

Ugwalo Lwakuqala LwamaKhosi

U-Adonija Uzibeka Ukuba Yinkosi

¹ Kwathi inkosi uDavida esemdala kakhulu, wayengasafudumali lanxa elele loba bemembathise kakhulu. ² Izinceku zakhe zathi kuye, “Kasidinge intombazana yokunakekela inkosi iyifudumeze. Izalala eceleni kwayo ukuze inkosi yethu ifudumale.”

³ Ngakho balibhudula lonke elako-Israyeli bedinga intombi enhle baze bafumana u-Abhishagi, umShunami wa lethwa enkosini.

⁴ Intombazana leyo yayinhle kakhulu; yayinakekela inkosi yayilondoloza, kodwa inkosi kayiyenzanga umfazi.

⁵ Kwathi u-Adonija, unina owayenguHagithi, waziveza wathi, “Yimi engizakuba yinkosi.” Waselungisa izinqola lamabhiza kanye lamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu ukumandulela. ⁶ (Uyise kazange amkhuze ngokumbuza ukuthi, “Ukwenzeleni konke lokhu?” Laye wayemuhle kakhulu, eselama u-Abhisalomu.)

⁷ U-Adonija wacebisana loJowabi indodana kaZeruya lo-Abhiyathari umphristi, laba bamsekela. ⁸ Kodwa uZadokhi umphristi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, loNathani umphrofethi, loShimeyi, loReyi kanye labalindi benkosi abamsekelanga u-Adonija.

⁹ U-Adonija wasesenza umhlatsshelo ngezimvu, ngenkomo langamathole anonileyo eLitsheni laseZohelathi eduze le-Eni Rogeli. Wanxusa abafowabo, lamadodana enkosi lawo wonke amadoda akoJuda ayengawesikhosini, ¹⁰ kodwa kamnxusanga uNathani umphrofethi loba uBhenaya loba abalindi benkosi loba umfowabo uSolomoni.

¹¹ Ngakho uNathani wabuza uBhathishebha, unina kaSolomoni wathi, “Awukezwa yini ukuthi u-Adonija, indodana kaHagithi, useyinkosi, ezibeka inkosi yethu uDavida ingakakwazi lokho? ¹² Khathesi-ke lalela ngikweluleke, ukuze uzisindise wena lokuvikela impilo yendodana yakho uSolomoni. ¹³ Ngena lapha okulenkosi uDavida khona ufike uthi kuyo, ‘Wena omkhulu nkosi yami, awufunganga na phambi kwami mina sichaka sakho ukuthi: “Ngoqotho sibili indodana yakho uSolomoni uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwakho, uzahlala esihlalweni sami”?’ Kungani pho u-Adonija esebe yinkosi?’ ¹⁴ Uzakuthi usuphakathi ukhuluma layo inkosi, lami ngizangena ngifike ngigcwalisele lokho ozabe ukutshilo.”

¹⁵ Ngalokho-ke uBhathishebha wayayibona inkosi eyayivele isiluphele isendlini yayo, lapho u-Abhishagi ongumShunami ayelondoloza khona inkosi. ¹⁶ UBhathishebha wakhothama wazehlisa waguqa phambi kwenkosi.

Inkosi yambuza yathi: “Kuyini okufunayo?”

¹⁷ Wathi kuyo, “nkosi yami, wena uqobo lwakho wafunga kimi inceku yakho NGOTHIXO

uNkulunkulu wakho wathi: ‘USolomoni indo-dana yakho uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwami, njalo uzahlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi.’

¹⁸ Kodwa khathesi u-Adonija usebe yinkosi, kodwa wena mbusi, nkosi yami awukwazi okwenzakalayo. ¹⁹ Usenikele ngenkomo ezinengi, amaguqa anonisiweyo, kanye lezimvu, njalo usenxuse wonke amadodana enkosi, u-Abhiyathari umphristi kanye loJowabi umlawuli webutho, kodwa kamnxusanga uSolomoni incekukho yakho. ²⁰ Mbusi wami, nkosi, abako-Israyeli bonke bakukhangele, badinga ukwazi ukuthi ngubani ozahlala esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi ngemva kwakho. ²¹ Kungenzeka phela ukuthi inkosi yami ingavele iyephumula kubokhokho, mina lendodana yami uSolomoni sizaphathwa njengezigangi.”

²² Kwathi elokhu esakhuluma lenkosi, kwafika uNathani umphrofethi. ²³ Bayibikela inkosi bathi, “UNathani umphrofethi ulapha.” Waya phambi kwenkosi wakhothama embele ubuso bakhe phansi.

²⁴ UNathani wabuza wathi, “Kambe, nkosi yami, nguwe na othe u-Adonija uzamele athathe ubukhosi bakho ungasekho wena, utshilo na ukuthi uzahlala esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi?” ²⁵ Lamuhla lokhu wehlile wayakwenza umhlathshelo wenkomo ezinengi, amaguqa anonisiweyo, lezimvu. Unxuse wonke amadodana enkosi, abalawuli bamabutho enkosi kanye lo-Abhiyathari umphristi. Khona khathesi nje bayadla benatha kanye laye besitsho besithi, ‘Mpilonde nkosi Adonija!’ ²⁶ Kodwa mina in-

ceku yakho, loZadokhi umphristi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, kanye lenceku yakho uSolomoni kasinxusanga. ²⁷ Kambe kungaba yikuthi lokhu inkosi yami ikwenze ingatshelanga izinceku zayo ukuthi ngubani ozahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi benkosi yami ngemva kokuba inkosi ingasekho?”

UDavida Unika USolomoni Ubukhosi

²⁸ Ngalokho iNkosi uDavida yathi, “Mbize, angene uBhathishebha.” Ngakho weza enkosini wema phambi kwayo.

²⁹ Inkosi yasifunga yathi: “Ngeqiniso lokuthi uTHIXO wami ngophilayo, lowo owangikhipha ezinhluphekweni zami zonke, ³⁰ ngempela khona lamuhla lokhu ngizagcwalisa lokho engakufunga NGOTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: uSolomoni indodana yakho uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwami, njalo uzahlala esihlalweni sami esikhundleni sami.”

³¹ Ngalokho uBhathishebha wakhothamisa ikhanda ekhangele phansi, kwathi eseguqe phambi kwenkosi, wathi. “Umbusi wami inkosi uDavida kaphile kuze kube nini lanini!”

³² INkosi uDavida yathi, “Ngibizela uZadokhi umphristi, uNathani umphrofethi kanye loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada.” Bathe sebephambi kwenkosi, ³³ yathi kubo: “Thathani izinceku zenkosi yenu lihambe lazo liyekhweza uSolomoni indodana yami phezu kwembongolo yami lehle laye liye eGihoni. ³⁴ Khonale uZadokhi umphristi loNathani umphrofethi kuzamele bangcobe

ubukhosi phezu kuka-Israyeli wonke. Livuthele icilongo limemeze lithi, ‘Kayiphile okulaphakade iNkosi uSolomoni!’³⁵ Lizakhwela laye, abuye azohlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi aze abuse esikhundleni sami. Sengimkhethile ukuthi abuse phezu kuka-Israyeli lakoJuda.”

³⁶ UBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada waphendula inkosi wathi, “Akube njalo! Kun-gathi uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wombusi lenkosi yami, angakumisa kube njalo. ³⁷ Njengoba uTHIXO elondoloze umbusi wami oyinkosi, akube njalo lakuSolomoni ukuze enze ubukhosi bakhe bube ngaphezu kwalobo obenkosi yami iNkosi uDavida!”

³⁸ Ngakho uZadokhi umphristi, loNathani umphrofethi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada lamaKherethi lamaPhelethi behla bafika bakhweza uSolomoni embongolweni yeNkosi uDavida bamqhuba bamusa eGihoni.

³⁹ UZadokhi umphristi wathatha uphondo lwamafutha ethenteni elingcwele wagcoba uSolomoni. Ngakho bahle bavuthela icilongo, abantu bonke bahlaba umkhosi behaya besithi, “Mpilonde Nkosi Solomoni!”⁴⁰ Bonke bamlandela, bavuthela imihubhe bejabula kakhulu, kwaze kwanyikinyeka umhlaba.

⁴¹ U-Adonija kanye lezethekeli ezazilaye zawuzwa lumkhosi njengoba bona basebeqedisa ukudla. UJowabi wathi esizwa icilongo wabuza wathi, “Utshoni umsindo wonke lo edolobheni?”

⁴² Kwathi elokhu esakhuluma kwafika uJonathani indodana ka-Abhiyathari umphristi. U-Adonija wathi, “Ngena phakathi. Indoda

eqakathekileyo njengawe kufanele ukuthi isiphathele izindaba ezimnandi.”

⁴³ UJonathani waphendula wathi, “Akulalutho. Inkosi uDavida uMbusi wethu usegcobe uSolomoni ubukhosi. ⁴⁴ Inkosi isimthumele kanye loZadokhi umphristi, loNathani umphrofethi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, lamaKherethi lamaPhelethi, njalo sebehle bamkhweza embongolweni yenkosi. ⁴⁵ Njalo uZadokhi umphristi loNathani umphrofethi sebehle bamgcobela ubukhosi eGihoni. Besuka lapho bahle bahaya bembuka, kanti ledolobho lonke lihlokoma ngenjabulo. Yiwo lo umkhosi eliwuzwayo. ⁴⁶ Kunjalo-nje uSolomoni usehle wahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi. ⁴⁷ Phezu kwalokho izikhulu zesikhosini sezifikile ukuthi zizokwenzela iNkosi uDavida amhlophe zisithi, ‘Sengathi uNkulunkulu wakho angenza ibizo likaSolomoni lidume kulelakho kuthi lesihlalo sakhe sobukhosi sibe lodumo ukwedlula esakho!’ Ngalokho inkosi yakhothama yakhonza isembhedeni wayo ⁴⁸ yathi, ‘Udumo alube kuye UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ovumele ukuthi ngizibonele ngawami amehlo lowo ozathatha isihlalo sami sobukhosi lamuhla.’ ”

⁴⁹ Ngenxa yalokhu, izethekeli zika-Adonija zathi lothu zaphakama ngokwethuka zachitheka.

⁵⁰ Kodwa u-Adonija, ngokwesaba uSolomoni, wahamba wayabamba impondo ze-alithare.

⁵¹ USolomoni wasetshelwa ukuthi, “U-Adonija uyayesaba iNkosi uSolomoni ngakho usegagadlele impondo ze-alithare. Uthi yena, ‘INkosi uSolomoni kayifunge kimi lamuhla ithi kayiyikubulala isichaka sayo ngenkamba.’ ”

⁵² USolomoni waphendula wathi, “Nxa angatshengisela ukuthi uyindoda uqobo lwayo akulanwele lolulodwa lwekhanda lakhe oluzawela emhlabathini; kodwa nxa ebanjwe yikona, uzakufa.” ⁵³ Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni yathumela amadoda, ayamethula e-alithareni abuya laye. Ngalokho u-Adonija weza wafika wazehlisa wakhothama enkosini uSolomoni, yena uSolomoni wathi. “Hamba, yana emzini wakho.”

2

UDavida Ulaya USolomoni

¹ Kwathi isikhathi sokuthi uDavida afe sesisondele, walaya indodana yakhe uSolomoni.

² Wathi, “Sengiseduze ukuyiphetha indlela yemhlabeni. Ngakho qina, zitshengisele ubudoda bakho, ³ unanzelele lokho okufunwa NGUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho: Ukuhamba endleleni yakhe, ugcine imilayo leziqondiso zakhe, imithetho yakhe kanye lezilayezelo zayo: Hamba ezindleleni zakhe, ugcine izimiso zakhe leziqondiso zakhe, imithetho yakhe lokulotshiweyo ngokoMthetho kaMosi, ukuze uphumelele kukho konke okwenzayo kanye lalapho oya khona, ⁴ ngalokho UTHIXO uzagcina isithembiso sakhe kimi: ‘Nxa isizukulwane sakho sizananzelela izindlela zokuphila kwaso, njalo sizahamba ngobuqotho phambi kwami ngezinhliziyi zaso lasemoyeni waso, awuyikwehluleka uswele indoda ezahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi ko-Israyeli.’

⁵ Wena ngokwakho uyakwazi ukuthi uJowabi indodana kaZeruya wenzani kimi lekubulaweni kwabalawuli bamabutho ako-Israyeli, u-Abhineri indodana kaNeri lo-Amasa indodana kaJetha. Wababulala, wachitha igazi ngesikhathi sokuthula kwangathi kusempini, ngalokho igazi langcolisa uzwezwe okhalweni lwakhe lenyathelo ezinyaweni zakhe. ⁶ Yenza lokho obona kufanele kuye, kodwa ikhanda lakhe elimpunga ungavumeli lingcwatshwe ngokuthula.

⁷ Kodwa ube lomusa emadodaneni kaBhazilayi weGiliyadi babengabanye balabo abazakudla kanye lawe ethaleni lakho. Bona bema kanye lami nxa ngangibalekela umfowenu u-Abhisalomu.

⁸ Njalo ukhumbule ukuthi, wena ulendodana kaGera uShimeyi ongowakoBhenjamini oweBhahurimi owangithuka kabuhlungu mhla ngisiya kuMahanayimi. Wathi lapho ezongihlangabeza eJodani, ngafunga ngoTHIXO ngathi: 'Angiyikukubulala ngenkemba.' ⁹ Kodwa loba kunjalo ungabonakana ukuthi umsulwa. Uyindoda elengqondo ekhaliphileyo, kumele ukwazi ozakwenza kuye. Yethula ikhanda lakhe elimpunga liye emangcwabeni ligcwele igazi."

¹⁰ Kwaba yikwedlula kukaDavida esesiya kubokhokho bakhe abafayo wayangcwatshwa eMzini kaDavida. ¹¹ Wayesebuse okweminyaka engamatshumi amane ko-Israyeli, iminyaka eyisikhombisa eHebhroni kwathi engamatshumi amathathu lemithathu eJerusalema. ¹² Ngakho uSolomoni wahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi

sikayise uDavida, umbuso wakhe wagxila waqina.

Ukuzinziswa Kombuso KaSolomoni

¹³ Kwathi u-Adonija, indodana kaHagithi, waya kuBhathishebha, unina kaSolomoni. UBhathishebha wambuza wathi, “Kambe uza ngokuthula na?”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Ye, ngokuthula.”

¹⁴ Waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Kukhona engifisa ukukutsho kuwe.”

Wathi, “Ungatsho lokho oza ngakho.”

¹⁵ “Njengoba usazi ukuthi ubukhosi bebungobami. U-Israyeli ubekhangele ukuthi yimi inkosi yabo. Kodwa izinto seziguqukile, ubukhosi sebuthethwe ngumfowethu, ngoba yena ubuphiwe NGUTHIXO. ¹⁶ Pho khathesi ngilesicelo engiza ngaso kuwe. Ungabokwala.”

Waphendula wathi, “Khuluma isikhalazo sakho.”

¹⁷ Yena waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Ngicelela inkosi uSolomoni anginike u-Abhishagi umShunami ukuze abe ngumkami, ngiyazi ngeke ale kuwe.”

¹⁸ UBhathishebha waphendula wathi, “Yebo kambe, ngizakukhulumela ngikubike enkosini.”

¹⁹ Kwathi uBhathishebha esiyakhulumela u-Adonija enkosini uSolomoni, inkosi yaphakama yamhlangabeza yamkhothamela yasihlala esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi. Yathi kabalethele unina isihlalo sesikhosini, unina wasehlala esandleni sayo sokudla.

²⁰ Unina wathi, “Ungabokwala, ngilesicelo esincane engizasethula kuwe.”

Inkosi yaphendula yathi, “Cela mama, angiyikukuncitsha, angikwaleli.”

²¹ Unina wasesithi, “Yekela u-Abhishagi umShunami abe ngumfazi womfowenu u-Adonija.”

²² INkosi uSolomoni ephendula unina wathi, “Kungani ucelela u-Adonija u-Abhishagi umShunami? Kuyafanana lokuthi umcelela ubukhosi, kanti njalo yena ngokwakhe umnewethu umdala kulami kanye laku-Abhiyathari umphristi loJowabi indodana kaZeruya!”

²³ Ngakho inkosi uSolomoni yasifunga NGOTHIXO yathi: “Kungani uNkulunkulu angangi-jezisa mina, loba kabuhlungu kanganani, nxa u-Adonija engasahlawulanga ngokufela lesisicelo esinje! ²⁴ Khathesi-ke, ngeqiniso LIKATHIXO ophilayo, yena kanye ongibeke wangizinzisa esihlalweni sobukhosi bukababa uDavida wangidalela indlu yesikhosini njengokuthembisa kwakhe, u-Adonija uzabulawa lamhlanje!” ²⁵ Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni yakhipha ilizwi yathuma uBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, lakanye wamlahla phansi u-Adonija kwahle kwaba yikufa kwakhe.

²⁶ Ku-Abhiyathari umphristi iNkosi yathi, “Buyela emasimini akho e-Anathothi. Kufanele ufe kodwa angiyikukubulala khathesi, ngoba wathwala ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO Wobukhosi phambi kukababa uDavida waba kanye lobaba esebunzimeni.” ²⁷ Ngakho uSolomoni wasusa u-Abhiyathari esihlalweni sobumphristi BUKATHIXO, kwagcwaliseka lelolizwi LIKATHIXO alikhuluma eShilo ekhuluma ngendlu ka-Eli.

²⁸ UJowabi ekuzweni lelilizwi, njengoba yena wayekade ebambene lo-Adonija engazange enze lokho lo-Abhisalomu, wabalekela ethenteni LIKATHIXO wafika wadumela impondo ze-alithare. ²⁹ Inkosi uSolomoni yatshelwa ukuthi uJowabi ubalekele ethenteni LIKATHIXO lapha afike wazisondeza e-alithareni. Ngalokho uSolomoni wathi kuBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, “Hamba uyemtshaya umbhuqe.”

³⁰ Lakanye uBhenaya wangena ethenteni LIKATHIXO wathi kuJowabi, “Inkosi ithi, ‘Phuma phandle!’ ”

Kodwa yena waphendula wathi, “Angiphumi, ngizafela khonapha.”

UBhenaya wayabika enkosini wathi, “Yiyonale indlela angiphendule ngayo uJowabi.”

³¹ Ngalokho inkosi yathi kuBhenaya, “Yenza njengokutsho kwakhe. Umtshaye umbhuqe, uhle umngcwabe, ukuze ungigeze mina kanye lendlu kababa kulowomlandu wegazi elingelacala elachithwa nguJowabi. ³² UTHIXO uzamjezisa ngegazi alichithayo, ngoba wahlasela wabulala amadoda amabili ngenkemba ubaba inkosi uDavida engakwazi. Bobabili u-Abhineri indodana kaNeri, umlawuli wamabutho ako-Israyeli, kanye lo-Amasa indodana kaJetha, umlawuli wamabutho akoJuda, babengamadoda angcono beqotho kulaye. ³³ Kungani umlandu waleligazi labo ungahlala phezu kukaJowabi labenzalo yakhe kuze kube nini lanini. Kodwa inkosi uDavida lenzalo yakhe, lendlu yakhe lesihlalo sobukhosi sakhe, angathi ingehlelwa yikuthula okungapheliyo KUKATHIXO.”

³⁴ UBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada wakhwela wafika wamtshaya uJowabi wambulala wayangcwatshwa esiqintini sakhe enkangala.

³⁵ Inkosi yabeka uBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada ukuba abe ngumlawuli webutho esikhundleni sikaJowabi kwathi esikhundleni sika-Abhiyathari yabeka uZadokhi umphristi.

³⁶ Ngakho inkosi yathi kayibizelwe uShimeyi yasisithi kuye. “Zakhele indlu eJerusalema uhlale khonale, kodwa ungayi ndawo. ³⁷ Mhla uzake usuke uchaphe uye eziHotsheni zeKhidironi, uhle wazi ngeqiniso ukuthi uzakufa, igazi lakho lizabizwa phezu kwakho.”

³⁸ UShimeyi wayiphendula inkosi wathi, “Lokho okutshoyo kuqondile. Inceku yakho izakwenza njengoba inkosi yayo itshilo.” Ngakho uShimeyi wahlala eJerusalema isikhathi eside.

³⁹ Kodwa kwathi sekwedlule iminyaka emithathu, izigqili zikaShimeyi ezimbili zabalekela ku-Akhishi indodana kaMahakha, inkosi yeGathi, njalo uShimeyi watshelwa ukuthi, “Izigqili zakho ziseGathi.” ⁴⁰ Ekuzwa lokhu, wethesa ubabhemi wakhe waya ku-Akhishi eGathi esiyadinga izigqili zakhe. Ngakho uShimeyi wabuya lazo izigqili zakhe evela eGathi.

⁴¹ USolomoni esetsheliwe ukuthi uShimeyi wayesuke eJerusalema waya eGathi waze waphenduka, ⁴² inkosi yambiza uShimeyi yathi kuye, “Angizange ngikufungise NGOTHIXO njalo ngakuqonqonsela ukuthi, ‘Mhla uzake usuke uye kwenye indawo uhle wazi ukuthi

ngempela uzakufa na?’ Ngalesosikhathi wathi kimi, ‘Okutshoyo kuqotho. Ngizalalela.’ ⁴³ Pho kungani ungagcinanga isifungo sakho kuTHIXO ulalele isiqondiso engakunika sona?”

⁴⁴ Inkosi njalo yathi kuShimeyi, “Uyakwazi enhliziyweni yakho konke ukona owakwenza kubaba uDavida. Khathesi uTHIXO uzakujezisa ngokona kwakho. ⁴⁵ Kodwa iNkosi uSolomoni izabusiwa, isihlalo sobukhosi sika-Davida sizahlala siqinile ngokuzinza phambi kuKATHIXO kuze kube nini lanini.”

⁴⁶ Ngakho yakhupha isiqondiso kuBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, yena waphuma wafika wamqonda uShimeyi wamlahla phansi wahle wambulala.

Ngalokho ubukhosi basebusezandleni zika-Solomoni ngokugcweleyo.

3

USolomoni Ucela Inhlakanipho

¹ USolomoni waba lobudlelwano loFaro inkosi yeGibhithe waze wathatha indodakazi yayo. Wayingenisa edolobheni likaDavida inkosikazi yakhe esaqedisa umsebenzi wokwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, lomduli ohonqolozele iJerusalema. ² Kodwa-ke, abantu babelokhu besanikelela ezindaweni eziphakemeyo ngoba ithempeli lalilokhu lilindele ukwakhiwa lisakhelwa ibizo LIKATHIXO. ³ USolomoni watshengisela uthando lwakhe kuTHIXO ngokuhamba njengokulaya kukayise uDavida, ngaphandle nje kokuthi wanikela iminikelo watshisa impepha ezindaweni eziphakemeyo.

⁴ Inkosi yaya eGibhiyoni ukuyanikela iminikelo, ngoba kwakuyiyo indawo eqhamileyo kweziphakemeyo, ngakho-ke uSolomoni wanikela ngeminikelo yokutshiswa eyinkulungwane kulelo-alithare. ⁵ Khonapho eGibhiyoni UTHIXO waziveza kuSolomoni ebusuku emaphutsheni lapho uNkulunkulu athi, “Cela loba yini ofuna ukuba ngikunike yona.”

⁶ USolomoni waphendula ngokuthi, “Utshengisile umusa omkhulu encekwini yakho, ubaba uDavida, ngenxa yokuthi wathembeka njalo elungile ngokuqonda enhliziyweni yakhe. Uqhubekele phambili ngomusa omkhulu kangaka wamnika indodana ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lamuhla lokhu.

⁷ Khathesi, THIXO Nkulunkulu wami, uyibekile inceku yakho yaba yinkosi esikhundleni sikababa uDavida. Kodwa ngingumntwana nje ongakwaziyo ukwenza umsebenzi okumele awenze. ⁸ Inceku yakho ilapha phakathi kwabantu bakho obakhethileyo, abantu abaqakathekileyo, abanengi okungabalwayo noma ukulandisa ngenani labo. ⁹ Phana inceku yakho inhliziyo elobubelo ukuze ibuse abantu bakho lokuthi yahlukanise phakathi kokuhle lokubi. Ngoba ngubani olamandla okubusa abantu bakho abakhulu kangaka?”

¹⁰ UTHIXO wathokoziswa yilesisicelo sika-Solomoni. ¹¹ Ngakho uNkulunkulu wathi kuye, “Njengoba ucele lokho kodwa ungacelanga impilo ende loba inotho, njalo awucelanga ukuthi ngabe izitha zakho ziyafa kodwa

ucele inhliziyo elobubele ekubuseni ngemfanelo,
¹² ngizakwenza lokho okucelileyo. Ngizaku-
 nika inhliziyo yenhlakanipho kanye lobubele,
 kube yikuthi akukaze kube khona ofanana
 lawe, njalo kungelakuthi uzake abekhona.
¹³ Phezu kwalokho, ngizakunika ongazange
 ukucele, kokubili inotho lokuhlonitshwa, kube
 khona ekuphileni kwakho konke njalo kungabi
 leyodwa inkosi ezalingana lawe. ¹⁴ Kanti
 njalo nxa uzathatha inyathelo lami ulalele
 imilayo lemithetho yami njengalokhu okwen-
 ziwa nguyihlo uDavida, ngizakunika impilo
 ende.” ¹⁵ Ngakho uSolomoni wasephaphama,
 wananzelela ukuthi kwakuliphupho.

Wabuyela eJerusalema, wayakuma phambi
 kwebhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO wanikela
 ngomnikelo wokutshiswa leminikelo yokuthula.
 Wenzela izinceku zakhe zonke zasendlini idili.

Ukwahlulela Okulenhlanipho

¹⁶ Kwasekusiba lezifebe ezimbili ezaya
 enkosini zafika zema phambi kwayo. ¹⁷ Esinye
 sathi, “Nkosi yami, umama lo sihlala ndlunye.
 Ngikhululeke ngazuza umntwana laye ekhona.
¹⁸ Kuthe ngosuku lwesithathu ngikhululekile
 laye umama lo wakhululeka wazuza umntwana.
 Besiyithi sodwa sobabili, kungelamuntu endlini
 ngaphandle kwethu sobabili.

¹⁹ Ebusuku indodana yalumama ifile ngoba
 usuke walala phezu kwayo. ²⁰ Wasevuka
 ebusuku wangemuka indodana yami mina
 ncekukazi yakho ngilele ubuthongo. Uthethe
 umntanami wayamxhuma ebeleni lakhe,

wathatha owakhe ofileyo wamfaka kwelami ibele. ²¹ Ekuseni ngithe ngivuka ukuba ngimunyise indodana yami, ngathola ukuthi isifile! Kodwa ngithe ngiyayikhangelisisa sokusile ngananzelela ukuthi akusiyo indodana yami engayizalayo.”

²² Omunye owesifazane wathi, “Hayi! Indodana le ephilayo ngeyami, efileyo ngeyakho.”

Kodwa umama wokususa indaba waphikelela esithi, “Hayi bo! Ofileyo ngowakho, ophilayo ngowami.” Ngakho-ke baphikisana phambi kwenkosi.

²³ Inkosi yathi, “Lo uthi, ‘Hayi bo! Indodana yami iyaphila kodwa eyakho ifile’ kanti belo loyana uthi, ‘Hayi bo! Eyakho indodana yiyo efileyo kodwa eyami ngephilayo.’”

²⁴ Inkosi yasisithi, “Lethani inkemba.” Lakanye inkosi bayiqhubela inkemba. ²⁵ Inkosi yapha isiqondiso yathi, “Dabulani umntwana ophilayo phakathi laphakathi kuthi ingxenye liyiqhubele omunye umama kuthi lomunye laye limnike enye ingxenye.”

²⁶ Owesifazane owayelendodana ephilayo wakhulelwa lusizi ngendodana yakhe ngakho wathi enkosini, “Uxolo, ngiyacela nkosi yami, kungcono umqhubele umntwana ephila, umnike nkosi! Ungambulali umntwana.”

Kodwa omunye wathi, “Kakho phakathi kwethu ofanele ukumzuza lumntwana, mqume iziqa ezimbili!”

²⁷ Inkosi yasiveza ukwahlulela kwayo: “Umntwana ophilayo mupheni umama

wakuqala. Lingambulali umntwana, lo nguye unina uqobo.”

²⁸ Kwathi abako-Israyeli sebezile bonke ukwahlulela kwenkosi, bayesaba kakhulu, ngoba babona ukuthi ukuhlakanipha kwayo kokwahlulela ngemfanelo kuvela kuNkulunkulu.

4

Iziphathamandla
BakaSolomoni

Labosibalukhulu

¹ Ngakho uSolomoni wabusa lonke elako-Israyeli.

² Njalo ababeyizikhulu embusweni wakhe yilaba:

U-Azariya indodana kaZadokhi umphristi;

³ u-Elihorefu lo-Ahija, amadodana kaShisha ababengonobhala;

uJehoshafathi indodana ka-Ahiludi wayemlondolozile wemibhalo;

⁴ uBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada umlawuli omkhulu;

uZadokhi lo-Abhiyathari babengabaphristi;

⁵ u-Azariya indodana kaNathani wayekhangele izikhulu zeziqinti;

uZabhudi indodana kaNathani wayengumphristi njalo engumcebisi osekhwapheeni lenkosi;

⁶ u-Ahishari umlawuli wasesigodlweni,

u-Adonirami indodana ka-Abhida wayekhangele izichaka.

7 USolomoni wayelezinye njalo izikhulu zeziqinti ezilitshumi lambili ezazikhangele ngokuqoqwa kokudla kwenkosi lomndlunkulu e-Israyeli. Kwakusithi isikhulu ngasinye silethe ukudla okwenyanga eyodwa ngomnyaka.

8 Nanka amabizo alezozikhulu:

uBheni-Huri wayephethe isiqinti samaqaqa ezweni lika-Efrayimi;

9 uBheni-Dekheri wayephethe eseMakhazi, leseShalibhimi, leseBhethi-Shemeshi kanye lese-Eloni-Bethihanani;

10 uBheni-Hesedi wayephethe ese-Arubhothi (eSokho lakulo lonke ilizwe leHeferi kungumango wakhe);

11 uBheni-Abhinadabi wayephethe eseNaphothi Dori (yena wayethethe uThafathi indodakazi kaSolomoni);

12 uBhana indodana ka-Ahiludi wayephethe eseThanakhi leMegido, lasezindaweni zonke zeBhethi-Shani phansi kweZarethani ngaphansi kweJezerili, kusuka eBhethi-Shani kusiya e-Abheli-Mehola kusuka lapho kuyengena ku-Abheli-Mehola kuquma kuyengena kuJokhimeyamu;

13 uBheni-Gebha eRamothe Giliyadi (imizana kaJayiri indodana kaManase eGiliyadi kwakungokwakhe, kanye lesiqinti se-Agobhi eBhashani kuhlenganisa lamadolobho amakhulu angamatshumi ayisithupha alemiduli lamasango avalwa ngezivalo ezenziwe ngemigqala yensimbi yethusi);

- 14 u-Ahinadabi indodana ka-Ido eMahanayimi;
 15 u-Ahimazi eNafithali (wayethethe uBhase-
 mathi indodakazi kaSolomoni);
 16 uBhana indodana kaHushayi ko-Asheri lako-
 Bheyalothi;
 17 uJehoshafathi indodana kaPharuya, ko-
 Isakhari;
 18 uShimeyi indodana ka-Ela koBhenjamini;
 19 uGebheri indodana ka-Uri eGiliyadi
 (elizweni likaSihoni inkosi yama-Amori
 kanye lelizwe lika-Ogi inkosi yeBhashani).
 Kwakunguye kuphela umbusi wesiqinti.

*Isabelo SikaSolomoni Sokudla Kwensuku
 Zonke*

²⁰ Abantu bakoJuda labako-Israyeli babeba-
 nengi okwesihlabathi solwandle; babesidla, be-
 natha njalo babejabula. ²¹ USolomoni wabusa
 kulolonke kusukela ezweni leMifula kusiya kwe-
 lamaFilistiya, kuze kube semingceleni yeGib-
 hithe. Wonke amazwe la ayethela njalo abuswa
 nguSolomoni okwempilo yakhe yonke.

²² Okwakufanele kudliwe esigodlweni
 sikaSolomoni nsuku zonke kwakubalisa
 ifulawa elicolekileyo elilingana amakhora
 angamatshumi amathathu lempuphu elingana
 amakhora angamatshumi ayisithupha,
²³ inkabi ezinonisiweyo ezilitshumi lenkomo
 ezingamatshumi amabili ezivela emadlweni,
 izimvu lembuzi ezilikhulu ngaphandle
 kwempala lemiziki lempunzi lengalukhuni
 ezinonisiweyo. ²⁴ Ngoba yena wabusa phezu
 kwemibuso entshonalanga koMfula, kusukela
 eThiphisa kusiya eGaza, njalo kwakulokuthula

kuzozonke lezo zindawo. ²⁵ Ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaSolomoni kuze kufike ekufeni kwakhe elakoJuda lako-Israyeli, kusukela kuDani kusiya kuBherishebha, abantu babehlezi bevikelekile, kungulowo lalowo emthunzini wesihlahla sakhe sevini loba esomkhiwa.

²⁶ USolomoni wayelezibaya zamabhiza enqola zakhe zokulwa eziyinkulungwane ezine, njalo wayelamabhiza azinkulungwane ezilishumi lambili.

²⁷ Izikhulu zesiqinti, sinye ngasinye ngenyanga yaso, kwakumele zizophisane ukulethela iNkosi uSolomoni ukudla lemfanelo yakhe lababezokwethekelela esikhosini. Izikhulu lezi zazinanzelela kakhulu ukuthi akukho lokukodwa okusilelayo esikhosini. ²⁸ Izikhulu zaziletha njalo isabelo sazo sengqoloyi lotshani bamabhiza ezingola zempi lamanye amabhiza.

Ukuhlakanipha KukaSolomoni

²⁹ UNkulunkulu wanika uSolomoni ukuhlakanipha lombono womzwangedwa, lokuqedisisa okujule njengetshebetshebe lolwandle. ³⁰ Ulwazi lukaSolomoni lwalujule ukwedlula olwezazi zonke zaseMpumalanga, njalo lujule ukwedlula ulwazi lonke lwaseGibhithe. ³¹ Wayehlakaniphe ukwedlula wonke amadoda, kubalwa kanye loEthani um' Ezira, ehlakaniphe ukwedlula uHemani, loKhalikholi loDada, amadodana kaMaholi. Njalo udumo lwakhe lwazwakala ezizweni zonke ezazakhelene laye. ³² Wabumba izaga eziyinkulungwane ezintathu kanti njalo izingoma zakhe zaba yinkulungwane eyodwa lezinhlanu.

³³ Wachasisa wahaya izihlahla, kusukela isihlahla somsedari waseLebhanoni lomhisophi okhula emidulini. Wafundisa njalo langezinyamazana lezinyoni, langezinanakazana lenhlanzi.

³⁴ Amadoda ayequbuka evela emhlabeni wonke ukuthi azozizwela ukukhalipha kwengqondo kaSolomoni, wonke lamadoda amanye evela khonapho lamanye evela ezizweni, eza ukuzakuzwa lokhukuhlakanipha.

5

Amalungiselelo Okwakhiwa KweThempeli

¹ Kwathi uHiramu inkosi yaseThire esizwa ukuthi uSolomoni ugcotshwe ukuba abe yinkosi athathe isihlalo sikayise, wathumela amanxusa akhe kuSolomoni njengoba wayevele ezwanana loDavida. ² Yena uSolomoni waphendula uHiramu wathi:

³ “Wena uyakwazi ukuthi ubaba uDavida kenelisanga ukwakhela iBizo LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe ithempeli ngenxa yezimpi ayezilwa inxa zonke, UTHIXO waze wamnqobela izitha zakhe. ⁴ Kodwa khathesi UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wami ungiphe ukuthula inxa zonke, ngakho akulasitha loba umonakalo. ⁵ Ngizimisele, ngenxa yalokho, ukwakha ithempeli leBizo LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wami, njengoba watshela ubaba uDavida wathi, ‘Indodana yakho engizayibeka esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi izakwakhela iBizo lami ithempeli.’

6 Khupha-ke iziqondiso zokuthi ngiganyulelwe izihlahla zomsedari waseLebhanoni. Amadoda avela kimi azasebenza kanye lawe, njalo amadoda avela kuwe ngizawaholisa leloholo ozalitsho wena. Uyakwazi ukuthi asilabo abawaziyo lowomsebenzi ngobuciko obungalingana lobamaSidoni.”

7 UHiramu wathi esizwa ilizwi elivela ku-Solomoni, wajabula kakhulu wathi, “Udumo kalube kuTHIXO lamuhla, ngoba unike uDavida indodana ehlakaniphileyo ezabusa lesisizwe esikhulu.”

8 Ngakho uHiramu wathumela ilizwi ku-Solomoni wathi:

“Ngilitholile ilizwi ongithumele lona njalo ngizakwenza konke okuzakuzuzisa izigodo zesihlahla somsedari lesohlobo lwephayini.

9 Amadoda ngapha ngakimi azagamula ahudule izigodo azifikise elwandle evela eLebhanoni, ngibe sengizehlisa ngemikolo ngize ngiyezifikisa lapha ozakutsho khona. Kulapho engizazehlukanisa khona wena ube usuzithathela khonapho uhambe lazo. Wena uzagcwalisa isifiso sami ngokunginika isiqiniseko sokuthi uzanginika ukudla komdlunkulu wami ukuze ungawelwa yindlala.”

10 Ngalindlela uHiramu walethela uSolomoni izigodo zesihlahla somsedari kanye lesephayini ayezifuna, 11 kanti njalo yena uSolomoni wapha uHiramu ingqoloyi elingana amakhora azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili

yomndlunkulu, phezu kwamafutha acengekileyo edira angamatanka azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili iminyaka leminyaka. ¹² UTHIXO wapha uSolomoni ingqondo ekhaliphileyo njengokumethembisa kwakhe. Kwaba lokuthula ebudlelwaneni bukaHiramu loSolomoni, kwathi bobabili benza isibopho sokuhlalisana ngokuthula.

¹³ INkosi uSolomoni yabutha izibhalwa zokusebenza elizweni lonke lako-Israyeli, ezazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁴ Wayezithumela eLebhanoni lezizibhalwa ngezigaba zabantu abazinkulungwane ezilitshumi izopha ngezopha ngenyanga, kuyikuthi lezizibhalwa zazisebenza eLebhanoni inyanga yonke zibe seziphumula ekhaya okwezinyanga ezimbili. U-Adonirami nguye owayephethe labo ababuthwa babayizibhalwa zomsebenzi. ¹⁵ USolomoni wayelabantu bokuthwala abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa kanye lababebaza amatshe abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye munye ezintabeni, ¹⁶ kanye lababekhangele abasebenzayo abangamakhulu amathathu lantathu lababebona ngokuqhubeka komsebenzi beqondisa izisebenzi. ¹⁷ Ngeziqondiso zenkosi bakhupha inkalakatha zamatshe amahle ukuze kube lamatshe amahle okwakhisa ngawo isisekelo sethempeli esilohlonzi. ¹⁸ Izingcitshi zokubaza zikaSolomoni lezikaHiramu lamaGebhali babaza balungisa izigodo lamatshe kusakhiwa ithempeli.

6

USolomoni Wakha IThempeli

¹ Ngomnyaka wamakhulu amane lasificam-inwembali abako-Israyeli baphuma eGibhithe, ngomnyaka wesine uSolomoni ebusa ko-Israyeli, ngenyanga kaZivi, iyinyanga yesibili, waqalisa ukwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO.

² Ithempeli elakhiwa yiNkosi uSolomoni elakhela UTHIXO lalizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi balo, lengalo ezingamatshumi amathathu ukuyaphezulu.

³ Isigaba sekhulusi elingaphambi kwendlu enkulu yethempeli sengezelela ububanzi lokuqhela kwethempeli, ngezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili njalo sasiphutsha ukwedlula indlu enkulu kusiya phambi kwayo ngezingalo ezilitshumi. ⁴ Amafasitela awenzayo ethempelini ayengamancinyane.

⁵ Emidulini yendlu enkulu yethempeli lasendlini engcwele ephakathi wakha esinye isimo, kulapho okwaba lezindlwana khona emaceleni.

⁶ Indawo ephansi kuzozonke yayibanzi okwezingalo ezinhlanu, kuthi iguma laphakathi lalizingalo eziyisithupha kanti-ke iguma lesithathu lalingaba ngeziyisikhombisa. Wakha imithangala ngaphandle kwethempeli ukuze kungabi lalutho olwaluzafakwa phakathi kwemiduli yethempeli.

⁷ Ekwakheni ithempeli, kwasetshenziswa amatshe ayebazwe alolongwa lapho ayevela khona kuphela, ngakho kwakungezwakali

sando, ihloka loba yiphi insimbi yokwakha ethempelini ngesikhathi kusakhiwa.

⁸ Umnyango weguma laphansi wawungezansi yethempeli; kulamakhwelelo okuya esigcawini saphakathi kuthi kusuka lapho kwedlulele esigcawini sesithathu. ⁹ Ngakho wakha ithempeli waliqeda, walifulela ngentungo lamapulanka ezigodo zomsedari. ¹⁰ Wasesakha izindlwana zalandelela imiduli yethempeli. Ubude bokuya phezulu kwendlwana ngayinye babuzingalo ezinhlanu, njalo zazibanjaniswe lemiduli yethempeli ngemijabo yezigodo zomsedari.

¹¹ Ilizwi LIKATHIXO leza kuSolomoni lathi, ¹² “Okwalelithempeli olakhayo, nxa ulandela iziqondiso zami, lemilayo yami ugcine konke engikulaya ngakho ukulandele, ngawe ngizagcwalisa zonke izithembiso engazenza kuyihlo uDavida. ¹³ Ngizahlala phakathi kwabantu bako-Israyeli njalo angiyikubatsiya abantu bami bako-Israyeli.”

¹⁴ Ngakho uSolomoni wakha ithempeli waliqeda. ¹⁵ Wacecisa emidulini yangaphakathi ngamapulanka omsedari, wavala ececisa kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni, walungisa iphansi lethempeli ngamapulanka ezigodo zephayini. ¹⁶ Waquma wavala indawo ezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili emsamo wethempeli ngamapulanka omsedari kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni esakha isiphephelo sangaphakathi kwethempeli, indawo eNgcwelengcwele. ¹⁷ Indlu enkulu phambi kwaleyo yona yayizingalo ezingamatshumi amane ubude bayo. ¹⁸ Ngaphakathi kwethempeli kwakwakhiwe

ngomsedari, ubazwe iziduku lamaluba aqhakazileyo. Konke kwakungumsedari, kungabonakali litshe lelilodwa.

¹⁹ Walungisa isiphephelo ngaphakathi kwethempeli ukubeka ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO khonapho. ²⁰ Isiphephelo sangaphakathi sasizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude, amatshumi amabili ububanzi njalo kungamatshumi amabili ukuyaphezulu. Wahuqa ingaphakathi ngegolide elicengekileyo, wasehuqa le-alithari lomsedari. ²¹ USolomoni wahuqa ingaphakathi yethempeli ngegolide elicengekileyo, njalo wengezelela amaketane egolide aquma phambi kwesiphephelo sangaphakathi, sona esasihuqwe ngegolide. ²² Ngakho wahuqa ingaphakathi yonke ngegolide. Wasehuqa njalo ngegolide i-alithari elalingelesiphephelo sangaphakathi.

²³ Phakathi kwesiphephelo sangaphakathi wenza amakherubhi amabili ngesihlahla som'oliva, ubude bokuya phezulu ngalinye buzingalo ezilitshumi. ²⁴ Uphiko olulodwa lwekherubhi lakuqala lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo, kanye lalolu olunye uphiko lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu, ingalo ezilitshumi kusukela ekucineni kophiko kusiya ekucineni kophiko. ²⁵ Ikherubhi lesibili lalo lalizingalo ezilitshumi, womabili amakherubhi ayingana njalo efanana isimo. ²⁶ Ubude bokuya phezulu bekherubhi ngalinye babuzingalo ezilitshumi. ²⁷ Amakherubhi wawafaka endlini ephakathi kwethempeli, amaphiko awo echayekile. Uphiko lwelinye ikherubhi lwathinta umduli wangapha

kwathi uphiko lwelinye lalo lwathinta umduli ngale, kwathi phakathi laphakathi kwendlu amaphiko awo athintana. ²⁸ Amakherubhi lawo wawahuqa ngegolide.

²⁹ Emidulini indawana yonke ukubhoda ithempeli, ezindlini zangaphakathi lezangaphandle wabaza amakherubhi, lezihlahla zamalala lamaluba aqhakazileyo. ³⁰ Wahuqa njalo iphansi lezindlu zangaphandle lezangaphakathi kwethempeli ngegolide.

³¹ Emnyango wesiphephelo sangaphakathi wenza izivalo zamapulanka om'oliva, imigubazi yakhona ilamacele amahlanu.

³² Kwathi ezivalweni zombili zom'oliva wabaza amakherubhi, lezihlahla zamalala lamaluba aqhakazileyo, wahuqa amakherubhi lezihlahla zamalala ngegolide elikhandiweyo.

³³ Ngokufananayo wenza imigubazi elamacele amane ngom'oliva emnyango wokungena endlini enkulu. ³⁴ Wenza njalo izivalo zomphayini ezimbili, ngasinye singesigoqeka kabili.

³⁵ Wabaza amakherubhi lezihlahla zamalala lamaluba aqhakazileyo kuzo wasewahuqa ngegolide likhandwe lalingana phezu kokubaziweyo.

³⁶ Wakhela njalo iguma langaphakathi imizila emithathu ngamatshe abaziweyo lowodwa owemijabo yomsedari.

³⁷ Isisekelo sethempeli LIKATHIXO samiswa ngomnyaka wesine ngenyanga kaZivi.

³⁸ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanye ngenyanga kaBhuli, inyanga yesificaminwembali, kwaba yikuphela kwethempeli lakhiwe njengokumiswa

kwalo langeziqondiso zalo. Wayethethe
iminyaka eyisikhombisa elakha.

7

USolomoni Wakha Isigodlo Sakhe

¹ Kwathatha uSolomoni iminyaka elitshumi
lantathu ukuqeda ukwakha isigodlo sakhe.

² Wakha isiGodlo seGusu leLebhanoni saba
side okwezingalo ezilikhulu, lamatshumi
amahlanu ububanzi lamatshumi amathathu
ukuyaphezulu, sakhelwe phezu kwezinsika
zemisedari eziyimizila emine, kulamapulanka
omsedari phezu kwayo. ³ Sasifulelwe

ngamapulanka omsedari ayephezu kwezinsika
ezingamatshumi amane lanhlanu, ziyimizila
emithathu, umzila ulezinsika ezilitshumi
lanhlanu. ⁴ Kwakulemizila emithathu
yamafasitela, ayeqondene. ⁵ Yonke iminyango

yayimiswe yaba magumbi mane; yayimiswe
ngaphambili ngamithathu, ikhangelene.

⁶ Wasesakha lendlu yezinsika, ubude bayo
buzingalo ezingamatshumi amahlanu, ububanzi
bayo bungezingamatshumi amathathu. Phambi
kwayo kulekhulusi elilezinsika phambili,
lophahla.

⁷ Wasesakha lendlu yesihlalo sobukhosi,
iNkundla Yokwahlulela, lapho ayezathonisela
khona amacala, wayendlala ngemisedari
kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni. ⁸ Isigodlo
sakhe ayezahlala kuso sasisegumeni elingemuva
kwendlu yokuthonisela amacala, yayakhiwe
ngokufananayo. USolomoni wakhela indodakazi

kaFaro ayeyithethe, isigodlo esifanana lendlu yenkundla.

⁹ Zonke lezizakhiwo, kusukela ngaphandle kuze kuyefika egumeni elikhulu phakathi kanye lokusuka esisekelweni kusiya esihlothini, zazakhiwe ngamatshe aqakathekileyo ayebazwe ngesilinganiso esahiwe kuhle ngaphakathi langaphandle kwawo. ¹⁰ Izisekelo zakhiwa ngamatshe amakhulu aqinileyo, amanye ayezingalo ezilitshumi amanye njalo ezingalo eziyisificaminwembili. ¹¹ Ngaphezulu kwakulamatshe aqinileyo, ebazwe ngesilinganiso, kanye lemijabo yomsedari. ¹² Iguma elikhulu lalibiyelwe ngomduli wemithando emithathu yamatshe yelekene kanye lalowomsedari obazwe kuhle, kanti kwakunjalo lasegumeni lethempeli LIKATHIXO lekhulusini lakhona.

Imicciso YeThempeli

¹³ INkosi uSolomoni yathumela eThire ukuba kulethwe uHuramu. ¹⁴ Unina wayengumfelokazi owesizwe sakoNafithali ezalwa yindoda eyayingeyeThire njalo eyayiyincitshi ekubazeni ithusi. UHuramu wayengumuntu ohlakaniphileyo elokuqedisisa njalo wayelobuciko leminwe ekubazeni ithusi. Waya enkosini uSolomoni wafika wenza yonke imisebenzi ayeyiphiwe.

¹⁵ Wabumba insika ezimbili zethusi ezazizinde okuzingalo eziyisificaminwembili ukuyaphezulu njalo ubundingilizi bazo zazizingalo ezilitshumi lambili ngomzila. ¹⁶ Wabumba njalo iziduku ezimbili zethusi ukuze zifakwe engqongeni yezinsika zona ezazizingalo ezinhlanu

ukuyaphezulu inye ngayinye. ¹⁷ Amambule amaketane ayephothene acecisa iziduku ezaziphezu kwezinsika eziyisikhombisa esidukwini sinye ngasinye. ¹⁸ Wenza imizila emibili yomceciso wamaphomegranathi, igqagqele amambule ukucecisa iziduku phezu kwezinsika. Wenza okufanayo esidukwini sinye ngasinye. ¹⁹ Iziduku ezaziphezu kwezinsika ekhulusini zazibunjwe okwemiduze, ziphakeme okwezingalo ezine. ²⁰ Phezu kweziduku ensikeni zombili, ngaphezu kwesigaba esiyingubhe phansi kwamambule, kungamaphomegranathi angamakhulu amabili emizileni inxa zonke. ²¹ Wakha lezonsika ekhulusini lethempeli. Insika eseningizimu wayibiza ngokuthi nguJakhini kwathi esenyakatho wayithi nguBhowazi. ²² Iziduku ezaziphezulu zazibunjwe okwemiduze. Wapheleliswa kanjalo umsebenzi wezinsika.

²³ Wasesenza uLwandle ngensimbi encibilikisiweyo, luyisigomboloji, luyizingalo ezilitshumi ukusuka emphethweni kusiya emphethweni luphakeme okwezingalo ezinhlanu. Ukulinganisa leyondingilizi kwakuthatha intambo ezingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu ukuyizingelezela. ²⁴ Ngaphansi komphetho, kungamaqhagana agqagqeleyo, elitshumi engalweni eyodwa. Amaqhagana la ayebunjwe abayimizila emibili ensimbininye loLwandle.

²⁵ ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwenkunzi ezilitshumi lambili, ezintathu zikhangele enyakatho, ezintathu zikhangele entshonalanga, ezintathu zikhangele eningizimu kuthi ezintathu

zikhangele empumalanga. ULwandle lwalugxile phezu kwazo, imilenze yazo igobele phakathi. ²⁶ Uhlonzi lwalulingana ububanzi besandla, umphetho ufanana lomphetho wenkomitsho, kufanana lokuqhakaza kweluba. Lwalungena izikhelelo ezizinkulungwane ezimbili.

²⁷ Wenza njalo amathala ethusi alitshumi aphakamisekayo ubude bawo buzingalo ezine, lobubanzi buzingalo ezine, ukuphakama kuzingalo ezintathu lilinye. ²⁸ Amathala ayenziwe ngalindlela: Kwakulezisekelo eziya phezulu emaceleni zinanyathiselwe. ²⁹ Kulezisekelo phakathi kwezinsika eziya phezulu kubunjelwe izilwane, inkunzi lamakherubhi, kuthi kulezonsika eziya phezulu kufanane njalo. Ngaphezulu langaphansi kwezilwane lenkunzi kulezinkatha ezikhandiweyo. ³⁰ Inqodlana nganye ilamavili lama-ekseli ethusi, njalo nganye ilomganu phezu kwezinsika ziceciswe ngemithando ekhandelwe inxa zonke. ³¹ Ngaphakathi kwenqodlana yinye nganye kuvulekile kuyisigombolozisi esitshona okwengalo eyodwa. Isikhala lesi siyisigombolozisi ngaphansi kwaso siyingalo elengxenyane. Em-lonyeni kukhona okwabazelwayo kungumceciso. Okubaziweyo emaceleni kulingana inxa zonke zone, kungayisiyo indingilizi. ³² Amavili womane engaphansi kwamapulanka, lama-ekseli amavili ebotschelwe enqodlaneni. Ububanzi bendingilizi yevili ngalinye bulingana ingalo eyodwa elengxenyane. ³³ Amavili akhona enziwe njengawenqola yempi, ama-ekseli, amarimu, lezipokisi zawo lamahabha awo enziwe ngen-simbi ezitshisiweyo.

³⁴ Inqodlana nganye yayilezibambo ezine, esisodwa sisegumbini linye, sigxile enqodlani. ³⁵ Phezu kwenqodlana kulomthando oyisizingelezi esitshona okwengxenye yengalo. Izisekelo lamapulanka kuxhume phezu kwenqodlana. ³⁶ Wabazela khona amakherubhi, izilwane kanye lezihlahla zamalala kuyo yonke indawo ebonakalayo lomceciso inxa zonke. ³⁷ Yiyoke le indlela ayenze ngayo izinqodlana ezilitshumi. Zazenziwe ngomkhando munye zilingana ubukhulu zilesimo sinye.

³⁸ Wasebumba imiganu elitshumi ngethusi, umunye uthatha izikhelelo ezingamatshumi amane ububanzi bayo buzingalo ezine, kusithi umganu owodwa ubekwa phezu kwenqodlana nganye yezilitshumi. ³⁹ Wasemisa inqodlana ezinhlanu zazo ngeningizimu yethempeli kwathi ezinhlanu zema enyakatho. ULwandle walubeka eningizimu, ejikweni laseningizimu yempumalanga kwethempeli. ⁴⁰ Wabumba njalo imiganu lamafotsholo lemiganu yesichelo.

Ngalokho uHuramu wawuphetha umsebenzi ayewenzela inkosi uSolomoni ethempelini
LIKATHIXO:

- ⁴¹ Izinsika ezimbili;
iziduku ezimbili ezibunjwe okomganu phezu
kwezinsika;
amambule amabili ececise iziduku ezimbili
eziyingubhe eziphezu kwezinsika;
⁴² amaphomegranathi angamakhulu amane
amambule womabili (imbule linye lilem-
izila emibili yamaphomegranathi, acecise

- iziduku eziyingubhe eziphezu kwezinsika);
⁴³ izingodlana ezilitshumi lenkonxa zazo ezil-
 itshumi;
⁴⁴ uLwandle lenkunzi ezilitshumi lambili
 ngaphansi kwalo;
⁴⁵ imbiza, amafotsholo lemiganu yesichelo.

Zonke lezizinto ezenzelwa iNkosi uSolomoni
 nguHuramu ezenzela ithempeli LIKATHIXO
 zazenziwe ngethusi elikhazimulayo. ⁴⁶ Inkosi
 yalungiselela ukuthi zonke zibunjwe
 ngesithombe somdaka emagcekeni aseJodani
 phakathi kwaseSukhothi laseZarethani.
⁴⁷ USolomoni wayekela konke lokhu
 kungalinganiswa isisindo sakho, ngenxa
 yokuthi kwakukunengi kakhulu; ubunzima
 bensimbi yethusi bungazanga bulinganiswe.

⁴⁸ USolomoni wenza yonke imiceciso
 eyayisethempelini LIKATHIXO:

- i-alithari legolide;
 itafula eliligolide lilesinkwa esiNgcwele
 sikaNkulunkulu;
⁴⁹ izinti zezibane zegolide elicengekileyo (ez-
 inhlanu zazo ngakwesokudla njalo zinhlanu
 langakwesokhohlo, phambi kwesiphephelo
 esingaphakathi);
 okubalazwe ngamaluba, izibane kanye lezind-
 lawu;
⁵⁰ imiganu yegolide elicengekileyo, izibane,
 imiganu yokuchelisa, izinditshi leyempepha;
 kanye lezibambo zezivalo zingezegolide
 ezazenzelwe indlu engaphakathi, indawo

eNgcwelengcwele, kanti-ke kwakunjalo
lezivalweni zendlu enkulu phakathi
kwethempeli.

⁵¹ Kwathi usuphelile wonke umsebenzi
owawenziwe yinkosi uSolomoni ekwakheni
kwakhe ithempeli LIKATHIXO, waletha
lezompahla ezazinikelwe nguyise uDavida,
isiliva legolide layo yonke imiceciso, konke
lokhu wakufaka endlini yenotho ethempelini
LIKATHIXO.

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Ibhokisi Lesivumelwano Lilethwa EThempelini

¹ Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni wamema abadala
bako-Israyeli ukuthi beze kuye eJerusalema,
bonke abazinhloko zezizwana lezinduna zez-
imuli zako-Israyeli, ukuthi balethe ibhokisi
lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO lisuka eZiyoni, uMuzi
kaDavida. ² Amadoda wonke ako-Israyeli
eza ndawonye enkosini uSolomoni ngesikhathi
somkhosi ngenyanga ebizwa ngokuthi ngu-
Ethaniami, inyanga yesikhombisa.

³ Kwathi bonke abadala bako-Israyeli sebe-
fikile, abaphristi bathwala ibhokisi lesivumel-
wano, ⁴ njalo basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumel-
wano SIKATHIXO kanye leThente lokuHlanganela
layo yonke imiceciso engcwele iphakathi kwalo.
Abaphristi labaLevi bakuthwala lokhu, ⁵ njalo

inkosi uSolomoni kanye lebandla lonke lako-Israyeli babebuthene ndawonye phambi kwebhokisi lesivumelwano, benikela ngezimvu langenkomo ababengeke bakwazi ukuloba inani lazo loba ukuzibala.

⁶ Abaphristi basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO endaweni yalo engcwele engaphakathi kwethempeli, iNdawo eNgcwelengcwele, basebelifaka ngaphansi kwamaphiko amakherubhi. ⁷ Amakherubhi elula impiko zawo phezu kwendawo yebhokisi lesivumelwano njalo agubuzela ibhokisi lesivumelwano kanye lezibambo zokulithwala. ⁸ Izigodo lezi zazizinde zibonakala nxa useNdaweni eNgcwele phambi kwesiphephelo esingaphakathi, kodwa hatshi nxa ungaphandle kweNdawo eNgcwele; lezo zilokhu zimi njalo lalamuhla. ⁹ Kwakungelalutho ebhokisini lesivumelwano ngaphandle kwezibhebhedu ezimbili zamatshe uMosi ayezifake phakathi kwalo eseHorebhi lapho UTHIXO enza khona isivumelwano labako-Israyeli ngemva kokuphuma kwabo eGibhithe.

¹⁰ Kwathi abaphristi sebesukile eNdaweni eNgcwele, iyezi lagcwala lagubuzela ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹¹ Abaphristi abenzanga inkonzo yabo ngenxa yeyezi, ngoba inkazimulo KATHIXO yayigcwele ethempelini lakhe.

¹² Ngakho uSolomoni wathi, “UTHIXO utshilo ukuba uzahlala eyezini elimnyama; ¹³ ngempela sengikwakhele ithempeli elibukekayo, indawo ozahlala kiyo kuze kube nini lanini.”

¹⁴ Kwathi ibandla lonke lako-Israyeli lisemi khonapho, inkosi yaphenduka yalibusisa.

¹⁵ Ngakho yasisithi:

“Udumo kuye UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ngesandla sakhe ophelelise ukwenza lokho akuthembisa ngowakhe umlomo ethembisa ubaba uDavida. Ngoba wathi, ¹⁶ ‘Kusukela mhla ngikhupha abantu bami abako-Israyeli eGibhithe, bengingakaze ngikhethe idolobho loba kukusiphi isizwana sako-Israyeli ukuthi ngakhelwe ithempeli leBizo lami khona, kodwa ngimkhethele uDavida ukuthi abuse abantu bami bako-Israyeli.’

¹⁷ Ubaba uDavida wayelakho enhliziyweni yakhe ukuthi akhe ithempeli leBizo LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁸ Kodwa UTHIXO wathi kubaba uDavida, ‘Wenza kuhle ngokuba lesifiso sokungakhela ithempeli leBizo lami enhliziyweni yakho. ¹⁹ Lanxa kunjalo, kakusuwe ozalakha lelothempele, kodwa lizakwaxhiwa yindodana yakho, eyinyama legazi lakho, yiyo ezakwakha ithempeli leBizo lami.’

²⁰ UTHIXO usigcinile isithembiso asenzayo: Sengiyinkosi esikhundleni sikababa uDavida njalo khathesi sengihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi sika-Israyeli njengokuthembisa KUKATHIXO, njalo sengakhele iBizo LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ithempeli. ²¹ Ngilungisile indawo khonaphana eyebhokisi lesivumelwano, kulapho okulesivumelwano SIKATHIXO asenza labokhokho ekubakhupheni kwakhe kwelamaGibhithe.”

Umkhuleko KaSolomoni Wokunikela

²² Ngalokho uSolomoni wema e-alithareni LIKATHIXO phambi kwebandla lonke lako-Israyeli, welula izandla zakhe waziphakamisela ezulwini ²³ wasesithi:

Oh “THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kakho uNkulunkulu onjengawe ezulwini phezulu loba emhlabeni ngaphansi, wena ogcina isivumelwano sakho sothando lezinceku zakho, wena oqhubeka ngenhliziyo yonke endleleni yakho. ²⁴ Usigcinile isithembiso sakho encekwini yakho uDavida ongubaba; ngomlomo wakho uthembisile njalo ngesandla sakho ukugcwalisile lokho njengoba kunjalo lamuhla.

²⁵ Khathesi THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, gcinela inceku yakho uDavida ubaba lezozithembiso owazenzayo lapho wathi, ‘Awuyikwehluleka loba sekutheni ukuzuza indoda ezahlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi ko-Israyeli, nxa amadodana akho ezananzelela ukuhamba phambi kwami njengalokhu okwenzileyo wena.’ ²⁶ Ngakho khathesi, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kaligcwaliseke ilizwi lesithembiso owalikhuluma kubaba uDavida inceku yakho.

²⁷ Kambe uNkulunkulu uzahlala emhlabeni na? Amazulu, kanye lezulu eliphakemeyo, alikulingani. Pho ithempeli leli engilakhileyo lingabe liyini kuwe na! ²⁸ Kodwa-ke akuzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho lokucela kwayo umusa, Oh THIXO Nkulunkulu wami. Zwana ukukhala lokukhuleka kwenceku yakho phambi kwakho ngalolusuku. ²⁹ Sengathi

amehlo akho angahlala phezu kwalelithempeli ebusuku lemini, yonale indawo owathi wena, 'IBizo lami lizakuba khonapha,' ukuze uzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho ngale indawo. ³⁰ Zwana isikhalazo senceku yakho lesabantu bakho bako-Israyeli nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kule indawo. Zwana usezulwini okuyindawo yakho yokuhlala, njalo nxa usizwa, uthethelele.

³¹ Nxa umuntu angonela umakhelwane wakhe, afungiswe, abesefunga isifungo phambi kwe-alithari lakho kulelithempeli, ³² zwana usezulwini wenze. Yahlulela phakathi kwezinceku zakho, umlahle olecala, wehlisele ekhanda lakhe lokho akwenzileyo. Tshono ukuthi ongonanga kalacala ukuze uveze ukuba msulwa kwakhe.

³³ Nxa abantu bakho abako-Israyeli behlulwe yisitha ngenxa yokona kwabo phambi kwakho, kuthi nxa sebephendukela ngakuwe bebiza ibizo lakho, bekhuleka njalo becela intethelelo kuwe kulelithempeli, ³⁴ lapho-ke zwana usezulwini uthethelele izono zabantu bakho bako-Israyeli njalo ubabuyisele elizweni owalinika okhokho babo.

³⁵ Nxa amazulu evaleka njalo kungaselazulu ngenxa yokuthi abantu bakho bonile phambi kwakho, njalo nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kule indawo bavume ibizo lakho batshiye izono zabo ngoba ubatshayile, ³⁶ lapho-ke zwana usezulwini uthethelele izinceku zakho izono zazo, abantu bakho bako-Israyeli. Bafundise indlela yokuphila eqondileyo, uthumele izulu

elizweni owalinika abantu bakho ukuba libe yilifa labo.

³⁷ Nxa kufika indlala kumbe isifo elizweni, ukukhunta lengumane, isikhongwane lemi-hogoyi, loba behanqwa yizitha kwelinye lamadolobho abo, loba yincithakalo enganani loba ngumkhuhlane onjani ongeza, ³⁸ kuthi lanxa kusenziwa umkhuleko kumbe isicelo ngomunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli, ngu-lowo lalowo ezazela inhlupheko ezinhliziyweni yakhe njalo ephakamisele izandla zakhe kulelithempeli, ³⁹ lalela usezulwini, okuyindawo yakho yokuhlala. Thethelela njalo wenzele umuntu munye ngamunye okuhambelana lezenzo zakhe ngoba wena uyazazi inhliziyo zabo (futhi nguwe wedwa owazi inhliziyo zabantu), ⁴⁰ yikho bezakwesaba imihla yabo yonke yokuphila beselizweni owalinika okhokho bethu.

⁴¹ Owezizweni ongasuye omunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli kodwa evela kude ngenxa yodumo lwebizo lakho ⁴² ngoba abantu bazakuzwa ngelakho ibizo eliqakathekileyo lesandla sakho esilamandla lengalo yakho eyeluliweyo, nxa esiza akhuleke ekhangele kulelithempeli, ⁴³ lapho-ke zwana usezulwini, indawo elilikhaya lakho, wenze loba yini owezizweni ayicela kuwe, ukuze bonke abantu bomhlaba balazi ibizo lakho njalo bakwesabe, njengoba abantu bakho abako-Israyeli bekwenza, baze bazi ukuthi indlu le engiyakhileyo ithwele iBizo lakho.

⁴⁴ Nxa abantu bakho bephuma besiya

empini ukuyakulwa lezitha zabo, loba kungaphi obathuma khona, njalo kuthi nxa bekhuleka kUTHIXO bekhangele edolobheni olikhethileyo wena kanye lethempelini engalakhela iBizo lakho, ⁴⁵ lapho-ke zwana usezulwini umkhuleko wabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubaphathise kulokho.

⁴⁶ Nxa bonile phambi kwakho, ngoba kakho ongoniyo njalo uze ubathukuthelele ubanikele ezitheni zabo ezibathumba zibase ezizweni zazo, ezikhatshana leziseduze; ⁴⁷ kuthi nxa bengaguquka ezinhliziyweni zabo besemazweni abayabe bethunjelwe kuwo, baphenduke bakuncenge besemazweni abathunjelwa khona bathi, 'Sonile, senza okungalunganga lokubi,' ⁴⁸ njalo nxa bephendukela kuwe ngezinhliziyiyo zabo zonke langemiphefumulo yabo elizweni lezitha zabo ezabathumbayo, bakhuleke kuwe bekhangele elizweni owalinika oyise, lasedolobheni owalikhethayo lethempeli engilakhele iBizo lakho, ⁴⁹ ngakho usezulwini, ikhaya lakho zwana imikhuleko yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubenzele khona lokho. ⁵⁰ Ubathethelele abantu bakho, abakonileyo wena, bathethelele kukho konke ukona kwabo kuwe, wenze izitha zabo zibe lomusa kubo; ⁵¹ ngoba bangabantu bakho njalo bayilifa lakho, bona owabakhipha eGibhithe, esihogweni esivuthayo esincibilikisa insimbi.

⁵² Sengathi amehlo akho angaba phezu kwenceku yakho ukukhala kwayo lokuncengela kwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli, sengathi

ungalalela ukukhala kwabo bekhulaza kuwe.
⁵³ Ngoba wabakhetha phakathi kwezizwe zonke zomhlaba ukuthi babe yilifa lakho, njengoba wakhuluma ngenceku yakho uMosi, lapho wena, Oh THIXO Wobukhosi, wakhipha okhokho bethu eGibhithe.”

⁵⁴ Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile imikhuleko le lezikhulazo kuTHIXO, waphakama wema phambi kwe-alithari LIKATHIXO, lapho ayekade eguqe khona ephakamisele izandla zakhe ezulwini.

⁵⁵ Waphakama wabusisa ibandla labako-Israyeli ngelizwi eliphezulu wathi:

⁵⁶ “Udumo kalube kuTHIXO, yena oletehe abantu bako-Israyeli ukuphumula njengokwethembisa kwakhe. Akukho lokukodwa okungenzekanga kuzozonke izithembiso ezinhle azenza ngenceku yakhe uMosi. ⁵⁷ Sengathi uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu angaba lathi njengoba wayelabokhokho bethu; sengathi angaze asitshiya loba asidele. ⁵⁸ Sengathi angaguqulela inhliziyo zethu kuye, sihambe ezindleleni zakhe sigcine lemilayo yakhe, imithetho lezimiso azipha okhokho. ⁵⁹ Sengathi amazwi ami la, engikhuleka ngawo kuTHIXO, angaba seduze kuKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu emini lebusuku, ukuze aqinise izikhulazo zenceku yakhe lezikhulazo zabantu bakhe bako-Israyeli kusiya ngeziswelo zabo zemihla ngemihla, ⁶⁰ ukuze abantu bonke bomhlaba bakwazi ukuthi uTHIXO unguNkulunkulu lokuthi kakho omunye. ⁶¹ Kodwa inhliziyo zenu azigcwalile ukuzinikela kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu,

ukuphila ngezimiso zakhe lokulalela imilayo yakhe, njengakhathesi.”

Ukunikelwa KweThempeli

⁶² Ngalokho inkosi labo bonke abako-Israyeli banikela imihlatshelo yabo phambi KUKATHIXO.

⁶³ USolomoni wanikela ngomhlatshelo wem- inikelo yobudlelwano KU^THIXO; inkomo ez- izinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lam- bili, izimvu lembuzi ezizinkulungwane ezi- likhulu lamatshumi amabili. Ngokunjalo inkosi labo bonke abako-Israyeli banikela ithempeli LIKATHIXO.

⁶⁴ Ngalelolanga inkosi yangcwelisa iphakathi leguma phambi kwethempeli LIKATHIXO, njalo kulapho eyanikela khona ngomnikelo wokutshiswa, umnikelo wamabele kanye lamafutha eminikelo yobudlelwano ngoba i-alithari lethusi elaliphambi KUKATHIXO lalilincinyane kakhulu ukuthi kutshiselwe kilo iminikelo yokutshiswa, leminikelo yamabele leminikelo yamafutha obudlelwano.

⁶⁵ Ngakho uSolomoni wagcina umkhosi ngale- sosikhathi ekanye lo-Israyeli wonke, ibandla elikhulu, abantu abavela eLebho Hamathi kusiya eSihotsheni saseGibhithe. Bawuthakazelela phambi KUKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu okwen- suku eziyisikhombisa lezinye eziyisikhombisa njalo zaba litshumi lane sezizonke. ⁶⁶ Ngosuku olulandelayo inkosi yabachitha. Bayibusisa inkosi basuka baya emakhaya abo, belen- tokozo bejabula ezinhliziyweni zabo ngakho

konke okuhle uTHIXO ayekwenzele inceku yakhe uDavida kanye labantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

9

UTHIXO Ubonakala KuSolomoni

¹ USolomoni eseqedile ukwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO lesigodlo sobukhosi, esenelisile konke ayezimisele ukukwenza, ² UTHIXO wabonakala kuye ngokwesibili, njengoba wayebonakele kuye eGibhiyoni. ³ UTHIXO wathi kuye:

“Sengiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho lesikhala-
lazo osenzileyo phambi kwami; sengilenze la-
bangcwele lelithempeli olakhileyo wena ngok-
ufaka iBizo lami kulo lanininini. Amehlo ami
kanye lenhliziyo yami kuzakuba phezu kwalo
ngezikhathi zonke.

⁴ Wena, unгахamba phambi kwami
ngobuqotho benhliziyo langokuqonda
njengoba uyihlo uDavida akwenza, wenze
konke engikulaya ngakho ugcine izimiso
zami lemithetho yami, ⁵ ngizaqinisa isihlalo
sakho sobukhosi phezu kuka-Israyeli kuze
kubekwe nininini, njengoba ngathembisa uyihlo
uDavida lapho ngathi, ‘Awuyikwehluleka
ukuzuza indoda esihlalweni sobukhosi ko-
Israyeli.’

⁶ Kodwa nxa wena kanye lamadodana
akho lingifulathela lingagcini imithetho
lezimiso zami engilnike khona beselisuka
liye kwabanye onkulunkulu libakhonze,
⁷ ngizamthathela u-Israyeli umhlaba
engangimnike wona ngilikalale leli ithempeli
esengilingcwelisile ngeBizo lami. U-Israyeli

uzadelelwa abe yinhlekisa ebantwini bonke. ⁸ Lelithempeli lizakuba yinqumbi yamatshe. Bonke abedlula lapha bazakwenyanya bahleke ulunya bathi, 'Kanti kungani uTHIXO enze into enje kulelizwe lakulelithempeli na?' ⁹ Abantu bazaphendula bathi, 'Kungenxa yokuthi sebedele uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wabo, owakhapha oyise eGibhithe, ngoba sebesuke banamathela kwabanye onkulunkulu, babakhonza njalo babasebenzela yikho-nje uTHIXO esebhlisele incithakalo yonke le.' "

Ezinye Izenzo ZikaSolomoni

¹⁰ Ekupheleni kweminyaka engamatshumi amabili, lapho uSolomoni akha khona lezizindlu ezimbili, ithempeli LIKATHIXO kanye lesigodlo sobukhosi, ¹¹ iNkosi uSolomoni wanikela amadolobho angamatshumi amabili aweGalile kuHiramu inkosi yaseThire, ngoba uHiramu wayemnike zonke izigodo zesihlahla somsedari lezephayini legolide ayekufuna. ¹² Kodwa uHiramu wathi esesuka eThire esiyabona amadolobho ayewaphiwe nguSolomoni, kazange ajabule ngawo. ¹³ Wambuza wathi, "Ngamadolobho bani la onginike wona, mfowethu?" njalo wayewabiza ngokuthi yilizwe leKhabhuli, okulibizo alokhu ebizwa ngalo lalamuhla. ¹⁴ Kunjalo-nje uHiramu wayethumele uSolomoni igolide elalingamathalenta alikhulu elilamatshumi amabili (120).

¹⁵ Nansi imbali yokubanjwa ngamandla kwabantu yiNkosi uSolomoni ukwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, ukwakhiwa kwesigodlo

sakhe, ledundulu elithiwa yiMilo, lomduli weJerusalema kanye leHazori, iMegido kanye leGezeri. ¹⁶ (UFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe wayehlasele wathumba iGezeri. Wayeyithungele ngomlilo wayitshisa. Wayebulele amaKhenani ayehlala khona, yona wasekhunga ngayo indodakazi yakhe, umkaSolomoni. ¹⁷ USolomoni waseyakha kutsha iGezeri.) Wakha iBhethi-Horoni esezansi, ¹⁸ leBhalathi, kanye leThamari enkangala, phakathi kwelizwe lakhe, ¹⁹ kanye lamadolobho ayeyiziphala lemizi yezinqola zakhe zempi kanye lamabhiza akhe lakho konke nje ayengafisa ukukwakha eJerusalema leLebhanoni kanye lakulo lonke ilizwe ayelibusa.

²⁰ Kubo bonke abantu abasalayo bama-Amori, amaHithi, amaPherizi, amaHivi lamaJebusi (lababantu babengasibo ama-Israyeli) ²¹ okutsho ukuthi, izizukulwane zabo ezasalayo ama-Israyeli angazibulalanga aziqeda, laba uSolomoni wababamba isibhalo sokwenza umsebenzi wakhe wobugqili, njengoba kunjalo lalamuhla lokhu. ²² Kodwa uSolomoni kabenzanga izigqili abako-Israyeli; babengamadoda okumlwela, iziphathamandla zikahulumende, izikhulu zakhe, izinduna, kanye labalawuli bezingqola zakhe zempi labatshayeli bazo. ²³ Njalo babeyizikhulu zokukhokhela imisebenzi eqakathekileyo kaSolomoni, izikhulu ezingamakhulu amahlanu lamatshumi amahlanu (550) ezazikhangela amadoda ayesenza umsebenzi.

²⁴ Ngemva kokufika kwendodakazi kaFaro esigodlweni eyayisakhelwe nguSolomoni isuka

eMzini kaDavida, wakha njalo idundulu elithiwa yiMilo.

²⁵ Kathathu ngomnyaka uSolomoni wanikela umnikelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wobudlelwano e-alithareni ayelakhele UTHIXO, etshisa impepha phambi KUKATHIXO kanye lemihlatshelo. Ngalokho wagcwalisa imilandu yezimiso zethempeli.

²⁶ INkosi uSolomoni wakha njalo imikhumbi e-Eziyoni-Gebheri, eseduzane le-Elathi ngase-Edomi, ekhunjini loLwandle oluBomvu.

²⁷ Kunjalo-nje uHiram wathumela abantu bakhe, abagwedli ababelwazi ulwandle ukuba bayesebenza emikhunjini labakaSolomoni.

²⁸ Bagwedla baya e-Ofiri baphenduka legolide elilesisindo samathalenta angamakhulu amane lamatshumi amabili (420), baya lethula enkosini uSolomoni.

10

Indlovukazi YaseShebha Yethekelela USolomoni

¹ Indlovukazi yaseShebha yathi isizwile ngodumo lukaSolomoni lokubambelela kwakhe ebizweni LIKATHIXO, yaya kuye ukuba imlinge ngemibuzo enzima. ² Ekufikeni

kwayo eJerusalem yayiqhuba udwende olukhulu, lamakamela ethwele iziyoliso, igolide elinengi kakhulu lamatshe aligugu, yafika kuSolomoni yakhuluma laye ngakho konke lokho okwakusengqondweni yayo.

³ USolomoni wayiphendula yonke imibuzo yayo, akubanga lalutho olwaba nzima enkosini ukuthi

iyichasisele lona. ⁴ Indlovukazi yaseShebha isiyibonile yonke inhlakanipho kaSolomoni lesigodlo ayesakhile, ⁵ ukudla okwakusetafuleni lakhe, ukuhlaliswa kwezikhulu zakhe, izinceku zakhe lezembatho zazo, abaphathi benkezo bakhe, leminikelo yokutshiswa ayenzela uTHIXO ethempelini, yaphela amandla.

⁶ Yathi enkosini, “Imibiko ebifika ezindlebeni zami elizweni lami ngengqubelaphambili langenhlanipho yakho iqotho. ⁷ Kodwa angizange ngikukholwe lokho ngaze ngafika mina ngokwami njalo ngazibonela ngawami amehlo. Ngempela, bengingatshelwanga ngitsho lengxenye nje; ukuhlakanipha kwakho lokuphumelela kwakho kuyayedlula imibiko engayizwayo. ⁸ Yeka intokozo abalayo abantu bakho! Ziyathokoza iziphathamandla zakho, zona ezima phambi kwakho zizwe inhlakanipho yakho! ⁹ Udumo kalube kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho, yena othokoze ngawe wakubeka esihlalweni sobukhosi bako-Israyeli. Ngenxa yothando olunaphakade LUKATHIXO ku-Israyeli, ukubekile waba yinkosi, ukuze ugcine ukwahlulela ngemfanelo lokulunga.”

¹⁰ Yanika inkosi igolide elingamathalenta alikhulu lamatshumi amabili (120), lenqwabanqwaba zeziyoliso lamatshe aligugu. Akuzange kulethwe iziyoliso ezinengi kangako futhi njen-galezo indlovukazi yaseShebha eyazipha iNkosi uSolomoni.

¹¹ (Imikhumbi kaHiramu yaletsa igolide livela e-Ofiri; njalo yethula lemithwalo emikhulu yamapulanka amahle lamatshe aligugu. ¹² Inkosi

yasebenzisa amapulanka amahle njengezinsika zethempeli LIKATHIXO kanye lesigodlo sobukhosi, lokwenza imihubhe lemiqangala yabahlabeleli. Akuzange kubuye kube lamapulanka amahle amanengi kangako angeniswayo elizweni loba abonwayo selokhu kwaba yilelolanga.)

¹³ Inkosi uSolomoni yanika indlovukazi yaseShebha yonke into eyayiyifisa leyayicelayo, ngaphandle kwalokho ayinika khona kuphuma esigodlweni. Yasisuka lodwendwe lwayo yabuyela elizweni lakibo.

Udumo LukaSolomoni

¹⁴ Isisindo segolide elalizuzwa nguSolomoni minyaka yonke lalingamathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi ayisithupha lesithupha (666), ¹⁵ kungabalwa inzuzo eyayivela emithelweni yabathengisayo labathenga bethengisa kanye leyayivela emakhosini wonke ama-Arabhu kanye lababusi belizwe.

¹⁶ Inkosi uSolomoni yenza amahawu amakhulu angamakhulu amabili ngegolide elikhandiweyo; lilinye langena amashekeli angamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹⁷ Wenza njalo amanye amahawu amancinyane angamakhulu amathathu ngegolide elikhandiweyo, lilinye lilegugu lokuthathu kwegolide. Inkosi yawafaka esigodlweni seHlathi laseLebhanoni.

¹⁸ Inkosi yasisenza isihlalo sobukhosi esikhulu sisekelwa ngempondo zendlovu sihuqwe ngegolide elihle. ¹⁹ Isihlalo sobukhosi sasilezinyathelo eziyisithupha, ngemva kwaso phezulu siyindingilizi. Emaceleni aso womabili

sasilezeyamelo zengalo, yileso laleso kumi isilwane eceleni kwaso. ²⁰ Izilwane ezilitshumi lambili zazimi ezinyathelweni eziyisithupha, kusithi esisodwa esinyathelweni ngasinye ngapha langapha emaceleni esinyathelo. Akukho okufanana lalokhu okwake kwenziwa lakuwuphi umbuso. ²¹ Zonke inkezo zenkosi uSolomoni zazingezegolide, lazozonke izitsha zeSigodlweni saseGuswini laseLebhanoni zazingezegolide elicolekileyo. Akukho okwakwenziwe ngesiliva ngoba ngensuku zikaSolomoni igugu lesiliva lalilincinyane kakhulu. ²² Inkosi yayilemikhumbi yokuthengiselana eminengi eyayisolwandle iphathisana lekaHiramu. Yayiphenduka kanye ngemva kweminyaka emithathu ithwele igolide, isiliva kanye lempondo zendlovu, indwangu lenkawu.

²³ INkosi uSolomoni yawedlula wonke amakhosi omhlaba ngenotho langenhlananipho. ²⁴ Umhlaba wonke weza kuSolomoni ukuzokuzwa inhlakanipho uNkulunkulu ayeyifake enhliziyweni yakhe. ²⁵ Minyaka yonke amlethela izipho zesiliva lezegolide, izembatho, izikhali leziyoliso, lamabhiza kanye lezimbongolo.

²⁶ USolomoni waqoqa izinqola zokulwa lamabhiza; wayelezinqola zokulwa eziyinkulungwane elamakhulu amane, amabhiza azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili ayewagcina emadolobheni awezinqola zempi amanye egcinwe kuye eJerusalema.

²⁷ Inkosi yandisa isiliva kwangani ngamatshe

eJerusalema, lezihlahla zomsedari zanda kwangani yizihlahla zomkhiwa wesikhamore emawatheni ezintaba. ²⁸ Amabhiza kaSolomoni ayethengwe eGibhithe laseKhuwe, abathengi besikhosini babewathenga eKhuwe. ²⁹ Bathenga ingola yempi eGibhithe ngamashekeli esiliva angamakhulu ayisithupha kanye lebhiza ngamashekeli alikhulu elilamatshumi amahlanu. Babuya bawedlulisa wonke bayawathengisela amakhosi amaHithi kanye lawama-Aramu.

11

Abafazi BakaSolomoni

¹ Inkosi uSolomoni yayibathanda kakhulu abafazi bezizweni kanye lendodakazi kaFaro, amaMowabi, ama-Amoni, ama-Edomi, amaSidoni lamaHithi. ² Babengabezizwe uTHIXO ayethe kwabako-Israyeli, “Lingathathani labo, ngoba bazaguqulela inhliziyo zenu kubonkulunkulu babo.” Lanxa kunjalo, uSolomoni wabambelela kubo ngothando. ³ Wayelabafazi abangamakhulu ayisikhombisa ababezalwa esikhosini labanye abafazi beceleni abangamakhulu amathathu; lakanye abafazi bakhe baphambukisa inhliziyo yakhe. ⁴ Ekuluphaleni kwakhe uSolomoni, abafazi bakhe baphambulela ukhoho lwakhe kwabanye onkulunkulu, inhliziyo yakhe ayizange ilandele uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe ngokupheleleyo, njengenhiziyo kaDavida uyise. ⁵ USolomoni walandela u-Ashithorethi unkulunkulu wamaSidoni, loMoleki unkulunkulu onengekayo wama-Amoni. ⁶ Ngalokho uSolomoni wona

phambi KUKATHIXO; kazange alandele UTHIXO ngokupheleleyo, njengokwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida.

⁷ Eqaqeni olusempumalanga yeJerusalema, uSolomoni wakhela unkulunkulu onengekayo wamaMowabi uKhemoshi, loMoleki unkulunkulu onengekayo wama-Amoni indawo yomhlatshelo. ⁸ Wenza okufananayo kubo bonke abafazi bakhe bezizweni, batshisa impepha banikela ngemihlatshelo kubonkulunkulu babo.

⁹ UTHIXO wamthukuthelela uSolomoni ngoba inhliziyo yakhe yayisimfulathele UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ayezibonakalise kuye kabili. ¹⁰ Lanxa wayemlayile uSolomoni ukuba angalandeli abanye onkulunkulu, uSolomoni kazange awulandele umlayo KATHIXO. ¹¹ Ngakho UTHIXO wasesithi kuSolomoni. “Njengoba le kuyiyo injongo yakho njalo awugcinanga isivumelwano sami kanye lezimiso zami, lezo engakulaya ngazo, impela ngizawuhluthuna umbuso wakho kuwe ngiwunike omunye wabantu abangaphansi kwakho. ¹² Loba kunjalo, ngenxa kaDavida uyihlo, angiyikwenza lokho wena usaphila. Ngizawuhluthuna esandleni sendodana yakho. ¹³ Kanti njalo angiyikuwuhluthuna wonke umbuso kuyo, kodwa ngizayinika isizwana esisodwa ngenxa kaDavida incekuyami njalo langenxa yeJerusalema, yona esengiyikhethile.”

Izitha ZikaSolomoni

¹⁴ Ngakho UTHIXO wasemvusele isitha uSolomoni, uHadadi um'Edomi owesikhosini sama-Edomi. ¹⁵ Mandulo uDavida esalwa

lama-Edomi, uJowabi umlawuli webutho, owayengcwaba abafileyo, wayetshaye wabhuqa wonke amadoda ama-Edomi. ¹⁶ UJowabi lawo wonke ama-Israyeli ahlala khonale okwezinyanga eziyisithupha, baze babhubhisa wonke amadoda e-Edomi. ¹⁷ Kodwa uHadadi, esesengumfanyana, wabalekela eGibhithe lezinye izikhulu zama-Edomi ezazisebenzele uyise. ¹⁸ Basuka eMidiyani baya ePharani. Bathe sebethatha amadoda ePharani behamba lawo, baya eGibhithe, kuFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe, yena owapha uHadadi indlu kanye lomhlaba waze wamnika kanye lokudla.

¹⁹ UHadadi wathandeka kakhulu kuFaro, waze wamendisela udadewabo womkakhe, udadewabo kaThaphenesi iNdlovukazi. ²⁰ Udadewabo kaThaphenesi wamzalela indodana eyathiwa nguGenubhathi. UThaphenesi wayondlela esigodlweni, kulapho-ke uGenubathi ahlala khona labantwana bakaFaro.

²¹ Kwathi uHadadi esezwile eseGibhithe ukuthi uDavida kasekho lokuthi uJowabi induna yempi sewafa, wathi kuFaro: “Ake ungivumele ukuba ngiye elizweni lakithi.”

²² UFaro wathi kuye, “Usweleni lapha okwenza ufune ukubuyela elizweni lakini na?”

UHadadi waphendula wathi, “Akulalutho kodwa ngivumela ngihambe!”

²³ UNkulunkulu wamvusela njalo uSolomoni esinye isitha, uRezoni indodana ka-Eliyada owayebalekile enkosini yakhe uHadadezeri inkosi yaseZobha. ²⁴ Waqoqa ixuku labahlamuki waba ngumkhokheli walo ngesikhathi uDavida

echitha impi kaZobha; abahlamuki baya eDamaseko lapho bafika bahlala khona bayiphatha leyondawo. ²⁵ URezoni waba yisitha sako-Israyeli ngesikhathi sokuphila kukaSolomoni, wengezelela kuloluhlupho olwasungulwa nguHadadi. Ngakho uRezoni wabusa e-Aramu ehlezi ezonda ilizwe lako-Israyeli.

UJerobhowamu Uhlamukela USolomoni

²⁶ UJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi laye wahlamukela inkosi. Wayekade engesinye sezikhulu zikaSolomoni, engowesizwana sika-Efrayimi evela eZereda, unina owayethiwa nguZeruwa wayengumfelokazi.

²⁷ Le yimbali yokuhlamukela kwakhe inkosi: USolomoni wayakhe walungisa amagama ayizisekelo, njalo wagcwalisa evala isikhala esasisele emdulini wedolobho likayise uDavida.

²⁸ UJerobhowamu wayeyindoda eyaziwayo, uSolomoni uthe ebona ukuthi wayelijaha elenza kuhle kanganani umsebenzi walo, wambeka induna yezisebenzi zonke endlini kaJosefa.

²⁹ Ngalesosikhathi uJerobhowamu waphuma eJerusalema, wahlangana lomphrofethi weShilo u-Ahija endleleni, eggoke isigqoko esitsha. Bahlangana bebodwa bobabili kuleyondawo,

³⁰ kwathi u-Ahija wathatha isigqoko esitsha ayesigqokile wasidabula iziqa ezilitshumi lambili.

³¹ Wasesithi kuJerobhowamu, “Wena zithathele iziqa ezilitshumi kulezi, ngoba uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli uthi, ‘Khangela, ngizahluthuna umbuso esandleni

sikaSolomoni ngikunike izizwana ezilitshumi.

³² Kodwa ngenxa yenceku yami uDavida ledolobho leJerusalema, lona engilikhethileyo phakathi kwazo zonke izizwana zako-Israyeli, ngizamtshiyela isizwana esisodwa.

³³ Ngizakwenza lokhu ngoba bangifulathele bakhonza u-Ashithorethi unkulunkulukazi wamaSidoni, loKhemoshi unkulunkulu wamaMowabi, kanye loMoleki unkulunkulu wama-Amoni, njalo abahambanga ngezami izindlela, abenzanga ukulunga phambi kwami, abayigcinanga imilayo lemithetho yami njengalokhu okwenziwa nguDavida uyise kaSolomoni.

³⁴ Kodwa angiyikususa umbuso wonke esandleni sikaSolomoni; ngizamenza ukuba abe ngumbusi okwempilo yakhe yonke ngenxa yenceku yami uDavida, yena engamkhethayo njalo wayilandela imilayo yami wayigcina lemithetho yami. ³⁵ Ngizathatha umbuso esandleni sendodana yakhe ngikunike izizwana ezilitshumi. ³⁶ Ngizanika indodana yakhe isizwana esisodwa ukuze inceku yami uDavida ibe lesibane ngezikhathi zonke phambi kwami eJerusalema, umuzi engakhetha ukufaka iBizo lami.

³⁷ Kodwa-ke, wena ngokwakho, ngizakuthatha, njalo uzabusa phezu kwakho konke njengokufisa kwenhliziyi yakho yonke; uzakuba ngumbusi walo lonke elako-Israyeli. ³⁸ Nxa ungenza engikulaya ngakho uhambe ngezindlela zami wenze okuhle emehlweni ami okunjen-gokulalela imilayo yami lokulawulwa yimi, njengalokhu okwenziwa yinceku yami uDavida, un-

genza njalo ngizakuba lawe. Ngizawuqinisa um-buso wakho njengokaDavida njalo ngizakunika u-Israyeli. ³⁹ Ngizabethula isithunzi abenzalo kaDavida ngenxa yalokhu, kodwa hatshi kuze kube nininini.’”

⁴⁰ USolomoni wazama ukubulala uJerob-howamu kodwa uJerobhowamu wabalekela eGibhithe, enkosini uShishakhi, njalo wahlala khonale uSolomoni waze wafa.

Ukufa KukaSolomoni

⁴¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ezenzakala ekubuseni kukaSolomoni lakho konke akwenzayo lenhlakanipho yakhe ayitshengiselayo akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali kaSolomoni na? ⁴² USolomoni wabusa eJerusalema phezu kuka-Israyeli okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. ⁴³ Kwaba yikho ukufa kwakhe eselandela oyise njalo wangcwatshwelwa emzini kaDavida uyise. URehobhowami indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi ngemva kwakhe.

12

U-Israyeli Uhlamukela URehobhowami

¹ URehobhowami waya eShekhemu, njengoba abako-Israyeli bonke babeye khona ukuyam-beka ukuba abe yinkosi. ² UJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi wakuzwa lokhu (elokhu eseGibhithe, lapho ayebalekele khona ebalekela inkosi uSolomoni) wabuya evela eGibhithe.

³ Ngakho bakhupha ilizwi lokunxusa uJerobhowamu; kwathi yena labo bonke abako-Israyeli baya kuRehobhowami bafika bathi kuye: ⁴ “Uyihlo wasethesa ijogwe elinzima kakhulu, wena phungula lumthwalo olochuku lejogwe elinzima esaletheswa nguyihlo, yikho sizakukhonza.”

⁵ URehobhowami waphendula wathi: “Sukani lapha okwensuku ezintathu beseliphenduka libuye kimi.” Ngakho abantu bahamba.

⁶ INkosi uRehobhowami wabuza abadala besizwe ababehlale njalo basebenza loyise uSolomoni esaphila. Wababuza abadala wathi: “Lingangicebisa ukuthi ngibaphendule ngithini lababantu?”

⁷ Baphendula bathi, “Nxaxaxa lamuhla ungaba yinceku yalabantu, ubasebenzele, ukhulumisane labo kuhle, bazahlala bezinceku zakho.”

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

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

¹² Ngemva kwensuku ezintathu uJerobhowamu labo bonke abantu babuyela kuRehobhowami, njengalokho okwakitshiwo yinkosi ukuthi, “Phendukani lize kimi ngemva kwensuku ezintathu.” ¹³ Inkosi yasiphendula abantu ngolaka. Yalahla izicebiso eyayiziphiwe ngabadala, ¹⁴ yalandela ukucebisa kwabatsha, yathi, “Ubaba walethesa ijogwe elinzima, mina ngizalenza libe nzima okuphindiweyo. Ubaba walixathula ngemichilo, mina ngizalintinyela ngenkume.” ¹⁵ Ngakho inkosi ayizange ibalalele abantu, ngoba lokhu okwakusenzakala ngokwakuvela kuTHIXO, ukugcwalisa ilizwi LIKATHIXO elaphiwa uJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi ngo-Ahija waseShilo.

¹⁶ Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli sebebonile ukuthi inkosi yalile ukubalalela, bayiphendula inkosi bathi:

“Silesabelo bani kuDavida,
yingxanye bani endodaneni kaJese?

Emathenteni enu bako-Israyeli!

Gcina indlu yakho, wena kaDavida!”

Ngakho abako-Israyeli babuyela emakhaya. ¹⁷ Kodwa uRehobhowami waqhubeka eabusa abako-Israyeli ababehlala emadolobheni akoJuda.

¹⁸ INkosi uRehobhowami yathuma u-Adoniramamu, owayephethe izibhalwa, kodwa bonke abako-Israyeli bamkhanda ngamatshe bambulala. Kodwa iNkosi uRehobhowami, yona yenelisa ukubaleka ngenqola yempi yaya

eJerusalema. ¹⁹ Kusukela ngalesosikhathi abako-Israyeli bayihlamukela indlu kaDavida kuze kube lamuhla.

²⁰ Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli besizwa ukuthi uJerobhowamu usebuyile bambizela enkundleni lapho abafika bambeka ukuba abe yinkosi yalo lonke elako-Israyeli. Isizwana sakoJuda saba yiso sodwa esasala sibuswa yindlu kaDavida.

²¹ Kwathi uRehobhowami esefike eJerusalema wabuthanisa bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini, amadoda empi azinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi ayisificaminwembili ukuba bayekulwa labako-Israyeli ukuze babuyisele uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni esihlalweni sobukhosi.

²² Kodwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu leza kuShemaya inceku kaNkulunkulu. ²³ “Tshono kuRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni inkosi yakoJuda, kubo bonke abendlu kaJuda lekaBhenjamini, lakubo bonke abanye abantu uthi, ²⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO ukuthi: Lingahambi ukuyakulwa labafowenu, abako-Israyeli. Yanini emakhaya enu, munye ngamunye, ngoba lokhu okwenzakalayo kuvela kimi.’” Ngakho balilalela ilizwi LIKATHIXO babuyela emakhaya abo, njengokulaywa kwabo NGUTHIXO.

Amathole Egolide EBhetheli Kanye LakoDani

²⁵ UJerobhowamu wasesakha iShekhemu elizweni lamaqaqa elako-Efrayimi wahlala khonale. Esuka lapho waphuma wayakwakha ePheniweli.

²⁶ UJerobhowamu wacabanga wathi, “Umbuso usuzabuyela endlini kaDavida. ²⁷ Nxa abantu

laba bangayanikela imihlatshelo ethempelini LIKATHIXO eJerusalema, bazaphinda baphe usekelo lwabo enkosini, uRehobhowami inkosi yakoJuda. Bazangibulala babuyele enkosini uRehobhowami.”

²⁸ Ngemva kokudinga ukwelulekwa, inkosi yenza amathole egolide amabili. Yasisithi ebantwini, “Kunzima kakhulu kini ukuthi liye eJerusalema. Nampa onkulunkulu benu, Oh Israyeli, abalikhupha eGibhithe.” ²⁹ Wasemisa elinye eBhetheli, elinye njalo eDani. ³⁰ Lokhu kwaba yisono; abantu babesiya khonale eDani ukuyakhonza lelo elalikhonale.

³¹ UJerobhowamu wakha amathempeli ezindaweni eziphakemeyo wasebeka abaphristi emihlotsheni yonke yabantu, lakulabo ababengasibo abaLevi. ³² Wamisa umkhosi ngosuku lwetshumi lanhlanu ngenyanga yetshumi lasificaminwembili, owawunjengomkhosi owasusenziwa koJuda, wanikela imihlatshelo e-Alithareni. Lokhu wakwenza eBhetheli, enikela ematholeni ayewenzile. LeBhetheli wabeka abaphristi ezindaweni eziphezulu ayezenzile. ³³ Ngosuku lwetshumi lanhlanu lwenyanga yesificaminwembili, inyanga ayezikhethele yona, wanikela imihlatshelo e-alithareni ayelakhile eBhetheli. Ngakho wamisa umkhosi kwabako-Israyeli waya e-alithareni ukuyanikela imihlatshelo.

13

Umuntu KaNkulunkulu Ovela Kojuda

1 UJerobhowamu esemi e-alithareni ukuze atshise impepha, kwafika umuntu kaNkulunkulu eBhetheli evela koJuda elelizwi LIKATHIXO, ² walethula e-alithareni lelilizwi LIKATHIXO elithi: “Wena alithare! Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO ukuthi, ‘Kuzazalwa indodana endlini kaDavida, ibizo lakhe lizakuba nguJosiya. Izakwenza umhlatshele phezu kwakho ngabaphristi bezindawo eziphakemeyo okwakhathesi abenza iminikelo khona lapha, lamathambo abantu azatshiselwa phezu kwakho.’” ³ Ngalolosuku umuntu kaNkulunkulu wenza isibonakaliso esithi: “Lesi yisiboniso esivela KUTHIXO: I-alithari lizadatshulwa phakathi lomlotha ophezu kwalo uzachithwa.”

⁴ Inkosi uJerobhowamu isizwile isikhalazo sendoda evela kuNkulunkulu nge-alithare leBhetheli yelulela isandla sayo e-alithareni, yathi, “Mbambeni!” Kodwa isandla leso ayeselulile soma wehluleka ukusifinyeza. ⁵ Kwathi i-alithari lalo ladatshulwa phakathi umlotha walo walahlwa, njengokwesibonakaliso esasethulwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngelizwi LIKATHIXO.

⁶ Inkosi yathi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, “Ake ungincengele KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho, ungikhulekele, ukuba isandla sami sisiliswe sibuyele esimeni saso.” Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasemncengela KUTHIXO, lesandla sikaJerobhowamu sasiliswa saba njengakuqala.

⁷ Wasesithi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu: “Ake siye ekhaya ukuba udle, ngizakunika umvuzo.”

⁸ Kodwa umuntu kaNkulunkulu wayiphendula inkosi wathi, “Loba ungaze unginike ingxenywe

yenotho yakho, kangihambi lawe; kangiyikudla ukudla, njalo angiyikunatha amanzi kulin-dawo; ⁹ ngoba ngilaywe ngelizwi LIKATHIXO ukuthi: ‘Ungabokudla ukudla, unganathi amanzi njalo ungaphenduki ngendlela oze ngayo.’”

¹⁰ Ngakho wabuyela ngenye indlela, kasabuyelanga ngendlela ayeze ngayo eBhetheli.

¹¹ Kwakulomphrofethi omdala owayehlala eBhetheli, okweza kuye amadodana akhe amtshela ngokwakwenziwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngalolosuku. Amadodana atshela uyise lokuthi indoda leyo yayitheni enkosini.

¹² Uyise wasebuza amadodana ukuthi: “Pho angabe uhambe ngayiphi indlela?” Amadodana atshengisa uyise indlela eyathathwa ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu owavela koJuda. ¹³ Wasesithi emadodaneni akhe, “Lungisani ubabhemi lingifakele isihlalo phezu kwakhe.” Kwathi sebemlungisele wagada ubabhemi ¹⁴ walandela umuntu kaNkulunkulu, wamfica ehlezi ngaphansi kwesihlahla som’Okhi wambuza wathi, “Nguwe umuntu kaNkulunkulu na ovela koJuda?”

Indoda yathi, “Yebo yimi.”

¹⁵ Ngakho umphrofethi wasesithi kuye, “Woza siye ekhaya uzokudla.”

¹⁶ Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi, “Angingeke ngiphenduke ukuthi ngibuyele lawe emuva, njalo angingeke ngidle ukudla loba nginathe amanzi lawe kule indawo. ¹⁷ Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lifike kimi lathi, ‘Ungadli ukudla kwalapha, unganathi lamanzi akhona njalo ungabobuyela ngendlela oze ngayo.’”

¹⁸ Umphrofethi omdala wamphendula wathi, “Lami ngingumphrofethi njengawe. Ingilosi seza kimi ngelizwi LIKATHIXO sathi: ‘Ubomletha umbuyisele emuva endlini yakho ukuze ayekudla isinkwa njalo anathe lamanzi.’” (Kodwa wayeqamba amanga.) ¹⁹ Ngakho umuntu kaNkulunkulu wabuyela laye wafika wadla ukudla wanatha lamanzi endlini yakhe.

²⁰ Besahlezi endaweni yokudlela, ilizwi LIKATHIXO lafika kuye umphrofethi omdala owayemphendule wabuyela laye emuva. ²¹ Wakhuluma kulowomuntu kaNkulunkulu owayevela kojuda wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: ‘Usuphikise ilizwi LIKATHIXO awusagcinanga imilayo KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho akulaya ngayo. ²² Uphenduke endleleni wafika wadla ukudla wanatha lamanzi lapho utshelwe ukuthi ungaze wadla ukudla kumbe unathe amanzi akhona. Ngenxa yalokho isidumbu sakho asisayikungcwatshwa emangcwabeni abokhokho bakho.’”

²³ Kwathi umuntu kaNkulunkulu eseqedile ukudla lokunatha, umphrofethi owayemphendule endleleni wambuyisela emuva wafaka isihlalo sakhe phezu kukababhemi wamkhweza. ²⁴ Uthe esengene indlela yakhe, kwavela isilwane endleleni sambulala, isidumbu sakhe sasala phansi emgwaqweni, kwathi ubabhemi wema ngapha kwesidumbu lesilwane sime ngale kwaso. ²⁵ Abantu ababesedlula lapho babona isidumbu siwele khonapho emgwaqweni, isilwane simi eceleni phansi kwesidumbu, bedlulela edolobheni bayabikela umphrofethi om-

dala lapho ayehlala khona.

²⁶ Kwathi umphrofethi owayemphendule endleleni ehambeni lwakhe ekuzwa lokhu, wathi, “Ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu odelele ilizwi LIKATHIXO. UTHIXO umnikele esilwaneni, esimphoqoze sambulala, njengoba ilizwi LIKATHIXO belimxwayisile.”

²⁷ Umphrofethi wathi emadodaneni akhe, “Ngilungiselani ubabhemi limethese isihlalo.” Akwenza lokho amadodana, ²⁸ wasesuka esiya khonale lapho afumana khona isidumbu endleleni, ngapha kumi isilwane ngale kungubabhemi emaceleni aso. Isilwane asizange sisithinte isidumbu kanti njalo sasivele singazange simthinte lobabhemi. ²⁹ Ngakho umphrofethi wathatha isidumbu somuntu kaNkulunkulu, wasikhweza kubabhemi, wasithwalela edolobheni lakhe lapho afika amlilela khona njalo wamngcwaba khona. ³⁰ Wasebeka isidumbu engcwabeni lakhe, wamlilela wathi, “Maye, umfowethu!”

³¹ Ngemva kokumngcwaba, wathi emadodaneni akhe, “Ekufeni kwami, lingingcwabe engcwabeni lona leli okungcwatshwe khona umuntu kaNkulunkulu; libeke amathambo ami ndawonye lamathambo akhe. ³² Ngoba ilizwi alimemezelayo ngelizwi LIKATHIXO phezu kwealithari eBhetheli laphezu kwazo zonke indawana zomhlathelo eziphakemeyo emadolobheni aseSamariya lizagcwaliseka.”

³³ Langemva kwalokhu, uJerobhowamu kazange aguqule izindlela zakhe zokona, waqhubeka ekhetha abaphristi bendawo

eziphakemeyo edobha nje ingqe ngubani ebantwini. Kwakusithi loba ngubani ofuna ukuba ngumphristi wayemgcobela indawo eziphezulu. ³⁴ Lesi kwakuyisono sendlu kaJerobhowamu esakhokhelela ekuweni lasekudilikeni kwayo kayaze yaba khona emhlabeni.

14

Isiphrofethi Sika-Ahija Esibi NgoJerobhowamu

¹ Ngalesosikhathi u-Abhija indodana kaJerobhowamu wagula, ² uJerobhowamu wathi kumkakhe, “Hamba, uzifihle ngesinye isimo, ukuze kungabikhona ozakunanzelela ukuthi ungumkaJerobhowamu. Ube ususiya eShilo. U-Ahija umphrofethi ukhonale onguye owangitshela ukuthi ngizakuba yinkosi yabantu laba. ³ Uthathe izinkwa ezilitshumi, amakhekhe athile kanye legabha loluju, ube ususiya kuye. Uzakutshela okumele kwenzakale emntwaneni.” ⁴ Ngakho umkaJerobhowamu wenza lokho ayekutshilo wasesiya endlini ka-Ahija eShilo.

U-Ahija wayengasaboni, eseyisiphofu ngenxa yokuluphala. ⁵ Kodwa uTHIXO wayetshele u-Ahija ukuthi, “UmkaJerobhowamu uyeza uzokubuza ngendodana yakhe, iyagula, njalo uzamnika impendulo le lale ngalokhu lalokhuyana. Ekufikeni kwakhe uzakwenza kungathi kayisuye ezifihla.”

⁶ Kwathi u-Ahija esizwa izisinde zakhe phandle wahle wema emnyango, wathi, “Ngena, Nkosikazi kaJerobhowamu, kanti ngokwani ukuzenzisa? Ngithunywe kuwe

ngilombiko omubi. ⁷ Hamba, uyetshela uJerobhowamu ukuthi lokhu yikho okutshiwo NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: 'Ngakondla wakhula phakathi kwabantu ngakwenza umkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli. ⁸ Ngaxebula umbuso endlini kaDavida ngawunika wena, kodwa awuzange wenze njengenceku yami uDavida, yena owagcina imilayo yami njalo wangilandela ngayo yonke inhliziyo yakhe, esenza konke okuhle phambi kwami. ⁹ Wonile okudlula bonke abakwandulelayo. Usuzidalele abanye onkulunkulu, izithombe ezikhandwe ngensimbi, ungithukuthelisile ngazonda njalo ungifulathele.

¹⁰ Ngenxa yalokho ngizakwehlisela incithakalo endlini kaJerobhowamu. Ngizabhubhisa bonke abesilisa bokucina ekuzalweni kwabakaJerobhowamu ko-Israyeli loba yisigqili loba okhululekileyo. Ngizayitshisa indlu kaJerobhowamu kungathi ngibase ubulongwe, ize iphele du.

¹¹ Izinja zizabadla bonke abakaJerobhowamu abafele edolobheni, lezinyoni zemkhathini zizazitika ngalabo abafela emaphandleni. UTHIXO usekhulumile!'

¹² Wena, buyela ekhaya. Uzakuthi ubeka unyawo lwakho edolobheni umfana ahle afe.

¹³ U-Israyeli uzalila amngcwabe. Nguye yedwa kwabakaJerobhowamu ozangcwatshwa, ngoba nguye yedwa endlini kaJerobhowamu, UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, amthole enze ukulunga.

¹⁴ UTHIXO uzazivusela owakhe umbusi ozakuba yinkosi phezu kuka-Israyeli,

ozachitha imuli kaJerobhowamu. Lamuhla yikho ukuqala kwakho lokho.* ¹⁵ UTHIXO uzamtshaya u-Israyeli, kungathi ngumhlanga uzunguzeka emanzini. Uzamquphuna u-Israyeli elizweni lakhe elihle alinika okhokho bakhe abachithe ngaphetsheya komfula uYufrathe, ngoba UTHIXO bamvuse ulaka ngokwenza izinsika zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera. ¹⁶ Njalo uzamlahla u-Israyeli ngenxa yezono zikaJerobhowamu azenzileyo wakhokhelela lo-Israyeli ukuzenza.”

¹⁷ UmkaJerobhowamu wasuka lapho waqonda eThiza. Wathi enyathela egumeni, indodana yafa. ¹⁸ Bayingcwaba njalo, u-Israyeli wonke wayililela njengoba UTHIXO wayetshilo ngenceku yakhe umphrofethi u-Ahija.

¹⁹ Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJerobhowamu, izimpi lokuthi wabusa njani, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ²⁰ Wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili wasesiyaphumula labokhokho bakhe ekufeni. Indodana yakhe uNadabi wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi.

URehobhowami Inkosi YakoJuda

²¹ URehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni waba yinkosi wabusa koJuda. Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye eqalisa ukubusa, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa eJerusalema idolobho elakhethwa NGUTHIXO phakathi kwezizwana zonke zako-Israyeli

* **14:14** 14.14 Okutshiwo ngumutsho lo ngesiHebheru akukho sobala.

ukubeka iBizo lakhe. Unina wayenguNahama; engowase-Amoni.

²² AbakoJuda bona phambi KUKATHIXO. Ngokona lokhu, bavusa ubukhwele bolaka lwakhe ukwedlula okwakwenziwe ngoyise.

²³ Bazakhela njalo indawo eziphakemeyo zeminikelo, amatshe azilayo lezinsika zika-Ashera ezintabeni zonke langaphansi kwemithunzi yezihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

²⁴ Kwakukhona lapho amadoda afeba lamanye amadoda ezindaweni zemihlatshelo phakathi kwelizwe; abantu ababesenza wonke amanyala ezizwe UTHIXO ayezixotshile phansi kwabako-Israyeli.

²⁵ Ngomnyaka wesihlanu kaRehobhowami, uShishakhi inkosi yaseGibhithe wahlasela iJerusalema.

²⁶ Wabutha yonke inotho yethempeli LIKATHIXO kanye lenotho yesigodlo sobukhosi. Wahuquluza konke kanye lamahawu enziwe ngegolide ayekhandwe nguSolomoni.

²⁷ Ngakho iNkosi uRehobhowami yakhanda amahawu ethusi ukwenanisa lawo yawabela abakhokheli babalindimasango besigodlweni.

²⁸ Kwakusithi nxa inkosi isiya ethempelini LIKATHIXO, abalindi babewathwala amahawu lawo, baphinde bawabuyisele endlini yabalindi.

²⁹ Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kukaRehobhowami, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda?

³⁰ Kwahlala kulempi phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowamu.

³¹ URehobhowami wakhothama, wangcwatshwa labokhokho bakhe eMzini kaDavida. Unina

wayenguNahama, engum'Amoni. U-Abhija indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi waba yinkosi ngemva kukayise.

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U-Abhija Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili wokubusa kukaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, u-Abhija waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ² njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emithathu. Ibizo likanina lalinguMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhisalomu.

³ Wenza zonke izono ezazisenziwa nguyise, inhliziyo yakhe yayingekho ekukhonzeni uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe, inganjengenhliziyi kaDavida ukhokho wakhe. ⁴ Kungenani, ngenxa kaDavida uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wamnika isibane eJerusalema ngokuveza indodana eyayizathatha isihlalo sakhe langokuqinisa iJerusalema.

⁵ UDavida wayekwenzile konke okufaneleyo emehlweni KATHIXO njalo kehlulekanga ukugcina imilayo KATHIXO kuzozonke insuku zokuphila kwakhe ngaphandle kwendaba ka-Uriya umHithi.

⁶ Kwaba lempi phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowamu ngasonke isikhathi sokuphila kuka-Abhija. ⁷ Okunye okumayelana lombuso ka-Abhija, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda? Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Abhija loJerobhowamu.

⁸ U-Abhija waphumula laboyise wangcwatshwa emzini kaDavida. U-Asa indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi bukayise.

U-Asa Inkosi YakoJuda

⁹ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili okubusa kukaJerobhowamu inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Asa waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ¹⁰ wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane lowodwa. Ibizo likagogo wakhe lalinguMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhisalomu.

¹¹ U-Asa wenza okubukekayo phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguDavida uyise. ¹² Waxotsha abesilisa ababefeba ngokwenzana abafazi, wadiliza zonke izithombe ezazakhiwe ngoyise. ¹³ Waze waxotsha kanye logogo wakhe uMahakha wamsusa esihlalweni sokuba yindlovukazi yomndlunkulu, ngoba wayebumbe isithombe esilhlazo sika-Ashera. U-Asa wasidilizela phansi lesisithombe wayasitshisela eSigodini saseKhidironi. ¹⁴ Noma engadilizanga izindawo eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela, inhliziyo ka-Asa yayinamatele KUTHIXO impilo yakhe yonke. ¹⁵ Waletha ethempelini LIKATHIXO isiliva legolide lonke uyise kanye laye ababekunikele lezinye impahla.

¹⁶ Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Asa loBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli ekubuseni kwabo bonke. ¹⁷ UBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli waqophana loJuda wasesakha umuzi weRama ukuvimbela loba ngubani owayezama ukuphuma loba ukungena elizweni lika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda.

¹⁸ U-Asa wasethatha isiliva sonke legolide elalisele eziphaleni zokuligugu ethempelini LIKATHIXO lokwakusesigodlweni sakhe. Wakubeka ezandleni zezikhulu zakhe

wazithumela kuBheni-Hadadi indodana kaThabhrimoni, oyindodana kaHeziyoni, inkosi yase-Aramu, owayebusa eDamaseko. ¹⁹ “Akubekhona ubudlelwano phakathi kwami lawe,” watsho, eqhubeka wathi, “njengoba kwakunjalo phakathi kukayihlo lobaba. Khangela ngikuthumela izipho zesiliva legolide. Wena quma ubudlelwano bakho loBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli yikho ezaphuma elizweni lami.”

²⁰ UBheni-Hadadi wavumelana lenkosi u-Asa wasethumela abalawuli bamabutho akhe ukuyahlasela amadolobho ako-Israyeli. Wanqoba ele-Ijoni, eleDani, ele-Abheli-Bhethi-Mahakha lalo lonke elaseKhinerehi kanye leNafithali. ²¹ UBhasha wathi ekuzwa lokhu, wema ukwakha iRama wasehlelela eThiza. ²² Inkosi u-Asa yaquma ukuthi kungasali muntu kulolonke elakoJuda. Basebethutha eRama bethwala amatshe lamapulanka ayekade esetshenziswa nguBhasha kuleyondawo. Ngalokho inkosi u-Asa yakha iGebha kwelakoBhenjamini, leMizipha.

²³ Konke okumayelana lombuso ka-Asa, lalokho anqoba kikho, lamadolobho wonke ayewakhile, akulotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda? Kodwa-ke, ekuluphaleni kwakhe, waba lomkhuhlane ezinyaweni zakhe. ²⁴ Ngakho u-Asa waya ekuphumuleni wangcwatshwa laboyise emzini kayise uDavida. Kwathi indodana yakhe uJehoshafathi wathatha isihlalo sakhe sobukhosi.

UNadabi Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

²⁵ UNadabi indodana kaJerobhowamu waba yinkosi yabako-Israyeli ngomnyaka wesibili ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, njalo wabusa abako-Israyeli okweminyaka emibili. ²⁶ Wona wenza okubi emehlweni KATHIXO, wahamba ngendlela kayise lasezonweni zakhe, lezo ezazibangele ukuthi u-Israyeli angene kuzo adale isono.

²⁷ UBhasha indodana ka-Ahija owendlu ka-Isakhari waceba ukumbulala. Wambulala eG-ibhethoni elinye lamadolobho amaFilistiya, ngesikhathi uNadabi labo bonke abako-Israyeli belihanqile. ²⁸ UBhasha wabulala uNadabi ngomnyaka wesithathu wombuso ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda wasehlala esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi.

²⁹ Waqalisa ukubusa wahle wabulala bonke abendlu kaJerobhowamu. Kazange atshiyele uJerobhowamu loyedwa kodwa wabhuhisa bonke elandela ilizwi LIKATHIXO eleza lenceku yakhe u-Ahija waseShilo ³⁰ ngenxa yezono zikaJerobhowamu ayezenzile njalo enguye owabangela ukuthi u-Israyeli one, ngoba wathukuthelisa UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

³¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kukaNadabi, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? ³² Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Asa loBhasha inkosi yako-Israyeli ngesikhathi sonke sokubusa kwabo.

UBhasha Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

³³ Ngomnyaka wesithathu ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, uBhasha indodana ka-Ahija waba yinkosi yalo lonke elako-Israyeli laseThiza, njalo wabusa iminyaka engamatshumi amabili lane. ³⁴ Wona

phambi KUKATHIXO, wahamba ngendlela kaJerobhowamu lezono zakhe, lezo abangela u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze.

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¹ Ilizwi LIKATHIXO leza kuJehu indodana kaHanani lisongela uBhasha lisithi:
² “Ngakususa othulini ngakwenza umkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli, kodwa wasuka wahamba ngezindlela zikaJerobhowamu njalo wabangela abantu bami bako-Israyeli ukuthi bone bangithukuthelise ngezono zabo.
³ Ngakho sekufanele ngichithe uBhasha labendlu yakhe, njalo indlu yakho ngizakwenza ifanane lekaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi.
⁴ Bazadliwa yizinja abangabakaBhasha abazafela edolobheni, kanti izinyoni zasemoyeni zizakudla labo abazafela emangweni.”

⁵ Okunye okumayelana lombuso kaBhasha, akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? ⁶ UBhasha waphumula laboyise wembelwa eThiza. Kwathi u-Ela indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi yabusa.

⁷ Njalo ilizwi lafika livela kuTHIXO ngoJehu indodana kaHanani lisiya kuBhasha labendlu yakhe, ngoba kulezono ezinengi ayezenzile emehlweni KATHIXO, wamthukuthelisa ngezinto abazenzayo, waze wafanana labendlu kaJerobhowamu kanye lokuthi wayichitha.

U-Ela Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

⁸ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesithupha wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, u-Ela indodana kaBhasha waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli njalo wabusa eThiza okweminyaka emibili.

⁹ UZimri, esinye sezikhulu zakhe, owayelawula ingxenye yezinqola zempi, waceba ukumbulala. U-Ela wayeseThiza ngalesosikhathi, esidla edakwa endlini ka-Ariza, indoda eyayiphethe isigodlo saseThiza. ¹⁰ UZimri wangena, wamtshaya wambulala. Kwakungumnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda. Wasethatha isikhundla sakhe sobukhosi waba yinkosi.

¹¹ Uthe egalisa ukubusa esehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, wabulala bonke abendlu kaBhasha. Katshiyanga ndoda noma kuyisihlobo loba kungumngane. ¹² Ngakho uZimri wabhuhisa bonke abendlu kaBhasha, kwaba njengokwatshiwo NGUTHIXO owasongela uBhasha ngomphrofethi uJehu ¹³ ngenxa yazo zonke izono azenzayo uBhasha lendodana yakhe u-Ela; benza lo-Israyeli wona kwaze kwaqubula UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, wazonda ngenxa yezithombe zabo eziyize.

¹⁴ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Ela, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini encwadini yembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli?

UZimri Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹⁵ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, uZimri wabusa eThiza okwensuku eziyisikhombisa. Ibutho lalisenkambeni yaseGibhethoni,

idolobho lamaFilistiya. ¹⁶ Abako-Israyeli bathi sebezwiwe ukuthi uZimri wakha icebo lokubulala inkosi lakanye wayibulala, babeka u-Omri, umlawuli webutho wahle waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli mhlalokho enkambeni. ¹⁷ U-Omri labo bonke abako-Israyeli bahlehla basuka eGibhethoni bayavimbezela iThiza. ¹⁸ UZimri uthe ebona ukuthi idolobho laselithethwe, waya enqabeni yesigodlo senkosi wathungela isigodlo sesikhosini ngomlilo lapho ayekhona. Ngakho wafa, ¹⁹ ngenxa yezono azenzayo, esenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO njalo kwakungaselamuntu ohamba ngendlela zikaJerobhowamu lasezonweni ayengene kuzo lalezo ayebangela u-Israyeli ukuba azenze.

²⁰ Ezinye izehlakalo zokubusa kukaZimri, lomvukela ayewenzile, akulotshwanga na ogwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli?

U-Omri Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

²¹ Kwasekusiba lokudabukana phakathi kwabantu bako-Israyeli, abanye babesekela uThibhini indodana kaGinathi ukuthi abe yinkosi, abanye besekela u-Omri. ²² Kodwa ke kwabasobala ukuthi abalandeli baka-Omri bayabakhulela abakaThibhini indodana kaGinathi. Ngakho uThibhini wafa u-Omri waba yinkosi.

²³ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lanye ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, u-Omri waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lambili, eyisithupha yayo eseThiza. ²⁴ Wathenga uqaqa lwaseSamariya kuShemeri ngamathalenta amabili esiliva njalo wakha idolobho phezu

koqaqa lolo walibiza ngokuthi Samariya, elubiza ngoShemeri, owayekade engumnikazi walo.

²⁵ Kodwa u-Omri wona waba lezono phambi KUKATHIXO, njalo yena wona okwedlula bonke abamandulelayo. ²⁶ Wahamba ngazozonke izindlela zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi kanye lasezonweni zakhe, abangela ukuthi u-Israyeli azenze, ngalokho baqubula UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, wazonda ngenxa yezithombe zabo eziyize.

²⁷ Okwembali yokubusa kuka-Omri, akwenzayo kanye layephumelele kukho, akulotshwanga na ogwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? ²⁸ U-Omri waphumula kuboyise wembelwa eSamariya. Kwathi u-Ahabi indodana yakhe wabusa ngemva kwakhe.

U-Ahabi Uba Yinkosi Yako-Israyeli

²⁹ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lasifincaminwembali wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yako-Juda, u-Ahabi indodana ka-Omri waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, njalo wabusa eSamariya kwabako-Israyeli okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili. ³⁰ U-Ahabi indodana ka-Omri waba lezono ezingaphezu kwalabo abamandulelayo phambi KUKATHIXO. ³¹ Kwathi lanxa ebona kungasilutho ukungena eubini bukaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, wathatha uJezebhelu indodakazi ka-Ethibhali inkosi yamaSidoni, waseqalisa ukukhonza lokusebenzela uBhali. ³² Wakhela uBhali i-alithari ethempelini likaBhali ayelakhe

eSamariya. ³³ U-Ahabi wenzela u-Ashera in-sika njalo kunengi akwenzayo okwathukuthe-lisa uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, okwedlula wonke amakhosi ako-Israyeli amandulelayo.

³⁴ Ngezinsuku zika-Ahabi uHiyeli waseBhetheli wakha kutsha iJerikho. Ukubekwa kwezisekelo zayo kwathatha impilo yezibulo lakhe u-Abhiramu kwathi lasekumiseni amasango alo kwathatha impilo yecinathunjana lakhe uSegubi, kwagcwaliseka ilizwi LIKATHIXO ayelikhulume ngoJoshuwa indodana kaNuni.

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U-Elija Uphywa Ukudla Ngamawabayi

¹ U-Elija umThishibi owayevela ngaseThishibi eGiliyadi, wasesithi ku-Ahabi, “Njengoba uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, engimkhonzayo ephila, akuyikuba lamazolo njalo akuyikuba lezulu okweminyaka embalwa ezayo ngaphandle kokuba ngitsho.”

² Ngakho ilizwi LIKATHIXO lafika ku-Elija lisithi:

³ “Suka lapho, khangela empumalanga uye-catsha eDongeni lwaseKherithi, empumalanga kweJodani. ⁴ Uzanatha amanzi avela kulesosi-fula, njalo sengilayile amawabayi ukuthi azabe ekulethela ukudla khonapho.”

⁵ Ngakho wenza lokho okwakutshiwo nguTHIXO. Waya eDongeni lwaseKherithi, empumalanga yeJodani, wafika wahlala khona.

⁶ Amawabayi amlethela ukudla, isinkwa lenyama ekuseni kwathi lantambama kwaba yisinkwa lenyama, amanzi wayenatha esifuleni.

Umfelokazi WaseZarefathi

⁷ Ngemva kwesikhathi amanzi atsha esifuleni ngoba kwakungelazulu elizweni. ⁸ Ngakho kwabuye kwafika kuye ilizwi LIKATHIXO lisithi: ⁹ “Suka khathesi uye eZarefathi yeSidoni uyehlala khona. Sengilungisile khona ukuthi umfelokazi uzakulungisela abe ekupha ukudla.” ¹⁰ Wasesiya eZarefathi. Uthe efika esangweni ledolobho, kwakukhona umfelokazi edobha incwathi. Wazibika kuye njalo ecela wathi, “Ungangilethela amanzi ngenkezo kenginathe na?” ¹¹ Uthe esayathatha amanzi, wambiza njalo wathi, “Ngicela ungiiphathele locezu lwesinkwa.”

¹² Umfelokazi waphendula wathi, “Ngeqiniso lanjengoba UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho ephila, angilaso isinkwa kodwa ngilengcosana nje yefulawa engcebethwini encane lamafutha angen ganani ediweni. Ngidobha incwathi lezi nje ngiya lazo ngekhaya ukuze ngiyezigoqozela engingakudla mina lendodana yami, kube yikho esizakudla andubana sife.”

¹³ U-Elija wathi kumfelokazi, “Ungesabi. Hamba uye ekhaya uyekwenza khonokho okutshoyo. Kodwa uqale ungiphekele iqebelengwane eliyisinkwa ngalokho olakho ube usuliletha lapha kimi, andubana uzipehelele okwakho lendodana yakho. ¹⁴ Ngoba lokhu yikho UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli akutshiloyo: ‘Impuphu esengcebethwini kayiyikuphela, lamafutha asediweni kawayikuphela, kuze kufike usuku UTHIXO azanisa ngalo izulu elizweni?’ ”

15 Wasuka lapho wayakwenza njengalokho ayekutshilo u-Elija. Ngakho kwahlala kulokudla kuka-Elija lomfelokazi labendlu yakhe okwensuku zonke. 16 Ngoba ifulawa eyayisengcebethwini ayiphelanga, kanti njalo lamafutha agobhoza kokuphela kazaphela njengokutsho KUKATHIXO ku-Elija.

17 Ngemva kwesikhatshana indodana yomfelokazi owayengumninindlu yagula. Wakhula umkhuhlane ngamandla, yaze yema ukuphefumula. 18 Umfelokazi wathi ku-Elija, “Kanti kuyini ongizondela khona, wena muntu kaNkulunkulu? Kambe ungabe ulande ukuzangikhumbuza ngesono sami ukuze ubulale indodana yami na?”

19 U-Elija waphendula wathi, “Nginika indodana yakho.” Wayiphatha ngezandla indodana, wakhwela layo waya endlini ephezulu ayehlala kuyo, wayilalisa embhedeni wakhe. 20 Wasecela ngamandla kuTHIXO esithi. “Yebo THIXO Nkulunkulu wami, wehlisele umonakalo lakulo umfelokazi engihlezi kuye na, ngokubangela ukufa kwendodana yakhe na?” 21 Wasezelula ecambalala phezu komfana kathathu ecela kuTHIXO, esithi, “Wena THIXO Nkulunkulu wami, ake ubuyisele impilo yalumntwana!”

22 UTHIXO wakuzwa ukukhala kuka-Elija lakanye impilo yomfana yabuyela, wavuka waphila. 23 U-Elija wamphakamisa umntwana wamthwalela endlini ephansi. Wamqhubela unina wasesithi kunina, “Khangela ubone, indodana yakho iyaphila!”

²⁴ Umfelokazi wasesithi ku-Elija, “Khathezi sengisazi ukuthi ungumuntu kaNkulunkulu lokuthi ilizwi LIKATHIXO elivela emlonyeni wakho liliqiniso.”

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U-Elija Lo-Obhadaya

¹ Ngemva kwesikhathi eside, ngomnyaka wesithathu, ilizwi LIKATHIXO lezwakala ku-Elija lisithi: “Hamba uyezibika ku-Ahabi, ngizanisa izulu elizweni.” ² Lakanye u-Elija wahamba wayazibika ku-Ahabi.

Ngalesosikhathi indlala yayinkulu kakhulu eSamariya, ³ njalo u-Ahabi wayebize u-Obhadaya, owayengumlindi wesigodlo sakhe. (U-Obhadaya wayekholwa kakhulu KUTHIXO. ⁴ Lapho uJezebhele wayebulala abaphrofethi BAKATHIXO, u-Obhadaya wayethethe abalikhulu wayabafihla ezimbalwini ezimbili, bengamatshumi amahlanu ebhalwini lunye, wabathumela ukudla lamanzi.)

⁵ U-Ahabi wayethe ku-Obhadaya, “Ngena elizweni lonke emaxhaphozini lasezihotsheni. Mhlawumbe singathola khona utshani bokupha amabhiza lezimbongolo zethu ukuze singabulali leyodwa yezinyamazana zethu.”

⁶ Ngakho behlukaniselana isigaba somhlaba ababezawuhlola. U-Ahabi wakhangele le kwathi lo-Obhadaya laye waya le.

⁷ Kwathi u-Obhadaya ezihambela nje, wahlangabezwa ngu-Elija. U-Obhadaya wamnanzelela, wakhothamela phansi

emhlabathini, wasesithi, “Kambe nguwe sibili, nkosi yami Elija?”

⁸ U-Elija waphendula wathi, “Yebo. Hamba uyetshela inkosi yakho ukuthi, ‘U-Elija ulapha.’”

⁹ U-Obhadaya wabuza wathi, “Ngoneni kanti okwenza unikele inceku yakho ezandleni zika-Ahabi ukuba ibulawe? ¹⁰ Ngeqiniso elinjengoba UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho ephila, akukho sizwe loba umbuso lapho inkosi yami ingazange ithume izithunywa ukuba zikudinge khona. Kuthe laloba isizwe loba umbuso ulandula ukuba awukho khonale, ubenze bafunga ukuthi abangeke bakuthole. ¹¹ Kodwa khathesi usungithuma ukuthi ngiye enkosini ngiyeyitshela ukuthi, ‘U-Elija ulapha.’ ¹² Angikwazi ukuthi uMoya KATHIXO uzakusa ngaphi mhla ngakutshiyayo. Nxa ngingayatshela u-Ahabi akudinge akuswele, uzangibulala. Kunjalo-nje mina nceku yakho ngimkhonzile UTHIXO kusukela ebutsheni bami. ¹³ Awukezwa yini, nkosi yami, engakwenzayo uJezebhele ebulala abaphrofethi BAKATHIXO na? Ngafihla abalikhulu ezimbalwini ezimbili, bengamatshumi amahlanu kolulodwa, ngabapha ukudla lamanzi. ¹⁴ Njalo khathesi usungithuma ukuba ngiye enkosini yami ngiyeyitshela ngithi, ‘U-Elija ulapha.’ Kusobala ukuthi izangibulala!”

¹⁵ U-Elija wathi, “Njengoba UTHIXO uSomandla engimkhonzayo ekhona, ngizazinikela ngempela ku-Ahabi lamuhla.”

U-Elija Entabeni IKhameli

¹⁶ Ngakho u-Obhadaya wahlangabeza u-Ahabi wayamtshela, u-Ahabi wayahlangabeza u-Elija. ¹⁷ Uthe ebona u-Elija, wathi kuye, “Nguwe wena, wena oluhlupho ko-Israyeli?”

¹⁸ U-Elija waphendula wathi, “Angibanganga hlupho ko-Israyeli. Kodwa nguwe labendlu kayihlo abalubangileyo. Selitshiye imilayo KATHIXO lalandela oBhali. ¹⁹ Biza abantu kulolonke elako-Israyeli ngiyehlangana labo eNtabeni iKhameli. Njalo letha bonke abaphrofethi bakaBhali abangamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu labaka-Ashera abangamakhulu amane, abadlela etafuleni kaJezebhele.”

²⁰ U-Ahabi wakhupha ilizwi kulolonke elako-Israyeli wahlanganisa abaphrofethi labo eNtabeni iKhameli. ²¹ U-Elija wema phambi kwabantu wathi, “Lizathandabuza kuze kube nini ngeminakano emibili le na? Nxa uTHIXO enguNkulunkulu mlandeleni kodwa nxa uBhali enguNkulunkulu, mlandeleni.”

Kodwa abantu abazange batsho lutho.

²² Ngakho u-Elija wasesithi kubo, “Yimi ngedwa umphrofethi KATHIXO oseleyo kodwa uBhali ulabangamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu. ²³ Sidingeleni inkunzi ezimbili. Libanike bazikhethele abayifunayo bayihlabane bayiqume amaqatha bayifake phezu kwenkuni kodwa bangabasi umlilo. Lami ngizahlinza eyinye yazo ngiyiqobaqobe ngiyifake phezu kwenkuni kodwa angiyikubasa umlilo. ²⁴ Libe selibiza ibizo likankulunkulu wenu mina ngizacela ebizweni LIKATHIXO. Unkulunkulu ozaphendula ngomlilo, nguye-ke uNkulunkulu.”

Ngakho abantu bonke bathi, “Lokho okutshoyo kulungile.”

²⁵ U-Elija wathi kubaphrofethi bakaBhali, “Khethani inkunzi eyodwa njalo liqale lina ukuy-ilungiselela, njengoba lina libanengi kangaka. Memezani unkulunkulu wenu ngegama lakhe, kodwa lingalumathisi umlilo.”

²⁶ Bayithatha inkunzi ababeyiphiwe bayilungisa. Basebebiza ibizo likaBhali kusukela ekuseni kwaze kwaba semini enkulu. Baklabalala besithi, “We Bhali, sabela bo!” Kodwa akubanga lampendulo; kakho owaphendulayo. Bagida bezingelezela i-alithari ababelakhile.

²⁷ Kwathi emini enkulu u-Elija waqalisa ukubahoza esithi, “Klabalalani ngamandla! Ngempela angithi ungunkulunkulu! Mhlawumbe ujule eminakanweni, engxenye ubambekile, loba engxenye uphakathi kohambo. Engxenye ulele ngakho ufuna ukuvuswa.”

²⁸ Ngakho baklabalala ngamandla baziklaya ngezingqamu langezinkemba, njengoba kwakungumkhuba wabo, kwaze kwajuluka igazi. ²⁹ Yedlula imini enkulu, bona baqhubeka ngokuphithizela bephrofetha kwaze kwaba yisikhathi somhlatsshelo wakusihlwa. Kodwa akubanga lalutho, akubanga lampendulo, kakho owazihlupha ngakho.

³⁰ Ngakho u-Elija wathi ebantwini, “Wozani ngapha engikhona.” Basondela kuye, yena walungilungisa i-alithari LIKATHIXO elaselibhidlikile. ³¹ U-Elija wathatha amatshe alitshumi lambili, yilelo limele isizwana sosendo

lukaJakhobe, yena owayezwe ilizwi LIKATHIXO lisithi kuye, “Uzabizwa ngokuthi ungu-Israyeli.”

³² Wakha i-alithari ngebizo LIKATHIXO ngalawo matshe, wagebha umgelo ozingelezela i-alithari okungangena kuwo igokoko lamabele.

³³ Walungisa inkuni, wasika inyama yenkunzi wenza amaqatha, waseyibeka phezu kwenkuni. Wasesithi kubo, “Gcwalisani imigqomo emine emikhulu ngamanzi libe seliwathela phezu komhlathshelo laphezu kwenkuni.”

³⁴ Wathi, “Kwenzeni futhi,” bakwenza lokho njalo.

Wathi, “Kwenzeni okwesithathu,” lakanye bakwenza bephinda okwesithathu. ³⁵ Amanzi agcwala aze agcwala lasemgelweni owawugombolozele i-alithari.

³⁶ Kuthe ngesikhathi somhlathshelo, u-Elija umphrofethi wasondela wakhuleka esithi, “Oh THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Abhrahama, lo-Isaka lo-Israyeli, veza obala lamuhla ukuthi wena unguNkulunkulu ko-Israyeli kanye lokuthi mina ngiyinceku yakho, lokuthi zonke lezizinto ngizenza ngokulaya kwakho. ³⁷ Akungiphendule Oh THIXO, akungiphendule ukuze lababantu bakwazi ukuthi wena THIXO, unguNkulunkulu, lokuthi njalo uguqula inhliziyi zabo.”

³⁸ Khonokho umlilo KATHIXO wehla watshisa umhlathshelo, inkuni, amatshe lomhlabathi, kwaze kwatsha lamanzi ayesemgelweni.

³⁹ Abantu bonke bekubona lokhu, bazilahla phansi bakhala bathi, “UTHIXO nguye uNkulunkulu! UTHIXO nguye uNkulunkulu!”

⁴⁰ U-Eliza wasebalaya wathi, “Bambani abaphrofethi bakaBhali. Akungaphunyuki lamunye!” Bababamba, u-Eliza wathi kabasiwe eSigodini saseKhishoni, babulawelwa khona.

⁴¹ Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi ku-Ahabi, “Hamba, udle unathe, ngoba kuzwakala umdumo wezulu elikhulu.” ⁴² Ngalokho u-Ahabi wasuka wayakudla njalo wanatha, kodwa u-Eliza wakhwela phezu kwentaba yaseKhameli, wagobisa ikhanda lakhe walifaka phakathi kwamadolo akhe.

⁴³ Wathuma isisebenzi sakhe wathi: “Hamba uyephosa amehlo akho olwandle.” Lakanye isisebenzi sahamba sayakhangela.

Sathi, “Akulalutho laphaya.”

U-Eliza watsho kwaze kwaba kasikhombisa esithi, “Buyela.”

⁴⁴ Ngesikhathi sesikhombisa isisebenzi sabika sathi, “Iyezana elincinyane ngangesandla somuntu likhanya liqubuka lisuka olwandle.”

Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi, “Hamba uyetshela u-Ahabi uthi, ‘Bopha inqola yakho yempi usuke lapho ungakavalelwa lizulu.’”

⁴⁵ Ngalesosikhathi, kwaba mnyama emkhathini ngamayezi, kwaqubuka umoya, kwana izulu elikhulu njalo u-Ahabi wasuka ngenqola waya eJezerili. ⁴⁶ Amandla KATHIXO ehlela ku-Eliza, njalo uthe ukuba akhwicele isembatho sakhe ebhantini wagijima phambi kuka-Ahabi indlela yonke esiya eJezerili.

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U-Eliza Ubalekela EHorebhi

¹ U-Ahabi wasetshela uJezebheli ngakho konke okwakwenziwe ngu-Elija kanye lokuthi wababulala njani abaphrofethi ngenkamba.

² Ngalokho uJezebheli wathumela isithunywa ku-Elija ukuthi siyekuthi, “Onkulunkulu kabangihlanekela ngokwengezelelweyo nxa ngingakubulalanga kuze kube kusasa, njengoba usubulele abaphrofethi.”

³ U-Elija wasesesaba, wasuka wabaleka, wayafika eBherishebha yakoJuda, wasetshiya khona inceku yakhe.

⁴ Yena wahamba okwelanga elilodwa engena enkangala. Wathola khona isihlahla, wahlala ngaphansi kwaso emthunzini, wakhulekela ukuthi ngabe uyafa wathi, “Kwanele, THIXO, susa ukuphila kwami ngoba angingcono kulabokhokho.”

⁵ Wasecambalala elala ngaphansi kwesihlahla wajunywa yibuthongo. Khonokho ingilosi yamthinta yathi kuye, “Vuka udle.” ⁶ Wathalaza, lakanye wabona ngemakhanda nantiyana iqebelengwane lisatshisa emalahleni elaliphekwe kuwo, kanye lenkezo eyayilamanzi okunatha. Wadla njalo wanatha, waphinda walala.

⁷ Ingilosi KATHIXO yaphinda yabuya okwesibili yamthinta, yathi kuye, “Vuka udle, ngoba uhambo lude luzakukhulela.” ⁸ Ngakho wavuka, wadla njalo wehlisa ngamanzi. Esequiniswe yilokhokudla wahamba insuku ezingamatshumi amane lobusuku obungamatshumi amane waze wayafika eHorebhi intaba kaNkulunkulu.

⁹ Eselapho wangena ebhalwini walala.

UTHIXO Uzibonakalisa Ku-Elija

Ngakho ilizwi LIKATHIXO lafika kuye lisithi, “Kanti wenzani khonapha, Elija?”

¹⁰ Yena waphendula wathi, “Bengikutshisekela kakhulu, wena THIXO Nkulunkulu Somandla. Abako-Israyeli basephule isivumelwano sakho, badiliza ama-alithare akho, babulala abaphrofethi bakho ngenkemba. Yimi ngedwa engiseleyo, njalo khathesi bayangizingela bafuna ukungibulala.”

¹¹ UTHIXO wathi kuye, “Hamba uyekuma phezu kwentaba phambi KUKATHIXO ngoba UTHIXO uzadlula khona.”

Kwaba lomoya owawuvunguza ngamandla udabula izintaba uqhekeza lamadwala phambi KUKATHIXO, kodwa UTHIXO wayengekho kulesosiphepho. Kwedlula isiphepho kweza ukuzamazama komhlaba kodwa UTHIXO wayengekho kulokhokuzamazama. ¹² Kwedlula ukuzamazama komhlaba kwaqhamuka umlilo, kodwa UTHIXO wayengekho kulowomlilo. Ngemva komlilo kwezwakala ilizwi elipholileyo linyenyeza. ¹³ U-Elija uthe elizwa, wadonsa isembatho sakhe wamboza ubuso bakhe wasuka wayakuma entubeni yobhalu.

Khonokho ilizwi lathi kuye, “Wenzani khonapha, Elija?”

¹⁴ Yena waphendula wathi, “Bengikutshisekela kakhulu wena THIXO Nkulunkulu Somandla. Abako-Israyeli basephule isivumelwano sakho, badiliza ama-alithare akho, babulala abaphrofethi bakho ngenkemba. Yimi ngedwa engiseleyo, njalo khathesi bayangizingela bafuna ukungibulala lami.”

15 UTHIXO wathi kuye, “Buyela ngayonale indlela oze ngayo, uye enkangala yaseDamaseko. Ekufikeni kwakho khonale, ugcoke uHazayeli abe yinkosi yase-Aramu. 16 Njalo, ugcoke loJehu indodana kaNimishi abe yinkosi yako-Israyeli, ubusugcoba u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi wase-Abheli-Mehola athathe isikhundla sakho sobuphrofethi. 17 UJehu uzabulala bonke abazaphepha kuleyonkemba kaHazayeli, njalo u-Elisha uzabulala labo abazasila kuleyonkemba kaJehu. 18 Kodwa ngizaphephisa abako-Israyeli abazinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa abangazange bakhothamele uBhali njalo abandebe zabo azizange zimange.”

Ubizo Luka-Elisha

19 Ngakho u-Elija wasuka lapho wathola u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi. Wamfica elima labanye ngenkabi emajogweni alitshumi lambili, yena etshayela ezejogwe letshumi lambili. U-Elija wasondela kuye wamembesa ngesembatho sakhe. 20 U-Elisha watshiya inkabi zakhe walandela u-Elija. Wasesithi, “Ngivumela ngiyevalelisa ubaba lomama, ngibuye ngizehamba lawe.”

U-Elija wamphendula wathi, “Buyela, kanti ngenzeni kuwe?”

21 Ngakho u-Elisha wehlukana laye wabuyela emuva. Wathatha inkabi zezogwe lakhe wazihlaba. Wabasa umlilo ngezinto lezo ayelima ngazo ukuze ose inyama yazo wayinika abantu bayidla. Waselandela u-Elija waba yinceku yakhe.

20

UBheni-Hadadi Uhlasela ISamariya

¹ UBheni-Hadadi inkosi yama-Aramu waqoqa ibutho lakhe lonke. Wayephelekezelwa ngamakhosi angamatshumi amathathu lamabili ngezingqola zawo zempi lamabhiza, wasuka wayahanqa iSamariya wayihlasela. ² Wathuma izithunywa edolobheni ku-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, esithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguBheni-Hadadi: ³ Isiliva legolide lakho ngokwami, abafazi benu abahle kakhulu labantwana ngabami.”

⁴ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, “Kunjalo nkosi mbusi wami. Mina lakho konke engilakho ngokwakho.”

⁵ Izithunywa zaphenduka njalo zisithi, “UBheni-Hadadi uthi: ‘Ngathumela ngathi ngifuna isiliva legolide lakho, abafazi labantwabakho. ⁶ Kodwa ngasolesi isikhathi kusasa ngizathumela izikhulu zami ukuzakhuthuza isigodlo sakho lezindlu zezikhulu zakho. Zizabutha yonke into eligugu kuwe zikuthathele.’”

⁷ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibiza bonke abadala belizwe yathi kubo, “Ake libone lindoda edinga uhlupho! Ithe isithi ifuna abafazi bami labantwabami, isiliva legolide lami, angizange ngale.”

⁸ Abadala kanye labantu bonke bathi, “Ungalaleli njalo ungamniki lokho akufunayo.”

⁹ Yasitshela izithunywa zikaBheni-Hadadi ukuthi, “Tshelani inkosi umbusi wami ukuthi, ‘Inceku yakho izagcwalisa isicelo sakuqala

kodwa lesi hayi ayenelisi.’ ” Zasuka izithunywa zabuyisela impendulo kuBheni-Hadadi.

10 Ngakho uBheni-Hadadi wakhupha ilizwi njalo lisiya ku-Ahabi, wathi: “Kabangihlanekele onkulunkulu, loba kungaba lobunzima obunganani, nxa kuzasala ubhuqu olulingana uku-funjathwa ngamadoda wonke aseSamariya.”

11 Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, “Mtsheleni lithi: ‘Lowo ohloma ngezempi angabokloloda njengongahlomanga.’ ”

12 UBheni-Hadadi wemukela lelilizwi ezinathela lamanye amakhosi emathenteni awo, wahle walawula amabutho akhe esithi: “Hlome-lani ukuhlasela.” Basebelungisela ukuhlasela idolobho.

U-Ahabi Unqoba UBheni-Hadadi

13 Kusenjalo kweza umphrofethi ku-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli owafika wabika esithi, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: ‘Uyalibona na ibutho elikhulu kangaka? Ngizalinikela ezandleni zakho lamuhla nje, ukuze wazi ukuba NGINGUTHIXO.’ ”

14 U-Ahabi wabuza wathi, “Kodwa ngubani ozakwenza lokhu?”

Umphrofethi waphendula wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: ‘Lokhu kuzakwenziwa ngabalawuli bamabutho ezabelweni abayintanga yabatsha.’ ”

Yena wabuza njalo ukuthi, “Pho ngubani oza-iyiqalisa impi?”

Umphrofethi wamphendula wathi, “Nguwe.”

¹⁵ Ngakho u-Ahabi wamema abalawuli bamabutho abentanga yabatsha ezabelweni, abangamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amathathu lambili (232). Waseqoqa labo bonke abanye abako-Israyeli abazinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa (7,000) ndawonye. ¹⁶ Basuka emini enkulu ngesikhathi uBheni-Hadadi lamakhosi angamatshumi amathathu lambili (32) ayezomhlomulela belokhu besazinathela bedakwa emathenteni abo.

¹⁷ Abalawuli bezabelweni bentanga yabatsha basuka kuqala. UBheni-Hadadi wayethumele inhlozi, ezabika ukuthi, “Kulamadoda ezayo evela eSamariya.”

¹⁸ Yena wathi, “Nxa esiza ngokuthula, athumbeni ephila; nxa ezohlasela, athumbeni ephila.”

¹⁹ Abalawuli bamabutho ezabelweni abentanga yabatsha baphuma edolobheni belandelwa libutho ²⁰ njalo ngamunye wabo wabulala lowo ayeqondene laye. Ebona lokhu, ama-Aramu abaleka, ama-Israyeli axotshana lawo. Kodwa uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yama-Aramu wabaleka ngebhiza lamanye amabutho ayesilwa ngamabhiza. ²¹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaqhubeka yakhulela abamabhiza kanye labezinqola zempi yatshaya yabhuqa ama-Aramu amanengi kakhulu.

²² Ngemva kwalokho, umphrofethi waya enkosini yako-Israyeli wafika wathi, “Hloma uphelele ubone ukuthi ungenzani, ngoba entwasa inkosi yama-Aramu iyeza izokuhlasela futhi.”

²³ Kusenjalo, izikhulu zenkosi yase-Aramu zayicebisa zathi, “Onkulunkulu babo

ngonkulunkulu bezintabeni. Yikho besikhulele. Kodwa singalwela emagcekeni, ngempela sizabakhulela. ²⁴ Wena yenza kanje: Susa wonke amakhosi ekulawuleni kwawo ufake abanye abalawuli esikhundleni sawo. ²⁵ Njalo kumele uqoqe amanye amabutho anjengala anqotshwayo, kulingane amabhiza kanye leziqola zempi ukuze silwele emagcekeni labako-Israyeli. Ngelokho akulakuthandabuza ukuthi sizabe silamandla kulabo.” Wavumelana labo wenza njengokutsho kwabo.

²⁶ Ngesikhathi sentwasa uBheni-Hadadi waqoqa ama-Aramu wasesiya e-Afekhi ukuze alwe labako-Israyeli. ²⁷ Ama-Israyeli ayeseqoqene, anikwa lemiphako, asuka ayawahlangabeza. Ama-Israyeli amisa maqondana lawo kungathi yimihlanjana yembuzi emibili, kanti ama-Aramu ayegcwele indawana yonke.

²⁸ Umphrofethi kaNkulunkulu wasesiya enkosini yako-Israyeli wafika wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: ‘Njengoba ama-Aramu esithi UTHIXO ngunkulunkulu wezintaba hatshi uNkulunkulu wezigodi, ngizanikela wonke amabutho awo amanengi kangaka ezandleni zakho, ukuze wazi ukuthi mina NGINGUTHIXO.’”

²⁹ Bajamelana okwensuku eziyisikhombisa, kwathi ngosuku lwesikhombisa bahlaselana. Ama-Israyeli abulala abazinkulungwane ezilikhulu phakathi kwamabutho ama-Aramu ahamba ngezinyawo ngosuku olulodwa. ³⁰ Amanye amabutho abalekela edolobheni lase-Afekhi, lapho adilikelwa khona ngumduli

owabulala izinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa. Kwathi uBheni-Hadadi wabalekela edolobheni laphe afika wacatsha endlini ephakathi.

³¹ Izikhulu zakhe zathi kuye, “Khangela, sesizwile ukuthi amakhosi ako-Israyeli ngamakhosi alomusa. Asihambeni enkosini yako-Israyeli sembethe amasaka okhalweni njalo sibophe amakhanda ngentambo. Mhlawumbe izakuxolela ingakubulali.”

³² Basuka bethandele amasaka ezinkalweni zabo, bebophe amakhanda ngentambo, baya enkosini yako-Israyeli bafika bathi, “Inceku yakho uBheni-Hadadi ithi, ‘Ngicela ungiyekele ngiphile.’”

Inkosi yathi, “Ulokhu esaphila? Ngumfowethu lowo.”

³³ Amadoda lawo abona lokhu kukhomba ubuhle alithathela phezulu lelilizwi athi, “Ye, umfowenu uBheni-Hadadi!”

Inkosi yathi, “Hambani liyemthatha.” Lakanye uBheni-Hadadi uthe efika, u-Ahabi wathi kakhwele enqoleni yakhe yempi.

³⁴ UBheni-Hadadi wazibika esithi, “Ngizabuyisela wonke amadolobho athunjwa ngubaba kuyihlo. Ungazilungisela izindawo zokuthengiselana eDamaseko, njengoba ubaba laye wayelazo eSamariya.”

U-Ahabi wathi, “Ngesivumelwano ngizakukhulula.” Wasesenza isivumelwano laye wamkhulula.

Umprofethi Uqalekisa U-Ahabi

³⁵ Ngelizwi LIKATHIXO omunye wamadodana abaphrofethi wathi komunye, “Ake ungitshaye ngesikhali sakho,” kodwa wala.

³⁶ Ngakho umphrofethi wasesithi, “Njengoba ungalalelanga ilizwi LIKATHIXO, uzakuthi usuka kimi ubulawe yisilwane.” Ngemva kokusuka kwakhe, wafunyanwa yisilwane sambulala.

³⁷ Umphrofethi wafumana enye njalo indoda wathi kuyo, “Ake ungitshaye.” Yamgwaza leyondoda yamlimaza. ³⁸ Umphrofethi wasuka wayamelela inkosi endleleni. Wazifihla ubuso bakhe ngeqhiye. ³⁹ Kuthe inkosi isedlula khonapho, umphrofethi wayimemeza esithi, “Inceku yakho ibe iphakathi kwempi etshisayo, kwathi omunye weza kimi lothunjiweyo wathi, ‘Linda lumuntu. Nxa engabaleka, uzamfela wena, loba uhlawule ngethalenta lesiliva.’”

⁴⁰ Kuthe inceku yakho isaphathekile lapha lalaphaya, umuntu lowo wanyamalala.” Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi, “Leso yiso isigwebo sakho. Usuvele wasiqamba wena ngokwakho.”

⁴¹ Umphrofethi waphanga wembula ubuso bakhe, inkosi yako-Israyeli yabona ukuthi ngomunye wabaphrofethi. ⁴² Wathi enkosini, “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: ‘Usukhulule umuntu ebengithe kumele afe. Kutsho ukuthi usuzamfela wena, labantu bakho bazafela abantu bakhe.’” ⁴³ Ngokuhlulukelwa langokuzonda, inkosi yako-Israyeli yasuka yabuyela esigodlweni sayo eSamariya.

21

Isivini SikaNabhothi

¹ Kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi esithile kwaba lezenzo esithile ngesivini sikaNabhothi umJezerili. Isivini leso sasiseJezerili, phansi kwesigodlo sika-Ahabi inkosi yaseSamariya. ² U-Ahabi wathi kuNabhothi, “Kahle mina ngilime imibhida yami esivinini sakho, njengoba siphansi kwesigodlo sami. Mina ngizakunika isivini esingcono, loba nxa uthanda, ngizakunika intengo ofisa ukusithengisa ngayo.”

³ Kodwa uNabhothi wathi, “UTHIXO kangavumi ukuba ngikunike ilifa labobaba.”

⁴ Ngalokho u-Ahabi wabuyela ekhaya enyukubele njalo ethukuthele ngoba uNabhothi umJezerili wayethe, “Angizukukunika ilifa labobaba.” U-Ahabi walala embhedeni enyukubele wala lokudla.

⁵ Umkakhe uJezebhelu wangena endlini wambuza wathi, “Kungani usineme kangaka? Kungani usala ukudla?”

⁶ Yena wamphendula wathi, “Kungenxa yokuthi ngithe kuNabhothi umJezerili, ‘Ngithengisela isivini sakho; loba nxa ufuna, ngikunike esinye isivini esikhundleni salesi.’ Kodwa ungiphendule wathi ‘Angizukukunika isivini sami.’”

⁷ UJezebhelu umka-Ahabi wathi, “Lokhu yikho okwenzayo njengenkosi yako-Israyeli na? Vuka udle! Uchelese. Mina ngizakuzuzela isivini sikaNabhothi umJezerili.”

⁸ UJezebhelu wasebhala izincwadi ngebizo lika-Ahabi, wazidinda ngophawu luka-Ahabi,

wazithumela ebadaleni lakuzo izikhulu ezazihlala loNabhothi emzini wakibo. ⁹ Ezincwadini lezo waloba ukuthi:

“Memezelani usuku lokuzila libe selibeka uNabhothi esihlalweni esiqakathekileyo phakathi kwabantu. ¹⁰ Libe selihlalisa izigangi ezimbili maqondana laye lithi kazifakaze ngokuthi uthuke uNkulunkulu kanye lenkosi. Libe selimkhuphela phandle liyemkhanda ngamatshe limbulale.”

¹¹ Ngakho abadala lezikhulu ababehlala emzini kaNabhothi benza lokho ababekuthunye nguJezebhelu ngezincwadi ayebalobele zona.

¹² Bamemezela isikhathi sokuzila bahlalisa uNabhothi esihlalweni esiphakemeyo phambi kwabantu.

¹³ Kwasuka izigangi ezimbili zahlala phambi kwakhe zakhangelana laye zaqalisa ukwethesa uNabhothi amacala, zisithi, “UNabhothi uthuke uNkulunkulu kanye lenkosi.” Ngakho bamkhuphela ngaphandle komuzi bamkhanda ngamatshe bambulala.

¹⁴ Basebethumela ilizwi kuJezebhelu besithi, “UNabhothi ukhandwe ngamatshe njalo usefile.”

¹⁵ Masinyazana uJezebhelu esezwe ukuthi uNabhothi ukhandwe ngamatshe wabulawa, wathi ku-Ahabi, “Vuka uyethatha isivini sikaNabhothi umJezerili sona lesiyana alileyo ukukuthengisela sona. Uvele kasekho, usefile.”

¹⁶ U-Ahabi uthe esizwa ukuthi uNabhothi kasekho, wavuka wayathatha lesosivini sikaNabhothi waseJezerili.

¹⁷ Ilizwi LIKATHIXO leza ku-Elija umThishibi lisithi: ¹⁸ “Yehla uyehlangabeza u-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli obusa eSamariya. Usesivinini sikaNabhothi, uye khona ukuze azithathele

lesosivini. ¹⁹ Ufike uthi kuye, ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: Awubulalanga umuntu wathumba impahla yakhe na?’ Ubususithi kuyo, ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO; Khonapho lapho izinja ezikhothele khona igazi likaNabhothi, kukhonapho kanye lapho izinja ezizakhothela khona elakho, yebo, elakho kanye!’ ”

²⁰ U-Ahabi wathi ku-Elija, “Wo usungitholile, wena sitha sami!”

U-Elija wamphendula wathi, “Yebo sengikutholile ngoba uzinikele ukwenza isono emehlweni KATHIXO. ²¹ ‘Ngizokwehlisela ukubhujiswa. Ngizabhubhisa izizukulwane zakho ngisuse sonke isilisa sokucina ku-Ahabi ko-Israyeli loba yisigqili loba ngokhululekileyo. ²² Indlu yakho ngizayenza lokhu engakwenza ekaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi lekaBhasha indodana ka-Ahija, ngoba ungithukuthelisile wabangela ukuthi u-Israyeli enze isono.’

²³ Ngalokho UTHIXO uthi ngoJezebhel: ‘Izinja zizamdabudabula uJezebhel zindlele emidulini yaseJezerili.’

²⁴ Izinja zizakudla bonke abangabaka-Ahabi abafela edolobheni, izinyoni zezulu zizakudla labo abazafela emaphandleni.”

²⁵ (Akuzange kube lendoda eyayifanana lo-Ahabi yena owazinikela ukuthi adale isono phambi KUKATHIXO, ekhuthazwa ngumkakhe uJezebhel. ²⁶ Waziphatha butshapha kakhulu elandela izithombe, njengama-Amori wona ayesuswe NGUTHIXO phambi kuka-Israyeli.)

²⁷ U-Ahabi wathi esizwa lawomazwi, wadabula izigqoko zakhe, wembatha amasaka wazila. Walala embethe amasaka wahamba edanile.

²⁸ Ngemva kwalokho ilizwi LIKATHIXO lathi ku-Elija umThishibi: ²⁹ “Ukubonile na ukuthi u-Ahabi usezithobe kanganani phambi kwami? Ngenxa yokuzithoba kwakhe, angiyikumehlisela lobobubi esaphila, kodwa ngizakwehlisela endlini yakhe ensukwini zendodana yakhe.”

22

UMikhaya Uphrofetha Okubi Ngo-Ahabi

¹ Kwathatha iminyaka kungelampi phakathi kwe-Aramu le-Israyeli. ² Kodwa ngomnyaka wesithathu uJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wayabonana lenkosi yako-Israyeli. ³ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yayike yakhuluma lezikhulu zayo isithi, “Alikwazi na ukuthi eleRamothe Giliyadi ngelethu kodwa asikenzi lutho ukuze silithathe ezandleni zenkosi yase-Aramu?”

⁴ Ngakho yasicela uJehoshafathi isithi, “Ungahamba lami na ukuze siyehlasela eRamothe Giliyadi?”

UJehoshafathi ephendula inkosi yako-Israyeli wathi, “Mina ngikanye lawe, abantu bami banjengabakho, amabhiza ami anjengawakho.” ⁵ Kodwa uJehoshafathi waphinda wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Akubuze kuTHIXO kuqala.”

⁶ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yahlanganisa abaphrofethi abangaba ngamakhulu amane yasibabuza isithi, “Ngihambe ngiyehlasela iRamothe Giliyadi yini, loba ngiyekele na?”

Abaphrofethi bathi, “Hamba ngoba iNkosi iza-yinikela esandleni sakho.”

⁷ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, “Kambe kakusela mphrofethi KATHIXO lapha esingabuza kuye na?”

⁸ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Ukhona oyedwa esingabuza UTHIXO ngaye kodwa ngiyamzonda ngoba kakaze aphrofethe okuhle ngami, uhlala ekhuluma okubi. Ibizo lakhe nguMikhaya indodana ka-Imla.”

UJehoshafathi wathi, “Inkosi kayimelanga itsho njalo.”

⁹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibiza omunye wezikhulu zayo yathi kuye, “Phangisa ungilethele uMikhaya indodana ka-Imla.”

¹⁰ Bembethe izembatho zabo zobukhosi, inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda babehlezi ezihlalweni zabo zobukhosi esizeni sokubhulela amabele esangweni laseSamariya labo bonke abaphrofethi bephrofetha phambi kwabo. ¹¹ UZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana wayekhande impondo zensimbi, wasesithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguUTHIXO, uthi: ‘Ngempondo lezi uzagwaza ama-Aramu uwabhubhise.’”

¹² Bonke abaphrofethi babevele bephrofetha okufananayo besithi, “Hlasela iRamothe Giliyadi unqobe, ngoba UTHIXO uyinikile esandleni senkosi.”

¹³ Isithunywa esasithunywe ukuyabiza uMikhaya sathi kuye, “Khangela, abanye abaphrofethi bafakaza bengela kuthandabuza ukuthi inkosi izanqoba. Lawe vumelana labo, ukhulume okuyithokozisayo.”

14 Kodwa uMikhaya wathi, “Njengokutsho KUKATHIXO, mina ngizayitshela lokho engikuthunywe NGUTHIXO.”

15 Ekufikeni kwakhe, inkosi yambuza yathi, “Mikhaya, sihambe siyehlasela iRamothi Giliyadi yini, loba ngiyekele na?”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Hlasela njalo unqobe, ngoba UTHIXO uzalinikela ezandleni zakho nkosi.”

16 Inkosi yathi kuye, “Kumele ngikufungise kangaki ukuze ungangikhohlisi kodwa ungitshela iqiniso ebizweni LIKATHIXO?”

17 Ngakho uMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Ngabona u-Israyeli wonke ehla-kazekile ezintabeni njengezimvu ezingelamelusi, kulapho UTHIXO athi ‘Lababantu abalamkhomkheli. Yekela bonke babuyele emakhaya ngokuthula.’”

18 Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Angikutshelanga yini ukuthi uvele kaphrofethi okuhle ngami, kodwa okubi kuphela?”

19 UMikhaya waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Ngakho zwana ilizwi LIKATHIXO elithi, Ngabona UTHIXO ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lamabutho wonke asezulwini emi ngakwesokunene sakhe lakwesokhohlo sakhe. 20 Njalo UTHIXO wathi, ‘Ngubani ozahugela u-Ahabi ekuhlaseleni iRamothi Giliyadi ukuze ayefela khonale na?’

Omunye waqamba lokhu, lomunye okwakhe. 21 Ekucineni kwavela umoya, wema phambi KUKATHIXO wathi, ‘Mina ngizamhuga.’

22 UTHIXO wabuza wathi, ‘Uzakwenza ngandlela bani?’

Umoya waphendula wathi, ‘Ngizahamba ngiyekuba ngumoya wokuqamba amanga emilonyeni yabo bonke abaphrofethi bakhe.’

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

²³ Ngakho khathesi UTHIXO usefake umoya wenkohliso emilonyeni yabaphrofethi bakho bonke laba. UTHIXO usekumisele ukubhujiswa.”

²⁴ Kusenjalo uZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana wasondela, wamwakala uMikhaya ebusweni. Wabuza wathi: “Umoya kaTHIXO wasuka njani kimi ungena kuwe na?”

²⁵ UMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Uzazibonela mhla uzakuyacatsha endlini engaphakathi.”

²⁶ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yalaya yathi, “Thathani uMikhaya limbuyisele ku-Amoni obusa idolobho lakoJowashi indodana yenkosi. ²⁷ Liyekuthi, ‘Inkosi ithi: Valelani umuntu lo entolongweni lingamniki lutho ngaphandle kwesinkwa lamanzi ngize ngiphenduke ngokuhle.’”

²⁸ UMikhaya waqonqosela wathi: “Nxa ungaphenduka kuhle, UTHIXO uyabe engakhumanga ngami.” Waqhubeka wathi, “Lani lonke bantu abambisiseni amazwi ami!”

U-Ahbi Ubulawelwa eRamothe Giliyadi

²⁹ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda baya eRamothe Giliyadi. ³⁰ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi: “Mina ngizakuya empini ngizazifihla ngokulahlisa isimo sami, kodwa wena gqoka

ezakho ezobukhosi.” Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yazifihla ngokulahlisa isimo sayo yangena empini.

³¹ Inkosi yase-Aramu yayilaye abalawuli bayo bezingqola zokulwa abangamatshumi amathathu lambili yathi, “Lina lingalwi lamuntu, loba eyisikhulu loba engumuntukazana, ngaphandle kwenkosi yako-Israyeli.” ³² Abalawuli bezingqola zokulwa bathe bebona uJehoshafathi, bahle bathi “Ngempela le yiyo kanye inkosi yako-Israyeli.” Abalawuli bezingqola zokulwa base-behlasela uJehoshafathi, yena wahlaba umkhosi, ³³ baphanga babona ukuthi kwakungasiyo inkosi yako-Israyeli bahle bayekela ukuxotshana laye.

³⁴ Umuntu othile wakhokha umtshoko wakhe watshoka engaqondanga muntu umtshoko wayaciba inkosi yako-Israyeli emkenkeni wesihlangu sayo. Inkosi yasisithi kumtshayeli wengqola yokulwa: “Phendula inqola yakho ungisuse lapha. Sengilimele.” ³⁵ Kwalwiwa impi kanzima ilanga lonke. Inkosi yayeyanyiswe enqoleni yayo yokulwa ikhangele ama-Aramu. Igazi lamanxeba ayo lagelezela phansi enqoleni yokulwa, kwathi Ngalokhokuhlwa yafa. ³⁶ Ekutshoneni kwelanga kwamenezelwa kuyo yonke impi ukuthi: “Abantu bonke kababuyele emizini yakibo, bonke kababuyele lowo lalowo elizweni lakibo!”

³⁷ Ngakho inkosi yafa yasiwa eSamariya, yangcwatshwa khona. ³⁸ Inqola yokulwa bayigezisela esizibeni seSamariya (endaweni eyayigezela izifebe), izinja zakhotha igazi layo, njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO.

39 Konke okunye ngempilo langokubusa kuka-Ahabi lakho konke akwenzayo, ukwakha isigodlo esasiceciswe ngempondo zezindlovu, lamadolobho ayevikelwe okwenqaba, akulotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? 40 U-Ahabi wangcwatshwa laboyise. Ubukhosi bakhe bathathwa yindodana yakhe u-Ahaziya.

UJehoshafathi Inkosi YakoJuda

41 UJehoshafathi indodana ka-Asa waba yinkosi yakoJuda ngomnyaka wesine wokubusa kuka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli.

42 UJehoshafathi waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lemihlanu yokuzalwa, wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lemihlanu. Ibizo likanina kungu-Azubha indodakazi kaShilihi.

43 Kukho konke ayekwenza wayesenyathelweni likayise u-Asa njalo kazange aphambuke; wenza konke okuhle emehlweni KATHIXO. Kodwa izindawo eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela kazisuswanga, abantu babelokhu benikela imihlatshelo, betshisa impepha khonapho.

44 UJehoshafathi wahlalisana ngokuthula lenkosi yako-Israyeli.

45 Okwenzakala ekubuseni kukaJehoshafathi, ukuphumelela kwakhe kanye lokunqoba ezimpini, akulotshwanga na encwadini yembali yamakhosi akoJuda? 46 Waqeda insalela yabesilisa ababefeba emathempelini ayelokhu

esasele lapho langemva kokubusa kukayise u-Asa. ⁴⁷ Kwakungaselankosi e-Edomi, umsekeli nguyey owayebusa.

⁴⁸ UJehoshafathi wakha imikhumbi yokuthutha igolide e-Ofiri, kodwa ayizange isebenze olwandle, yahle yahlikizeka, yabhidlikela e-Eziyoni-Gebheri. ⁴⁹ Ngalesosikhathi u-Ahaziya indodana ka-Ahabi wathi kuJehoshafathi, “Yekela abantu bami bahambe labakho olwandle,” kodwa uJehoshafathi wala.

⁵⁰ Ngakho uJehoshafathi waphumula labokhokho bakhe, wangcwatshwa kanye labo emzini kaDavida uyise. UJehoram indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

U-Ahaziya Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

⁵¹ U-Ahaziya indodana ka-Ahabi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya ngomnyaka wetshumi lesikhombisa wokubusa kukaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, yena-ke wabusa ko-Israyeli okweminyaka emibili. ⁵² Wona emehlweni

KATHIXO, ngoba wahamba enyathelweni likayise lelikanina walandela njalo izindlela zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, owabangela u-Israyeli ukuthi enze isono.

⁵³ Wasebenzela uBhali njalo wamkhonza wathukuthelisa uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise.

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