

Ugwalo Lwesibili LwamaKhosi

Isigwebo SIKATHIXO Ku-Ahaziya

¹ Ngemva kokufa kuka-Ahabi, amaMowabi ahlamukela u-Israyeli. ² U-Ahaziya wayewele embotsheni yendlu yakhe engaphezulu eSamariya walimala. Wathumela izithunywa, wathi kuzo, “Hambani liyebuza kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu wase-Ekroni, ukuthi kambe ngizasila yini kulokhu kulimala na.”

³ Kodwa ingilosi KATHIXO yathi ku-Elija umThishibi, “Suka uyehlangabeza izithunywa zenkosi yaseSamariya uyezibuza ukuthi, ‘Kambe yikuthi akuselaNkulunkulu ko-Israyeli na ukuze uyehlhlula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu wase-Ekroni?’ ⁴ Ngakho uTHIXO uthi: ‘Awuyikusuka kulowombheda ogulela kuwo. Ngempela uzakufa!’ ”

⁵ Ekubuyeleni kwezithunywa enkosini, yazibuza yathi, “Kungani selibuyile na?”

⁶ Izithunywa zaphendula zathi, “Kulendoda esihlangabezileyo yathi kithi, ‘Buyelani enkosini elithumileyo liyeyitshela ukuthi, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Kungenxa yokuthi akulaNkulunkulu yini ko-Israyeli okubangele ukuthi uthumele abantu ukuyahlhlula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu we-Ekroni na? Ngakho awuyikuvuka kulowombheda olele kuwo. Ngempela uzakufa!’ ” ”

⁷ Inkosi yabuza izithunywa yathi, “Ngununtu onjani lowo olihlangabezileyo waselitshela lokhu?”

⁸ Izithunywa zaphendula zathi, “Yindoda ebigqoke isigqoko soboya ekhalweni ibophe ngozwezwe.”

Inkosi yathi, “Lowo ngu-Eliza umThishibi.”

⁹ Inkosi yasithumela ku-Eliza induna yebutho labantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yebutho yakhwela yaya ku-Eliza, owayehlezi phezu koqaqa, yafika yathi kuye, “Muntu kaNkulunkulu, inkosi ithi, ‘Yehla!’ ”

¹⁰ U-Eliza ephendula induna yebutho wathi, “Nxa ngingumuntu kaNkulunkulu, kakwehle umlilo ovela ezulwini ukuqothule wena kanye labantu bakho abangamatshumi amahlanu!” Lakanye wehla umlilo uvela ezulwini wayiqothula induna yebutho kanye labantu bayo.

¹¹ Ngokubona lokho inkosi yathuma ku-Eliza eyinye induna yebutho lamanye amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yathi ku-Eliza, “Muntu kaNkulunkulu, inkosi ithi, ‘Yehla khathesi.’ ”

¹² U-Eliza waphendula wathi, “Nxa ngingumuntu kaNkulunkulu, kakwehle umlilo ovela ezulwini ukuqothule wena kanye labantu bakho!” Ngakho umlilo kaNkulunkulu wehla uvela ezulwini waqothula izinduna zamabutho ezakuqala zombili kanye labo bonke abantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu.

¹³ Ngakho inkosi yathuma induna yebutho yesithathu labantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yebutho yesithathu yakhwela

yafika yaguqa ngamadolo phambi kuka-Elija yamncenga yathi, “Muntu kaNkulunkulu, akube lesihawu ngempilo yami leyamadoda la angamatshumi amahlanu, thina sizinceku zakho! ¹⁴ Angithi uyabona, umlilo wehle uvela ezulwini waqothula izinduna zamabutho lamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu induna nganye. Kodwa manje akunakekele impilo yami!”

¹⁵ Ingilosi KATHIXO yathi ku-Elija, “Yehla kanye layo induna; ungayesabi.” Ngakho u-Elija wasukuma wehla kanye lenduna waya enkosini.

¹⁶ Wasesithi enkosini, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Kungenxa yokuthi akulaNkulunkulu yini ko-Israyeli ukuze uthume izithunywa ukuthi ziyohlahlula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu we-Ekroni na? Ngenxa yesenzo sakho lesi, awuyikuvuka kulowombheda olele kuwo. Ngempela uza-kufa!” ¹⁷ Lakanye wafa, njengelizwi LIKATHIXO elakhulunywa ngu-Elija.

Njengoba u-Ahaziya wayengelandodana, ubukhosi bakhe bathathwa nguJoram owaba yinkosi ngomnyaka wesibili wokubusa kukaJehoram indodana kaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda. ¹⁸ Konke okwembali yokubusa kuka-Ahaziya, kanye lakwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

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U-Elija Wenyukela Ezulwini

¹ Kwathi uTHIXO esezathatha u-Elija ukuba aye ezulwini ngesivunguzane, u-Elija lo-Elisha babevela eGiligali.

² U-Elija wathi ku-Elisha, “Hlala lapha; uTHIXO usengithume eBhetheli.” Kodwa u-Elisha wathi, “Njengoba uTHIXO ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe.” Ngakho basuka baya eBhetheli.

³ Iqula labaphrofethi eBhetheli leza ku-Elisha lambuza lisithi: “Uyakwazi yini ukuthi uTHIXO uzakuthathela inkosi yakho lamuhla na?”

U-Elisha wathi, “Yebo, ngiyakwazi, kodwa lingakhulumi ngakho.”

⁴ Ngakho u-Elija wasesithi kuye, “Hlala lapha, Elisha; uTHIXO usengithume eJerikho.”

U-Elisha waphendula wathi: “Njengoba uTHIXO ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe.” Ngakho basuka baya eJerikho.

⁵ Iqula labaphrofethi eJerikho laya ku-Elisha lambuza lisithi, “Uyakwazi yini ukuthi uTHIXO uzathatha inkosi yakho lamuhla na?”

Waphendula wathi, “Yebo, ngiyakwazi, kodwa lingakhulumi ngakho.”

⁶ Ngakho u-Elija wasesithi, “Hlala khonapha; uTHIXO usengithume eJodani.”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Njengoba uTHIXO ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe.” Ngakho baqhubekela phambili ngohambo.

⁷ Amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu exukwini labaphrofethi asuka ayakuma bucwadlana ekhangele lapho u-Elija lo-Elisha ababemi khona

eJodani. ⁸ U-Eliza wasethatha ingubo yakhe, wayigoqa watshaya ngayo amanzi. Amanzi adabuka phakathi amanye aba kwesokunene amanye kwesokhohlo, basebechapha emhlabathini owomileyo.

⁹ Ekuchapheni kwabo, u-Eliza wathi ku-Elisha, “Akungitshela, kambe kuyini engingakwenzela khona ngingakasuswa kuwe?”

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, “Ngicela isabelo esiphindwe kabili somoya wakho.”

¹⁰ U-Eliza wathi, “Usucele into elukhuni, ungan-gibona ngisuswa kuwe kuzakuba ngokwakho, kodwa nxa kungangabinjalo akuyikuba ngokwakho.”

¹¹ Besahamba belokhu bekhuluma, kwafika ingqola yokulwa yomlilo lamabhiza ayo avuthayo yabehlukanisa, ngakho u-Eliza waya ezulwini ngesivunguzane.

¹² U-Elisha ebona lokhu wamemeza wathi, “Baba! Baba! Izinqola zokulwa labamabhiza okulwa ako-Israyeli!” U-Elisha kasazange aphinde ambone futhi. Wasethatha izigqoko zakhe wazidabula.

¹³ Wasedobha ingubo eyayiwe ku-Eliza wabuyela emuva wayakuma okhunjini lomfula uJodani.

¹⁴ Wathatha ingubo eyayiwe kuye watshaya ngayo amanzi wathi, “Ungaphi khathesi uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Eliza?” Wasethaya amanzi, adabuka phakathi amanye kwesokunene amanye kwesokhohlo, wasechaphela ngaphetsheya.

¹⁵ Ixuku labaphrofethi ababevela eJerikho, ababebukele, lathi, “Umoya ka-Eliza uphezu kuka-Elisha.” Basebesiya mhlangebeza

bakhothama phambi kwakhe. ¹⁶ Basebesithi, “Uyabona, thina izinceku zakho silamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu enelisayo. Yekela amadoda la ayedinga inkosi yakho. Mhlawumbe uMoya KATHIXO umthethe wayambeka entabeni ethile loba esihotsheni esithile.”

U-Elisha wathi, “Hatshi, lingabathumi.”

¹⁷ Kodwa baphikelela waze wakhulelwa zinhloni zokuba elokhu esala. Wasesithi, “Bathumeni.” Ngakho bathuma amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu, amdinga okwensuku ezintathu amswela. ¹⁸ Bathe sebebuyela ku-Elisha, owayesehlala eJerikho, wababuza wathi, “Bengingalitshelanga yini ukuthi lingamdingi?”

Ukuhlanjululwa Kwamanzi

¹⁹ Amadoda omuzi wakhona athi ku-Elisha, “Akubone, nkosi yethu, umuzi lo usendaweni ebukekayo, njengoba lawe uzibonela, kodwa amanzi alapha mabi lomhlaba wakhona awulazithelo.”

²⁰ U-Elisha wathi, “Ngiphani umganu oyin-gubhe liwufake itswayi.” Ngakho bawuletha umganu.

²¹ Wasephuma esiya emthonjeni wafika waphosela khona itswayi ekhuluma esithi, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: ‘Sengiwahlambulule amanzi la. Awangeke aphinde futhi abangele ukufa loba ukungatheli kuhle kwalumhlaba.’”

²² Amanzi lawo kusukela mhlalokho kuze kube lamuhla mahle, njengokwakutshiwo ngu-Elisha.

Ukuhozwa Kuka-Elisha

²³ Esuka lapho u-Elisha waya eBhetheli. Esahamba endleleni, kwavela kulowomuzi ixuku

lentanga yabatsha lamhoza lisithi, “Qhubeka, wena mpabanga! Qhubeka, wena mpabanga!”
²⁴ Wanyemukula, wabakhangela wasebehlisela isiqalekiso ngebizo LIKATHIXO. Kwasekuvela amabhele amabili ehlathini afohloza abangamatshumi amane lababili babo. ²⁵ Wasesedlulela eNtabeni yaseKhameli, uthe esesuka lapho waya eSamariya.

3

Ukuhlamuka KwamaMowabi

¹ UJoramu indodana ka-Ahabi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili wokubusa kukaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, yena wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lambili. ² Wona emehlweni KATHIXO, kodwa kwakungafanani lokukayise lonina ababekwenzile. Walahla ilitshe likaBhali elalizila elalibazwe nguyise. ³ Kodwa wagxila ezonweni zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze; kazange azifulathele.

⁴ UMesha inkosi yaseMowabi wayefuya izimvu, wayefanele ukubhadala inkosi yako-Israyeli izimvu ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu kanye loboya benqama ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu. ⁵ Kodwa ngemva kokufa kuka-Ahabi, inkosi yamaMowabi yahlamukela inkosi yako-Israyeli. ⁶ Ngalesosikhathi inkosi uJoramu yasuka eSamariya yabutha abako-Israyeli bonke. ⁷ Wathumela lelilizwi kuJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wathi: “Inkosi yamaMowabi

isingihlamukele. Singahambisana siyehlasela amaMowabi na?”

UJehoshafathi waphendula esithi, “Ngizahamba lawe. Mina nginguwe, abantu bami banjengabantu bakho, amabhiza ami anjengamabhiza akho.”

⁸ Wasebuza ukuthi, “Sizahlasela sivelela ngaphi na?”

UJoram wathi “Sizavelela eNkangala yase-Edomi.”

⁹ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphuma lenkosi yakoJuda kanye lenkosi yase-Edomi. Ngemva kohambo bezulazula okwensuku eziyisikhombisa amanzi amabutho kanye lawezinyamazana zempi aphela.

¹⁰ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yababaza yathi, “Kutheni kanti? UTHIXO angasibiza singamakhosi amathathu ukuze azosinikela ezandleni zamaMowabi na?”

¹¹ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, “Akulamphrofethi KATHIXO yini, esingabuza ngaye KUTHIXO na?”

Esinye sezikhulu zenkosi yako-Israyeli sathi, “Ukhona u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi. Wayeyinceku ka-Elija.”

¹² UJehoshafathi wathi, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO likuye.” Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye loJehoshafathi lenkosi yase-Edomi baya kuye.

¹³ U-Elisha wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Mina lawe singenelana njani? Hamba kubaphrofethi bakayihlo lakubaphrofethi bakanyoko.”

Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, “Hayi, kungenxa yokuthi UTHIXO wasibiza

sobathathu singamakhosi sinje ukuze asinikele kumaMowabi.”

¹⁴ U-Elisha wathi, “Njengoba uTHIXO uSomandla engimkhonzayo ephila, kun-gasikuhlonipha kwami ukuthi kuloJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, ngibe ngingayikukukhangela loba ukukubona ukuthi ukhona kodwa lokhu. ¹⁵ Kodwa-ke ngibizela umtshayi wechacho.”

Umtshayi wechacho esatshaya ichacho, amandla KATHIXO ehlela ku-Elisha, ¹⁶ wasesithi, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Lungisani imigelo eminengi kulesisigodi. ¹⁷ Ngoba ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Aliyikubona yezi loba izulu, kodwa lesisigodi sizagcwala ngamanzi, kuthi lina lenkomo zenu kanye lezinyamazana zonke lithole ukunatha. ¹⁸ Le yinto elula kuTHIXO, njalo uzanikela amaMowabi esandleni sakho. ¹⁹ Uzanqoba kuzozonke izinqaba zedolobho lakuyo yonke imizi eqakathekileyo. Uzawisa zonke izihlahla ezinhle, ugqibele yonke imithombo yamanzi, wonakalise wonke amasimu amahle ngamatshe.”

²⁰ Ngosuku olulandelayo ekuseni, ngesikhathi sokunikela imihlatshelo, lakanye babona, nanko amanzi egeleza evelela e-Edomi! Ngakho ilizwe lagcwala amanzi.

²¹ AmaMowabi wonke ayesezwile ukuthi amakhosi ayezohlasela; ngalokho amadoda wonke, abadala lamajaha, ababengenelisa ukuphatha izikhali balawulwa ukuba bayevikela umngcele. ²² Bathi bevuka emadabukakusa bathola ilanga linkanyazela phezu kwamanzi. Ekuboneni kwamaMowabi ngale, amanzi

ayekhanya ebomvu kungani ligazi. AmaMowabi asesithi, ²³ “Ligazi leliyana! Kutsho ukuthi amakhosi lawayana alwile abulalana wodwa. Asiyeni butha impango, maMowabi!”

²⁴ Kodwa amaMowabi athe efika enkambeni yama-Israyeli, ama-Israyeli awavukela awahlasela, amaMowabi aze abaleka. Ngakho ama-Israyeli ahlasele ilizwe lelo abhubhisa amaMowabi. ²⁵ Atshabalalisa imizi kwathi indoda nganye yaphosela ilitshe kuwo wonke amasimu amahle aze agcwala ngamatshe. Bagqibela yonke imithombo yamanzi njalo bagamula zonke izihlahla ezinhle. Kwasala iKhiri-Haresethi eyasala amatshe ayo elokhu enjalo, kodwa amadoda ayehlome ngezavutha ayihonqolozela njalo ayihlasela.

²⁶ Inkosi yamaMowabi ithe ibona ukuthi isikhulelwa ekulweni, yathatha amadoda angamakhulu ayisikhombisa alwa ngenkemba yazama ukuthi idabule phakathi ngamandla iyephutshela enkosini yase-Edomi, kodwa yehluleka. ²⁷ Inkosi yaseMowabi yasithatha ingqabutho yayo eyiyo indodana eyayizasala ibusa yayinikela njengomnikelo wokutshiswa phezu kwemiduli yedolobho. Kwakukukhulu ukuthukuthelela abako-Israyeli baze bahlehla babuyela kwelakibo.

4

Amafutha Omfelokazi

¹ Umfazi wenye indoda phakathi kwexuku labaphrofethi wakhalaza ku-Elisha wathi, “Indoda yami ebiyinceku yakho isifile, njalo uyakwazi ukuthi ibe imkhonza UTHIXO. Umkami ubesikwelede sendoda ethile esifuna ukuthumba amadodana ami amabili ukuze abe yizigqili zayo.”

² U-Elisha wamphendula wathi, “Ngingakunceda kanjani na? Akungitshela, kulani endlini yakho?”

Umfelokazi wathi, “Incekukazi yakho ayilutho ngaphandle kwengcosana yamafutha.”

³ U-Elisha wasesithi, “Hamba uyekweboleka imbiza ezinengi kubomakhelwane bakho bonke. Ungaceli ezilutshwane nje. ⁴ Ubusungena endlini yakho lamadodana akho uvale umnyango. Ubusuthululela amafutha embizeni inye nganye, ithi ingagcwala uyibeke eceleni.”

⁵ Wasuka kuye kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi wavala umnyango lamadodana akhe. Amadodana amqhubela imbiza yena elokhu ezigcwalisa ngamafutha. ⁶ Kuthe imbiza zonke sezigcwele, wathi endodaneni yakhe, “Letha enye futhi.”

Kodwa yaphendula yathi, “Akuselambiza eseleyo.” Amafutha kazabe esajuluka.

⁷ Wasuka wayatshela umuntu kaNkulunkulu, owathi, “Hamba uyethengisa amafutha lawo ubhadale izikwelede zakho. Wena lamadodana akho lizaphila ngaseleyo.”

Ukuvuswa Kwendodana YomShunami

⁸ Ngolunye usuku u-Elisha waya eShunemi. Kwakulowesifazane onothileyo, owamcela ukuba ahlale adle ukudla. Kwakusithi

nxa ehambele khonale wayethola ukudla khonapho. ⁹ Owesifazane wathi kumyeni wakhe, “Ngiyakwazi ukuthi lumuntu ohlala esedlula lapha ngumuntu ongcwele kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁰ Kasimlungisele indlu ephezulu simfakele khona umbheda, itafula, isihlalo kanye lesibane. Kube yindlu azafikela kiyo nxa elapha kithi.”

¹¹ Kwelinye ilanga, u-Elisha wafika wayan-gena endlini yakhe leyo wacambalala khona.

¹² Wathuma inceku yakhe uGehazi, wathi, “Ngibizela umShunami.” Ngakho inceku yam-biza, wafika wema phansi kwakhe. ¹³ U-Elisha wasesithi, “Umtshele uthi, ‘Usuzihluphe kangaka usilungisela. Kambe kuyini ongakwenzelwa wena? Singakukhulumela yini enkosini loba kumlawuli wamabutho na?’ ”

Owesifazane wathi, “Ngilomuzi phakathi kwa-bantu bakithi.”

¹⁴ U-Elisha wabuza wathi, “Kuyini esingamen-zela khona na?”

UGehazi wathi, “Kalandodana njalo umyeni wakhe useluphele.”

¹⁵ Ngakho u-Elisha wathi, “Mbize.” Inceku yasimbiza, wafika wema emnyango. U-Elisha wathi, ¹⁶ “Ngasolesi isikhathi ngomnyaka ozayo uzaphatha indodana ezandleni zakho.”

Owesifazane waphikisa wathi, “Atshi, nkosi yami, ungabokhohlisa incekekazi yakho, wena muntu kaNkulunkulu!”

¹⁷ Owesifazane wathatha isisu, kwathi ngom-nyaka owalandelayo ngesikhathi esifananayo wakhululeka wazuza indodana njengokutshelwa kwakhe ngu-Elisha.

¹⁸ Umntwana wakhula, kwathi ngelinye ilanga walandela uyise, owayelabavuni. ¹⁹ Wasesithi kuyise, “Maye ikhanda lami! Maye ikhanda lami!”

Uyise wathuma isisebenzi wathi, “Thwala umntwana uye laye kunina.” ²⁰ Isisebenzi sesimthwalele kunina unina wamanga kwaze kwaba semini enkulu umntwana wasesifa. ²¹ Unina wamthatha wayamlalisa embhedeni womuntu kaNkulunkulu, waphuma wasevala umnyango.

²² Owesifazane wathumela kumkakhe ilizwi elithi, “Ngicela ungithumele esinye sezisebenzi kanye lobabhemi ukuze ngiphange ngiyebona umuntu kaNkulunkulu ngiphenduke.”

²³ Umyeni wakhe wathi, “Kungani umlanda lamuhla? Akusikho ekuThwaseni kweNyanga njalo akusilo iSabatha.”

Owesifazane wathi, “Kulungile kunjalo.”

²⁴ Wethesa ubabhemi wasesithi kusisebenzi sakhe, “Khokhela; ungahambi kancane usenzela mina ngaphandle kokuba ngikutshele.”

²⁵ Ngakho waphuma wahamba waze wayamthola umuntu kaNkulunkulu eNtabeni yaseKhameli.

Ebona owesifazane esesebucwadlana, umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi kuGehazi inceku yakhe, “Khangela! Nanguyana umShunami! ²⁶ Gijima umhlangabeze umbuze uthi, ‘Konke kulungile kuwe na? Umkakho uyaphila na? Umntanakho uyaphila na?’ ”

Owesifazane wathi, “Konke kulungile.”

²⁷ Kodwa esefikile emuntwini kaNkulunkulu entabeni, wagagadlela inyawo zakhe. UGehazi weza kuye wamfuqela khatshana, kodwa umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi, “Myekele! Uphakathi kosizi olukhulu, kodwa UTHIXO uku-fihlile kimi lokho njalo kangitshelanga ukuthi kungani.”

²⁸ Owesifazane wathi, “Ngake ngacela indodana kuwe na, nkosi yami? Angizange ngikutshele yini ukuthi ungaze wangikhohlisa na?”

²⁹ U-Elisha wathi kuGehazi, “Khwincela ijazi lakho ebhantini, uphathe intonga yami ngesandla ubusugijima. Loba ngubani ohlangana laye, ungamingeleli, loba angaze akubingelele ungamphenduli. Ufike ubeke intonga yami ebusweni bomfana.”

³⁰ Kodwa unina womfana wathi, “Ngeqiniso elinjengoba UTHIXO ephila lanjengoba uphila, angiyikukutshiya.” Ngakho wasuka walandela owesifazane.

³¹ UGehazi wahle wagijima phambili wayabeka intonga ebusweni bomfana, kodwa akuzwakalanga lutho njalo kanyikinyekanga. Ngakho uGehazi wabuyela ukuyahlangabeza u-Elisha wamtshela wathi, “Umfana kavukanga.”

³² Ekufikeni kwakhe endlini u-Elisha, wafumana lakanye nangu umfana usembhedeni wakhe ufile. ³³ Wangena wavala umnyango baba bobabili lomfana wasekhuleka kuTHIXO.

³⁴ Wakhwela embhedeni wacambalala phezu komfana, umlomo emlonyeni, amehlo emehlweni, izandla ezandleni. Uthe esazelula phezu komfana, umzimba womfana waqalisa

ukukhudumala. ³⁵ U-Elisha wafulathela wahambahamba endlini waphinda wabuyela embhedeni wacambalala phezu komfana. Umfana wathimula kasikhombisa wasevula amehlo.

³⁶ U-Elisha wabiza uGehazi wathi kuye, “Biza umShunami.” Wakwenza lokho. Uthe esefikile wasesithi kuye owesifazane, “Thatha indodana yakho.” ³⁷ UmShunami wangena, wawela ezinyaweni zakhe wakhothama. Wasethatha indodana yakhe wahamba.

Ukufa Okusembizeni

³⁸ U-Elisha wabuyela eGiligali njalo kulesosigaba kwakulendlala. Kwathi esesemhlanganweni lexuku labaphrofethi, wathuma isisebenzi sakhe wathi, “Beka imbiza enkulu eziko, uphekele abaphrofethi ukudla.”

³⁹ Omunye wabo wayakukha imibhida egangeni wathola ivini leganga. Wakha amajodwana wagcwalisa ophikweni lwesigqoko sakhe. Ekuphendukeni kwakhe wawaqobaqoba wawafaka embizeni yesitshebo lanxa kungekho owayesazi ukuthi kuyini. ⁴⁰ Kwaphakululwa ukuba abantu badle, kodwa bathi beqalisa ukudla bamemeza bathi, “Awu muntu kaNkulunkulu kulokufa embizeni!” Kabazabe besakudla.

⁴¹ U-Elisha wathi, “Lethani ifulawa.” Wayifaka embizeni wasesithi, “Baphakuleleni abantu badle.” Ngalokho kwakungaselabuthi embizeni.

Abalikhulu Baphiwa Ukudla

⁴² Kwafika indoda ethile ivela eBhali-Shalisha, iphathele umuntu kaNkulunkulu izinkwa zebhali ezingamatshumi amabili, zibhekhwe ngezilimo zakuqala. U-Elisha wathi, “Nikani abantu badle.”

⁴³ Inceku yakhe yathi, “Ngingababela njani abantu abalikhulu okungaka?”

Kodwa u-Elisha wathi, “Phakululela abantu badle. Ngoba ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: ‘Bazakudla baze bakutshiye.’” ⁴⁴ Inceku yasiphakululela abantu, badla baze bakutshiya, njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO.

5

UNamani Welatshwa Ubulephero

¹ UNamani wayengumlawuli webutho lenkosi yase-Aramu. Wayelodumo ehlonipheka emehlweni enkosi yakhe, ngoba ngaye UTHIXO wanika ele-Aramu ukunqoba. Wayelibutho elilesibindi, kodwa wayelobulephero.

² Amaxuku amabutho ase-Aramu ayephumile athumba intombazana yako-Israyeli, yaba yisichaka somkaNamani. ³ Yathi kunkosikazi yayo, “Ngabe inkosi yami ike ibonane lomphrofethi oseSamariya! Ubezayelapha ubulephero bayo.”

⁴ UNamani wayatshela inkosi yakhe ngalokhu okwakutshiwo yintombazana yako-Israyeli.

⁵ Inkosi yase-Aramu yathi, “Ye kufanele uhambe, ngizabhalela inkosi yako-Israyeli incwadi.” Ngakho uNamani wasuka ephethe amathalenta esiliva alitshumi, amashekeli egolide azinkulungwane eziyisithupha kanye

lamaxha ezigqoko alitshumi. ⁶ Incwadi ahamba layo enkosini yako-Israyeli yayisithi: “Ngalincwadi ngikuthumela inceku yami uNamani ukuba uzomelapha ubulephero bakhe.”

⁷ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi iqeda ukufunda incwadi leyo, yadabula izembatho zayo yathi, “NginguNkulunkulu mina na? Ngilamandla okubulala lamandla okuphilisa na? Kungani lumuntu ethumele umuntu esithi ngimelaphe ubulephero? Angithi liyabona ukuthi udinga ukuxabana lami!”

⁸ U-Elisha umuntu kaNkulunkulu esezwe ukuthi inkosi yako-Israyeli yayisidabule izembatho zayo, wayithumela ilizwi esithi, “Kungani usudabule izembatho zakho na? Letha indoda leyo kimi ukuze yazi ukuthi kulomphrofethi ko-Israyeli.” ⁹ Ngakho uNamani wahamba lamabhiza akhe kanye lezingqola zokulwa wayakuma emnyango wendlu ka-Elisha. ¹⁰ U-Elisha wathuma isithunywa ukuthi siyotshela uNamani sithi: “Hamba, uyegeza kasikhombisa emfuleni uJodani, inyama yakho izahluma njalo lawe uhlambuluke.”

¹¹ Kodwa uNamani wasuka ethukuthele wasesithi: “Mina benginakana ukuthi ngempela uzaphuma eze kimi ame abize ibizo LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe, aphakamise isandla phezu kwezilonda angelaphe ubulephero. ¹² Imifula yaseDamaseko, i-Abhana leFariphari kayingcono yini kulawo wonke amanzi ako-Israyeli na? Bengingeke ngageza kiyo ngihlambuluke na?” Ngakho wafulathela wahamba ethukuthele.

¹³ Izinceku zikaNamani zamlanda zathi kuye, “Baba, alubana umphrofethi ubekutshele ukuthi wenze into enkulu ube ungayikuyenza na? Pho, kwehlula ngaphi nxa esithi, ‘Geza uh-lambuluke!’” ¹⁴ Yikho ukusuka kwakhe esiya khonale efika egeza kasikhombisa, njengokulaywa kwakhe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu, inyama yakhe yahluma njalo yahlambuluka kun-gathi ngeyomfana omncinyane.

¹⁵ Ngakho uNamani kanye lezinceku zakhe babuyela kumphrofethi uNkulunkulu. Wafika wema phambi kwakhe wathi, “Ngiyakwazi ukuthi akulankulunkulu emhlabeni wonke ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Ngoxolo ngicela wamukele lesisipho senceku yakho.”

¹⁶ Umphrofethi wathi, “Ngeqiniso elinjen-gokuba uTHIXO engimkhonzayo ephila, angiyik-wamukela lutho.” Kwathi lanxa uNamani emn-cenga wala.

¹⁷ UNamani wasesithi, “Nxa ungasoze ukwamukele ngiyacela, mina nceku yakho, ukuba ngithole umhlabathi walapha ongalingana ukuthwalwa zimbongolo ezimbili, ngoba mina nceku angisayikunikela iminikelo yokutshiswa lemihlatshelo lakuwuphi unkulunkulu kodwa kuTHIXO. ¹⁸ Kodwa inceku yakho icela ukuba uTHIXO ayixolele kulokhu kuphela: Nxa inkosi yami ingena ethempelini likaRimoni ukuze iyemkhothamela ibambelele engalweni yami lami ngikhothame kanye layo, nxa ngikhothama ethempelini likaRimoni, ngiyacela ukuba uTHIXO angixolele kulokho.”

19 U-Elisha wathi, “Hamba ngokuthula.”

UNamani uthe esehambe okomango othile, 20 uGehazi, isisebenzi sika-Elisha inceku kaNkulunkulu, wazitshela ukuthi, “Inkosi yami imyekele uNamani wase-Aramu, wahamba ingasamukelanga isipho sakhe. Ngeqiniso elinjengoba UTHIXO ephila ngizamgijimela ngiyezuza ulutho kuye.”

21 Ngakho uGehazi wahaluzela wamxhuma uNamani. Kwathi uNamani embona esiza egi-jima, wehla enqoleni yakhe wamhlangabeza, wambuza wathi, “Kulungile konke na?”

22 UGehazi wathi, “Yebo, konke kulungile. Inkosi yami ingithumile ukuba ngithi, ‘Sekufike amajaha amabili exuku labaphrofethi bevela elizweni lezintaba elako-Efrayimi, icela ukuba uwanike ithalenta lesiliva elilodwa lezigqoko ezimbili.’ ”

23 UNamani wathi, “Ngokujabula, ngithi thatha amathalenta amabili.” Wamkhuthaza uGehazi ukuba awamukele, wasebophela amathalenta esiliva amabili emigodleni emibili, lamaxha amabili ezigqoko. Wawaqhubela izisebenzi ezimbili, zawathwala zahamba kuqala phambi kukaGehazi. 24 Esefikile eqaqeni uGehazi, wathatha impahla kulezozisebenzi wayazibeka endlini. Wathi kababuyele, lakanye basuka.

25 Wasengena wafika wema phambi kwenkosi yakhe u-Elisha. U-Elisha wambuza wathi, “Ube ungaphi Gehazi?”

UGehazi waphendula wathi, “Inceku yakho ayizange iye ndawo.”

²⁶ Kodwa u-Elisha wathi kuye, “Umoya wami ubungekanye lawe na lapho lowomuntu ephenduka engoleni ekuhlangabeza? Yisikhathi sokwamukela imali lesi na, kumbe esokwamukela izigqoko, lezivande zama-oliva, lamavini lemihlambi yezimvu, leyenkomo, kumbe eyezinceku zesilisa lesifazane? ²⁷ Ubulephero bukaNamani buzanamathela kuwe lasenzalweni yakho kuze kube laphakade.” UGehazi wasuka phambi kuka-Elisha eselobulephero esemhlophe njen-gongqwaqwane.

6

Ukundenda KweHloka

¹ Ixuku labaphrofethi lathi ku-Elisha, “Khangela, indawo esihlala kiyi lawe kayisasanelanga. ² Asiye eJodani lapho esizagamula khona izigodo sakhe indawo yokuhlala.”

U-Elisha wathi, “Kulungile, hambani.”

³ Omunye wabo wathi, “Ungazake uhambe lezinceku zakho na?”

U-Elisha wathi, “Kulungile ngizahamba.”

⁴ Ngakho wasehamba labo.

Baya eJodani bafika baqalisa ukugamula izigodo. ⁵ Omunye wathi egamula, ihloka lakhe laqamuka isihloko salo sawela emanzini. Wasekhala esithi, “Nkosi yami, ihloka leli bengilibolekile.”

⁶ Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasebuza esithi, “Liwele ngaphi?” Uthe esemtshengisile indawo yakhona, u-Elisha wagamula uswazi waluphosela khonapho, lokho kwenza ihloka

lelo landenda. ⁷ Wasesithi, “Lenyule emanzini.” Umuntu lowo welula isandla sakhe walenyula.

U-Elisha Uthiya Ama-Aramu Aphumputhekisi-weyo

⁸ Inkosi yase-Aramu yayisempini ilwisana labako-Israyeli. Ngemva kokukhulumisana lezikhulu zayo inkosi yathi, “Inkamba yami ngizayimisa endaweni ethile.”

⁹ Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathumela ilizwi enkosini yako-Israyeli lisithi, “Qaphela ungedluli kuleyana indawo, ngoba ama-Aramu azakwehla ayekhona.” ¹⁰ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yahlolisisa kuleyondawo eyayiqanjwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu. U-Elisha wakuphinda enkosini lokhu kuxwayisa kanenginengi, ukuze izivikele ezindaweni ezinjengalezi.

¹¹ Lokhu kwayithukuthelisa inkosi yase-Aramu. Yabiza izikhulu zayo yazihwabhela yathi, “Aliyikungitshela yini ukuthi phakathi kwethu ngubani oseceleni lenkosi yako-Israyeli na?”

¹² Esinye sezikhulu zakhe sathi, “Kakho phakathi kwethu nkosi yami, kodwa u-Elisha, umphrofethi wako-Israyeli, ulakho ukutshela inkosi yako-Israyeli ngalawo mazwi owakhluma usendlini yakho yokulala.”

¹³ Inkosi yabalaya yathi, “Hambani liyemdinga lapho akhona, ukuze ngithumele amadoda ayemthumba.” Kwavela impendulo ethi, “Use-Dothani.” ¹⁴ Inkosi yasithumela amabhiza lezingola zokulwa kanye lamabutho aqinileyo. Bahamba ebusuku bahle bagombolozela umuzi wakhona.

15 Kuthe inceku yomuntu kaNkulunkulu ivuka ekuseni ngelanga elilandelayo yaphuma phandle yathola amabutho alamabhiza lezingola zokulwa sezihonqolozele idolobho. Inceku yethuka yathi, “Maye, nkosi yami, sizakwenzenjani na?”

16 Umphrofethi wathi, “Ungesabi. Labo abalathi banengi kulalabo abangakubo.”

17 U-Elisha wasekhuleka wathi, “Oh THIXO, vula amehlo akhe ukuze abone.” Ngakho uTHIXO wavula amehlo enceku, yakhangela yabona amaqqa agcwele amabhiza lezingola zokulwa ezomlilo zihonqolozele u-Elisha.

18 Kuthe izitha zisondela kuye, u-Elisha wakhuleka kuTHIXO wathi, “Tshaya lababantu babe yiziphofu.” Ngakho wabaphumputhekisa, njengokucela kuka-Elisha.

19 U-Elisha wabatshela wathi, “Akusiwo umgwaqo njalo akusiwo umuzi eliwudingayo. Ngilandelani, ngizalikhokhela liye emuntwini elimdingayo.” Ngakho wabakhokhelela eSamariya.

20 Sebephakathi komuzi, u-Elisha wathi, “THIXO, vula amehlo alababantu ukuze babone.” Ngakho uTHIXO wavula amehlo abo, bazibonela ukuthi babephakathi kweSamariya.

21 Inkosi yako-Israyeli ithe ibabona, yabuza ku-Elisha yathi, “Ngibabulale yini, baba? Ngibabulale na?”

22 Yena waphendula wathi, “Ungababulali. Kambe ungababulala yini ngenkemba loba ngomtshoko wakho abantu obathumbileyo. Baphe ukudla lamanzi ukuze badle babe

sebebuyela enkosini yabo.” ²³ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibenzela idili elikhulu, bathe sebeqedile ukudla lokunatha, yabakhulula ukuba bahambe, ngakho basuka babuyela enkosini yabo. Kwathi amaxuku amabutho ase-Aramu ayehlala ehlasela elako-Israyeli akhawula ukuhlasela.

Indlala ESamariya Ngesikhathi Ivinjezelwe

²⁴ Ngemva kwesikhathi, uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu yaqoqa amabutho ayo wonke yayavimbezela umuzi waseSamariya. ²⁵ Kwaba lendlala enkulu eSamariya ngesikhathi sokuvinjezelwa kwayo; ngakho inhloko kababhemi yayithengiswa ngamashekeli esiliva angamatshumi ayisificaminwembili, legajana lombhida othile ngamashekeli amahlanu esiliva.

²⁶ Kwathi ngolunye usuku inkosi yako-Israyeli ihambahamba phezu komduli womuzi, owesifazane othile wamemeza esithi kuyo, “Akungincede, baba nkosi yami!”

²⁷ Inkosi yaphendula yathi, “Nxaxaxa uTHIXO engakusizi, mina kambe ngizaluthatha ngaphi uncedo? Ngizaluthatha esikhamelweni sewayini yini loba esizeni sokubhulela na?” ²⁸ Wasebuza wathi, “Kodwa uhlutshwa yini?”

Owesifazane waphendula wathi, “Owesifazane lo uthe kimi, ‘Letha umntanakho ukuba simudle lamuhla, kuzakuthi kusasa sidle owami.’” ²⁹ Ngakho simphekile umntanami samudla. Ngosuku olulandelayo ngasengisithi, ‘Letha umntanakho ukuba simudle.’ Kodwa yena ubesemfihlile.”

³⁰ Inkosi ithe isizwa okwakutshiwo ngowesifazane lowo yadabula izigqoko zayo. Inkosi yayihamba phezu komduli, abantu bayikhangela, babona ukuthi isigqoko sayo sangaphansi sasingesokulila. ³¹ Inkosi yathi, “Sengathi uNkulunkulu angangihlanekela kubi nxa ikhanda lika-Elisha indodana kaShafathi kungasa lilokhu limi phezu kwamahlombe akhe lamuhla!”

³² U-Elisha wayehlezi endlini yakhe labadala babehlezi laye. Inkosi yasithumela isithunyuwa phambili, kodwa sithe singakafiki u-Elisha wathi ebadaleni, “Liyakubona yini ukuthi umbulali lo usethumele umuntu ukuba azoquma ikhanda lami na? Khangelani, ekufikeni kwesithunyuwa lapha libovalala umnyango libambe isivalo siqine. Kalizizwa yini izisinde zenkosi yaso ngemva kwaso na?”

³³ Kwathi esakhuluma, isithunyuwa sahle safika. Ngakho inkosi yathi, “Uhlupho lonke lolu luvela kuTHIXO. Pho-ke ngisamlindelelani uTHIXO na?”

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¹ U-Elisha wathi, “Zwanini ilizwi LIKATHIXO. Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO: Kusasa ngasolesi isikhathi, ingxenye yegokoko lefulawa izabe isithengiswa ngeshekeli kuthi ingxenye ezimbili zegokoko lebhali zibe ngezeshekeli elilodwa esangweni laseSamariya.”

² Isikhulu leso inkosi eyayeyeme engalweni yaso sathi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, “Khangela, kambe loba uTHIXO angaze avule amasango empophoma zamazulu bekungenzeka lokhu na?”

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, “Lokho uza-kubona ngawakho amehlo, kodwa awuyikudla loba yini yakho!”

Ukuvinjezelwa Kuyasuswa

³ Kwakukhona amadoda alobulephero amane esangweni lomuzi. Akhulumisana athi, “Sihlaleleni lapha size sife na? ⁴ Nxa singathi, ‘Asingeneni phakathi komuzi.’ Lakhona kulendlala, sizakufa. Singahlala khonapha, sizakufa. Ngakho asiyeni enkambeni yama-Aramu siyezinkela. Bangahlala bengasibulali, sizaphila; kodwa bangasibulala, sizakufa.”

⁵ Kusihlwa baya enkambeni yama-Aramu. Bathe befika eduzane lenkamba, bananzelela ukuthi kwakungaselamuntu loyedwa, ⁶ ngoba iNkosi yayenze ukuthi ama-Aramu azwe um-sindo wezingqola zokulwa lamabhiza kanye lebuthe elikhulu endlebeni zawo, aze atshelana athi, “Qaphelani, inkosi yako-Israyeli isisibizele amakhosi amaHithi lamaGibhithe ukuthi azosihlasela!” ⁷ Ngakho asuka abaleka ngomnyama wokuhlwa atshiya amathente awo kanye lamabhiza labobabhemi. Abaleka atshiya inkamba ilokhu imi injalo evikela impilo yawo.

⁸ Amadoda ayelobulephero angena enkambeni afika ahlala kwelinye lamathente. Adla anatha, aze athwala lesiliva, legolide lezigqoko, ahamba lakho ayakufihla. Aphenduka njalo angena kwelinye lamathente athatha njalo ezinye impahla lazo ayazifihla.

⁹ Asekhulumisana esithi, “Akulunganga lokhu esikwenzayo. Lolu lusuku lwezindaba ezinhle

kodwa silokhu singazitsheli muntu. Singalindela ukusa kwelanga sizajeziswa. Asihambeni khathesi siyebika esigodlweni.”

¹⁰ Ngakho bahamba bamemeza abalindi bamasango bomuzi bathi kubo, “Siye sayafika enkambeni yama-Aramu sathola kungelamuntu loyedwa kodwa lokhu kungezwakali lomsindo womuntu ngaphandle kwamabhiza labobabhemi kubotshelwe, kanye lamathente atshiywe enjengoba enjalo.” ¹¹ Abalindi bamasango bamemezela lezizindaba, kwaze kwayabikwa laphakathi esigodlweni.

¹² Inkosi yavuka ebusuku yakhuluma lezikhulu zayo yathi, “Ngizalitshela ukuthi ama-Aramu asenzi kithi. Ayakwazi ukuthi siphakathi kwendlala; ngakho asuke atshiya inkamba zawo ukuze asicathamele emaphandleni enakana esithi, ‘Ngempela bazaphuma ijumo, kube lapho esizabathumba khona singene phakathi komuzi.’”

¹³ Esinye sezikhulu zenkosi sathi, “Thuma abahlanu ngamabhiza aseleyo phakathi komuzi. Bazawelwa luhlupho olufana lolwama-Israyeli wonke asele lapha, yebo, bazafana nje labo bonke abako-Israyeli abalindele ukufa. Ngakho asibathume balandele bayedingisisa okwenzakeleyo.”

¹⁴ Basebekhetha izinqola zokulwa ezimbili lamabhiza azo, inkosi yathuma ukuba zilandele ibutho lama-Aramu. Inkosi ekulawuleni kwayo abatshayeli balezinqola zokulwa yathi, “Hambani liyedingisisa ukuthi kuyini okwenzakeleyo.” ¹⁵ Balandela baze bayafika

eJodani, bathola kuyikuthi indlela yonke yayihlakazeke ngeziggoko langempahla ezazilahle ngama-Aramu ekubalekeni kwawo. Ngakho zaphenduka izithunywa zafika zabika enkosini. ¹⁶ Abantu baphuma bayaphanga okwakusenkambeni yama-Aramu. Ngakho igokoko lefulawa lathengiswa ngeshekeli, amagokoko amabili ebhali athengiswa ngeshekeli, njengokutsho KUKATHIXO.

¹⁷ Inkosi yayibeke isikhulu eyayeyeme engalweni yaso ukuba silondolozwe isango. Abantu baphithizela basinyathela esangweni, safe, njengokwakutshiwo ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngesikhathi inkosi ize ifike endlini yakhe. ¹⁸ Kwenzakala njengalokhu umuntu kaNkulunkulu wayetshilo enkosini: “Ngalesi isikhathi kusasa, igokoko lefulawa lizathengiswa ngeshekeli, amagokoko amabili ebhali azathengiswa ngeshekeli esangweni laseSamariya.”

¹⁹ Isikhulu senkosi sona sasithe emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, “Khangela, loba UTHIXO angaze avule amasango empophoma zamazulu bekungenzeka lokhu na?” Umuntu kaNkulunkulu yena wayephendule wathi, “Lokhu uzakubona ngawakho amehlo, kodwa awuyikudla loba yini yakho!” ²⁰ Yikho kanye okwenzakala kule-sikhulu senkosi, ngoba abantu baphithizela basinyathela esangweni, safe.

8

Umfazi OngumShunami Uphywa Amasimu

Akhe

¹ U-Elisha wayetshele umfazi olomntwana ayemvuse ekufeni wathi, “Suka uhambe labendlu yakho uyehlala lapha ongathuthela khona okwesikhatshana, ngoba UTHIXO uzaletha indlala elizweni ezathatha iminyaka eyisikhombisa.” ² Owesifazane lowo wakwenza lokho njengokulaywa kwakhe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu. Yena kanye labendlu yakhe basuka bayahlala elizweni lamaFilistiya okweminyaka eyisikhombisa.

³ Ekupheleni kweminyaka eyisikhombisa wasuka elizweni lamaFilistiya waya enkosini yakibo wayacela indawo yomuzi kanye lamasimu akhe. ⁴ Inkosi yayikhuluma loGehazi, isisebenzi somuntu kaNkulunkulu, yathi, “Ake ungixoxele ngezimanga ezinkulu esezike zenziwa ngu-Elisha.” ⁵ Uthe uGehazi esathi uyalandisela inkosi ngokuthi u-Elisha wavusa njani abafileyo, owesifazane owayelendodana yakhe eyasiliswa ngu-Elisha wafika ezocela ukubuyela emzini wakhe lokulima amasimu akhe.

UGehazi wathi, “Nguyenalo owesifazane, nkosi yami, nansi lendodana yakhe, eyiyo eyavuswa kwabafileyo ngu-Elisha.” ⁶ Inkosi yambuza ngalokhu umama lowo, lakanye wakufakaza lokho.

Inkosi yasikhetha esinye sezikhulu zayo ukuba sikhangele izikhalazo zowesifazane yaqonqosela yathi, “Uze umbuyisele konke okwakungokwakhe, lenzuzo yonke eyasala izuzakala emasimini akhe kusukela mhla asuka kulelizwe kuze kube sekuphendukeni kwakhe lamuhla.”

UHazayeli Ubulala UBheni-Hadadi

⁷ U-Elisha waya eDamaseko, uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu wayegula. Inkosi isitsheliwe ngalokho ukuthi, ⁸ “Umuntu kaNkulunkulu usefikile uvela ekudeni khonale esiza lapha,” wathi kuHazayeli: “Thatha isipho uyehlangabeza umuntu kaNkulunkulu. Khuluma ubuze UTHIXO ngaye; uthi, ‘Kambe ngizasila yini kulokhu kugula na?’ ”

⁹ UHazayeli waphuma wayahlangabeza u-Elisha, ephethe izipho zezimpahla ezinhle kakhulu ezenziwa ngabaleminwe eDamaseko zithwelwe ngamakamela angamatshumi amane. Wafika wangena wema phambi kwakhe, wathi, “Indodana yakho uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu ungithumile ukuba ngizobuza, uthu yena, ‘Kambe ngizasila emkhuhlaneni na?’ ”

¹⁰ U-Elisha waphendula wathi, “Hamba uyemtshela ukuthi, ‘Ngempela uzasila’; kodwa UTHIXO usebonakalisile kimi umbono wokuthi uzakufa.” ¹¹ Wamkhangela engaciyozi emuthe nzo ngamehlo uHazayeli waze waba lenhloni. Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasekhala.

¹² UHazayeli wabuza wathi, “Kungani inkosi yami ikhala?”

Umuntu kaNkulunkulu waphendula wathi, “Kungenxa yokuthi ngiyabazi ububi ozabenza ebantwini bako-Israyeli; uzatshisa izinqola zabo ngomlilo, ubulale lamadodana abo ngenkemba, uchoboze ingane zabo njalo uqhaqhe abesifazane abazithweleyo.”

¹³ UHazayeli wathi, “Kambe inceku yakho, yona iyinja ngokwayo, ingasanelisa njani isiga esingako?”

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, “UTHIXO ungitshengisile ukuthi wena uzakuba yinkosi yase-Aramu.”

¹⁴ Ngakho uHazayeli wasuka ku-Elisha wabuyela enkosini yakhe. UBheni-Hadadi wasebuza esithi, “Utheni u-Elisha kuwe?” UHazayeli yena waphendula wathi, “Ungitshele ukuthi ngempela uzasila.” ¹⁵ Kodwa ngosuku olulandelayo wathatha ingubo, wayigxamuza emanzini, wasembomboza ubuso benkosi ngayo yaze yafa. Ngakho uHazayeli waba yinkosi.

UJehoramu Yinkosi YakoJuda

¹⁶ Ngomnyaka wesihlanu kaJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, ngesikhathi uJehoshafathi eyinkosi yakoJuda, uJehoram indodana kaJehoshafathi waqalisa ukubusa eyinkosi yakoJuda.

¹⁷ Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eyisificaminwembali.

¹⁸ Yena wahamba emanyathelweni amakhosi ako-Israyeli, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wayethethe indodakazi ka-Ahabi. Wona phambi KUKATHIXO. ¹⁹ Loba kunjalo, ngenxa kaDavida inceku yakhe, UTHIXO kathandanga ukudiliza indlu kaJuda. Wayemthembise ukugcina isibane sikaDavida lenzalo yakhe kuze kube nini lanini.

²⁰ Ngensuku zikaJehoram, abase-Edomi bahlamukela uJuda babeka eyabo inkosi.

²¹ Ngakho uJehoram waya eZayiri lezingola zakhe zokulwa. Ama-Edomi amhanqa yena kanye labalawuli bezingola zokulwa, wavuka ebusuku waphulukundlela ngobusuku; kodwa amabutho akhe abaleka abuyela ekhaya.

²² Kuze kube lamhla abase-Edomi balokhu behlamukela uJuda. ULibhina laye wahlamuka ngalesosikhathi.

²³ Okunye ngombuso langezehlakalo zikaJehoram, lakho konke okunye akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²⁴ UJehoram waya kwabaphansi, wangcwatshwa laboyise eMzini kaDavida. Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

U-Ahaziya Inkosi YakoJuda

²⁵ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili kaJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yako-Juda waqalisa ukubusa. ²⁶ U-Ahaziya waqalisa ukubusa eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okomnyaka owodwa. Unina wayengu-Athaliya, umntanomntanakhe ka-Omri inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁷ Wahamba ngenyathelo labendlu ka-Ahabi wona phambi KUKATHIXO, njengokwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wayeyisihlobo sabo ngokuthatha.

²⁸ U-Ahaziya waya empini loJoram indodana ka-Ahabi besilwa loHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu

eRamothi Giliyadi. Ama-Aramu alimaza uJoram, ²⁹ ngakho inkosi uJoram yabuyela eJezerili ukuthi iyekwelatshwa amanxeba lapho eyayilinyazwe khona ngama-Aramu eRama ekulweni kwayo loHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu.

Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda wehla wayabona uJoram indodana ka-Ahabi, njengoba wayeselimele.

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UJehu Ugcotshwa Ukuba Yinkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹ Umphrofethi u-Elisha wabiza enye indoda exukwini labaphrofethi wathi kuyo, “Khwica isembatho sakho ebhantini ubusuthatha iqhagana lamafutha leli, uye eRamothi Giliyadi.

² Ekufikeni kwakho khonale, ubodinga uJehu indodana kaJehoshafathi, indodana kaNimishi. Ufike umthathe, umsuse kubangane bakhe ubusumngenisa endlini engaphakathi. ³ Ube usuthatha iqhagana lamafutha uwathele ekhanda lakhe, ube usubika uthi, ‘Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Ngikugcoba ubukhosi bako-Israyeli.’ Ube usuvula umnyango ubaleke; ungabopuza!”

⁴ Ngakho ijaha leli, umphrofethi, waya eRamothi Giliyadi. ⁵ Ekufikeni kwakhe khonale wafica izikhulu zebutho zihlezi ndawonye, wasesithi kuzo, “Mlawuli, ngilombiko kuwe.”

UJehu wabuza wathi, “Ngokabani phakathi kwethu?”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Ngowakho mlawuli webutho.”

⁶ UJehu wasukuma wangena endlini. Umphrofethi wathela amafutha ekhanda likaJehu wasebika ukuthi, “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli lithi: ‘Ngigcoba wena ukuba ube yinkosi phezu kwabantu BAKATHIXO, u-Israyeli. ⁷ Kumele ubhubhise indlu ka-Ahabi inkosi yakho, njalo ngizaphindisela igazi lezinceku zami abaphrofethi kanye legazi lezinceku ZIKATHIXO zonke elachithwa nguJezebheli. ⁸ Indlu ka-Ahabi izabhujiswa. Ngizaqeda ko-Ahabi bonke abesilisa ko-Israyeli, isigqili loba okhululekileyo. ⁹ Indlu ka-Ahabi ngizayenza lokhu engakwenza eka-Jerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi kanye lokwenzakala endlini kaBhasha indodana ka-Ahija. ¹⁰ UJezebheli, yena uzadliwa yizinja elizweni laseJezerili; kayikungcwatshwa muntu.’” Wasevula umnyango, wabaleka.

¹¹ UJehu uthe ephuma lapho esebuyele kwabanye abalawuli, omunye wabo wambuza wathi, “Kulungile konke na? Uhlanya lolu lube luzofunani kuwe?”

UJehu wathi, “Liyamazi umuntu lo kanye lezinto azikhulumayo.”

¹² Abalawuli basebesithi, “Kakusilo iqiniso lokho! Sitshele.”

UJehu wathi, “Nanku angitshele khona: ‘Ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: Ngiyakugcoba ube yinkosi ko-Israyeli.’”

¹³ Baphanga bathatha izembatho zabo bazendlala ezinyaweni zakhe ezikhwelweni. Bavuthela icilongo bamemeza besithi, “UJehu useyinkosi!”

UJehu Ubulala UJoramu Lo-Ahaziya

¹⁴ Ngakho uJehu indodana kaJehoshafathi, indodana kaNimishi wavukela uJoram. (UJoram labo bonke abako-Israyeli babevikela iRamothe Giliyadi kuHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu, ¹⁵ kodwa inkosi uJoram yayisibuyele eJezerili ukuze yelatshwe amanxeba okulinyazwa ekulweni lama-Aramu kulwiwa loHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu.) UJehu wathi, “Nxalifuna lokho, akungabikho loyedwa ozaphuma emzini ukuba ayefikisa ilizwi eJezerili.” ¹⁶ Wasekhwela enqoleni yakhe yokulwa waya eJezerili, ngoba uJoram wayephumulela khonale njalo u-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda wayehlele khona ukuba ayembona.

¹⁷ Umlindi owayemi emphotshongweni eJezerili wathi ebona amabutho kaJehu esiza, wamemeza esithi, “Ngibona impi ezayo.”

UJoram wathi, “Thumela umgadi webhiza abahlangabeze ayebabuza ukuthi, ‘Liza ngokuthula na?’”

¹⁸ Umgadi webhiza wasuka wayahlangabeza uJehu wathi, “Inkosi ingithume ukuba ngibuze ngisithi, ‘Uza ngokuthula na?’”

UJehu waphendula wathi, “Ulani lakho ukuthula na? Ngena ngemva kwami.”

Umlindi wabika wathi, “Isithunywa sesifikile kubo, kodwa kasiphenduki.”

¹⁹ Ngakho inkosi yathuma umgadi webhiza wesibili. Esefikile kubo wathi, “Inkosi ithi: ‘Liza ngokuthula na?’”

UJehu waphendula wathi, “Ulani lakho ukuthula na? Ngena ngemva kwami.”

²⁰ Umlindi wabika wathi: “Usefikile kubo, kodwa kukhanya kaphenduki. Ugijima sengathi nguJehu indodana kaNimishi njalo utshayela sengathi luhlanya.”

²¹ UJoramu wakhwaza wathi, “Bophani inqola yami yokulwa.” Inqola yokulwa ithe isilungisiwe, uJoramu inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye lo-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda bagada, basuka omunye ekweyakhe inqola yokulwa lomunye laye ekweyakhe, behlangabeza uJehu. Bahlangana laye esivandeni sesiqinti esasikade singesikaNabhothi umJezerili. ²² UJoramu uthe ebona uJehu wambuza wathi, “Uza ngokuthula na, Jehu?”

UJehu wathi, “Kambe kungaba lokuthula njani khona kugcwele izithombe lobuthakathi bukanyoko uJezebheleli na?”

²³ UJoramu wafulathela wabaleka, ememezela ku-Ahaziya esithi, “Umvukela, Ahaziya!”

²⁴ UJehu wakhokha umtshoko wakhe waciba uJoramu esiphangeni ngomtshoko wakhe. Umtshoko wahle wangena enhliziyweni yakhe yena wathi votshololo enqoleni yakhe yokulwa. ²⁵ UJehu wathi kuBhidikhari, owayeyisikhulu sakhe sezingola zokulwa,

“Dobha isidumbu sakhe uyesiphosela ensimini eyayingekaNabhothi umJezerili. Uyakhumbula mhla sasigadile sobabili enqoleni yokulwa ngemva kuka-Ahabi uyise mhla uTHIXO enza lesisiphrofethi ngaye esithi, ²⁶ ‘Izolo ngibone igazi likaNabhothi lelamadodana akhe, kutsho uTHIXO, ngeqiniso ngizakwenza ulihlawulele kulesisivande, kutsho uTHIXO.’ Ngakho

umthathe, uyemphosela ensimini leyana, njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO.”

²⁷ U-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda esebone lokhu okwakwenzakele wabaleka wahamba ngomgwaqo esiya eBhethi-Hagani. UJehu waxotshana laye ememeza esithi, “Mbulaleni laye!” Bamlimaza enqoleni yakhe yokulwa endleleni yokuya eGuri phansi kwe-Ibhiliyami, kodwa wabaleka waya eMegido lapho ayafela khona. ²⁸ Izinceku zakhe zamthwala ngenqola yokulwa zamusa eJerusalema zayamngcwaba laboyise ethuneni lakhe eMzini kaDavida. ²⁹ (Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanye kaJoram indodana ka-Ahabi, u-Ahaziya waba yinkosi yakoJuda.)

Ukubulawa KukaJezebheli

³⁰ Ngakho uJehu waya eJezerili. UJezebheli wathi ekuzwa lokho, wazicomba ngesibhuda emehlweni weluka inwele zakhe waselunguza ngefasitela. ³¹ UJehu uthe engena esangweni, wambuza wathi, “Uza ngokuthula na, Zimri, wena mbulali wenkosi yakho?”

³² Yena wakhangela phezulu ewindini wabuza wathi, “Ngubani ongakimi na? Ngubani?” Abathenwa ababili loba abathathu bakhangela phansi kuye. ³³ UJehu wathi, “Msakazeleni phansi!” Ngakho basebemsakazela phansi, elinye igazi lakhe lachaphakela emdulini lasemabhizeni ayesegidagida emnyathela ngamasondo.

³⁴ UJehu wangena wafika wadla njalo wanatha. Wathi, “Ake limthathe lo owesifazane oqalekisiweyo liyemngcwaba,

ngoba eyindodakazi yenkosi.” ³⁵ Kodwa bathe sebethi bayathatha isidumbu bathola sekusele ikhanda lenyawo lezandla kuphela. ³⁶ Babuyela bayatshela uJehu yena owathi, “Leli yilizwi LIKATHIXO alikhuluma ngenceku yakhe u-Elija umThishibi lisithi: Esiqintini esiseJezerili izinja zizakudla inyama kaJezebheli, ³⁷ lesidumbu sikaJezebheli sizakuba njengobulongwe emhlabathini elizweni laseJezerili ukuze kungabi lozakuthi, ‘Lo nguJezebheli.’ ”

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Ukubulawa Kwabendlu Ka-Ahabi

¹ ESamariya kwakulamadodana angamatshumi ayisikhombisa ayengawendlu ka-Ahabi. Ngakho uJehu waloba izincwadi elobela izikhulu zaseJezerili, abadala lakulabo ababesondla abantwana baka-Ahabi. Waloba kanje: ² “Masinyazana ekuboneni kwenu lincwadi, njengoba abantwana benkosi yenu besezandleni zenu njalo lilezingqola zokulwa lamabhiza, umuzi wengqaba lezikhali, ³ khethani lowo elimbona efanele kulabo bonke phakathi kwamadodana enkosi yenu limfake esihlalweni sikayise sobukhosi, beselilwela indlu yenkosi yenu.”

⁴ Kodwa besaba bathi: “Nxamakhosi amabili ehlulekile ukumelana laye, thina singakwenza njani?”

⁵ Ngakho isiphathamandla sesigodlo, usibalukhulu, abadala kanye labalindi bathumela lelilizwi kuJehu, “Sizinceku zakho, njalo siza-kwenza konke njengokutsho kwakho. Kakho

esizamkhetha ukuba abe yinkosi; yenza lokho obona kulungile kakhulu.”

⁶ Ngakho uJehu wabalobela incwadi yesibili esithi, “Nxa livumelana lami njalo lizimisele ukungilalela, qumani amakhanda amadodana enkosi yenu libe selibuya lawo kusasa eJezerili ngasonalesisikhathi.”

Amakhosana esikhosini, ayengamatshumi ayisikhombisa, ayehlala lamadoda aqakathekileyo phakathi komuzi, okuyiwo ayesondla amadodana enkosi. ⁷ Incwadi yathi ifika, amadoda la abulala wonke amakhosana angamatshumi ayisikhombisa. Afaka amakhanda awo ezitsheni awathumela kuJehu eJezerili. ⁸ Isithunywa sithe sifika satshela uJehu sathi: “Sebewalethile amakhanda amakhosana.”

UJehu wasekhupha ilizwi esithi, “Abutheleleni abe zinqwaba ezimbili esangweni lomuzi kuze kube sekuseni.”

⁹ Ngosuku olulandelayo uJehu waphuma; wema phambi kwabantu wathi, “Lina limsulwa. Yimi engithame ukubulala inkosi yami njalo ngiyibulele, kodwa ngubani obulele bonke laba? ¹⁰ Alibokwazi ukuthi akukho lalinye ilizwi elivela kuTHIXO lingxame u-Ahabi labendlu yakhe, elizakwehluleka. UTHIXO usekwenzile lokho akuthembisa ngenceku yakhe u-Elija.” ¹¹ Ngakho uJehu wabulala bonke eJezerili abendlu ka-Ahabi ababesele, kanye lezikhulu zakhe, abangane bakhe abasekhwapheni labaphristi bakhe, akusalanga muntu kwabendlu ka-Ahabi.

¹² UJehu waphuma njalo waqonda eSamariya. EBhethi-Ekhedi yaBelusi, ¹³ wahlangana lez-

ihlobo zika-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda wababuza wathi, “Lingobani lina na?”

Bona bamphendula bathi, “Siyizihlobo zika-Ahaziya, njalo sizekwethekelela abendlu yenkosi kanye lendlovukazi engunina.”

¹⁴ Yena wathi ezincekwini zakhe, “Bathatheni bephila!” Ngakho babathatha bephila bayababulalela emthonjeni weBhethi-Ekhedi, babengamadoda angamatshumi amane. Kakho loyedwa abamtshiya ephila.

¹⁵ Ngemva kokusuka kwakhe lapho, wahlangana loJehonadabi indodana kaRekhabi, owayesendleleni ezomhlangabeza. UJehu wambingelela wathi, “Wena uvumelana lami na, njengoba mina ngikanye lawe?”

UJehonadabi waphendula wathi, “Mina ngilawe.”

UJehu wathi, “Nxa kunjalo ngibamba isandla,” kwathi esembambile wamkhweza enqoleni yokulwa. ¹⁶ UJehu wasesithi, “Woza sihambe ngiyekutshengisa ukuphitshekela kwami UTHIXO.” Ngakho wagada laye enqoleni yakhe yokulwa.

¹⁷ UJehu uthe efika eSamariya, wabulala bonke ababesele khonale abendlu ka-Ahabi, wababhubhisa njengokutsho kwelizwi LIKATHIXO ekhuluma ku-Elija.

Ukubulawa Kwabaphrofethi BakaBhali

¹⁸ Ngakho uJehu wasebuthanisa abantu bonke wasesithi kubo, “U-Ahabi ubekhonza uBhali kancinyane; uJehu uzamkhonza kakhulu. ¹⁹ Ngakho ngibizelani bonke

abaphrofethi bakaBhali, zonke izikhonzi zakhe labaphristi bakhe. Linanzelele ukuthi kakho loyedwa ozasala, ngoba ngifuna ukwenza umhlats'helo omkhulu kuBhali. Ongayikubuya kasayikuphila." UJehu wayebakhohlisa ngoba wayedinga ukubhubhisa abafundisi bakaBhali.

²⁰ UJehu wasesithi, "Bizani umhlangano wokudumisa uBhali." Basebewumemezela.

²¹ Wasethumela ilizwi kulolonke elako-Israyeli, beza bonke abafundisi bakaBhali; kakho loyedwa ongezanga. Bagcwala baminyana ethempelini likaBhali kusukela emsamo kusiya emnyango. ²² UJehu wasesithi kulowo owayegcina izigqoko zabakhonza uBhali, "Balethele izigqoko bonke abakhonza uBhali." Ngakho wabalethela lezozigqoko.

²³ UJehu loJehonadabi indodana kaRekhabi bangena ethempelini likaBhali. UJehu wathi kubakhonzi bakaBhali, "Linanzelele kungangeni loyedwa oyinceku KATHIXO enkonzweni yenu, akube ngabakhonzi bakaBhali kuphela."

²⁴ Ngakho bangena banikela benza leminikelo yokutshiswa. UJehu wayebeke amadoda angamatshumi ayisificaminwembili wawaqonqosela wathi, "Loba ngubani ozayekela omunye walamadoda engiwabeke ezandleni zenu ephunyuka, ngizaphindisela ngempilo yakhe."

²⁵ UJehu wathi eseqedile ukunikela umnikelo wokutshiswa, wathi kubalindi lezikhulu zebutho, "Ngenani liyebabulala; kungabikho loyedwa ozaphunyuka." Ngakho babatshaya ngenkamba bababhubhisa. Abalindi lezikhulu balahlela phandle izidumbu basebengena

ethempelini likaBhali elingaphakathi.
²⁶ Bakhipha ilitshe elikhonzwayo likaBhali balitshisa. ²⁷ Balidiliza lelolitshe likaBhali elikhonzwayo babhidliza lethempeli lakhe, balenza laba yindlu yokuyela ngaphandle kuze kube lalamuhla lokhu.

²⁸ Ngalokho uJehu wadiliza ukholo lukaBhali ko-Israyeli. ²⁹ Kodwa, yena katshyananga lezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuzenza, ukukhonza amathole egolide eBhetheli laseDani.

³⁰ UTHIXO wathi kuJehu, “Njengoba wenze kuhle ngokuphelelisa lokho okufaneleyo phambi kwami njalo wenze konke ebengikumisele abendlu ka-Ahabi, abendlu yakho bazabusa ko-Israyeli kuze kube yisizukulwane sesine.”

³¹ Kodwa uJehu kazange ananzelele ukugcina umthetho KATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. Kazange atshiyane lezono ezazisenziwa nguJerobhowamu, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuba azenze.

³² Ngalezonsuku UTHIXO waqalisa ukwehlisa inani labako-Israyeli. UHabayeli wanqoba ama-Israyeli kulolonke ilizwe lawo, ³³ empumalanga yeJodani kulolonke eleGiliyadi (kuthatha umango kaGadi, okaRubheni lokaManase), kusukela e-Aroweri ngaseSihotsheni se-Arinoni kusiyaphutsha eGiliyadi kungena eBhashani.

³⁴ Okunye kwezehlakalo lezenzo ngokubusa kukaJehu, konke akwenzayo, aphumelela kukho, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

³⁵ UJehu wafa walala kuboyise emathuneni aseSamariya. UJehowahazi indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi yabusa. ³⁶ UJehu isikhathi abusa ngaso u-Israyeli eseSamariya kwaba yiminyaka engamatshumi amabili lasificamin-wembali.

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U-Athaliya LoJowashi

¹ U-Athaliya unina ka-Ahaziya wathi ebona ukuthi indodana yakhe isifile, waqhubeka ebulala bonke abendlunkulu.

² Kodwa uJehoshebha, indodakazi yenkosi uJehoramun njalo engudadewabo ka-Ahaziya, wathatha uJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya wamngqisa emsusa phakathi kwamakhosana ayesezabulawa. Wamfihla kanye lomlizane wakhe endlini yokulala emcatshisa ukuze u-Athaliya angaze ambona; yikho kasazange abulawe. ³ Wahlala ecatsishiwe yena kanye lomlizane wakhe ethempelini LIKATHIXO okweminyaka eyisithupha yokubusa kuka-Athaliya.

⁴ Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa uJehoyada wamema abalawuli bamakhulu, amaKharithi kanye labalindi, bonke balethwa phambi kwakhe ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Wenza isivumelwano labo wabafungisa ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Wasebatshengisa indodana yenkosi.

⁵ Wabalaya wathi, "Nanku elizakwenza: Lina elisemaviyweni amathathu azabe elindile ngeSabatha, ingxenye yokuthathu

yenu kumele ilinde isigodlo, ⁶ lengxenyeye yokuthathu esesangweni laseSuri, lengxenyeye yokuthathu esangweni elingemuva kwabalindi, abazophisanayo ukulinda ithempeli, ⁷ lani elisemaviyweni amabili okuvame ukuthi lingasebenzi ngeSabatha, lonke lizalindela inkosi ithempeli. ⁸ Lizalinda lizingelezele inkosi, ngulowo ehlo mile ngesikhali sakhe esandleni sakhe. Loba ngubani osondela kini kumele abulawe. Hlalani liseduze kwenkosi loba ingaze iye ngaphi.”

⁹ Abalawuli bekhulu benza njengokulaywa kwabo nguJehoyada umphristi. Umlawuli munye ngamunye wathatha iviyo lakhe lamadoda lawo ayesiya ekulindeni ngeSabatha lalawo ayezakuba engasebenzi eza kuJehoyada umphristi. ¹⁰ Ngakho yena wanika abalawuli imikhonto lamahawu ayengawenkosi uDavida ayegcinwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹¹ Kwathi abalindi ngamunye, ephethe isikhali esandleni sakhe, bajama bephahle inkosi iseduze kwe-alithari lethempelini, kusukela ezansi kusiya enyakatho yethempeli.

¹² UJehoyada waseveza indodana yenkosi wayethwesa umqhele; wayiqhubela lesivumelwano SIKATHIXO wahle wamemezela ukuba isiyinkosi. Bayigcoba inkosi, abantu batshaya izandla bahlaba umkhosi besithi, “Mpilo ende enkosini!”

¹³ U-Athaliya uthe esizwa umkhosi wokujabula kwabalindi kanye labantu bonke, waya ebantwini ngasethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹⁴ Uthe ethi mehlo suka, wabona nansi inkosi, yayimi

eduze kwensika njengomkhuba. Izikhulu labatshayi bamacilongo babesekele inkosi, abantu bonke bejabula ngokutshaya amacilongo. Ngakho u-Athaliya wadabula izembatho zakhe wamemeza esithi, “Umvukela! Umvukela!”

¹⁵ UJehoyada waselaya abalawuli bekhulu, ababelawula amabutho wathi: “Mkhupheni limfake phakathi kwamaviyo amabutho limhlasele ngenkamba lowo ozama ukumlandela.” Ngenxa yokuthi umphristi wayethe, “Akumelanga abulawelwe ethempelini LIKATHIXO.” ¹⁶ Ngakho bamdumela ekufikeni kwakhe endaweni lapha okungenela khona amabhiza esigodlweni, kulapho abulawelwa khona.

¹⁷ UJehoyada wasesenza isivumelwano phakathi KUKATHIXO lenkosi kanye labantu ukuthi bavume ukuba ngabantu BAKATHIXO. Wenza njalo isivumelwano phakathi kwenkosi labantu. ¹⁸ Abantu bonke belizwe baya ethempelini likaBhali bafika balidilizela phansi. Babhidliza ama-alithare lezithombe kwaba yizicucu, babulala uMathani umphristi kaBhali phambi kwama-alithare.

Ngakho uJehoyada umphristi wasebeka abalindi ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹⁹ Wathatha abalawuli bamakhulu, amaKharithi, abalindi labantu bonke belizwe, sebendawonye behla lenkosi ethempelini LIKATHIXO baya layo esigodlweni, bengenela esangweni labalindi. Inkosi yasithatha indawo yayo esihlalweni sobukhosi, ²⁰ abantu bonke belizwe baba lokujabula okukhulu. Kwaba lokuthula emzini,

ngoba u-Athaliya wayesebulewe ngenkemba esigodlweni.

²¹ UJowashi waqalisa ukubusa eleminyaka eyisikhombisa.

12

UJowashi Ulungisa IThempeli

¹ Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa kaJehu, uJowashi waba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. Ibizo likanina kunguZibiya; yena wayevela eBherishebha.

² UJowashi wenza ukulunga phambi kUKATHIXO ngayo yonke leyominyaka elaywa nguJehoyada umphristi.

³ Kodwa indawo eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela azidilizwanga, ngakho abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo yabo khona, njalo betshisa impepha khona.

⁴ UJowashi wathi kubaphristi, “Qoqani yonke imali elethwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO kuyiminikelo engcwele, imali eqoqwe ekubalweni kwabantu, lemali eyamukelwe ngokuzifungela komuntu lemali elethwe ngokuzithandela ethempelini.

⁵ Akuthi ngamunye umphristi amukele imali evela kumgcinisikhwama, leyomali izasetshenziswa ukulungisa lapho okonakala khona ethempelini.”

⁶ Kodwa kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wamatshumi amabili lemithathu wokubusa kwenkosi uJowashi, abaphristi babelokhu bengalilungisanga ithempeli.

⁷ Ngakho inkosi uJowashi yabiza uJehoyada umphristi kanye labanye abaphristi yababuza yathi,

“Kungani lingalungisi lapho okwadilika khona ethempelini? Lingabe lisathatha enye imali kungcinisikhwama, kodwa liyilethe ukuze kulungiswe ethempelini.” ⁸ Abaphristi bavuma ukuthi abasayikuthatha enye imali ebantwini njalo abasayikulungisa ithempeli bona ngokwabo.

⁹ UJehoyada umphristi wasethatha ibhokisi, wabhoboza isikhala esivalweni salo, waselibeka eceleni kwe-alithari, ngakwesokudla nxa umuntu engena ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Abaphristi bokulinda emnyango basebefaka ebhokisini yonke imali eyayilethwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ¹⁰ Besithi bangabona isinengi ebhokisini, babize unobhala wesigodlweni kanye lomphristi omkhulu, bafike bayibale yonke engenileyo ethempelini LIKATHIXO babesebeyigqiba emigodleni. ¹¹ Kwakusithi imali isibaliwe kukhitshwe eyokubhadala ababekhethelwe ukukhangela umsebenzi ethempelini. Ngaleyomali babhadala labo ababesebenza ethempelini LIKATHIXO, ababazi kanye labakhi ¹² labakha ngamatshe lababazi bamatshe. Bathenga amapulanka lamatshe abaziweyo ayesetshenziswa ukwakha kulungiswa ithempeli LIKATHIXO, njalo babhadala zonke izindleko ezazingezomsebenzi wokuvuselela ithempeli.

¹³ Imali eyaalethwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO kayisetshenziswanga ukwenza imiganu yesiliva, lezindlawu, lemiganu yokuchela, lamacilongo loba ezinye izinto zegolide lezesiliva; ¹⁴ yaphiwa izisebenzi ezayisebenzisa

ukulungisa ithempeli. ¹⁵ Akudingakalanga ukuthi bacele invumo kulabo ababanika imali yokubhadala ababesebenza, ngoba babesebenza beyiphatha ngokuthembeka okupheleleyo. ¹⁶ Imali yeminikelo yecala leminikelo yesono kayilethwanga ethempelini LIKATHIXO ngoba yayingeyabaphristi.

¹⁷ Ngalesosikhathi uHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu wayahlasela iGathi, wayithumba, wazimisela ukuthumba iJerusalema, ¹⁸ kodwa uJowashi inkosi yakoJuda wathatha zonke impahla ezingcwele ezazinikelwe ngokhokho bakhe uJehoshafathi loJehoram lo-Ahaziya, amakhosi akoJuda lalezozipho ezazinikelwe nguye ngokwakhe, legolide lonke elatholakala ethempelini LIKATHIXO lasesigodlweni, wazithumela kuHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu. UHazayeli wasesuka eJerusalema.

¹⁹ Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJowashi, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini encwadini yembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²⁰ Izikhulu zakhe zaceba ndawonye ngaye zambulala eBhethi-Milo, emgwaqweni owehla usiya eSila. ²¹ Izikhulu ezambulalayo ngoJozabhadi indodana kaShimeyathi loJehozabhadi indodana kaShomeri. Wafa wangcwatshwa laboyise eMzini kaDavida. U-Amaziya indodana yakhe yabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

13

UJehowahazi Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lantathu wokubusa kukaJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda, uJehowahazi indodana ka-Jehu waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya njalo wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa. ² Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO ngokulandela izono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, owayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze, njalo kazange axekelane lazo. ³ Ngakho ulaka LUKATHIXO lwavutha ku-Israyeli, okwaze kwathi okwesikhathi eside wabayekela bengaphansi kombuso kaHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu loBheni-Hadadi indodana yakhe.

⁴ UJehowahazi wacela ukuthethelelwa kuTHIXO. UTHIXO wamuzwa, ngoba wabona ukuba abako-Israyeli bancindezelwe kanganani yinkosi yase-Aramu. ⁵ UTHIXO wabapha umkhululi abako-Israyeli owabakhulula esandleni sama-Aramu. Ngalokho abako-Israyeli bahlala emizini yabo njengakuqala. ⁶ Kodwa abatshiyananga lezono zabendlu kaJerobhowamu, lezo ayebangele abako-Israyeli ukuthi bazenze; baqhubeka ngazo, njalo lezinsika zika-Ashera zahlala zilokhu zikhona eSamariya.

⁷ Akusalanga lutho lwamabutho kaJehowahazi ngaphandle kwabagadi bamabhiza abangamatshumi amahlanu, lezingqola zempi ezilitshumi kanye lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi zamabutho ahamba ngezinyawo, ngoba inkosi yase-Aramu yayibhubhise bonke abanye yabenza baba njen-gothuli ngesikhathi sokubhula.

⁸ Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJehowahazi, lakho konke akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe, akulotshwanga encwadini yembali yamakhosi abako-Israyeli na? ⁹ UJehowahazi waphumula laboyisemkhulu njalo wangcwatshwa eSamariya. Indodana yakhe uJowashi yabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

UJowashi Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹⁰ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesikhombisa kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda, uJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, yena-ke wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. ¹¹ Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO njalo kazange axekelane lezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze, waqhubeka ngazo.

¹² Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso Jowashi lakho konke akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe lezimpi azilwa lo-Amaziya inkosi yamaJuda akulotshwanga encwadini yembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na? ¹³ UJowashi waphumula laboyisemkhulu, ubukhosi bakhe bathathwa nguJerobhowamu. UJowashi wangcwatshwa eSamariya ndawonye lamakhosi abako-Israyeli.

¹⁴ U-Elisha wayegula umkhuhlane owacina usumbulala. UJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wahamba ukuyambona wafika wakhala wathi, “Baba! Baba! Izingola zokulwa labagadi bamabhiza ako-Israyeli!”

¹⁵ U-Elisha wathi, “Thatha idandili lemitshoko.” Wakwenza lokho. ¹⁶ Wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Phatha idandili lelo ngezandla.” Yathi isiliphethe, u-Elisha wabeka izandla zakhe phezu kwezandla zenkosi.

¹⁷ U-Elisha wasesithi, “Vula iwindi elisempumalanga.” Yalivula, u-Elisha wathi, “Tshoka!” Yatshoka. U-Elisha wasememeza eqonqosela wathi, “Umtshoko wokunqoba KATHIXO, umtshoko wokunqoba ele-Aramu! Uzabhubhisa ama-Aramu e-Afekhi.”

¹⁸ Wasesithi enkosini, “Thatha imitshoko yakho,” inkosi yayithatha. U-Elisha wasesithi kuyo, “Tshaya iphansi leli,” inkosi yatshaya iphansi kwaze kwaba kathathu yasisima. ¹⁹ Umuntu kaNkulunkulu kwamzondisa lokho wasesithi kuyo inkosi, “Bekufanele ukuthi utshaye iphansi kahlanu loba kasithupha; ngalokho kade uzabe unqobe ele-Aramu njalo walibhubhisa. Kodwa khathesi usuzalinqoba kathathu kuphela.”

²⁰ U-Elisha wafa wangcwatshwa.

Abahlaseli bamaMowabi babejayele ukungena elizweni entwasa. ²¹ Kwathi kwesinye isikhathi abako-Israyeli bengcwaba indoda ethile, babona nampa abahlaseli; basebelahlela isidumbu leso ethuneni lika-Elisha. Kuthe isidumbu leso sithinta amathambo ka-Elisha, indoda leyo yavuka yasukuma yama ngezinyawo zayo.

²² UHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu wancindezela abako-Israyeli ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaJehowahazi. ²³ Kodwa UTHIXO waba lomusa kubo waba lozwelo watshengisela ukubakhathalela

ngenxa yesivumelwano sakhe lo-Abhrahama, u-Isaka loJakhobe. Kuze kube lamuhla kathandi ukubabhubhisa loba ukubalahla basuke phambi kwakhe.

²⁴ UHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu wafa, uBheni-Hadadi indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe. ²⁵ Ngakho uJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi wabuya wathumba njalo amadolobho embusweni kaBheni-Hadadi indodana kaHazayeli ayethunjwe empini kayise uJehowahazi. UJowashi wamnqoba kathathu, ngakho wawabuyisa amadolobho abako-Israyeli.

14

U-Amaziya Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ Ngomnyaka wesibili kaJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ² Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lasificamunwemunye. Unina kwakunguJehowadani, owayevela eJerusalema. ³ Yena wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO, kodwa kwakungafanani lokukayise uDavida. Kukho konke ayekwenza walandela inyathelo likayise uJowashi. ⁴ Kodwa izindawo eziphake-meyo zokukhonzela azizange zisuswe; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo lokutshisa impepha kulezondawo.

⁵ Kuthe umbuso usuqinile ezandleni zakhe, wabulala izikhulu ezazibulele uyise

owayeyinkosi. ⁶ *Kodwa kasabulalanga amadodana alabo ababulala uyise inkosi, njengokulotshiweyo eNcwadini yoMthetho kaMosi lapho UTHIXO alaya khona wathi: “Abazali abayikufela abantwababo, loba abantwana bafele abazali babo; ngulowo lalowo uzafela isono sakhe.”

⁷ Nguye owanqoba ama-Edomi azinkulungwane ezilitshumi, eSigodini seTswayi waze wathumba iSela empini, wayibiza ngokuthi yi-Jokitheli, okulibizo layo kuze kube lalamuhla.

⁸ Ngakho u-Amaziya wathumela izithunyuwa kuJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi, indodana kaJehu, inkosi yako-Israyeli emqopha esithi, “Woza, uqondane lami ubuso ngobuso.”

⁹ Kodwa uJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waphendula u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda wathi, “Isihlahlana sameva saseLebhanoni sathumela umsedari eLebhanoni ilizwi sathi, ‘Yendisela indodakazi yakho endodaneni yami.’ Kwavela isilo eLabhanoni eseza safika sagxobagxoba isihlahlana sameva ngamasondo aso. ¹⁰ Ngempela uyingobile i-Edomi ngakho khathesi usuziqhenya. Ziqhenye ekunqobeni kwakho, kodwa uhlale ekhaya! Kungani uzibizela uhlupho uzibangela ukulwa kwakho njalo lokukaJuda na?”

¹¹ Loba kunjalo, u-Amaziya, kazange alalele, ngakho uJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wahlasela. Yena waqondana lo-Amaziya inkosi

* **14:6** 14.6 UDutheronomi 24.16

yakoJuda bakhangelana ubuso ngobuso eBhethi-Shemeshi koJuda. ¹² UJuda wachithwa ngu-Israyeli, kwathi amadoda wonke abalekela emizini yawo. ¹³ UJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wathumba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, indodana kaJowashi, eyindodana ka-Ahaziya, eBhethi-Shemeshi. Ngakho uJowashi wasesiya eJerusalema wayadiliza umduli weJerusalema kusukela esangweni lika-Efrayimi kusiya eSangweni leJiko, isibanga esingaba yizingalo ezingamakhulu ayisithupha ubude. ¹⁴ Wathatha lonke igolide lesiliva lazozonke ezinye impahla ezatholakala zisethempelini LIKATHIXO lasezindlini zenotho esigodlweni waphinda wathumba labantu wahamba labo eSamariya.

¹⁵ Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso ka-Jowashi, lakho konke lokuphumelela kwakhe, lempi ayilwa lo-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, lokhu akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na? ¹⁶ UJowashi waphumula laboyise, njalo wembelwa eSamariya lamakhosi ako-Israyeli. UJerobhowamu indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

¹⁷ U-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waphila okweminyaka elitshumi lemihlanu ngemva kokufa kukaJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli.

¹⁸ Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso ka-Amaziya azilotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda?

¹⁹ Bamenzela icebo eJerusalema, wasebalekela eLakhishi, kodwa bathumela amadoda amlandela ayambulalela khonale. ²⁰ Bamthwala ngeb-

hiza bamletha eJerusalema lapha angcwatshwa khona labokhokho bakhe, eMzini kaDavida.

²¹ Ngakho abantu bonke koJuda bathatha u-Azariya, owayeleminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa yokuzalwa bamgoba ubukhosi bukayise u-Amaziya. ²² Nguye owakha kutsha i-Elathi walibuyisela koJuda ngemva kokuphumula kukayise labokhokho bakhe.

UJerobhowamu Wesibili Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

²³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanhlanu ka-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda, uJerobhowamu indodana kaJowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waba yinkosi eSamariya, njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye. ²⁴ Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO njalo kazange atshiye lasinye sezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, lezo abangela u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze. ²⁵ Nguye owabuyisela imingcele yako-Israyeli kusukela eLebho Hamathi kusiya eLwandle lwase-Arabha, njengelizwi LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, alikhuluma ngenceku yakhe uJona indodana ka-Amithayi, umphrofethi owayevela eGathi-Heferi.

²⁶ UTHIXO wayekubonile ukuthi kwakubuhlungu kanganani kubo bonke abako-Israyeli, izigqili loba ababekhululekile, ukuhlupheka ababekukho; kungekho labani owayengabasiza. ²⁷ Kanti njengoba UTHIXO wayengatshongo ukuthi uzakwesula ibizo lika-Israyeli ngaphansi kwamazulu, wabahlenga ngesandla sikaJerobhowamu indodana kaJowashi.

28 Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJerobhowamu, konke akwenzayo, kanye lokuphumelela kwakhe empini, lokuthi wathumba njani wabuyisela embusweni ka-Israyeli iDamaseko leHamathi, ayengawe Juda, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na? 29 UJerobhowamu waphumula laboyise, amakhosi ako-Israyeli. UZakhariya indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

15

U-Azariya Inkosi YakoJuda

1 Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa kaJerobhowamu inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Azariya indodana ka-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. 2 Wayeleminyaka elitshumi lesithupha yokuzalwa esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lambili. Ibizo likanina lalingu-Jekholiya; evela eJerusalema. 3 Wenza ukulunga phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Amaziya. 4 Kodwa izindawo eziphake-meyo zokukhonzela, azidilizwanga; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo kanye lokutshisela impepha kuzo.

5 UTHIXO wehlisela inkosi u-Azariya ubulephero eyabugula yaze yafa, njalo yayihlala yodwa endlini yayo. UJothamu indodana yakhe wayegcina isigodlo senkosi, ephethe labantu belizwe.

6 Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Azariya, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini

egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ⁷ U-Azariya wafa walala kuboyise njalo wangcwatshwa phansi kwabo eMzini kaDavida. UJothamu indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

UZakhariya Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

⁸ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu leminyaka efica mibili ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uZakhariya indodana kaJerobhowamu waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, njalo wabusa okwezinyanga eziyisithupha. ⁹ Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngoyise. Kazange atshiye izono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, yena owabangela ukuba u-Israyeli azenze.

¹⁰ UShalumi indodana kaJabheshi wenza amacebo okususa uZakhariya wamhlasela phambi kwabantu, wambulala wahle wathatha ubukhosi waba yinkosi. ¹¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaZakhariya zilotshwe egwalweni lwembali yombuso wamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ¹² *Ngakho kwagcwaliseka ilizwi LIKATHIXO kuJehu elathi: “Abendlu yakho bazabusa u-Israyeli kuze kube yisizukulwane sesine.”

UShalumi Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹³ UShalumi indodana kaJabheshi waba yinkosi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesificamunwemunye ka-Uziya inkosi yakoJuda, yena wabusa eSamariya okwenyanga eyodwa. ¹⁴ Ngakho uMenahemu indodana kaGadi wehla esuka eThiza esiya eSamariya. Wahlasela

* **15:12** 15.12 2 Amakhosi 10.30

uShalumi indodana kaJabheshi eSamariya, wambulala wasethatha ubukhosi.

¹⁵ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaShalumi, lamacebo okuhlamuka lawokukhokhela kwakhe, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

¹⁶ Ngalesosikhathi uMenahemu, wathi esuka eThiza wahlasela uThifisa laye wonke umuntu owatholakala esedolobheni lababeseduzane lalo, ngoba bala ukuvula amasango abo. Wasuka uThifisa waqhaqha wonke amanina ayezithwele.

UMenahemu Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹⁷ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lasifcamunwemunye ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uMenahemu indodana kaGadi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, wabusa eSamariya okweminyaka elitshumi. ¹⁸ Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO. Ekubuseni kwakhe konke kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, ayebangele ukuba u-Israyeli azenze.

¹⁹ Ngakho uPhuli inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela ilizwe, njalo uMenahemu wamnika amathalenta esiliva ayinkulungwane ukuze azuze ukusekelwa lokuqinisa umbuso wakhe.

²⁰ UMenahemu wathelisa bonke abako-Israyeli. Wonke umuntu onothileyo kwakumele athele ngamashekeli esiliva angamatshumi amahlanu ukuze aphiwe inkosi yase-Asiriya. Ngakho inkosi yase-Asiriya yasuka elizweni, ayizange ibe isahlala khona.

²¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaMenahemu, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli

na? ²² UMenahemu waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. UPhekhahiya indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

UPhekhahiya Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

²³ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amahlanu ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uPhekhahiya indodana kaMenahemu waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, yena wabusa okweminyaka emibili. ²⁴ UPhekhahiya wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO. Kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuba azenze. ²⁵ Omunye wezikhulu zakhe, uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya wabumba amacebo okumsusa. Wathatha amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu aseGiliyadi, wayabulala uPhekhahiya, kanye lo-Aghobi lo-Ariye enqabeni yesigodlo eSamariya. Ngakho uPhekha wabulala uPhekhahiya njalo wahle wathatha ubukhosi.

²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaPhekhahiya, lakho konke akwenzayo, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

UPhekha Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

²⁷ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amahlanu lamibili ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili. ²⁸ Wenza okubi phambi KUKATHIXO. Kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi, ayebangele ukuthi u-Israyeli azenze.

²⁹ Ngezinsuku zikaPhekha inkosi yako-Israyeli, uThigilathi-Philesa inkosi yase-Asiriya

weza wathumba i-Ijoni, le-Abheli-Bhethi-Mahakha, leJanowa, leKhedeshi kanye leHazori. Wathumba iGiliyadi kanye leGalile, kubalwa lelizwe lonke likaNafithali njalo waxotshela abantu e-Asiriya. ³⁰ Ngakho uHosheya indodana ka-Ela wenza amacebo okususa uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya. Wamhlasela wambulala, wasethatha umbuso waba yinkosi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili kaJothamu indodana ka-Uziya.

³¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaPhekha, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

UJothamu Inkosi YakoJuda

³² Ngomnyaka wesibili kaPhekha indodana kaRemaliya inkosi yako-Israyeli, uJothamu indodana ka-Uziya inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ³³ Waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala bakhe, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Ibizo likanina kwakunguJerusha indodakazi kaZadokhi. ³⁴ Wenza okulungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokho okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Uziya. ³⁵ Kodwa izindawo eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela kazisuswanga; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo lokutshisa impepha khonale. UJothamu wavuselela iSango laNgaphezulu lethempeli LKATHIXO.

³⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJothamu, kanye lakwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na?

³⁷ (Ngalezonsuku uTHIXO waqala ukuthuma uRezini inkosi yase-Aramu kanye loPhekha indodana kaRemaliya ukumelana loJuda.)
³⁸ UJothamu waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa labo eMzini kaDavida, okwakulidolobho likayise. U-Ahazi indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

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U-Ahazi Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lesikhombisa kaPhekha indodana kaRemaliya, u-Ahazi indodana kaJothamu inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ² U-Ahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili esiba yinkosi, yena wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Wayengafanani loyise uDavida, ngoba kazange enze ukulunga phambi kUKATHIXO. ³ Wahamba ngezindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli waze wenza umnikelo wokutshiswa ngendodana yakhe, elandela izindlela zezizwe ezingamanyala uTHIXO ayezixotshe abako-Israyeli bengakangeni kulelolizwe. ⁴ Wanikela imihlatshelo njalo watshisa impepha ezindaweni zokukhonzela phezu kwamaqaqa langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

⁵ Ngakho uRezini inkosi yama-Aramu kanye loPhekha indodana kaRemaliya inkosi yako-Israyeli basuka bayahlasela iJerusalema bavimbezela u-Ahazi, kodwa abazange bamehlule. ⁶ Ngalesosikhathi, uRezini inkosi yase-Aramu, wahluthuna i-Elathi wayibuyisela kuma-Aramu

ngokududula abantu bakoJuda. Ama-Edomi ahle angena e-Elathi ahlala khona kuze kube lamuhla.

⁷ U-Ahazi wathuma izithunywa ukuthi ziyekuthi kuThigilathi-Philesa inkosi yase-Asiriya, “Ngiyincedu yakho lesichaka. Woza uzongikhulula esandleni senkosi yase-Aramu lasesandleni senkosi yako-Israyeli, amakhosi angihlaselayo.” ⁸ Ngakho u-Ahazi wathatha isiliva legolide elafunyanwa ethempelini LIKATHIXO lasezindlini zenotho zesigodlweni senkosi wakuthumela kwaba yisipho senkosi yase-Asiriya. ⁹ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yahle yamhlomulela ngokuhlasela iDamaseko yayithumba. Yakhupha ababehlala khona yabaxotshela eKhiri njalo uRezini yahle yambulala.

¹⁰ Ngakho inkosi u-Ahazi yasisiya eDamaseko ukuze ibonane loThigilathi-Philesa inkosi yase-Asiriya. Yabona i-alithari eDamaseko yasithumela umdwebo walelo alithare ku-Uriya umphristi lengcazelo egcweleyo yokwakhiwa. ¹¹ Ngakho u-Uriya umphristi wasesakha i-alithari ngomdwebo owawuvela enkosini u-Ahazi eDamaseko waliqeda inkosi u-Ahazi ingakaphenduki. ¹² Inkosi ithe isivela eDamaseko yabona i-alithari yahle yayanikela kulo. ¹³ Inkosi yanikela umnikelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wamabele, yathela okunathwayo komnikelo, yachela igazi lomnikelo wobudlelwano e-alithareni. ¹⁴ I-

alithari lethusi elalimi phambi KUKATHIXO yaliletha livela ngaphambili ethempelini, phakathi kwe-alithari elitsha lethempeli

LIKATHIXO, yalifaka ngenyakatho ye-alithare elitsha.

¹⁵ Inkosi u-Ahazi yasilaya u-Uriya umphristi yathi, “Phezu kwe-alithari elikhulu elitsha, nikela umnikelo wokutshiswa wekuseni kuthi ntambama kube ngumnikelo wamabele, lomnikelo wabantu bonke elizweni, lomnikelo wabo wonke wamabele kanye lowokunathwayo. Chela i-alithari ngalo lonke igazi leminikelo yokutshiswa kanye lemihlatshelo. Kodwa ngiza-sebenzisa i-alithari lethusi ukucela iziqondiso.”

¹⁶ Ngakho u-Uriya umphristi wenza njengokulaywa kwakhe yinkosi u-Ahazi.

¹⁷ Inkosi u-Ahazi yasusa izinsimbi zenqodlana lemiganu phezulu, yethula uLwandle phezu kwenkabi zethusi ezazingaphansi kwalo, yalubeka phezu kwesisekelo selitshhe. ¹⁸ Yasusa isembeso seSabatha esasakhiwe ethempelini, yavala intuba yokungena inkosi eyayiphandle kwethempeli LIKATHIXO, ivumela okwakufunwa yinkosi yase-Asiriya.

¹⁹ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Ahazi, kanye lokunye akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na?

²⁰ U-Ahazi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe eMzini kaDavida. UHezekhiya indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

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UHosheya Inkosi Yokucina Ko-Israyeli

¹ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili wokubusa kuka-Ahazi inkosi yakoJuda, uHosheya indodana ka-Ela waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya,

njalo wabusa iminyaka eyisificamunwemunye.
² Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO, kodwa akubanga njengokwamakhosi ako-Israyeli amandulelayo.

³ UShalimaneseri inkosi yase-Asiriya weza wahlasela uHosheya, owayekade eyisichaka sakhe esasithela kuye. ⁴ Kodwa inkosi yase-Asiriya yafumana ukuthi uHosheya ngumhlamuki, ngoba wayekade ethumele amanxusa enkosini yaseGibhithe uSo, njalo engasatheli imithelo enkosini yase-Asiriya njengalokhu ayekwenza minyaka yonke. Ngakho uShalimaneseri wambamba wamfaka entolongweni. ⁵ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yasihlasela ilizwe lonke, yangena eSamariya yalivimbezela okweminyaka emithathu. ⁶ Ngomnyaka wesificamunwemunye kaHosheya, inkosi yase-Asiriya yathumba iSamariya yaxotshela abako-Israyeli e-Asiriya. Yabahlalisa eHala, ngaseGozani eMfuleni uHabhori lasemizini yamaMede.

U-Israyeli Uxotshwa Elizweni Ngenxa Yezono

⁷ Konke lokhu kwenzakala ngenxa yokona kwabako-Israyeli phambi KUKATHIXO, owabakhupha eGibhithe emandleni kaFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe. Bakhonza abanye onkulunkulu ⁸ belandela lemikhuba yezizwe uTHIXO ayezixotshile phambi kwabo kanye lemikhuba amakhosi ako-Israyeli ayeseyingenisile. ⁹ Basebesenza ngasese izinto ezazingalunganga kuTHIXO. Kusukela emphongolweni wesilindo kusiya enqabeni

yomuzi basebezakhele izindawo zokukhonzela emizini yabo. ¹⁰ Bazimisela amatshe

okukhonzela lezinsika zika-Ashera kuwo wonke amaqāqa aphakemeyo langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

¹¹ Kuzozonke izindawo zokukhonzela batshisa impepha, njengalokhu okwakusenziwa yizizwe UTHIXO ayezixotshile phambi kwabo. Benza okubi okwathukuthelisa UTHIXO.

¹² Bakhonza izithombe, lanxa UTHIXO wayethe, “Lingabokwenza lokhu.”

¹³ UTHIXO wayebaxwayisile abako-Israyeli kanye labakoJuda ngabaphrofethi bakhe bonke lezanuse wathi: “Tshiyani izindlela zenu ezimbi. Gcinani imithetho yami lezimisozami ezisemlayweni engalaya okhokho benu ngawo lengawuthumela kini ngezinceku zami abaphrofethi.”

¹⁴ Kodwa abalalelanga njalo baba ntamolukhuni njengabokhokho babo, bona abangazange bathembele KU THIXO wabo.

¹⁵ Balahla izimiso zakhe lesivumelwano asenza labokhokho babo lezixwayiso ayebanike zona. Balandela izithombe eziyize, labo ngokwabo baba yize, balingisela izizwe ababehlala phakathi kwazo lanxa UTHIXO wayebalaye wathi, “Lingenzi njengabo,” njalo benza izinto ayebanqabele ukuthi bazenze.

¹⁶ Bayephula yonke imilayo KATHIXO wabo, bazenzela izithombe ezikhandiweyo ezamathole amabili, benza insika ku-Ashera. Bakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu, njalo bakhonza uBhali. ¹⁷ Benza umhlatshelo ngamadodana

lamadodakazi abo emlilweni. Babevumisa njalo besenza ubuthakathi, bazinikela ekwenzeni okubi phambi KUKATHIXO bamthukuthelisa.

¹⁸ Ngakho UTHIXO wabathukuthelela abako-Israyeli wabaxotsha kuye. Isizwana sako-Juda yiso kuphela esasalayo, ¹⁹ loba nje laye uJuda engayigcinanga imilayo KATHIXO. Balandela imikhuba eyayingeniswe ngabako-Israyeli. ²⁰ Ngakho UTHIXO wakhalala bonke abantu bako-Israyeli; wabahlukuluza njalo wabanikela ezandleni zabaphangi, waze wabasusa phambi kwakhe.

²¹ UTHIXO uthe esemkhiphile u-Israyeli endlini kaDavida, babeka uJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi ukuba abe yinkosi yabo. UJerobhowamu wamphambula u-Israyeli ekulandeleni UTHIXO wambangela ukuba enze isono esikhulu. ²² Abako-Israyeli baqhubeka ngazonke izono zikaJerobhowamu abaze bazidela. ²³ UTHIXO waze wabasusa phambi kwakhe, njen-goba wayexwayisile ngezinceku zakhe zonke abaphrofethi. Ngakho abantu bako-Israyeli bathunjwa elizweni labo basiwa e-Asiriya, njalo balokhu bekhonale.

Ukhlaliswa Kutsha ESamariya

²⁴ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yaletha abantu ababevela eBhabhiloni, leKhutha, le-Ava, leHamathi kanye leSefavayimi yayabahlalisa emizini yeSamariya endaweni eyayingeyabako-Israyeli. ²⁵ Ekuqaleni kokuhlala kwabo khona, babengamkhonzi UTHIXO; ngakho UTHIXO wathumela izilwane phakathi kwabo, zabalala abanye babo. ²⁶ Kwabikwa enkosini yase-Asiriya

kwathiwa, “Abantu obaxotshele eSamariya wabahlalisa emizini yakhona abakwazi ukuthi unkulunkulu walelolizwe ufunani. Usethumele izilwane phakathi kwabo, ezibabulalayo zibageda, ngoba abantu abakwazi ukuthi ufunani.”

²⁷ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yakhupha isiqondiso yathi, “Thuma omunye wabaphristi owabathumbayo eSamariya, abuyele ayohlala labantu njalo abafundise ukuthi unkulunkulu walelolizwe ufunani.” ²⁸ Ngakho omunye wabaphristi ababethunjwe eSamariya weza wayahlala eBhetheli wabafundisa ukuthi UTHIXO ukhonzwa njani?

²⁹ Loba kunjalo, yileloqembu ngobuzwe balo lenza onkulunkulu balo emadolobheni wonke ababehlaliswe khona, bababeka ezindaweni zokukhonzela ezazakhiwe ngabantu beSamariya. ³⁰ Abantu ababevela eBhabhiloni babumba uSukhothi-Bhenothi, kwathi ababevela eKhutha benza uNerigali, ababevela eHamathi benza u-Ashima, ³¹ ama-Avi enza uNibhazi kanye loTharithaki, lamaSefavi enza umhlatshele ngokutshisa abantwababo emlilweni benikela ku-Adrameleki lo-Anameleki, onkulunkulu bamaSefavayimi. ³² Bamkhonza UTHIXO, kodwa basebezikhethela phakathi kwabo inhlobo zonke zabantu ukuthi babe ngabaphristi ezindaweni eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela. ³³ Bamkhonza UTHIXO, kodwa babekhonza labonkulunkulu babo belandela imikhuba yezizwe ababevela kizo.

³⁴ Kuze kube lamuhla balokhu bekwenza lokhu belandela imikhuba emidala. Abamkhonzi UTHIXO njalo abalandeli izimiso

leziqondiso, imithetho lemilayo uTHIXO ayeyiphe abantwana bakaJakhobe, lo ambiza ngokuthi ngu-Israyeli. ³⁵ UTHIXO wathi esenza isivumelwano labako-Israyeli, wabalaya wathi, “Lingakhonzi abanye onkulunkulu loba ukubakhothamela, lingabenzeli lutho loba ukubenzela umhlatshelo. ³⁶ Khonzani kuphela uTHIXO, yena owalikhuphula walisusa eGibhithe ngamandla amakhulu langesandla somusa esivulekileyo, nguye yedwa okumele limkhonze. Kuye lizakhothama njalo kuye lizanikela imihlatshelo. ³⁷ Linanzelele ngezikhathi zonke ukulondoloza izimiso, leziqondiso, imithetho lemilayo alilobela yona. Lingabokhonza abanye onkulunkulu. ³⁸ Lingakhohlwa isivumelwano engasenza lani, njalo lingakhonzi abanye onkulunkulu. ³⁹ Kodwa, khonzani uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu, nguye ozalikhulula ezandleni zezitha zenu zonke.”

⁴⁰ Loba kunjalo, kabazange balalele kodwa baqhubeka belandela imikhuba yabo yakuqala.

⁴¹ Lanxa babemkhonza uTHIXO, babelandela izithombe zabo. Lalamuhla abantwababo labantwana babantwababo balokhu besenza khonokho okwakusenziwa ngoyise.

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UHezekhiya Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ Ngomnyaka wesithathu kaHosheya indodana ka-Ela inkosi yako-Israyeli, uHezekhiya indodana ka-Ahazi inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ² Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa

eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lasificamunwemunye. Ibizo likanina lalingu-Abhija indodakazi kaZakhariya. ³ Wenza okungileyo phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokho okwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida. ⁴ Wadiliza izindawo zokukhonzela, wabhidliza amatshe ababewakhonza njalo wagamulela phansi insika zika-Ashera. Watshaya wenza izicucu inyoka yethusi eyayenziwe nguMosi, ngoba kuze kube yile-sosikhathi abako-Israyeli babelokhu beyitshisela impepha. (Yayibizwa ngokuthi Nehushithani.)

⁵ UHezekhiya wayethembele kuTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Kakho owayenjengaye kuwo wonke amakhosi akoJuda, loba kulabo abamandulelayo kumbe labo abamlandelayo ekubuseni. ⁶ Wabambeleva kuTHIXO kazange ekele ukumlandela, wagcina imilayo uTHIXO ayeyinike uMosi. ⁷ UTHIXO wayelaye; waphumelela kukho konke ayekwenza. Wahlamukela inkosi yase-Asiriya kasabanga ngaphansi kwayo. ⁸ Kusukela emphongolweni wesilindo kusiya emzini oyinqaba, wanqoba amaFilistiya, kuze kuyefika khonale eGaza lamazwe akhona.

⁹ Ngomnyaka wesine wenkosi uHezekhiya, okwakungumnyaka wesikhombisa wokubusa kukaHosheya indodana ka-Ela inkosi yako-Israyeli, uShalimaneseri inkosi yase-Asiriya wayahlasela iSamariya wayivimbezela. ¹⁰ Ngemva kweminyaka emithathu ama-Asiriya alithumba. Ngakho iSamariya yathunjwa ngomnyaka wesithupha wokubusa kukaHezekhiya, okwakungumnyaka wesificamunwemunye wokubusa kukaHosheya inkosi yako-Israyeli.

¹¹ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yaxotshela abako-Israyeli e-Asiriya yabahlalisa eHala ngaseGozani eMfuleni uHabori lasemizini yamaMede.

¹² Lokhu kwenzakala ngoba bengalalelanga UTHIXO wabo, kodwa sebephule isivumelwano sakhe, lakho konke uMosi inceku KATHIXO ayebalaye ngakho. Abazanga balalele njalo abazanga bakwenze.

¹³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lane wokubusa kwenkosi uHezekhiya, uSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela wonke amadolobho avikelweyo akoJuda wawathumba. ¹⁴ Ngakho uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda wathumela ilizwi enkosini yase-Asiriya eLakhishi esithi, “Ngiphambanisile. Suka kimi, mina ngizakubhadala konke okufunayo kimi.” Inkosi yase-Asiriya yathi uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda kayinike amathalenta esiliva angamakhulu amathathu kanye legolide elingamathalenta angamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁵ Ngakho uHezekhiya wamnika sonke isiliva esatholakala ethempelini LIKATHIXO lasezindlini zenotho yesigodlweni senkosi.

¹⁶ Ngalesisikhathi uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda waxexebula igolide elalisezivalweni zethempeli LIKATHIXO lelalinanyathiselwe emigubazini yethempeli LIKATHIXO, walinika inkosi yase-Asiriya.

USenakheribhi Usongela IJerusalema

¹⁷ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yathumela umlawuli omkhulu wamabutho ayo, lesikhulu somnd-lunkulu kanye lomlawuli wamabutho lam-

abutho amanengi, besuka eLakhishi besiya enkosini uHezekhiya eJerusalema. Bafika eJerusalema bema emgelweni wechibi elingaphezulu, elisendleleni yeNsimu yoMgezisi. ¹⁸ Babiza inkosi ngokwayo: Kodwa kweza uEliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya umphathi wesigodlo, loShebhina umabhalane, loJowa indodana ka-Asafi umbhali.

¹⁹ Umlawuli webutho wathi kubo, “Tshelani uHezekhiya ukuthi:

‘Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi enkulu, inkosi yase-Asiriya ithi: Uthembeni ngalesisibindi sakho na? ²⁰ Uthi ulamaqhinga lamandla ebutho, kodwa ukhuluma amazwi ayize.

Uthembe bani uze ungihlamukele nje?

²¹ Khangela, ngiyazi uthembe iGibhithe, yona enjengomhlanga ozimvava osika isandla somuntu umlimaze nxa eweyamile. Unjalo uFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe kubo bonke abathembele kuye. ²² Njalo nxa lisithi kimi,

“Thina sithembe uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu”: kasuye yini uHezekhiya asusa izindawo zakhe eziphakemeyo lama-alithare akhe, esithi kuJuda leJerusalema, “Kumele likhonzele phambi kwaleli i-alithari eliseJerusalema”?

²³ Khatesi woza wenze isivumelwano lenkosi yami, inkosi yase-Asiriya: Ngizakunika amabhiza azinkulungwane ezimbili nxa bekhona abazawagada! ²⁴ Pho ungayehlula njani induna yezikhulu ezincane zenkosi yami eyodwa, lanxa uthembele eGibhithe ekutholeni izinqola zempi labagadi bamabhiza

na? ²⁵ Phezu kwalokho, kanti ngizehlasela

lokuzochitha lindawo ngaphandle kwelizwi elivela kuTHIXO na? UTHIXO uqobo nguye othe ngizohlasela ilizwe leli ngilichithe.’”

²⁶ Ngakho u-Eliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya, loShebhina loJowa bathi kumlawuli webutho, “Ake ukhulume ezincekwini zakho ngesi-Aramayikhi, ngoba siyasizwa. Ungasikhulumisi ngesiHebheru lababantu abasemdulini besizwa.”

²⁷ Kodwa umlawuli webutho waphendula esithi, “Inkosi yami ingithume ukuba izinto lezi ngizitsho kuphela enkosini yenu lakini, hatshi ebantwini abahlezi emdulini, okuzakuthi labo, njengani badle ubulongwe babo banathe lomchamo wabo na?”

²⁸ Umlawuli webutho wasukuma wasememeza ngesiHebheru esithi, “Zwanini ilizwi lenkosi enkulu, inkosi yase-Asiriya! ²⁹ Lokhu yikho okutshiwo yinkosi: Lingamvumeli uHezekhiya ukuba alikhohlise. Angeke alikhulule. ³⁰ Lingamvumeli uHezekhiya elincenga ukuba lithembe kuTHIXO lapho esithi, ‘Ngempela UTHIXO uzasikhulula; idolobho leli kaliyikuphiwa esandleni senkosi yase-Asiriya.’

³¹ Lingamlaleli uHezekhiya. Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi yase-Asiriya: Yenza isivumelwano sokuthula lami, uphume uze kimi. Lapho ke omunye lomunye uzakudla esivinini sakhe lasemkhiweni wakhe anathe lamanzi emthonjeni wakhe, ³² ngize ngifike ngilithathe, ngilise elizweni elifanana lelakini, ilizwe lamabele lewayini elitsha, ilizwe lesinkwa lezivini, ilizwe lezihlahla zama-oliva loluju.

Khethani impilo hatshi ukufa, Lingamlaleli uHezekhiya, ngoba uyalikhohlisa nxa esithi, 'UTHIXO uzasikhulula.' ³³ Kambe ukhona unkulunkulu wesinye isizwe osewake wakhulula ilizwe lakhe esandleni senkosi yase-Asiriya na? ³⁴ Bangaphi onkulunkulu baseHamathi le-Ariphadi na? Bangaphi onkulunkulu baseSe-favayimi labaseHena labase-Iva na? Bayikhululile iSamariya esandleni sami na? ³⁵ Nguphi kubo bonke onkulunkulu bamazwe la oke wenelisa ukukhulula ilizwe lakhe kimi na? Pho UTHIXO angayikhulula njani iJerusalema esandleni sami na?"

³⁶ Kodwa abantu bathula kabazange batsho lutho, ngoba inkosi yayilaye yathi, "Lingamphen-duli."

³⁷ U-Eliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya umgcini wesigodlo loShebhina umabhalane loJowa indodana ka-Asafi umbhali, baya kuHezekhiya izigqoko zabo zidabukile bamtshela okwakutshiwo ngumlawuli webutho.

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Umbono Ngokukhululwa KweJerusalema

¹ Kwathi lapho uHezekhiya, inkosi, esezwe lokhu, wadabula izigqoko zakhe wagqoka amasaka, wasesiya ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ² Wathuma u-Eliyakhimu umphathi wesigodlo, uShebhina umabhalane labaphristi abangabakhokheli, bonke begqoke amasaka, baya kumphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi. ³ Bathi kuye, "UHezekhiya uthi: ilanga lanamhla lusuku losizi lokusolwa kanye lehlazo

njengalapho abantwana sekufike isikhathi sokuthi bazalwe kodwa amandla okubeletha engekho. ⁴ Mhlawumbe uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho izawezwa wonke amazwi omlawuli webutho, onkosi yakhe, inkosi yase-Asiriya, emthume ukuba athuke uNkulunkulu ophilayo, lokuthi uzamthuka ngenxa yamazwi uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wakho awazwileyo. Ngakho-ke khulekela insali elokhu iphila.”

⁵ Kwathi izithunywa zenkosi uHezekhiya sezifikile ku-Isaya, ⁶ u-Isaya wathi kuzo, “Tshelani inkosi yenu lithi, ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguTHIXO: Ungesabi lokhu okuzwileyo, amazwi lawana izinceku zenkosi yase-Asiriya ezingithuke ngawo. ⁷ Lalela! Ngizafaka umoya ozamenza athi nxa esizwa umbiko othile, afune ukubuyela elizweni lakhe, athi angafika khonale ngenze ukuba abulawe ngenkemba.’”

⁸ Kwathi lapho umlawuli webutho esezwile ukuthi inkosi yase-Asiriya yayisisukile eLakhishi, laye wasuka wayathola inkosi isilwa leLibhina.

⁹ USenakheribhi wemukela umbiko othi uThirihaka, inkosi yaseKhushi, wayesiza ukuba amhlasele. Ngakho wathumela njalo izithunywa kuHezekhiya lombiko othi: ¹⁰ “Tshela uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda ukuthi: Ungavumi ukuthi unkulunkulu omthembileyo akukhohlise esithi, ‘IJerusalema kaliyikunikelwa enkosini yase-Asiriya.’ ¹¹ Ngempela usukuzwile okwenziwa ngamakhosi ase-Asiriya emazweni wonke, ewabhidliza okupheleleyo. Wena-ke uzaphepha na? ¹² Onkulunkulu bezizwe ezatshabalaliswa

ngokhokho bami bake bazikhulula na onkulunkulu beGozani, leHarani, leRezezi kanye labantu base-Edeni ababeseThelasari? ¹³ Ingaphi inkosi yaseHamathi, inkosi yase-Ariphadi, angaphi amakhosi aseLayiri leSefavayimi, loba eyaseHena kumbe eyase-Iva?"

Umkhuleko KaHezekhiya

¹⁴ UHezekhiya wamukela incwadi eyeza lezithunywa wayibala. Emva kwalokho waya ethempelini leNkosi, wayichaya phambi KUKATHIXO. ¹⁵ UHezekhiya wakhuleka KUTHIXO esithi: "THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, osebukhosini phakathi kwamaKherubhi, wena kuphela nguwe onguNkulunkulu wemibuso yonke yasemhlabeni. Nguwe owenza izulu lomhlaba. ¹⁶ Beka indlebe, THIXO, uzwe; vula amehlo akho THIXO, ubone. Lalela uzwe amazwi uSenakheribhi awathumele ukuzathuka uNkulunkulu ophilayo.

¹⁷ Kuliqiniso, THIXO, ukuthi amakhosi ase-Asiriya azitshabalalisa lezizizwe kanye lamazwe azo. ¹⁸ Aphosele onkulunkulu bawo emlilweni abatshabalalisa, ngoba kungesibo onkulunkulu kodwa yizigodo lamatshe kuphela, okubunjwe ngezandla zabantu. ¹⁹ Khathesi, THIXO, Nkulunkulu wethu, sikhulule esandleni sakhe, ukuze imibuso yonke emhlabeni ibekwazi, ukuthi wena wedwa, THIXO, onguNkulunkulu."

U-Isaya Uphrofetha Ngokuwa KukaSenakheribi

²⁰ U-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi wathumela ilizwi kuHezekhiya elithi: "Nanku okutshiwo

NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: Ngiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho mayelana loSenakheribhi inkosi yase-Asiriya. ²¹ Nanti ilizwi uTHIXO ase-likhulume ngaye:

‘Ndodakazi eGcweleyo iZiyoni
iyakweyisa njalo iyakuklolodela.

Ndodakazi iJerusalema
inqekuza ikhanda layo lapho wena ubaleka.

²² Ngubani lowo omthukileyo wamhlazisa?

Ngubani lowo omphakamisele ilizwi lakho
wamphakamisela lamehlo akho ngokuzigqaja
na?

NgoNgcwele ka-Israyeli!

²³ Ngezithunywa zakho
umthukile uThixo.

Utshilo njalo ukuthi,

“Ngezingqola zami ezinengi
ngikhwelile eziqongweni zezintaba,
iziqongo eziphezulu kakhulu zaseLeb-
hanoni.

Sengigamule ngawisa izihlahla ezinde
zemisedari,
izihlahla ezikhethiweyo zamaphayini.

Ngifikile eziqongweni zalo ezikhatshana,
emaguswini alo amahle kakhulu.

²⁴ Ngigebhile imithombo ezizweni
nganatha amanzi khona.

Ngezinyawo zami

ngomisile zonke izifula zaseGibhithe.” ’ ’ ’

Ukubhidlizwa kweSenakheribhi

²⁵ “ ‘Kawuzwanga na?

Lokhu ngakumisa endulo.

Ngakuceba ensukwini zasendulo;

khathesi sengenze ukuba kufezeke,
 ukuthi usudilize amadolobho avikelweyo
 aba yizingwaba zamatshe.

²⁶ Abantu bakhona, abangaselamandla,
 badangele njalo bayangekile.

Banjengezilimo ensimini,
 njengamahlumela aluhlaza,
 lanjengotshani obuhluma ephahleni lwendlu
 bubuye butshe bungakakhuli.

²⁷ Kodwa ngiyakwazi lapho okhona,
 lalapho usiza uphinde uhambe;
 kanye lokuthi unghukuthethelela
 kangakanani.

²⁸ Ngenxa yokungithukuthethelela kwakho
 langenxa yokuthi ubuqholo bakho sebufikile
 ezindlebeni zami
 ngizafaka umkhala wami emakhaleni akho
 lamatomu ami emlonyeni wakho,
 njalo ngizakwenza ubuyele
 ngendlela oze ngayo.'

²⁹ Lokhu kuzakuba yisibonakaliso kuwe,
 Hezekhiya:

Lonyaka lizakudla okuzikhulela kodwa,
 ngomnyaka wesibili lidle umkhukhuzela
 wakhona.

Kodwa ngomnyaka wesithathu hlanyelani
 livune,
 hlanyelani izivini lidle izithelo zazo.

³⁰ Futhi insali yendlu kaJuda
 izagxilisa njalo impande phansi ithele izith-
 elo ngaphezulu.

³¹ Ngoba eJerusalema kuzavela insali,

kuthi entabeni iZiyoni kuphume ixuku labasindayo.
Ukutshiseka KUKATHIXO uSomandla kuzakwenza ukuba lokhu kufezeke.

³² Ngakho-ke mayelana lenkosi yase-Asiriya UTHIXO uthi:

‘Kasoze angene kulelidolobho
loba atshoke umtshoko lapha.

Kasoze eze kulo elehawu
kumbe akhe umduli wokulivimbezela.

³³ Uzabuyela ngendlela eza ngayo,
kasoze angene kulelidolobho,
kutsho UTHIXO.

³⁴ Idolobho leli ngizalivikela ngilihlenge,
ngenxa yami langenxa kaDavida inceku
yami.’ ”

³⁵ Ngalobobusuku ingilosi KATHIXO yasuka yayabulala abantu abalikhulu elilamatshumi ayisificaminwembili lanhlanu lezinkulungwane ezihonqweni zama-Asiriya. Kwathi lapho abantu bevuka ekuseni kwakhona bonke kwasekuyizidumbu kuphela! ³⁶ Ngakho uSenakheribhi inkosi yama-Asiriya wasuka ezihonqweni wahamba. Wabuyela eNiniva wahlala khona.

³⁷ Kwathi ngolunye usuku ekhonzathempelini likaNisirokhi unkulunkulu wakhe, amadodana akhe u-Adrameleki loShareza ambulala ngenkemba asebakela elizweni lase-Ararathi. U-Esarihadoni indodana yakhe yaba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

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Ukugula KukaHezekhiya

¹ Ngalezonsuku uHezekhiya wagula, eselengela ekufeni. Umphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi waya kuye wathi: “Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO: Lungisa indlu yakho, ngoba uzakufa; awuyikusila.”

² UHezekhiya waphendula ubuso bakhe wakhangela emdulini wakhuleka KUTHIXO esithi, ³ “Khumbula, THIXO, ukuthi ngihambe phambi kwakho ngokuthembeka langokuzinikela ngenhliziyo yami yonke, njalo ngenze okuhle emehlweni akho.” UHezekhiya wakhala kabuhlungu.

⁴ U-Isaya engakasuki egumeni elingaphakathi, kwafika ilizwi LIKATHIXO kuye lisithi: ⁵ “Buyela uyetshela uHezekhiya, umkhokheli wabantu bami uthi, ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu kayihlo uDavida. Uthi: Ngiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho njalo ngizibonile lezinyembezi zakho; ngizakusilisa. Ngosuku lwesithathu kusukela khathesi uzakhwela uye ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ⁶ Ngizakwengezelela iminyaka elitshumi lanhlanu empilweni yakho. Ngizakukhulula wena kanye ledolobho leli ezandleni zenkosi yase-Asiriya. Ngizavikela idolobho leli ngizenzela mina njalo ngisenzela inceku yami uDavida.’”

⁷ U-Isaya wathi: “Lungisani isigaqa semikhiwa.” Bakwenza lokho basebethoba ngaso ithumba, wasesila.

⁸ UHezekhiya wayebuze u-Isaya wathi, “Kuyini okuzakuba yisibonakaliso sokuthi

UTHIXO uzangisilisa kanye lokuthi ngizakhwela ngiye phezulu ethempelini leNkosi ngosuku lwesithathu kusukela khathesi na?”

⁹ U-Isaya waphendula wathi, “Nansi isibonakaliso sIKATHIXO kuwe, esokuthi UTHIXO uzakwenza akuthembisayo. Kambe isithunzi sizakuya phambili amanyathelo alitshumi kumbe sizabuyela emuva amanyathelo alitshumi na?”

¹⁰ “UHezekhiya wathi kulula ukuba isithunzi siye phambili amanyathelo alitshumi, kodwa kasiyi emuva amanyathelo alitshumi.”

¹¹ Ngakho umphrofethi u-Isaya wacela kuTHIXO, UTHIXO wenza ukuthi isithunzi sibuyele emuva okwezinyathelo ezilitshumi esasehle ngawo ezikhwelelweni zika-Ahazi.

Izithunywa Ezazivela EBhabhiloni

¹² Ngalesosikhathi uMerodakhi-Bhaladani indodana kaBhaladani inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wabhalela uHezekhiya izincwadi wamthumela lesipho ngoba wayezwile ngokugula kukaHezekhiya. ¹³ UHezekhiya

wazamukela izithunywa wazitshengisa konke okwakusendlini yakhe yokugcinela impahla, isiliva, igolide, iziyoliso kanye lamafutha acengekileyo, izikhali zakhe lakho konke okwakukhona enothweni yakhe. Akulalutho esigodlweni sakhe loba embusweni wakhe wonke uHezekhiya angazitshengisanga lona.

¹⁴ Ngakho u-Isaya umphrofethi waya kuHezekhiya inkosi wambuza wathi, “Atheni amadoda lawana njalo avela ngaphi?”

UHezekhiya waphendula wathi: “Avela elizweni elikhatshana. Avele eBhabhiloni.”

¹⁵ Umphrofethi wabuza wathi: “Aboneni esigodlweni sakho?”

UHezekhiya wathi, “Abone konke okusesigodlweni sami. Akulalutho phakathi kwempahla zami eziligugu engingawatshengisanga khona.”

¹⁶ Ngakho u-Isaya wasesithi kuHezekhiya, “Zwana ilizwi LIKATHIXO lithi: ¹⁷ Isikhathi sizafika sibili lapho konke okusesigodlweni sakho lakho konke oyihlo abakugcinayo kusiyafika lolosuku, kuzathwalelwa eBhabhiloni. Akuyikusala lutho, kutsho UTHIXO. ¹⁸ Njalo abanye besizukulwane sakho, abenyama legazi lakho, abazazalwa nguwe, bazathathwa bayekuba ngabathenwa esigodlweni senkosi yaseBhabhiloni.”

¹⁹ UHezekhiya waphendula wathi: “Ilizwi LIKATHIXO olikhulumileyo lilungile.” Ngoba wayenakana esithi: “Kambe kakuyikuba lokuthula lokuvikeleka ekuphileni kwami na?”

²⁰ Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaHezekhiya, konke ukuphumelela kwakhe lokwakha kwakhe ichibi kanye lomgelo owaletha amanzi phakathi komuzi, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²¹ UHezekhiya waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. Indodana yakhe uManase yathatha ubukhosi.

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UManase Inkosi YakoJuda

¹ UManase wayeleminyaka elitshumi lambili eqalisa ukubusa njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lemhlanu eJerusalema. Ibizo likanina lalinguHefizibha. ² Wenza ububi emehlweni KATHIXO, elandela imikhuba eyenyanyekayo yezizwe UTHIXO ayezixotshile phambi kuka-Israyeli. ³ Wavuselela izindawo zokukhonzela ezazidilizwe nguyise uHezekhiya, wakha lama-alithare kaBhali wenza lensika ka-Ashera, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe ngu-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli. Wakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu wazikhonza. ⁴ Wakha ama-alithare ethempelini LIKATHIXO, lona UTHIXO ayethe, “EJerusalema ngizabeka khona iBizo lami.” ⁵ Kuwo womabili amaguma ethempeli LIKATHIXO, wakhela izinkanyezi zezulu ama-alithare. ⁶ Wenza umhlatshelelo ngendodana yakhe emlilweni, wavumisa, wenza imilingo, wasebenza lezanuse labemimoya. Wenza okubi kakhulu emehlweni KATHIXO, wamthukuthelisa.

⁷ Wathatha insika ebaziweyo ka-Ashera ayeyenzile wayifaka ethempelini, lona lelo kanye UTHIXO ayethe kuDavida lakuSolomoni indodana yakhe, “Kulelithempeli lakulo umuzi waseJerusalema, engiwukhethileyo kuzozonke izizwana zako-Israyeli, ngizabeka iBizo lami kuze kube nininini. ⁸ Angiyikuphinda ngenze inyawo zabako-Israyeli zizule elizweni engalinika okhokho babo, nxa bezananzelela balandele yonke imilayo engabanika yona bagcine wonke uMthetho abawunikwa nguMosi inceku yami.” ⁹ Kodwa abantu abalalanga. UManase wabalahlekisa, ngakho bona kakhulu

ukwedlula izizwe UTHIXO ayezitshabalalise phambi kokuba u-Israyeli angene.

¹⁰ UTHIXO wakhuluma ngezinceku zakhe abaphrofethi wathi: ¹¹ “UManase inkosi yakoJuda wenzile wonke amanyala la. Wenzile izono lezi ezenyanyekayo. Usenze ububi obukhulu obedlula obama-Amori ayekhona ngaphambi kwakhe, njalo usekhokhelele uJuda esonweni ngezithombe zakhe, ¹² ngakho-ke nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukuthi, Ngizakwehlisela phezu kweJerusalema loJuda incithakalo ezakwenza indlebe zakhe wonke oyizwayo zinkenteze. ¹³ Ngizakwelula phezu kweJerusalema intambo eyasetshenziswa ekulahleni iSamariya, lentambo eyasetshenziswa ekulahleni indlu ka-Ahabi. Ngizakwesula iJerusalema njengomuntu owesula umganu, awesule awumbokotho. ¹⁴ Ngizalahla insalela yabantu bami, ngibanikele ezitheni zabo. Bazathunjwa babe yimpango yezitha zabo zonke, ¹⁵ ngoba benzile okubi phambi kwami, bangithukuthelisa, kusukela ekuphumeni kwabokhokho babo eGibhithe kuze kube lamuhla.”

¹⁶ Futhi uManase wachitha igazi elinengi kakhulu elingelacala waze waligcwalisa iJerusalema kusukela ekuqaleni kwalo kuze kube sekucineni, ngaphandle kwesono ayebangele uJuda ukuba asenze, ngakho benza isono emehlweni KATHIXO.

¹⁷ Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kukaManase, lakho konke akwenzayo, kanye lesono asenzayo,

akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ¹⁸ UManase waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe, wangcwatshelwa esivandeni sesigodlo sakhe, isivande sika-Uza. U-Amoni indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

U-Amoni Inkosi YakoJuda

¹⁹ U-Amoni waba yinkosi eleminyaka en-gamatshumi amabili lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emibili. Ibizo likanina lalinguMeshulemethi indodakazi kaHaruzi; owayevela eJothibha. ²⁰ Wenza okubi emehlweni KATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise uManase. ²¹ Walandela konke okwakwenziwe nguyise, wakhonza izithombe ezazikhonzwa nguyise, njalo wazikhothamela. ²² Wamdela UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bakhe, njalo kazange ahambe ngendlela KATHIXO.

²³ Izikhulu zika-Amoni zamelana laye zabumba icebo zambulala esigodlweni sakhe. ²⁴ Abantu bakulelolizwe basebebulala ababecebe ukubulala inkosi u-Amoni, basebebeka indodana yakhe uJosiya waba yinkosi, esikhundleni sakhe.

²⁵ Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kuka-Amoni, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²⁶ Wangcwatshwa ethuneni lakhe, esivandeni sika-Uza. UJosiya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

¹ UJosiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka eyisifincaminwembili eqalisa ukubusa njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lowodwa. Ibizo likanina lalinguJedida indodakazi ka-Adaya; wayevela eBhozikhathi.

² Wenza okulungileyo emehlweni KATHIXO njalo wahamba ezindleleni zonke zikayise uDavida, engaphambukeli eceleni kwesokudla loba esenxele.

³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lasifincaminwembili wokubusa kwakhe, uJosiya inkosi wathumela unobhala wakhe, uShafani indodana ka-Azaliya, indodana kaMeshulami, ethempelini LIKATHIXO. Wathi, ⁴ “Hamba uye kuHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu uyekuthi kalungise imali elethwe ethempelini LIKATHIXO, ekade iqoqwa ebantwini ngabalindi beminyango. ⁵ Abayigcinise amadoda akhethelwe ukukhangela ukuqhubeka komsebenzi ethempelini. Babe yibo abazaholisa abasebenza okulungisa kutsha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, ⁶ ababazi, abakhi, lababazi bamatshe. Babe yibo njalo abazathenga amapulanka lamatshe abaziweyo okulungisa kutsha ithempeli. ⁷ Kodwa akudingeki ukuthi babike ngokusetshenziswa kwemali abayigcinisiweyo, ngoba basebenza ngokwethembeka.”

⁸ UHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu wathi kuShafani unobhala, “Sengithole uGwalo lwemiThetho ethempelini LIKATHIXO.” Walunika uShafani walufunda. ⁹ Ngakho uShafani waya enkosini, wayibikela wathi, “Izikhulu zakho sezibhadele imali ebisethempelini LIKATHIXO njalo seziyigcinise izisebenzi kanye

labakhangela ethempelini.” ¹⁰ UShafani unobhala wasebikela inkosi esithi, “UHilikhiya umphristi usenginike ugwalo.” Ngakho uShafani waselubala phambi kwenkosi.

¹¹ Inkosi ithe isizwile amazwi eNcwadi yoMthetho, yadabula izembatho zayo. ¹² Yapha leziziqondiso kuHilikhiya umphristi, lo-Ahikhami indodana kaShafani, lo-Akhibhori indodana kaMikhaya loShafani unobhala kanye lo-Asaya inceku yenkosi, yathi: ¹³ “Hambani KU^THIXO liyengibuzela mina labantu kanye loJuda wonke ngalokhu okulotshwe kulolugwalo osolutholakele. Lukhulu ulaka luka^THIXO oluvuthayo kithi ngoba okhokho bethu kabawalalelanga amazwi alolugwalo: abakulandelanga konke okulotshiweyo kulo mayelana lathi.”

¹⁴ UHilikhiya umphristi, lo-Ahikhami, lo-Akhibhori, loShafani lo-Asaya bayakhuluma lomphrofethikazi uHulida umkaShalumi indodana kaThikhiva, indodana kaHarihasi, umgcini wezigqoko. UHulida wayehlala eJerusalema Esigabeni Sesibili.

¹⁵ Yena wathi kubo: “Nanku okutshiwo NGU^THIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukuthi, tshelani indoda elithume kimi ukuthi, ¹⁶ ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGU^THIXO: Ngizakwehlisela incithakalo kulindawo lasebantwini bayo ngakho konke okulotshwe egwalweni olubalwa yinkosi yakoJuda. ¹⁷ Ngoba bangihlamukele, batshisela abanye onkulunkulu impepha, njalo bangithukuthelisile ngazozonke izithombe abazenze ngezandla zabo, ulaka lwami

luzavutha kule indawo lungacitshwa muntu.’
¹⁸ Tshelani inkosi yakoJuda yona elithume ukuzabuza KUTHIXO, lithi, ‘Nanku okutshiwo NGUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, mayelana lamazwi eliwazwileyo: ¹⁹ Ngenxa yokuthi inhliziyo yakho ivumile njalo uzithobile phambi KUKATHIXO lapho usizwa engikukhulume ngendawo le labantu bayo, ukuthi bazakuba ngabaqalekisiweyo bachithwe, njalo ngenxa yokuthi udabule izigqoko zakho wakhala phambi kwami, ngikuzwile, kutsho UTHIXO.
²⁰ Ngakho ngizakusa kubokhokho bakho, njalo uzangcwatshwa ngokuthula. Amehlo akho awayikuyibona incithakalo engizayehlisela kule indawo.’”

Ngakho izithunywa zayithatha leyompendulo zayisa enkosini.

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Ujosiya Uvuselela Isivumelwano

¹ Inkosi yasibiza bonke abadala bakoJuda labeJerusalema. ² Yasuka yaya ethempelini LIKATHIXO lamadoda akoJuda, abantu base-Jerusalema, abaphristi labaphrofethi, abantu bonke kusukela kubantukazana kusiya kuzo kanye izikhulu. Yabafundela bonke besizwa wonke amazwi oGwalo lweSivumelwano, ol-watholakala ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ³ Inkosi yema ngasensikeni, yavuselela isivumelwano phambi KUKATHIXO sokumlandela lokugcina im- ilayo yakhe lemithetho yakhe lezimiso zakhe ngenhliziyo yayo yonke langomoya wayo wonke,

ngalokho iqinisa amazwi esivumelwano ayebhaliwe kulolugwalo. Ngakho bonke abantu bazinikela kuso isivumelwano.

⁴ Inkosi yalaya uHilikhuya umphristi omkhulu labaphristi abalandelayo labalindi beminyango ukuba bakhuphe ethempelini LIKATHIXO zonke izitsha ezazenzelwe uBhali lo-Ashera, lazozonke izinkanyezi zaphezulu, wazitshisela ngaphandle kweJerusalema eziqintini zeSigodi saseKhidironi, umlotha wazo wawuthwalela eBhetheli. ⁵ Wakhupha abaphristi bezithombe ababekhethwe yinkosi yakoJuda ukuba batshise impepha emizini yakoJuda lakuleyo ephansi kweJerusalema, labo ababetshisa impepha kuBhali lelanga lenyanga lezinkanyezi zonke zaphezulu. ⁶ Wakhupha ethempelini LIKATHIXO insika ka-Ashera, wayisa esigodini seKhidironi ngaphandle kweJerusalema, wayitshisela khona, wayichola yaba luthuli wasechithachithela umlotha wayo phezu kwamangcwaba abantukazana. ⁷ Wadiliza izindlu zabelilisa ababefeba ethempelini LIKATHIXO lapho abesifazane ababethungela khona u-Ashera amaveli.

⁸ UJosiya waletsa bonke abaphristi besuka emizini yakoJuda, wangcolisa izindawo zokukhonzela, kusukela eGebha kusiya lapho abaphristi ababetshisela khona impepha eBherishebha. Wabhidliza izindawo zokukhonzela emasangweni ekungeneni kwesango likaJoshuwa umphathi womuzi, ngakwesokhohlo kwesango lomuzi. ⁹ Loba abaphristi bezindawo zokukhonzela bengaphathisanga

e-alithareni LIKATHIXO eJerusalema, kodwa badla isinkwa esingelamvubelo kanye labanye abaphristi ababedlelana labo.

¹⁰ Wangcolisa iThofethi elisesihotsheni saseBheni-Hinomu ukuze kungabikhona otshisa indodana yakhe kumbe indodakazi emlilweni kaMoleki. ¹¹ Entubeni yethempeli LIKATHIXO wasusa amabhiza amakhosi abakoJuda ayewahlukanisele ilanga, wona ayeseduze lendlu yesikhulu esasithiwa nguNathani-Meleki. UJosiya wasetshisa izinqola zempi ezazehlukaniselwe ilanga.

¹² Wadilizela phansi ama-alithare ayakhiwe ngamakhosi akoJuda ephahleni eduze lendlu ephozulu ka-Ahazi lama-alithare uManase ayewakhile emagumeni womabili ethempeli LIKATHIXO. Wawasusa lapho, wawachoboza, aba yizicucu waziphosela eSigodini seKhidironi. ¹³ Inkosi yangcolisa izindawo zokukhonzela ezazingempumalanga kweJerusalema, ngaseningizimu kwentaba yokuXhwala, uSolomoni inkosi yako-Israyeli eyayizakhele u-Ashithorethi unkulunkulukazi oyisinengiso wamaSidoni, loKhemoshi uNkulunkulu oyisinengiso wamaMowabi, kanye loMoleki oyisinengiso wama-Amoni. ¹⁴ UJosiya wabhidliza amatshe okukhonza, waquma izinsika zika-Ashera, wafaka amathambo abantu abanengi endaweni yazo.

¹⁵ Le-alithari elaliseBhetheli indawo yokukhonzela eyayenziwe nguJerobhowamu indodana kaNebhathi owenza ukuba u-Israyeli one, lalelo-alithare lendawo yokukhonzela,

wakubhidliza. Watshisa indawo yokukhonzela wayichola yaba yimpuphu njalo watshisa insika ka-Ashera. ¹⁶ UJosiya wathalaza ngapha langapha, kwathi ebona amangcwaba amanengi ayelapho ewatheni loqaqa wathi kawasuswe, atshiswe e-alithareni ukulingcolisa mayelana lelizwi LIKATHIXO elamenyezelwa ngumuntu KATHIXO owaziphrofethayo lezizinto.

¹⁷ Inkosi yabuza yathi, “Ilitshe lesikhumbuzo sengcwaba leliyana engilibonayo ngelani?”

Abantu bomuzi bathi, “Liphawule ingcwaba lenceku kaNkulunkulu eyavela kojuda, yaqalekisa i-alithari laseBhetheli ngalezizinto ozenze kulo.”

¹⁸ Yena wasesithi, “Liyekeleni lingavumeli muntu awathinte amathambo akhe.” Ngakho bawayekela amathambo akhe kanye lalawo awomphrofethi owavela eSamariya.

¹⁹ UJosiya wasusa amathempeli ezindawo zokukhonzela ezisemizini yaseSamariya ayekade akhiwe ngamakhosi ako-Israyeli, ethukuthelisa uTHIXO, wenza kiwo lokho ayekwenze eBhetheli. ²⁰ UJosiya wabulalela abaphristi bezindawo zokukhonzela phezu kwama-alithare, watshisela amathambo abantu phezu kwawo. Wasebuyela eJerusalema.

²¹ Inkosi uJosiya yalaya bonke abantu yathi, “Ligcine iPhasika LIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wenu, njengoba kulotshiwe eGwalweni LweSivumelwano.”

²² Lalingagcinwa iPhasika elinjalo kusukela ensukwini zabehluleli abaphatha u-Israyeli, lakuzo zonke insuku zamakhosi ako-Israyeli lezamakhosi

akoJuda. ²³ Kodwa ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificaminwembili wenkosi uJosiya, lagcinwa iPhasika LIKATHIXO eJerusalema.

²⁴ Wakwenza njalo uJosiya ukususa izangoma, labahlahluli, labonkulunkulu basezindlini, lezithombe kanye lazozonke izinto zamanyala ezazikhona koJuda laseJerusalema. Lokhu kwakuyikugcwalisa izimiso zomlayo owawulotshwe encwadini umphristi uHilikhiya ayithola ethempelini LIKATHIXO. ²⁵ Ngaphambi kwakhe noma ngemva kwakhe uJosiya kakubanga khona inkosi eyafanana laye eyaphendukela kuTHIXO njengalokhu akwenzayo ngenhliziyo yakhe langomphefumulo wakhe wonke njalo langamandla akhe wonke mayelana lawo wonke uMthetho kaMosi.

²⁶ Kanti uTHIXO kadedanga ekuvutheni kolaka lwakhe olwavutha kakhulu koJuda ngenxa yazo zonke izinto uManase amthukuthelisa ngazo. ²⁷ *Ngakho uTHIXO wathi, “Ngizamsusa phambi kwami uJuda njengoba ngasusa u-Israyeli, ngiwulahle lumuzi waseJerusalema engawukhethayo, lethempeli leli engathi ngalo, ‘Tbizo lami lizakuba kulo.’”

²⁸ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJosiya, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na?

²⁹ Ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaJosiya, uFaro Nekho inkosi yaseGibhithe waya eMfuleni uYufrathe ukuyancedisa inkosi yase-Asiriya. Inkosi uJosiya wamhlangabeza empini kodwa

* **23:27** 23.27 1 Amakhosi 8.29

uNekho waqondana laye wambulala eMegido. ³⁰ Izisebenzi zikaJosiya zaletsa isidumbu sakhe ngenqola yokulwa zisuka eMegido zisiya eJerusalema njalo zamngcwabela ethuneni lakhe. Ngakho abantu elizweni bathatha uJehowahazi indodana kaJosiya bamgcoba ubukhosi bukayise.

UJehowahazi Inkosi Yakojuda

³¹ UJehowahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lantathu ubudala bakhe esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema inyanga ezintathu. Ibizo likanina kwakunguHamuthali indodakazi kaJeremiya njalo wayevela eLibhina. ³² Wenza ububi emehlweni KATHIXO njengabokhokho bakhe. ³³ Inkosi uFaro Nekho wambopha ngamaketani eRibhila elizweni lamaHamathi ukuze angabusi eJerusalema, wamthelisa kakhulu uJuda amathalenta alikhulu esiliva, lethalenta legolide. ³⁴ UFaro Nekho wabeka u-Eliyakhimu indodana kaJosiya esihlalweni sobukhosi esikhundleni sikayise uJosiya waseguqula ibizo lakhe wathi nguJehoyakhimi. Kodwa wathatha uJehowahazi waya laye eGibhithe, wafela khonale. ³⁵ UJehoyakhimi wathela ngenani lesiliva legolide elalifunwa nguFaro Nekho. Ukuze akwenelise lokho wayethelisa abantu elizweni ngesiliva legolide ngesilinganiso ayebona sibalengene.

UJehoyakhimi Inkosi Yakojuda

³⁶ UJehoyakhimi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala bakhe

ethatha ubukhosi, yena wabusa eJerusalema iminyaka elitshumi lanye. Ibizo likanina lalinguZebhuda indodakazi kaPhedaya owayevela eRuma. ³⁷ Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO, njengabokhokho bakhe.

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¹ Ngezinsuku zokubusa kukaJehoyakhimi uNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yahlasela ilizwe, uJehoyakhimi wathela kuye okweminyaka emithathu. Kodwa waphinda waguquka wamvukela uNebhukhadineza.

² UTHIXO wathuma abahlaseli bamaKhaladiya lama-Asiriya lamaBhabhiloni lama-Aramu lamaMowabi, lama-Amoni, amhlasela. Wabathuma ukuchitha uJuda njengelizwi LIKATHIXO alikhuluma ngezinceku zakhe abaphrofethi.

³ Ngempela konke lokho kwenzeka koJuda mayelana lomlayo KATHIXO ukuze basuswe phambi kwakhe ngenxa yazo zonke izono zikaManase azenzayo,

⁴ langenxa yegazi elachithekayo lingelacala. Ngoba wayegcwalise iJerusalema ngegazi elingelacala njalo UTHIXO wayengazimiselanga ukuthethelela.

⁵ Ezinye izehlakalo zembali kaJehoyakhimi azilotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ⁶ Wafa uJehoyakhimi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. UJehoyakhini indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

⁷ Inkosi yaseGibhithe ayizange ihlasele futhi iphuma elizweni layo, ngenxa yokuthi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yayisithethe ingxenye yelizwe

layo enkulu kakhulu, kusukela eSihotsheni seG-
ibhithe kuze kuyefika eMfuleni uYufrathe.

UJehoyakhini Inkosi YakoJuda

⁸ UJehoyakhini wayeleminyaka elitshumi lasificaminwembili esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwezinyanga ezintathu. Ibizo likanina lalinguNehushita indodakazi ka-Elinathani; evela eJerusalema. ⁹ Wenza ububi phambi KUKATHIXO, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise.

¹⁰ Ngalesosikhathi amabutho kaNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni afika eJerusalema, awuvimbezela umuzi, ¹¹ uNebhukhadineza yena ngokwakhe wazafika amabutho akhe esewuvimbezele umuzi. ¹² UJehoyakhini inkosi yakoJuda wazinikela enkosini yaseBhabhiloni, yena lonina lezincekuzakhe kanye labathenwa bakhe.

Ngomnyaka wesificaminwembili wokubusa kwenkosi yaseBhabhiloni uNebhukhadineza wathumba uJehoyakhini. ¹³ Njengelizwi LIKATHIXO, uNebhukhadineza wabutha yonke inotho yasethempelini LIKATHIXO lenotho yesigodlo senkosi, wabutha zonke izitsha zegolide ezazisethempelini LIKATHIXO, ezazenziwe nguSolomoni inkosi yako-Israyeli, njengokutsho KUKATHIXO. ¹⁴ Wathumba abaseJerusalema bonke: izikhulu zonke, lawo wonke amadoda empi lazozonke izingcitshi ezileminwe, abantu abazinkulungwane ezilitshumi. Kwasala abantukazana kuphela elizweni.

¹⁵ UNebhukhadineza wamthatha uJehoyakhini wayamgqilaza eBhabhiloni. Wathumba njalo eJerusalema unina wenkosi labafazi bayo lezikhulu zayo lamadoda aziwayo elizweni. ¹⁶ Inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yathumbela eBhabhiloni wonke amadoda angamaqhawe, azinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa, aqinileyo ayengaphuma impi, kanye lezingcitshi ezileminwe eziyinkulungwane. ¹⁷ Inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yabeka uMathaniya isinini sikaJehoyakhini waba yinkosi esikhundleni sikaJehoyakhini, yasimupha ibizo elitsha lokuthi nguZedekhiya.

UZedekhiya Inkosi Yakojuda

¹⁸ UZedekhiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanye, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. Ibizo likanina lalinguHamuthali indodakazi kaJeremiya, waseLibhina. ¹⁹ Wenza okubi emehlweni KATHIXO, njengalokho okwakwenziwe nguJehoyakhimi. ²⁰ Kwakungenxa yokuthukuthela KUKATHIXO ukuze kwenzakale konke lokhu eJerusalema lakoJuda, njalo ekucineni kwabangela ukuthi UTHIXO abachithe.

Ukuwa KweJerusalema

Ngalokho uZedekhiya wayihlamukela inkosi yaseBhabhiloni.

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¹ Ngomnyaka wesificamunwemunye wokubusa kukaZedekhiya, ngosuku lwetshumi lwenyanga yetshumi, uNebhukhadineza inkosi

yaseBhabhiloni waya eJerusalema lebutho lakhe lonke, wayivimbezela; wayakhela imiduli yokuvimbezela inxa zonke. ² Idolobho lavinjezelwa kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wetshumi lanye kaZedekhiya inkosi.

³ Ngosuku lwesificamunwemunye lwenyanga yesine indlala yayisinzima edolobheni, abantu bengaselakudla. ⁴ Umduli wedolobho wafohlwa, ibutho lonke labaleka. Basuka edolobheni bephuma ngesango eliphakathi kwemiduli emibili, phansi kwesivande senkosi, lanxa nje amaBhabhiloni ayeligombolozele idolobho. Babaleka beqonde e-Arabha. ⁵ Kodwa ibutho lamaKhaladiya laxotshana lenkosi layamfica emagcekeni aseJerikho. Wonke amabutho akhe ehlukana laye njalo ahlakazeka, ⁶ yena wathunjwa.

Wasiwa enkosini yaseBhabhiloni eRibhila, lapho afika wagwetshelwa khona. ⁷ Babulala amadodana kaZedekhiya ekhangele. Basebemkhupha amehlo, bambopha ngamaketane ethusi bamusa eBhabhiloni.

⁸ Ngosuku lwesikhombisa ngenyanga yesihlanu, ngomnyaka wetshumi lasificamunwemunye kaNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, uNebhuzaradani umlawuli wabalindi besikhosini, owayesebenzela inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, wafika eJerusalema. ⁹ Wathungela ithempeli LIKATHIXO ngomlilo, lesigodlo senkosi lezindlu zonke zaseJerusalema. Zonke izindlu eziqakathekileyo wazitshisa. ¹⁰ Wonke amabutho aseBhabhiloni, ekhokhelwa ngumlawuli wamabutho okulinda umndlunkulu, adiliza imiduli ehonqolozele

iJerusalema. ¹¹ UNebhuzaradani umlawuli wabalindi wathatha bonke abantu ababesele edolobheni wabasa ekuthunjweni, ndawonye labo bonke abantu lalabo abasebeye enkosini yaseBhabhiloni. ¹² Kodwa umlawuli wamabutho watshiya inengi labantu ababengabayanga bokucina elizweni ukuba basebenze ezivinini lasemasimini.

¹³ AbeBhabhiloni baphahlaza izinsika zethusi lezinti zezibane loLwandle lwethusi, okwakusethempelini LIKATHIXO. Bathwalela ithusi lelo eBhabhiloni. ¹⁴ Bathatha njalo imbiza, lamafotsholo, lezindlawu, lezinditshi lazozonke izitsha zethusi ezazisetshenziswa enkonzweni yasethempelini. ¹⁵ Umlawuli wabalindi besigodlo wathatha indengezi lemiganu yokuchela, konke okwakwenziwe ngegolide elicengekileyo loba isiliva.

¹⁶ Ithusi elalivela ensikeni ezimbili, loLwandle kanye lelezidindi ezisusekayo, konke okwakwenzelwe ithempeli LIKATHIXO nguSolomoni, kwakulesisindo esasingelanganiswe. ¹⁷ Ubude bensika ngayinye babuzingalo ezilitshumi lasificaminwembili. Isiduku sethusi phezu kwenye insika sasizingalo ezintathu ubude baso njalo siceciswe ngomeluko lamaphomegranathi ethusi nxazonke. Eyinye insika kanye lomeluko wayo layo yayinjalo.

¹⁸ Umlawuli wabalindi wathumba uSeraya induna yabaphristi, loZefaniya umsekeli wakhe kanye labalindi bomnyango abathathu. ¹⁹ Kulabo ababelokhu besedolobheni, wathatha isikhulu esasiphethe amadoda okulwa labacebisi besikhosini abahlanu. Wathatha lonobhala

owayeyinduna eyayiphethe ukubuthwa kwabantu bengeniswa emabuthweni kanye lamadoda angamatshumi ayisithupha ayelawo atholakala phakathi komuzi. ²⁰ UNebhuzaradani umlawuli wabathatha bonke wabasa enkosini yaseBhabhiloni eRibhila. ²¹ Khonale eRibhila, elizweni laseHamathi, inkosi yathi kabaqunywe.

Ngakho abakoJuda baya ekuthunjweni kude lelizwe labo.

²² UNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wakhetha uGedaliya indodana ka-Ahikhami, oyindodana kaShafani, ukuba apha the abantu ababesele koJuda. ²³ Kwathi zonke izikhulu zabalawuli bamabutho lamabutho sebezwele ukuthi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yayisibeke uGedaliya ukuba nguSibalukhulu, beza kuGedaliya eMizipha izikhulu kungu-Ishumayeli indodana kaNethaniya, uJohanani indodana kaKhareya, uSeraya indodana kaThanihumethi umNethofa, uJazaniya indodana kaMahakhathi, labantu babo. ²⁴ UGedaliya wafunga isifungo ebathembisa labantu babo wathi: “Lingesabi izikhulu zaseBhabhiloni. Hlalani elizweni lisebenzele inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, konke kuzalilungela.”

²⁵ Kodwa ngenyanga yesikhombisa u-Ishumayeli indodana kaNethaniya, indodana ka-Elishama, owayezalwa esikhosini, weza lamadoda alitshumi bafika babulala uGedaliya lamadoda akoJuda kanye laweBhabhiloni ayekade elaye eMizipha. ²⁶ Ngenxa yalokhu, abantu bonke kusukela kubantukazana kusiya kwabaphakemeyo, kanye lezikhulu

zamabutho, babalekela eGibhithe ngokwesaba abeBhabhiloni.

Ukukhululwa KukaJehoyakhini

²⁷ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesikhombisa wokuthunjwa kukaJehoyakhini inkosi yakoJuda, ngomnyaka u-Evili-Merodakhi aba yinkosi eBhabhiloni, wakhulula uJehoyakhini entolongweni ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa lwenyanga yetshumi lambili. ²⁸ Wakhuluma laye ngomusa, wamnika isihlalo esihloniphekayo esasingaphezu kwezamanye amakhosi ayelaye eBhabhiloni. ²⁹ Ngakho uJehoyakhini wakhupha izigqoko zakhe zasentolongweni, wadla lenkosi izikhathi zonke okwempilo yakhe yonke.

³⁰ Nsuku zonke inkosi yayinika uJehoyakhini isabelo esimisiweyo malanga wonke, empilweni yakhe yonke.

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

2023-04-13

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