakutshaya. Uzakuba yimpumpu, awuzukubona ukukhanya kwelanga okwesikhathi esithile.”

Masinyane wehlelwa yinkungu lomnyama, waphumputha, waswela umuntu wokumhola ngesandla. ¹² Kwathi usibalukhulu esekubonile lokho okwakwenzakele wakholwa, ngoba wamangaliswa yimfundiso ngeNkosi.

E-Antiyokhi YasePhisidiya

¹³ Besuka ePhafosi uPhawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe bawela ngomkhumbi baya ePhega es-ePhamfiliya lapho uJohane abatshiya khona esebuyela eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Besuka ePhega baya e-Antiyokhi yasePhisidiya. NgeSabatha bangena

esinagogweni bahlala phansi. ¹⁵ Sekubaliwe eMthethweni labaPhrofethi, abaphathi besinagogu bedlulisela ilizwi kubo lisithi, “Bazalwane, nxa lilelizwi lokukhuthaza abantu, khulumani.”

¹⁶ UPhawuli wasukuma welekelela ngesandla wathi, “Madoda ako-Israyeli kanye lani abeZizwe elimesabayo uNkulunkulu, ngilalelani! ¹⁷ UNkulunkulu wabantu bako-Israyeli wakhetha okhokho bethu wenza abantu baphumelela ngesikhathi behlezi eGibhithe. Ngamandla amakhulu wabakhupha kulelolizwe ¹⁸ wababekezelela ekuhambeni kwabo okweminyaka engamatshumi amane besenkangala. ¹⁹ Wachitha izizwe eziyisikhombisa eKhenani wanika ilizwe lazo abantu bakhe laba yilifa labo. ²⁰ Konke lokho kwathatha iminyaka engamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu (450).

Ngemva kwalokhu uNkulunkulu wababekela abahluleli kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaSamuyeli umphrofethi. ²¹ Abantu bacela inkosi, wabanika uSawuli indodana kaKhishi, owesizwana sikaBhenjamini, wabusa iminyaka engamatshumi amane. ²² Ngemva kokuba esemsusile uSawuli, wabeka uDavida waba yinkosi. Wafakaza ngaye wathi, ‘Sengifumane uDavida indodana kaJese, indoda ethandwa yinhliziyo yami; uzakwenza konke engifuna ukuba akwenze.’

²³ Esizukulwaneni salindoda uNkulunkulu uselethe ko-Israyeli uMsindisi uJesu njengokuthembisa kwakhe. ²⁴ Mandulo kokufika kukaJesu, uJohane watshumayela ukuphenduka lokubhaphathizwa kubo bonke abantu bako-

Israyeli. ²⁵ UJohane esewuphetha umsebenzi wakhe wathi, ‘Licabanga ukuthi ngingubani na? Kangisuye lowo. Hatshi, kodwa uyeza ngemva kwami, omanyathela akhe akungilingananga ukuthi ngiwathukulule.’

²⁶ Bazalwane, bantwana baka-Abhrahama lani beZizwe elimesabayo uNkulunkulu, lelizwi lensindiso selithunyelwe kithi. ²⁷ Abantu baseJerusalema kanye lababusi babo kabama-mukelanga uJesu, ikanti kwathi ngokumlahla bagcwalisa amazwi abaphrofethi afundwayo ngamaSabatha wonke. ²⁸ Lokuba bengazange bafumane ubufakazi obuqondileyo ukuthi agwetshelwe ukubulawa, bacela uPhilathu ukuthi abulawe. ²⁹ Bathi sebekwenzile konke lokho okwakulotshwe ngaye, bamethula esiphambanweni bamlalisa ethuneni. ³⁰ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, ³¹ Wabonwa okwensuku ezinengi yilabo abahamba laye besuka eGalile besiya eJerusalema. Manje yibo asebe ngofakazi ebantwini bakithi.

³² Silitshela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi: Lokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa okhokho bethu ³³ usesigcwalisele khona, thina abantwababo, ngokumvusa uJesu kwabafuleyo. Njengalokhu kulotshiwe eHubeni lesibili ukuthi:

‘UyiNdodana yami;

lamhla sengibe nguYihlo.’*

³⁴ Lokho ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, engasoze abole lanini, kucacisiwe emazwini la:

* **13:33** 13.33 AmaHubo 2.7

‘Ngizakunika izibusiso ezingcwele eziqiniseki-
leyo ezathenjiswa uDavida.’[†]

³⁵ Kanjalo kulotshiwe kwenye indawo ukuthi:
‘Kawusoze wekele oNgcwele wakho abone
ukubola.’[‡]

³⁶ Ngoba kwathi uDavida eseyifezile injongo
kaNkulunkulu ngalesosikhathi aphila kuso,
walala; wangcwatshwa labokhokho bakhe,
umzimba wakhe wabola. ³⁷ Kodwa lowo
uNkulunkulu amvusayo kwabafuleyo kazange
akubone ukubola.

³⁸ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, ngithanda
ukuba lazi ukuthi ngoJesu ukuthethelelwa kwe-
zono kuyatshunyayelwa kini. ³⁹ Ngaye bonke
abakholwayo sebhlanjululwe ezonweni zonke
abebengeke bahlanjululwe kuzo ngomthetho
kaMosi. ⁴⁰ Qaphelani ukuthi lokho okwakhulun-
ywa ngabaphrofethi kungenzakali kini, ukuthi:

⁴¹ ‘Khangelani, lina bachofozi,
mangalani libhubhe,
ngoba ensukwini zenu ngizakwenza into
elingasoze liyikholwe
lanxa kube lalingakutshelwa ngubani.’[§]”

⁴² Kwathi uPhawuli loBhanabhasi sebesuka
esinagogweni abantu babacela ukuthi babuye
bazokhuluma njalo ngalezizinto ngeSabatha
elilandelayo. ⁴³ Abantu sebecithekile amaJuda
amanengi lamakholwa ayephendukele enkol-
weni yesiJuda balandela uPhawuli loBhan-
abhasi, bona bakhuluma labo bebakhuthaza

[†] **13:34** 13.34 U-Isaya 55.3 [‡] **13:35** 13.35 AmaHubo 16.10

[§] **13:41** 13.41 UHabhakhukhi 1.5

ukuthi baqhubeke bebambebele emuseni kaNkulunkulu.

⁴⁴ NgeSabatha elilandelayo phose lonke idolobho labuthana ukuzakuzwa ilizwi leNkosi.

⁴⁵ Kwathi amaJuda ebona amaxuku abantu, aba lomona, akhuluma ehlambaza lokho okwakutshiwo nguPhawuli.

⁴⁶ Uphawuli loBhanabhasi basebewaphendula ngesibindi bathi, “Bekumele silikhulume kini ilizwi likaNkulunkulu kuqala. Kodwa njengoba lililahla ngoba lizibona lina lingakufanelanga ukuphila okungapheliyo, khathesi sesiphen-dukela kwabeZizwe. ⁴⁷ Phela nanku iNkosi esisiyale khona yathi:

‘Sengilenze isibane sabeZizwe,

ukuthi lilethe insindiso emikhawulweni yomhlaba.’*”

⁴⁸ Kwathi abeZizwe bekuzwa lokhu bathaba, balidumisa ilizwi leNkosi; kwathi bonke ababemiselwe ukuphila okungapheliyo bakholwa.

⁴⁹ Ilizwi leNkosi landa umango wonke.

⁵⁰ Kodwa amaJuda athela umoya omubi kwabesifazane abahlonitshwayo ababekholwa lamadoda ayengabakhokheli bedolobho. Akhwezela ukhukulukuzwa kukaPhawuli loBhanabhasi, abaxotsha emangweni wakibo.

⁵¹ Ngakho bathintitha uthuli ezinyaweni zabo njengesixwayiso, baqonda e-Ikhoniyamu.

⁵² Abafundi bagcwala ngentokozo langoMoya oNgcwele.

* **13:47** 13.47 U-Isaya 49.6

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E-Ikhoniyamu

¹ E-Ikhoniyamu uPhawuli loBhanabhasi baya esinagogweni yamaJuda njengenjayelo yabo. Khonapho bakhuluma kwazwela kwaze kwathi amaJuda amanengi lamaGrikhi akholwa. ² Kodwa amaJuda ayengafuni ukukholwa adunga abeZizwe, abathela umoya omubi ngabazalwane. ³ UPhawuli loBhanabhasi bahlala isikhathi eside khona lapho bekhulumela iNkosi ngesibindi. INkosi yaqinisa ilizwi lomusa wayo ngokubapha amandla okwenza imimangaliso lezimanga. ⁴ Abantu bedolobho lelo badabukana phakathi; abanye bema lamaJuda, kwathi abanye basekela abapostoli. ⁵ AbeZizwe lamaJuda ndawonye labakhokheli babo bakha icebo lokubahlukumeza lokubakhanda ngamatshe. ⁶ Kodwa balizwa icebo lelo basebebalekela emadolobheni aseLikhawoniya, eListra leDebhe lasemangweni yakhona, ⁷ lapho abaqhubeka khona ukutshumayela izindaba ezinhle.

EListra LaseDebhe

⁸ EListra kwakulendoda eyayiyisigoga ikwazi ukuhlala kuphela, ilokhu yazalwayo ingakaze ihambe. ⁹ Yamlalela uPhawuli lapho ekhuluma. UPhawuli wayijolozela wabona ukuthi yayikholwa ukuba ingasiliswa ¹⁰ wasememeza wathi, “Sukuma ngezinyawo zakho!” Ngalokho indoda yathi lothu yahle yahamba.

¹¹ Kwathi ixuku labantu selikubonile okwakwenziwe nguPhawuli, lamemeza ngolimi lwesi-Likhawoniya lathi, “Onkulunkulu sebehlele kithi belesimo sabantu!” ¹² UBhanabhasi bambiza bathi nguZewusi, uPhawuli bathi nguHemesi ngoba nguye owayekhokhela ekukhulumeni. ¹³ Umphristi kaZewusi owayelethempeli eduze ngaphandle kwedolobho, waletha inkunzi lemi-gaxo emasangweni edolobho ngoba yena kanye lexuku labantu babefuna ukwenza imihlatshelo kubo.

¹⁴ Kodwa kwathi abapostoli, uBhanabhasi loPhawuli bekuzwa lokhu, badabula izigqoko zabo bazithela phakathi kwabantu bememeza besithi: ¹⁵ “Madoda, likwenzelani lokhu? Lathi singabantu njengani. Sililethela izindaba ezinhle, silitshela ukuthi litshiye izinto lezi eziyize liye kuNkulunkulu ophilayo owenza amazulu lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukuwo. ¹⁶ Endulo waziyekela izizwe zonke zahamba ngezindlela zazo. ¹⁷ Ikanti kazange ekele ukuzifakazela: Utshengisile umusa ngokulipha izulu laphezulu lamabele ngesikhathi sawo; ulipha ukudla okunengi njalo agcwalise inhliziyo zenu ngentokozo.” ¹⁸ Loba sebetsho lamazwi baba lobunzima ukuthi bekelise abantu bonke ukuba babenzele umhlatshelo.

¹⁹ Kwasekufika amaJuda evela e-Antiyokhi lase-Ikhoniyamu afika adunga abantu. UPhawuli bamkhanda ngamatshe bamhudulela ngaphandle kwedolobho, becabanga ukuthi wayesefile. ²⁰ Kodwa ngemva kokuba abafundi sebembuthanele, waphaphama wabuyela edolobheni.

Ngosuku olulandelayo yena loBhanabhasi basuka baya eDebhe.

Babuyela E-Antiyokhi Ese-Asiriya

²¹ Bazitshumayela izindaba ezinhle kulelodobho bazuza inani elikhulu labafundi. Basebebuyela eListra, le-Ikhoniyamu le-Antiyokhi ²² beqinisa abafundi njalo bebakhuthaza ukuthi babambelele ekukholweni. Bathi, “Kufanele sedlule ezinhlungwini ezinengi ukuze singene embusweni kaNkulunkulu.” ²³ Uphawuli loBhanabhasi babakhethela abadala kulelo lalelo bandla, babanikela eNkosini ngomkhuleko langokuzila ngoba bebeke ithemba labo kuyo iNkosi. ²⁴ Sebehambe bedlula ePhisidiya, bafika ePhamfiliya, ²⁵ kwathi sebetshumayele ilizwi ePhega basebesiya e-Athaliya.

²⁶ Besuka e-Athaliya bawela ngomkhumbi babuyela e-Antiyokhi, lapho ababenikelwe khona emuseni kaNkulunkulu ukwenza umsebenzi lowo abasebewufezile. ²⁷ Ekufikeni kwabo khona, balihlanganisa ndawonye ibandla balibikela konke lokho uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo, lokuthi wayesevulele abeZizwe umnyango wokukholwa. ²⁸ Bahlala khona isikhathi eside labafundi.

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Umhlangano Omkhulu EJerusalema

¹ Amadoda athile eza e-Antiyokhi evela eJudiya, afika afundisa abazalwane esithi: “Ngaphandle kokuthi lisokwe ngendlela yomkhuba eyafundiswa nguMosi lingeke

lisindiswe.”² Lokhu kwenza uPhawuli loBhanabhasi baphikisana labo kakhulu. Ngakho uPhawuli loBhanabhasi bakhethwa kanye lamanye amakholwa ukuthi baye eJerusalema ukuyabona abapostoli labadala ngaloludaba.³ Ibandla labavalelisa. Bathi bedabula eFenikhiya leSamariya balandisa ngokuthi abeZizwe basebephendukile. Indaba le yathokozisa bonke abazalwane.⁴ Bafika eJerusalema bemukelwa kuhle libandla langabapostoli labadala, bababikela konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo.

⁵ Kwasekusithi amanye amakholwa ayengawoluhlu lwabaFarisi asukuma athi, “AbeZizwe kumele basokwe njalo batshelwe ukuthi balandele umthetho kaMosi.”

⁶ Abapostoli labadala bahlangana bakhuluma ngalindaba.⁷ Ngemva kokuphikisana okukhulu uPhethro wasukuma wakhuluma kubo wathi: “Bazalwane, liyakwazi ukuthi esikhathini esedluleyo uNkulunkulu wangikhetha phakathi kwenu ukuthi abeZizwe bezwe kwezami izin-debe ilizwi levangeli bakholwe.”⁸ UNkulunkulu owazi inhliziyo watshengisa ukuthi uyabemukela ngokubapha uMoya oNgcwele, njengalokhu akwenzayo kithi.⁹ Kenzanga umahluko phakathi kwethu labo, ngoba wahlanza inhliziyo zabo ngokukholwa.¹⁰ Pho-ke lizamelani ukulinga uNkulunkulu ngokwethesa abafundi beZizweni ijogwe thina labokhokho bethu esehluleka ukulithwala?¹¹ Hatshi! Sikholwa ukuthi sisindiswa ngomusa weNkosi uJesu, njengabo labo.”

12 Wonke umhlangano wathula zwi balalela uBhanabhasi loPhawuli belandisa ngemimangaliso lezimanga uNkulunkulu ayezenzile kwabeZizwe ngabo. 13 Bathi sebeqedile uJakhobe wakhuluma wathi: “Bazalwane, ake lingilalele. 14 USimoni usesilandisele ngokuthi ekuqaleni uNkulunkulu watshengisa njani ukunakekela kwakhe abeZizwe ngokukhetha phakathi kwabo abantu ukuba babe ngabakhe. 15 Amazwi abaphrofethi ayavumelana lalokhu, njengalokhu kulotshiwe ukuthi:

16 ‘Ngemva kwalokhu ngizabuya
ngakhe kutsha indlu kaDavida ewileyo.

Amanxiwa ayo ngizawavuselela,
njalo ngizayimisa kutsha,

17 ukwenzela ukuthi lonke uluntu luyidinge
iNkosi,
kanye labeZizwe abaziwa ngebizo lami,

kutsho iNkosi eyenza lezizinto’*:

18 ezivele zisaziwa kusukela endulo.

19 Ngokubona kwami, kakumelanga sikwenze kube lukhuni kwabeZizwe abaphendukela kuNkulunkulu. 20 Esikhundleni salokho, kasibalobeleni sibatshela ukuthi baxwaye ukudla okungcoliswe yizithombe, lokuhlobonga, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lobubende.

21 Phela uMosi sekwatshunyayelwa ngaye kuwo wonke amadolobho kusukela ekuqaleni njalo kufundwa ngaye emasinagogweni amaSabatha wonke.”

* **15:17** 15.17 U-Amosi 9.11-12

Incwadi Yomhlangano Omkhulu Kumakholwa AbeZizwe

²² Abapostoli labadala kanye lebandla lonke bamisa ukukhetha abanye babo ukuthi babathume e-Antiyokhi loPhawuli loBhanabhasi. Bakhetha uJudasi owayethiwa nguBhasabhasi, loSayilasi, la engamadoda amabili ayengabakhokheli kubazalwane.

²³ Babaphathisa incwadi le:

Abapostoli labadala, abazalwane benu,
KwabeZizwe abakholwayo e-Antiyokhi, lase-Asiriya laseSilisiya:
Siyalibingelela.

²⁴ Sesizwile ukuthi bakhona abasuka kithi bengelamvumo yethu bafika balidunga, bedida ingqondo zenu ngalokho ababekutsho.

²⁵ Ngakho sivumelene sonke ukukhetha amadoda athile ukuthi siwathumele kini labangane bethu abathandekayo, uBhanabhasi loPhawuli, ²⁶ amadoda adele impilo zawo ngenxa yebizo leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

²⁷ Ngakho sithumela uJudasi loSayilasi ukugcwalisa ngomlomo lokhu esikulobayo. ²⁸ Kubonakale

kufanele kuMoya oNgcwele lakithi ukuthi singalethesi omthwalo omkhulu ngaphandle kwezimiso lezi: ²⁹ Xwayani ukudla

okunikelwe ezithombeni, ububende, inyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo kanye lokuhlobonga. Lizabe lenze kuhle nxa lizixwaya lezizinto.

Salani kuhle.

³⁰ Bawavalelisa amadoda ahamba aya e-

Antiyokhi, lapho afika ahlanganisa ibandla ndawonye ethula incwadi. ³¹ Abantu bayibala bathokoza ngenxa yamazwi ayo akhuthazayo. ³² UJudasi loSayilasi, bona ngokwabo ababengabaphrofethi, bakhuluma okunengi ukukhuthaza lokuqinisa abazalwane. ³³ Sebehlale isikhathi esithile khonapho, abazalwane babavalelisa ngesibusiso sokuthula sebebuyela kulabo ababathumayo. [³⁴ Kodwa uSayilasi wakhetha ukusala khona.]† ³⁵ Kodwa uPhawuli loBhanabhasi basala e-Antiyokhi, lapho bona kanye labanye abanengi bafundisa njalo batshumayela ilizwi leNkosi.

Ukungavumelani KukaPhawuli LoBhanabhasi

³⁶ Emva kwesikhatshanyana uPhawuli wathi kuBhanabhasi, “Kasibuyele emuva siyebona abazalwane emadolobheni wonke esitshumayele khona ilizwi leNkosi ukuthi baqhuba njani.” ³⁷ UBhanabhasi wayefuna ukuthi bahambe loJohane, owayethiwa nguMakho, ³⁸ kodwa uPhawuli wakubona kungafanele ukuhamba laye ngoba wayeke wabafulathela besePhamfiliya kaze aqhubeka labo emsebenzini. ³⁹ Baphikisana kakubi baze bacina betshiyana. UBhanabhasi wamthatha uMakho bawelela eSiphraasi, ⁴⁰ kodwa uPhawuli wakhetha ukuhamba loSayilasi, basuka bebekwe ngabazalwane emuseni weNkosi. ⁴¹ Wahamba phakathi kwe-Asiriya leSilisiya eqinisa amabandla.

† **15:34** 15.34 Livesi ayikho kwamanye amaBhayibhili esiLungu.

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UThimothi Usebenza LoPhawuli LoSayilasi

¹ Wafika eDebhe wedlulela eListra lapho okwakuhlala khona umfundi owayethiwa nguThimothi, olonina owaye ngumJudakazi, elikholwa, kodwa uyise engumGrikhi. ² Abazalwane baseListra lase-Ikhoniyamu babemncoma. ³ Uphawuli wayefuna ukuhamba laye, ngakho wasemsoka ngenxa yamaJuda akuleyondawo ngoba bonke babekwazi ukuthi uyise wayengumGrikhi. ⁴ Ekuhambeni kwabo kulelo lalelolobho, babezethula izinqumo ezenziwa ngabapostoli labadala eJerusalema ukuze abantu bazilandele. ⁵ Ngakho amabandla aqiniswa ekukholweni abantu banda mihla yonke.

Umbono KaPhawuli Ngendoda YeMasedoniya

⁶ Uphawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe bayibhoda yonke imango yaseFirigiya laseGalathiya, uMoya oNgcwele esemalele ukuthi atshumayele ilizwi edolobheni lase-Ezhiya. ⁷ Bathi sebefike emngceleni waseMisiya, bazama ukungena eBhithiniya, kodwa uMoya kaJesu kawubavumelanga. ⁸ Ngakho bedlula eceleni kweMisiya behlela eTrowasi. ⁹ Ebusuku uPhawuli wehlelwa ngumbono wendoda yaseMasedoniya imi imncenga isithi, “Woza eMasedoniya uzosisiza.” ¹⁰ Uphawuli esebone umbono lowo, sahle salungisa masinyane ukuthi siye eMasedoniya, sibona ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayesibizile ukuba sitshumayele ivangeli kubo.

Ukuphenduka KukaLidiya EFiliphi

¹¹ Sasuka eTrowasi sawela ulwandle santsheza saqonda eSamathrake, ngosuku olulandelayo sedlulela eNiyapholi. ¹² Sesisuka lapho saya eFiliphi, elaliyilona idolobho elikhulu lesiqinti seMasedoniya eyayibuswa ngamaRoma. Sahlala lapho okwensuku ezinengi.

¹³ NgeSabatha saphumela ngaphandle kwamasango omuzi saya emfuleni sifuna indawo yokukhuleka. Sahlala phansi saqalisa ukukhuluma labesifazane ababebuthene khonapho. ¹⁴ Omunye walabo ababelalele ngowesifazane owayethiwa nguLidiya, umthengisi welembu eliyibubende evela edolobheni laseThiyathira, ekhonza uNkulunkulu. INkosi yayivula inhliziyo yakhe ukuba emukele ilizwi likaPhawuli. ¹⁵ Kwathi yena kanye labendlu yakhe sebebhaphathiziwe, wasinxusela emzini wakhe. Wathi, “Nxa lingemukela njengekholwa eNkosini, wozani lizohlala endlini yami.” Wasincenga savuma.

UPhawuli LoSayilasi Entolongweni

¹⁶ Ngelinye ilanga sathi sisiya endaweni yokukhuleka sahlanguana lentombazana eyayiyisigqili, ilomoya wobungoma. Yayizuzela abanini bayo imali enengi ngalokho kuhlahlula. ¹⁷ Intombazana le yalandela uPhawuli lathi sonke imemeza isithi, “Amadoda la ayizinceku zikaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke, alitshela indlela yokusindiswa.” ¹⁸ Yakwenza lokhu okwensuku ezinengi. Ekucineni uPhawuli kwamcaphula lokho waphenduka wathi kuwo umoya, “Ngiyakulaya ngebizo likaJesu Khristu ukuthi

uphume kuyo!” Umoya wahle waphuma kuyo khonapho.

¹⁹ Abanikazi bentombazana bathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi ithemba labo lokuzuza imali laselinyamalele, bababamba, uPhawuli loSayilasi babadonsela enkundleni yokuthengisa ukuba bayeqondana leziphathamandla.

²⁰ Babamisa phambi kwabomantshi bathi, “Amadoda la angamaJuda asedunge idolobho lakithi ²¹ ngokukhuthaza imikhuba engaphandle komthetho ukuthi thina amaRoma siyamukele kumbe siyilandele.”

²² Ixuku layingenela indaba yokuhlasela uPhawuli loSayilasi, ngakho omantshi bathi kabakhululwe izigqoko batshaywe.

²³ Sebebatshaye kabuhlungu babaphosela entolongweni kwathiwa umlindijele abakhangele aqinise. ²⁴ Esezwe lowomlayo wabafugela endlini yentolongo ephakathi wababopha inyawo, wazibophela ensikeni.

²⁵ Sekungaba phakathi kwamabili ebusuku uPhawuli loSayilasi bakhuleka bahlabela amahubo kuNkulunkulu, ezinye izibotshwa zibalalele.

²⁶ Masinyane kwaba lokuzamazama komhlaba kwaze kwanyikinyeka lezisekelo zentolongo. Izivalo zentolongo zathi gwabu zavuleka, amaketane ezibotshwa athukuluka. ²⁷ Umlindijele waphaphama, wathi ngokubona iminyango yentolongo ivulekile, wakhokha inkemba yakhe esefuna ukuzibulala ngoba ekhumbula ukuthi izibotshwa zasezibalekile. ²⁸ Kodwa uPhawuli wamemeza wathi, “Ungazilimazi bo! Sikhona sonke!”

²⁹ Umlindijele wathi kakulethwe izibane, wangenena wazilahla phambi kukaPhawuli loSayilasi eqhaqhazela. ³⁰ Wasebakhuphela phandle wababuza wathi, “Madoda, ngenzeni ukuze ngisindiswe na?”

³¹ Baphendula bathi, “Kholwa eNkosini uJesu, uzasindiswa; wena kanye lendlu yakho.”

³² Basebemtshumayeza ngelizwi leNkosi kanye labanye abendlu yakhe. ³³ Ngalelohola lebusuku umlindijele wabathatha wabagezisa imvimvinya zabo; kwasekusithi khonokho nje yena labendlu yakhe bahle babhaphathizwa. ³⁴ Umlindijele wahamba labo endlini yakhe, wabapha ukudla. Indlu yakhe yonke yaba lokuthokoza ngoba basebekholwa kuNkulunkulu.

³⁵ Kwathi sokusile, omantshi bathuma amanxusa abo kumlindijele lomlayo othi: “Bakhulule abantu labo.” ³⁶ Umlindijele watshela uPhawuli wathi, “Omantshi sebethe wena loSayilasi likhululwe. Selingahamba. Lihambe ngokuthula.”

³⁷ Kodwa uPhawuli wathi emanxuseni: “Basibhaxabule phambi kwabantu singazange sithonisiswe thina singamaRoma agcweleyo, basiphosela entolongweni. Kanti manje sebefuna ukusikhupha ngasese na? Hatshi! Kababuye bona ngokwabo basesikhupha.”

³⁸ Amanxusa akubika lokhu kubomantshi abathi ngokuzwa ukuthi uPhawuli loSayilasi babengamaRoma agcweleyo, bethuka.

³⁹ Beza ukuzabancenga, babakhupha entolongweni, babacela ukuthi basuke kulelodolobho. ⁴⁰ UPhawuli loSayilasi

sebephumile entolongweni baya endlini kaLidiya lapho abahlangana khona labazalwane babaqinisa. Basebesuka bahamba.

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EThesalonika

¹ Bathi sebedlule e-Amfipholi le-Apholoniya, bafika eThesalonika lapho okwakulesinagogu ya-maJuda khona. ² Njengenjayelo yakhe uPhawuli waya esinagogweni, kwathi ngamaSabatha amathathu wabonisana labo ngeMibhalo, ³ echaza njalo eveza obala ukuthi uKhristu wayemele ahlupheke njalo avuke kwabafileyo. Wathi, “UJesu lo engitshumayela ngaye kini unguye uKhristu.” ⁴ Amanye amaJuda akukholwa lokho asehlanganyelana loPhawuli loSayilasi, njengalokho okwenziwa linani elikhulu lamaGrikhi abesaba uNkulunkulu, kugoqela lehlekanyana labesifazane abahloniphekayo.

⁵ Kodwa amaJuda aba lomona; ngakho asehuga izixhwali endaweni yokuthengisa, abalixuku elithile asevusa umsindo edolobheni. Aphuthumela endlini kaJasoni edinga uPhawuli loSayilasi efuna ukubaletha phambi kukazulu. ⁶ Kodwa kwathi sebebawele basebedonsela uJasoni labanye abazalwane abathile kubaphathi bedolobho bememeza besithi: “Amadoda la abekade edala uhlu pho emhlabeni wonke manje aseze lapha, ⁷ uJasoni yena wawemukela endlini yakhe. Bonke bahlinikeza imithetho kaKhesari besithi kulenye inkosi ethiwa nguJesu.” ⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu abantu labaphathi bedolobho bazonda kakhulu. ⁹ Kwasekuthiwa uJasoni

labanye bakhe kabakhuphe isibambiso nge-mali ethile, kwayikhona bekhululwa ukuthi ba-hambe.

EBheriya

¹⁰ Konela ukuthi kuhlwe abazalwane babasusa uPhawuli loSayilasi babasa eBheriya. Ekufikeni kwabo khona baya esinagogweni yamaJuda.

¹¹ AmaJuda eBheriya wona ayelesimilo esingcono kulaleso esamaThesalonika, ngoba alemukela ilizwi ngomfutho omkhulu njalo ayihlola iMibhalo insuku zonke ukuze abone ukuthi lokho uPhawuli ayekutsho kwakuliqiniso na.

¹² AmaJuda amanengi akholwa, kanye labesifazane abanengi bamaGrikhi abahloniphekayo lamadoda amanengi amaGrikhi.

¹³ Kwathi amaJuda aseThesalonika esezwile ukuthi uPhawuli wayesetshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu eBheriya, aya khona futhi, athela abantu umoya omubi abadunga.

¹⁴ Abazalwane bahle bathumela uPhawuli ngasokhunjini lolwandle, kodwa uSayilasi loThimothi basala eBheriya.

¹⁵ Amadoda ayephelekezela uPhawuli amtshiya e-Athene asebuyela lomlayezo wokuthi uSayilasi loThimothi bamlandele ngokuphangisa.

E-Athene

¹⁶ UPhawuli esabamelele e-Athene, wakhathazeka kakhulu ngokubona ukuthi idolobho lelo laligcwele izithombe. ¹⁷ Ngakho wabonisana lamaJuda kanye lamaGrikhi ayemesaba uNkulunkulu esinagogweni lasendaweni yokuthengisa zonke insuku

lalabo ababekhonapho. ¹⁸ Ixuku lezazi zama-Ephikhuri lamaStoyikhi laphikisana laye. Abanye babo babuza bathi, “Uwumani lolu luzama ukuthini kanti?” Abanye bathi, “Kungathi utshumayela ngonkulunkulu bezizweni.” Bakutsho lokhu ngoba uPhawuli wayetshumayela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu langokuvuka kwabaflelo. ¹⁹ Basebehamba laye enkundleni ye-Ariyophagasi, bafika bathi kuye, “Ake usitshela ukuthi imfundiso le entsha oyethulayo iyini. ²⁰ Uletha ezindlebeni zethu imibono engajayelekanga, ngakho sifuna ukwazi ukuthi itshoni.” ²¹ (Wonke ama-Atheni labezizwe ababehlala khona babechitha isikhathi sabo bengenzi lutho ngaphandle kokukhuluma lokulalela imibono emitsha.)

²² UPhawuli wasukuma enkundleni ye-Ariyophagasi wathi, “Madoda ase-Atheni! Ngiyabona ukuthi kukho konke lingabantu abakhonzayo. ²³ Ngoba ngithe ngihambahamba, ngabona izithombe zenu, ngaze ngafumana i-alithari elilombhalo othi:

Kukulunkulu Ongaziwayo.

Manje-ke lokho elikukhonza njengolutho olungaziwayo yikho engizakutshumayela kini.

²⁴ UNkulunkulu owenza umhlaba lakho konke okukuwo uyinkosi yezulu lomhlaba, njalo kahlali emathempelini akhiwe ngezandla.

²⁵ Njalo kancediswa yizandla zabantu ingathi kukhona akuswelayo, ngoba yena ngokwakhe upha bonke abantu impilo, umphefumulo lokunye konke.

²⁶ Ngomuntu oyedwa wenza zonke izizwe zabantu, ukuthi zakhe

emhlabeni wonke; njalo wamisa izikhathi abazilungiselweyo lazo kanye izindawo abamele bahlale kuzo. ²⁷ UNkulunkulu wakwenza lokhu ukuze abantu bamdinge lokuthi mhlawumbe bamfinyelele bamfumane, loba nje uvele engakhatshana komunye lomunye wethu. ²⁸ ‘Ngoba siphila kuye, sihambe ngaye njalo sipheliselwe nguye.’ Njengokutsho kwezinye izimbongi zakini ukuthi, ‘Singabantwabakhe.’

²⁹ Ngakho-ke njengoba singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, kasingacabangini ukuthi ubuNkulunkulu bunjengegolide, loba isiliva kumbe ilitshhe; umfanekiso obunjwe ngobungcitshi bomuntu. ³⁰ Endulo uNkulunkulu kakunakanga ukungazi lokhu, kodwa khathesi uselaya bonke abantu ezindaweni zonke ukuba baphenduke. ³¹ Ngoba uselumisile usuku lapho azakwahlulela khona umhlaba ngokulunga ngaye umuntu amkhethileyo. Usebuzile ubufakazi balokhu kubo bonke abantu ngokumvusa kwabafileyo.”

³² Bathi besizwa ngokuvuka kwabafileyo, abanye babo bamklolodela, kodwa abanye bathi, “Sifuna ukuphinda sikuzwe ukhuluma ngale indaba njalo.” ³³ Ngalokho-ke, uPhawuli wasesuka enkundleni. ³⁴ Abantu abathile baba ngabalandeli bakaPhawuli, bakholwa. Phakathi kwabo kwakuloDiyonisiyu owayelilunga le-Ariyophagasi, njalo lowesifazane okwakuthiwa nguDamari kanye labanye abalinani elithile.

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EKhorinte

1 Ngemva kwalokho uPhawuli wasuka e-Athene waya eKhorinte. 2 Khonapho wahlangana lomJuda owayethiwa ngu-Akhwila, owasePhontusi ngomdabuko, owayesanda kufika lapho evele e-Ithali lomkakhe uPhrisila ngoba uKlawudiyasi wayekhuphe isinqumo sokuthi amaJuda wonke aphume eRoma. UPhawuli wahamba wayababona, 3 kwathi ngoba engumenzi wamathente njengabo wasehlala labo, wasebenza labo. 4 NgamaSabatha wonke wayesiya esinagogweni ebonisana lamaJuda lamaGrikhi ezama ukuwaphendula.

5 Kwathi uSayilasi loThimothi sebefikile bevela eMasedoniya, uPhawuli wasenikela isikhathi sakhe sonke ekutshumayeleni kuphela efakaza kumaJuda ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu. 6 Kodwa kwathi lapho amaJuda emphikisa njalo emchothoza, wathintitha izembatho zakhe phambi kwawo wathi, “Igazi lenu kalibe phezu kwamakhanda enu! Mina sengiwezile owami umlandu. Kusukela manje sengisiya kwabeZizwe.”

7 Uphawuli wasesuka esinagogweni waya endlini eseceleni, eyayingekaThithu Justusi, owayekhonzisa uNkulunkulu. 8 UKhrispasi, umphathi wesinagogu, kanye lendlu yakhe yonke bakholwa eNkosini; kwathi labanengi bamaKhorinte abamuzwayo bakholwa, babhaphathizwa.

9 Ngobunye ubusuku iNkosi yakhuluma kuPhawuli ngombono yathi: **“Ungesabi; qhubeka utshumayela, ungathuli.** 10 Ngoba

mina ngilawe, kakho ozakuhlasela akulimaze, ngoba ngilabantu abanengi kulelidolobho.”

¹¹ Ngakho uPhawuli wahlala khona okomnyaka olengxenyane, ebafundisa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

¹² UGaliyo esangusibalukhulu wase-Akhayiya, amaJuda eKhorinte amanyana ahlasele uPhawuli, amletha emthethwandaba, ¹³ amangalela esithi, “Indoda le idonsela abantu ekukhonzeni uNkulunkulu ngezindlela eziphambene lomthetho.”

¹⁴ Kwathi uPhawuli esathi uyakhuluma, uGaliyo wathi kumaJuda, “Kube lina maJuda libika ngokona okuthile loba icala lokuganga okubi, bekufanele ukuthi ngililalele. ¹⁵ Kodwa njengoba kuphathelane ngezinto zamazwi lamabizo, langomthetho wenu; kulungiseni lina. Mina kangiyikuba ngumahluleli wezinto ezinjalo.” ¹⁶ Wasesithi kabaxotshwe enkantolo.

¹⁷ Bonke basebephendukela uSosithene, umphathi wesinagogu, bamtshaya phambi kwenkantolo. Kodwa uGaliyo kazange athi thiki lakancane.

UPhrisila Lo-Akhwila Lo-Apholo

¹⁸ UPhawuli waphinda wahlala njalo okwesikhathi esithile eKhorinte. Wasetshiya abazalwane waya e-Asiriya, ephelikezelwa nguPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Engakaweli ulwandle waqala wagela inwele zakhe eKhenkireya ngenxa yesifungo ayesenzile. ¹⁹ Bafika e-Efesu lapho uPhawuli atshiya khona uPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Yena waya esinagogweni wayabonisana lama-

Juda. ²⁰ Bamcela ukuthi ahlale okwesikhathi

eside kodwa wala. ²¹ Wathi esesuka wathembisa wathi, “Ngizaphenduka nxa kuyintando kaNkulunkulu.” Wasewela ulwandle esuka e-Efesu. ²² Wakhuphukela eKhesariya wahamba wayabingelela ibandla eJerusalema, wasesehlela e-Antiyokhi.

²³ UPhawuli eseke wahlala e-Antiyokhi wasuka lapho wabhoda indawo ngendawo kuwo wonke umango waseGalathiya lowaseFirigiya eqinisa bonke abafundi.

²⁴ Kusenjalo, umJuda owayethiwa ngu-Apholo, owe-Alekizandriya ngomdabuko, weza e-Efesu. Wayeyindoda efundileyo, elolwazi olukhulu ngeMibhalo. ²⁵ Yayifundisiwe ngendlela yeNkosi, ikhuluma ngomfutho njalo ifundisa okuqondileyo ngoJesu, isazi ngobhaphathizo lukaJohane kuphela. ²⁶ Yakhuluma ngesibindi esinagogweni. Kwathi uPhrisila lo-Akhwila beyizwa, bayinxusa emzini wabo, bayichazela ngokugcweleyo indlela kaNkulunkulu.

²⁷ U-Apholo wayefuna ukuya e-Akhayiya, abazalwane basebemkhuthaza, babhalela abafundi khonale ukuthi bamamukele. Wathi efika khona waba luncedo olukhulu kulabo ababekholwe beholwa ngumusa. ²⁸ Ngoba watshukana lamaJuda ewaphikisa enkundleni, ebonisa obala eMibhalweni ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu.

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UPhawuli E-Efesu

¹ Kwathi u-Apholo eseKhorinte uPhawuli wathatha indlela ehamba phakathi kwelizwe

waze wayafika e-Efesu. Khonapho wafumana abafundi abathile, ² wababuza wathi, “Lama-mukela na uMoya oNgcwele ngesikhathi liqalisa ukukholwa?”

Baphendula bathi, “Hatshi, kasizwanga lokuzwa ukuthi kuloMoya oNgcwele.”

³ Ngakho uPhawuli wasebuza wathi, “Pho lathola luphi ubhaphathizo?”

Baphendula bathi, “Ubhaphathizo lukaJohane.”

⁴ Uphawuli wathi, “Ubhaphathizo lukaJohane lwalubhaphathizo lokuphenduka. Wathshela abantu ukuthi bakholwe kulowo owayezakuzakuzana ngemva kwakhe, esitsho ukuthi kuJesus.”

⁵ Sebekuzwile lokhu babhaphathizelwa ebizweni leNkosi uJesus. ⁶ Uphawuli esebeke izandla zakhe phezu kwabo uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo, bakhuluma ngendimi njalo baphrofitha. ⁷ Babengamadoda ayengaba litshumi lambili bebonke.

⁸ Uphawuli wangena esinagogweni wakhuluma ngesibindi khona okwezinyanga ezintathu, echaza okusuthisayo ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁹ Kodwa abanye babo baba yiziqholo; bala ukukholwa, bakhuluma kubi obala ngeNdlela. Ngakho uPhawuli wabatshiya. Wathatha abafundi wasuka wayahlangana labo baxoxisana nsuku zonke esikolweni sikaThirranu. ¹⁰ Lokhu kwaqhubeka okweminyaka emibili, kwaze kwathi wonke amaJuda lamaGrikhi ayehlala kulesosifunda sase-Ezhiya alizwa ilizwi leNkosi.

¹¹ UNkulunkulu wenza imimangaliso engajayelekanga ngoPhawuli, ¹² izifinyo lamathawulo okwakuthintiswe kuye kwakusiwa kwabagulayo bahle basile emikhuhlaneni yabo lemimoya emibi iphume kubo.

¹³ Amanye amaJuda ayebhoda exotsha imimoya emibi azama ukubiza ibizo leNkosi uJesu kulabo ababelamadimoni. Ayesithi, “Ngebizo likaJesu uPhawuli atshumayela ngaye, ngikulaya ukuthi uphume.” ¹⁴ Ababesenza lokhu ngamadodana ayisikhombisa kaSkeva umphristi omkhulu wamaJuda. ¹⁵ Kwelinye ilanga umoya omubi waphendula wathi, “UJesu ngiyamazi, loPhawuli ngiyamazi, kodwa lina lingobani na?” ¹⁶ Kwasekusithi indoda eyayilomoya omubi yabeqela, yabehlula bonke. Yabatshaya okuzwayo baze baphuma endlini bebaleka benqunu njalo besopha igazi.

¹⁷ Kwathi lokhu sekuzwakele kumaJuda lamaGrikhi ayehlala e-Efesu, onke ethuka ngokwesaba, ibizo leNkosi uJesu laselihlonitshwa kakhulu. ¹⁸ Abanengi balabo abasebekholwa beza baphumela egcekeni, bevuma iziphambeko zabo. ¹⁹ Abanengi ababehlhlula baletha ndawonye imiqulu yabo bayitshisa obala. Bathi sebehlolile izindleko zaleyomiqulu kwabonakala kungaba ngamadrakhima azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amahlanu. ²⁰ Ngaleyondlela ilizwi leNkosi landa kabanzi njalo lakhula laba lamandla.

²¹ Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu sekwenzakele, uPhawuli wazimisela ukuya eJerusalema, ezadlula eMasedoniya lase-Akhayiya. Wathi, “Nxa

sengike ngaya khona, kuzamele ngethekelele laseRoma.”²² Wathuma ababili abasizi bakhe eMasedoniya, uThimothi lo-Erastu, yena esasele okwesikhatshana esifundeni sase-Ezhiya.

Isiyaluyalu E-Efesu

²³ Ngalesosikhathi kwaba lokudungeka okukhulu ngeNdlela. ²⁴ Umkhandi wesiliva owayethiwa nguDemetriyasi owayesenza izikhonzelo zokukhonzela u-Athemisi ngesiliva, wayengenisa imali ezwayo kubakhandi. ²⁵ Wababizela ndawonye kanye lezinye izisebenzi zemisebenzi efananayo wathi kubo, “Madoda, liyakwazi ukuthi sizuzwa imali enengi ngomsebenzi lo. ²⁶ Liyabona njalo liyezwa ukuthi uPhawuli lo usenze abantu abanengi bakholwa njalo uzadukisa abantu abanengi lapha e-Efesu lakuso sonke isifunda sase-Ezhiya. Uthi yena onkulunkulu ababunjwe ngumuntu kabasibo onkulunkulu lakancinyane. ²⁷ Kulengozi-ke yokuthi kakuyikuba ngumsebenzi wethu kuphela ozalahlekelwa libizo lawo elihle, kodwa lethempeli likankulunkulukazi omkhulu u-Athemisi lizadunyazwa, laye unkulunkulukazi ngokwakhe, yena okhonzwa kusosonke isifunda sase-Ezhiya lasemhlabeni wonke, uzakwemukwa ubukhosi bakhe.”

²⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bafuthelana ngokuzonda, bahle bamemeza besithi, “Mkhulu u-Athemisi wama-Efesu!” ²⁹ Masinyane nje idolobho lonke laphithizela. Abantu badumela uGayiyasi lo-Aristakhasi ababe

ngabaphelekezeli bakaPhawuli, bengabeMasedoniya, babahudulela enkundleni yemidlalo bonke bayakuthi cwi khona. ³⁰ UPhawuli wayefuna ukuzithela emphakathini, kodwa abafundi bamalela. ³¹ Labanye abaphathi besifunda, ababengabangane bakaPhawuli, labo bamthumela ilizwi bathi angaqali ukuyavela enkundleni yemidlalo.

³² Kwakungasaqondakali enkundleni: Abanye babeklabalala besitsho lokhu, abanye labo besitsho okunye. Abantu abanengi babevele bengazi lokuthi babelandeni lapho. ³³ AmaJuda afuqela u-Alekizanda phambili esithi kawakhulumele. Waphakamisa isandla ukuwathulisa ukuze achasisise kuhle indaba ebantwini. ³⁴ Kodwa athi ngokunanzelela ukuthi wayengumJuda, onke ahlaba umkhosi kanyekanye okwaphose kwathatha amahola amabili, besithi, “Mkhulu u-Athemisi wama-Efesu!”

³⁵ Unobhala wedolobho walithulisa ixuku wathi, “Madoda ase-Efesu, akusikho yini ukuthi umhlaba wonke uyakwazi ukuthi idolobho lase-Efesu yilo elingumlondolozisi wethempeli lika-Athemisi omkhulu, kanye lomfanekiso wakhe owehla uvela ezulwini? ³⁶ Pho-ke njengoba lokhu kuyinto engaphikiswayo, thulani lingenzi izinto zamawala. ³⁷ Selilethe amadoda la lapha, kodwa wona engagqekezanga emathempelini kumbe athuka unkulunkulukazi wethu. ³⁸ Ngakho nxa uDemetriyasi lalabo akhanda labo belensolo loba ngobani, imithethwandaba ivuliwe, njalo labahluleli bakhona. Bangamangala. ³⁹ Nxa kukhona njalo okunye eli-

funa ukukutsho, kakuyethoniswa ngomthetho enkundleni. ⁴⁰ Njengoba kunje nje sisen-gozini yokubekwa icala lokuvusa isiyaluyalu ngenxa yezehlakalo zalamuhla. Kungenzeka lokho sizakwehluleka ukuchaza imbangela yalesisiphithiphithi, ngoba ngempela kungekho sizatho.” ⁴¹ Egeda kukhuluma lokhu, wawuchitha umhlangano.

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Udlula EMasedoniya LaseGrisi

¹ Kwathi umsindo usuphelile uPhawuli wabiza abafundi, wathi esebaqinisile wabavalelisa waqonda eMasedoniya. ² Wahamba wadabula kulowomango, ekhuluma amazwi amanengi okukhuthaza abantu, wacina esefike eGrisi ³ lapho ahlala khona okwezinyanga ezintathu. AmaJuda abumba icebo ngaye eselungele ukuwela aye e-Asiriya yikho wacabanga ukuthi abuyele ngendlela yaseMasedoniya. ⁴ Wayephelekezelwa nguSophatha indodana kaPhirusi waseBheriya, lo-Aristakhasi, loSekhundu waseThesalonika, loGayiyasi waseDebhe, loThimothi laye, kwasekusiba nguThikhikhasi loThrofimasi abesifunda sase-Ezhiya. ⁵ Amadoda la asandulela ayasimelela eTrowasi. ⁶ Kodwa sawela ulwandle sisuka eFiliphi ngemva koMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo, kwathi ngemva kwensuku ezinhlanu sahlngana labanye eTrowasi lapho esahlala khona insuku eziyisikhombisa.

UYuthikhasi Uvuswa Ekufeni ETrowasi

7 Ngosuku lokuqala lweviki sahlanguka ukuhlephuna isinkwa. UPhawuli watshumayela ebantwini, kwathi ngoba efuna ukusuka kusisa, wakhuluma kwaze kwaba phakathi kobusuku. 8 Endlini ephezulu lapho esasihlanganele khona kwakulezibane ezinengi. 9 Kwakulejaha elalithiwa nguYuthikhasi lihlezi ewindini, labanjwa yibuthongo uPhawuli elokhu ekhuluma engaqedi. Lathi selijumekile, lawela phansi lisuka esitezi sesithathu labuthwa selifile. 10 UPhawuli wehla, wazilahla phezu kwejaha lelo waligona wathi, "Lingethuki, liyaphila!" 11 Wasebuyela phezulu esitezi wahlephuna isinkwa wadla. Esekhulume kwaze kwasa, wasuka. 12 Abantu balisa ekhaya ijaha liphila, bona baduduzeka kakhulu.

UPhawuli Uvaelisa Abadala Base-Efesu

13 Sathungamela ukuya emkhunjini sagwedla sisiya e-Asosi lapho esasizathatha khona uPhawuli awele lathi. Lokhu wayekulungiselele ngoba wayezahamba ngenyawo esiya khonale. 14 Wathi ngokuhlangana lathi e-Asosi samngenisa saqonda eMithilene. 15 Ngosuku olulandelayo sawela sisuka lapho sayafika eKhiyosi. Kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo sachaphela eSamosi, ngosuku olulandelayo sayafika eMilethusi. 16 UPhawuli wayezimisele ukuwela edlule eceleni kwe-Efesu engafuni ukuchitha isikhathi esifundeni sase-Ezhiya, ngoba wayejahe ukuyafika eJerusalema, nxa kusenzeka kube ngosuku lwePhentekhosti.

¹⁷ EseMilethusi uPhawuli wathumela ilizwi e-Efesu ebiza abadala bebandla. ¹⁸ Sebefikile wathi kubo, “Liyakwazi ukuthi ngaphila njani ngesikhathi sonke ngilani, kusukela ngosuku engafika ngalo esifundeni sase-Ezhiya. ¹⁹ Ngayikhonza iNkosi ngokuzithoba okukhulu langezinyembezi, loba ngangilingwa kabuhlungu ngamacebo amaJuda. ²⁰ Liyakwazi ukuthi kangizange ngithikaze ukutshumayela loba yikuphi obekungaba luncedo kini kodwa ngalifundisa obala njalo ngingena izindlu ngezindlu. ²¹ Ngitshumayele kumaJuda lakumaGrikhi ukuthi kumele baphendukele kuNkulunkulu ngokuphenduka, bakholwe eNkosini yethu uJesu.

²² Okwamanje ngiqhutshwa nguMoya ukuthi ngiye eJerusalema loba ngingazi ukuthi kuzakwenzakalani kimi khonale. ²³ Ngazi kuphela ukuthi kuwo wonke amadolobho uMoya oNgcwele ungixwayisa ukuthi ukubotshwa lobunzima kungimelele. ²⁴ Kodwa eyami impilo ngiyibona ingasilutho kimi, injongo yami emqoka yikuqeda loluhambo lokufeza lumsebenzi engiwuphiwe yiNkosi uJesu, umsebenzi wokufakaza ivangeli lomusa kaNkulunkulu.

²⁵ Khathesi ngiyazi ukuthi kakho kini en-gihambe ngitshumayela khona umbuso oza-phinda angibone futhi. ²⁶ Ngakho ngiyafakaza kini lamuhla ukuthi kangilacala ngegazi labantu bonke. ²⁷ Ngoba kangingabazanga ukutshumayela kini yonke intando kaNkulunkulu. ²⁸ Zigcineni lina kanye lawo wonke umhlambi

uMoya oNgcwele olenze laba ngabathungameli. Wobani ngabelusi bebandla likaNkulunkulu, owalithenga ngegazi lakhe. ²⁹ Ngiyazi ukuthi nxa sengisukile lapha, impisi eziphangayo zizakuza phakathi kwenu ziwungenele umhlambi. ³⁰ Laphakathi kwenu kuzavela abantu abazalihlanekela iqiniso ukuze abanye abafundi babalandele. ³¹ Ngakho lihlale liqaphele! Khumbulani ukuthi okweminyaka emithathu kangizange ngiphumule ukuxwayisa omunye lomunye wenu ubusuku lemini ngezinyembezi.

³² Khathesi ngilinelela kuNkulunkulu laselizwini lomusa wakhe elilamandla okulakha lokulipha ilifa phakathi kwabo bonke abangcwelisiweyo. ³³ Kangihawukelanga siliva samuntu, loba igolide kumbe izembatho. ³⁴ Lina ngokwenu liyakwazi ukuthi izandla zami lezi zagcwalisa zonke izinswelo zami lezabakhula bami. ³⁵ Kukho konke engakwenzayo ngalibonisa ukuthi ngalindlela yokusebenza nzima kumele sisize ababuthakathaka, sikhumbula amazwi eNkosi uJesu athi, 'Kubusiseke kakhulu ukupha ukwedlula ukwamukela.' "

³⁶ Esekutshilo lokhu waguqa phansi kanye labo bonke, wakhuleka. ³⁷ Bonke bakhala lapho bemgona lokumanga. ³⁸ Okwabadanisa kakhulu kwaba yilizwi lakhe lokuthi babengasayikuphinde babubone njalo ubuso bakhe. Basebemphelekezela emkhunjini.

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Ukuya EJerusalema

¹ Sathi sesizehlukanise kubo ngobuhlungu, sawela ulwandle saqonda nta eKhosi. Ngosuku olulandelayo saya eRodi, sasuka khona saya ePhathara. ² Safumana umkhumbi owawuchaphela eFenikhiya, sangena kuwo, sahamba. ³ Sayithi tshazi iSiphraasi, sedlula ngeningizimu kwayo, saya e-Asiriya. Sakhuphukela eThire lapho umkhumbi wethu wawuzakwethula khona umthwalo wawo. ⁴ Safumana abafundi khona, sahlala labo insuku eziyisikhombisa. Baholwa nguMoya ukuthi bamncenge uPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema. ⁵ Kodwa isikhathi sethu sesifikile, sasuka saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu. Bonke abafundi lamakhosikazi abo kanye labantwana basiphelekezela basikhupha edolobheni, safika okhunjini saguqa sakhuleka. ⁶ Sesivalelisene, sangena emkhunjini, bona babuyela emakhaya. ⁷ Saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu sisuka eThire sayakhuphukela ePhetholemayi, lapho sabin-gelela abazalwane, sahlala labo usuku lonke. ⁸ Sasuka ngelanga elilandelayo safika eKhesariya sayahlala endlini kaFiliphu umvangeli, engomunye wabayisiKhombisa. ⁹ Wayelamadodakazi amane angendanga njalo ephrofitha. ¹⁰ Sesihlale insuku ezimbalwa kwafika umphrofethi owayethiwa ngu-Agabhasi evela eJudiya. ¹¹ Weza kithi, wathatha ibhanti likaPhawuli, wazibopha izandla lezinyawo zakhe ngalo, wathi, "UMoya oNgcwele uthi, 'Ngayonale indlela amaJuda aseJerusalema azabopha umninibhanti leli abesemnikela kwabeZizwe.' "

¹² Sathi sikuzwa lokhu sonke labantu bakhonapho sancengana loPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema. ¹³ Uphawuli waphendula wathi, “Likhalelani lingidabula inhliziyo yami na? Kangilungelanga ukubotshwa kuphela, kodwa lokufa eJerusalema ngifela ibizo leNkosi uJesu.” ¹⁴ Kwathi ngoba engancengeki sadela sathi, “Mayenzeke intando yeNkosi.”

¹⁵ Ngemva kwalokhu, salungisa sasesisiya eJerusalema. ¹⁶ Abafundi abathile abaseKhesariya basiphelekezela basisa emzini kaMnasoni lapho esasizahlala khona. Wayeyindoda edabuka eSiphraasi, engomunye wabafundi bakuqala.

Ukufika KukaPhawuli EJerusalema

¹⁷ Ekufikeni kwethu eJerusalema abazalwane basamukela ngokuthokoza. ¹⁸ Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli lathi sonke sahamba ukuyabona uJakhobe, bonke abadala babekhona. ¹⁹ Uphawuli wababingelela, wabika ngokugcweleyo konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile kwabeZizwe ngokusebenza kwakhe.

²⁰ Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu bamdumisa uNkulunkulu. Ngakho basebesithi kuPhawuli, “Uyabona mzalwane ukuthi izinkulungwane ezinengi zamaJuda sezikholiwe njalo wonke atshisekela umlayo. ²¹ Sebetshelwe ukuthi wena ufundisa wonke amaJuda ahlala phakathi kwabeZizwe ukuthi afulathele uMosi, ubatshela ukuthi angasoki abantwababo lokuthi angalandeli amasiko ethu. ²² Pho senzeni? Ngeqiniso bazakuzwa ukuthi usufikile, ²³ ngakho

yenza lokhu esikutshela khona. Kulamadoda amane phakathi kwethu asenze isifungo. ²⁴ Hamba lawo amadoda la, ubambisane lawo emkhutsheni wokuzihlambulula, uwabhadalele izindleko zawo zakhona ukuze aphuce amakhanda awo. Ngakho umuntu wonke uzakwazi ukuthi akulaqiniso kulimibiko ngawe, kodwa babone ukuthi wena ngokwakho uphila ngokulandela umlayo. ²⁵ AbeZizwe bona abakholwayo sesibalobele ngesinqumo sethu ukuthi kabaxwaye ukudla okunikelwe ezithombeni, bangadli ububende, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lokuhlobonga.”

²⁶ Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli wawathatha lawomadoda wayazihlambulula kanye lawo. Wasesiya ethempelini ukuyakwazisa ngosuku lokuphela kwensuku zokuhlambulula lokuthi umnikelo walowo lalowo wabo wawuzakwenziwa nini.

UPhawuli Uyabotshwa

²⁷ Kwathi lezinsuku eziyisikhombisa sezizaphela, amaJuda athile esifunda sase-Ezhiya abona uPhawuli ethempelini. Alidunga lonke ixuku ambamba ²⁸ ehlaba umkhosi esithi, “Madoda ako-Israyeli; sibambiseni! Yiyo le indoda efundisa abantu bonke ezindaweni zonke okuphambene labantu bakithi lomlayo wakithi kanye lendawo le. Ngaphandle kwalokho, usengenise amaGrikhi emagumeni ethempeli wangcolisa indawo le eNgcwele.” ²⁹ (Mandulo babebone uThrofimasi wase-Efesu edolobheni eloPhawuli basebekhumbula ukuthi uPhawuli wayeze laye emagumeni ethempeli.)

³⁰ Idolobho lonke laphithizela, abantu beza begijima beqhamuka inxa zonke. Bamdumela uPhawuli bamhudula bemsusa ethempelini, amasango alo ahle avalwa. ³¹ Bathi besazama ukumbulala, umbiko wafika kumlawuli wam-abutho amaRoma ukuthi idolobho lonke lase-Jerusalema laseliphithizela. ³² Khonokho nje wathatha abanye abaphathi kanye lamabutho wagijimela esiphithiphithini leso. Kwathi labo ababevusa uthuli bebona umlawuli lamabutho akhe bema ukutshaya uPhawuli.

³³ Umlawuli weza wafika wambopha wathi kabotshwe ngamaketane amabili. Wasembuza ukuthi wayengubani lokuthi wayoneni. ³⁴ Abathile exukwini bamemeza lokhu, abanye bamemeza okunye, kwasekusithi ngoba umlawuli engalizwa iqiniso ngenxa yokuxokozela waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli kasiwe enkambeni yamabutho. ³⁵ Esefikile ezinyathelweni zokuqansela endlini, abantu baphithizela ngamandla waze wathwalwa ngamabutho. ³⁶ Ixuku elalilandela laphikelela limemeza lisithi, “Msusele amaqe!”

UPhawuli Ukhuluma Lexuku Labantu

³⁷ Amabutho esathi amngenisa ngaphakathi, uPhawuli wacela kumlawuli wathi, “Ngingaba lelizwi lawe na?”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Uyasikhuluma yini isiGrikhi? ³⁸ Kawusuye yini umGibhithe owaqala umvukela, wakhokhela izinkulungwane ezine zamathekulambuso enkangala?”

³⁹ UPhawuli waphendula wathi, “NgingumJuda waseThasasi eSilisiya,

isakhamuzi sedolobho elihloniphekayo. Ngicela ukuthi kengikhulume labantu laba.”

⁴⁰ Esethole imvumo kumlawuli, uPhawuli wema ezinyathelweni zokuqansela endlini wathulisa ixuku ngesandla. Kwathi bonke sebethule wakhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru wathi,

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¹ “Bazalwane labobaba, manje lalelani lizwe ukuzivikela kwami.”

² Bathi bemuzwa ekhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru bathula zwi.

UPhawuli wasesithi, ³ “Mina ngingumJuda owazalelwa eThasasi eseSilisiya, kodwa ngakhulela kulonaleli idolobho. Ngafunda ngaphansi kukaGamaliyeli, ngafundiswa okugcweleyo ngomlayo wabokhokho, lami ngakhuthalela uNkulunkulu njengani lamuhla.

⁴ Ngabahlukuluza abalandeli bale iNdlela baze bafa, ngibopha abesilisa labesifazane ngibaphosela entolongweni, ⁵ into engafakazwa ngumphristi omkhulu kanye lenkundla. Ngaze ngathola izincwadi kubo zisiya kubazalwane babo eDamaseko, ngaya khona ngifuna ukubaletha labobantu beyizibotshwa eJerusalema ukuthi bazojeziswa.

⁶ Kwathi sekungaba yimini enkulu sengisondela eDamaseko, masinyane kwaphazima ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini kwangizingelezela. ⁷ Ngawela phansi, ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, ‘Sawuli! Sawuli! Ungihlukuzelani na?’

⁸ Ngabuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi?'
Waphendula wathi, 'NginguJesu
waseNazaretha omhlukuluzayo.'

⁹ Ababengiphelekezela bakubona ukukhanya, kodwa kabalizwanga ilizwi lalowo owayekhuluma lami.

¹⁰ Ngabuza ngathi, 'Kumele ngenzeni Nkosi?'
INkosi yathi, 'Phakama uye eDamaseko.
Khonale uzatshelwa konke osumiselwe ukuthi ukwenze.'

¹¹ Abaphelekezeli bami bangihola ngesandla bangisa eDamaseko ngoba inkazimulo yokukhanya yayingenze ngaba yisiphofu.

¹² Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya yeza yazan-gibona. Yayingumlandeli omkhulu womlayo njalo ihlonitshwa kakhulu yiwo wonke amaJuda ayehlala khona. ¹³ Wema eceleni kwami wathi, 'Mzalwane Sawuli, bona njalo!' Ngalesosikhathi ngahle ngazuza amandla okumbona.

¹⁴ Wasesithi, 'UNKulunkulu wabokhokho bethu usekukhethile ukuthi uyazi intando yakhe lokuthi umbone oLungileyo lokuba uzwe amazwi aphuma emlonyeni wakhe. ¹⁵ Uzakuba ngufakazi wakhe ebantwini bonke ngalokho okubonileyo lokuzwileyo. ¹⁶ Pho usalindeni? Sukuma ubhaphathizwe, ugeze izono zakho, ubiza ibizo lakhe.'

¹⁷ Ngithe sengibuyile eJerusalema ngikhuleka ethempelini, ngafikelwa yisiyeziphupho, ¹⁸ ngabona iNkosi ikhuluma isithi kimi, 'Phangisa! Suka masinyane eJerusalema ngoba kabayikubamukela ubufakazi bakho ngami.'

¹⁹ Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Nkosi, lababantu bayakwazi ukuthi nganginquma lamasinagogu

ngibabopha njalo ngibatshaya labo abakholwa kuwe. ²⁰ Lalapho kuchithwa igazi lomfakazi wakho uStefane ngangimi khonapho ngivumelana labo njalo ngilinde izigqoko zalabo ababembulala.’

²¹ INkosi yasisithi kimi, ‘Hamba; ngizakuthumela kude kwabeZizwe.’ ”

UPhawuli UngumRoma

²² Abantu bamlalela uPhawuli sonke isikhathi, kodwa esetsho lokhu bavungama bamemeza bathi, “Kasuswe emhlabeni lo umuntu! Kame-
langa aphile!”

²³ Bathi sebeklabalala, behlubula amajazi abo, njalo bephosa uthuli emoyeni, ²⁴ umlawuli wamabutho walaya ukuthi uPhawuli kangeniswe enkambeni yamabutho. Wayala ukuthi atshaywe njalo abuzisiswe ukuthi kungani abantu bemvukela kanje. ²⁵ Bathi sebemlalisa phansi ukuthi bambhaxabule bembophile, uPhawuli wathi kumphathi wekhulu owayemi khonapho, “Kusemthethweni yini ukuthi utshaye umuntu ongumRoma ongetheswanga cala na?”

²⁶ Umphathi wekhulu esekuzwile lokho wayabikela umlawuli wamabutho wathi, “Usuzathini manje? Indoda le ingumRoma.”

²⁷ Umlawuli wamabutho waya kuPhawuli wambuza wathi, “Ake ungitshela, kanti ungumRoma na?”

Wathi, “Yebo, nginguye.”

²⁸ Umlawuli wamabutho wasesithi, “Mina ngahlawula imali ukuthi ngithole ilungelo lokuba ngumRoma.”

UPhawuli waphendula wathi, “Kodwa mina nginguye ngokuzalwa.”

²⁹ Labo abasebelungele ukumbuzisisa bahle batshedela emuva masinyane. Umlawuli wetho ngokwakhe wethuka esenanzelela ukuthi wayebophe uPhawuli, umRoma, ngamaketane.

Phambi KweSanihedrini

³⁰ Ngosuku olulandelayo, njengoba umlawuli wamabutho wayefuna ukwazi isibili ukuthi kungani uPhawuli wayebekwa icala ngamaJuda, wamkhulula walaya abaphristi abakhulu leSanihedrini yonke ukuthi bahlangane. Wasemletha uPhawuli wamisa phambi kwabo.

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¹ UPhawuli wawujolozela umphakathi weSanihedrini wathi, “Bazalwane, sengiwugcwalisile umlandu wami kuNkulunkulu ngenhliziyo eqotho kuze kube lamuhla.” ² Umphristi omkhulu, u-Ananiya, kwamcunula lokhu, wathela labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli ukuthi bamukule umlomo. ³ UPhawuli wathi kuye, “UNkulunkulu uzakumukula, wena mduli oconjwe ngekalaga emhlophe! Lapha uhlaele ukungahlulela ngomthetho, ikanti wena ngokwakho uyaweqa umthetho ngokulaya ukuthi ngitshaywe!”

⁴ Labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli bathi, “Ulesibindi sokuthuka umphristi omkhulu kaNkulunkulu wena?”

⁵ UPhawuli waphendula wathi, “Bazalwane, bengingazi ukuthi ungumphristi omkhulu;

ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: ‘Ungakhulumi okubi ngombusi wabantu bakini.’*”

⁶ UPhawuli wayesazi ukuthi abanye babo babe ngamaSadusi, abanye bengabaFarisi, wase-memeza phakathi kweSanihedrini wathi, “Bazalwane, mina ngingumFarisi, indodana yomFarisi. Ngithoniselwa ukuthi ngilethemba lokuvuka kwabafileyo.” ⁷ Wathi ngokutsho lokhu, kwavuka umsindo phakathi kwabaFarisi lamaSadusi, umphakathi wasudabukana phakathi. ⁸ (AmaSadusi athi kakulakuvuka ekufeni, lokuthi kakulazingilosi loba imimoya, kodwa abaFarisi bayakuvuma konke lokho ukuthi kukhona.)

⁹ Kwaba lokuxokozela okukhulu, kwathi abanye abafundisi bomthetho ababe ngabaFarisi basukuma bayidaza inkani. Bathi, “Kasiboni lutho olubi ngendoda le. Mhlawumbe umoya kumbe ingilosi ikhulume kuye ke?” ¹⁰ Yavutha inkani umlawuli webutho waze wesaba ukuthi uPhawuli sebengamdabudabula. Waselaya amabutho ukuthi ahle amsuse kubo ngamandla amlethe enkambeni yamabutho.

¹¹ Ngobusuku obulandelayo iNkosi yema eduze kukaPhawuli yathi, “**Iba lesibindi! Njengoba usufakaze ngami eJerusalema, kusamele njalo uyofakaza eRoma.**”

Icebo Lokubulala UPhawuli

¹² Ngosuku olulandelayo amaJuda abumba icebo njalo enza isifungo sokuthi kawayikudla kumbe anathe engakambulali uPhawuli.

* **23:5** 23.5 U-Eksodasi 22.28

¹³ Kwakungamadoda edlula amatshumi amane ayehambisana lalelocebo. ¹⁴ Baya kubaphristi abakhulu labadala bathi, “Sesifunge ijoyi lokuthi kasiyikudla lutho size simbulale uPhawuli. ¹⁵ Ngakho-ke lina leSanihedrini khalazani kumlawuli webutho ukuthi amlethe kini ngenhloso yokuthi lifuna ubufakazi obugcweleyo ngecala lakhe. Thina sesilungisile ukuthi simbulale engakafiki lapha.”

¹⁶ Kodwa kwathi ukuba indodana kadadewabo kaPhawuli isilizwile lelicebo, yaya enkambeni yamabutho yayamtshela uPhawuli.

¹⁷ UPhawuli wasebiza omunye umphathi wekhulu wathi, “Hamba lejaha leli kumlawuli wamabutho; kukhona elifuna ukukutsho kuye.”

¹⁸ Ngakho wasemusa kumlawuli.

Umphathi wekhulu wathi, “Isibotshwa esinguPhawuli singibizile sangicela ukuthi ngilethe ijaha leli kuwe ngoba kukhona elifuna ukukutshela khona.”

¹⁹ Umlawuli wamthatha lowojaha, wambamba ngesandla waya laye eceleni, wambuza wathi, “Kuyini ofuna ukungitshela khona?”

²⁰ Wathi: “AmaJuda asevumelene ukuthi akucele wena ukuthi ulethe uPhawuli phambi kweSanihedrini kusasa ngenhloso yokuthi afuna ingcazelo epheleleyo mayelana laye.

²¹ Ungabavumeli ngoba abeqa amatshumi amane bawo bazamcathamela. Asenze isifungo sokuthi angadli njalo anganathi engakabulali uPhawuli. Kunje nje sebelungile, sebelindele imvumo yakho ngesicelo sabo.”

²² Umlawuli wathi kahambe umfana, wamqonqosela wathi, “Ungatsheli muntu ukuthi usungazisile ngalokhu.”

UPhawuli Udluliselwa EKhesariya

²³ Wasebiza abaphathi bebutho ababili wabal-aya wathi, “Lungisani ixuku lamabutho angamakhulu amabili, abagadi bamabhiza abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa labangamakhulu amabili abahlome ngemikhonto ukuthi baye eKhesariya lamuhla ebusuku ngehola lesithathu. ²⁴ Lilungisele loPhawuli amabhiza ukuze asiwe kuMbusi uFelikhe evikelekile.”

²⁵ Wabhala incwadi kanje:

²⁶ Klawudiyasi Lisiya,
Kumhlekazi, uMbusi uFelikhe:
Ngiyabingelela.

²⁷ Indoda le yabanjwa ngamaJuda, okwathi esezama ukuyibulala ngafika lamabutho ami sayilamulela ngoba ngasengizwile ukuthi ingumRoma. ²⁸ Ngadinga ukwazi ukuthi ayesithi yoneni, yikho ngayiletha phambi kwe-Sanihedrini yawo. ²⁹ Ngezwa ukuthi icala layo laliphathelene lomlayo wawo, kodwa kwasweleka icala elingafanela ukufa loba ukugwetshelwa entolongweni. ³⁰ Ngithe sengilunywe indlebe ngecebo lokuyibulala ngahle ngayedlulisela kuwe. Ngiphinde ngatshela omayimangalela ukuthi bazokwethula kuwe abamangalela ngakho.

³¹ Ngakho amabutho azilandela lezo ziqondiso amthatha uPhawuli ebusuku ayamfikisa e-Antiphatri. ³² Ngosuku olulandelayo am-

abutho amtshiya leqembu labagade amabhiza ukuthi liqhubeke laye, bona babuyela enkambeni. ³³ Kwathi abamabhiza sebefikile eKhesariya bayethula incwadi kumbusi loPhawuli laye bamnikela kuye. ³⁴ Umbusi wayibala incwadi wambuza ukuthi wayedabuka kusiphi isifunda. Esezwile ukuthi wayengoweSilisiya, ³⁵ Wathi, “Icala lakho ngizalhlola nxa labo abakumangalelayo sebefikile lapha.” Waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli agcinwe elindiwe esigodlweni sikaHerodi.

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Icala Lithethwa NguFelikhe

¹ Ngemva kwensuku ezinhlanu umphristi omkhulu u-Ananiya wehlela eKhesariya labadala abathile kanye lomeli owayethiwa nguThethula, bafika beneka ukumangalela kwabo uPhawuli kumbusi. ² UPhawuli esebiziwe, uThethula walethula icala kuFelikhe wathi: “Mhlekaazi! Ngaphansi kombuso wakho sesikholise isikhathi sokuthula eside, ikanti lombono wakho usulethe intuthuko kulesisizwe. ³ Yonke indawo, ngazonke izindlela, mhlekazi omuhle Felikhe, siyakwamukela konke lokhu ngokubonga okukhulu. ⁴ Kodwa ukuthi ngingakuchitheli isikhathi, ngiyakucela ukuthi uke usizwe kancinyane esikutshoyo.

⁵ Indoda le siyifumane ukuthi iluhlupho, ivusa isiphithiphithi phakathi kwamaJuda kuwo wonke umhlaba. Ingumholi wequla lamaNazarini ⁶ futhi yazama njalo ukungcolisa ithempeli; yikho sayibamba. Sasifuna

ukumahlulela ngokomlayo wethu. [⁷ Kodwa umlawuli uLisiya weza wazamthatha ngodlakela ezandleni zethu, wathi obamangalelayo kabeze phambi kwakhe].* ⁸ Ngokumhlola wena ngokwakho uzalibona iqiniso ngazozonke lezizinto esimangalela ngazo.”

⁹ AmaJuda lawo ayingenela indaba eqinisa ukuthi lezizinto zaziliqiniso.

¹⁰ Kwathi umbusi esemphile ithuba lokuthi akhulume uPhawuli waphendula wathi: “Ngiyazi ukuthi usube ngumahluli walesisizwe okweminyaka eminengi; ngakho ngizivikela ngesibindi langentokozo. ¹¹ Ungalithola iqiniso lokuthi kakudluli insuku ezilitshumi lambili ngiyile eJerusalema ukuyakhonza.

¹² Abangimangalelayo kabazange bangifumane ngiphikisana lomuntu ethempelini, loba ngitshotshozela amaxuku emasinagogweni kumbe ngaphi edolobheni. ¹³ Bangezake balethe ubufakazi kuwe balezizinto abangimangalela ngazo. ¹⁴ Kodwa ngiyavuma ukuthi ngikhonza uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu, njengomlandeli weNdlela abayibiza ngokuthi ngumvukela. Ngiyakukholwa konke okuvumelana loMlayo lokubhaliweyo kubaphrofethi, ¹⁵ njalo ngilethemba elifana lelamadoda la kuNkulunkulu, ukuthi kuzakuba lokuvuka kwabafuleyo, abalungileyo lababi.

¹⁶ Ngakho ngiyazama kokuphela ukuba isazela sami sihlale sihlanzekile phambi kukaNkulunkulu laphambi kwabantu.

* **24:7** 24.7 Livesi ayikho kwamanye amaBhayibhili esiLungu.

¹⁷ Ngemva kweminyaka eminengi ngingekho, ngeza eJerusalema ukuletha izipho zabaswe layo ebantwini bakithi lokwethula iminikelo. ¹⁸ Ngangihlanzekile ngokomkhuba baze bangifumane ethempelini ngisenza lokhu. Kwakungelaxuku labantu elalilami, kumbe ukuthi ngangiphazamisa ngokuthile. ¹⁹ Kodwa kukhona amaJuda athile avela esifundeni sase-Ezhiya, okufanele ukuthi ngabe akhona lapha phambi kwakho, angethese icala nxa kukhona akusolayo ngami. ²⁰ Kumbe wonala akhona kawachaze ukuthi licala bani alifumanayo kimi mhlazana ngimi eSanihedrini, ²¹ ngaphandle kwalokhu kodwa engakumemezayo ngimi phambi kwawo ukuthi: ‘Kungenxa yokuvuka kwabafileyo okwenza ngithonisiswe phambi kwenu lamuhla.’”

²² Ngakho uFelikhe, owayesazi kakhulu ngeNdlela walimisa icala. Wathi, “Kuzakuthi nxa uLisiya umlawuli angafika ngizaliquma icala lenu.” ²³ Walaya umphathi wekhulu ukuthi agcine uPhawuli elindiwe kodwa amvumele ukukhululeka okuthile kanye labangane bakhe ukuthi bamuphe lokho akuswelayo.

²⁴ Ngemva kwensuku ezinengi uFelikhe wafika lomkakhe uDrusila owaye ngumJudakazi. Wathi kakubizwe uPhawuli, wamlalela echaza ngokukholwa kuJesu Khristu. ²⁵ UPhawuli wathi esebalisa ngokulunga, langokuzithiba langokwahlulelwa okuzayo uFelikhe wesaba wathi, “Sekwanele okwamanje! Usungahamba. Kungaze kulunge njalo ngizakubiza.” ²⁶ Yena wayecabanga ukuthi uPhawuli uzamupha imali

yokumfumbathisa, yikho wayembiza futhifuthi ekhuluma laye.

²⁷ Isidlule iminyaka emibili, uFelikhe walandelwa esikhundleni nguPhokhiyu Festasi, kodwa ngoba uFelikhe wayefuna ukuthabisa amaJuda, watshiya uPhawuli elokhu esentolongweni.

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Ukuthonisiswa Phambi KukaFestasi

¹ Ngemva kwensuku ezintathu efikile esifundeni uFestasi, wasuka eKhesariya waya eJerusalema ² lapho abaphristi abakhulu labakhokheli bamaJuda bema phambi kwakhe beneka amacala kaPhawuli. ³ Bamcela ngokuphangisa uFestasi, ukuba abenzele umusa, abalethele uPhawuli eJerusalema, ngoba babeceba ukumcathamela bambulale endleleni. ⁴ UFestasi waphendula wathi, “UPhawuli uvalelwe eKhesariya, njalo mina ngokwami Ngiya khona masinyane. ⁵ Akuthi abanye abakhokheli bakini bahambe lami bafike bamthese amacala khonale, nxa kukhona akonileyo.”

⁶ Eshlale insuku eziyisificaminwembili loba ezilitshumi labo, wehlela eKhesariya, kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo wangenisa inkundla wathi kalethwe uPhawuli phambi kwakhe. ⁷ Esefikile uPhawuli amaJuda ayebuyile evela eJerusalema ambuthanela, ethula amacala amanengi esabekayo ngaye, kodwa engelabufakazi ngawo.

⁸ UPhawuli wasezivikela wathi, “Angenzanga lutho oluphikisa umlayo wamaJuda kumbe

ukudumaza ithempeli, kumbe oluphikisa uKhesari.”

⁹ UFestasi wayefuna ukwenzela amaJuda umusa, wathi kuPhawuli, “Uyavuma na ukuya eJerusalema ukuthi ngiyekuthonisela khona amacala la?”

¹⁰ Waphendula uPhawuli wathi, “Khathesi sengisiyakuma phambi kwenkundla kaKhesari, lapho engifanele ukuthonisiswa khona. Kangonanga lutho kumaJuda, njengoba lawe usazi kakuhle. ¹¹ Kodwa, nxa ngilecala lokwenza loba yini efanele ukufa kangali ukubulawa. Kodwa nxa lawomacala engiwetheswa ngamaJuda la engasiqiniso, kakho olelungelo lokunginikela kuwo. Ngilidlulisela kuKhesari!”

¹² UFestasi esehlenganise amakhanda lomphakathi wakhe, wathi, “Usulidlulisele kuKhesari. Uzakuya-ke kuKhesari!”

UFestasi Ubonisana LeNkosi U-Agripha

¹³ Sekuyizinsuku ezimbalwa ngemva kwalokho iNkosi u-Agripha loBhenikhe bafika eKhesariya ukuyaqinisa ubudlelwano laye uFestasi. ¹⁴ Njengoba babezachitha insuku ezinengi khona, uFestasi wakhuluma leNkosi ngendaba kaPhawuli. Wathi, “Kulendoda lapha eyatshiywa nguFelikhe iyisibotshwa. ¹⁵ Ngathi ngiseJerusalema, abaphristi abakhulu labadala bamaJuda bayimangalela ngamacala athile, bacela ukuthi ibulawe.

¹⁶ Ngabatshela ukuthi kakusimkhuba wamaRoma ukunikela umuntu engakahlanganiswa labamangaleli bakhe, waphiwa ithuba lokuzivikela kulawo macala abambeka wona.

¹⁷ Bathi sebefikile lapha behamba lami, ngahle ngalingenisa icala, kodwa inkundla ngayihlanganisa ngosuku olulandelayo, ngathi indoda leyo kayingeniswe. ¹⁸ Sebephakamile ukuba bakhulume, kabasambekanga lawomacala engangiwakhumbula. ¹⁹ Kodwa, kulezinto ezithile ababephikisana ngazo laye mayelana lenkolo yabo langenye indoda eyafayo ethiwa nguJesu, uPhawuli athi yena iyaphila. ²⁰ Ngisuke ngadideka ukuthi ngizicubungule njani izindaba ezinjalo; yikho ngimbuzile ukuthi angavuma yini ukuya eJerusalema ayethonisiswa khona ngamacala la. ²¹ Kuthe uPhawuli esethe ucela icala lakhe limiswe liyoqunywa nguMbusi oMkhulu, ngathi kagcinwe entolongweni ngize ngimd-lulisele kuKhesari.”

²² U-Agripa wasesithi kuFestasi, “Ngifuna ukuthi kengiyizwe mina ngokwami indoda leyo.”
Waphendula wathi, “Uzayizwa kusasa.”

UPhawuli Phambi Kuka-Agripa

²³ Kusisa u-Agripa loBhenikhe bafika ngodumo olukhulu bangena emthethwandaba lezikhulu zakhona ezaziwayo kanye labakhokheli bedolobho. UFestasi wathi uPhawuli kalethe. ²⁴ UFestasi wasesithi, “Nkosi Agripa, lani lonke elikhona lathi lapha, liyayibona indoda le! Sonke isizwe samaJuda eJerusalema lakhona lapha eKhesariya senza isikhalazo kimi bememeza ukuthi kayisafanelanga ukuthi ibe ilokhu iphila. ²⁵ Ngafumana ukuthi kwakungelalutho alwenzayo olufanele ukufa, kodwa ngenxa yokuthi wacela ukudluliselwa kuMbusi

oMkhulu, ngakhetha ukuthi ngimdlulisele eRoma. ²⁶ Kodwa kakulalutho olubambekayo engizalulobela uMhlekazi ngaye. Ngakho sengimlethe lapha phambi kwenu lonke, ikakhulu phambi kwakho wena Nkosi Agripha, ukuze kuthi ngemva kokumhlola hlezi ngithole ulutho engingaluloba. ²⁷ Ngibona kungaba liphutha elikhulu ukuthumela isibotshwa ngingacacanga ngamacala esiwetheswayo.”

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¹ U-Agripha wasesithi kuPhawuli, “Ulemvumo yokuzikhulumela.”

Ngakho uPhawuli wasephakamisa isandla sakhe waqalisa ukuzivikela, wathi, ² “Nkosi Agripha, ngizibona ngilenhlanhla ukuma phambi kwakho lamuhla ngisethula ukuzivikela kwami kuwo wonke amacala engiwetheswa ngamaJuda, ³ ikakhulu njengoba wena uwazi amasiko amaJuda kanye lokuphikisana kwawo. Ngakho ngiyakucela ukuthi ungilalele ngokubekezela.

⁴ AmaJuda wonke ayayazi impilo engiyiphilileyo kusukela ebuntwaneni bami, ekuqaleni kokuphila kwami elizweni lakithi njalo laseJerusalema. ⁵ Sebengazi okwesikhathi eside njalo bangafakaza nxa bethanda, ukuthi ngenhlelo zenkolo yethu eqinileyo, ngangiphila ngingumFarisi. ⁶ Manje sekungenxa yethemba lami kulokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa okhokho bethu okwenza ngithonisiswe lamuhla. ⁷ Lesi yiso isithembiso esilindelwe yizizwana zakithi ezilitshumi lambili ukuthi zizasibona sigcwaliseka zilokhu zimkhonza uNkulunkulu

ngokutshiseka emini lebusuku. Mhlekazi, kungenxa yalo lelithemba engimangalelwa lona ngamaJuda. ⁸ Kungenzakala kanjani ukuthi phakathi kwenu kube yinto engakholekiyo ukuthi uNkulunkulu uyabavusa abafileyo na?

⁹ Lami ngokwami ngangizimisele ukuthi ngenze yonke imizamo yokuphikisana lebizu likaJesu waseNazaretha. ¹⁰ Lakanye yikho lokho engakwenzayo eJerusalema. Ngaphiwa amandla ngabaphristi abakhulu ngaphosela abanengi abangcwele entolongweni, kwathi ekubulaweni kwabo lami ngasekela ukubalahla. ¹¹ Izikhathi ezinengi ngangihamba ngingquma lamasinagogu ngisithi kabajeziswe, ngazama njalo ukubabamba ngamandla ukuthi bahlambaze uJesu. Ngathi ngihlanyiswa yikubazonda ngaya lakwamanye amadolobho aseziweni ukuyabahlukuluza khona.

¹² Kolunye uhambo lwami ngalubangisa eDamaseko ngilamandla lomlayo engawuphiwa ngabaphristi abakhulu. ¹³ Kwathi sekungaba yimini enkulu ngisendleleni Mhlekazi Agripa, ngabona ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini, kukhazimula ukwedlula ilanga, kungizingezelele kanye labakhula bami. ¹⁴ Sonke sawela phansi, ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, ngesiHebheru, 'Sawuli, Sawuli ungihlukuluzelani na? Kubuhlungu kuwe ukukhahlela izinciji.'

¹⁵ Ngasengibuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi?'

INkosi yaphendula yathi, 'NginguJesu omhlukuluzayo. ¹⁶ Phakama khathesi ume ngezinyawo zakho. Ngizibonise kuwe

ukuthi ngikukhethe ukuba yinceku njalo ube ngufakazi walokho osukubonile ngami, lalokho engisazakutshengisa khona. ¹⁷ Ngizakuphephisa ebantwini bakini lakwabeZizwe. Ngikuthuma ¹⁸ ukuthi uvule amehlo abo, ubaphendule basuke ebumnyameni baye ekukhanyeni, njalo basuke emandleni kaSathane baye kuNkulunkulu ukuze bemukele ukuthethelelwa kwezono lendawo phakathi kwalabo abangcweliswe ngokukholwa kimi.’

¹⁹ Ngakho-ke, Nkosi Agripa, kangiqholozelanga umbono ovela ezulwini. ²⁰ Ngaqala ngaba seDamaseko, kwalandela abaseJerusalema laseJudiya lonke, kwalandela labeZizwe labo, ngatshumayela ukuthi kumele baphenduke babuyele kuNkulunkulu njalo babonise ukuphenduka kwabo ngezenzo zabo. ²¹ Kungaleso isizatho okwenza amaJuda angibamba ngisemagumeni ethempeli azama ukungibulala. ²² Kodwa uNkulunkulu ungiphephisile kuze kube namuhla, yikho ngimi lapha ngifakaza kwabancinyane labakhulu ngokufananayo. Kakulalutho engilutshoyo ngaphezu kwalokho abaphrofethi loMosi abathi kuzakwenzakala, ²³ ukuthi uKhristu wayezahlupheka, njalo njengowokuqala ukuvuka kwabafuleyo, atshumayele ukukhanya ebantwini bakibo lakwabeZizwe.”

²⁴ Khonapho uFestasi wasemphazamisa esazivikela wathi, “Phawuli, usangene ingqondo! Ukufunda kwakho okukhulu sekukuphambanise ingqondo.”

²⁵ Waphendula uPhawuli wathi, “Kangih-

lanyi, Mhlekezi omkhulu Festasi. Engikutshoyo kuliqiniso njalo kulengqondo. ²⁶ Inkosi izijayele lezizinto yikho ngikhuluma kuyo ngikhululekile. Ngiyakholwa ukuthi kakukho lokukodwa kukho okuyeqileyo inkosi, ngoba kakwenziwanga ejikweni ngokucatshelana. ²⁷ Nkosi Agripa, uyabakholwa na abaphrofethi? Ngiyazi ukuthi uyabakholwa.”

²⁸ U-Agripa wasesithi kuPhawuli, “Kambe ucabanga ukuthi ngesikhatshana esifitshane kangaka ungangiphendula ngibe ngumKhristu?”

²⁹ Uphawuli waphendula wathi, “Singaba sisifitshane loba sibeside, ngiyakhuleka kuNkulunkulu ukuthi kakungabi nguwe kuphela kodwa bonke abangizwayo lamuhla bangaba yilokho engiyikho khona, ngaphandle kwala amaketane.”

³⁰ Inkosi yaphakama kanye lombusi loBhenikhe lalabo ababehlezi labo. ³¹ Baphuma endlini, bathi sebekhuluma bodwa, bathi, “Indoda le kakulalutho elwenzayo olufanele ukufa loba ukuvalelwa entolongweni.”

³² U-Agripa wathi kuFestasi, “Indoda le ibizakhululwa kube ibingedluliselanga icala layo kuKhesari.”

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UPhawuli Uya ERoma

¹ Sekumisiwe ukuthi sizakuya e-Ithali, uPhawuli kanye lezinye izibotshwa banikelwa ezandleni zomphathi wekhulu owayethiwa nguJuliyasi owaye ngoweButho leSikhosini.

² Sagada umkhumbi e-Adramithiya owawusulungele ukuya emathekwini asemakhunjini esifunda sase-Ezhiya, sahle salungena ulwandle. Sasilo-Aristakhasi, owayesuka eThesalonika.

³ Kusisa sakhuphukela eSidoni; uJuliyasi watshengisa umusa kuPhawuli, wamvumela ukuthi aye kubangane bakhe bamenzele lokho ayengabe ekuswela. ⁴ Sesisuka lapho saluqonda ulwandle njalo sagudla ethunzini laseSiphrazi ngoba ukuvunguza komoya kwakuphambana lathi. ⁵ Sathi sesiwele sadabula ulwandle olubanzi malungana lasokhunjini lweSilisiya lePhamfiliya, sakhuphukela eMira eseLikhuya.

⁶ Khonapho umphathi wekhulu wafumana umkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya uwelela e-Ithali, wasingenisa kuwo. ⁷ Sahamba sitotoba okwensuku ezinengi, sathwala nzima ukuyafika eKhinidu. Kwathi ngoba umoya usivalela ukuthi sihambe ngendlela yethu, sawela sayagudla ethunzini laseKhrethe, malungana leSalimoni. ⁸ Sahamba siceza okhunjini kanzima, safika endaweni ethiwa kuseMathekumahle, eduze ledolobho laseLaseya.

⁹ Sasesilahlekelwe yisikhathi esinengi kakhulu, lokuhamba olwandle kwasekuyingozi kabi ngoba ngalesisikhathi kwasekungemva kwesikhathi sokuzila. Yikho uPhawuli wabaxwayisa wathi, ¹⁰ “Madoda, ngibona ukuthi uhambo lolu luzakuba lengozi lomonakalo omkhulu, kubhidlike umkhumbi lempahla, lempilo zethu lathi.” ¹¹ Kodwa umphathi wekhulu, esikhundleni sokulalela lokho okwaktshiwo nguPhawuli, walandela iseluleko

somtshayeli womkhumbi kanye lomnikazi wawo. ¹² Njengoba itheku lalingelihle ukuthi simise khona ebusika, abanengi bakhetha ukuthi siqhubeke ngohambo, bethemba ukuthi sizafika eFenikhe simise khona ebusika lobo. Leli kwakulitheku eliseKhrethe, elalikhangele eningizimu yentshonalanga njalo lenyakatho yentshonalanga.

Isiphepho

¹³ Kwathi ngokuphephetha komoya opholileyo waseningizimu, banakana ukuthi basebekutholile ababekudinga; ngakho bawukhulula umkhumbi wawela ugudle iKhrethe. ¹⁴ Masinyazana nje, umoya olamandla esivunguvungu owawuthiwa “yiNhlampumalanga” wavunguza usuka esihlengeni. ¹⁵ Umkhumbi watshaywa yilesosiphepho wehluleka ukuqondana lomoya; ngakho wasehlula sasesindenda nje siwulandela. ¹⁶ Sathi lapho sidlula ekusithekeni kwesihlenge esincane esithiwa yiKhawuda, kwasekusala lokuthi simise kuhle isikepe sokuphephela siqonde. ¹⁷ Kwathi amadoda esesidonsele phezulu emkhunjini, basebethandela izintambo bebopha umkhumbi ngokwawo ukuze uqine wonke. Bathi ngoba besesaba ukuthi bazatshayeka emhlabathini wetshebetshebe laseSithisi, behlisa iseyili bayekela umkhumbi wazindendela nje. ¹⁸ Isiphepho sasizunguza kabuhlungu kwaze kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo saqalisa ukujikela umthwalo olwandle. ¹⁹ Ngosuku lwesithathu

baphosela phandle ngezabo izandla izintambo lezinye impahla zokuhambisa umkhumbi. ²⁰ Kwathi sekuyizinsuku ezinengi singaliboni ilanga loba izinkanyezi, kodwa isiphepho silokhu sisidla ubhedu, sapheliswa lithemba lokuthi sizaphepha.

²¹ Amadoda ayesehlale isikhathi eside engadlanga, uPhawuli wasesima phambi kwabo, wathi, “Madoda, ngabe lingilalele sangasuki eKhrethe; ngabe kalizifakanga phakathi kwale inhlekenhleke lokulahlekelwa lokhu. ²² Kodwa manje ngiyalikhuthaza ukuthi lime isibindi, ngoba kakukho lamunye wenu ozakufa; ngumkhumbi kuphela ozabhidlika. ²³ Izolo ebusuku ingilosi kaNkulunkulu engingowakhe mina njalo lengimkhonzayo ime phambi kwami ²⁴ yathi, ‘Ungesabi, Phawuli. Kumele uyethonisiswa nguKhesari; njalo uNkulunkulu usebe lomusa wokukunika impilo zabo bonke owela labo.’ ²⁵ Ngakho manini isibindi, madoda, ngoba ngiyamethemba uNkulunkulu ukuthi kuzakwenzakala njengokungitshela kwakhe. ²⁶ Kodwa phela sisezake sitshayeke phansi sikhaphazelwe esihlengeni esithile.”

Ukubhidlika Komkhumbi

²⁷ Ngobusuku betshumi lane sasilokhu siyaluziswa oLwandle lwe-Adriyathi, lapho okwathi phakathi kobusuku abaqhubi bomkhumbi bezwa kungathi basebesondela emhlabathini. ²⁸ Baphosa izintambo zokulinganisa bafumana ukuthi amanzi ayezike okwezingalo ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili.

Ngemva kwesikhatshana baphinda baziphosa njalo bafumana izingalo ezingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye ukuzika. ²⁹ Bathi ngoba besesaba ukuthi sasizasakazeka ematsheni basebesehlisa insika zokumisa umkhumbi ngemuva bekhalela ukuthi kuse. ³⁰ Abaqhubi bomkhumbi bazama ukunyanya babaleke emkhunjini ngokwehlisela isikepe sokusinda olwandle bezenza abafuna ukuyakwehlisa ezinye insika ngaphambili komkhumbi. ³¹ UPhawuli wasesithi kumphathi wekhulu lasemabuthweni, “Nxa amadoda la engahlali emkhunjini, ngeke lisinde.” ³² Ngakho amabutho asequma izintambo ezazibambe isikepe sokusinda asiyekela sayagxumukela emanzini.

³³ Sekubanga emathathakusa, uPhawuli wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi badle. Wathi, “Okwensuku ezilitshumi lane ezidluleyo belihlezi libambe amaphaphu enu; lisehluleka lokudla; kalizange lidle lutho. ³⁴ Okwamanje ngilicela ukuthi lidle. Kumele lidle ukuze liphile. Kakho loyedwa wenu ozalahlekelwa lalunwele ekhanda lakhe.” ³⁵ Esekutshilo lokhu, wathatha isinkwa wabonga kuNkulunkulu phambi kwabo bonke. Wasesihlephuna wadla. ³⁶ Bonke baqunga isibindi basebesidla labo. ³⁷ Sisonke sasingabantu abangamakhulu amabili lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesithupha (276) emkhunjini. ³⁸ Bathi sebedlile basutha, baphungula ukusindwa komkhumbi ngokuchithela amabele olwandle.

³⁹ Kwathi sokusile kabawunanzelelanga umh-

labathi, kodwa babona itheku elaligcwele it-shebetshebe, basebezimisela ukuthi umkhumbi bayewumisa khona nxa kuvuma. ⁴⁰ Baquma insika bazitshiya zicwila olwandle, baphinda banyomula lezintambo ezazibambe okokugwedlisa. Basebephakamisa iseyili yaphambili beyiqondisa emoyeni, basebeqonda ekhunjini. ⁴¹ Kodwa umkhumbi watshayeleda esidulini setshebetshebe olwandle wahle wabhajwa. Isihloko sawo sathi ngxixi phansi asabe sisanyikinyeka, ingemuva yona yahlakazeka itshaywa ngamagasi.

⁴² Amabutho asesithi kungcono abulale izibotshwa ukuze kungabikhona esizantsheza sibaleke. ⁴³ Kodwa umphathi wekhulu wayefuna ukuvikela impilo kaPhawuli, yikho wabalela ukuthi bakwenze lokho abasebekumisile. Walaya labo ababelamandla okuntsheza ukuba bazithele olwandle bona kuqala baqonde emhlabathini. ⁴⁴ Inengi lalizandenda ngamapulanka liye khona loba ngasiqa bani somkhumbi. Ngale indlela wonke umuntu wafika emhlabathini ephephile.

28

Emhlabathini EMalitha

¹ Sathi sesiphephile safika emhlabathini, sezwa ukuthi isihlengi leso sasithiwa yiMalitha.

² Abantu bakhona basiphatha ngomusa ongajayelekanga. Basemukela kuhle sonke, basibasela umlilo wekhanka ngoba izulu lalisina njalo kumakhaza. ³ Uphawuli watheza umnyaba wenkuni, wathi ebasela kwaphuma

inhlanguwana isixotshwa ngumlilo yahle yamthandela esandleni. ⁴ Abahlali besihlengeni bathi bebona inyoka ilenga esandleni sakhe bakhulumisana besithi, “Indoda le iyisigebenga; ngoba loba isindile olwandle, unkulunkulukazi uKulunga kayivumelanga ukuthi iphile.” ⁵ Kodwa uPhawuli wayithintitha inyoka wayilabhulela emlilweni yena akaze alimala lakancane. ⁶ Abantu babelinde okwesikhathi eside bengaboni lutho olubi lusenzakala kuye, baguqula imicabango yabo basebesithi ungunkulunkulu.

⁷ Eduze kwalapho kwakulepulazi likaPhabhiliyasi, owayeyisikhulu esiphethe isihlenge. Wasemukela ngesihle emzini wakhe, wasihlalisa khona okwensuku ezintathu esiphethe kuhle. ⁸ Uyise wayegula elele phansi ephethwe luqhuqho lesihudo. UPhawuli wayambona, kwathi esekhulekile, wambeka izandla wamsilisa. ⁹ Kwathi sekwenzakele lokhu, bonke abagulayo esihlengeni beza basiliswa. ¹⁰ Basidumisa ngeziphu ezinengi, kwasekusithi sesilungela ukuwela basilungisela umphako owaneleyo.

Ukufika eRoma

¹¹ Ngemva kwezinyanga ezintathu sangena olwandle sigade umkhumbi owawuchithe ubusika khona lapho. Wawungumkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya owawulophawu lwamakhandamaphahla abonkulunkulu uKhasto loPholukhi. ¹² Sakhuphukela eSirakhusi sahlala khona okwensuku ezintathu. ¹³ Sesisuka lapho sawela sayafika eRegiyumi. Ngakusasa

kwaphetha umoya weningizimu, kwathi ngelanga elilandelayo sayafika ePhuthewoli. ¹⁴ Lapho safumana abazalwane abasicela ukuthi sihlale khona okweviki silabo. Sasesifika eRoma. ¹⁵ Abazalwane balapho basebezwire ukuthi siyeza, ngakho bahamba baze bayafika eNkundleni yase-Aphiya laseziNkantini eziNtathu besihlangabeza. Wathi ebabona lababantu uPhawuli wabonga uNkulunkulu njalo waqiniswa. ¹⁶ Sithe sesifikile eRoma, uPhawuli wavunyelwa ukuhlala yedwa, elindwe ngelilodwa ibutho.

UPhawuli Utshumayela ERoma Elindiwe

¹⁷ Ngemva kwensuku ezintathu uPhawuli wabiza abakhokheli bamaJuda. Bathi sebehlangene wathi kubo, “Bazalwane bami, loba ngingenzanga lutho olubi ebantwini bakithi kumbe olwephula imikhuba yabokhokho bethu, ngabotshwa eJerusalema nganikelwa kwabaseRoma. ¹⁸ Wona esengihlolile afisa ukungikhulula ngoba ngangingelacala loba elakuphi ukuganga okwakungafanela ukufa. ¹⁹ Kodwa kwathi ngoba amaJuda ekwala lokho ngabona sekufanele ukuthi ngikhalaze kuKhesari; kungayisikho ukuthi ngasengimangalela abantu bakithi. ²⁰ Ngalesisizatho ngicelile ukuthi ngilibone, ngikhulume lani. Kungenxa yethemba lika-Israyeli okwenza ngibotshwe ngale iketane.”

²¹ Baphendula bathi, “Kasitholanga zincwadi ezivela eJudiya mayelana lawe, njalo kakho umzalwane ovela khonale oke wabika kumbe

wakhuluma ulutho olubi ngawe. ²² Kodwa sifuna ukuzwa imibono yakho, ngoba siyakwazi ukuthi ezindaweni zonke abantu bakhuluma kubi ngaloluhlelo lwenkolo.”

²³ Balungiselela ukuhlangana loPhawuli nge-
langa elithile elalibekiwe, njalo kweza abantu
abanengi endaweni ayehlala kuyo. Kusukela
ekuseni kwaze kwaba ntambama echaza um-
buso kaNkulunkulu njalo efakaza ngokuseM-
thethweni kaMosi lakubaPhrofethi. Wazama
njalo ukubazisa ngoJesu ²⁴ Abanye basuthiseka
ngalokhu ayekutsho, kodwa abanye kabazange
bakholwe. ²⁵ Baphikisana bona bodwa basebe-
suka ngemva kokuba uPhawuli esephethe inku-
lumo yakhe ngokuthi, “Nxa uMoya oNgcwele
wakhuluma iqiniso kubokhokho benu aze ukhu-
lume ngomphrofethi u-Isaya ukuthi:

²⁶ ‘Hamba kulababantu uyekuthi,
“Lizahlala lisizwa kokuphela, kodwa lingaqedis-
isi;
lizahlala libona kokuphela kodwa lingabon-
isisi.”

²⁷ Ngoba inhliziyo yalababantu isibuthundu;
kabasezwa ngezindlebe zabo,
njalo sebevale amehlo abo;
ngoba bangaqabuka bebona ngamehlo abo,
bezwe ngezindlebe zabo,
baqedisise ngezinhliziyo zabo,
baphenduke, lami ngibasilise.’*

²⁸ Ngakho ngithanda ukuthi lazi ukuba in-
sindiso kaNkulunkulu isithunyelwe kwabeZ-
izwe, njalo bona bazalalela!” [²⁹ Ngemva

* **28:27** 28.27 U-Isaya 6.9-10

kwalokhu, amaJuda asuka, ephikisana wodwa kakhulu.]†

³⁰ UPhawuli wahlala khona okweminyaka emibili egcweleyo, ehlala endlini yakhe ayeloje kuyo, njalo esemukela ngesihle bonke ababesiza bezombona. ³¹ Watshumayela ngombuso kaNkulunkulu, wafundisa ngeNkosi uJesu Khristu ngesibindi njalo engaphazanyiswa muntu.

† **28:29** 28.29 Livesi kayikho kwamanye amaBhayibhili esiLungu.

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