

U-Ezra

UKhurosi Ubuyisela Izithunjwa

¹ Ngomnyaka wakuqala wenkosi yasePhezhiya uKhurosi, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi LIKATHIXO elakhulunywa nguJeremiya, UTHIXO wathinta inhliziyo kaKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya ukuba yenze isimemezelo kuwo wonke umbuso wayo, ukuthi sibhalwe phansi kuthiwe:

² “Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi uKhurosi wasePhezhiya:

‘UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wasezulwini, ungiphile yonke imbuso yasemhlabeni njalo ungikhethile ukuthi ngimakhele ithempeli eJerusalema koJuda. ³ Loba

ngubani wabantu bakhe phakathi kwenu angahamba aye eJerusalema koJuda ayekwakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uNkulunkulu oseJerusalema njalo sengathi uNkulunkulu wabo angaba labo.

⁴ Akuthi abantu loba ngabakuyiphi indawo lapho okungabe kuseselensalela kabamuphe isiliva legolide, impahla lezifuyo, leminikelo yokuzithandela yethempeli likaNkulunkulu eJerusalema.’”

⁵ Kwasekusithi abazinhloko zemizi yakoJuda lakoBhenjamini, kanye labaphristi labaLevi, labo bonke ababethintwe inhliziyo zabo nguNkulunkulu, bazilungisela ukuhamba ukuyakwakha

indlu KATHIXO eJerusalema. ⁶ Bonke omakhelwane babo babancedisa ukuzuza izinto zesiliva legolide, impahla lezifuyo, lezipho eziligugu phezu kwayo yonke iminikelo yokuzizwela.

⁷ Phezu kwalokho iNkosi uKhurosi yakhupha zonke izitsha ezazingezethempeli LIKATHIXO ezazithunjwe nguNebhukhadineza eJerusalema zabekwa ethempelini likankulunkulu wakhe. ⁸ UKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya wathi kazilethwe nguMithiredathi umgcinisikhwama onguye owazibalayo ezibalela uSheshibhazari inkosana yakoJuda.

⁹ Nanzi-ke lezompahla:

imiganu yegolide yayingamatshumi amathathu (30),

imiganu yesiliva yayiyinkulungwane (1,000), amapane esiliva ayengamatshumi amabili lasifcamunwemunye (29),

¹⁰ imiganu yegolide ezingubhe yayingamatshumi amathathu (30),

eyesiliva efana layo yayingamakhulu amane letshumi (410),

ezinye impahla zaziinkulungwane (1,000).

¹¹ Sekukonke, kwakuyizinkulungwane ezinhlanu lamakhulu amane ezinto zegolide lesiliva (5,400).

USheshibhazari weza lazonke lezizinto lapho izithunjwa zafika eJerusalema zivela eBhabhiloni.

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Uluhlu Lwalabo Ababuyayo Ekuthunjweni

¹ Manje-ke yilaba abantu bendawo ababuyayo ekuthunjweni, ababethunjiwe nguNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yabasa eBhabhiloni (babuyela eJerusalema lakoJuda, ngulowo emzini wakibo, ² behamba loZerubhabheli, loJeshuwa, loNehemiya, loSera, loRelayiya, loModekhayi, loBhilishani, loMisipha, loBhigivayi, loRehumi loBhana):

Uluhlu lwamadoda ako-Israyeli:

- ³ isizukulwane sikaPharoshi sasizinkulungwane ezimbili lekhulu elilamatshumi ayisikhombisa lambili (2,172),
- ⁴ esikaShefathiya sasingamakhulu amathathu lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lambili (372),
- ⁵ esika-Ara sasingamakhulu ayisikhombisa lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlano (775),
- ⁶ esikaPhahathi-Mowabi (ngosendo luka-Jeshuwa loJowabi) sasizinkulungwane ezimbili lamakhulu ayisificaminwembili letshumi lambili (2,812),
- ⁷ esika-Elamu sasiyinkulungwane elamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amahlano lane (1,254),

- 8 esikaZathu sasingamakhulu ayisificamunwemunye lamatshumi amane lanhlanu (945),
- 9 esikaZakhayi sasingamakhulu ayisikhombisa lamatshumi ayisithupha (760),
- 10 esikaBhani sasingamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi amane lambili (642),
- 11 esikaBhebhayi sasingamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi amabili lantathu (623),
- 12 esika-Azigadi sasiyinkulungwane elamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amabili lambili (1,222),
- 13 esika-Adonikhamu sasingamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi ayisithupha lasithupha (666),
- 14 esikaBhigivayi sasizinkulungwane ezimbili lamatshumi amahlanu lasithupha (2,056),
- 15 esika-Adini sasingamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu lane (454),
- 16 esika-Atheri (ngoHezekhiya) sasingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye lasificaminwembili (98),
- 17 esikaBhezayi sasingamakhulu amathathu lamatshumi amabili lantathu (323),
- 18 esikaJora sasilikhulu letshumi lambili (112),
- 19 esikaHashumi sasingamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amabili lantathu (223),
- 20 esikaGibhari sasingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye lanhlanu (95),
- 21 amadoda

- eBhethilehema ayengamakhulu amabili lantathu (123),
- ²² eNethofa ayengamatshumi amahlanu lasithupha (56),
- ²³ e-Anathothi ayelikhulu lamatshumi amabili lasificaminwembili (128),
- ²⁴ e-Azimavethi ayengamatshumi amane lambili (42),
- ²⁵ eKhiriyaathi-Jeyarimi, eKhefira leBherothi ayengamakhulu ayisikhombisa lamatshumi amane lantathu (743),
- ²⁶ eRama leGebha ayengamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi amabili lanye (621),
- ²⁷ eMikhimashi ayelikhulu lamatshumi amabili lambili (122),
- ²⁸ eBhetheli le-Ayi ayengamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amabili lantathu (223),
- ²⁹ eNebho ayengamatshumi amahlanu lambili (52),
- ³⁰ eMagibhishi ayelikhulu lamatshumi amahlanu lasithupha (156),
- ³¹ kweyinye i-Elamu ayeyinkulungwane elamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amahlanu lane (1,254),
- ³² eHarimi ayengamakhulu amathathu lamatshumi amabili (320),
- ³³ eLodi, eHadidi le-Ono ayengamakhulu ayisikhombisa lamatshumi amabili lanhlanu (725),
- ³⁴ eJerikho ayengamakhulu amathathu lamatshumi amane lanhlanu (345),
- ³⁵ eSenaya ayezinkulungwane ezintathu lamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi

amathathu (3,630).

³⁶ Abaphristi:

esizukulwaneni

sikaJedaya (ngosendo lukaJeshuwa) babengamakhulu ayisificamunwemunye lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lantathu (973),

³⁷ kwesika-Imeri babeyinkulungwane lamatshumi amahlanu lambili (1,052),

³⁸ kwesikaPhashuri babeyinkulungwane elamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amane lasikhombisa (1,247),

³⁹ kwesikaHarimi babeyinkulungwane letshumi lasikhombisa (1,017).

⁴⁰ AbaLevi:

besizukulwane

sikaJeshuwa loKhadimiyeli (abosendo luka-Hodaviya) babengamatshumi ayisikhombisa lane (74).

⁴¹ Abahlabeleli:

besizukulwane

sika-Asafi babelikhulu lamatshumi amabili lasificaminwembili (128).

⁴² Abalindi bamasango:

besizukulwane

sikaShalumi, lo-Atheri, loThalimoni, lo-Akhubi, loHathitha loShobhayi babelikhulu lamatshumi amathathu lasificamunwemunye (139).

⁴³ Izinceku zethempelini:

zesizukulwane

sikaZiha, loHasufa, loThabhawothi,
 44 loKherosi, loSiyaha, loPhadoni,
 45 loLebhana, loHagabha, lo-Akhubi,
 46 loHagabi, loShalimayi, loHanani,
 47 loGideli, loGahari, loReyaya,
 48 loRezini, loNekhoda, loGazami,
 49 lo-Uza, loPhaseya, loBhesayi,
 50 lo-Asina, loMewunimi, loNefusimi,
 51 loBhakibhuki, loHakufa, loHahuri,
 52 loBhaziluthi, loMehida, loHasha,
 53 loBhakhosi, loSisera, loThema,
 54 loNeziya kanye loHathifa.

55 Izizukulwane zezinceku zika-Solomoni:

isizukulwane

sikaSothayi, loHasoferethi, loPheruda,
 56 loJala, loDakhoni, loGideli,
 57 loShefathiya, loHathili,
 loPhokherethi-Hazebhayimi kanye lo-Ami.

58 Izinceku zethempelini lezizukulwane zezinceku zikaSolomoni zazingamakhulu amathathu lamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye lambili (392).

59 Abalandelayo laba bavela emadolobheni aseTheli Mela, eTheli Hasha, eKherubi, e-Adani, lase-Imeri, kodwa behluleka ukuveza ukuthi usendo lwabo lwaphuma ko-Israyeli:

60 abesizukulwane sikaDelaya, loThobhiya loNekhoda babengamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi amahlanu lambili (652).

⁶¹ Ababephuma kubaphristi kwakuyil-
aba:

Abesizukulwane

sikaHobhaya, esikaHakhozi lesikaBhazilayi
(indoda eyayithethe indodakazi kaBhazilayi umGiliyadi layo yayibizwa ngalelo-
bizo).

⁶² Laba baphenya imibhalo yembali
yezimuli zabo, kodwa bayiswela
ngakho basuswa ebuphristini
kwathiwa bangcolile. ⁶³ Umbusi
wabalaya ukuthi bangakudli loba
yikuphi ukudla okungcwele kuze
kubelomphristi wokubuza inkatho
i-Urimi leThumimi.

⁶⁴ Ixuku lonke lalilini elifika
izingamathumi ezingamathumi
amane lambili, lamakhulu
amathathu alamatshumi ayisithupha
(42,360), ⁶⁵ ngaphandle kwezinceku
lezincekukazi zabo ezizinkulungwane
eziyisikhombisa lamakhulu
amathathu alamatshumi amathathu
lasikhombisa (7,337); njalo babe
labahlabeleli besilisa labesifazane
abangamakhulu amabili (200).
⁶⁶ Babelamabhiza angamakhulu
ayisikhombisa lamathathu
amathathu lasithupha (736),
lezimbongolo ezingamakhulu amabili
lamathathu amahlanu lanhlano
(245), ⁶⁷ lamakamela angamakhulu
amane lamathathu amathathu

lanhlanu (435) kanye labobabhemi
 abazinkulungwane eziyisithupha
 ezilamakhulu ayisikhombisa
 lamatshumi amabili (6,720).

⁶⁸ Bathi ukufika kwabo endlini KATHIXO eJerusalema abanye bezinhloko zezimuli benza umnikelo wokuzizwela waba ngowokwakha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo. ⁶⁹ Banikela esikhwameni esikhulu ngokwamandla abo ukwenza umsebenzi lo banika amadrakhima azinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisithupha lanye egolide (61,000) lesiliva esifika izinkulungwane ezinhlanu samamina (5,000) lezembatho zobuphristi ezilikhulu (100).

⁷⁰ Abaphristi, labaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindi bamasango kanye lezinceku zethempelini bahlala emadolobheni akibo, ndawonye labanye abantu, labo bonke abako-Israyeli bahlala emadolobheni akibo.

3

Ukwakhiwa Kutsha Kwe-alithari

¹ Kwathi sekufika inyanga yesikhombisa, lapho abako-Israyeli sebehlezi emizini yakibo, abantu babuthana njengomuntu munye eJerusalema.

² Kwasekusithi uJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki labaphristi ayesebenza labo kanye loZerubhabheli indodana kaSheyalithiyeli labakhula bakhe baqalisa ukwakha i-alithari likaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukwenza umhlats'helo womnikelo wokutshiswa kulo, mayelana lalokho okulotshiweyo

eMthethweni kaMosi umuntu kaNkulunkulu.
³ Lokuba babesesaba abantu bendawo, balakha i-alithari esisekelweni salo benza iminikelo yokutshiswa kuTHIXO kulo, yomibili imihlatshelo yokusa lowokuhlwa. ⁴ Kwathi njalo belandela okulotshiweyo bawugubha uMkhosi weziHonqo besenza inani elifaneleyo leminikelo yokutshiswa elungiselwe lelo lalelo ilanga. ⁵ Emva kwalokho baletha iminikelo yenjayelo eyokutshiswa, iminikelo yokuThwasa kweNyanga leminikelo yayo yonke imikhosi kaTHIXO emisiweyo engcwele, kanye laleyo eyayilethwa njengeminikelo yokuzithandela eyalethwa kuTHIXO. ⁶ Ngelanga lokuqala lenyanga yesikhombisa baqalisa ukuletha iminikelo yokutshiswa kuTHIXO, lokuba isisekelo sethempeli LIKATHIXO sasingakabekwa.

Ukwakhiwa Kutsha KweThempeli

⁷ Basebesipha ababazi bamatshe lababazi nje imali, bapha ukudla lokunathwayo lamafutha ebantwini baseThire leSidoni, ukuze balethe izigodo zemisedari ngendlela yolwandle kusuka eLebhanoni kusiya eJopha njengoba kwakuvunyelwe nguKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya.

⁸ Ngenyanga yesibili ngomnyaka wesibili bebuyile endlini kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema, uZerubhabheli indodana kaSheyalithiyeli, loJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki labo bonke abafowabo (abaphristi labaLevi labo bonke ababuyayo eJerusalema bevela ebugqilini) bawuqalisa umsebenzi, bakhetha abaLevi abaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili kusiya phezulu ukuthi baphathe umsebenzi wokwakha

indlu KATHIXO. ⁹ UJeshuwa lamadodana akhe labafowabo loKhadimiyeli lamadodana akhe (abazukulu bakaHodaviya) lamadodana kaHenadadi kanye lamadodana abo labafowabo, bonke bengabaLevi, bahlangana ndawonye ukukhangela labo ababesebenza endlini kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰ Kwathi abakhi sebesibekile isisekelo sethempeli LIKATHIXO abaphristi bagqoka izembatho zabo, baphatha amachacho, kanye labaLevi (amadodana ka-Asafi) bepethe izigubhu, bonke bema ezindaweni zabo ukudumisa UTHIXO njengokwamiswa nguDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. ¹¹ Badumisa bebonga, bahlabelela UTHIXO bathi:

“Ulungile;

uthando lwakhe ku-Israyeli lumi laphakade.”

Bonke abantu bamemeza bedumisa UTHIXO ngoba isisekelo sendlu KATHIXO sasesibekiwe.

¹² Kodwa abanengi babaphristi abadala labaLevi kanye lezikhulu zezimuli ababelibonile ithempeli lakuqala, bakhala kakhulu bebona isisekelo saleli ithempeli sibekwa, ikanti abanye babo bamemeza ngokuthaba. ¹³ Kakho owayengawehlukanisa umsindo wokumemeza kokuthokoza lomsindo wokukhala ngoba abantu benza umsindo omangalisayo. Njalo umsindo lowo wezwakala kude.

4

Ukulwiswa Kanye Lokwaxiwa KweThempeli

¹ Kwathi lapho izitha zakoJuda lakoBhenjamini sezizwile ukuthi ababeyizithunjwa basebesakha ithempeli LIKATHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ² beza kuZerubhabheli lakulabo ababezinhloko zezimuli bathi, “Yekelani silincedise ukwakha ngoba lathi, njengani, siyamdinga uNkulunkulu wenu njalo kukade sisenza imihlatshelo kuye kusukela esikhathini sika-Esarihadoni inkosi yase-Asiriya, onguye owasiletha lapha.”

³ Kodwa uZerubhabheli, loJeshuwa labo bonke ababezinhloko zezimuli zako-Israyeli baphendula bathi, “Kalilani lakho ukwakhisana lathi ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wethu. Thina sodwa sizalakha, silakhela UTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wako-Israyeli, njengokulaywa kwethu nguKhurosi, inkosi yasePhezhiya.”

⁴ Kwasekusithi abantu balelolizwe baqalisa ukubadondisa abantu bakoJuda babenza besaba ukuqhubeka besakha. ⁵ Bathenga abacebisi bokudunga umsebenzi bawunyampise ngasonke isikhathi sokubusa kukaKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya kwaze kwaba sekubuseni kukaDariyu inkosi yasePhezhiya.

Ukulwisana Kwamuva Ngezinsuku Zika-Ekisekisi Lo-Athazekisisi

⁶ Ekuqaleni kokubusa kuka-Ahasuweru bethesa abantu bakoJuda labaseJerusalema icala.

⁷ Njalo kwathi ngezinsuku zika-Athazekisisi inkosi yasePhezhiya uBhishilamu, loMithiredathi loThabheli labo bonke abangane babo baloba incwadi isiya ku-Athazekisisi. Incwadi

leyo yayibhalwe ngolimi lwesi-Aramayikhi ngendlela yokuloba kwawo ama-Aramu.

⁸ URehumi umlawuli webutho loShimishayi unobhala babhala incwadi isiya ku-Athazekisisi inkosi besola iJerusalema besithi:

⁹ URehumi umlawuli webutho loShimishayi unobhala kanye labo bonke abahlangene labo, abehluleli lezinduna zabantu abasuka eThripholi, ePhezhiya, e-Ereki leBhabhiloni lama-Elamu aseSusa,
¹⁰ kanye labanye abantu inkosi enkulu ehloniphekayo u-Ashuribhaniphali (u-Osinaphari) eyabaxotshayo yayabahlalisa edolobheni laseSamariya lakwezinye izindawo ngaphetsheya kweYufrathe.

¹¹ (Nanka amazwi encwadi leyo abayibhalayo.)

Kuyo iNkosi u-Athazekisisi,
Ivela ezincekwini zakho, abantu abangaphetsheya kweYufrathe:

¹² Inkosi ifanele yazi ukuthi amaJuda afikayo kithi lapha evela kuwe aseye eJerusalema njalo sebelakha kutsha idolobho lelo elihlalmukayo, elibi kakhulu. Sebevusa imiduli bevuselela lezisekelo.

¹³ Phezu kwalokho inkosi kufanele ukuba yazi ukuthi aluba idolobho leli lingaze lakhiwe lemiduli yalo imiswe njalo, kakusayikubhadalwa imithelo lenkongozelo yenkosi, lomthetho wokungenisa impahla ezweni, besekusithi-ke isikhwama senkosi sisilele izimali. ¹⁴ Pho njengoba thina silomlandu ophuma esigodlweni njalo kungafanelanga ukuthi sibone inkosi idelelwa,

sithumela umbiko lo ukuyazisa inkosi, ¹⁵ ukuze kuhloliswe ezingwalweni zezindaba ezatshiywa yilabo abakwandulelayo. Kulezongwalo uzathola ukuthi idolobho leli lidolobho lokuhlamuka, lilohlupho emakhosini lakwezinye izigaba zombuso, liyindawo yokuhlamuka kulokhu kwasukela endulo. Yilokho okwabangela ukubhidlizwa kwalelidolobho. ¹⁶ Inkosi siyazisela ukuthi aluba idolobho leli lingakhiwa, imiswe njalo imiduli yalo, izakube ingasasalanga lalutho ngaphetsheya kweYufrahe.

¹⁷ Inkosi yathumela impendulo le:

KuRehumi umlawuli wempi loShimishayi unobhala labo bonke abaphathisana labo abahlala eSamariya lakwezinye izindawo ngaphetsheya kweYufrahe:

Ngiyalibingelela.

¹⁸ Incwadi elasithumela yona isiguqulwe ulimi yabalwa phambi kwami. ¹⁹ Ngakhupha ilizwi kwaphenywa, kwafunyanwa ukuthi idolobho leli lilembali ende eyokuvukela amakhosi, liyindawo yokuhlamuka lokuxh-wala. ²⁰ IJerusalema isike yaba lamakhosi alama mandla ayebusa kulolonke elangaphetsheya kweYufrahe, kubhadalwa kuwo imithelo, inkongozelo yenkosi lemithelo yokungenisa impahla elizweni. ²¹ Manje-ke khuphani umlayo kulawomadoda ukuthi kabamise umsebenzi, ukuze idolobho leli lingakhiwa ngize ngitsho mina. ²² Nanzelelani ukuthi lingayilibali indaba le. Kuyekelelwani indaba le ikhula yona ilimaza izifiso zenkosi?

²³ Incwadi yeNkosi u-Athazekisisi yonela ukubalelwa uRehumi loShimishayi unobhala lalabo ababephathisa bahle bahamba masinyane kubaJuda eJerusalema bababamba ngamandla ukumisa umsebenzi.

²⁴ Kanjalo umsebenzi wendlu kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema wema kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wesibili wokubusa kukaDariyu inkosi yasePhezhiya.

5

Incwadi KaThathenayi Isiya KuDariyu

¹ Ngalesosikhathi uHagayi umphrofethi loZakhariya umphrofethi, umzukulu ka-Ido babephrofitha kubaJuda laseJerusalema ngebizo likaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli onguye owayephezu kwabo. ² Kwasekusithi uZerubhabheli indodana kaShelathiyeli loJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki baqalisa ukwakha kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. Abaphrofethi bakaNkulunkulu babelabo bebancedisa.

³ Ngalesosikhathi uThathenayi umbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufrathe loShethari-Bhozenayi labaphathisi babo baya kubo bababuza bathi, “Ngubani olivumeleyo ukwakha kutsha ithempeli leli lokuvuselela lesisakhiwo?”

⁴ Babuza njalo bathi, “Ngobani amabizo amadoda ayakhayo indlu le na?” ⁵ Kodwa ilihlo likaNkulunkulu wabo lalibalindile abadala babaJuda njalo kabazange beme kuze kuyefika umbiko kuDariyu kubuye njalo impendulo yakhe ibhaliwe.

⁶ Le yiyo incwadi eyathunyelwa nguThathenayi umbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufrathe loShethari-Bhozenayi labasekeli babo, izinduna zaphetsheya kweYufrathe yaya kuDariyu iNkosi.

⁷ Umbiko abawuthumelayo wawubhalwe kanje:

Kuyo iNkosi uDariyu:

Ukubingelela okuhle.

⁸ Inkosi kufanele yazi ukuthi saya esiqintini sakoJuda, ethempelini likaNkulunkulu omkhulu. Abantu bayalaxha ngamatshe amakhulu, kunqunyiswa imijabo emidulini. Umsebenzi uqhutshwa ngokukhuthala, njalo uyaphambili ngokuphangisa ukhokhelwa yibo.

⁹ Sabuza abadala bakhona sathi, “Ngubani oluphe imvumo yokwakha kutsha leli ithempeli lokuvuselela isakhiwo lesi?” ¹⁰ Njalo sababuza amabizo abo ukuze sibhale amabizo abakhokheli babo sisenzela ukukwazisa.

¹¹ Nansi impendulo abasipha yona:

“Siyizinceku zikaNkulunkulu wezulu lomhlaba, yikho silakha kutsha ithempeli elakhiwa kudala, elakhiwa yinkosi enkulu yako-Israyeli yaliqeda. ¹² Kodwa ngenxa yokuthi okhokho bethu bamthukuthelisa uNkulunkulu wasezulwini, wabanikela ezandleni zikaNebhukhadineza umKhaladiya, inkosi yaseBhabhiloni owalibhidlizayo lelithempeli abantu wabaxotshela eBhabhiloni.

¹³ Kodwa ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKhurosi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, iNkosi uKhurosi

wakhupha isimemezelo sokuthi kwakhiwe indlu kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁴ Wabuye wasusa ethempelini laseBhabhiloni impahla zegolide lesiliva ezendlu kaNkulunkulu ezazithethwe nguNebhukhadineza ethempelini eJerusalema waziletha ethempelini eBhabhiloni. Kwathi iNkosi uKhurosi yazinika indoda eyayithiwa nguSheshibhazari, eyamketha ukuba ngumbusi, ¹⁵ wantshela wathi, 'Thatha impahla lezi uhambe lazo uyezibeka ethempelini eJerusalema. Njalo yakha kakutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo.'

¹⁶ Yikho uSheshibhazari weza wabeka izisekelo zendlu kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. Kusukela ngalelolanga kuze kube manje ibilokhu isakhiwa kodwa kayikapheli."

¹⁷ Ngakho-ke nxa kulungile enkosini, kakudingisiswe ezincwadini zezindaba zamakhosi aseBhabhiloni kubonwe ingabe yikho na ukuthi iNkosi uKhurosi wayesenzile isimemezelo sokuthi yakhiwe indlu le kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. Lapho-ke inkosi kayisithumele isinqumo sayo ngendaba le.

6

Isimemezelo SikaDariyu

¹ INkosi uDariyu wasekhupha umlayo, basebephenya ezincwadini ezaziqoqwe ndawonye endlini yenotho yesizwe eBhabhiloni.

² Kwafunyanwa khona umqulu womgoqwa enqabeni yase-Ekhibhathana elizweni laseMediya kulotshwe lokhu kuwo:

Umbhalo wesimiso:

³ Ngomnyaka wokuqala weNkosi uKhurosi, inkosi yakhupha isimemezelo mayelana lethempeli likaNkulunkulu eJerusalema:

Ithempeli kalakhiwe kutsha libe yindawo yokwenzela imihlatshelo, njalo izisekelo zalo kazibekwe. Kalibe yizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha ukuphakama, ububanzi bube yizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha, ⁴ kwakhiwe imizila emithathu yamatshe amakhulu lomzila owodwa wezigodo. Izindleko zonke zizabhadalwa yisikhwama sesikhosini. ⁵ Akuthi njalo impahla zegolide lesiliva uNebhukhadineza azithatha ethempelini eJerusalema waziletha eBhabhiloni zibuyiselwe ezindaweni zazo ethempelini eJerusalema; zimele zibekwe endlini kaNkulunkulu.

⁶ Ngakho-ke wena Thatthenayi, mbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufrathe, loShethari-Bhozenayi labaphathisi benu bakulowo umango, sukani lapho. ⁷ Lingaphazamisi umsebenzi wethempeli lelo likaNkulunkulu. Yekelani umbusi wamaJuda labadala bamaJuda bakhe kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo.

⁸ Njalo sengimisa umlayo walokho okumele lina likwenzele abadala bamaJuda ekwakhiweni kwendlu kaNkulunkulu:

Izindleko zala amadoda zizabhadalwa ngokugcweleyo yisikhwama senkosi,

kuthathwa emithelweni yangaphetsheya kweYufrathe ukuze umsebenzi ungaze wema. ⁹ Loba yini efunekayo, amajongosi, inqama, amazinyane amaduna eminikelo yokutshiswa kuNkulunkulu wezulu, lengqoloyi, itswayi, iwayini lamafutha okuyabe kucelwe ngabaphristi eJerusalema, kabakuphiwe nsuku zonke kungaphuthi, ¹⁰ ukuze benze imihlatshelo ethokozisayo kuNkulunkulu wezulu njalo bakhulekele impilakahle yenkosi lamadodana ayo.

¹¹ Phezu kwalokho ngibeka umthetho othi nxa ekhona ozaguqula lesisimiso, kakuh-watshwe uthungo endlini yakhe aphakany-iswe axhonxwe kulo. Akuthi ngenxa yalel-icala indlu yakhe ibhidlizwe ibe yinqwaba yenhlabathi. ¹² Sengathi uNkulunkulu owenza ukuthi iBizo lakhe lihlale khona, angayichitha loba yiphi inkosi loba ngabantu abaphakamisa isandla sabo ukuguqula umlayo lo loba ukudiliza ithempeli leli eliseJerusalema.

Mina kaDariyu ngiwumisile umthetho lo. Kawulandelwe ngokukhuthala.

Ukuqedwa Lokunikelwa KweThempeli

¹³ Kwathi-ke, ngenxa yomthetho iNkosi uDariyu eyase iwuthumele, uThathenayi umbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufrathe, loShethari-Bhozenayi labasekeli babo bakwenza lokho ngenkuthalo. ¹⁴ Yikho-ke abadala bamaJuda baqhubeka ngokwakha bephumelela betshunyayezwa nguHagayi umphrofethi loZakhariya, umzukulu ka-Ido. Baqeda

ukulakha ithempeli belandela umlayo kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli kanye lezimisizo zikaKhurosi, loDariyu lo-Athazekisisi, amakhosi asePhezhiya. ¹⁵ Ithempeli laqedwa ngosuku lwesithathu enyangeni ka-Adari, ngomnyaka wesithupha wokubusa kweNkosi uDariyu.

¹⁶ Kwasekusithi abantu bako-Israyeli, abaphristi, labaLevi labo bonke ababethunjiwe benza umkhosi. ¹⁷ Ukunikela indlu kaNkulunkulu le bapha umnikelo wenkunzi ezilikhulu, inqama ezingamakhulu amabili, amazinyane amaduna angamakhulu amane njalo lempongo ezilitshumi lambili njengomnikelo wesono ka-Israyeli wonke.

¹⁸ Njalo bagcoba abaphristi ezigabeni zabo labaLevi ngamaxuku abo ukwenza umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema, njengokulotshiweyo eNcwadini kaMosi.

IPhasika

¹⁹ Ngelanga letshumi lane lenyanga yokuqala, izithunjwa zathakazelela iPhasika.

²⁰ Abaphristi labaLevi babezihlambulule behlanzekile ngokomkhuba. AbaLevi balihlaba izinyane lePhasika elabo bonke ababethunjiwe, labafowabo abaphristi njalo bezihlabela labo ngokwabo. ²¹ Ngakho

abako-Israyeli ababebuyile ebugqilini balidla, kanye labo bonke labo abasebezahlukanisile emikhutsheni engcolileyo yabomakhelwane beZizwe ukuze badinge uTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ²² Bathakazelela uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwensuku eziyisikhombisa bethokoza, ngoba uTHIXO wayebagcwalise

ngokuthokoza ngokuguqula ingqondo yenkosi yase-Asiriya ukuthi ibancedise emsebenzini wendlu kaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

7

U-Ezra Uza EJerusalema

¹ Ngemva kwalezizinto, ngesikhathi sokubusa kuka-Athazekisisi inkosi yasePhezhiya, u-Ezra indodana kaSeraya, indodana ka-Azariya, indodana kaHilikhiya, ² indodana kaShalumi, indodana kaZadokhi indodana ka-Ahithubi, ³ indodana ka-Amariya, indodana ka-Azariya, indodana kaMerayothi, ⁴ indodana kaZerahiya, indodana ka-Uzi, indodana kaBhukhi, ⁵ indodana ka-Abhishuwa, indodana kaFinehasi, indodana ka-Eliyazari, indodana ka-Aroni umphristi omkhulu, ⁶ u-Ezra lo weza evela eBhabhiloni. Wayeyisifundiswa esazi kakhulu ngoMthetho kaMosi, owawuphiwe nguTHIXO, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Inkosi yayimuphe konke ayekucelile, ngoba isandla sIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wakhe sasiphezu kwakhe. ⁷ Abanye abako-Israyeli, labaphristi, lamaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindi bamasango lezinceku zethempelini labo babuya eJerusalema ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wokubusa kwenkosi u-Athazekisisi.

⁸ U-Ezra wafika eJerusalema ngenyanga yesihlanu ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wenkosi. ⁹ Wayeqalise uhambo lwakhe esuka eBhabhiloni ngelanga lakuqala lenyanga yokuqala, wafika eJerusalema ngelanga lakuqala lenyanga yesihlanu, ngoba isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu sasiphezu kwakhe. ¹⁰ Ngoba

u-Ezra wayezinikele ekufundeni lokugcina uMthetho KATHIXO lokufundisa izimiso zawo ko-Israyeli.

Incwadi YeNkosi U-Athazekisisi Isiya Ku-Ezra

¹¹ Nansi incwadi iNkosi u-Athazekisisi ayeyiphe u-Ezra umphristi lomabhalane, indoda eyayifundile ezindabeni zemithetho lezimiso ZIKATHIXO ku-Israyeli:

¹² Athazekisisi, nkosi yamakhosi,

Ku-Ezra umphristi, umfundisi womthetho kaNkulunkulu wasezulwini:

Ngiyabingelela.

¹³ Manje-ke ngimisa umthetho wokuthi ingqe ngubani wako-Israyeli osebusweni wami, kugoqela abaphristi labaLevi, ofisa ukuhamba lawe eJerusalema, kahambe.

¹⁴ Uthunywa yinkosi labacebisi bayo abayisikhombisa ukuba uyofunisisa ngoJuda langeJerusalema mayelana loMthetho kaNkulunkulu wakho, owuphethayo.

¹⁵ Njalo ubothatha isiliva legolide elinikwe ngesihle yinkosi labacebisi bayo kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ohlala eJerusalema, ¹⁶ kanye lesiliva legolide lonke ongalizuza elizweni laseBhabhiloni kanye leminikelo yokuzizwela eyabantu labaphristi benikelela ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wabo eJerusalema.

¹⁷ Ngaleyomali umele uthenge inkunzi, lenqama, lamazinyane ezimvu amaduna, ndawonye leminikelo yabo yamabele leyokunathwayo, konke kunikelwe e-alithareni lethempeli likaNkulunkulu wenu eJerusalema.

¹⁸ Wena labazalwane bakho abangamaJuda selingenza lokho okuyabe kufanele ngesiliva legolide eliseleyo, mayelana lentando kaNkulunkulu wenu. ¹⁹ Hambisani kuNkulunkulu weJerusalema zonke impahla eliziphathisiweyo ezokukhonza ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wenu. ²⁰ Akuthi loba yini efunekayo ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wenu elifuna ukuthi izuzakale, kayidingwe ngendleko ephuma esikhwameni senkosi.

²¹ Mina, iNkosi Athazekisisi ngimisa umthetho wokuthi bonke abaphathi bezikhwama abangaphetsheya kweYufrathe baphe u-Ezra umphristi, umfundisi woMthetho kaNkulunkulu wasezulwini ngokuphangisa loba yini ayicelayo kini, ²² kuze kube ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu, lamasaka alikhulu engqoloyi, imigqomo elikhulu yewayini, imigqomo elikhulu yamafutha e-oliva, letswayi elingelakulinganiswa. ²³ Ingqe yini emiswe nguNkulunkulu wasezulwini, kakwenziwe ngokukhuthala kusenzelwa ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wasezulwini. Kakudingeki ukuthi ulaka luze lwehliselwe phezu kwenkosi lamadodana ayo. ²⁴ Yazini njalo ukuthi kalilamvumo yokubiza imithelo loba inkongozelo yenkosi kumbe imbadalo yokungenisa impahla elizweni kubaphristi, labaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindimasango, lezincku zethempelini loba kwezinye izisebenzi zale indlu kaNkulunkulu.

²⁵ Yikho wena Ezra, ngokuhlakanipha

olakho okukaNkulunkulu wakho, beka abathonisi labehluleli ukwahlulela kuhle bonke abantu abangaphetsheya kweYufrathe, bonke abayaziyo imithetho kaNkulunkulu wenu. Kumele ufundise labo abangayaziyo. ²⁶ Lowo ongawulaleliyo umthetho kaNkulunkulu wenu lomthetho wenkosi ngeqiniso umele ajeziswe ngokufa, loba ngokuxotshwa, loba ngokuhluthunelwa impahla loba ngokufakwa entolongweni.

²⁷ Udumo kalube KUTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu, okufakileyo enhliziyweni yenkosi ukuletha inhlonipho endlini KATHIXO eJerusalema ngale indlela ²⁸ njalo otshengise umusa wakhe kini phambi kwenkosi labeluleki bakhe lazozonke izinduna zakhe ezilamandla. Ngenxa yokuthi isandla SIKATHIXO uNkulunkulu wami besiphezu kwami, ngaba lesibindi ngaqoqa amadoda angabakhokheli ko-Israyeli ukuthi bahambe lami.

8

Uluhlu Lwenhloko Yemizi Ababuya Lo-Ezra

¹ Laba bazinhloko zezimuli lalabo ababhalisa kubo abeza lami sisuka eBhabhiloni ngesikhathi sokubusa kweNkosi u-Athazekisisi:

² abesizukulwane sikaFinehasi,
uGeshomu;
abesizukulwane sika-Ithamari,
uDanyeli;
abesizukulwane sikaDavida,

- uHathushi³ owesizukulwane
sikaShekhaniya;
abesizukulwane sikaPharoshi,
uZakhariya, okwabhalisa kanye laye
amadoda alikhulu lamatshumi amahlanu
(150);
- ⁴ abesizukulwane sikaPhahathi-Mowabi:
kwakungu-Eliyehonayi indodana kaZer-
ahiya oweza lamadoda angamakhulu
amabili (200);
- ⁵ abesizukulwane sikaZathu,
kwakunguShekhaniya indodana kaJa-
haziyeli, oweza lamadoda angamakhulu
amathathu (300);
- ⁶ abesizukulwane sika-Adini,
kwakungu-Ebhedi indodana kaJonathani,
oweza lamadoda angamatshumi
amahlanu (50);
- ⁷ abesizukulwane sika-Elamu,
kwakunguJeshaya indodana ka-Athaliya,
oweza lamadoda angamatshumi
ayisikhombisa (70);
- ⁸ abesizukulwane sikaShefathiya,
kwakunguZebhadiya indodana kaMikhayeli,
oweza lamadoda angamatshumi ayisifi-
caminwembili (80);
- ⁹ abesizukulwane sikaJowabi,
kwakungu-Obhadaya indodana kaJehiyeli,
oweza lamadoda angamakhulu amabili
aletshumi lasificaminwembili (218);
- ¹⁰ abesizukulwane sikaBhani,
kwakunguShelomithi indodana kaJosifiya,
oweza lamadoda alikhulu lamatshumi ay-
isithupha (160),

- ¹¹ abesizukulwane sikaBhebhayi, kwakunguZakhariya indodana kaBhebhayi, oweza lamadoda angamatshumi amabili lasificaminwembili (28);
- ¹² abesizukulwane sika-Azigadi, kwakunguJohanani indodana kaHakathani, oweza lamadoda alikhulu letshumi (110);
- ¹³ abesizukulwane sika-Adonikhamu, abokucina, kwakungu-Elifelethi, uJuweli loShemaya, beza lamadoda angamatshumi ayisithupha (60);
- ¹⁴ abesizukulwane sikaBhigivayi, kwakungu-Uthayi loZakhuri, abeza lamadoda angamatshumi ayisikhombisa (70).

Ukubuyela EJerusalema

¹⁵ Ngababuthanisa eMgelweni wamanzi agelezela ku-Ahava, samisa khona okwensuku ezintathu. Ngathi sengihlola phakathi kwabantu labaphristi, kangitholanga loyedwa wamaLevi khona. ¹⁶ Yikho ngasengibiza u-Eliyezari, lo-Ariyeli, loShemaya, lo-Elinathani, loJaribi, loNathani, loZakhariya loMeshulami ababengabakhokheli, loJoyaribi lo-Elinathani ababengabantu abafundileyo, ¹⁷ ngabathumela ku-Ido, lezihlobo zakhe, izinceku zethempelini eKhasifiya, ukwenzela ukuthi basilethele izikhonzi zendlu kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁸ Ngoba isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu sasiphezu kwethu, basilethela uSherebhiya, indoda emadodeni, owesizukulwane sikaMahili indodana kaLevi, indodana ka-Israyeli, lamadodana kaSherebhiya labafowabo,

amadoda alitshumi lasificaminwembili (18); ¹⁹ loHashabhiya, kanye loJeshaya owesizukulwane sikaMerari, kanye labafowabo labantwababo, bonke babengamadoda angamatshumi amabili (20). ²⁰ Bona beza lezincku zethempelini ezingamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amabili (220) ezazimiswe nguDavida lezinduna zakhe ukuncedisa abaLevi. Bonke babhalwa phansi amabizo abo.

²¹ Khonapho, ekhunjini loMgelo we-Ahava, ngamemezela ukuzila ukudla, ukuze sizehlise phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu simcele asiphe uhambo oluhle, thina labantwabethu, lempahla zethu zonke. ²² Ngaba lenhloni ukucela enkosini amabutho labagadi bamabhiza ukuthi basivikele ezitheni endleleni ngoba inkosi sasiyitshela sathi, "Isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu wethu siphezu kwakhe lowo okhangele kuye, kodwa ulaka lwakhe olukhulu luyavutha kulabo abamfulathe-layo." ²³ Ngakho sazila ukudla, samncenga uNkulunkulu wethu ngakho lokhu, wawuphendula umkhuleko wethu.

²⁴ Ngasengisehlukana kwabanye abaphristi abalitshumi lambili abangabakhokheli, ndawonye loSherebhiya, loHashabhiya labalitshumi labafowabo, ²⁵ ngabalinganisela umnikelo wesiliva legolide lempahla ezaziyizipho ezasisuka enkosini, labacebisi bayo, lezikhulu zayo labako-Israyeli bonke ababekhona lapho, siyisipho sendlu kaNkulunkulu. ²⁶ Ngabalinganisela amathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi amahlanu (650) esiliva, impahla zesiliva ezilobunzima obungamathalenta alikhulu (100),

amathalenta alikhulu (100) egolide, ²⁷ imiganu yegolide engamatshumi amabili (20) kuthiwa intengo yayo ingaba ngamadariki ayinkulungwane (1,000), lezitsha ezimbili ezethusi elilolongiweyo eliligugu njengegolide.

²⁸ Ngathi kubo, “Lina kanye lempahla lezi lingcwelisiwe eNkosini. Isiliva legolide kungumnikelo wokuzithandela kuTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu. ²⁹ Kulindeneni ngonanzelelo lize liyokulinganisa emakamelweni endlu kaTHIXO eJerusalema phambi kwabakhokheli babaphristi lamaLevi labayizinhloko zezimuli zako-Israyeli.” ³⁰ Kwathi-ke abaphristi labaLevi basemukela isiliva legolide lempahla ezingcwele ezazilinganisiwe ukuze zisiwe endlini kaNkulunkulu wethu eJerusalema.

³¹ Ngosuku lwetshumi lambili lwenyanga yokuqala saphakama sasuka eMgelweni we-Ahava saqonda eJerusalema. Isandla sikaNkulunkulu wethu sasiphezu kwethu, wasivikela ezitheni lasezigebengwini indlela yonke. ³² Ngakho safika eJerusalema, saphumula khona okwensuku ezintathu.

³³ Ngosuku lwesine sangena endlini kaNkulunkulu salinganisa isiliva legolide lempahla zonke ezingcwelisiweyo sazibeka ezandleni zikaMeremothi indodana kaUriya umphristi. U-Eliyezari indodana kaFinehasi laye wayekhona, labaLevi oJozabhadi indodana kaJeshuwa loNowadiya indodana kaBhinuwi. ³⁴ Konke kwakukhona ngenani lakho langesisindo, kwathi isisindo sonke salotshwa phansi ngasonaleso isikhathi.

³⁵ Yikho izithunywa ezabuya ebugqilini zenza umnikelo wokutshiswa kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: inkunzi ezilitshumi lambili ezika-Israyeli wonke, ingama ezingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye lesithupha, amawundlu amaduna angamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesikhombisa kanye lomnikelo wesono oyizimpongo ezilitshumi lambili. Konke lokhu kwakungumnikelo wokutshiswa KUTHIXO. ³⁶ Bathi njalo bethula imilayo yenkosi kuzikhulu zenkosi lakubabusi bangaphetsheya kweYufra, okwathi-ke bona bancedisa abantu kanye lasendlini kaNkulunkulu.

9

Umkhuleko Ka-Ezra Ngokuthathana Kwemihlobo

¹ Sezenziwe zonke lezi izinto, abakhokheli beza kimi bathi, “Abantu bako-Israyeli bonke, labaphristi, labaLevi kabazehlukanisanga labantu bezizwe abalezenzo ezinengekayo, abanjengamaKhenani, amaHithi, amaPherizi, amaJebusi, ama-Amori, amaMowabi, amaGibhithe lama-Amoni. ² Bathatha amanye amadodakazi abo aba ngomkabo bathathela lamadodana abo, baxubanisa isizwe esingcwele labantu abahlezi labo. Njalo abakhokheli lezikhulu yibo abakhokheleyo kulokhu kungathembeki.”

³ Ngathi ngikuzwa lokho ngadabula isigqoko sami lejazi lami, ngadonsa inwele ekhanda lami lezindevu zami ngahlala phansi ngididekile. ⁴ Kwasekusithi wonke lowo owethuswa ngamazwi kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli

waziqoqa phansi kwami ngenxa yalokhu ukona kwezithunjwa. Ngahlala khonapho ngididekile kwaze kwaba ngumhlatsshelo wakusihlwa.

⁵ Kwathi-ke ngomhlatsshelo wakusihlwa, ngaphakama ekuzehliseni kwami, isigqoko sami lejazi lami kudabukile, ngaguqa, izandla zami zivuliwe KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wami ⁶ ngakhuleka ngathi:

“Oh Nkulunkulu wami, ngiyangekile kakhulu njalo ngilenhloni ukuphakamisela ubuso bami kuwe, Nkulunkulu wami, ngoba izono zethu ziphakeme kulamakhanda ethu lecala lethu selifikile emazulwini. ⁷ Kusukela ensukwini zabokhokho bethu kuze kube manje, icala lethu likhulu. Ngenxa yezono zethu, thina lamakhosi ethu labaphristi bethu sesilokhu sidliwa yinkemba njalo sigqilazwa, siphangwa njalo siyangiswa ngamakhosi ezizwe, njengoba kunjalo lalamuhla.

⁸ Kodwa khathesi, okwesikhatshana nje, UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu ube lomusa ngokusitshiyela insalela lokusipha indawo eqinileyo endlini yakhe engcwele, okuthi ngakho uNkulunkulu wethu uletha ukukhanya emehlweni ethu lokukhululeka kancinyane ekugqilazweni kwethu. ⁹ Lokuba siyizigqili, uNkulunkulu wethu kasidelanga ebugqilini bethu. Usitshengise umusa emehlweni amakhosi asePhezhiya; usiphile impilo entsha ukuba sakhe kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu wethu sivuselele amanxiwa ayo, njalo usesiphile umduli wokusivikela koJuda laseJerusalema.

10 Kodwa manje, awu Nkulunkulu wethu, kuyini esingakutsho sekwenzakale lokhu? Ngoba siyidelile imilayo 11 owayinika ngezinceku zakho abaphrofethi uze uthi: 'Ilizwe eselingena kulo ukulithatha yilizwe elingcolisiweyo ngokuxhwala kwabantu balo. Ngemikhuba yabo enengekayo sebeligcwalise ngamanyala abo kusukela ngapha kwalo kuze kufike ekucineni ngale. 12 Ngakho-ke lingendiseli amadodakazi enu emadodaneni abo kumbe amadodana enu athathe amadodakazi abo. Lingadingi isibopho sobudlelwano labo loba nini, ukuze liqine lidle izinto ezinhle zelizwe elizalitshiyela abantwabenu njengelifa laphakade.'

13 Osekwenzakele kithi kungumvuzo wezenzo zethu ezimbi lecala lethu elikhulu, ikanti wena Nkulunkulu wethu usijezise okunganeno kwezono zethu wasipha abayinsalela kanje. 14 Sizaphinda njalo sephule imilayo yakho sendiselane labantu bezizwe abagila imikhuba eyenyanyekayo kangaka na? Ungaze wasizondela kakhulu na usibhubhise ungasitshiyeli lansalela loba abasindileyo na? 15 Oh THIXO, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ulungile! Namhlanje sisele njengensalela. Nanku silapha phambi kwakho ngecala lethu, lokuba engekho ongema ebukhoneni bakho ngenxa yalo icala lethu."

10

Abantu Bavuma Isono

¹ Lapho u-Ezra wayekhuleka njalo evuma izono, ekhala eziwisela phansi phambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, ixuku elikhulu labako-Israyeli kubalisa amadoda labafazi labantwana, babuthana kuye. Labo bakhala kabuhlungu.

² Yikho uShekhaniya indodana kaJehiyeli, omunye wesizukulwane sika-Elamu, wathi ku-Ezra, “Kasizange sithembeke kuNkulunkulu wethu ngoba sathatha abafazi bezizweni ebantwini esakhelene labo. Kodwa loba kunjalo ithemba lisekhona ngo-Israyeli.

³ Manje kasenzi isivumelwano phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu ukubalahla bonke labobafazi labantwababo njengeseluleko senkosi yami lalabo abayesabayo imilayo kaNkulunkulu wethu. Kakwenziwe ngendlela yoMthetho.

⁴ Sukuma; indaba le izezandleni zakho. Thina sizakusekela, yikho yiba lesibindi ukwenze.”

⁵ Ngakho u-Ezra waphakama wafungisa bonke abakhokheli babaphristi labaLevi lo-Israyeli wonke ukwenza lokho okwakumisiwe. Basenza lesosifungo. ⁶ U-Ezra wasesuka endlini kaNkulunkulu waya endlini kaJehohanani indodana ka-Eliyashibi. Elapho kadlanga lutho njalo kazange anathe manzi, ngoba waqhubeka elilela ukungathembeki kwezithunjwa.

⁷ Kwasekukhutshwa isimemezelo kulolonke elakoJuda kanye leJerusalema ukuthi zonke izithunjwa kaziqoqane eJerusalema. ⁸ Ingqe ngubani ongafikanga phakathi kwensuku ezintathu wayezathathelwa yonke impahla alayo, kulandelwa isinqumo sezinduna labadala, kuthi yena ngokwakhe axotshwe emphakathini wal-

abo ababethunjiwe.

⁹ Phakathi kwalezonsuku ezintathu wonke amadoda akoJuda lakoBhenjamini ayesebuthene eJerusalema. Kwathi ngelanga lamatshumi amabili lenyanga yesificamunye bonke abantu babehlezi esigcawini phambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, bekhathazekile ngombuthano lowo njalo begxanxwa lizulu elalisina. ¹⁰ Kwathi u-Ezra umphristi wasukuma wathi kubo, “Kalithembekanga; lisuke lathatha abafazi bezizweni, lengeza icala lika-Israyeli. ¹¹ Manje-ke vumani izono zenu kuTHIXO, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu, lenze intando yakhe. Zahlukaniseni kulababantu elakhelene labo lasebafazini benu abezizwe.”

¹² Inkundla yonke yaphendula ngelizwi elikhulu yathi: “Uqondile! Kumele senze njengoba usitsho. ¹³ Kodwa kulabantu abanengi lapha futhi lesi yisikhathi sezulu; ngakho ngeke sime lapha phandle. Futhi indaba le ingazake iphethwe ngosuku olulodwa kumbe ezimbili, ngoba sonile kakhulu ngento le. ¹⁴ Akuthi izinduna zethu zisimele thina sonke. Akuthi wonkemuntu emizini yethu othethe umfazi wabezizwe eze ngesikhathi esimisiweyo, eze labadala kanye labehluleli balowomuzi, luze ludede kithi ulaka olwesabekayo lukaNkulunkulu wethu.” ¹⁵ Kwaba nguJonathani kuphela, indodana ka-Asaheli loJahizeya indodana kaThikhiva, besekelwa nguMeshulami loShabhethayi umLevi abakuphikisayo lokhu.

¹⁶ Ngakho izithunjwa zenza njengokwaku-

misiwe. U-Ezra umphristi wakhetha amadoda ayeyizinhloko zezimuli, oyedwa emulini, bonke baqanjwa ngamabizo. Ngosuku lokuqala lwenyanga yetshumi bahlala phansi bawahlolisisa lawomacala, ¹⁷ kwathi ngelanga lokuqala ngenyanga yokuqala baqeda ukuphatha indaba yamadoda ayethethe abafazi bezizweni.

Ababelecala Lokuthatha Abafazi Bezizweni

- ¹⁸ Phakathi kwezizukulwane zabaphristi, laba abalandelayo yibo ababethethe abafazi bezizweni:
Abesizukulwane sikaJeshuwa indodana ka-Jozadaki labafowabo:
uMaseya, u-Eliyezari, uJaribhi loGedaliya.
¹⁹ (Bonke baphakamisa izandla zabo bafunga ukubalahla abafazi babo, kwathi ngenxa yecala labo ngulowo wakhupha inqama emhlambini ukuba ngumnikelo wesono.)
- ²⁰ Abesizukulwane sika-Imeri:
nguHanani loZebhadiya.
- ²¹ Abesizukulwane sikaHarimi:
nguMaseya, lo-Elija, loShemaya, loJehiyeli lo-Uziya.
- ²² Abesizukulwane sikaPhashuri:
ngu-Eliyonayi, loMaseya, lo-Ishumayeli, loNethaneli, loJozabhadi lo-Eleyasa.
- ²³ Phakathi kwabaLevi nampa:
uJozabhadi, loShimeyi, loKhelaya (kutshiwo uKhelitha), loPhethahiya, loJuda lo-Eliyezari.

24 Phakathi kwabahlabeleli nampa:
 u-Eliyashibi.
 Phakathi kwabalindimasango:
 nguShalumi, loThelemu lo-Uri.

- 25 Phakathi kwabanye abako-Israyeli:
 Abesizwe sikaPharoshi:
 nguRamiya, u-Iziya, uMalikhija, uMijamini,
 u-Eliyezari, uMalikhija loBhenaya.
- 26 Abesizukulwane sika-Elamu:
 nguMathaniya, uZakhariya, uJehiyeli, u-
 Abhidi, uJeremothi lo-Elija.
- 27 Abesizukulwane sikaZathu:
 ngu-Eliyonayi, u-Eliyashibi, uMathaniya,
 uJeremothi, uZabhadi lo-Aziza.
- 28 Abesizukulwane sikaBhebhayi:
 nguJehohanani, uHananiya, uZabhayi lo-
 Athilayi.
- 29 Abesizukulwane sikaBhani:
 nguMeshulami, uMaluki, u-Adaya, uJashubi,
 uSheyali loJeremothi.
- 30 Abesizukulwane sikaPhahathi-Mowabi:
 ngu-Adina, uKhelali, uBhenaya, uMaseya,
 uMathaniya, uBhezaleli, uBhinuwi lo-
 Manase.
- 31 Abesizukulwane sikaHarimi:
 ngu-Eliyezari, u-Ishiya, uMalikhija,
 uShemaya, uSimiyoni, 32 uBhenjamini,
 uMaluki, loShemariya.
- 33 Abesizukulwane sikaHashumi:
 nguMathenayi, uMathatha, uZabhadi, u-
 Elifelethi, uJeremayi, uManase loShimeyi.
- 34 Abesizukulwane sikaBhani:

nguMadayi, u-Amramu, u-Uweli,
³⁵ uBhenaya, uBhedeya, uKheluhi,
³⁶ uVaniya, uMeremothi, u-Eliyashibi,
³⁷ uMathaniya, uMathenayi loJasu.

³⁸ Abesizukulwane sikaBhinuwi loBhani:
 nguShimeyi, ³⁹ uShelemiya, uNathani, u-
 Adaya, ⁴⁰ uMakhinadebhayi, uShashayi,
 uSharayi, ⁴¹ u-Azareli, uShelemiya, uShe-
 mariya, ⁴² uShalumi, u-Amariya loJosefa.

⁴³ Abesizukulwane sikaNebho:
 nguJeyiyeli, uMathithiya, uZabhadi, uZeb-
 hina, uJadayi, uJoweli loBhenaya.

⁴⁴ Bonke laba bathatha abafazi bez-
 izweni, abanye babo bazala abant-
 wana labafazi labo.

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