

The Story about the big boss called David (From the book in the Holy Bible called 2 Samuel) About this story

These stories are about things that happened about 3,000 years ago, in the country called Israel.

Somebody wrote these stories in a big book called *Samuel* with lots of other stories, but it was too big, so they split it into 2 books, called *1 Samuel*, and *2 Samuel*. They were in God's book, that the Jewish people had before Jesus came to this earth. They are now in the 1st part of the Holy Bible, called the *Old Testament*.

We have not yet translated all of the stories from 2 Samuel.

The stories in this book are mostly about God's man called David. In 1 Samuel we can read that God picked David to be the big boss of his people, but David did not become the big boss straight away. Saul was the first big boss. After he died, David became the big boss, but it was not always easy for him. He often had problems.

These stories are important, and we can learn a lot from them. They help us know what God is like and what he planned for his people. They show us that God is always with his people, and that he helps them when they have problems.

David heard the bad news about Saul

¹ The Philistia mob and the Israel mob fought each other on the hill called Gilboa. Saul died at that place.

At the same time, David and his men fought the Amalek mob at another place. After they beat the Amalek mob, David and his men went back to the place called Ziklag.

² Then, 2 days later, a young man arrived at David's camp. He came from the place where Saul's mob had that big fight. Along the road he tore his clothes and put dirt on his head, to show that he had bad news. Then he came to David, got down on his knees with his face close to the ground, to show respect to him.

³ David asked, "Where did you come from?"

He answered, "I ran away from that hill called Gilboa, from that big fight."

⁴ David asked him, "What happened in that fight? Tell me."

He answered, "The Philistia mob killed dead lots of our soldiers, and our other soldiers ran away. Saul and his son Jonathan died too."

(We have not yet translated 1:5-10.)

¹¹ David and his mob were really sad for Saul and Jonathan. They tore their clothes to show they were upset.

¹² They cried until the sun went down, and they didn't eat anything. Lots of God's people died, so they were sad for them too, their countrymen, the Israel mob.

(We have not yet translated 1:13-27.)

2

The Judah mob made David their boss

¹ After that, David asked God, "What do I do now? Maybe I have to go back and stay at some place in Judah country?"

God answered, "Yes, go."

David asked, "Which place?"

God said, "To the town called Hebron."

² So David went and lived in that place. His 2 wives went with him. Their names were Ahinoam, from Jezreel, and Abigail, from Carmel. Abigail was the widow of that stupid old man, Nabal.*

³ David's workers also went back to Judah, and they took their children with them. Some went to Hebron. Other workers went to other places close by.

⁴ Then the Judah tribe came together at Hebron to make David their boss. They poured olive oil on his head. That was their way of showing everybody that he was their boss.*

(We have not yet translated 2:5-7.)

The Israel mob made Ishbosheth their boss

⁸ At that same time Abner got up. He was Ner's son, and he used to be the boss of Saul's soldiers. He got up and went to a man called Ishbosheth. He was one of Saul's sons. Abner took him to a place called Mahanayim,

* **2:2** 1 Samuel 25:42-43

* **2:4** 1 Samuel 31:11-13

⁹ and made him boss of all the other tribes of the Israel nation. So he was boss for the Gilead mob, and for the Asher mob, and for the Jezreel mob, and for the Ephraim mob, and for the Benjamin mob.

¹⁰ Ishbosheth was 40 years old at the time he became boss over those Israel tribes, and he was their boss for 2 years. But the Judah tribe made David their boss.

¹¹ David was boss for 7 years and 6 months in Hebron town.

(We have not yet translated 2:12-32. It is about a fight between David's mob and the mob that wanted Saul's son to be their boss.)

3

¹ Saul's mob and David's mob kept on fighting each other for a long time. More and more men joined David's mob, and only a few men stayed in Saul's mob.

(We have not yet translated 3:2—4:12.)

5

David became the boss of all the tribes in Israel

¹ At first David was boss only for the Judah tribe. But one day all the other Israel tribes came together at Hebron and said to David, "You are family for us.

² While Saul was the big boss of all of us in Israel, you were boss of all the soldiers. At that time, God told you, 'One day, you will be the big

boss, and you will look after my people, the Israel mob, like a shepherd looks after his sheep.’ ”

³ So the elders told that story to David in Hebron. Then he said, “Yes, I agree to be the big boss of everybody. I say that while God is listening.” Then the elders poured olive oil on his head to show that he was the big boss for all the Israel mob.

⁴ David was 30 years old when they picked him to be the big boss. And he was boss for a long time, for 40 years.

⁵ You see, David was boss for the Judah tribe first. That was for 7½ years, and he lived at that place called Hebron. After that, he became the big boss for the other Israel tribes too, and he lived in the city called Jerusalem.*

(We have not yet translated 5:6—6:23.)

7

God told David, “Your family will be bosses for ever”

¹ After David became the big boss, God kept his enemies away from Israel. So he sat down happily in his big house in Jerusalem.

² There was a man called Nathan. He told God’s messages to people. One day, David said to him, “Listen, I live here in this big fancy house, but God’s special box still lives in a tent. I want to build a proper house for that special box.”

* 5:5 1 Kings 2:11; 1 Chronicles 3:4; 29:27

³ Nathan said, “God is looking after you. You can do anything you want to do.”

⁴ But that night God gave Nathan a dream and told him a different story.

⁵ He told him to say this to David,

“David, you are my working man. Listen to me. I want you to leave it. Don’t build a house for me. And don’t build a house for that special box.

⁶ I led the Israel mob to walk away from Egypt and to come back to this country. All that time I didn’t live in a house. Today I still don’t live in a house. I still go from place to place, and I still live in a tent.

⁷ I picked bosses for the Israel mob, to look after them. I didn’t say to any of those bosses, ‘Build me a nice house.’ I never said that.

⁸ So, listen carefully to me. At first you just looked after sheep. Then I picked you to look after my mob, the Israel nation. I picked you to be the big boss for them.

⁹ I was always close to you whenever you did all kinds of important things. I helped you to hunt away the cheeky people that came here from other places. And now I will make you really important. Everybody in every place will hear about you and remember your name, and they will say you are great.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ For a long time I picked judges and other bosses for my people, the Israel mob. Other mobs kept on giving them trouble, and they fought with the Israel mob. But from now on, I will look after my mob here in this country. This country

belongs to Israel now. They can sit down here and live quietly, and not be frightened any more. Those other mobs will leave them alone.

Listen, I am telling you this, so you will know. I will make your family important. And I will keep on making your family important.

¹² One day you will die, and then I will pick one of your sons to be the big boss, and I will make him strong. He will be a strong boss for his people for a long time.*

¹³ Nobody can stop him from being the big boss of this country. And then his son will be the big boss, and later his son's son will be the big boss. It will be like that for ever. The big boss will always be a son from your family. Your son is the right one to build a house for me, not you.

¹⁴ I will be like his father, and he will be like my son. If he does wrong, I will send somebody to punish him, the way men punish people. But I will keep on looking after him, and I will keep on teaching him, just like a father does.*

¹⁵ You see, I loved Saul at first. But after a while I didn't love him any more. So I picked you to be the big boss instead of him. But I will treat you better than Saul. I will keep on loving your son always, for as long as he will be the big boss.

¹⁶ Your family line will stay for ever. One of them will always be the big boss.”*

That's the story God told Nathan in a dream.

* **7:12** Psalm 89:3-4; 132:11; John 7:42; Acts 2:30 * **7:14** Psalm 89:26-27; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Hebrews 1:5 * **7:16** Psalm 89:36-37

¹⁷ Then Nathan told David everything that God said.

(We have not yet translated 7:18—10:19.)

11

David stole another man's wife

¹ At that time, long ago, the big bosses of those nations used to wait for the end of the cold weather to finish every year, then they used to get their soldiers together, and the big bosses went with their soldiers to fight with other nations. That was their way.*

One year, at that time, David told his boss soldier Joab, "Gather the soldiers from Israel together. Go again to fight with the Ammon mob." So they went, and they met up with the soldiers from Ammon, and they beat them properly. Then they went to the town called Rabbah in Ammon country and stood in a circle around it. The Rabbah people couldn't get out of their town, because the Israel soldiers blocked the gates.

But David didn't go with his soldiers to that town. He stayed home, in Jerusalem.

² One day, in the late afternoon, David woke up from a sleep, and he went up and stood on the flat roof of his house. As he looked down at the other houses, he saw a woman. She was having a bath, and she was very pretty.

³ He sent a messenger to ask, "Who is this woman?"

* **11:1** 1 Chronicles 20:1

The messenger came back and told him, “She is Bathsheba, Eliam’s daughter. Her husband is Uriah, who belongs to the Heth mob.”

⁴ He was an Israel soldier, and he was fighting at Rabbah. So David sent messengers to get Bathsheba and bring her to him. You see, she just finished her washing ceremony, the one that women used to do to clean themselves every month. So Bathsheba did what David told her to do. She went to him, and he slept with her, as a man does with his wife. Then she went back to her home.

⁵ Some weeks later, that woman knew that she was going to have a baby. So she sent a message to tell David, “I’m going to have your baby.”

⁶ David heard her message, and then he sent a message to the boss soldier Joab. He was with the army, fighting at Rabbah. David told him, “Send Uriah to me.” So Joab sent Uriah back to Jerusalem.

⁷ Uriah came, and David said, “Hello, Uriah. Tell me, how’s Joab? Is he all right? Are the soldiers from Israel all right? Are they fighting hard with the Ammon mob?”

Uriah answered his questions.

⁸ Then David said to him, “You can go home to your wife. Have a wash and a rest. Go back to Joab tomorrow.” You see, David wanted people to think that the baby was Uriah’s. As Uriah left the big house, David sent a working man with some fresh meat for Uriah and his wife to eat.

⁹ But Uriah didn’t go back to sleep at his own house. He went and slept outside, where David’s working men used to sleep.

¹⁰ The next day, one working man told David, "Uriah did not go and sleep at his own house."

David said, "Go and get him."

Uriah came, and David asked him, "Why didn't you go home and have a rest? You need a break from the fighting."

¹¹ He answered, "I can't go back to my house. There are big mobs of our soldiers still over there, fighting the Ammon mob. The big boss soldier Joab, and the other boss soldiers, and all the other soldiers from Judah and from all of Israel, they are all camped out in the dry country. God's special box is there too. I can't go back to my house. I can't go and eat meat and drink wine. I can't go back and sleep with my wife. I'm telling you straight, with God listening, I can't do that."

¹² David said to him, "All right. You can stay with me. I'll send you back tomorrow."

So Uriah stayed 2 nights in Jerusalem.

¹³ David gave him lots of food and wine to make him confused. He kept on saying, "Drink some more of this." So Uriah got properly drunk.

But still he didn't go home to his wife. He went and slept outside with the working men, like before.

¹⁴ The next morning, David heard the same story. So he wrote a letter to Joab. He gave it to Uriah, and he said, "Give this letter to your boss, Joab." So Uriah took the paper with him, but he didn't know what it said.

¹⁵ That message said this, "Send Uriah to the really hard fighting, close to the Ammon mob."

Tell the other soldiers to stand back away from him and leave him alone. Then the enemy will kill him dead.”

¹⁶ You see, the Israel soldiers were still at that same place, there at Rabbah. They still stood in a circle around the town. Joab knew that the best Ammon soldiers were in one place, so he sent Uriah and some other soldiers there, to shoot arrows at them from close to the wall of the town.

¹⁷ But those Ammon soldiers suddenly came out from behind the wall and killed some Israel soldiers. And they killed Uriah too.

¹⁸ Joab sent a messenger to tell David about the fighting at Rabbah.

¹⁹ He told the messenger, “After you tell the big boss all about the fighting,

²⁰ he might think that those soldiers died for nothing. He might get angry. He might ask you, ‘Why did you mob go close to the wall? You knew that the Ammon mob will shoot arrows at you from the wall.

²¹ Maybe you forgot that story about Abimelek, Gideon’s son. One time, he fought against the people of the town called Thebez. A woman threw a big stone from the top of the wall, and it hit him, and he died. So why did you mob get so close to that wall?’ If the big boss asks you that, you can tell him this, ‘Uriah died too.’ ”*

²² So the messenger went to Jerusalem. After he got there, he told David the story.

* **11:21** Judges 9:53

²³ This is what he said, “The Ammon mob came out from that town, Rabbah, to fight with us. We chased them back into their town.

²⁴ Then their soldiers on the wall of the town shot arrows at us from close up. They killed some of your soldiers. One of them was Uriah, he is dead too.”

²⁵ David heard it and said, “Go back and say this to Joab, ‘Don’t be upset about this. Fighting a war is like that. Some die, some stay alive. Keep going. Keep attacking the town. Knock all the houses down.’ Tell Joab that message, so he will not get upset.”

²⁶ Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba, heard the bad news that her husband was dead, and she cried for him.

²⁷ She cried for him for 7 days, as that Israel mob used to do. After she finished crying for him, David sent a messenger to bring her to his house, and David married her. Later she had a little boy.

But God saw everything. He was not happy about what David did.

12

Nathan told David he did a bad thing

¹ God talked to Nathan, the man that told God’s message to people. God said, “Go to David and tell him this story, ‘2 men lived in the same town. One was very rich and had all kinds of things. But the other one was very poor. He had nothing.’”^{*}

^{*} **12:1** Psalm 51

² The rich man had big mobs of sheep, goats, cows and bulls,

³ but the poor man had only one little girl sheep. He paid money for it. He grew it up in his own house, just like one of his kids. It ate food from his plate and drank water from his cup. It slept on his lap like it was his own kid.

⁴ One day, a friend of the rich man came from another place, and he stayed at the rich man's house. The rich man wanted to cook meat for his friend, but he didn't want to kill one of his own animals. He took the little sheep from the poor man instead, and he killed it and cooked its meat for his friend.' " That's the story Nathan told to David.

⁵ David heard that story and got wild with that rich man. He said to Nathan, "I'm telling you straight, and God hears us. That rich man did wrong. Somebody has to punish him. He has to die.

⁶ He had no shame, and he did not care about the poor man. He has to give that poor man 4 little sheep, to pay for the one he took."

⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are that rich man. This is a picture story from God, and it is about you. You took Uriah's wife, just like that rich man took the poor man's little sheep. You know that God picked you to be the big boss for the Israel mob. When Saul tried to kill you, God looked after you and saved you.

⁸ Then he made you the big boss, instead of Saul. God made you the big boss of all the people of Judah and all Israel. And he gave you

Saul's wives too. Maybe you think all that is not enough. All right, God can give you more.

⁹ But you didn't take notice of God's word. You did something that is really wrong. God says it is really bad. You took Uriah's wife, and you killed him. Yes, you sent Uriah into the middle of the fight. You knew that the Ammon mob would kill him. So really, you murdered him to get his wife for yourself.

¹⁰ This bad thing you did will make big trouble for you and your family. You turned against me and didn't listen to me. You took Uriah's wife for yourself. So bad things will keep on happening to your family. People will kill lots of your family dead. That will go on for ever.

¹¹ And now God has another story for you. One day, he will tell a man from your own family to give you big trouble. God will take away your wives and give them to that man. And that man will sleep with them as if they are his wives. Everybody will see him do that.

¹² You did wrong in secret, but God will make sure everybody sees that man do wrong to you.”*

¹³ David said to Nathan, “I'm sorry. I did wrong things. I did not listen to God.”*

Nathan said, “Yes, that's true. But he will not do payback to you. He will let it go, he will not kill you dead.

¹⁴ But you did something very wrong against God, so your baby boy will die.”

* **12:12** 2 Samuel 16:22 * **12:13** Psalm 51:1

David's little boy died

15 After Nathan went home, God made David and Bathsheba's baby boy really sick.

16 So David prayed to God and asked him strongly to make the baby better. David didn't eat any food, and he slept all night on the hard floor. He didn't sleep on a soft bed.

17 Some of his important working men came to see him. They tried to make him get up. They tried to make him eat some food. But nothing. He did not want to eat anything with them.

18 After 7 days the baby died. David's working men were afraid to tell him the bad news. They said to each other, "While the baby was alive, we tried to talk to him, but he didn't listen to us. We can't tell him this bad news, or he might hurt himself."

19 But David saw that his working men talked quietly to each other like that. He worked out that the baby died. So he asked them, "Is the baby dead?"

They answered, "Yes."

20 Then David got up from the floor and washed himself, and he rubbed himself with perfume. Then he put on some clean clothes. He went into God's ceremony house and got down on his knees to show respect to God, and to pray. Then he went back to his own house and told his working men to bring him some food to eat.

21 His working men were confused. They said, "What's going on? While the baby was alive, you lay on the floor. You cried, and you ate nothing."

But after he died, you got up and ate. We don't understand. Why didn't you cry after he died?"

²² He answered, "While the baby was alive, I lay on the floor. I cried, and I ate nothing. I thought, 'Maybe God will be sorry for me. Maybe he will make the baby better again.'

²³ But now he is dead. Even if I don't eat food now, I can't make him alive again. I know that one day I will die too, and I will go to the place where he is. But he can't come back here to me now."

²⁴ David talked gently to his wife, Bathsheba, to make her feel better. And he slept with her, as a man sleeps with his wife. And she had another baby boy, and David named him *Solomon*. God loved that little boy very much.

²⁵ So he told Nathan, "Go and tell them to name him *Jedidiah*." That name means *God loves him very much*. That is why God gave him that name.

(We have not yet translated 12:26—14:33.)

15

Absalom wanted to be the big boss instead of his father

¹ David had a grown up son. His name was Absalom. Some time after Solomon was born, Absalom reckoned that he had to be the big boss, instead of his father. So he got a special trailer and some horses to pull it, and he sat in that trailer and went around in it. Whenever he went in that trailer, he told 50 men to run along in front of it, so that he looked important. ² And

he used to get up early to go and stand at the town gate. People used to walk through that gate into Jerusalem whenever they went to see the big boss. You see, they used to go and ask David to help them sort out their problems. Absalom used to call out to them, "Hey, where are you from?" That person used to tell him the name of his tribe.

³ Then Absalom used to lie to them and say, "Listen to me. You are right. That other person did wrong to you. My father is the big boss, but he is too busy to listen to everybody. He doesn't have working men to sort out all your problems.

⁴ I should be the judge in this country. I am fair to everybody. I will treat everybody the same way. If somebody comes to me with a problem, I will sort it out for them." That's what Absalom used to say to the people.

⁵ Sometimes people really did think Absalom was an important man, so they got down on their knees to show respect to him. Then Absalom shook their hands and hugged them, to get them to like him.

⁶ Absalom used to do that whenever one of the Israel mob came to talk to David, to ask for help. So that's the way he got the Israel mob to like him. They didn't like his father David any more.

⁷⁻⁸ Absalom did that for 4 years. Then he said to his father, the big boss, "Old man, while I was living at the place called Geshur in Aram country, I said to God, 'If you will let me go to Jerusalem first, I will go to Hebron later. I will get down on my knees and show respect to you there.' God

heard me say that. So is it all right for me to go to Hebron now?" But he was lying to his father.

⁹ David answered, "All right. You can go there." So Absalom went to Hebron.

¹⁰ But he sent messengers to go secretly all around their country, to tell all the Israel mob like this, "As soon as you hear the trumpets play out loud, you mob have to call out, 'Absalom is our big boss. They have picked him to be the big boss in Hebron.' "

¹¹⁻¹² And he told 200 men to go with him to Hebron, to kill animals there and burn them for God. But they didn't know that Absalom planned to make himself the big boss there. At the same time, he sent a messenger to an old man called Ahithofel, from a place called Giloh, to tell him to come. He was a wise man, and he used to help David.

And so Absalom tricked lots of people and made them turn away from David. More and more people started to follow Absalom.

David ran away

¹³ After that, a messenger came to David and said, "The Israel mob are following Absalom now, they are not following you."

¹⁴ David got a shock. So he talked to all his workers that were with him in Jerusalem city. He said, "Quick. We have to run away from this city, or they will catch us. If we don't hurry, Absalom's mob will attack this city and kill everybody."

¹⁵ The workers said, "Yes, boss. We will do whatever you tell us to do."

¹⁶ So David went away with his mob. He told 10 of his wives to stay behind to look after his house.

(We have not yet translated 15:17-31.)

³² David and his mob, they went to the top of the hill called Olive Trees Hill. People used to show respect to God at that place. A man called Hushai was there to join up with David's mob. He was from the Arek mob, and he worked for David. You see, he heard about Absalom's plan to attack Jerusalem, and he was sad for his boss. He even tore his clothes and put dirt on his head, to show he was sad.

³³ But David said to him, "Don't come with me. You might slow me down.

³⁴ I want you to do something different for me. Go back to Jerusalem and say you want to work for my son, Absalom. Lie to him and say, 'Boss. I want to work for you now. I used to work for your father, but now I want to work only for you.' If you do that, it will really help me. If that old man Ahithofel tells my son something, you can tell him a different story and confuse him."

(We have not yet translated 15:35—16:4.)

16

Shimmey swore at David

⁵ David and his mob came close to a town called Bahurim. A man called Shimmey came out to meet them. He was one of Saul's relatives,

and his father's name was Gera. He started to swear at David and talk curses.

⁶ And he threw stones at them. David's soldiers and guards were standing with David, but Shimmey kept on throwing stones at all of them.

⁷ And he cursed David like this, "You are a no good trouble maker. You are a cheeky one, a murderer. You are boss for nothing. Go away.

⁸ You killed lots of Saul's family dead, so God is making trouble for you right now. You made yourself the big boss instead of him. So God picked your son Absalom now to be the big boss instead of you. You are a murderer. Now you are in trouble yourself, and it is your own fault."

⁹ One of David's boss soldiers was Abishai. He was the son of Zeruiah, David's sister. He said, "Boss. That man is no good. He can't swear at you like that. Let me cut off his head."

¹⁰ David said to Abishai, and to Abishai's brother Joab, "Don't do it. It's got nothing to do with you 2. Maybe God himself told him, 'Go and swear at David.' If God told him to do that, nobody can stop him."

(We have not yet translated 16:11-14.)

The Absalom mob arrived in Jerusalem

¹⁵ On that same day, David's son, Absalom, came to Jerusalem with a lot of Israel soldiers. Ahithofel, that wise old man, he was with him too.

¹⁶ Then David's friend, Hushai, went to meet Absalom. He called out, "Boss Absalom, you are

great. You have to be the big boss for ever.” But he told a lie. He was still working for David.

¹⁷ Absalom said, “You are a friend of David. You used to follow him. So how come you are not with him now?”

¹⁸ But Hushai lied again and said, “I can’t follow him any more. You are the big boss now. God and the Israel mob, they have picked you to be the big boss. I belong to you.

¹⁹ This is the best way for me now. I will work for you, just like I worked for your father.” And Absalom believed him.

²⁰ So Absalom said to that wise man, Ahithofel, “All right, tell us, what do we do first?”

²¹ He answered, “10 of your father’s wives stayed behind to look after the house. You have to sleep with them, as if you are married to them. If you do that, you will make your father ashamed, and he will hate you properly. Then everybody will know that you are the big boss in his house now. Everybody will hear that you were really brave, and that you did it in the open. Then they will follow you.”

²² So the workers put up a tent on the flat roof of David’s big house. Absalom went into the tent and slept with his father’s wives one by one, just like he was married to them. And a lot of people saw him do that, and all the Israel mob heard about it.*

²³ So Absalom took notice of that wise man’s story, just like his father used to take notice of him. They both thought that he talked straight,

* **16:22** 2 Samuel 12:11-12

just like God does. So they always listened to him carefully.

17

¹ That wise man, Ahithofel, said to David's son Absalom, "Let me pick 12,000 soldiers. We will chase your father tonight.

² Right now he's upset and tired. We will suddenly come and attack his mob, and they will get a shock. All his mob will run away. He's the only one I will kill dead.

³ I will gather all the other men together and bring them back here to you. They will see that their boss is dead, and then you will be their boss. We will not hurt any of them. They will all be safe."

⁴ Absalom and the elders of Israel agreed. They said, "This is a good plan."

Hushai tricked Absalom

⁵ Then Absalom said, "All right, what about that man Hushai, from the Arek mob? Tell him to come here. We will listen to him too."

⁶ Hushai came, and Absalom told him the things Ahithofel said. Then he asked Hushai, "So what do you think? Can we listen to his plan? Or maybe not? What do you reckon?"

⁷ Hushai lied and answered, "That old man usually talks straight. But not today. That plan he just told you, it's no good.

⁸ You know that your father and his men are strong soldiers. They are good fighters, like cheeky wild animals. And he really knows what

he is doing too. He always sleeps a long way from the soldiers, so he will stay safe.

⁹ Maybe he will go and hide in a cave in the hills. Nobody can find him there. But then he and his soldiers might suddenly come and attack your mob of soldiers. Lots of your men might die. Everybody will hear about it and think, 'Hey, look out. David's mob finished up Absalom's mob.'

¹⁰ Everybody knows that David and his men are brave and strong. If your other soldiers think he beat our mob, they will be afraid. Even the brave ones will be afraid.

¹¹ No, this is what I reckon. We have to gather more soldiers together from all over this country, Israel. Gather lots of them together, too many to count. You are their big boss, so you have to lead them yourself.

¹² Your father can't hide from us. We will find him, and we will quickly go all around him, and then we will attack him. He and all his men will die.

¹³ If he is hiding in a town, all the Israel mob will break the wall and the houses of that town. We will get ropes, and we will drag their stones away. There will not even be a small stone left. We will do that until we find him."

¹⁴ Absalom and the elders of Israel heard what Hushai said, and they reckoned, "Hushai from the Arek mob has a good idea. It is better than the other plan of that wise man Ahithofel." You see, God himself made them think like that. He wanted them to follow Hushai's plan, and so

make big trouble for Absalom. God confused them, so they did not like Ahithofel's good plan.

(We have not yet translated 17:15-29.)

18

David's mob beat Absalom's mob

¹⁻² David gathered his soldiers together, and he split them into 3 big groups. He picked a boss soldier to lead each group. They were Joab, and his brother Abishai, and Ittai, a man that used to live in a town called Gath. David told each big group to split into mobs with 1,000 men in each. And he picked one boss soldier for each mob of 1,000 soldiers. Then he told each of those mobs to do it again. This time each of them split into little groups with 100 men in each. David picked a boss soldier for each group of 100 soldiers.

Then David said to everybody, "Let's go and fight Absalom's mob. I will go with you mob."

³ But the soldiers said to him, "No way. You can't come with us. You are the boss man, but we are just nothing. You are the one they want to kill. If we soldiers all run away, they will not chase us. If we all die, they will not care. They will say, 'All right, leave them.' But if you die, they will be really happy. So it's good for you to stay here in this town. If the fighting gets hard for us, then you can send more soldiers to help us."

⁴⁻⁵ David said, "All right, I will listen to what you mob say." And he called out loud to the 3 boss soldiers, so everybody could hear. He said,

“Joab. Abishai. Ittai. Don’t hurt that young man, Absalom. Don’t forget, he’s my son.”

And he stood at the gate and watched the soldiers as they left that town.

⁶ David’s mob went away from the town, and they met the Israel mob in the bush at a place called Ephraim.

⁷⁻⁸ They chased each other in the bush, and they attacked each other with spears and bows and arrows. David’s mob beat Absalom’s mob and killed lots of them dead. But even more soldiers died from things in the bush. 20,000 men died on that day.

⁹ While they were fighting, David’s son Absalom rode around in the bush on a donkey. He suddenly met some of David’s men, and he tried to get away. The donkey ran under a big tree, and Absalom’s head got stuck in the branches. The donkey kept on running, so Absalom was left there. He hung from the tree and couldn’t get down.

¹⁰ One of David’s men saw him, and he went to the boss soldier, Joab, and said, “I just saw Absalom hanging from a tree.”

¹¹ Joab said, “What? You really saw him like that? Why didn’t you kill him dead straight away? I will give lots of money and a boss soldier’s belt to a man that does something like that.”

¹² But the man said, “I can’t do that. Yes, I might get lots of money, but I can’t kill our big boss’s son. No way. We all heard him tell you

3 boss soldiers, 'Keep that young man, Absalom, safe. Don't forget, he's my son.'

¹³ If I kill him, his father will hear about it straight away. He knows everything, and he will kill me dead too. And I reckon you might not help me either. You might say to him, 'It's nothing to do with me.' "

¹⁴ Joab was angry, and he said, "I can't wait for you all day." And he got 3 spears and went to Absalom. He was still alive and hanging there in that tree.

Joab went and stabbed him 3 times in the chest.

¹⁵ 10 men went with Joab, and they finished Absalom properly.

¹⁶ Straight away, Joab blew the trumpet, to tell David's mob to stop chasing the Israel mob.

¹⁷ They got Absalom and threw him into a deep hole in the middle of the bush. Then they covered his body with lots of stones.

At the same time, the Israel mob ran away and went back to their homes.

(We have not yet translated 18:18-31a. It tells how a messenger ran back to tell David the news.)

³¹ The messenger said, "Boss. Good news. God still wants you to be our big boss. Your enemies are nothing now. He punished them properly."

³² David asked, "What about my son Absalom? Is he all right?"

The messenger answered, “Those trouble makers, your enemies, I hope they all finish up, just like that young man finished up.”

³³ David got very upset. He went inside and cried. As he went in, he called out, “Absalom. My son Absalom. I want to be dead instead of you. You were my son.”

(We have not yet translated 19:1—21:14.)

21

David's mob fought with the Philistia mob again

¹⁵ Some time later, the Israel mob went to fight with the Philistia mob again. David also went with his soldiers, to fight along with them. But soon, he got very tired.

¹⁶ Then a really big Philistia man came close to David. His name was Ishbibenob. He belonged to Rafa's family. Everybody in that family was really big and strong. His spear had a sharp point. It was heavy, 3½ kilograms, and he had a new long knife. He reckoned he was going to kill David dead.

¹⁷ But one of David's boss soldiers came to save him from that big man. He attacked the big man and killed him dead. That brave man was Abishai, the son of David's sister called Zeruah.*

After that, David's men made a promise to him. They said, “We will never let you come with us again to fight. They might kill you dead. You are

* 21:17 1 Kings 11:36; Psalm 132:17

like the lamp in God's ceremony house. Nobody puts out its fire. You see, your life is like that. We don't want anybody to kill you and finish up Israel's lamp."

(We have not yet translated 21:18—24:25. It is about some of the other things that David did before he died. The last bit of this story is from another book called the *1st book of the Big Bosses*. We call that book *1 Kings*, and these verses are from 1 Kings 2:10-12.)

David died when he was an old man. They buried him in the city called Jerusalem, in that part of the city they call the city of David. David was the big boss of Israel for 40 years. First he was the boss in the town called Hebron for 7 years, then he was the boss in Jerusalem for 33 years. Then David's son Solomon became the big boss. He took over from his father and controlled the whole country.

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English
Version translation for Australian Aboriginal people
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Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

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2024-09-12

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 12 Sep 2024 from source files dated 12 Sep 2024

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