

1ST SAMUEL

¹ There was a man of Ramathaim in Zophim, of the hill of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, son of Elihi, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, of Ephraim.

² And Elkanah had two wives; the name to the one was Hannah, and the name of the second *was* Peninnah; and sons were to Peninnah; but Hannah had none free children.

³ And that man went up from his city in the days *that were* ordained, to worship and to offer sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And *[the]* two sons of Eli were there, Hophni and Phinehas, priests of the Lord.

⁴ Then the day came, and Elkanah offered, and he gave parts to Peninnah, his wife, and to all his sons and daughters;

⁵ forsooth he gave sorrowfully one part, *either double*, to Hannah, for he loved Hannah; forsooth the Lord had closed her womb.

⁶ And her enemy *Peninnah* tormented her, and anguished *her* greatly, in so much that she upbraided her, that the Lord had closed her womb.

⁷ And so Peninnah did each year, when the time came that they went up into the house of the Lord; and so she stirred Hannah. And then she wept, and took no meat.

⁸ Therefore Elkanah, her husband, said to her, Hannah, why weepest thou, and why eatest thou

not, and why is thine heart tormented? Whether I am not better to thee than be ten sons?

⁹ Soothly Hannah rose, after that she had eaten and drunk in Shiloh. And the while Eli [*the priest*] was on his great seat before the doorposts of the house of the Lord,

¹⁰ and when she was in bitter *sorrow of* soul, she prayed the Lord, and wept largely;

¹¹ and she made a vow to the Lord, and said, Lord God of hosts, if thou beholdest, and seest the torment of thy servantess, and if thou hast mind of me, and forgettest not thine handmaid, and givest a son to thy servantess, I shall give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall not come upon his head.

¹² And it was done, when she multiplied her prayers before the Lord, that Eli espied her mouth.

¹³ Forsooth Hannah spake in her heart, and only her lips were moved, and utterly her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli guessed her drunken,

¹⁴ and he said to her, How long shalt thou be drunken? Avoid thou a little the wine, by which thou art moist.

¹⁵ Hannah answered, and said, Nay, my lord, for I am an unhappy woman; I have not drunk wine, neither any-thing that may make drunken, but I have poured out my soul in the Lord's sight;

¹⁶ guess thou not thine handmaid as one of the daughters of Belial, for of the multitude of my sorrow and of my mourning I have spoken unto this present time.

¹⁷ Then Eli said to her, Go thou in peace, and God of Israel give to thee the asking that thou hast prayed him.

¹⁸ And she said, I would that thine handmaid find grace in thine eyes. And the woman went into her way, and ate, and her cheers were no more changed diversely.

¹⁹ And they rised early, and worship-ped before the Lord; and they turned again, and came into their house in Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah, his wife; and the Lord thought on her.

²⁰ And it was done after the compass of days, Hannah conceived, and childed a son, and called his name Samuel; for she had asked him of the Lord.

²¹ And her husband Elkanah went up, and all his house, to offer a solemn sacrifice, and his avow [*or vow*] to the Lord.

²² And Hannah went not up *to that solemnity or feast*, for she had said to her husband, I shall not go, till the young child be weaned, and till I lead him *thither*, and he appear before the sight of the Lord, and dwell there continually.

²³ And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, Do thou that that seemeth good to thee, and dwell thou still till thou have weaned him; and I beseech, that the Lord [*ful*] fill his word. Therefore the woman abode, and gave milk to her son, till the time she removed him from the milk.

²⁴ And she brought him with her, after that she had weaned him, with three calves, and three bushels of meal, and an amphora, *either a pot*, of wine; and she brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child was yet full young.

²⁵ And they sacrificed a calf, and they offered the child to Eli.

²⁶ And Hannah said, My lord, I beseech thee, thy soul liveth; I am the woman, that stood before thee here, and prayed the Lord;

²⁷ for this child I prayed, and the Lord gave to me mine asking which I asked of him;

²⁸ therefore and I have given him to the Lord in all [*the*] days, in which he is given to the Lord. And they worshipped there the Lord.

CHAPTER 2

¹ And Hannah worshipped, and said, Mine heart fully joyed in the Lord, and mine horn is raised in my God; my mouth is alarged on mine enemies, for I was glad in thine health.

² None is holy as the Lord is; for none other is, except thee, and none is strong as our God.

³ Do not ye multiply to speak high things, and have glory *therein*; eld [*or old*] things go away from your mouth; for God is Lord of knowings, and thoughts be made ready to him.

⁴ The bow of strong men is over-come, and feeble men be girded with strength.

⁵ Men full-filled before, setted them-selves to hire for loaves, and hungry men be filled; while the barren woman childed full many, and she that had many sons, was *made* sick.

⁶ The Lord slayeth, and quickeneth; he leadeth forth to hells, and bringeth again.

⁷ The Lord maketh poor, and he maketh rich; he maketh low, and he raiseth up.

⁸ He raiseth a needy man from powder, and he raiseth a poor man from drit, that he sit with princes, and hold the seat of glory; for the ends of [*the*] earth be of the Lord, and he hath set the world on those [*or them*].

⁹ He shall keep the feet of his saints, and wicked men shall be still altogether in dark-nesses; for a man shall not be made strong in his own strength.

¹⁰ [*The*] Adversaries of the Lord shall dread him, and from heavens he shall thunder upon them; the Lord shall deem the ends of [*the*] earth, and he shall give lordship to his king, and he shall enhance the horn, *that is, power*, of his Christ, *or his anointed*.

¹¹ And Elkanah went into Ramah, into his house; and the child was *a* servant in the sight of the Lord before the face of Eli the priest.

¹² Forsooth the sons of Eli *were* the sons of Belial, and they knew not the Lord,

¹³ neither the office of priests to the people; but whoever had offered sacrifice, the child *or servant* of the priest came, while the flesh was in seething, and he had a fleshhook with three teeth in his hand;

¹⁴ and he sent it into the great vessel of stone, either into the cauldron, either into the pot, either into the pan; and whatever thing the fleshhook raised, the priest took that to himself; so they did to all Israel of men coming into Shiloh.

¹⁵ Yea, before that they burnt the inner fatness, the priest's child came, and said to the offerer, Give thou flesh to me or Give to me the flesh,

that I seethe it to the priest; for I shall not take of thee sodden flesh, but raw.

¹⁶ And he that offered said to him, Be first the inner fatness burnt today after the custom, and take thou *then* to thee how much ever thy soul desireth. The which answered, and said to him, Nay, but thou shalt give it now; for else I shall take it by violence.

¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the children *or young men* was full grievous before the Lord; for they withdrew men from the sacrifice of the Lord.

¹⁸ Forsooth Samuel, a child girded with a linen cloth, ministered before the face of the Lord.

¹⁹ And his mother made to him a little coat, the which she brought *to him* in the days ordained *to offer*, and she went up with her husband, that he would offer a solemn offering, and his avow [*or vow*].

²⁰ And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife; and said, The Lord yield to thee seed of this woman, for the gift which thou hast given to the Lord. And they went into their place *again*.

²¹ Therefore the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived, and childed three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel was magnified at the Lord.

²² And Eli was full eld [*or old*], and he heard all the things that his sons did in all Israel, and how they slept with women, that waited at the door of the tabernacle.

²³ And he said to them, Why do ye such things, the worst things, which I hear of all the people?

²⁴ Do not ye, my sons; it is not a good fame, that I hear, that ye make the Lord's people to do trespass.

²⁵ If a man sinneth against a man, God may be pleased to him *by prayers and sacrifices*; but if a man sinneth against the Lord, who shall pray for him? And they heard not the voice of their father, for God would slay them.

²⁶ Forsooth the child Samuel profited, and increased, and pleased both God and men.

²⁷ Soothly a man of God came to Eli, and said to him, The Lord saith these things, Whether I was not showed apertly to the house of thy father, when he was in Egypt, in the house of Pharaoh?

²⁸ And I chose him of all the lineages of Israel *to be* a priest to me, that he should go up to mine altar, and should burn incense to me, and that he should bear before me a priest's cloth; and I gave to the house of thy father all things of the sacrifices of the sons of Israel.

²⁹ Why hast thou cast away with the heel my sacrifice, and my gifts, which I [*have*] commanded to be offered in the temple; and thou honouredest more thy sons than me, that ye eat the principal parts of each sacrifice of Israel my people?

³⁰ Therefore the Lord God of Israel saith these things, I speaking spake, that thine house, and the house of thy father, should minister in my sight till into without end; now forsooth the Lord saith, Far be this from me; but whoever honoureth me, I shall glorify him; forsooth they that despise me, shall be unnoble.

³¹ Lo! *[the]* days come, and I shall cut away thine arm, *or thy power*, and the arm of the house of thy father, that an eld *[or old]* man be not in thine house.

³² And thou shalt see thine enemy in the temple, in all the prosperities of Israel; and an eld *[or old]* man shall not be in thine house in all days.

³³ Nevertheless I shall not utterly take away of thee a man from mine altar, but that thine eyes fail, and thy soul fail or thy life languish; and a great part of thine house shall die, when it shall come to man's age.

³⁴ Forsooth this shall be *[the]* sign, that shall come to thy two sons, Hophni and Phinehas; both they shall die in one day.

³⁵ And I shall raise to me a faithful priest, that shall do by mine heart and my soul; and I shall build to him a faithful house, and he shall go before my Christ, *or mine anointed* in all days.

³⁶ Forsooth it shall come, that who-ever *[still]* dwelleth in thine house, that he come to bow for himself, in an half-penny of silver, and a cake of bread, and say, I beseech, suffer thou me to one part of the priests' *offices*, that I eat a morsel of bread.

CHAPTER 3

¹ Forsooth the child Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli, and the word of the Lord was precious; in those days was none open revelation.

² Therefore it was done in a day, Eli lay in his bed, and his eyes dimmed, and he might not see;

³ the lantern of the Lord was not yet quenched. And Samuel slept in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

⁴ And the Lord called Samuel; and he answered and said, Lo! I or Lo! I *am ready*.

⁵ And he ran to Eli, and said to him, Lo! I; for thou calledest me. And Eli said, I called not thee; turn thou again and sleep. And he went and slept.

⁶ And the Lord added again to call Samuel; and Samuel rose, and went to Eli, and said, Lo! I *am here*; for thou calledest me. And Eli answered, I called not thee, my son; turn thou again and sleep.

⁷ Forsooth Samuel knew not yet the Lord, neither the word of the Lord was showed to him.

⁸ And the Lord added, and called yet Samuel the third time; the which rose up and went to Eli, and said, Lo! I; for thou calledest me. Then Eli understood, that the Lord had called the child;

⁹ and Eli said to Samuel, Go thou and sleep; and if he calleth thee afterward, thou shalt say, Speak thou, Lord, for thy servant heareth. Then Samuel went and slept in his place.

¹⁰ And the Lord came, and stood, and called as he had called the second time, Samuel, Samuel. And Samuel said, Speak thou, Lord, for thy servant heareth.

¹¹ And the Lord said to Samuel, Lo! I *shall* make a word, *that is, a thing signified by a word*, in Israel, which word whoever shall hear, both his ears shall ring, *that is, he shall be astonished for wonder and dread*.

12 In that day I shall raise up against Eli all things that I have spoken upon his house; I shall begin *it*, and I shall end *it*.

13 For I before-said to him, that I should deem his house without end for the wickedness thereof; for he knew, that his sons did unworthily, and he chastised not them.

14 Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli, that the wickedness of his *meine*, *or house*, shall not be cleansed with sacrifices and gifts till into without end.

15 And then Samuel slept till the morrowtide, and he opened the doors of the house of the Lord; and Samuel dreaded to show the revelation to Eli.

16 Therefore Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered and said, I am ready.

17 And Eli asked him, What is the word that the Lord hath spoken to thee? I pray thee, hide it not from me; God do to thee these things, and increase these things, if thou hidest from me a word of all [*the*] words that be said to thee.

18 And Samuel showed to him all the words, and hid not *anything* from him. And Eli answered, He is the Lord; do he that, that is good in his eyes.

19 Forsooth Samuel increased, and the Lord was with him, and none of all his words felled into [*the*] earth, *that is, in vain, for all was fulfilled*.

20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew, that faithful Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.

²¹ And the Lord added to appear again in Shiloh, for the Lord was showed to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord;

CHAPTER 4

¹ and the word of Samuel came to all Israel. And it was done in those days Philistines came together into battle; for Israel went out against the Philistines into battle, and setted tents beside the stone of help *or Ebenezer*. And the Philistines came into Aphek,

² and made ready battle array against Israel. And when the battle was begun, Israel turned their backs to *[the]* Philistines; and as four thousand of men were slain in that battle everywhere by fields; and the people *of Israel* turned again to their tents.

³ And the greater men in birth of Israel said, Why hath the Lord smitten us today before the Philistines? Bring we to us from Shiloh the ark of the bond of peace of the Lord, and come it into the midst of us, that it save us from the hand of our enemies.

⁴ Therefore the people sent into Shiloh, and they took from thence the ark of the bond of peace of the Lord of hosts, that sat on cherubim. And Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were with the ark of the bond of peace of the Lord.

⁵ And when the ark of *[the]* bond of peace of the Lord had come into the tents, all Israel cried *[out]* with *[a]* great cry, and the earth sounded.

⁶ And the Philistines heard the voice of their cry, and they said, And what is this voice of great

cry in the tents of Hebrews? And they knew, that the ark of *[the]* bond of peace of the Lord had come into the tents of Israel.

⁷ And the Philistines dreaded, and said, God is come into their tents; and they wailed, and said, Woe to us! for so great out-joying was not there yesterday, and the third day passed;

⁸ woe to us! who shall keep us from the hand of these high gods? these be the gods, that smited Egypt with all vengeance in desert.

⁹ Philistines, be ye comforted, and be ye men, serve ye not to the Hebrews, as they have served to you; be ye comforted, and fight ye *against Israel*.

¹⁰ Then the Philistines fought, and Israel was overcome, and each man fled into his tabernacle; and a full great vengeance was made, and thirty thousand of footmen of Israel felled down.

¹¹ And the ark of God was taken; and, the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were dead.

¹² And a man of Benjamin ran from the battle array, and came into Shiloh in that day, with his cloth rent, and with his head besprinkled with dust;

¹³ and when he was come, Eli sat upon a seat, and beheld against the way; for his heart was dreading for the ark of the Lord. And after that that man had entered, he told *what had happened* to *the men* of the city, and all the city yelled.

¹⁴ And Eli heard the sound of the cry, and he said, What is the sound of this noise? And the man hasted, and came, and told to Eli.

¹⁵ And Eli was of fourscore years and eighteen, and his eyes dimmed or darkened, and he might not see.

¹⁶ And the man said to Eli, I am *he* that came from the battle, and I am *he* that fled today from the battle array. To whom Eli said, My son, what is there done?

¹⁷ And he that told answered, and said, Israel hath fled before the Philistines, and a great falling is made in the people *of Israel*; furthermore and thy two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, be dead, and the ark of God is taken.

¹⁸ And when he named the ark of God, Eli felled from the seat back-ward beside the door, and was dead; for his neck was broken. For he was an eld [*or old*] man, and of great age; and he deemed Israel forty years.

¹⁹ And his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, and nigh the child bearing; and when the message was heard or when she heard by the messenger, that the ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law was dead, and her husband, she bowed herself down, and childed; for sudden sorrows felled into her.

²⁰ And in that moment of her death, *women* that stood about her said to her, Dread thou not, for thou hast childed a son. And she answered not to them, neither she took heed.

²¹ And she called the child Ichabod, *that is, without glory*, and said, The glory of the Lord is translated from Israel, for the ark of God is taken; and for her father-in-law and for her husband

²² she said, The glory of God is translated or is taken from Israel, for the ark of God is taken.

CHAPTER 5

¹ And the Philistines took the ark of God, and bare it away from the stone of help into Ashdod.

² And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it into the temple of Dagon, and setted it beside Dagon.

³ And when men of Ashdod had risen early in the tother day, lo! Dagon lay low in the earth before the ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon, and restored him in his place.

⁴ And again they rose early in the tother day, and they found Dagon lying on his face upon the earth before the ark of the Lord. And the head of Dagon, and the two palms of his hands, were broken off, *and were lying* upon the threshold; and the stock alone of Dagon *was* left in his place.

⁵ For this cause the priests of Dagon, and all that enter into his temple, tread not upon the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

⁶ Forsooth the hand of the Lord was made grievous upon *[the]* men of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and he smote Ashdod and the coasts thereof in the privier part of *[the]* buttocks or in the more privy part of their tail ends.

⁷ And men of Ashdod saw such a vengeance, and they said, The ark of God of Israel dwell not with us; for his hand is hard on us, and on Dagon our god.

⁸ And they sent, and gathered all the wise men, *either princes*, of Philistines to them, and said, What shall we do of the ark of God of Israel? And the men of Gath answered, The ark of God

of Israel be led about; and they led about the ark of God of Israel.

⁹ And while they led it about, the hand of the Lord was made upon all the cities *about*, of full great slaughter; and he smote men of each city, from a little man till to the more, and the lower entrails of them waxed rotten, and came forth; and men of Gath took counsel, and they made to them-selves seats of skins, *either cushions*.

¹⁰ Therefore they sent the ark of the Lord into Ekron. And when the ark of the Lord had come into Ekron, men of Ekron cried *[out]*, and said, They have brought to us the ark of God of Israel, that he slay us and our people.

¹¹ Then they sent, and gathered together all the wise men, *either princes*, of Philistines; which said, Deliver ye the ark of God of Israel, and turn it again into his place, and slay not us with our people. For dread of death was made in all *[the]* cities, and the hand of the Lord was full grievous.

¹² And the men, that were not dead, were smitten in the privy parts of their buttocks, and the yelling of each city went up into heaven.

CHAPTER 6

¹ Therefore the ark of the Lord was in the country of *[the]* Philistines *for* seven months;

² and after these things the Philistines called together *[the]* priests and false diviners, and said, What shall we do of the ark of God? Show ye to us, how we shall send it into his place.

³ Which said, If ye send again the ark of God of Israel, do not ye deliver it void, but yield ye

to him that thing, that ye owe for [*the*] sin; and then ye shall be healed, and ye shall know, why his hand goeth not away from you.

⁴ And they said, What is it, that we owe to yield to him for trespass? And they answered to them, By the number of the provinces of Philistines, ye shall make five golden arses, and five golden mice; for one vengeance was to all of you, and to your wise men, *either princes*.

⁵ And ye shall make the likeness of your arses, and the likeness of [*the*] mice that destroyed your land; and ye shall give glory to [*the*] God of Israel, if in hap he withdraw his hand from you, and from your gods, and from your land.

⁶ Why make ye heavy your hearts, as Egypt and Pharaoh grieved their hearts? Whether not after that he was smitten, then he delivered God's people, and they went forth?

⁷ Now therefore take ye, and make a new wain, and join ye therein two kine having calves, on which kine no yoke was put; and enclose ye their calves at home.

⁸ And ye shall take the ark of the Lord, and ye shall set *it* in the wain; and ye shall put in a little coffer at the side of the ark the golden vessels, which ye have paid to the Lord for *your* trespass; and deliver ye the ark, that it go forth.

⁹ And ye shall behold *it*, and soothly if it goeth up against Bethshemesh by the way of his coasts, the Lord hath then done to you this great evil; but if it go not *thither*, we shall know that the hand of the Lord touched not us, but this thing hath fallen to us by hap.

¹⁰ Then they did in this manner; and they took two kine that gave milk to their calves, and they joined *them* to the wain; and they enclosed their calves at home.

¹¹ And they put the ark of God upon the wain, and the little coffer, that had the gold mice, and the likeness of *their* arses.

¹² And the kine went straightly by the way that leadeth to Bethshemesh; and those kine went in one way going and lowing, and they bowed not neither to the right side nor to the left side; but also the wise men of Philistines followed unto the coasts of Bethshemesh.

¹³ Forsooth men of Bethshemesh reaped wheat in the valley, and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and they were joyful, when they had seen it.

¹⁴ And the wain came into the field of Joshua of Bethshemesh, and stood there. And a great stone was there; and they cutted the wood of the wain, and putted the kine on that wood, *as* a burnt sacrifice to the Lord.

¹⁵ And the deacons [*or Levites*] took down the ark of God, and the little coffer that was beside it, where-in the golden vessels were; and they putted those upon the great stone. And the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt sacrifices, and offered slain sacrifices in that day to the Lord.

¹⁶ And [*the*] five princes of Philistines saw, and turned again into Ekron in that day.

¹⁷ Soothly these be the golden arses, which the Philistines yielded to the Lord for *their* trespass;

Ashdod *yielded* one; Gaza one; Askelon one; Gath one; Ekron one;

¹⁸ and *the Philistines yielded* golden mice by the number of cities of Philistines of *[the]* five provinces, from a walled city unto an unwallled town, and unto the great stone *that was called* Abel, on which they putted the ark of the Lord, the which stone was there unto that day in the field of Joshua of Bethshemesh.

¹⁹ Forsooth the Lord smote of the men of Bethshemesh, for they had seen the ark of the Lord, and he smote of the people seventy men, and fifty thousand of the poor-all*. And the people mourned, for the Lord had smitten the people with *[a]* great vengeance.

²⁰ And men of Bethshemesh said, Who shall now stand in the sight of the Lord God of this holy thing, and to whom shall it go up from us?

²¹ And they sent messengers to the dwellers of Kiriathjearim, and said, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the Lord; come ye down, and lead it again to you.

CHAPTER 7

¹ Therefore men of Kiriathjearim came, and led again the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in Gibeah. And they hallowed Eleazar his son, that he should keep the ark of the Lord.

* **CHAPTER 6:19** *Hebrews understand thus the number of men slain here; they say that only seventy men were smitten, which were of so great reputation, that they were each comparised to almost one thousand of the common people.*

² And it was done, from which day the ark of the Lord dwelled in Kiriath-jearim, *that the days were multiplied; for the twentieth year was now, after that Samuel began to teach the people; and all Israel rested after the Lord.*

³ And Samuel spake to all the house of Israel, and said, If in all your heart ye turn again to the Lord, do ye away alien gods, Baalim, and Ashtaroth, from the midst of you; and make ye ready your hearts to the Lord, and serve ye him alone; and he shall deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.

⁴ Therefore the sons of Israel did away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord alone.

⁵ And Samuel said, Gather ye all Israel into Mizpah, that I pray the Lord for you.

⁶ And they came together into Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out in the Lord's sight; and they fasted in that day, and said, Lord, we have sinned to thee. And Samuel deemed the sons of Israel in Mizpeh.

⁷ And the Philistines heard that the sons of Israel were gathered together in Mizpeh; and the princes of Philistines went up to Israel. And when the sons of Israel had heard this, they dreaded of the face of Philistines.

⁸ And they said to Samuel or And Israel cried to Samuel, Cease thou not to cry for us to our Lord God, that he save us from the hand of Philistines.

⁹ And Samuel took one sucking lamb, and offered it whole into burnt sacrifice to the Lord. And Samuel cried to the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.

10 And it was done, when Samuel offered the burnt sacrifice, that the Philistines began battle against Israel. And the Lord thundered with great thunder in that day upon the Philistines, and made them afeared; and they were slain of the sons of Israel.

11 And the sons of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them unto the place that was under Bethcar.

12 And Samuel took one stone, and put it betwixt Mizpeh, and Shen; and he called the name of that place The stone of help *or Ebenezer*. And he said, Hitherto the Lord hath helped us.

13 And the Philistines were made low, and they added no more to come into the terms of Israel. And so the hand of the Lord was made *[up]* on Philistines in all the days of Samuel.

14 And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel, were yielded again to Israel, from Ekron unto Gath, and the coasts of Gath; and the Lord delivered Israel from the hand of Philistines; and peace was betwixt Israel and Amorites.

15 And Samuel deemed Israel all the days of his life, *that is, till to the ordaining and confirming of Saul*;

16 and he went by each year, and compassed Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and he deemed Israel in the foresaid places.

17 And he turned again into Ramah, for his house was there; and he deemed Israel there, and he builded there also an altar to the Lord.

CHAPTER 8

¹ And it was done, when Samuel waxed eld [*or old*], he set [*or put*] his sons *to be* judges of Israel.

² And the name of his first begotten son was Joel, and the name of the second was Abiah, that were judges in Beersheba.

³ And his sons went not in his ways, but they bowed after avarice, and they took gifts, and perverted doom.

⁴ Therefore all the greater men in birth of Israel were gathered together, and came to Samuel into Ramah.

⁵ And they said to him, Lo! thou hast waxed eld [*or old*], and thy sons go not in thy ways; ordain thou a king to us, that he deem us, as also all *other* nations have.

⁶ And the word displeased in the eyes of Samuel, for they had said, Give thou to us a king, that he deem us. And Samuel prayed to the Lord.

⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, Hear thou the voice of the people in all things that they speak to thee; for they have not cast away thee, but me, that I reign not upon them.

⁸ By all the works that they have done, from the day in which I led them out of Egypt unto this day, as they have forsaken me, and they have served alien gods, so they do also to thee.

⁹ Now therefore hear thou their voice; nevertheless witness thou to them; and before-say thou to them the right of the king, that shall reign upon them.

¹⁰ Then Samuel said all the words of the Lord to the people, that had asked of him a king;

¹¹ and he said, This shall be the right of the king, that shall command to you; he shall take your sons, and he shall set them in his chariots; and he shall make them to himself riders, and before-goers of his carts;

¹² and he shall ordain to him tribunes, *that is, sovereigns of a thousand*, and centurions, *that is, sovereigns of an hundred*, and earers or tillers of his fields, and reapers of his corns, and smiths of his arms, and of his chariots.

¹³ Also he shall make your daughters *to be* makers of his ointments, and his fire-makers, and bakers or his makers of bread.

¹⁴ And he shall take your fields, and your vineries [*or vines*], and the best places of olives, and he shall give *those* to his servants.

¹⁵ But also he shall take the tenth part of your corns, and the rents of your vineries [*or vines*], that he give those to his chamberlains, and [*to his*] servants.

¹⁶ And he shall take away your servants, and *your* handmaids, and *your* best young men, and *your* asses, and he shall set [*or put*] these in his work.

¹⁷ Also he shall take the tenth part of your flocks; and ye shall be his servants.

¹⁸ And ye shall cry in that day from the face of your king, whom ye have chosen to you; and the Lord shall not hear you in that day; for ye [*have*] asked *for* a king to you.

¹⁹ Soothly the people would not hear the voice of Samuel, but they said, Nay, for a king shall be on us;

²⁰ and we also shall be as all folks, and our king shall deem us, and he shall go out before us, and he shall fight our battles for us.

²¹ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he spake them in the ears of the Lord.

²² And the Lord said to Samuel, Hear thou their voices, and ordain thou a king upon them. And Samuel said to the men of Israel, Each man go into his city.

CHAPTER 9

¹ And there was a man of Benjamin, that was called Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a man *that was called* Benjamin, a strong man in bodily might.

² And to him was a son, Saul by name, chosen and goodly; and no man of the sons of Israel was better than he; from the shoulders and above, he appeared over all the people.

³ And the she-asses of Kish, the father of Saul, were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take with thee one of the children, and rise thou, and go seek the she-asses.

⁴ And when they had gone forth by the hill of Ephraim, and by the land of Shalisha, and they had not found them, they passed forth also by the land of Shalim, and they were not *there*; but also *they passed by* the land of Benjamin, and yet they found *them* not.

⁵ And when they had come into the land of Zuph, and had not found *them*, Saul said to his

child that was with him, Come thou, and turn we again; lest peradventure my father hath left *off caring about* the female asses, and is busy for us.

⁶ And the child said to him, Lo! a man of God is in this city, a noble man; all thing that he speaketh, cometh without doubt. Now therefore go we thither, if peradventure he show to us of our way, for which we came.

⁷ And Saul said to his child, Lo! we shall go *there*; what shall we bear to the man of God? Bread hath failed in our scrips, and we have no present, that we *can* give to the man of God, neither any other thing.

⁸ Again the child answered to Saul, and said, Lo! the fourth part of a stater, *that is, a shekel*, of silver is found in mine hand; give we *it* to the man of God, that he show to us our way.

⁹ Sometime in Israel each man going to counsel with God spake thus, Come ye, and go we to the seer; for he, that is said now a prophet, was called sometime a seer.

¹⁰ And Saul said to his child, Thy word is the best; come thou, go we. And they went into the city, in which the man of God was.

¹¹ And when they went up into the highness of the city, they found damsels going out to draw water, and they said to the damsels, Whether the seer is here?

¹² And the damsels answered, and said to them, He is here; lo! he is before thee; haste thou now, for today he came into the city; for today is sacrifice of the people in the high place.

¹³ Ye shall enter into the city, and at once ye shall find him, before that he ascend [*or go up*] into the high place to eat; for the people shall not eat till he come, for he shall *first* bless the sacrifice, and afterward they shall eat that be called. Now therefore go ye up, for today ye shall find him.

¹⁴ And they went up into the city. And when they went into the midst of the city, Samuel appeared going out against them, that he should go up into the high place.

¹⁵ And the day before that Saul came, the Lord made revelation in the ear of Samuel, and said,

¹⁶ In this same hour which is now, tomorrow, I shall send to thee a man of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him duke upon my people Israel, and he shall save my people from the hands of Philistines; for I have beheld my people, forsooth their cry hath come to me.

¹⁷ And when Samuel had beheld Saul, the Lord said to Samuel, Lo! the man, whom I said to thee; this man shall be lord of my people.

¹⁸ And Saul nighed to Samuel in the midst of the gate, and said, I pray thee, show thou to me, where is the house of the seer?

¹⁹ And Samuel answered to Saul, and said, I am the seer; go thou up before me into the high place, that thou eat with me today, and I shall deliver thee in the morrowtide, and I shall show to thee all things that be in thine heart.

²⁰ And be thou not busy of the female asses, which thou lostest the third day ago, for those [*or they*] be found; and whose shall be all the

best things of Israel, whether not to thee, and to all the house of thy father?

²¹ And Saul answered, and said, Whether I am not a son of Benjamin, of the least lineage of Israel, and my kindred is the last among all the meines of the lineage of Benjamin? Why therefore hast thou spoken to me this word?

²² And so Samuel took Saul, and his child, and led them into the chamber of three orders *of seats, or benches*, and he gave to them a place in the beginning of them that were called, *or bidden to the meat*; for they were as thirty men.

²³ And Samuel said to the cook, Give thou the part which I gave to thee, and commanded, that thou shouldest keep by itself with thee.

²⁴ And the cook took up a shoulder, and he set [*or put*] it before Saul. And Samuel said, Lo! that, that hath *been* left, take before thee, and eat; for of *this* purpose it was kept to thee, when I called the people *hither*. And Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵ And they came down from the high place into the city; and Samuel spake with Saul in the solar, and Saul arrayed a bed in the solar, and slept.

²⁶ And when they had risen early, and the day began to be clear, Samuel called Saul into the solar, and said, Rise thou up, that I deliver thee. And Saul rose up, and both went out, that is, he, and Samuel.

²⁷ And when they went down into the last part of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Say thou to the child, that he go before us, and pass [*forth*];

forsooth stand thou [*still*] a little, that I show to thee the word of the Lord.

CHAPTER 10

¹ Forsooth Samuel took a vessel of oil, and he poured it out on the head of Saul, and kissed him, and said, Lo! the Lord hath anointed thee into prince on his heritage;

² when thou shalt go from me today, thou shalt find two men beside the sepulchre of Rachel, in the ends of Benjamin, in midday; and they shall say to thee, The female asses be found, which thou wentest to seek; and while the asses be left *off caring about*, thy father is *now* busy for you, and saith, What shall I do of my son?

³ And when thou hast gone from thence, and hast passed further, and hast come to the oak of Tabor, three men, going up to God into Bethel, shall find thee there, one man bearing three kids, and another man bearing three cakes of bread, and another man bearing a gallon of wine.

⁴ And when they have greeted thee, they shall give to thee two loaves, and thou shalt take *those* of their hand.

⁵ After these things thou shalt come into the hill of the Lord, where is the standing place, *that is, the forcelet*, of Philistines; and when thou shalt enter into the city, there thou shalt have meeting thee a flock, *or a company*, of prophets, coming down from the high place, and a psaltery, and a tympan, and a pipe, and an harp before them, and them prophesying.

⁶ And the Spirit of the Lord shall at once fall into thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and thou shalt be changed into another man.

⁷ Therefore when all these signs befall to thee, do thou, whatever things thine hand findeth, for the Lord is with thee.

⁸ And thou shalt go down before me into Gilgal; for I shall come down to thee, to offer an offering, and sacrifice peaceable sacrifices; by seven days thou shalt abide, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do.

⁹ Therefore when Saul had turned away his shoulder to go from Samuel, God exchanged another heart to Saul, and all these signs came in that day.

¹⁰ And Saul and his child came to the foresaid hill, and lo! a company of prophets were meeting with him; and the Spirit of the Lord fell *at once* upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the prophets.

¹¹ And all men, that knew Saul yesterday and the third day ago, saw that he was with the prophets, and that he prophesied, and they said together, What thing hath befallen to the son of Kish? Whether also Saul is among *[the]* prophets?

¹² And one man answered to another, and said, And who is the father of them? Therefore it was turned into a proverb, Whether also Saul is among the prophets?

¹³ And Saul ceased to prophesy, and he came to an high place.

¹⁴ And the brother of Saul's father said to him, and to his child, Whither went ye? And they answered, To seek [*the*] she-asses; and when we found them not, we came to Samuel.

¹⁵ And the brother of Saul's father said to him, Show thou to me what Samuel said to thee.

¹⁶ And Saul said to his uncle, Samuel showed to us, that the she-asses were found. But he showed not to his uncle of the word of the realm, that Samuel spake to him.

¹⁷ And Samuel called together the people to the Lord in Mizpeh;

¹⁸ and he said to the sons of Israel, The Lord God of Israel saith these things, I led Israel out of the land of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of Egyptians, and from the hand of all the kings that tormented you.

¹⁹ And today ye have cast away your Lord God, which alone saved you from all your evils and [*your*] tribulations; and ye [*have*] said, Nay, but ordain thou a king upon us. Now therefore stand ye before the Lord by your lineages, and by meines.

²⁰ And Samuel set together all the lineages of Israel, and [*the*] lot felled upon the lineage of Benjamin.

²¹ And he set together the lineage of Benjamin, and the meines thereof; and lot felled upon the meine of Matri, and it came unto Saul, the son of Kish. Therefore they sought him, and he was not found there.

²² And after these things they counselled with the Lord, whether Saul should come thither. And the Lord answered, Lo! he is hid among vessels.

23 Therefore they ran, and took him from thence; and he stood in the middle of the people, and [*he*] was higher than all the people from the shoulder[s] and above.

24 And Samuel said to all the people, Certainly ye see whom the Lord hath chosen; for none in all the people is like him. And all the people cried, and said, Live the king!

25 And Samuel spake to the people the law of the realm, and he wrote it in a book, and put it up before the Lord. And Samuel delivered all the people, each man into his house;

26 but also Saul went into his house in Gibeah; and a part of the host went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

27 And the sons of Belial said, Whether this man may save us? And they despised him, and brought not gifts, *that is, presents*, to him; and he let it go as though he heard *it* not.

CHAPTER 11

1 And it was done as after a month, Nahash of Ammon went up, and began to fight against Jabesh of Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, Have thou us bound in peace, and we shall serve thee.

2 And Nahash of Ammon answered to them, In this I shall smite bond of peace with you, that I put out the right eyes of all you, and that I put you to be reproof in all Israel.

3 And the elder men of Jabesh said to him, Grant thou to us seven days, that we send

messengers to all the coasts of Israel; and if none be that defend us, we shall go out to thee.

⁴ Then messengers came into Gibeah of Saul, and spake these words, while the people heard; and all the people raised their voice, and wept.

⁵ And lo! Saul came from the field, and he pursued [*or following*] [*the*] oxen; and he said, What hath the people, for it weepeth? And they told to him the words of the men of Jabesh.

⁶ And the Spirit of the Lord fell at once into Saul, when he had heard these words, and his fierce wrath was greatly stirred.

⁷ And he took ever either ox, and he cut *them* into gobbets, and he sent those into all the coasts of Israel, by the hands of messengers; and he said, Whoever goeth not out, and pursueth [*or followed*] not Saul and Samuel, so it shall be done to his oxen. Therefore the dread of the Lord went into the people, and they went out as one man.

⁸ And Saul numbered them in Bezek; and three hundred thousand were there of the sons of Israel; and of the men of Judah were thirty thousand.

⁹ And they said to the messengers that came, Thus ye shall say to the men that be in Jabesh of Gilead, Tomorrow shall be health to you, when the sun is hot. Then the messengers came, and told to the men of Jabesh; the which were glad,

¹⁰ and said to *Ammon*, Early we shall go out to you, and ye shall do to us all that pleaseth to you*.

* **CHAPTER 11:10** *They said this in scorn, for they knew that help shall come to them in the morrow.*

¹¹ And it was done, when the morrowtide came, Saul ordained the people into three parts; and he entered into the middle tents in the waking of the morrowtide, and he smote Ammon till the day was hot; forsooth the residues were scattered, so that twain together were not left in them.

¹² And the people said to Samuel, Who is this, that said, Saul shall not reign upon us? Give ye *up* the men, and we shall slay them.

¹³ And Saul said, No man shall be slain in this day, for today the Lord hath made health in Israel.

¹⁴ And Samuel said to the people, Come ye, and go we into Gilgal, and renew we there the realm.

¹⁵ And all the people went into Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal; and they offered *there* peaceable sacrifices before the Lord. And Saul was glad there, and all the men of Israel greatly.

CHAPTER 12

¹ Forsooth Samuel said to all Israel, Lo! I [*have*] heard your voice by all things which ye spake to me, and I [*have*] ordained a king upon you;

² and now the king goeth before you. And I have waxed eld and hoary; and my sons be with you; also I have lived before you from my young waxing age unto this day.

³ And lo! I am ready; speak ye to me before the Lord, and before the christ of him or his anointed, *or king*; whether I have taken any man's ox, either his ass; if I have falsely

challenged any man; if I have oppressed any man; if I have taken gift of any man's hand; I shall despise it today, and I shall restore to you.

⁴ And they said, Thou hast not falsely challenged us, neither thou hast oppressed *us*, neither thou hast taken anything of any man's hand.

⁵ And he said to them, The Lord is witness against you, and his christ, *or his anointed, or king*, is witness in this day; for ye have not found any-thing in mine hand. And they said, He is witness.

⁶ And Samuel said to the people, The Lord, that made Moses and Aaron, and that led your fathers out of the land of Egypt, is present;

⁷ now therefore stand ye, that I strive by doom against you before the Lord, of all the mercies of the Lord, which he did with you, and with your fathers.

⁸ How that Jacob entered into Egypt, and your fathers cried to the Lord; and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, and led your fathers out of Egypt, and hath set them in this place.

⁹ Which forgot their Lord God; and he betook them into the hand of Sisera, master of the chivalry of Hazor, and in the hand of Philistines, and in the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

¹⁰ And after this your fathers cried to the Lord, and said, We have sinned, for we forsook the Lord, and served Baalim and Ashtaroth; now therefore deliver thou us from the hand of our enemies, and we shall serve thee.

¹¹ And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, *that is Gideon*, and Bedan, *that is, Samson*, and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you from the hand of your enemies by compass; and then ye dwelled securely.

¹² And ye saw, that Nahash, the king of the sons of Ammon, came against you; and ye said to me, *counselling you to ask none other king than God*, Nay, but a king shall command to us; when your Lord God reigned in you.

¹³ Now therefore your king is ready, whom ye have chosen and asked *for*; lo! the Lord hath given to you a king.

¹⁴ If ye dread the Lord, and serve him, and hear his voice, and wrath not the mouth of the Lord; ye and your king, that commandeth to you, shall pursue [*or following*] your Lord God.

¹⁵ Forsooth if ye hear not the voice of the Lord, but wrath his word, the hand of the Lord shall be on you, and on your fathers.

¹⁶ But also now stand ye, and see this great thing, that the Lord shall do in your sight.

¹⁷ Whether harvest of wheat is not today? I shall inwardly call the Lord, and he shall give voices, *that is, thunders*, and rains; and ye shall know, and see, for ye asking a king upon you, ye have done grievous evil to yourself in the sight of the Lord.

¹⁸ And Samuel cried to the Lord, and the Lord gave thunders and rains in that day. And all the people dreaded greatly the Lord and Samuel;

¹⁹ and all the people said to Samuel, Pray thou for thy servants to thy Lord God, that we die not;

for we *[have]* added evil to all our sins, that we ask a king to us.

²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, Dread ye not; ye have done all this evil; nevertheless go ye not away from *following* the back of the Lord, but serve ye the Lord in all your heart;

²¹ and do not ye bow after vain things, that shall not profit you, neither they shall deliver you; for those *[or they]* be vain things.

²² And *then* the Lord shall not forsake his people for his great name; for the Lord hath sworn to make you a people to himself.

²³ And this sin be far from me against the Lord, that I cease to pray for you; and I shall teach you a rightful *[or right]* way and a good.

²⁴ Therefore dread ye the Lord, and serve ye him in truth, and of all your heart; for ye saw those great things, that he hath done to you;

²⁵ that if ye continue in malice, both ye and your king shall perish altogether.

CHAPTER 13

¹ Saul was a son of one year, *that is, as innocent and clean of sin as a child of one year*, when he began to reign; and he reigned upon Israel two *and twenty* years.

² And Saul chose to him three thousand *men* of Israel, and two thousand *of them* were with Saul in Michmash, in the hill of Bethel; and a thousand were with *his son* Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin; soothly he sent again the tother people each man into his tabernacle.

³ And Jonathan smote the station, *that is, forcelet, either stronghold*, of Philistines, that was in Geba. And when Philistines had heard this, Saul sounded with a clarion in all the land, and said, Hebrews, hear.

⁴ And all Israel heard such a fame, *that* Saul smote the station of Philistines; and Israel raised up himself against the Philistines; then the people cried after Saul in Gilgal.

⁵ And the Philistines were gathered together to fight against Israel; thirty thousand of chariots, and six thousand of knights, and the tother common people, as gravel which is full much in the brink of the sea; and they went up, and setted their tents in Mich-mash, at the east coast of Bethaven.

⁶ And when *[the]* men of Israel had seen, that they were set in straitness, for the people was tormented, they hid themselves in dens, and in privy places, and in stones, and in ditches, and in cisterns.

⁷ And the men of Hebrews passed over Jordan, into the land of Gad and of Gilead. And when Saul was yet in Gilgal, all the people was afeared that pursued *[or followed]* him.

⁸ And seven days he abode Samuel by *[the]* covenant, and Samuel came not into Gilgal; and the people went away from Saul.

⁹ Therefore Saul said, Bring ye to me burnt sacrifice, and peaceable offerings; and he offered burnt sacrifice.

¹⁰ And when he had ended offering the burnt sacrifice, lo! Samuel came; and Saul went out against him, to greet him.

¹¹ And Samuel said to Saul, What hast thou done? Saul answered, Lo! for I saw that the people went away from me, and thou camest not by the days of covenant; and the Philistines were gathered together in Michmash;

¹² I said, Now Philistines shall come down to me in Gilgal, and I have not pleased the face of the Lord; I was compelled by need, and I offered burnt sacrifice to the Lord.

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done follily, and thou hast not kept the behests of thy Lord God, which he commanded to thee; and if thou haddest not done this thing, right now the Lord had made ready thy realm upon Israel without end;

¹⁴ but thy realm shall not rise further. The Lord hath sought a man to himself after his heart; and the Lord hath commanded to him, that he should be duke on his people, for thou keptest not those things which the Lord commanded.

¹⁵ And Samuel rose, and went up from Gilgal into Gibeah of Benjamin; and the people that *were* left went up after Saul against the people that fought against them; and they came from Gilgal into Gibeah, in the hill of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people, that were found with him, as six hundred men.

¹⁶ And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that was found with them, was in Gibeah of Benjamin; and the Philistines sat together in Michmash.

¹⁷ And three companies went out of the Philistines' tents to take prey; one company went against the way of Ophrah, to the land of Shual;

¹⁸ and another company entered by the way of Bethhoron; and the third company turned itself to the way of the term in the land of Diba; and that term nigheth to the valley of Zeboim against the desert.

¹⁹ And none ironsmith was found in all the land of Israel; for the Philistines were wary, *either eschewed*, lest per-adventure the Hebrews made sword either spear.

²⁰ Therefore all Israel went down to the Philistines, that each man should sharpen his share, and his pickaxe, and his ax, and his cutting hook;

²¹ for all the edges of their shares were blunt, and of their pickaxes, and of their three-toothed forks, and of axes, unto a prick to be amended.

²² And when the day of battle came, no sword nor spear was found in the hand of all the people that was with Saul and Jonathan, except Saul, and Jonathan his son.

²³ Forsooth the station of Philistines went out, that it should pass into Michmash.

CHAPTER 14

¹ And it befelled in a day, that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to his squire, a young man, Come thou, and pass we to the station of the Philistines, which is beyond that place; soothly he showed not this same thing to his father.

² And Saul dwelled in the last part of Gibeah, under a pomegranate tree, that was in the field of Gibeah; and the people as of six hundred men was with him.

³ And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, [*the*] brother of Ichabod, the son of Phinehas, that was engendered of Eli, the priest of the Lord in Shiloh, bare the ephod, *that is, the priest's cloth*; but also the people knew not whither Jonathan had gone.

⁴ And betwixt the goings up, by which Jonathan enforced *or endeavour-ed* to pass to the station of Philistines, were stones standing forth on ever either side, and scars broken before, by the manner of teeth, on each side; name to the one was Bozez, and name to the tother was Seneh;

⁵ one scar was standing forth to the north against Michmash, and the tother scar to the south against Gibeah.

⁶ And Jonathan said to his young squire, Come thou, pass we to the station of these uncircumcised men, if in hap the Lord do for us; for it is not hard to the Lord to save, either in many, either in few.

⁷ And his squire said to him, Do thou all things that please thy soul; go whither thou covetest, I shall be with thee, wherever thou wilt.

⁸ And Jonathan said, Lo! we pass to these men; and when we appear to them,

⁹ if they speak thus to us, Dwell ye, till we come to you; stand we in our place, and go we not up to them.

¹⁰ And if they say, Go ye up to us; go we up to them, for the Lord hath betaken them into our hands; this shall be a sign to us.

¹¹ Therefore ever either appeared to the station of Philistines; and the Philistines said, Lo! the Hebrews go out of [*the*] caves, in which they were hid.

¹² And men of the station spake to Jonathan and to his squire, and said, Go ye up to us, and we shall show to you a thing. And Jonathan said to his squire, Wend we up *to them*, pursue [*or follow*] thou me; for the Lord hath betaken them into the hands of Israel.

¹³ And Jonathan went up, creeping on hands and feet, and his squire after him; and when they had seen the face of Jonathan, some felled down before Jonathan, his squire killed others, and pursued [*or following*] him.

¹⁴ And the first wound was made, which Jonathan and his squire smote, as of twenty men, in the middle part of land, which a pair of oxen was wont to ear in the day.

¹⁵ And a miracle was done in the *Philistines'* tents, and by their fields, but also all the people of the *Philistines'* station that went out to take prey, dreaded, and their tents were troubled; and it befell as a miracle of God.

¹⁶ And the espysers of Saul beheld *this doing*, that were in Gibeah of Benjamin, and lo! a multitude of *the Philistines* was cast down, and fleeing away hither and thither.

¹⁷ And Saul said to the people that were with him, Seek ye, and see ye, who went away from

us. And when they had sought, it was found, that Jonathan and his squire were not present.

¹⁸ And Saul said to Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of the Lord; for the ark of God was there in that time with the sons of Israel.

¹⁹ And when Saul spake to the priest, a great noise arose in the tents of the Philistines; and it increased little and little, and it sounded more clearly. And Saul said to the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

²⁰ Therefore Saul cried, and all the people that was with him; and they came unto the place of battle, and, lo! the sword of each man was turned to his neighbour, and a full great slaying was.

²¹ But also the Hebrews that were with Philistines yesterday and the third day ago, and had gone up with them into their tents, turned again to be with the men of Israel, that were with Saul and Jonathan.

²² Also all the men of Israel, that had hid themselves in the hill of Ephraim, heard that the Philistines had fled; and they fellowshipped them-selves with their men in [*the*] battle, and as ten thousand of men were with Saul.

²³ And the Lord saved Israel in that day. And the battle came till to Bethaven.

²⁴ And men of Israel were fellow-shipped to themselves in that day; forsooth Saul swore to the people, and said, Cursed be the man that eateth bread till to eventide, till I avenge me of mine enemies. And all the people ate no bread.

²⁵ And all the common people of the land came into a forest, in which was honey on the face of earth.

²⁶ And so the people entered into the forest, and flowing honey appeared; and no man put his hand to his mouth *thereof*, for the people dreaded the oath.

²⁷ And Jonathan heard not, when his father forbade this to the people; and Jonathan held forth the end of a little rod, that he held in his hand, and he dipped it into an honeycomb; and he turned his hand to his mouth, and his eyes were lightened.

²⁸ And one of the people answered, and said, Thy father bound the people with an oath, and said, Cursed be the man that eateth bread today. And the people was faint.

²⁹ And Jonathan said, My father hath troubled the land; ye see, that mine eyes be lightened, for I tasted a little of this honey;

³⁰ how much more if the people had eaten of the prey of their enemies, that they found; whether not greater vengeance had been made in *[the]* Philistines?

³¹ Therefore they smote *[the]* Philistines in that day from Michmash into Aijalon. And the people was made full weary;

³² and the people turned to *[the]* prey, and took sheep and oxen, and calves; and they killed *these beasts* upon the earth; and the people ate *the flesh* with blood.

³³ And they told to Saul, and said, that the people eating with blood had sinned to the Lord.

And Saul said, Ye have trespassed; wallow ye anon to me a great stone.

³⁴ And Saul said, Go ye forth abroad into the common people, and say ye to them, that each man bring to me his ox and his wether; and slay ye those upon this stone, and eat ye them, and ye shall not do sin to the Lord, eating them with blood. And so all the people brought each man an ox in his hand unto the night, and they killed them there.

³⁵ And Saul builded there an altar to the Lord; and then first he began to build an altar to the Lord.

³⁶ And Saul said, Fall we upon the Philistines in the night, and waste or destroy we them till the morrowtide shine; and leave we not of them a man *alive*. And the people said, Do thou all thing that seemeth good to thee in thine eyes. And the priest said, Nigh we hither to God.

³⁷ And Saul counselled with the Lord, and said, Whether I shall pursue the Philistines? whether thou shalt betake them into the hands of Israel? And the Lord answered not to him in that day.

³⁸ And Saul said, Bring ye hither all the corners, *or the uttermost parties, or chiefs*, of the people, and know ye, and see ye, by whom this sin hath fallen today.

³⁹ The Lord the saviour of Israel liveth; for if it is done by Jonathan my son, he shall die without again-drawing. At which *oath* no man of all the people against-said him.

⁴⁰ And he said to all Israel, Be ye separated into one part, and I with my son Jonathan shall be in

the tother part. And the people answered to Saul, Do thou that, that seemeth good to thine eyes.

⁴¹ And Saul said to the Lord God of Israel, Lord God of Israel, give thou doom, what is it, that thou answerest not today to thy servant? If this wicked-ness is in me, either in Jonathan, my son, make thou showing *thereof*; either if this wickedness is in thy people, give thou holiness. And Jonathan was taken, and Saul, *by lot*; forsooth the people went out.

⁴² And Saul said, Send ye lot be-twixt me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.

⁴³ And Saul said to Jonathan, Show thou to me, what thou didest. And Jonathan showed to him, and said, I tasting tasted a little of honey in the end of the rod, that was in mine hand; and lo! I die.

⁴⁴ And Saul said, God do to me these things, and add these things, for thou, Jonathan, shalt die by death.

⁴⁵ And the people said to Saul, Therefore whether Jonathan shall die, that did this great health in Israel? this is unleaveful; the Lord liveth; none hair of his head shall fall into the earth; for he hath wrought with God today. Therefore the people delivered Jonathan, that he died not.

⁴⁶ And Saul went away, and he pursued not the Philistines; and the Philistines went into their places.

⁴⁷ And Saul, when his realm was stabled upon Israel, fought by compass against all his enemies, against Moab, and the sons of Ammon, and

Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; and whither ever he turned him[*self*], he overcame.

⁴⁸ And when his host was gathered together, he smote Amalek; and delivered Israel from the hand of his destroyers.

⁴⁹ And the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua; the names of his two daughters *be these*, the name of the first engendered daughter was Merab, and the name of the younger was Michal.

⁵⁰ And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz; and the name of the prince of his chivalry was Abner, the son of Ner, the brother of the father of Saul.

⁵¹ And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner, the son of Abiel, was the father of Abner.

⁵² Soothly mighty battle was against Philistines in all the days of Saul; for whomever Saul saw *to be* a strong man, and shapely to battle, he fellow-shipped to himself that man.

CHAPTER 15

¹ And Samuel said to Saul, The Lord sent me, that I should anoint thee into king on his people Israel; now therefore hear thou the voice of the Lord.

² The Lord of hosts saith these things, I have brought to mind what-ever things Amalek hath done to Israel; how Amalek against-stood Israel in the way, when Israel went up from Egypt.

³ Now therefore go thou, and slay Amalek, and destroy thou all his things; spare thou not him,

nor covet thou anything of his things; but slay thou from man unto woman, and little child, and sucking, ox, and sheep, and camel, and ass.

⁴ And so Saul commanded the people *to be gathered together*, and he numbered them as lambs, two hundred thousand of footmen, and ten thousand of men of Judah.

⁵ And when Saul came to the city of Amalek, he made ready ambush-ments in the *dry bed of the strand [or stream]*.

⁶ And Saul said to Kenites, Go ye, depart ye, and go ye away from Amalek, lest peradventure I wrap thee in with them; for thou didest mercy with all the sons of Israel, when they went up from Egypt. And Kenites departed from the midst of Amalek.

⁷ And Saul smote Amalek, from Havilah, till thou come to Shur, which is even against Egypt.

⁸ And Saul took Agag alive, the king of Amalek; and he killed by sharpness of sword all the common people.

⁹ And Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best flocks of sheep, and of great beasts, and clothes, and rams, and all things that were fair; and they would not destroy those *[or them]*; but whatever thing was vile, and reprovably, they destroyed that thing.

¹⁰ Forsooth the word of the Lord was made to Samuel, and said,

¹¹ It repenteth me, that I made Saul king; for he hath forsaken me, and hath not fulfilled my words in work. And Samuel was sorry, and he cried to the Lord in all that night.

12 And when Samuel had risen up by night to go early to Saul, it was told to Samuel, that Saul had come into Carmel, and had raised up to him a sign of victory; and that he had turned again *from Amalek*, and had passed forth, and had gone down into Gilgal.

13 Then Samuel came to Saul, and Saul offered burnt sacrifice to the Lord of the chief things of the preys, which he had brought from Amalek. And the while Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, Blessed be thou of the Lord, I have [ful] filled the word of the Lord.

14 And Samuel said, And what is this voice of flocks, that soundeth in mine ears, and of great beasts, which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They brought those from Amalek; for the people spared the best sheep and great beasts, that those should be offered to thy Lord God; and we killed the tother beasts.

16 And Samuel said to Saul, Suffer thou me, and I shall show to thee what things the Lord hath spoken to me in this night. And Saul said to Samuel, Speak thou.

17 And Samuel said, Whether not, when thou were little in thine own eyes, thou were made head in the lineages of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee into king on Israel;

18 and the Lord sent thee into the way, and said, Go thou, and slay the sinners of Amalek, and thou shalt fight against them till to the slaying of them.

19 Why therefore heardest thou not the voice of the Lord, but thou were turned to the prey, and didest evil in the eyes of the Lord?

20 And Saul said to Samuel, Yes, I heard the voice of the Lord, and I have gone in the way, by which the Lord sent me, and I have brought Agag, the king of Amalek, and I have killed Amalek.

21 Forsooth the people took of the prey, sheep and oxen, the first fruits or the chief fruits of those things that be slain, that they make sacrifice to their Lord God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Whether the Lord will *or desireth* burnt sacrifices, either slain sacrifices, and not more, *rather*, that men obey to the voice of the Lord? Forsooth obedience *to him* is better than sacrifices, and to take heed *to his word* is more than to offer the inner fatness of rams;

23 for it is as the sin of maumetry to fight against *God's behest*, and it is as the wickedness of idolatry to not assent *to God's behest*. Therefore for that, that thou castedest away the word of the Lord, the Lord casted thee away, that thou be not king.

24 And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned, for I have broken the word of the Lord, and thy words; and I dreaded the people, and obeyed to the voice of them;

25 but now, I beseech thee, bear thou my sin, and turn thou again with me, that I worship the Lord.

26 And Samuel said to Saul, I shall not turn again with thee, for thou castedest away the

word of the Lord, and the Lord hath cast away thee, that thou be not king upon Israel.

²⁷ And Samuel turned to go away; soothly Saul took the end of the mantle of Samuel, which also was rent.

²⁸ And Samuel said to him, The Lord hath cut the realm of Israel from thee today, and he hath given it to thy neighbour, better than thou;

²⁹ certainly the Overcomer in Israel shall not spare *them that will not obey to him*, and he shall not be bowed by repentance; for he is not man, *that is, changeable*, that he do repentance.

³⁰ And Saul said, I have sinned; but now honour thou me before the elder men of my people, and before Israel, and turn thou again with me, that I worship thy Lord God.

³¹ Therefore Samuel turned again, and followed Saul, and Saul worshipped the Lord.

³² And Samuel said, Bring ye to me Agag, the king of Amalek. And Agag, most fat *and* trembling, was brought to him. And Agag said, Whether thus departeth bitter death?

³³ And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women without free children, so thy mother shall be without free children among women. And Samuel hewed Agag into gobbets before the Lord in Gilgal.

³⁴ And Samuel went into Ramah; and Saul went up into his house in Gibeah.

³⁵ And Samuel saw no more Saul unto the day of his death; nevertheless Samuel bewailed Saul, for it repented the Lord, that he had ordained Saul king upon Israel.

CHAPTER 16

¹ And the Lord said to Samuel, How long bewailest thou Saul, since I have cast him away, that he reign not upon Israel; fill thine horn with oil, and come, that I send thee to Jesse of Bethlehem; for among his sons I have purveyed a king to me.

² And Samuel said, How shall I go? for Saul shall hear, and he shall slay me. And the Lord said, Thou shalt take a calf of the drove in thy hand, and thou shalt say, I came to make sacrifice to the Lord.

³ And thou shalt call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I shall show to thee, what thou shalt do; and thou shalt anoint whomever I shall show to thee.

⁴ Then Samuel did, as the Lord spake to him; and he came into Bethlehem, and the elder men of the city wondered, and came to him, and said, Whether thine entry be peaceable?

⁵ And he said, It is peaceable; I came to make sacrifice to the Lord; be ye hallowed, and come ye with me, that I make sacrifice. Therefore he hallowed Jesse, and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

⁶ And when they had entered, he saw Eliab, and said, *in his heart*, Whether before the Lord is his christ, *or his anointed?*

⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold thou not his cheer, neither the highness of his stature; for I have cast him away, and I deem not by man's sight; for man seeth those things that be open, but the Lord beholdeth the heart.

⁸ And Jesse called Abinadab, and brought him before Samuel; and he said, Neither the Lord hath chosen this.

⁹ And Jesse brought forth Shammah; of whom Samuel said, Also the Lord hath not chosen this.

¹⁰ And so Jesse brought forth his seven sons before Samuel; and Samuel said to Jesse, The Lord hath chosen none of these.

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, Whether thy sons be now filled? And Jesse answered, Yet there is another little child, and he pastureth sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, Send ye, and bring him *hither*; for we shall not sit to meat, before that he come hither.

¹² Therefore Jesse sent, and brought him; soothly he was ruddy, and fair in sight, and of seemly face. And the Lord said, Rise thou, and anoint him; for it is he.

¹³ Therefore Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the Lord was dressed [*or full sent*] into David from that day forth. And Samuel rose up, and went into Ramah.

¹⁴ And so the Spirit of the Lord went away from Saul, and a wicked spirit of the Lord travailed Saul.

¹⁵ And the servants of Saul said to him, Lo! an evil spirit of the Lord travailleth thee;

¹⁶ our lord the king command, and thy servants, that be before thee, shall seek a man, that can sing with an harp, and when the evil spirit of the Lord taketh thee, he harp with his hand, and thou bear it more easily.

¹⁷ And Saul said to his servants, Purvey ye to me some man singing well, and bring ye him to me.

¹⁸ And one of his children answered and said, Lo! I saw a son of Jesse of Bethlehem, knowing *how* to sing, and most strong man, and a man able to battle, and prudent in words, and a fair man; and the Lord is with him.

¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, Send thou to me David thy son, that is keeping thy beasts.

²⁰ And so Jesse took an ass charged with loaves, and a gallon of wine, and a goat kid; and he sent those by the hand of David his son to Saul.

²¹ And David came to Saul, and stood before him; and Saul loved him greatly, and he was made his squire.

²² And Saul sent to Jesse, and said, David stand in my sight, for he hath found grace in mine eyes.

²³ Then whenever the evil spirit of the Lord travailed Saul, David took his harp, and harped with his hand, and Saul was comforted, and he had *it* more lightly; for the evil spirit went away from him.

CHAPTER 17

¹ Soothly the Philistines gathered together their companies into battle, and came together in Shochoh of Judah, and they setted tents betwixt Shochoh and Azekah, in the coasts of Dammim or *Ephesdammim*.

² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and came into the valley of Terebinth,

and they dressed battle array to fight against *[the]* Philistines.

³ And the Philistines stood above the hill on this part, and Israel stood on the hill on the tother part of the valley, that was betwixt them.

⁴ And a man in the midst, *that is, a strong man, and hardy, that goeth before the host, and is ready to fight against one of the enemies in singular battle, that is, man-to-man*, went out of the Philistines' tents, Goliath by name, of Gath, of six cubits high and a span;

⁵ and a brazen basinet on his head; and he was clothed with a mailed habergeon; and the weight of his habergeon was five thousand shekels of brass;

⁶ and he had on his thighs brazen boots, and a brazen shield covered his shoulders.

⁷ Forsooth the shaft of his spear was as the beam of webs; and the iron of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his squire went before him.

⁸ And he stood, and cried against the companies of armed men of Israel, and said to them, Why came ye ready to battle? Whether I am not a Philistine, and ye be the servants of Saul? Choose ye a man of you, and come he down to a singular battle, *that is, man-to-man*;

⁹ if he may fight with me, and slay me, we shall be your servants; forsooth if I have the mastery, and slay him, ye shall be bond, and serve us.

¹⁰ And the Philistine said, I have said shame today to the companies of Israel; give ye *[to me]* a man, and begin he singular battle with me.

¹¹ Soothly Saul and all men of Israel heard such words of the Philistine, and they were astonied, and dreaded greatly.

¹² Forsooth David was the son of a man of Ephrath, of whom it is said before, of Bethlehem of Judah, to whom the name was Jesse, and he had eight sons; and in the days of Saul, Jesse was an old man, and of great age among men.

¹³ And the three eldest sons of Jesse went after Saul into battle; and the names of his three sons, that went to battle, *were* Eliab, the first begotten, and the second, Abinadab, and the third, Shammah.

¹⁴ And David was the youngest. Then while the three eldest sons pursued [*or following*] Saul,

¹⁵ David went, and turned again from Saul, that he should keep the flock of his father in Bethlehem.

¹⁶ Forsooth the Philistine came forth in the morrowtide, and [*at*] eventide; and stood by forty days [*or standing and reproving the children of Israel for forty days*].

¹⁷ And Jesse said to David his son, Take thou to thy brethren meat made of meal, the measure of ephah, and these ten loaves, and run thou into the tents to thy brethren;

¹⁸ and thou shalt bare to the tribune these ten small cheeses; and thou shalt visit thy brethren, whether they do rightly, and learn thou, with which men they be ordained.

¹⁹ Forsooth Saul, and they, and all the sons of Israel in the valley of Terebinth fought against the Philistines.

²⁰ And so David rose early, and he betook the flock to a keeper, and he went charged, as Jesse commanded to him; and he came to the place of Magal *or the circle of the camp*, and to the host, the which host went out to the fight, and it cried *[out]* in the fighting.

²¹ For Israel had ordained battle array; and even against them, the Philistines were ready also.

²² Then David left the vessels, that he had brought, under the hand of a keeper at the fardels, and he ran to the place of *[the]* battle, and he asked, if all things were done rightly with his brethren.

²³ And when he spake yet to them, that bastard *[man]* appeared, Goliath by name, the Philistine of Gath, and he went up from the tents of the Philistines; and while he spake these same words, David heard.

²⁴ And when all the men of Israel had seen the man, they fled from his sight, and dreaded him greatly.

²⁵ And each man of Israel said *to other*, Whether thou hast seen this man that hath gone up? forsooth he went up to say shame or reproof to Israel; therefore the king shall make rich with great riches the man that slayeth that Philistine; and the king shall give his daughter to that man, and shall make the house of his father without having to pay tribute in Israel.

²⁶ And David spake to the men that stood with him, and said, What shall be given to the man that slayeth this Philistine, and doeth away

shame from Israel? for who is this Philistine uncircumcised, that despiseth the battle arrays of God living?

²⁷ Forsooth the people told to him the same word, and said, These things shall be given to the man that slayeth him.

²⁸ And when Eliab, his more brother or the elder brother of David, had heard this, while he spake with other men, he was wroth against David, and said, Why camest thou *hither*, and why hast thou left those few sheep in desert? I know thy pride, and the waywardness of thine heart; for thou camest down to see the battle.

²⁹ And David said, What have I done? Whether it is not *but* a word?

³⁰ And David went thence a little from him to another man; and David said the same word, and the people answered to him the word as they did before.

³¹ And the words were heard, that David spake, and they were told before Saul. And when David was brought to Saul,

³² David spake to him *thus*, The heart of any man fall not down *in him*, for I thy servant shall go, and fight against the Philistine.

³³ And Saul said to David, Thou mayest not against-stand this Philistine, neither fight against him, for thou art a child; forsooth this man is a warrior from his young waxing age.

³⁴ And David said to Saul, Thy servant kept his father's flock, and *when* a lion came, also or either a bear, and took away a ram from the midst of the flock;

³⁵ I pursued, and killed them, and I ravished it from their mouth; and they rose against me, and I took their nether jowl, and I strangled, and killed them.

³⁶ For I thy servant killed both the lion and the bear; therefore and this Philistine uncircumcised shall be as one of them. Now I shall go, and I shall do away the shame or the reproof of the people; for who is this Philistine uncircumcised, that was hardy to curse the host of God living?

³⁷ And again David said, The Lord that delivered me from the mouth of the lion, and from the hand, *that is, power*, of the bear, he shall deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go thou, and the Lord be with thee.

³⁸ And Saul clothed David with his clothes, and he set a brazen basinet on his head, and clothed him with an habergeon.

³⁹ Therefore David was girded with his sword on his cloth, and began to assay if he might go armed; for he had not *[the]* custom. And David said to Saul, I may not go thus, for I have not the uses *of it*. And David put away those *[things]*,

⁴⁰ and he took his staff, that he had ever *[more]* in his hands. And he chose to him five full clear round stones, *that is, hard, plain, and round*, of the strand *[or stream]*; and he put those *[or them]* into his shepherd's scrip, that he had with him; and he took a sling in his hand, and he went forth against the Philistine.

⁴¹ Soothly the Philistine went, going and nighing against David; and his squire went before him.

⁴² And when the Philistine had beheld David, and saw him, he despised David; forsooth David was a young waxing man, ruddy, and fair in sight.

⁴³ And the Philistine said to David, Whether I am a dog, for thou comest to me with a staff? And the Philistine cursed David in his gods;

⁴⁴ and he said to David, Come thou to me, and I shall give thy flesh to the fowls of the air, and to *[the]* beasts of the earth.

⁴⁵ And David said to Goliath, Thou comest to me with a sword, and spear, and shield; but I come to thee in name of the Lord of hosts, God of the companies of Israel, to whom thou hast said reproof today.

⁴⁶ And the Lord shall give thee into mine hand, and I shall slay thee, and I shall take thine head from thee; and today I shall give the dead bodies of the tents of Philistines to the fowls of heavens, and to the beasts of the earth; that all the earth know, that the Lord God is in Israel,

⁴⁷ and that all this church know, that the Lord saveth not in sword neither in spear; for the battle is his, and he shall betake you into our hands.

⁴⁸ Therefore when the Philistine had risen, and came, and nighed against David, David hasted, and ran to battle against the Philistine.

⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his scrip, and he took out a stone, and he casted it with his sling, and led *[it]* about, and smote the Philistine in the forehead; and the stone was fastened in his forehead, and he felled down into his face on the earth.

50 And David had the mastery against the Philistine in a sling and a stone, and he killed the Philistine smitten. And when David had no sword in his hand,

51 he ran, and stood on the Philistine, and took his sword; and David drew out the sword of his sheath, and killed him, and cut off his head. And the Philistines saw, that the strongest of them was dead, and they fled.

52 And the sons of Israel and of Judah rose up together, and cried [*out*], and pursued the Philistines, till the time they came into the valley, and unto the gates of Ekron. And the wounded men of the Philistines fell down in the way of Shaaraim, and unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

53 And the sons of Israel turned again, after that they had pursued the Philistines, and they assailed their tents.

54 Forsooth David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it into Jerusalem; soothly he putted his arms or armours in the tabernacle of the Lord.

55 Forsooth in that time in which Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, [*the*] prince of his chivalry, Abner, of what generation is this young man? And Abner said, King, thy soul liveth, I know not.

56 And the king said, Ask thou, whose son this boy is.

57 And when David had come again, when the Philistine was slain, Abner took David, and brought him in, having in the hand the head of the Philistine, before Saul.

⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, Of what generation art thou, young man? And David said, I am the son of thy servant, Jesse of Bethlehem.

CHAPTER 18

¹ And it was done, when David had ended to speak to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was glued together to the soul of David, *that is, joined together by the glue of charity, that may not be broken*, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

² And Saul took David in that day, and granted not to him, that he should turn again into the house of his father.

³ And Jonathan and David made a bond of peace; for Jonathan loved David as his own soul;

⁴ for why Jonathan unclothed him-self from the coat that he was clothed in, and he gave it to David, and his other clothes, unto his sword and his bow, and unto his girdle.

⁵ And David went forth to all things, to whatever things Saul sent him, and he governed himself prudently; and Saul setted him over the men of battle, and he was accepted in the eyes of all the people, and mostly in the sight of the servants of Saul.

⁶ Forsooth when David turned again, when the Philistine was slain, and bare the head of the Philistine into Jerusalem, women went out of all the cities of Israel, and sang, and led dances, against the coming of king Saul, in tympan of gladness, and in trumps.

⁷ And the women sang, playing, and saying, Saul hath slain a thousand, and David ten thousand.

⁸ And Saul was wroth greatly, and this word displeased before him; and he said, They have given ten thousand to David, and but one thousand to me; what leaveth to him, no but the realm alone?

⁹ Therefore Saul beheld David not with rightful eye, from that day and afterward.

¹⁰ Soothly after the tother day, a wicked spirit of God assailed Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of his house. And David harped with his hand, as by all days *before*; and Saul held a spear,

¹¹ and cast it, and guessed that he might preen David with the wall, *that is, pierce right through him with the spear; so that it should pass into the wall*; and David bowed [*aside*] from his face the second time.

¹² And Saul dreaded David, for the Lord was with David, and had gone away from him.

¹³ Then Saul removed David from himself, and made him chieftain upon a thousand men; and David went out and he came in before the people.

¹⁴ And David did wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him;

¹⁵ and so Saul saw that David was full prudent or full wise, and he began to beware of David.

¹⁶ And all Israel and Judah loved David; for he went in and out before them.

¹⁷ And Saul said to David, Lo! mine elder daughter Merab, I shall give her *for a wife* to thee; only be thou a strong man, and fight thou the Lord's battles. Forsooth Saul areckoned, and

said, Mine hand be not in him, but the hand of Philistines be on him.

¹⁸ And David said to Saul, Who am I, either what is my life, either the family of my father in Israel, that I be made the son-in-law of the king?

¹⁹ And when the time came that Merab, the daughter of Saul, should have been given wife to David, she was given wife to Adriel *the* Meholathite.

²⁰ Forsooth David loved Michal, the *[tother]* daughter of Saul; and it was told to Saul, and it pleased him.

²¹ And Saul said, I shall give her to him, that it be to him into cause of stumbling, and the hand of Philistines be upon him. Therefore Saul said to David, In *wedding one of my* two daughters thou shalt be my son-in-law today.

²² And Saul commanded to his servants, Speak ye privily to David, as if it were me unwitting, and say ye *to him*, Lo! thou pleasest the king, and all his servants love thee; now there-fore be thou *[the]* husband of the king's daughter.

²³ And the servants of Saul spake all these words in the ears of David. And David said, Whether it seem little to you *for me* to be the king's son-in-law? Forsooth I am a poor man, and a feeble.

²⁴ And the servants told to Saul, and said, David spake such words.

²⁵ Soothly Saul said, Thus speak ye to David, The king hath no need to gifts for spousals, no but only to an hundred prepuces, *that is, men's rods uncircumcised*, of the Philistines, that vengeance be made of the king's enemies.

Certainly Saul thought to betake David into the hands of Philistines.

²⁶ And when the servants of Saul had told to David the words, which Saul had said, the word pleased in the eyes of David, that he should be made the king's son-in-law. And after a few days,

²⁷ David rose up, and went into Ekron, with the men that were with him, and he killed of Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their prepuces, and he numbered those [*or them*] to the king, that he should be the king's son-in-law. And so Saul gave Michal, his daughter, wife to him.

²⁸ And Saul saw, and understood, that the Lord was with David. Certainly Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David,

²⁹ and Saul began more to dread David; and Saul was made enemy to David in all days.

³⁰ And the princes of Philistines went out *to fight*; but from the beginning of their going out, David bare himself more wisely than all the men of Saul; and the name of David was made full solemn.

CHAPTER 19

¹ Soothly Saul spake to Jonathan, his son, and to all his servants, that they should slay David;

² certainly Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David greatly. And Jonathan showed to David, and said, Saul, my father, seeketh to slay thee; wherefore, I beseech, keep thyself *tomorrow* early; and thou shalt dwell privily, and thou shalt be hid.

³ And I shall go out, and stand be-side my father in the field, wherever he shall be; and I shall speak of thee to my father, and whatever thing I shall see or whatever thing I shall understand *of him*, I shall tell thee.

⁴ Then Jonathan spake good things of David to Saul, his father, and said to him, King, do thou not sin against thy servant David, for he hath not sinned to thee, and his works be full good to thee;

⁵ and he putted his life in his hand, and he killed the Philistine. And the Lord made great help to all Israel; thou sawest, and were glad; why therefore sinnest thou in guiltless blood, and wilt slay David, that is without guilt?

⁶ And when Saul had heard this, he was pleased with the speaking of Jonathan, and he swore, The Lord liveth, for David shall not be slain.

⁷ And so Jonathan called David, and showed to him all these words. And Jonathan brought in David to Saul, and he was before him as *[he was]* yesterday and the third day ago.

⁸ Forsooth battle was moved again; and David went out, and fought against the Philistines, and he smote them with a great wound or great fierceness, and they fled from his face.

⁹ And the evil spirit of the Lord was made upon Saul; and he sat in his house, and held a spear; certainly David harped with his hand.

¹⁰ And Saul enforced *or endeavour-ed* to preen, *that is pierce*, with the spear *right through* David into the wall; and David bowed *[aside]* from the face of Saul; and the spear without hurt *of David*

was fixed into the wall; and David fled, and so he was saved in that night.

¹¹ Therefore Saul sent his knights in the night into the house of David, that they should keep him, and that he should be slain in the morrowtide. And when Michal, the wife of David, had told this to David, and said, If thou savest not thee in this night, thou shalt die tomorrow;

¹² and she let him down by a window. And David went, and fled thence, and he was saved.

¹³ And Michal took an image, and laid it on the bed of David, and she put a rough goatskin at the head thereof, and covered it with clothes.

¹⁴ Forsooth Saul sent sergeants, that should ravish [*or take*] David, and it was answered, that he was sick.

¹⁵ And again Saul sent messengers, that they should see David, and he said, Bring ye him to me in the bed, that he be slain.

¹⁶ And when the messengers had come, a simulacrum was found on the bed, and skins of goat at the head thereof.

¹⁷ And Saul said to Michal, Why scornedest thou me so, and deliver-dest mine enemy, that he fled? And Michal answered to Saul, For he spake to me, and said, Deliver thou me, else I shall slay thee.

¹⁸ Forsooth David fled, and was saved; and he came to Samuel into Ramah, and told to him all things which Saul had done to him; and he and Samuel went, and dwelled in Naioth.

¹⁹ And it was told to Saul of men, saying *to him*, Lo! David is in Naioth in Ramah.

²⁰ Therefore Saul sent menslayers, that they should ravish [*or take*]from *thence* David; and when they had seen the company of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing over them, the Spirit of the Lord was made in them, and they also began to prophesy.

²¹ And when this was told to Saul, he sent also other messengers; soothly and they prophesied. And again Saul sent the third messengers, and they prophesied.

²² And Saul was wroth with ireful-ness; and he also went into Ramah, and he came unto the great cistern which is in Sechu, and he asked, and said, In what place be Samuel and David? And it was said to him, Lo! they be in Naioth in Ramah.

²³ And he went *thither* into Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of the Lord was made also on him; and he went, and entered, and prophesied, till the while he came into Naioth in Ramah.

²⁴ And Saul also unclothed him of his clothes, and he prophesied with other men before Samuel, and he prophesied naked all that day and night. Wherefore a *common* saying went out, Whether and Saul be among [*the*] prophets?

CHAPTER 20

¹ Forsooth David fled from Naioth, which is in Ramah, and came and spake before Jonathan, What have I done? what is my wickedness, and what is my sin against thy father, for he seeketh my life?

² And Jonathan said to him, Far be it from thee, thou shalt not die, for my father shall not

do anything great either little, no but he show first to me; therefore, my father kept privy from me this word only, forsooth it shall not be. And again he swore to David.

³ And David said, Truly thy father knoweth, that I have found grace in thine eyes, and he shall say, Jonathan know not this, lest peradventure he be sorry; certainly the Lord liveth, and thy soul liveth, for, that I say so, I and death be parted only by one degree.

⁴ And Jonathan said to David, Whatever thing thy soul shall say to me, I shall do it to thee.

⁵ And David said to Jonathan, Lo! calends be tomorrow, *that is the feast of the new moon*, and by custom I am wont to sit by the king to eat; therefore suffer thou me, that I be hid in the field till to *[the]* eventide of the third day.

⁶ And if thy father beholdeth, and asketh after me, thou shalt answer to him, David prayed me, that he might go at once into Bethlehem, his city, for solemn sacrifices be *now* there to all *[the]* men of his lineage.

⁷ If he saith, Well, peace shall be to thy servant; forsooth if he is wroth, know thou, that his malice is filled.

⁸ Therefore do thou mercy into thy servant, for thou hast made me thy servant to make with thee bond of peace of the Lord; but if any wicked-ness is in me, slay thou me, and bring thou not in me to thy father.

⁹ And Jonathan said, Far be this from me, for it may not be done, that I tell not to thee, if I know

certainly, that the malice of my father is filled against thee.

¹⁰ And David answered to Jonathan, Who shall tell me, if in case thy father answereth hard [*to thee*] anything of me?

¹¹ And Jonathan said to David, Come thou, and go we forth into the field. And when they both had gone into the field,

¹² Jonathan said to David, Thou Lord God of Israel, if I inquire the sentence of my father tomorrow, either in the next day after, and any good thing be *said* of thee, *David*, and I send not at once to thee, and make it known to thee,

¹³ God do these things to Jonathan, and add these things. And if the malice of my father continue against thee, I shall show it to thine ear, and I shall deliver thee, that thou go in peace; and the Lord be with thee, as he was with my father.

¹⁴ And if I live, do thou the mercies of the Lord to me; forsooth if I am dead,

¹⁵ take thou not away thy mercy from mine house unto without end; and if I do it not, when the Lord shall draw out by the root the enemies of David, each man from the land, take he away Jonathan from his house, and seek the Lord of the hand of the enemies of David.

¹⁶ Therefore Jonathan made [*a*] bond of peace with the house of David, and the Lord sought *it* of the hand of [*the*] enemies of David.

¹⁷ And Jonathan added to swear steadfastly to David, for he loved him; for he loved so David, as his own soul.

¹⁸ And Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the first day of the month, that is solemn, and thou shalt be sought *after*;

¹⁹ and thy sitting shall be asked *of* till after the morrow. Therefore thou shalt go down hastily, and thou shalt come into a place, where thou shalt be hid in the day, when it is leaveful to work; and thou shalt sit beside the stone, that is called Ezel.

²⁰ And I shall shoot three arrows beside that stone, and I shall cast as exercising, *either playing* me at a sign.

²¹ I shall send my child, and I shall say to him, Go thou, and bring to me the arrows. If I say to the child, Lo! the arrows be on this side *of* thee, take thou those [*or them*]; *then* come thou to me, for peace is to thee, and nothing is of evil, the Lord liveth.

²² But if I speak thus to the child, Lo! the arrows be beyond thee; go thou in peace, for the Lord hath delivered thee.

²³ Certainly of the word that thou and I have spoken, *that is, of the bond of peace betwixt us and our heirs*, the Lord be *witness* betwixt me and thee till into without end.

²⁴ Therefore David was hid in the field; and the calends or solemn feast came, and the king sat to eat bread.

²⁵ And when the king had set on his chair by custom, which chair was beside the wall, Jonathan rose, and sat *after Abner*, and Abner sat at the side of Saul, and the place of David appeared void.

26 And Saul spake not anything in that day; for he thought, that in hap it befelled to him, that he was not clean, neither purified.

27 And when the second day after the calends had shined, again the place of David appeared void. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, Why cometh not the son of Jesse, neither yesterday, neither today, to eat?

28 And Jonathan answered to Saul, He prayed me meekly that he should go into Bethlehem;

29 and he said, Suffer thou me, for solemn sacrifice is in my city; one of my brethren [*hath*] called me; now therefore, if I [*have*] found grace in thine eyes, I shall go soon, and I shall see my brethren; for this cause he cometh not to the table of the king.

30 And Saul was wroth against Jonathan, and said to him, Thou son of the woman willfully ravishing a man, whether I know not, that thou lovest the son of Jesse into thy [*own*] confusion or shame, and into the confusion of thy shameful mother?

31 For in all the days in which the son of Jesse liveth on [*the*] earth, thou shalt not be stablished, neither thy realm; therefore right now or anon send thou, and bring him to me, for he is the son of death.

32 And Jonathan answered to Saul his father, and said, Why shall he die? what hath he done?

33 And Saul took a spear, that he should smite him, and Jonathan under-stood, that it was determined of his father, that David should be slain.

³⁴ Then Jonathan rose from the table in full fierce wrath, and he ate not bread in the second day of calends; for he was sorry for David, for his father had shamed him.

³⁵ And when the morrowtide had shined, Jonathan came into the field, and a little child with him, by the covenant made of David.

³⁶ And Jonathan said to his child, Go thou, and bring to me the arrows that I shoot. And when the child had run forth, he shot another arrow beyond the child.

³⁷ Therefore when the child came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried behind the back of the child, and said, Lo! the arrow is not there, certainly it is beyond thee.

³⁸ And Jonathan cried again behind the back of the child, Haste thou swiftly, stand thou not. Soothly the child gathered up the arrows of Jonathan, and brought *them* to his lord,

³⁹ and utterly the child knew not what was done; for only Jonathan and David knew the thing.

⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the child, and said to him, Go thou, bear *these* into the city.

⁴¹ And when the child had gone, David rose from the place that went to the south; and he felled low upon the earth, and worshipped *or honour-ed* the third time, and they kissed themselves together, and wept together; but David wept more.

⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, Go thou in peace; whatever things we both have sworn in

the name of the Lord, and said, The Lord be betwixt me and thee, and betwixt my seed and thy seed, till into without end, *be steadfast*. And David rose up, and went forth, but and Jonathan went into the city.

CHAPTER 21

¹ Forsooth David came into Nob to Ahimelech, the priest; and Ahimelech wondered, for David had come; and he said to David, Why art thou alone, and no man is with thee?

² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded to me a word, and said, No man know this thing, for which thou art sent from me, and what manner behests I have given to thee; for I said also to my children, that they should go into that and that place;

³ now therefore if thou hast anything at hand, either five loaves, give thou to me, either whatever thing thou findest.

⁴ And the priest answered to David, and said to him, I have not lay, *that is, common*, loaves at hand, but only holy bread; whether the children be clean, and mostly of women?

⁵ And David answered to the priest, and said to him, And soothly if it is done of women, we have abstained us from yesterday and the third day ago, when we went out, and the vessels, *that is, bodies*, of the children were clean; certainly this way is defouled, but and it shall be hallowed today in the vessels.

⁶ Therefore the priest gave to him hallowed bread, for none other bread was there, but only

loaves of setting forth, that were taken away from the face of the Lord, that hot loaves shall be set forth.

⁷ And a man of the servants of Saul was there that day, within in the tabernacle of the Lord; and his name was Doeg of Idumea, the mightiest man of the herdsmen of Saul.

⁸ And David said to Ahimelech, If thou hast here at hand spear, either sword, give it to me; for I took not with me my sword, neither mine arms; for why the king's word constrained me *to go in haste*.

⁹ And the priest said, Lo! the sword of Goliath *the* Philistine, whom thou killedest in the valley of Terebinth, is wrapped in a cloth *next* after [*the*] ephod; if thou wilt take this, take it; for there is none other except that. And David said, None other is like this, give thou it to me.

¹⁰ And so David rose up, and fled in that day from the face of Saul, and came to Achish, the king of Gath.

¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, when they had seen David, Whether this is not David, [*the*] king of the land? Whether they sang not to him by quires [*or with dances*], and said, Saul smote a thousand, and David smote ten thousand?

¹² And David took these words in his heart, and he dreaded greatly of the face of Achish, king of Gath.

¹³ And David changed his mouth before Achish, and felled down betwixt their hands, and he painted on the doors of the gate, and his dribbles, *that is, spittles*, flowed down into his beard.

¹⁴ And Achish said to his servants, See ye the mad man? why brought ye him to me?

¹⁵ whether mad men fail to us? why have ye brought in him, that he should be mad, while I am present? Deliver ye him from hence, lest he enter into mine house.

CHAPTER 22

¹ Therefore David went from thence, and fled into the den of Adullam; and when his brethren, and all the house of his father had heard this, they came down thither to him.

² And all men that were set in anguish, and oppressed with other men's debt, and in bitter soul, came together to him; and he was made the prince of them, and as four hundred men were with him.

³ And David went forth from thence into Mizpeh, that is in Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, I pray, dwell my father and my mother with you, till I know what thing God shall do to me.

⁴ And he left them *there* before the face of the king of Moab; and they dwelled at him in all the days, that David was in the forcelet, *either stronghold*.

⁵ And Gad, the prophet, said to David, Do not thou dwell in the forcelet *or stronghold*; go thou forth, and go into the land of Judah. And David went forth, and came into the forest of Hareth.

⁶ And Saul heard, that David appeared, and the men that were with him. And when Saul dwelled in Gibeah, and was in a wood that is in

Ramah, and he held a spear in his hand, and all his servants stood about him,

⁷ he said to his servants that stood nigh [*to*] him, Ye sons of Benjamin, hear me now; whether the son of Jesse shall give to all you fields and vineries [*or vines*], and he shall make all you chieftains upon thousands, and [*leaders*] upon hundreds of men?

⁸ For all ye have sworn, *either conspired*, together against me, and none is that telleth to me; mostly since also my son hath joined bond of peace with the son of Jesse; none is of you, that sorroweth for my stead or my while, neither that telleth to me, for my son hath raised my servant against me, setting treason to me, unto this day.

⁹ Soothly Doeg of Idumea answered, that stood nigh, and was the first among the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse in Nob, at Ahimelech, the priest, the son of Ahitub;

¹⁰ and Ahimelech counselled with the Lord for David, and gave him meats, but also he gave to David the sword of Goliath Philistine.

¹¹ Therefore the king sent to call Ahimelech, the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all the house of his father, of [*the*] priests that were in Nob; which all came to the king.

¹² And Saul said to Ahimelech, Hear me, thou son of Ahitub. Which answered, Lord, I am ready.

¹³ And Saul said to him, Why hast thou conspired against me, thou, and the son of Jesse, and [*thou*] hast given loaves and a sword to him, and hast counselled with the Lord for him, that he

should rise against me, and he dwelleth a traitor unto this day?

¹⁴ And Ahimelech answered to the king, and said, Who among all thy servants is so faithful as David, and he is thy son-in-law, and going at thy behest, and glorious in all thine house?

¹⁵ Whether I began today to counsel *with* the Lord for him? Far be this from me; suppose not the king such thing against his servant, in all the house of my father; for thy servant knew not anything, either little, either great, of this cause.

¹⁶ And the king said, Ahimelech, thou shalt die by death, thou, and all the house of thy father.

¹⁷ And the king said to men able to be sent out, that stood about him, Turn ye, and slay the priests of the Lord, for the hand of them is with David; and they knew that he fled, and they showed not to me. Soothly the servants of the king would not hold forth their hand into the priests of the Lord.

¹⁸ And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and hurtle into the priests of the Lord. And Doeg of Idumea turned, and hurtled into the priests, and strangled in that day fourscore and five men, clothed with ephods of linen cloth [*or surplices*].

¹⁹ Forsooth he smote Nob, the city of the priests, by the sharpness of sword, men and women, little children and *those* sucking, and ox, and ass, and sheep, by the sharpness of sword.

²⁰ But one son of Ahimelech, the son of Ahitub, escaped, of which son the name was Abiathar; and he fled to David,

²¹ and told him that Saul had slain the priests of the Lord.

²² And David said to Abiathar, Soothly I knew in that day, that when Doeg of Idumea was there, he would tell without doubt to Saul; I am guilty of all the lives *that be slain* of thy father's house.

²³ Dwell thou with me, dread thou not; if any man seeketh thy life, he shall seek also my life, and thou shalt be kept with me.

CHAPTER 23

¹ And they told to David, and said, Lo! The Philistines fight against Keilah, and ravish the cornfloors.

² Therefore David counselled *with* the Lord, and said, Whether I shall go, and smite these Philistines? And the Lord said to David, Go forth, and thou shalt smite the Philistines, and thou shalt save Keilah.

³ And men, that were with David, said to him, Lo! we be here in Judah, and have dread; how much more if we shall go into Keilah against the companies of Philistines.

⁴ Therefore again David counselled with the Lord; the which answered, and said to David, Rise thou up, and go into Keilah; for I shall betake *[the]* Philistines into thine hand.

⁵ Therefore David went, and his men, into Keilah, and fought against the Philistines; and he drove away their work beasts, and smote them with *[a]* great wound; and David saved the dwellers of Keilah.

⁶ And in that time, wherein Abiathar, *[the]* son of Ahimelech, fled to David into Keilah, he came

down, and had with him ephod, *that is, the cloth of the highest priest.*

⁷ And it was told to Saul, that David had come into Keilah; and Saul said, The Lord hath taken him into mine hands, and he is enclosed, and entered into a city, in which be gates and locks.

⁸ And Saul commanded to all the people, that it should go down to battle into Keilah, and besiege David and his men.

⁹ And when David perceived, that Saul made ready evil privily to him, he said to Abiathar, the priest, Bring hither *[the]* ephod.

¹⁰ And David said, Lord God of Israel, thy servant hath heard say, that Saul disposeth to come to Keilah, that he destroy the city for me;

¹¹ if the men of Keilah shall betake me into his hands, and if Saul shall come down, as thy servant hath heard, thou Lord God of Israel, show to thy servant? And the Lord said, He shall come down.

¹² And David said again, Whether the men of Keilah shall betake me, and the men that be with me, into the hands of Saul? And the Lord said, They shall betake *thee to Saul, if thou abidest him there.*

¹³ Therefore David rose, and his men, as six hundred; and they went out of Keilah, and wandered uncertain hither and thither. And it was told to Saul, that David had fled from Keilah, and was saved; wherefore Saul dis-sembled to go out.

¹⁴ But David dwelled in the desert, in full strong places, and he dwelled in the hill of wilderness of Ziph, in a dark hill; nevertheless

Saul sought him in all days, and the Lord betook not him into the hands of Saul.

¹⁵ And David saw, that Saul went out, that he would seek his life. And David was in the desert of Ziph, in a wood.

¹⁶ And Jonathan, the son of Saul, rose up, and went to David into the wood, and comforted his hands in God.

¹⁷ And he said to David, Dread thou not; for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee, and thou shalt reign on Israel, and I shall be the second to thee; but also Saul my father knoweth this.

¹⁸ Therefore ever either smote bond of peace before the Lord. And David dwelled in the wood; and Jonathan turned again into his house.

¹⁹ Certainly men of Ziph went up to Saul in Gibeah, and said, Lo! whether not David is hid with us in the full secure places in the thick woods, in the hill of Hachilah, that is at the right side of desert?

²⁰ Now therefore come thou down, as thy soul desired, that thou shouldest come down; forsooth it shall be our *doing*, that we betake him into the hands of the king.

²¹ And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the Lord, for ye [*have*] sorrowed for my stead or for my while.

²² Therefore, I pray *you*, go ye, and make ready more diligently, and do ye more curiously, *either attentively*, and behold ye swiftly, where his foot is, either who saw him there, where ye said; for he thinketh on me, that fellily *or slyly* I ambush him.

23 Behold ye, and see all his hiding places, in which he is hid, and then turn ye again to me at a certain thing, that I go with you; that if he encloseth himself yea in *[the]* earth, I shall seek him with all the thousands of Judah.

24 And they rose up, and went into Ziph before Saul. And David and his men were in the desert of Maon, in the field places, at the right half of Jeshimon.

25 Therefore Saul went and his fellows to seek David, and it was told to David; and anon he went down to the stone, and lived in the desert of Maon; and when Saul had heard this, he pursued David in the desert of Maon.

26 And Saul went and his men at the side of the hill on *[the]* one part; forsooth David and his men were in the side of the hill on the tother part; soothly David despaired, that he might *not* escape from the face of Saul. And so Saul and his men compassed by the manner of a crown *round about* David and his men, that they should take them.

27 And a messenger came to Saul, and said, Haste thou, and come, for the Philistines have spread themselves on the land.

28 Therefore Saul turned again, and ceased to pursue David; and went against the coming of Philistines. For this thing they called that place The Stone of Parting.

29 Therefore David went up from thence, and dwelled in the most secure places of Engedi.

CHAPTER 24

¹ And when Saul turned again, after that he pursued [*the*] Philistines, they told to him, and said, Lo! David is in the desert of Engedi.

² Therefore Saul took three thousand chosen men of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men, yea upon the most broken rocks, the which be thorough-ways [*or throughways*] to wild goats alone.

³ And he came to the folds of sheep, that offered themselves to the way-goer. And there was a cave, into which Saul entered, that he would purge his womb; forsooth David and his men were hid in the inner part of the den.

⁴ And the servants of David said to him, Lo! the day of which the Lord spake to thee, I shall betake to thee thine enemy, that thou do to him as it pleaseth in thine eyes. Therefore David rose up, and cutted the hem of the mantle of Saul privily.

⁵ After these things, David smote his heart, *that is, his conscience reproved him*, for he had cut away the hem of the mantle of Saul.

⁶ And David said to his men, The Lord be merciful to me, lest I do this thing to my lord, the anointed of the Lord, or that I send mine hand on him, for he is the christ *or the anointed* of the Lord.

⁷ The Lord liveth, for but the Lord smite him, either his day come, that he die, either he go down into battle, and perish, the Lord be merciful to me, that I send not mine hand into the christ of the Lord; *and David brake his men by such words, and suffered not them, that they*

rised against Saul. And Saul rose out of the den, and went in the way begun.

⁸ And David rose up after him, and he went out of the den, and cried after the back of Saul, and said, My lord, the king! And Saul beheld behind himself; and David bowed him-self low to the earth, and worshipped him.

⁹ And David said to Saul, Why hearest thou the words of men speak-ing, David seeketh evil against thee?

¹⁰ Lo! today thine eyes saw, that the Lord betook thee in mine hand in the den, and I thought that I would slay thee, but mine eye spared thee; for I said, I shall not hold forth mine hand into my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.

¹¹ But rather, my father, see thou, and know the hem of thy mantle in mine hand; for when I cutted away the hem off thy mantle, I would not hold forth mine hand against thee; perceive thou, and see, for neither evil neither wickedness is in mine hand, neither I have sinned against thee; but thou ambushest my life, that thou do it away.

¹² The Lord deem betwixt me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee; but mine hand be not against thee,

¹³ as it is said in [*the*] eld [*or old*] proverb, Wickedness shall go out of wicked men; therefore mine hand be not against thee.

¹⁴ Whom pursuest thou, king of Israel, whom pursuest thou? Thou pursuest a dead hound, and a quick flea.

¹⁵ The Lord be judge, and the Lord deem betwixt me and thee, and see, and deem my cause, and deliver me from thine hand.

¹⁶ And when David had filled, *or ended*, speaking such manner words to Saul, Saul said, Whether this is thy voice, my son David? And Saul raised up his voice, and wept.

¹⁷ And he said to David, Thou art more just [*or rightwise*] than I; for thou gavest good things to me; but I have yielded evils [*or evil things*] to thee.

¹⁸ And thou hast showed to me today, what goods [*or good things*] thou hast done to me, how the Lord betook me in thine hand, and thou killedest not me.

¹⁹ For who, when he findeth his enemy, shall deliver him into good way? But the Lord yield to thee this while, for that, thou hast wrought today in me.

²⁰ And now, for I know, that thou shalt reign most certainly, and shalt have in thine hand the realm of Israel,

²¹ swear thou to me in the Lord, that thou do not away my seed after me, neither take away my name from the house of my father.

²² And David swore to Saul. There-fore Saul went into his house, and David and his men went up to secure places.

CHAPTER 25

¹ Forsooth Samuel was dead; and all Israel was gathered together, and they bewailed him greatly, and buried him in his house in Ramah.

And David rose up, and went down into the desert of Paran.

² And in Maon there was a man, and his possession was in Carmel; and that man was full great, and there were to him three thousand sheep, and a thousand of goats; and it befelled that his flock was shorn in Carmel.

³ And the name of that man was Nabal, and the name of his wife was Abigail; and that woman was most prudent and fair; but her husband was hard and full wicked and malicious; and he was of the kin of Caleb.

⁴ Therefore when David had heard in desert, that Nabal clipped his flock,

⁵ he sent ten young men, and said to them, Go ye up into Carmel, and ye shall come to Nabal, and ye shall greet him of *[or in]* my name peaceably;

⁶ and ye shall say thus, Peace be to my brethren and to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be to all things, whatever thou hast.

⁷ I have heard that thy shepherds, that were with us in desert, have shorn thy flocks; we were never dis-easeful to them, neither any time anything of the flock failed to them, in all the time in which they were with us in Carmel;

⁸ ask thy children, and they shall show to thee. Now therefore thy children find grace in thine eyes; for in a good day we come to thee; whatever thing thine hand findeth, give *it* to thy servants, and to thy son David.

⁹ And when the children of David had come, they spake to Nabal all these words in the name of David, and held [*their*] peace.

¹⁰ Forsooth Nabal answered to the children of David, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? Today servants [*have*] increased that flee their lords.

¹¹ Therefore shall I take my loaves, and my waters, and the flesh of beasts, which I have slain to my shearers, and shall I give to men, that I know not of whence they be?

¹² Therefore the children of David went again by their way; and they turned again, and came, and told to him all words which Nabal had said.

¹³ Then David said to his children, Each man be gird with his sword. And all men were girded with their swords, and David also was girded with his sword; and as four hundred men pursued [*or followed*] David, for two hundred *were* left at the fardels.

¹⁴ And one of the children told to Abigail, the wife of Nabal, and said, Lo! David sent messengers from desert, that they should bless our lord, and he turned them away;

¹⁵ these men were good enough, and not disagreeful to us, and nothing of ours perished in all the time in which we were with them in desert;

¹⁶ they were to us for a wall, both in night and day, in all the days in which we pastured flocks with them.

¹⁷ Wherefore behold thou, and think, what thou shalt do; for malice is full-filled against thine husband, and against thine house; and he

is the son of Belial, so that no man may speak *sense* to him.

¹⁸ Therefore Abigail hasted, and took two hundred loaves, and two vessels of wine, and five wethers sodden, and seven bushels and an half of flour, and an hundred bundles of dried grapes, *or raisins*, and two hundred pieces of dried figs; and she put *all this* upon asses,

¹⁹ and said to her children, Go ye before me; lo! I shall pursue [*or follow*] you behind your back. And she showed not *this* to her husband Nabal.

²⁰ Therefore when she had gone upon an ass, and came down to the foot of the hill, David and his men came down into her coming; the which she met.

²¹ And David *had just* said, Verily in vain I have kept all these things that were of this Nabal in the desert, and nothing perished of all things that pertained to him, and he hath yielded to me evil for good.

²² The Lord do these things, and add he these things to the enemies of David, if I shall leave *undestroyed* of all things that pertain to him till tomorrow, *yea, even a pissor* to a wall.

²³ And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and went down off the ass; and she fell down before David on her face, and worshipped *him* on the earth.

²⁴ And she felled down to his feet, and said, My lord the king, this wicked-ness be in me; I beseech thee, speak thine handmaid in thine ears, and hear thou the words of thy servantess;

²⁵ I pray, my lord the king, set not his heart on this wicked man Nabal, for by his name he

is a fool, and folly is with him; but, my lord, I thine handmaid saw not thy children, which thou sentest.

²⁶ Now therefore, my lord, the Lord liveth, and thy soul liveth, the which Lord hath forbidden thee, that thou shouldest come into blood, and the Lord saved thy life to thee; and now thine enemies, and they that seek evil to thee my lord, be they made as Nabal.

²⁷ Wherefore receive thou this blessing, *or gift*, which thine handmaid [*hath*] brought to thee, my lord, and give *it* to the children that pursue [*or follow*] thee, my lord.

²⁸ Do thou away the wickedness of thy servant-ess; for the Lord making shall make a faithful house to thee, my lord, for thou, my lord, fighest the battles of the Lord; therefore malice be not found in thee in all the days of thy life.

²⁹ For if a man riseth any time, and pursueth thee, and seeketh thy life, the life of my lord shall be kept as in a bundle of living *trees*, at thy Lord God; but the soul of thine enemies shall be hurled round about as in [*the*] fierceness, and [*the*] circle of a sling.

³⁰ Therefore when the Lord hath done to thee, my lord, all these good things, which he hath spoken of thee, and hath ordained thee duke upon Israel,

³¹ this shall not be into sighing, *that is, into mourning of soul, and into remorse of conscience*, and into doubt of heart to thee, my lord, that thou hast shed out guiltless blood, either that thou hast avenged thyself. And when the Lord

hath done well to thee, my lord, thou shalt have mind on thine handmaid, and thou shalt do well to her.

³² And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that sent thee today into my coming,

³³ and blessed be thy speech; and blessed be thou, that hast forbade me, lest I went *today* to *shed* blood, and had avenged me with mine hand;

³⁴ else the Lord God of Israel liveth, which forbade me, lest I did evil to thee, if thou haddest not soon come into meeting to me, a pissur to the wall should not have *been* left to Nabal till to the morrow light.

³⁵ Therefore David received of her hand all things which she had brought to him; and he said to her, Go thou in peace into thine house; lo! I have heard thy voice, and I honoured thy face.

³⁶ Forsooth Abigail came to Nabal; and lo! a feast was to him in his house, as the feast of a king; and the heart of Nabal was merry, certainly he was full drunken; and she showed not to him a word, little or great, till the morrow.

³⁷ But in the morrowtide, when Nabal had voided the wine, his wife showed to him all these words; and his heart was almost dead within, and he was made as a stone.

³⁸ And when ten days had passed, the Lord smote Nabal, and he was dead.

³⁹ The which thing when David had heard, Nabal *to be* dead, he said, Blessed be the Lord God, that hath avenged the cause of my shame of the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant

from evil, and the Lord hath yielded the malice of Nabal into the head of him. Therefore David sent, and spake to Abigail, that he would take her *as a* wife to him.

⁴⁰ And the children of David came to Abigail into Carmel, and spake to her, and said, David sent us to thee, that he take thee into wife to him.

⁴¹ And she rose up, and worshipped low to the earth, and said, Lo! thy servantess be into an handmaid, that she wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

⁴² And Abigail hasted, and rose, and ascended or went upon an ass; and five damsels, pursuers [*or followers*] of her feet, went with her, and she followed the messengers of David, and was made [*a*] wife to him.

⁴³ But also David took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and ever either was wife to him;

⁴⁴ and Saul gave Michal his daughter, [*the*] wife of David, to Phalti, the son of Laish, that was of Gallim.

CHAPTER 26

¹ And Ziphites came to Saul into Gibeah, and said, Lo! David is hid in the hill of Hachilah, which is even against the wilderness.

² And Saul rose up, and went down into the desert of Ziph, and with him three thousand of men of the chosen of Israel, that he should seek David in the desert of Ziph.

³ And Saul setted his tents in the hill of Hachilah, that was even against the wilderness, in the way. And David dwelled in the desert.

Forsooth David saw that Saul had come after him into desert;

⁴ and David sent spyers [*or spies*], and learned most certainly, that Saul had come thither.

⁵ And David rose up privily, and came to the place where Saul was. And when David had seen the place, wherein Saul slept, and Abner, the son of Ner, the prince of his chivalry; and Saul sleeping in the tent, and the tother common people by his compass;

⁶ David said to Ahimelech, *the* Hittite, and to Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab, saying, Who shall go down with me to Saul into his tents? And Abishai said, I shall go down with thee.

⁷ Therefore David and Abishai came to the people in the night, and they found Saul lying and sleeping in the tent, and a spear set fast in the earth at his head; forsooth *they found* Abner and the people sleeping in his compass.

⁸ And Abishai said to David, God hath enclosed today thine enemy into thine hands; now therefore I shall pierce him with the spear once *through, and* into the earth, and no need shall be the second time.

⁹ And David said to Abishai, Slay thou not him, for who shall hold forth his hand into the christ *or the anointed* of the Lord, and shall be innocent?

¹⁰ And David said, The Lord liveth, for no but the Lord smite him, either his day come that he die, either he go down into battle, and perish;

¹¹ the Lord be merciful to me, that I hold not forth mine hand into the christ of the Lord; now

therefore take thou the spear, that is at his head, and the cup of water, and go we away.

¹² Then David took the spear, and the cup of water, that was at the head of Saul, and they went forth, and no man was that saw, and understood, and waked, but all men slept; for the sleep of the Lord had fallen [*up*] on them.

¹³ And when David had passed [*over*] even against, and had stood on the top of the hill afar, and a great space was betwixt them,

¹⁴ David cried to the people, and to Abner, the son of Ner, and said, Abner, whether thou wilt not answer? And Abner answered, and said, Who art thou, that criest, and dis-easest the king?

¹⁵ And David said to Abner, Whether thou art not a man, and what other man is like thee in Israel? why there-fore hast thou not kept thy lord the king? For one man of the company entered, that he should slay thy lord the king;

¹⁶ this that thou hast done, is not good; the Lord liveth, for ye be sons of death, that kept not your lord, the christ of the Lord. Now therefore see thou, where is the spear of the king, and where is the cup of water, that was at his head.

¹⁷ Forsooth Saul knew the voice of David, and said, Whether this voice is thine, my son David? And David said, My lord the king, it is my voice.

¹⁸ And David said, For what cause pursueth my lord his servant? What have I done, either what evil is in mine hand?

¹⁹ Now therefore, my lord the king, I pray, hear the words of thy servant; if the Lord stirreth thee against me, the sacrifice be smelled; forsooth if

[*the*] sons of men *stir thee*, they be cursed in the sight of the Lord, which have cast me out today, that I dwell not in the heritage of the Lord, and say, Go thou, serve thou alien gods.

²⁰ And now my blood be not shed out in the earth before the Lord; for the king of Israel hath gone out, that he seek a quick flea, as a partridge is pursued in hills.

²¹ And Saul said, I have sinned; turn thou again, my son David, for I shall no more do evil to thee, for my life was precious today in thine eyes; for it seemeth, that I have done follily, and I have unknown full many things.

²² And David answered and said, Lo! the spear of the king, one of the children of the king pass *over hither*, and take it;

²³ forsooth the Lord shall yield to each man after his rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*] and *his* faith; for the Lord betook thee today into mine hand, and I would not hold forth mine hand into the christ *or the anointed* of the Lord;

²⁴ and as thy life is magnified today in mine eyes, so my life be magnified in the eyes of the Lord, and deliver he me from all anguish.

²⁵ Therefore Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David; and soothly thou doing shalt do, and thou mighty shalt be mighty. Then David went forth into his way, and Saul turned again into his place.

CHAPTER 27

¹ And David said in his heart, Sometime I shall fall in one day in the hand of Saul; whether it is

not better, that I flee, and be saved in the land of Philistines, that Saul despair, and cease to seek me in all the ends of Israel; therefore flee we his hands.

² And David rose up, and went forth, he and six hundred men with him, to Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

³ And David dwelled with Achish in Gath, he, and his men, and his house; *that is*, David, and his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail, the wife of Nabal of Carmel.

⁴ And it was told to Saul, that David fled into Gath; and he added no more that he should seek David [*or he added no more for to seek him*].

⁵ Forsooth David said to Achish, If I have found grace in thine eyes, a place be given to me in one of the cities of this country, that I dwell there; for why dwelleth thy servant in the city of the king with thee?

⁶ Therefore Achish gave him Ziklag in that day, for the which cause Ziklag was made into *possession* of the kings of Judah unto this day.

⁷ And the number of days, in which David dwelled in the country of Philistines, was days, *that is a year*, and four months.

⁸ And David went up, and his men, and they took preys of Geshurites, and of Gezrites, and of men of Amalek; for these towns were inhabited by *eld* [*or old*] time in the land, to men going to Shur, unto the land of Egypt.

⁹ And David smote all the land of them, and he left not man nor woman living; and he took sheep, and oxen, and asses, and camels, and clothes, and turned again, and came to Achish.

¹⁰ And Achish said to him, Into whom hurled ye today?/Against whom have ye hurled today? And David answered, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of Jerahmeel, and against the south of Kenites.

¹¹ David left not quick man and woman, neither brought into Gath, and said, Lest peradventure they speak against us. David did these things, and this was his doom, in all [*the*] days in which he dwelled in the country of Philistines.

¹² Therefore Achish believed to David, and said, Certainly he hath wrought many evils against his people Israel, therefore he shall be a servant to me for evermore.

CHAPTER 28

¹ Forsooth it was done in those days, the Philistines gathered together their companies, that they should be made ready against Israel to battle. And Achish said to David, Thou witting know now, for thou shalt go out with me in tents, thou and thy men.

² And David said to Achish, Now thou shalt know what things thy servant shall do. And Achish said to David, And I shall set thee keeper of mine head in all days.

³ Forsooth Samuel was dead, and all Israel bewailed him, and they buried him in Ramah, his city. And Saul did away from the land witches and false diviners.

⁴ And Philistines were gathered, and came, and setted tents in Shunem; soothly and Saul gathered all Israel, and came into Gilboa.

⁵ And Saul saw the castles [*or tents*] of Philistines, and he dreaded, and his heart dreaded greatly.

⁶ And he counselled *with* the Lord; and the Lord answered not to him, neither by priests, nor by dreams, nor by prophets.

⁷ And Saul said to his servants, Seek ye to me a woman having a fiend speaking in the womb; and I shall go to her, and I shall inquire by her. And his servants said to him, A woman having a fiend speaking in the womb is in Endor.

⁸ Therefore Saul changed his clothing, and he was clothed with other clothes; and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman in the night. And he said, Divine thou to me in a fiend speaking in the womb, and raise thou up to me whom I shall say to thee.

⁹ And the woman said to him, Lo! thou knowest how great things Saul hath done, and how he hath done away from the land witches, and false diviners; why therefore settest thou treason to my life, that I be slain?

¹⁰ And Saul swore to her in the Lord, and said, The Lord liveth; for nothing of evil shall come to thee for this thing.

¹¹ And the woman said to him, Whom shall I raise up to thee? And he said, Raise thou Samuel up to me.

¹² Soothly when the woman had seen Samuel, she cried with [*a*] great voice, and said to Saul, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

¹³ And the king said to her, Do not thou dread; what hast thou seen? And the woman said to

Saul, I saw gods ascending or going up from *[the]* earth.

¹⁴ And Saul said to her, What manner form is of him? *[or What manner is the form of him?]* And she said, An eld *[or old]* man goeth up, and he is clothed with a mantle. And Saul understood that it was Samuel; and Saul bowed himself on his face to the earth, and worshipped.

¹⁵ And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou diseased me, that I should be raised? And Saul said, I am constrained greatly; for the Philistines fight against me, and God hath gone away from me, and he would not hear me, neither by the hand of prophets, nor by dreams; therefore I called thee, that thou shouldest show to me what I shall do.

¹⁶ And Samuel said, What askest thou me, when God hath gone away from thee, and hath passed to thine enemy?

¹⁷ For the Lord shall do to thee as he spake in mine hand, and he shall cut away thy realm from thine hand, and he shall give it to David, thy neighbour;

¹⁸ for thou obeyedest not the voice of the Lord, neither thou didest the fierce wrath of the Lord in Amalek. Therefore the Lord hath done to thee today that that thou sufferest;

¹⁹ and the Lord shall give also Israel with thee in the hand of Philistines. Forsooth tomorrow thou and thy sons shall be with me; but also the Lord shall betake the castles *[or tents]* of Israel in the hand of the Philistines.

²⁰ And anon Saul fell down and was stretched forth upon the earth; for he dreaded the words

of Samuel, and strength was not in him, for he had not eaten bread in all that day and all that night.

²¹ Therefore that woman entered to Saul, and said; for he was troubled greatly; and she said to him, Lo! thine handmaid hath obeyed to thy voice, and I have put my life in mine hand, and I heard thy words, which thou spakest to me.

²² And now therefore thou hear the voice of thine handmaid, and I shall set a morsel of bread before thee, and that thou eating wax strong, and mayest do thy journey.

²³ And he forsook it, and said, I shall not eat. But his servants and the woman compelled him; and at the last, when the voice of them was heard, he rose up from the earth, and sat on the bed.

²⁴ Soothly that woman had a fat calf in the house, and she hasted, and killed it; and she took meal, and meddled [*or mingled*] it together, and made therf bread;

²⁵ and she set forth before Saul, and before his servants, and when they had eaten, they rose up, and walked in all the night.

CHAPTER 29

¹ Therefore all the companies of the Philistines were gathered in Aphek, but also Israel setted tents above the well that was in Jezreel.

² And soothly the princes of the Philistines went in companies of an hundred, and in thousands; but David and his men were in the last company with Achish.

³ And the princes of Philistines said to Achish, What will *or desire* these Hebrews to *or for* themselves? And Achish said to the princes of Philistines, Whether ye know not David, that was the servant of Saul, king of Israel? and he was with me many days, either years, and I found not in him anything *of imagining to evil*, from the day in which he fled to me unto this day.

⁴ Certainly the princes of Philistines were wroth against Achish, and they said to him, The man turn again, and abide he in his place, in which thou hast ordained him, and come he not down with us into battle, lest he be made adversary to us, when we have begun to fight; for how may he please his lord in other manner, but in our heads?

⁵ Whether this is not David, to whom they sang in dances, and said, Saul smote in *[his]* thousands, and David smote in his ten thousands?

⁶ Therefore Achish called David, and said to him, The Lord liveth; for thou art rightful, and good in my sight, and thy going out and thy coming in is with me in *[the]* tents, and I have not found in thee anything of evil, from the day in which thou camest to me till to this day; but thou pleasest not the princes, *or satraps*.

⁷ Therefore turn thou again, and go in peace, and offend thou not the eyes of the princes, *or satraps*, of the Philistines.

⁸ And David said to Achish, And what have I done, and what hast thou found in me thy servant, from the day in which I was in thy sight

till into this day, that I come not, and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

⁹ And Achish answered, and spake to David, I know that thou art good, and as the angel of God in my eyes; but the princes of Philistines said, He shall not go up with us into battle.

¹⁰ Therefore rise thou up early, thou, and thy servants that came with thee; and when ye have risen by night, and it beginneth to be clear *day*, go ye forth.

¹¹ Therefore David rose up by night, he and his men, that they should go forth early, and turn again to the land of Philistines; but the Philistines went up into Jezreel.

CHAPTER 30

¹ And when David and his men had come into Ziklag in the third day, *they learned that* men of Amalek had made assault on the south part *of Judah*, in Ziklag; and *had* smitten Ziklag, and burnt it by fire.

² And they led *away* the women *as* prisoners from thence, from the least unto the most; and they had not slain any, but they led them forth with them, and went in their way.

³ Therefore when David and his men had come to the city, and had found it burnt with fire, and that their wives, and their sons, and daughters were led away *as* prisoners,

⁴ then David and the people that was with him raised [*up*] their voices, and wailed, till the tears failed in them.

⁵ And also [*the*] two wives of David were led away as prisoners, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail, the wife of Nabal of Carmel.

⁶ And David was full sorry; certainly all the people would have stoned David, for the soul of each man was bitter on their sons and daughters. Forsooth David was comforted in his Lord God.

⁷ And he said to Abiathar, the priest, the son of Ahimelech, Bring thou [*the*] ephod to me. And Abiathar brought the ephod to David;

⁸ and David counselled with the Lord, and said, Shall I pursue these thieves, either no? and shall I take them? And the Lord said to him, Pursue thou; for without doubt thou shalt take them, and thou shalt take away from them their prey.

⁹ Therefore David went forth, he and six hundred men that were with him, and they came unto the strand [*or stream*] of Besor; and *there* the weary men *of the host of David* abode behind.

¹⁰ Forsooth David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred abided *behind*, that were weary, and might not pass [*over*] the strand [*or stream*] of Besor.

¹¹ And they found a *young* man of Egypt in the field, and they brought him to David; and they gave him bread, that he should eat, and water to drink;

¹² but also *they gave to him* a gobbet of a bundle of dried figs, and two clusters of dried grapes. And when he had eaten those, his spirit turned again *to him*, and he was comforted; for he had not eaten bread, neither had drunk water in three days and three nights.

¹³ Then David said to him, Whose *man* art thou, either from whence and whither goest thou? And he said, I am a child of Egypt, the servant of a man of Amalek; but my lord forsook me, for I began to be sick the third day ago.

¹⁴ For we brake out at the south coast of Cherethites, and against Judah, and at the south of Caleb, and we burnt Ziklag with fire.

¹⁵ And David said to him, Mayest thou lead me to this company? Which said, Swear thou to me by God, that thou shalt not slay me, and that thou shalt not betake me into the hands of my lord; and I shall lead thee to this company. And David swore to him.

¹⁶ And when the child had led him *thither*, lo! they sat at the meat, upon the face of all the earth, eating and drinking, and as hallowing a feast day, for all the prey and spoils which they had taken of the land of Philistines, and of the land of Judah.

¹⁷ And David smote them from the eventide unto the eventide of the tother day, and not any of them escaped, no but four hundred young men, that went upon camels, and fled.

¹⁸ Forsooth David delivered all things which the men of Amalek took, and he delivered his two wives;

¹⁹ neither any of them failed, from little till to great, as well of sons as of daughters, and of spoils; and what-ever things they had ravished, David led again all things;

²⁰ and he took all the flocks and great beasts, and drove them before his face. And they said, This is the prey of David.

²¹ Forsooth David came to the two hundred men, that were weary, and abided behind, and might not follow David; and he [*had*] commanded them to sit at the strand [*or stream*] of Besor; which went out against David, and the people that was with him. Forsooth David nighed to the people, and he greeted it peaceably.

²² And one man, the worst and unjust [*or wicked*] of the men that were with David, answered, and said, For they came not with us, we shall not give to them anything of the prey, that we have ravished, but suffice it to each man his wife and his children; and when they have taken them, go they away.

²³ And David said, My brethren, ye shall not do so, *as ye speak*, of these things, which the Lord hath given to us, and he hath kept us, and gave the thieves, that brake out against us, into our hands;

²⁴ neither any shall hear us *strive* on this word. For even part shall be of him that goeth down to battle, and of him that dwelleth at the fardels; and in like manner they shall part *the prey*.

²⁵ And this was made a constitution and a doom from that day and after-ward, and as a law in Israel till into this day.

²⁶ Then David came into Ziklag, and he sent gifts of the prey to the elder men of Judah, his neighbours, and said, Take ye blessing of the prey of [*the*] enemies of the Lord;

²⁷ to them that were in Bethel, and that were in Ramoth, at the south, and that were in Jattir,

²⁸ and that were in Aroer, and that were in Siphmoth, and that were in Eshtemoa,

²⁹ and that were in Rachal, and that were in the cities of Jerahmeel, and that were in the cities of Kenites,

³⁰ and that were in Hormah, and that were in Chorashan, and that were in Athach,

³¹ and that were in Hebron, and to other men, that were in these places, in which David dwelled and his men.

CHAPTER 31

¹ Forsooth the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the face of Philistines, and they fell down slain in the hill of Gilboa.

² And the Philistines hurled fiercely into Saul, and into his sons, and they killed Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, [*the*] sons of Saul.

³ And all the weight or charge of the battle was turned against Saul; and men archers pursued him, and he was wounded greatly of the archers.

⁴ And Saul said to his squire, Draw out thy sword, and slay me, lest per-adventure these uncircumcised men come, and slay me, and scorn me. And his squire would not, for he was afeared by full great dread; therefore Saul took his sword, and felled thereon.

⁵ And when his squire had seen this, that Saul was dead, also he felled upon his sword, and was dead with him.

⁶ And so Saul was dead, and his three sons, and his squire, and all his men in that day together.

⁷ And the sons of Israel, that were beyond the valley, and beyond Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled, and that Saul was dead, and his sons, and they left their cities, and fled; and the Philistines came, and dwelled there.

⁸ Forsooth in the tother day made, Philistines came, that they should despoil the slain men, and they found Saul, and his three sons, lying in the hill of Gilboa;

⁹ and they cutted away the head of Saul, and despoiled him of his armours [*or arms*]; and sent into the land of Philistines by compass, that it should be told in the temple of idols, and in the peoples.

¹⁰ And they putted his armours [*or arms*] in the temple of Ashtarothe; but they hanged his body in the wall of Bethshan.

¹¹ And when the dwellers of Jabesh of Gilead had heard this, and whatever things the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² and all the strongest men rose, and went forth all that night, and they took *down* the dead body of Saul, and the dead bodies of his sons, from the wall of Bethshan; and the men of Jabesh of Gilead came, and burnt those *dead bodies* with fire.

¹³ And they took the bones of them, and buried them in the wood of Jabesh, and fasted by seven days.

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling English: Wycliffe's Bible Modern Spelling (with Deuterocanon)

Copyright © 2001,2010,2011,2012,2013,2015 Terry Noble

Language: English

Dialect: Archaic

Translation by: Terry Noble

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivatives license 4.0.

You may share and redistribute this Bible translation or extracts from it in any format, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

You do not sell this work for a profit.

You do not change any of the words or punctuation of the Scriptures. Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

2019-09-26

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 18 Apr 2025 from source files dated 10 Feb 2022

fa03c333-4040-5dde-87a8-77f6fa6fbb72