

2ND SAMUEL

¹ And it was done, after that Saul was dead, that David turned again from the slaying of Amalek, and he dwelled two days in Ziklag. *(And it was done, after Saul died, that David returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and he stayed in Ziklag for two days.)*

² And in the third day a man appeared, coming from the tents of Saul with a cloth rent, and his head sprinkled with dust; and as he came to David, he felled upon his face, and worshipped him. *(And on the third day a man appeared, coming from Saul's camp with a torn cloak, and his head sprinkled with dirt, or with earth; and when he came to David, he fell on his face, and honoured him.)*

³ And David said to him, From whence comest thou? And he said to David, I fled from the tents of Israel.

⁴ And David said to him, What is the word that is done there; show thou to me, *(or What happened there; tell thou to me)*. And he said, The people of Israel hath fled from the battle, and many of the people felled *(by the sword)*, and be dead; but also Saul, and Jonathan, his son, have perished.

⁵ And David said to the young man, that told to him, Whereof knowest thou, that Saul is dead, and Jonathan, his son? *(And David said to the young man, who told him this, How knowest thou that Saul, and his son Jonathan, be dead?)*

⁶ And the young man said, that told to him, By hap I came into the hill of Gilboa, and Saul leaned upon his spear; and chariots and horsemen nighed to him; *(And the young man, who told him this, said, By happenstance I was on Mount Gilboa, and Saul was leaning on his spear; and the chariots and the horsemen came towards him;)*

⁷ and he turned behind his back, and saw me, and called. To whom when I had answered, I am present; *(and he looked behind his back, and saw me, and called to me. To whom when I had answered, I am here;)*

⁸ he said to me, Who art thou? And I said to him, I am a man of Amalek.

⁹ And he spake to me, *(and said),* Stand thou upon me, and slay me *(or and kill me)*; for anguishes hold me, and yet all my life is in me.

¹⁰ And *(so)* I stood upon him, and I slew him; for I knew that he might not live after the falling *(or for I knew that he could not live as soon as he fell)*; and I took the diadem, that was on his head, and the band from his arm, and I have brought them hither to thee, my lord.

¹¹ Forsooth David took and rent his clothes, and *(likewise)[all]* the men that were with him;

¹² and they wailed, and wept, and fasted till to eventide, on Saul, and Jonathan, his son, and on the people of the Lord, and on the house of Israel, for they had felled by sword. *(and they wailed, and wept, and fasted until evening, for Saul, and for Jonathan, his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.)*

13 And David said to the young man, that told to him, Of whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a man comeling, of a man of Amalek. *(And David said to the young man, who told him the news, Where art thou from? And he answered, I am the son of a newcomer, or of a foreigner, I am an Amalekite.)*

14 And David said to him, Why darest thou not to send thine hand, that thou shouldest slay the christ of the Lord? *(And David said to him, Why fearest thou not, to put forth thy hand to kill the Lord's anointed?)*

15 And David called one of his young men, and said, Go thou, and fall on him. And he smote that young man, and he was dead, *(or And he struck that young man, and he died).*

16 And David said to him, Thy blood be on thine head; for thy mouth spake against thee, and said, I killed the christ of the Lord/I killed the anointed of the Lord.

17 Forsooth David bewailed such a wailing on Saul, and on Jonathan, his son; *(And David bewailed this wailing, or this lament, for Saul, and for his son Jonathan;)*

18 and he commanded, that they should teach the sons of Judah the bow, *that is, the craft of shooting*, as it is written in the Book of Just Men. *(and he commanded, that they should teach the sons of Judah the use of the bow, that is, the craft of shooting arrows, as it is written in the Book of Jasher.)*

19 And *(so)* David said, Israel, behold thou, for these that be dead, be wounded on thine high

places; the noble men of Israel be slain upon thine hills. How have fallen *[the]* strong men? *(or How the strong have fallen!)*

²⁰ do not ye tell *this* in Gath, neither tell ye *(it)* in the way-lots of Askelon; lest peradventure the daughters of Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of uncircumcised men joy.

²¹ Hills of Gilboa, neither dew, neither rain come upon you, neither be they the fields of first fruits *(nor be ye the fields of the first fruits)*; for the shield of *(the)* strong men was cast away there, the shield of Saul, as if he had not been anointed with oil.

²² Of the blood of slain men, of the fatness of strong men, the arrow of Jonathan went never aback, and the sword of Saul turned not again void.

²³ Saul and Jonathan, amiable, and fair in their life, were not parted also in their death; *they were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions. (Saul and Jonathan were so loved, and delightful, in their lives, and were not separated in their deaths; they were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.)*

²⁴ Daughters of Israel, weep ye on Saul, that clothed you with fine red, and in *(other)* delights, that gave golden ornaments to your attire. *(Daughters of Israel, weep ye for Saul, who clothed you in fine red, and in other delights, who gave gold ornaments for your attire.)*

²⁵ How have strong men fallen down in battle? Jonathan was slain in the high places. *(How the*

strong have fallen in battle! Jonathan was killed on the hills.)

²⁶ I make sorrow upon thee, my brother Jonathan, full fair and amiable more than the love of women; as a mother loveth her only son, so I loved thee. *(I have sorrow for thee, my brother Jonathan, so delightful, and whose love for me was more than even the love of women; like a mother loveth her only son, so I loved thee.)*

²⁷ How therefore felled down strong men, and armours of battle perished? *(How the strong have fallen, and the arms, or the weapons, of battle have perished!)*

CHAPTER 2

¹ Therefore after these things David counselled with the Lord, and said, Whether I shall go up into one of the cities of Judah? *(or And after these things David counselled with the Lord, and said, Shall I go up into one of the cities of Judah?)* And the Lord said to him, Go thou up. And David said to the Lord, Whither shall I go up? And the Lord answered to him, Into Hebron.

² Therefore David went up, and his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail, the wife of Nabal of Carmel.

³ But also David led the men that were with him, each man with his house(*hold*)(*or each man with his family*); and they dwelled in the towns of Hebron.

⁴ And the men of Judah came, and anointed there David, that he should reign upon the house of Judah, *(or And the men of Judah came, and*

there they anointed David to reign upon the house of Judah). And it was told to David, that *[the]* men of Jabesh of Gilead had buried Saul.

⁵ Therefore David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh of Gilead, and said to them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, that did this mercy with your lord Saul, and buried him. *(And so David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh of Gilead, and said to them, May the Lord bless you, who have shown this kindness to your lord Saul, and have buried him.)*

⁶ And now soothly the Lord shall yield to you mercy and truth, but also I shall yield thanking, for ye did this word. *(And now surely the Lord shall show truth and kindness to you, and I shall also give you thanks, for ye did this thing.)*

⁷ Your hands be comforted, and be ye the sons of strength; for though your lord Saul is dead, nevertheless the house of Judah hath anointed me king to him. *(May your hands be strengthened, and may ye be the sons of strength; for though your lord Saul is dead, nevertheless the house of Judah hath anointed me king upon them.)*

⁸ Forsooth Abner, the son of Ner, prince of the host of Saul, took Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, and led him about by the castles, *(Then Abner, the son of Ner, the leader of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim,)*

⁹ and made him king on Gilead, and on Ashurites, and on Jezreel, and on Ephraim, and on Benjamin, and on all Israel.

¹⁰ Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, was of forty years, when he began to reign upon Israel; and he reigned two years. Soothly the house alone of Judah followed David. (*Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, was forty years old when he began to reign upon Israel; and he reigned for two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.*)

¹¹ And the number of days, by which David dwelled reigning in Hebron on the house of Judah, was of seven years and six months.

¹² And Abner, the son of Ner, went out, and the servants of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, from the castles in[to] Gibeon. (*And Abner, the son of Ner, and the men of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.*)

¹³ And Joab, the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and they came to them beside the cistern of Gibeon. And when they had come together into one place even against either *other*, these sat on one part of the cistern, and they on the tother. (And Joab, the son of Zeruiah, and David's men, went out, and they came to them beside the pool of Gibeon. And when they had come together at a place opposite each *other*, those men sat on one side of the pool,

and they sat on the other side.)

¹⁴ And Abner said to Joab, The children rise, and play before us*, (*or And Abner said to Joab,*

* **CHAPTER 2:14** That is, 'show their strength and nobility'; and here 'play' is set for 'slay' either 'fight'.

Let the young men rise up, and slay, or kill, each other). And Joab answered, Rise they up.

¹⁵ Then they rose up, and passed forth twelve in number of Benjamin, of the part of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul; and twelve of the servants of David. *(Then they rose up, and came forth twelve in number for Benjamin, on the part of Ishbosheth, Saul's son; and twelve of David's men.)*

¹⁶ And each man, when he had taken his fellow by the head, fixed his sword into the side of his adversary; and they felled down together. And (so) the name of that place was called The Field of Men Slain Together, *(which is)* in Gibeon.

¹⁷ And full hard battle rose in that day; and Abner and the sons of Israel were driven *(away)* of the servants of David. *(And a hard fought battle arose that day; and Abner and the men of Israel were driven back by David's men.)*

¹⁸ Forsooth *(the)* three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel; and Asahel was a full swift runner, as one of the caprets that dwell in woods *(or like one of the gazelles that live in the forest).*

¹⁹ And Asahel pursued Abner, and he bowed neither to the right side, nor to the left side, ceasing to pursue Abner.

²⁰ Therefore Abner beheld behind his back, and said, Whether thou art Asahel? Which answered, I am.

²¹ And Abner said to him, Go thou to the right side, either to the left side; and take *(down)* one of the young men, and take to thee his spoils. But

Asahel would not cease, that not he pursued him, (or *But Asahel would not cease from pursuing Abner*).

²² And again Abner spake to Asahel, (*and said*), Go thou away; do not thou pursue me, lest I be compelled to pierce thee into the earth, and I shall not be able to raise then my face to Joab, thy brother. (*And again Abner said to Asahel, Go thou away; do not thou pursue me, lest I be compelled to pierce thee through to the ground, and then I shall not be able to face thy brother Joab.*)

²³ And Asahel despised to hear, and would not bow away. Therefore Abner smote him with the spear turned away, *that is, turned against him*, in the share-bone, *that is, behind the maw*, in the fifth rib, under which be the members of life, and pierced [him] through, and he was dead in the same place; and all men that passed by the place, in which place Asahel felled down, and was dead, stood still. (*And Asahel despised to hear him, and would not turn away. And so Abner struck him with the spear turned against him, in the belly, at the fifth rib, under which be the members of life, and pierced him through, and he died there; and all those who came to the place, where Asahel fell down, and died, stopped and stood there, and gawked.*)

²⁴ And while Joab and Abishai pursued Abner fleeing, the sun went down; and they came to the little hill of a water conduit, that is even against the valley, and the way of desert in Gibeon. (*And while Joab and Abishai pursued after Abner, the sun went down; and they came to the hill of*

Ammah, that is opposite Giah, on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon.)

²⁵ And the sons of Benjamin were gathered to Abner, and they were gathered together into one company, and they stood in the height of an heap of earth *(or and they stood on the top of a hill).*

²⁶ And Abner cried to Joab, and said, Whether thy sword shall be fierce unto slaying? Whether thou knowest not, that despair is perilous? How long sayest thou not to the people, that it cease to pursue his brethren? *(or How long before thou sayest to thy people, that they should cease pursuing their kinsmen?)*

²⁷ And Joab said, The Lord liveth, for if thou haddest spoken *thus* early, the people pursuing his brother had gone away. *(And Joab said, As the Lord liveth, if thou haddest not spoken, the people would have continued pursuing their kinsmen until morning.)*

²⁸ And Joab sounded with a clarion, and all the host stood still; and they pursued no further Israel, neither began battle. *(And then Joab sounded with a trumpet, and all the army stood in place; and they no longer pursued the men of Israel, and the fighting ceased.)*

²⁹ And Abner and his men went *(from)* thence by the field places of Moab in all that night, and they passed *[over]* Jordan; and when all Bithron was compassed, they came to the castles. *(And Abner and his men went from there through the fields of Moab all that night, and then they crossed*

over the Jordan River; and when all Bithron had been traversed, they came to Mahanaim.)

³⁰ And when Abner was left, Joab turned again, and gathered together all his people; and ten men and nine, besides Asahel, failed of the servants of David. *(And when Joab left off pursuing Abner, he returned, and gathered together all his people; and he found that nineteen of David's men, besides Asahel, were missing.)*

³¹ Forsooth the servants of David smited of Benjamin, and of the men that were with Abner, three hundred men and sixty, which also were dead. *(But David's men struck and killed three hundred and sixty of the Benjaminites, and of Abner's men.)*

³² And they took Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father in Bethlehem. And Joab, and the men that were with him, went in all that night, and in that morrowtide they came into Hebron *(or and in the morning they came to Hebron).*

CHAPTER 3

¹ Therefore a long strife was made betwixt the house of David and the house of Saul; and David profited and ever[*more*] was stronger than himself, *in comparison of time passed, for his power increased ever, but the house of Saul decreased each day. (And so for a long time there was strife between the house of David and the house of Saul; and David grew in strength, that is, as more time that passed, the more his*

power increased, but the house of Saul grew ever weaker.)

² And sons were born to David in Hebron; and his first begotten son was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

³ and after him was Chileab, of Abigail, the wife of Nabal of Carmel; and the third was Absalom, the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur;

⁴ and the fourth was Adonijah, the son of Haggith; and the fifth was Shephatiah, the son of Abital;

⁵ and the sixth was Ithream, of Eglah, the wife of David. These (*sons*) were born to David in Hebron.

⁶ Therefore when battle was betwixt the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner, the son of Ner, governed the house of Saul.

⁷ And to Saul was a concubine, *that is, a secondary wife*, Rizpah by name, the daughter of Aiah; and Abner entered [*in*] to her. And Ishbosheth said to Abner, Why hast thou entered [*in*] to the concubine of my father?

⁸ And Abner was wroth greatly for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, Whether I am the head of a dog against Judah today, and I have done mercy on the house of Saul, thy father, and on his brethren, and neighbours, and I betook not thee into the hands of David, and (*yet*) thou hast sought in me that, that thou shouldest reprove for a woman today? (*And Abner was greatly angered by Ishbosheth's words, and said, Am I the head of a dog, that is, a traitor, and do I serve Judah today? have I not shown mercy, or*

loyalty, to the house of Saul, thy father; and to his brothers, and to his neighbours? I did not deliver thee into the hands of David, and yet today thou hast sought that for which thou wouldest reprove me for; yea, for but a woman!)

⁹ God do these things to Abner, and add these things to him, no but as the Lord swore to David, so I do with him (*or so I shall do for him*),

¹⁰ that the realm be translated from the house of Saul (*or that the kingdom be transferred from the house of Saul*), and (*that*) the throne of David be raised on Israel and on Judah, from Dan till to Beersheba.

¹¹ And Ishbosheth might not answer anything to Abner, for he dreaded Abner (*or for he feared Abner*).

¹² Therefore Abner sent messengers to David, and they said for him, Whose is the land? and that the messengers should (*also*) speak *thus*, Make thou friendships with me, and mine hand shall be with thee, and I shall bring (*over*) all Israel to thee.

¹³ And David said, Best, I shall make friendships with thee; but I ask of thee one thing, and say, Thou shalt not see my face, before that thou bring Michal, the daughter of Saul, and so thou shalt come, and shalt see me. (*And David answered, Very well, I shall be friends with thee; but I require one thing from thee, and that is, that thou shalt not see my face, until thou bring Saul's daughter Michal to me; only then shalt thou come, and see me.*)

14 Therefore David sent messengers to Ishbosheth (*or And David also sent messengers to Ishbosheth*), the son of Saul, and said, Yield thou my wife Michal, whom I espoused to me for an hundred prepuces of Philistines.

15 Therefore Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, Phaltiel, the son of Laish; (*And so Ishbosheth sent some men, and took her away from her husband, Phaltiel, the son of Laish;*)

16 and her husband followed her, and wept till to Bahurim. And Abner said to him, Go thou, and turn again; and he turned again. (*and her husband followed her, and wept all the way to Bahurim. But Abner said to him, Go thou back home! and so he went home.*)

17 Also Abner brought in a word to the elder men of Israel, and said, Both yesterday and the third day ago ye sought David, that he should reign upon you.

18 Now therefore do ye; for the Lord spake to David, and said, In the hand of my servant David I shall save my people Israel from the hand of Philistines, and of all his enemies. (*And so now do ye it; for the Lord spoke to David, and said, By my servant David I shall save my people Israel from the hands of the Philistines, and from all their enemies.*)

19 And also Abner spake to Benjamin; and he went, that he should speak to David, in Hebron, (*of*) all things that pleased Israel and all Benjamin. (*And Abner also spoke to the Benjaminites; and then he went to speak to David*

in Hebron, about all that the Israelites and the Benjaminites had agreed to do.)

²⁰ And he came to David, in Hebron, with twenty men. And David made a feast to Abner, and to the men that came with him, *(or And David made a feast for Abner, and the men who came with him).*

²¹ And Abner said to David, I shall rise up, that I gather all Israel to thee, my lord the king, and that I make *(a)* bond of peace with thee, and that thou reign on all, as thy soul desireth. Therefore when David had led forth Abner, and he had gone in peace, *(And Abner said to David, I shall rise up, and gather all Israel to thee, my lord the king, and they shall make a covenant with thee, and thou shalt reign upon all of them, as thy soul desireth. And after David had let Abner go away, with a guarantee of surety, or of safety,)*

²² anon the servants of David and Joab came with a full great prey, when the thieves were slain; and Abner was not then with David, in Hebron, for David had let him go, and he went forth in peace. *(shortly thereafter David's men and Joab came back from a raid, with a great deal of prey; and Abner was then not with David, in Hebron, for David had let him go away, with a guarantee of safety.)*

²³ And Joab, and the hosts that were with him, came afterward; therefore it was told to Joab of tellers, *(saying)*, Abner, the son of Ner, came to the king, and the king let go him, and he went forth in peace. *(And so Joab, and the men who were with him, came shortly thereafter; and*

people said to Joab, Abner, the son of Ner, came to the king, and the king let him go away, with a guarantee of safety.)

²⁴ And Joab entered to the king, and said, What hast thou done? Lo! Abner came to thee; why lettest go thou him *(or why hast thou let him go)*, and he went, and departed from thee?

²⁵ Knowest thou not *(that)* Abner, the son of Ner, for hereto he came to thee, that he should deceive thee, and that he should know thy going out and thine entering, and should know all things which thou doest? *(Thou must know that Abner, the son of Ner, came to thee so that he could deceive thee, and learn thy going out and thy coming in, and so know all the things that thou doest.)*

²⁶ Therefore Joab went out from David, and sent messengers after Abner; and led him again from the cistern of Sirah *(or and they brought him back from the Well of Sirah)*, while David knew not.

²⁷ And when Abner had come again into Hebron, Joab led him asides half to the middle of the gate, *(as if)* that he should speak to him in guile; and he smote Abner there in the share-bone, and he was dead, into vengeance of the blood of his brother Asahel, *(or and Joab struck, or stabbed, Abner in the belly, and he died there, in revenge for killing Joab's brother Asahel)*.

²⁸ That when David had heard this thing done, he said, I am clean, and my realm, with God into without end from the blood of Abner, the son of Ner; *(And when David had heard that this*

thing was done, he said, I and my kingdom, be clean with God forevermore, of the blood, or of the murder; of Abner; the son of Ner;)

²⁹ and come it on the head of Joab, and upon all the house of his father; and fail there not from the house of Joab a man suffering flowing of seed, and a leprous man, (*and a man*) holding a spindle, and a man falling by sword, and (*a man*) having need to bread. (*yea, let it come upon Joab's head, and upon all his father's family; and let there never fail to be in the house of Joab a man suffering the flowing out of his seed, or a leprous man, or a man holding a spindle, or a man falling by the sword, or a man having need of bread.*)

³⁰ Therefore Joab, and Abishai, his brother, killed Abner; for he had slain Asahel, their brother, (*or for he had killed their brother Asahel*), in Gibeon, in battle.

³¹ And David said to Joab, and to all the people that was with him, Rend ye your clothes, and be ye gird with sackcloths, and bewail ye before the hearses, *either dirge*, of Abner. Forsooth king David followed the bier. (*And David said to Joab, and to all the people who were with him, Tear ye your clothes, and be ye gird with sackcloths, and bewail ye the dirge for Abner. And King David himself followed the bier.*)

³² And when they had buried Abner in Hebron, king David raised (*up*) his voice, and wept on the burial of Abner; and certainly all the people wept.

³³ And the king bewailed, and bemourned Abner, and said, Abner, thou diedest not as

dreadful men, *either cowards*, be wont to die, (or *Abner; thou hast not died like fearful men, or like cowards, be wont to die*).

³⁴ Thine hands were not bound, and thy feet were not grieved with stocks, but thou hast fallen down, as men be wont to fall before the sons of wickedness. And all the people doubled together, and wept on him. (*Thy hands were not bound, and thy feet were not put in the stocks, but thou hast fallen, like men be wont to fall before the sons of wickedness. And all the people wept again for him.*)

³⁵ And when all the multitude came to take meat with David, while the day was yet clear, David swore, and said, God do to me these things, and add these things too, if I shall taste bread, either any other thing, before the going down of the sun.

³⁶ And all the people heard *this*; and all things which the king did in the sight of all the people pleased them;

³⁷ and all the common people and all Israel knew in that day, that it was not done of the king (*or that it was not done by the king*), that Abner, the son of Ner, was slain.

³⁸ Also the king said to his servants, Whether ye know not, that the prince and the greatest (*man*) hath fallen down today in Israel?

³⁹ And I am yet tender, and anointed king; and these sons of Zeruiah be (*too*) hard to me; the Lord yield to him that doeth evil after his (*own*) malice. (*And I am yet weak, though anointed the king; and these sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me;*

may the Lord yield to him who doeth evil after his own malice.)

CHAPTER 4

¹ And Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, heard that Abner had fallen down in Hebron; and his hands were discomfited, and all Israel was troubled. *(And Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, heard that Abner had been killed in Hebron; and his hands were enfeebled, that is, he was afraid, and all Israel was troubled.)*

² And two men, princes of *(raiding)* companies, were to the son of Saul; name to the one was Baanah, and name to the tother was Rechab, the sons of Rimmon *(the)* Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin; for also Beeroth is areckoned in Benjamin. *(And two men, leaders of raiding parties, were officers for Saul's son; one was named Baanah, and the other was named Rechab; they were the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin, for Beeroth is reckoned as part of Benjamin.)*

³ And men of Beeroth fled into Gittaim; and they were comelings there till to that time. *(And the Beerothites had fled to Gittaim; and they had lived there until that time.)*

⁴ And a son feeble in *his* feet was to Jonathan, the son of Saul; and he was five years eld, when the messenger came from Saul and Jonathan, from Jezreel, *telling that they were dead, (or and he was five years old, when a message came from Jezreel about Saul and Jonathan, saying that they were dead).* Therefore his nurse took him, and fled; and when she hasted to flee, she felled

down, and *the child* was made lame; and the name of the child was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Therefore Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon of Beeroth, came, and entered in the hot (*of the*) day into the house of Ishbosheth, that slept upon his bed at midday; and the woman that kept the doors of the house, (*who had been*) purging wheat, (*now also*) slept fast. (*And so Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon of Beeroth, came, and in the heat of the day entered into Ishbosheth's house, while he slept on his bed at midday; and the woman who kept the doors of the house, had been purging wheat, but now she was also asleep.*)

⁶ And they came till to the midst of the house, and took wheat; and Rechab, and Baanah, his brother, smote Ishbosheth in the share-bone, and fled. (*And they came into the midst of the house, carrying wheat; and Rechab, and his brother Baanah, struck, or stabbed, Ishbosheth in the belly, and then fled.*)

⁷ Soothly when they had entered into the house, he slept on his bed in a (*bed-*)closet; and they smited and killed him; and when they had taken [*off*] his head, they went by the way of desert in all that night. (*Yea, when they entered into the house, he slept on his bed in the bed-chamber; and they struck, or stabbed, him and killed him; and when they had cut off his head, they left, and went by the way of the wilderness all that night.*)

⁸ And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David, in Hebron, and they said to the king, Lo!

the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, thine enemy, that sought thy life; and the Lord hath given today to our lord the king vengeance of Saul, and of his seed, *(or today the Lord hath avenged our lord the king upon Saul, and upon his descendants, or his family).*

⁹ And David answered to Rechab, and Baanah, his brother, the sons of Rimmon of Beeroth, and said to them, The Lord liveth, that hath delivered my life from all anguish, *(or As the Lord liveth, who hath delivered my life from all anguish);*

¹⁰ for I held him that told to me, and said, Saul is dead, which man guessed himself to tell prosperities, and I killed him in Ziklag, to whom *(he thought)* it behooved me *(to)* give meed for *(his)* message; *(for I took hold of him who told me, and said, Saul is dead, which man thought that he told good news, and I killed him in Ziklag, yea, he who thought it behooved me to give him a reward for his message;)*

¹¹ how much more now, when wicked men have slain a guiltless man in his house upon his bed, shall I not seek his blood of your hand, and shall not I do away you from the earth? *(how much more now, when you wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house on his own bed, will I not avenge his blood upon you, and shall I not do you away from the face of the earth?)*

¹² Therefore David commanded to his servants, and they killed them; and they cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them over the cistern in Hebron *(or and hung them up near the pool in Hebron).* Forsooth they took the head of

Ishbosheth, and they buried it in the sepulchre of Abner, in Hebron.

CHAPTER 5

¹ And all the lineages of Israel came to David, in Hebron, and said, Lo! we be thy bone and thy flesh. *(And all the tribes of Israel came to David, in Hebron, and said, Behold! we be thy flesh and blood.)*

² But also yesterday and the third day ago, when Saul was king upon us, thou leddest out, and leddest again Israel; forsooth the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be duke upon Israel. *(And yesterday and the third day ago, when Saul was king upon us, thou leddest out the people Israel, and leddest them in again; and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be the leader of Israel.)*

³ Also and the elder men of Israel came to the king, into Hebron; and king David smote with them *(a)* bond of peace in Hebron, before the Lord; and they anointed David into king upon Israel. *(And the elders of Israel came to the king in Hebron; and King David struck a covenant with them in Hebron, before the Lord; and they anointed David king upon Israel.)*

⁴ David was a son of thirty years, when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.(.)

⁵ in Hebron; he reigned upon Judah seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years upon all Israel and Judah. *(In Hebron, he reigned seven years and six*

months upon Judah; and in Jerusalem, he reigned thirty-three years upon all Israel and Judah.)

⁶ And the king went, and all *[the]* men that were with him, into Jerusalem, to Jebusites, the dweller(s) of the land. And it was said of them to David, Thou shalt not enter hither, no but thou do away blind men and lame, saying, David shall not enter hither. *(And the king, and all the men who were with him, went to Jerusalem, unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land. And they said to David, Thou shalt not come in here until thou do away all the blind and the crippled, that is to say, Thou, David, shalt never come in here.)*

⁷ Forsooth David took the tower of Zion; this is the city of David. *(But David captured the stronghold, or the fortress, of Zion; this is known as the City of David.)*

⁸ For David had purposed in that day to have given meed to him, that had smitten Jebusites, and that had touched the gutters of the house roofs, and that had taken away lame men and blind, hating the life of David. Therefore it is said in common speech, A blind man and a lame shall not enter into the temple. *(For David had put forth a reward that day, to anyone who struck down the Jebusites, yea, up to the gutters of the housetops, and who did away even the crippled and the blind, yea, any and all who hated the life of David. And so it is said in common speech, No one blind or crippled shall enter into the Temple.)*

⁹ And David dwelled in the tower, and called it the city of David; and he builded by compass from Millo, and within. *(And David lived in the*

stronghold, and called it the City of David; and he built all around from Millo, inwards.)

¹⁰ And he entered profiting, and increasing; and the Lord God of hosts was with him.

¹¹ Also Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and craftsmen of wood, and craftsmen of stones to *(make)* walls; and they builded the house of David.

¹² And David knew, that the Lord had confirmed him king upon Israel, and that he had enhanced his realm upon his people Israel *(or and that he had raised up his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel)*.

¹³ Therefore David took yet *(more)* concubines, and wives of *(the inhabitants of)* Jerusalem, after that he came from Hebron; and also other sons and daughters were born to David.

¹⁴ And these be the names of them that were born to him in Jerusalem; Shammuah, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

¹⁵ and Ibhar, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

¹⁶ and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

¹⁷ Then the Philistines heard, that they had anointed David king upon Israel, and all the *Philistines* went up to seek David. And when David had heard this, he went down into a stronghold.

¹⁸ And the Philistines came, and they were spread abroad in the valley of Rephaim. *(And the Philistines came, and they were spread all over the Rephaim Valley.)*

19 And David counselled with the Lord, and said, Whether I shall go up to Philistines, and whether thou shalt give them in mine hand? And the Lord said to David, Go thou up, for I shall betake the Philistines, and I shall give them in thine hand. *(And David counselled with the Lord, and said, Shall I go up to the Philistines? and shalt thou give them into my hands? And the Lord said to David, Go thou up, for I shall deliver the Philistines into thy hands.)*

20 Therefore David came into Baalperazim, and smote them there *(or and he struck them there)*, and said, The Lord hath parted mine enemies before me, as waters be parted. Therefore the name of that place was called Baalperazim, *that is, The Field, either Plain, of Parting.*

21 And they left there their sculptures, *(or their images)*, which David burnt, and his men. *(And they left their idols there, which David and his men burned to ashes.)*

22 And *[the]* Philistines added yet, that they should ascend, and they were spread abroad in the valley of Rephaim. *(And the Philistines attacked again, and they were spread all over the Rephaim Valley.)*

23 And David counselled with the Lord, and said, Whether I shall go up against the Philistines, and whether thou shalt betake them into mine hands? *(or And David counselled with the Lord, and said, Shall I go up against the Philistines, and shalt thou deliver them into my hands?)* And the Lord answered, Thou shalt not go up against them, but compass thou them

behind their back, and (*then*) thou shalt come to them on the contrary side of the pear trees.

²⁴ And when thou shalt hear the sound of (*a*) cry going in the top(s) of (*the*) pear trees, then thou shalt begin (*the*) battle; for then the Lord shall go out before thy face, that he smite the tents of Philistines, (*or for then the Lord shall go out before thee, and strike down the host, or the army, of the Philistines*).

²⁵ Therefore David did as the Lord commanded to him; and he smote the Philistines from Geba till they came to Gazer.

CHAPTER 6

¹ Forsooth David gathered again all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. (*Then David gathered together all the chosen, or all the best, out of Israel, yea, thirty thousand men.*)

² And David rose, and went, and all the people that was with him of the men of Judah, to bring the ark of God, on which the name of the Lord of hosts, sitting in cherubim on that ark, was called. (*And David rose up, and then he, and all the people who were with him, went to Baalath in Judah, to bring back from there the Ark of God, which beareth the name of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned upon, or above, the cherubim.*)

³ And they putted the ark of God on a new wain, and they took it from the house of Abinadab, that was in Gibeah, (*or And they put the Ark of God on a new wagon, and they took it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill*). And

Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new wain.

⁴ And when they had taken it from the house of Abinadab, that was in Gibeah, and kept the ark of God, Ahio went before the ark. *(And so they took it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill, who had kept the Ark of God safe; and Ahio went before the Ark.)*

⁵ And David and all Israel played before the Lord, in all treen instruments of melody, and in harps, and citoles, and tympanes, and trumps, and cymbals. *(And David and all Israel played music before the Lord, on all the wooden instruments, and on harps, and lutes, and drums, or tambourines, and trumpets, and cymbals.)*

⁶ Forsooth after that they came to the cornfloor of Nachon, Uzzah held forth his hand to the ark of God, and held it, for the oxen kicked, and bowed it. *(But when they came to the threshing floor of Nachon, Uzzah put forth his hand to the Ark of God, and held it, for the oxen stumbled, and shook it.)*

⁷ And the Lord was wroth by indignation against Uzzah, and smote him on the folly *(or and struck him down for his foolishness in touching the Ark)*; and he was dead there beside the ark of God.

⁸ And David was sorry, for the Lord had slain Uzzah; and the name of that place was called The Smiting of Uzzah till into this day. *(And David was grieved that the Lord had killed Uzzah; and the name of that place is called Perezuzzah, or the Punishment of Uzzah, unto this day.)*

⁹ And David dreaded the Lord in that day, and said, How shall the ark of the Lord enter to me? *(And David feared the Lord that day, and said, How can I bring the Ark of the Lord back with me?)*

¹⁰ And (so) he would not turn [*aside*] the ark of the Lord (*un*)to himself into the city of David, but he turned it [*aside*] into the house of Obedom of Gath.

¹¹ And the ark of the Lord dwelled in the house of Obedom of Gath three months; and the Lord blessed Obedom, and all his house(*hold*). *(And the Ark of the Lord stayed at the house of Obedom the Gittite for three months; and the Lord blessed Obedom, and all his family.)*

¹² And it was told to king David, that the Lord had blessed Obedom, and all his things, for the ark of God. And David said, I shall go, and bring the ark with blessing into mine house. Therefore David went, and brought the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with joy. *(And it was told to King David, that the Lord had blessed Obedom, and all that he had or and all that was his, for keeping the Ark of God safe. And David said, Now I shall go, and bring the Ark of God with blessing to my house. And so David went, and brought the Ark of God from the house of Obedom to the City of David with great joy.)*

¹³ And when they, that bare the ark of the Lord, had gone six paces, they offered an ox and a ram. *(And when they, who carried the Ark of the Lord, had gone six paces, he offered an ox and a ram.)*

¹⁴ And David smote in organs fastened to his arm *(or And David played on an instrument*

fastened to his arm); and he danced with all *his* strengths before the Lord; and David was clothed with (*only*) a linen surplice.

15 And David, and all the house of Israel, led forth the ark of [*the*] testament of the Lord/the ark of [*the*] witnessing of the Lord in hearty song, and in sound of trump. (*And David, and all the house of Israel, brought forth the Ark of the Lord with hearty song, and the sound of trumpets.*)

16 And when the ark of the Lord had entered into the city of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, beheld by a window, and she saw the king skipping and dancing/hopping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and setted it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle, which *tabernacle* David had made therefore/had made ready thereto; and David offered burnt sacrifices and peaceable (*sacrifices*) before the Lord. (*And they brought in the Ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, in the midst of the Tent, which David had prepared for it; and David offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before the Lord.*)

18 And when David had ended those, and had offered burnt sacrifices and peaceable (*sacrifices*), he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. (*And when David had finished offering the burnt sacrifices and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.*)

19 And he gave to all the multitude of Israel, as well to man as to woman, to each a cake of bread, and one part roasted of bugle flesh, and flour of wheat fried with oil; and all the people went forth, each into his house. *(And he gave to all the multitude of Israel, yea, to each man and woman, a cake of bread, and a piece of roasted ox flesh, and wheat flour fried with oil; and then all the people went home.)*

20 And David turned again to bless his house, and Michal, the daughter of Saul, went out into the coming of David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself before the handmaids of his servants, and he was made naked, as if one of the knaves had been made naked? *(And David returned to bless his own house, and Michal, Saul's daughter, went out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself before the slave-girls of his servants, yea, he was made naked, just like one of the knaves would be made naked!)*

21 And David said to Michal, The Lord liveth, for I shall play, *(or I shall dance)*, before the Lord, that chose me rather than thy father, and rather than all the house of him, and commanded to me, that I should be duke on the people of the Lord of Israel; and I shall play, *(And David said to Michal, As the Lord liveth, I shall dance before the Lord, who chose me rather than thy father, and all of his family, and who commanded to me that I should be the leader of the people of the Lord of Israel; and so I shall dance,)*

²² and I shall be made more vile than I am yet made, and I shall be meek in mine eyes, and I shall appear more glorious with those handmaidens, of which thou hast spoken. *(and I shall be made even more vile than I am yet made, and I shall be abased in thine eyes, but I shall appear more glorious to those slave-girls of whom thou hast spoken.)*

²³ Therefore a son was not born to Michal, the daughter of Saul, till into the day of her death. *(And so no child was ever born to Saul's daughter Michal, unto the day of her death.)*

CHAPTER 7

¹ Forsooth it was done, when king David had sat in his house, and the Lord had given rest to him on each side from all his enemies,

² he said to Nathan the prophet, Seest thou not, that I dwell in an house of cedar *(or that I live in a cedar house)*, and the ark of God is put in the midst of skins?

³ And Nathan said to the king, Go thou, and do all thing that is in thine heart, for the Lord is with thee.

⁴ And it was done in that night, and lo! the word of the Lord, was made to Nathan, *[saying]*,

⁵ Go thou, and speak to my servant David, *(and say)*, The Lord saith these things, Whether thou shalt build to me an house to dwell in? *(or Shalt thou build a house for me to live in?)*

⁶ Soothly I have not dwelled in an house from the day in which I led the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt till into this day; but I have gone in a tabernacle and in a tent,

⁷ by all places, to which I passed with all the sons of Israel? Whether I speaking spake to *(any)one* of the lineages of Israel, to whom I commanded, that he should feed my people Israel, and said, Why buildedest thou not an house of cedar to me? *(to all the places, to which I went with all the people of Israel. Did I speak to anyone of the tribes of Israel, to whom I commanded, that they should feed my people Israel, and did I ever ask them, Why hast thou not built a cedar house for me?)*

⁸ And now thou shalt say these things to my servant David, The Lord of hosts saith these things, I took thee from *[the]* pastures following flocks, that thou shouldest be duke on my people Israel *(or so that thou couldst be the leader of my people Israel),*

⁹ and I was with thee in all things, wherever thou hast gone, and I have killed all thine enemies from thy face, and I have made to thee a great name, by the name of great men that be in earth; *(and I was with thee in all things, wherever thou hast gone, and I have killed all thy enemies before thee, and I have made a great name for thee, like the names of the great men who be on the earth;)*

¹⁰ and I shall set a place to my people Israel, and I shall plant him, and I shall dwell with him, and he shall no more be troubled, and the sons of wickedness shall not add to, that they torment him as before, *(and I shall set a place for my people Israel, and I shall plant them, and I shall live with them, and they shall no more be troubled,*

and the sons of wickedness shall not torment them any more, like they did in the past,)

¹¹ *(like they did)* from the day in which I ordained judges upon my people Israel; and I shall give rest to thee from all thine enemies. And the Lord before-saith to thee, that he shall make an house to thee, *(or And the Lord saith in advance to thee, that he shall make a house for thee);*

¹² and when thy days be fulfilled, and thou hast slept with thy fathers, *(that is, when thou hast died)*, I shall raise up thy seed after thee, which shall go out of thy womb, and I shall make steadfast his realm *(or and I shall establish his kingdom).*

¹³ *(And)* He shall build an house to my name, and I shall make stable the throne of his realm till into without end;

¹⁴ I shall be to him into a father, and he shall be to me into a son; and if he shall do anything wickedly, I shall chastise him in the rod of men, and in the wounds of the sons of men. *(I shall be his father; and he shall be my son; and if he doeth anything wicked, I shall chastise him with the rod of men, and with wounds from the sons of men.)*

¹⁵ Forsooth I shall not do away my mercy from him, as I did it away from Saul, whom I removed from my face. *(But I shall not take away my love from him, like I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from my presence.)*

¹⁶ And thine house *shall be* faithful, and thy realm *shall be* till into without end before my

face, and thy throne shall be steadfast continually (*or and thy throne shall be established forever*).

¹⁷ By all these words, and by all this revelation, so Nathan spake to David.

¹⁸ Forsooth David the king entered *into the tabernacle*, and he sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, Lord God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

¹⁹ But also this is seen (*as but a*) little (*thing*) in thy sight, my Lord God; no but (*that*) thou shouldest speak also of the house of thy servant into long time. For this is the law of Adam, Lord God, (*or For this is the law of men, or of people's lot, O Lord God*);

²⁰ what therefore may David add yet, that he speak to thee? (*or and so what can I say to thee?*) For thou, Lord God, knowest thy servant;

²¹ thou hast done all these great things, for thy word, and by thine heart, (*or for thy word's sake, and according to thy heart*), so that thou madest *those* known to thy servant.

²² Therefore, Lord God, thou art made great, for none is like thee, nor there is no God except thee, in all things which we have heard with our ears. (*And so, Lord God, thou art truly great, and from everything that we have heard with our ears, no one is like thee, nor is there any God except thee.*)

²³ Soothly what folk in (*the*) earth is as the people of Israel, for which the Lord God went, that he should again-buy it to him into a people, and should set to himself a name, and should do

to it great things, and horrible, on *[the]* earth, in casting out thereof the folks, and gods thereof, from the face of thy people, which thou again-boughtest to thee from Egypt? (*Yea, what nation on earth is like the people of Israel, for whom the Lord God went, and redeemed, or rescued, them in order to be a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to do for them great and wonderful things on the earth, in throwing out from here the nations, and their gods, from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed, or rescued, for thyself from Egypt?*)

²⁴ And thou hast confirmed to thee thy people Israel into a people everlasting, and thou, Lord, art made into God to them. (*And thou hast confirmed thy people Israel to be thy own people forevermore, and O Lord, thou hast become their God.*)

²⁵ Now therefore, Lord God, raise up (*into*) without end the word that thou hast spoken upon thy servant, and upon his house, and do as thou hast spoken;

²⁶ and thy name be magnified/and thy name be made great till into without end, and be it said, The Lord of hosts is God upon Israel; and the house of thy servant David shall be stablished before the Lord;

²⁷ for thou, Lord of hosts, God of Israel, hast made revelation to the ear of thy servant, and saidest, I shall build an house to thee; therefore thy servant hath found by his heart, that he should pray thee by this prayer. (*for thou, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, hast made a revelation*

in the ear of thy servant, and saidest, I shall build a house for thee; and so thy servant hath found in his heart, that he should pray to thee by this prayer:)

²⁸ Now therefore, Lord God, thou art very God, and thy words shall (*always*) be true; for thou hast spoken these good things to thy servant;

²⁹ therefore begin thou, and bless the house of thy servant, that it be into without end before thee; for thou, Lord God, hast spoken these things, and through thy blessing the house of thy servant shall be blessed [*into*] without end.

CHAPTER 8

¹ And it was done after these things, David smote the Philistines, and made low them; and David took away the bridle of tribute from the hand of Philistines. (*And it was done after these things, that David struck the Philistines, and made them low, or conquered them; and David took away Methegammah from the Philistines.*)

² And David smote Moab, and meted them with a cord, and he made them even to the earth; forsooth he meted (*them by*) two cords, one to slay, and one to quicken. And Moab served David under tribute. (*And David struck the Moabites, and he made his captives to lie on the ground, and had them measured with a cord; and for every two cord lengths of men that he killed, one cord length was allowed to live. And then the Moabites paid tribute, or taxes, to David.*)

³ And David smote Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, when he went forth to be

lord over the flood Euphrates. *(And then David struck Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, the king of Zobah, as he went to recover his land by the Euphrates River.)*

⁴ And when a thousand and seven hundred horsemen of his part were taken, and twenty thousand of footmen, David hocked all *[the]* drawing beasts in chariots; but David left of those an hundred chariots, *that is, the horses of an hundred chariots. (And David took from him, or captured, a thousand and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen, and he hocked all the drawing beasts for the chariots; but he left unharmed the horses for a hundred chariots.)*

⁵ Also Syrians of Damascus came, that it should bear help to Hadadezer, king of Zobah; and David smote of *(the)* Syrians two and twenty thousand of men. *(And the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer; and David struck down twenty-two thousand of the men of Syria.)*

⁶ And David setted a stronghold in Syria of Damascus, and Syria was made serving David under tribute. And the Lord kept David in all things, to whatever things he went forth. *(And David set up strongholds in Syria of Damascus, and the Syrians were made to serve David, and to pay tribute, or taxes, to him. And the Lord gave victory to David in all his battles, wherever he went.)*

⁷ And David took golden armours and bands *(or And David took the gold arms, or the*

weapons), which the servants of Hadadezer had, and he brought those into Jerusalem.

⁸ And of Betah, and of Berothai, (*or And from Betah, and Berothai*), the cities of Hadadezer, David [*the*] king took full much brass.

⁹ Forsooth Toi, king of Hamath, heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer.

¹⁰ And Toi sent Joram, his son, to king David, that he should greet him, and thank (*him*), and do thankings, for he had overcome Hadadezer, and had smitten him; for Toi was enemy of Hadadezer; and vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass were in his hand. (*And King Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to greet him, and to congratulate him on his victory, for he had overcome Hadadezer, and had beaten him; for Toi was Hadadezer's enemy; and his son brought with him vessels of silver, and gold, and brass, for David.*)

¹¹ And the same vessels king David hallowed to the Lord, with the silver and gold, which he had hallowed of all heathen men, which he had made subject (*And King David dedicated these vessels to the Lord, along with the silver and the gold which he had dedicated from all the heathen whom he had made subject*)

¹² of Syria, and of Moab, and of the sons of Ammon, and of Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoils of Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³ Also David made to him a name, when he turned again when Syria was taken, for eighteen thousand men were slain in the valley, where

salt was made, and in Helam, to three and twenty thousand*. (*And so David had made a name for himself, by the time he returned after the Syrians were killed, for eighteen thousand men were slain in the Salt Valley, and twenty-two thousand in Helam.*)

¹⁴ And he setted keepers in Idumea, and ordained [a] stronghold, and all Idumea was made serving to David; and the Lord kept David in all things, to whatever things he went forth. (*And he set up strongholds in Edom, or Idumea, and all the Edomites served David; and so the Lord gave victory to David everywhere he went.*)

¹⁵ And David reigned upon all Israel, and David did doom, and rightwiseness to all his people. (*And David reigned over all Israel, and David brought justice, or judgement, and righteousness unto all his people.*)

¹⁶ And Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was over the host of David; and Jehoshaphat, the son of Ahilud, was recorder; (*And Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was the leader of David's army; and Jehoshaphat, the son of Ahilud, was the officer in charge of the records;*)

¹⁷ and Zadok, the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech, the son of Abiathar, were priests; and Seraiah was a scribe (*or and Seraiah was the writer*).

¹⁸ But Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, was over Cherethites and Pelethites, *that is, over archers and arrow-blasters*; and the sons of David were priests. (*And Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, was*

* **CHAPTER 8:13** See 2nd Samuel 10:16-19.

the leader of the Cherethites and Pelethites, that is, the archers and the arrow-blasters; and David's sons were priests.)

CHAPTER 9

¹ And David said, Whether any man is, that (is) left of the house of Saul, that I do mercy with him for Jonathan? *(And David asked, Is there any man who is left of Saul's family, to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?)*

² And there was a servant, Ziba by name, of the house of Saul; whom when the king had called to himself, the king said to him, Whether thou art not Ziba? *(or Art thou Ziba?)* And he answered, I am thy servant.

³ And the king said, Whether any man liveth of the house of Saul, that I do with him the mercy of God? And Ziba said to the king, A son of Jonathan liveth, feeble in the feet. *(And the king said, Is there any man left of Saul's family, to whom I can show the kindness that God commandeth? And Ziba said to the king, A son of Jonathan liveth, who is lame, or crippled.)*

⁴ And the king said, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, Lo! he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

⁵ Therefore king David sent, and took Jonathan's son from the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar. *(And so King David sent for Jonathan's son, and brought him to Jerusalem from the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.)*

⁶ And when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, *[the]* son of Saul, had come to David, he felled into his face, and worshipped. And David said, Mephibosheth! And he answered, I am present, thy servant. *(And when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face, and honoured him. And David said, Mephibosheth! And he answered, I am thy servant.)*

⁷ And David said to him, Dread thou not, for I doing shall do mercy to thee for Jonathan, thy father; and I shall restore to thee all the fields of Saul, thy father, and thou shalt eat bread in my table ever[more]. *(And David said to him, Fear not, for I shall do kindness to thee because of thy father Jonathan; and I shall restore to thee all the fields of Saul, thy grandfather, and thou shalt have a place at my table forevermore.)*

⁸ Which worshipped him *(or Who bowed low before him again)*, and said, Who am I, thy servant, for thou hast beheld on a dead dog like me?

⁹ Therefore the king called Ziba, the servant of Saul; and said to him, I have given to the son of thy lord all things, whichever were of Saul, and all the house of him; *(And so the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, I have given to thy lord's grandson everything that belonged to Saul, and his family;)*

¹⁰ therefore work thou the land to him, thou, and thy sons, and thy servants, and thou shalt bring in meats to the son of thy lord, that he be fed; but Mephibosheth, the son of thy lord, shall

eat ever bread on my board. And fifteen sons and twenty servants were to Ziba. *(and so work thou the land for him, thou, and thy sons, and thy servants, and thou shalt bring in the harvest for the family of thy lord, so that they can be fed; but Mephibosheth, the grandson of thy lord, shall have a place at my table forevermore. And Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)*

¹¹ And Ziba said to the king, As thou, my lord *(the) king*, hast commanded to thy servant, so thy servant shall do; and Mephibosheth, as one of the sons of the king, shall eat on thy board, *(or and Mephibosheth, like one of the king's sons, ate at the king's table).*

¹² And Mephibosheth had a little son, Micha by name; and all the family of the house of Ziba served Mephibosheth.

¹³ And Mephibosheth dwelled in Jerusalem; for he ate continually of the king's board, and was crooked, or halt, on either foot. *(And so Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem; and he always ate at the king's table, and he was lame, or crippled, in both feet.)*

CHAPTER 10

¹ Forsooth it was done after these things, that Nahash, *[the]* king of the sons of Ammon, died; and Hanun, his son, reigned for him, *(or and his son Hanun reigned in his place).*

² And David said, I shall do mercy with Hanun, the son of Nahash, as his father did mercy with me. Therefore David sent comforting *(to)* him by his servants on the death of the father, *(or And*

David said, I shall show friendship to Nahash's son Hanun, like his father showed to me. And so, by his servants, David sent words of comfort to Hanun on the death of his father). And when the servants of David had come into the land of the sons of Ammon,

³ the princes of the sons of Ammon said to Hanun, their lord, Guessest thou, that for the honour of thy father David hath sent comforters to thee; and not *rather* therefore David sent his servants to thee, that he should espy, and ensearch the city, and destroy it? (*or and not rather, that David sent his servants to thee to spy out, and to search through the city, so that later he could destroy it?*)

⁴ Therefore Hanun took the servants of David, and shaved half the part of the beard of them, and he cutted away the middle clothes of them, till to the buttocks; and let go them. (*And so Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off half of their beards, and cut away half of their clothes, unto the buttocks, and then let them go.*)

⁵ And when this was told to David, he sent into the coming of them, for the men were shamed full vilely, (*or And when this was told to David, he sent men to meet them, for these men had been vilely shamed*). And David commanded to them, (*and said*), Dwell ye in Jericho, till your beard (*hath*) waxed, and then turn ye again.

⁶ And the sons of Ammon saw, that they had done wrong to David, and they sent, and hired with meed of Bethrehob of Syria, and of Zoba of Syria, twenty thousand of footmen, and of king

Maacah, a thousand men, and of Ishtob, twelve thousand of men. *(And the Ammonites saw that they had wronged David, and so they sent for; and hired for pay, Syrians from Bethrehob and from Zoba, yea, twenty thousand footmen, and a thousand men from King Maacah, and twelve thousand men from Tob.)*

⁷ And when David had heard this, he sent *(out)* Joab, and all the host of fighters *(or and all his army of fighting men)*.

⁸ Therefore the sons of Ammon went out, and dressed battle array before them in the entering of the gate. And Zoba, and Rehob of Syria, and Ishtob, and Maacah, were asides half in the field. *(And so the Ammonites went out, and dressed the battle array before them at the entrance to the city gate. And the Syrians from Zoba and from Rehob, and the men from Tob, and from Maacah, were asides half in the field.)*

⁹ Therefore Joab saw, that the battle was made ready against him, both even against him and behind his back; and he chose to himself of all the chosen men of Israel *(or and he chose for himself the best men out of all Israel)*, and ordained *(the)* battle array against *(the)* Syrians.

¹⁰ Forsooth he betook to Abishai, his brother, the tother part of the people, which dressed *(the)* battle array against the sons of Ammon.

¹¹ And Joab said, If *(the)* men of Syria have the mastery against me, thou shalt be to me into help; and if the sons of Ammon have the mastery against thee, I shall help thee;

¹² be thou a strong man (*or be thou of good courage*), and fight we for our people, and for the city of our God; for the Lord shall do that, that is good in his sight.

¹³ Therefore Joab and the people that was with him, began battle against men of Syria, which fled anon from his face. (*And so Joab, and the men who were with him, began to fight against the Syrians, who fled at once from before them.*)

¹⁴ And the sons of Ammon saw, that *[the]* men of Syria had fled; and they fled also from the face of Abishai, and entered into the city; and Joab turned again from the sons of Ammon, and came into Jerusalem, (*or and then Joab left off fighting the Ammonites, and went back to Jerusalem.*)

¹⁵ And *[the]* men of Syria saw that they had fallen before Israel, and they were gathered together. (*And when the Syrians saw that they had fallen before Israel, they gathered themselves together.*)

¹⁶ And Hadadezer* sent, and led out *[the]* men of Syria that were beyond the flood, and he brought forth the host of them; and Shobach, *[the]* master of the chivalry of Hadadezer, was the prince of them. (*And Hadadezer sent for the Syrians who were on the other side of the Euphrates River, and they came forth to Helam; and Shobach, the master of Hadadezer's cavalry, or of his army, was their leader.*)

¹⁷ And when this was told to David, he drew together all Israel, and he passed over Jordan (*or*

* **CHAPTER 10:16** Also known as Hadarezer.

and he crossed over the Jordan River), and came into Helam. And [the] men of Syria dressed (the) battle array against David, and fought against him.

¹⁸ And Syrians fled from the face of Israel; and David killed of the Syrians *(the men in)* seven hundred chariots, and forty thousand of horsemen; and he smote Shobach, the prince of the chivalry, the which was dead anon. *(And the Syrians fled from the Israelites; and David killed of those Syrians the men in seven hundred chariots, and forty thousand horsemen; and he struck down Shobach, the leader of the cavalry, or of the army, who died on the battlefield.)*

¹⁹ And all the kings, that were in help of Hadadezer, saw that they were overcome of Israel, and they made peace with Israel, and served them; and the Syrians dreaded to give *(more)* help to the sons of Ammon. *(And when all the kings, who were subject to Hadadezer, saw that they were overcome by Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them; and from then on the Syrians were afraid to give any more help to the Ammonites.)*

CHAPTER 11

¹ And it was done, when the year turned again, in that time in which kings be wont to go forth to battles, David sent forth Joab, and with him his servants, and all Israel; and they destroyed the sons of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah; and David dwelled in Jerusalem. *(And it was done, when the year turned again, at the time when kings be wont*

to go forth to battle, David sent out Joab, and with him his officers, and all of Israel's army; and they destroyed the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah; but David stayed in Jerusalem.)

² While these things were done, it befell, that David rose in a day from his bed after midday, and walked in the solar of the king's house; and he saw a woman washing herself even against him upon her solar; and the woman was full fair. *(While these things were done, it befell one day, that David rose from his bed after midday, and walked on the roof of his palace; and he saw a woman opposite him washing herself on her roof; and the woman was truly beautiful.)*

³ Therefore the king sent, and inquired, what woman it was; and it was told to him that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, *and (that) she was the wife of Uriah (the) Hittite.*

⁴ Then by messengers sent, David took her; and when she entered to him, he slept with her, and anon she was hallowed from her uncleanness*. And she turned again into her house, *(Then David sent messengers, who brought her to him; and after she came to him, he slept with her, and at once she was hallowed from her uncleanness. And she returned to her house,)*

⁵ with a child conceived; and she sent, and told to David, and said, I have conceived.

* **CHAPTER 11:4** *That is, from (the) flux of unclean blood that should come till to the child bearing, for she conceived in that lying-by.*

⁶ And David sent to Joab, and said, Send thou Uriah (*the*) Hittite to me; and Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷ And Uriah came to David; and David asked, how rightfully Joab did and the people, and how the battle was (*ad*)ministered, *or served*. (*And Uriah came to David; and David asked him how well Joab and the men were doing, and how the battle was going.*)

⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go into thine house, and wash thy feet. [*And*] Uriah went out from the house of the king, and the king's meat followed him (*or and the king's gift followed him home*).

⁹ Soothly Uriah slept before the gate of the king's house with other servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. (*But Uriah slept by the palace gate with other servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.*)

¹⁰ And it was told to David of men, saying, Uriah went not to his house, (*or And it was told to David by men, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house*). And David said to Uriah, Whether thou camest not from the way? why wentest thou not down into thine house?

¹¹ And Uriah said to David, The ark of God, [*and*] Israel, and Judah (*all*) dwell in tents, and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord dwell upon the face of the earth, and shall I (*then*) go into mine house, to eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? By thine health, and by the health of thy soul, I shall not do this thing.

¹² Therefore David said to Uriah, Dwell thou here also today, and tomorrow I shall deliver

thee. Uriah dwelled in Jerusalem in that day, and the tother, *(or And so Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day, and the next day as well).*

¹³ And David called him, that he should eat and drink before him, and David made drunken Uriah *(or and David made Uriah drunk)*; and he went out in the eventide, and slept in his bed with the servants of his lord; and went not down into his house.

¹⁴ Therefore when the morrowtide was made, David wrote *[an]* epistle to Joab, and sent *(it)* by the hand of Uriah,

¹⁵ and wrote in the epistle, Put ye Uriah even against the battle, where the battle is strongest, *that is, where the adversaries be (the) strong (est)*, and forsake ye him, that he be smitten and perish, *(or and leave ye him there, so that he can be struck down and die).*

¹⁶ Therefore when Joab besieged the city, he setted Uriah in the place where he knew that *(the)* strongest men were.

¹⁷ And *[the]* men went out of the city, and fought against Joab, and they killed of the people of the servants of David, and also Uriah *(the)* Hittite was dead there. *(And the men came out of the city, and fought against Joab, and they killed some of David's officers, and Uriah the Hittite was also killed.)*

¹⁸ Therefore Joab sent, and told all the words of the battle; *(And so Joab sent a message to David, telling him all about the battle;)*

¹⁹ and he commanded to the messenger, and said, When thou hast fulfilled all the words of

the battle to the king (*or When thou hast finished telling the king everything about the battle*),

²⁰ if thou seest, that he is wroth, and saith, Why nighed ye to the wall to fight? whether ye knew not, that many darts, (*or arrows*), (*would*) be sent out from the wall above?

²¹ who smote Abimelech, the son of Jerubbesheth? whether not a woman sent on him a gobbet of a millstone from the wall, and killed him in Thebez? why nighed ye beside the wall? thou shalt say, Also thy servant, Uriah (*the*) Hittite, died. (*do ye not recall who struck down Abimelech, the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman send down a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall above, and killed him there in Thebez? why did ye go beside the wall? thou shalt say, And thy officer, Uriah the Hittite, also died.*)

²² Therefore the messenger went, [*and came*] (*to the king*), and told to David all things which Joab had commanded to him.

²³ And the messenger said to David, [*The*] Men had the mastery against us, and they went out to us into the field; and with great fierceness we pursued them unto the gate of the city.

²⁴ And [*the*] archers sent (*out*) darts to thy servants from the wall above, and some of the king's servants be dead; and also thy servant, Uriah (*the*) Hittite, is dead. (*And their archers sent out arrows at thy servants, or thy officers, from the wall above, and some of the king's servants were killed; and thy servant, Uriah the Hittite, also died.*)

²⁵ And David said to the messenger, Thou shalt say these things to Joab, This thing break not thee; for the hap of battle is diverse, and sword wasteth now this man, *[and]* now that man; comfort thy fighters against the city, that thou destroy it, and excite thou them. *(And David said to the messenger, Thou shalt say these things to Joab, Do not let this thing break thee; for the happenstance of battle is diverse, and the sword wasteth now this man, and now that one; make thy fighting men strong against the city, so that thou destroy it, yea, encourage thou them.)*

²⁶ And the wife of Uriah heard, that Uriah her husband was dead, and she bewailed him.

²⁷ And when the mourning was passed, David sent, and brought her into his house; and she was made *(a)* wife to him, and she childed a son to him. And this word that David had done displeased before the Lord *(or But this thing that David had done greatly displeased the Lord)*.

CHAPTER 12

¹ Therefore the Lord sent Nathan to David; and when he had come to David, he said to him, Answer thou a doom to me *(or Give thou to me your judgement on this)*; two men were in one city; one man *was* rich, and the tother was poor.

² The rich man had full many sheep, and oxen;

³ and the poor man had utterly nothing, except one little sheep, which he had bought, and nourished, and which had waxed at him, *(and)* with his sons, and ate together *(with them)* of his bread, and drank of his cup, and slept in his bosom; and it was as a daughter to him. *(and)*

the poor man had utterly nothing, except one little lamb, which he had bought, and nourished, and which had grown up with him, and with his sons, and together with them ate his food, and drank from his cup, and slept in his bosom; yea, it was like a daughter to him.)

⁴ But when a pilgrim came to this rich man, he spared to take of his own sheep and oxen, that he should make a feast to that pilgrim, that came to him; and he took the sheep of the poor man, and prepared meats to the man that came to him. *(But when a visitor came to the rich man, he would not take his own sheep and oxen to make a feast for that visitor, who came to him; but instead he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared food for the man who came to him.)*

⁵ Certainly David was full wroth with indignation against that man, and he said to Nathan, *(As) The Lord liveth, for the man that did this thing is the son of death, that is, is worthy of death, for the hideousness of the deed;*

⁶ *he shall yield the sheep into fourfold, for he did this word, and spared not. (he shall give him four sheep, for he did this thing, and yet could care less.)*

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art that man, that hast done this thing. The Lord God of Israel saith these things, I anointed thee into king on Israel *(or I anointed thee king upon Israel)*, and I delivered thee from the hand of Saul,

⁸ *and I gave to thee the house of thy lord, and the wives of thy lord in(to) thy bosom, and I gave to thee the house of Israel, and of Judah; and if*

these things be little, I shall add to thee much greater things, *(or and if these things were too little, I would have added much greater things for thee).*

⁹ Why therefore hast thou despised the word of the Lord, that thou didest evils in my sight? Thou hast killed by sword Uriah *(the)* Hittite, and thou hast taken his wife into wife to thee, and thou hast slain him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. *(And so why hast thou despised the word of the Lord, so that thou didest evils in my sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and thou hast taken his wife for thy wife, and thou hast killed him by the sword of the Ammonites.)*

¹⁰ Wherefore a sword shall not go away from thine house till into without end; for thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah *(the)* Hittite, that she should be thy wife.

¹¹ Therefore the Lord saith these things, Lo! I shall raise on thee evil *(out)* of thine house, and I shall take thy wives in thine eyes, and I shall give to thy neighbour, and he shall sleep with thy wives in the eyes of this sun. *(And so the Lord saith these things, Behold! I shall raise up evil against thee from thy own house, and I shall take thy wives from before thee, and I shall give them to thy neighbour, or to another man, and he shall sleep with thy wives in broad daylight.)*

¹² For thou hast done *(thy sin)* privily; forsooth I shall do this word in the sight of all Israel, and in the sight of this sun. *(Yea, thou hast done thy sin in secret; but I shall do this thing before all Israel, and in broad daylight.)*

¹³ And David said to Nathan, I have sinned to the Lord. And Nathan said to David, Also the Lord hath turned away thy sin; thou shalt not die. *(And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, The Lord hath turned away thy sin; thou shalt not die.)*

¹⁴ Nevertheless for thou hast made *[the]* enemies to blaspheme the name of the Lord, for this word the child that is born to thee shall die by death, *(or because of this, the child who is born to thee shall die).*

¹⁵ And Nathan turned again into his house. And the Lord smote the little child, whom the wife of Uriah childed to David, and he despaired. *(And Nathan returned to his house. And the Lord struck the young child, whom Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became very ill.)*

¹⁶ And David prayed to the Lord for the little child; and David fasted by fasting, and entered asides half, and lay on the earth *(or and lay on the floor all night).*

¹⁷ And the elder men of his house came, and constrained him, that he should rise up from the earth; and he would not, neither he ate meat with them. *(And the older men of his household came, and compelled him to get up off the floor; but he would not, nor would he eat any food with them.)*

¹⁸ And it befelled in the seventh day, that the young child died; and the servants of David dreaded to tell to him, that the little child was dead; for they said, Lo! while the little child lived yet, we spake to him, and he heard not our voice; how much more *(now)*, if we say the child

is dead, he shall torment himself? (*And it befell that on the seventh day, the young child died; and David's servants feared to tell him that the young child was dead; for they said, Behold! while the young child yet lived, we spoke to him, and he would not listen to us; how much more now shall he torment himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?*)

19 Therefore when David had heard his servants speaking privily, *either muttering*, he understood that the young child was dead; and he said to his servants, Whether the child is dead? (*or Is the child dead?*) Which answered to him, He is dead.

20 Therefore David rose up from the earth, and was washed, and anointed; and when he had changed his clothes, he entered into the house of the Lord, and worshipped, and came into his house; and he asked, that they should set bread to him, and he ate. (*And so David got up off the floor; and washed, and anointed himself; and when he had changed his clothes, he went to the House of the Lord, and worshipped, and then came back to the palace; and he asked them to set food before him, and he ate it.*)

21 And his servants said to him, What is the word that thou hast done? Thou hast fasted, and wept for the young child, while he lived yet; but when the child was dead, thou risedest (*up*)/thou hast risen up, and atest bread? (*And his servants said to him, What is this? Thou hast fasted, and wept for the young child, while yet he lived; but*

when the child was dead, thou hast risen up, and eaten food?)

²² And David said, I fasted and wept for the young child, when he lived yet; for I said, Who knoweth, if peradventure the Lord give him to me, and the young child live? *(And David said, Yes, I fasted and wept for the young child, while yet he lived; for I said, Who knoweth, perhaps the Lord shall give him back to me, and the young child shall live.)*

²³ But now for he is dead, why fast I? whether I shall be able to again-call him more? I shall go more to him, but he shall not turn again to me. *(But now that he is dead, why should I fast? can I call him back again? One day, I shall go to him, but he shall never return to me.)*

²⁴ And David comforted Bathsheba, his wife; and he entered *[in]* to her, and slept with her. And she engendered a son, and *David* called his name Solomon; and the Lord loved him.

²⁵ And he sent him in the hand of Nathan, the prophet; and he called his name Amiable to the Lord, for the Lord loved him. *(And he sent word through Nathan, the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, that is, Beloved of the Lord, for the Lord loved him.)*

²⁶ Then Joab fought against Rabbah, of the sons of Ammon, and he fought against the king's city.

²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and the city of waters shall be taken *(or and I have taken the city's water supply)*.

28 Now therefore gather thou the tother part of the people, and besiege thou the city, and take thou it, lest when the city is wasted of me (*or lest when I have destroyed the city*), the victory be areckoned to my name.

29 Therefore David gathered together all the people, and he went forth against Rabbah; and when he had fought *against that city*, he took it.

30 And he took the diadem of the king of them* from his head, by weight [*of*] a talent of gold, (*and*) having precious pearls; and it was put on the head of David; but also David bare away full much prey of the city. (*And he took the crown off the head of their king or And he took the crown off the head of their idol, which weighed a talent of gold, and was adorned with precious pearls; and it was put on David's head; and David also took away a great deal of prey, or of spoils, from the city.*)

31 And he led forth the people thereof, and sawed (*them*), and did about them iron instruments of torment, and parted (*them*) with knives, and led (*them*) over by the likeness of tilestones; so he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. And David turned again, and all his host, into Jerusalem, (*or And then David, and all his army, returned to Jerusalem*).

CHAPTER 13

1 And it was done after these things, that

* **CHAPTER 12:30** *That is, '(the crown) of the idol of them', which is called Malcham, (or Milcom), that is interpreted 'the king of them'.*

Amnon, the son of David, loved the fairest sister, Tamar by name, of Absalom, the son of David. *(And it was done after these things, that Amnon, one of David's sons, loved Tamar, the fairest sister of Amnon, and of Absalom, another of David's sons.)*

² And Amnon perished greatly for her, so that he was sick for her love. For since she was a virgin, it seemed hard to him, that he should do anything dishonestly with her. *(And Amnon greatly burned for her, so that he was sick for her love. But since she was a virgin, it was hard for him to do anything dishonourable to her.)*

³ But there was a friend to Amnon, Jonadab by name, the son of Shimeah, the brother of David; and *Jonadab* was a full prudent man *[(or) a full sly man]*.

⁴ Which said to Amnon, Son of the king, why art thou made feeble so by leanness, by all days? why showest thou not to me? *(or And he said to Amnon, Son of the king, why art thou made so weak and thin, day after day? why not tellest thou to me?)* And Amnon said to him, I love Tamar, the sister of my brother Absalom.

⁵ And Jonadab answered to him, Lie thou on thy bed, and feign thou sickness; and when thy father cometh, that he visit thee, say thou to him, I pray, come Tamar, my sister, that she give meat to me, and make a stew, that I eat it of her hand. *(And Jonadab answered to him, Do thou this. Lie thou on thy bed, and pretend to be sick; and when thy father cometh to visit thee, say thou to him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give food*

to me, yea, to make me a stew, and I shall eat it by her hand or and she shall serve it to me.)

⁶ Therefore Amnon lay down, and feigned to be sick. And when the king had come to visit him, Amnon said to the king, I beseech, come Tamar, my sister, that she make two suppings before my eyes, and that I take of her hand the meat made ready. *(And so Amnon lay down, and pretended to be sick. And when the king had come to visit him, Amnon said to the king, I beseech thee, that my sister Tamar come, and make supper for me, and when the food is ready, I shall eat it by her hand or she shall serve it to me.)*

⁷ Therefore David sent to the house of Tamar, and said, Come thou into the house of Amnon, thy brother, and make thou a stew to him. *(And so David sent word to Tamar's house, and said, Go thou to thy brother Amnon's house, and make thou a stew for him.)*

⁸ And Tamar came into the house of Amnon, her brother. And he lay down; and she took meal, and mixed *(it)* together, and made *(it)* moist before his eyes, and seethed *[the]* suppings *(or and boiled the supper);*

⁹ and she took that, that she had sodden, and poured *it* out, and set it before him, and he would not eat, *(or and she took what she had boiled, and poured it out, and set it before him, but he would not eat it).* And Amnon said, Put ye out all men from me. And when they had put out all *(the)* men,

¹⁰ Amnon said to Tamar, Bear the meat into the *(bed-)*closet, that I eat of thine hand. Therefore Tamar took the suppings which she had made,

and brought in to Amnon, her brother, in the (bed-)closet. *(Amnon said to Tamar, Bring the food into the bed-chamber, so that I can eat it by thy hand or so that thou can serve it to me. And so Tamar took the supper which she had made, and brought it to her brother Amnon, in the bed-chamber.)*

¹¹ And when she had proffered the meat to him, he took her, and said, Come thou, my sister, lie thou with me. *(And when she offered him the food, he took hold of her, and said, Come thou, my sister, lie thou with me or sleep with me.)*

¹² And she answered to him, My brother, do not thou, do not thou oppress me, for this is not leaveful in Israel *(or for this is not lawful in Israel)*; do not thou do this folly.

¹³ For I shall not be able to bear my shame, and thou shalt be as one of the unwise men, *(or the fools)*, in Israel; but rather speak thou to the king, and he shall not deny me to thee.

¹⁴ Soothly he would not assent to her prayers; but he was stronger in might, and oppressed her, and lay with her.

¹⁵ And then *(afterward)*, with full great hatred Amnon hated her, so that the hatred was greater, by which he hated her, than the love by which he *(had)* loved her before. And Amnon said to her, Rise thou *(up)*, and go.

¹⁶ And she answered to him, This evil is more which thou doest now against me, and putttest me out, than that, that thou didest before. And he would not hear her; *(And she answered to him, This evil which thou now doest against me, by*

putting me out, is worse, than what thou didest before. But he would not listen to her;)

¹⁷ but when the servant was called, that ministered to him (*or who served him*), he said, Put thou out this woman from me, and close thou the door after her.

¹⁸ And she was clothed with a coat down to the heel; for the king's daughters (*who were*) virgins used such clothes. Then the servant of Amnon put her out, and closed the door after her.

¹⁹ And she sprinkled ashes (*on*) to her head, and when her long coat was rent, and her hands put on her head, she went entering [*in*] and crying.

²⁰ And Absalom, her brother, said to her, Whether Amnon, thy brother, hath lain with thee? But now, sister, be still; he is thy brother, and torment thou not thine heart for this thing. Therefore Tamar dwelled mourning in the house of Absalom, her brother, (*or And so Tamar stayed in the house of her brother Absalom, and mourned her state*).

²¹ Forsooth when king David had heard these words, he was full sorry, and he would not make sore the spirit of Amnon, his son, (*or And when King David heard about this, he was very upset, but he would not punish his son Amnon*); for he loved Amnon, for he was his first begotten son.

²² And Absalom spake not to Amnon, neither evil nor good; for Absalom hated Amnon, for he had defouled Tamar, his sister, (*or for he had defiled his sister Tamar*).

²³ And it was done after the time of two years, that the sheep of Absalom were shorn

in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim. And Absalom called all the sons of the king (*or And Absalom invited all the king's sons to be there*).

²⁴ And he came to the king, and said to him, Lo! the sheep of thy servant be shorn; I pray (*thee*), come the king with his servants to his servant.

²⁵ And the king said to Absalom, Do not thou, my son, do not thou pray, that all we come, and charge thee. And when he constrained David, and he would not go, he blessed Absalom. (*And the king said to Absalom, Do not thou, my son, do not thou pray, that we all come, and be a burden to thee. And when Absalom pressed David, he still would not go, but he blessed Absalom.*)

²⁶ And Absalom said to David, If thou wilt not come, I beseech thee, come namely Amnon, my brother, with us, (*or And Absalom said to David, If thou wilt not come, I beseech thee, then let my brother Amnon come with us*). And the king said to him, It is no need, that he go with thee.

²⁷ Therefore Absalom constrained him; and he delivered with him Amnon, and all the sons of the king. (*But Absalom pressed him; and so he let Amnon, and all his other sons, go with him.*)

²⁸ And Absalom had made a feast as the feast of a king. And Absalom [*had*] commanded to his servants, and said, Espy ye, when Amnon is drunken of wine, and *when* I say to you, Smite ye, and slayeth him. Do not ye dread, for I am that command to you; be ye strengthened, and be ye strong men. (*And Absalom made a feast like the feast of a king. And Absalom commanded to his servants, and said, Watch ye, so that when*

Amnon is drunk with wine, and I say to you, Strike ye him! that you kill him. Do not ye fear; for I am the one who command you to do this; be ye of good courage, and be ye strong men.)

²⁹ Therefore the servants of Absalom did against Amnon, as Absalom had commanded to them; and *(then)* all the sons of the king *(swiftly)* rose up, and ascended each upon his mule, and fled.

³⁰ And when they went yet in the way, *(the)* fame came *thereof* to the king, and it was said, Absalom hath slain all the sons of the king, and namely not one *(is)* left of them. *(And when they were yet on the way, the report came to the king, and it was said, Absalom hath killed all of the king's sons, and not one of them is left alive.)*

³¹ Therefore the king rose up, and rent his clothes, and felled down on the earth *(or and fell down on the ground)*; and all his servants that stood nigh to him, rent their clothes.

³² But Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, brother of David, answered and said, My lord the king, guess thou not, that all the young men, and sons of the king, be slain; Amnon alone is dead, for he was set in hatred to Absalom, from the day in which he oppressed Tamar, his sister. *(But Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, My lord the king, think thou not, that all of the king's sons be killed; no, only Amnon is dead, for Absalom hath hated him, from the day that he oppressed his sister Tamar.)*

³³ Now therefore, my lord the king, set not this word on his heart, and say, All the sons of the

king be slain; for Amnon alone is dead. (*And so now, my lord the king, put not this thing upon thy heart, and say, All the king's sons be killed; for only Amnon is dead.*)

³⁴ Forsooth Absalom fled. And a young man, (an) espyer, raised [*up*] his eyes, and beheld, and lo! much people came by a way out of the common way, by the side of the hill. (*And so Absalom fled away. And a young man, a watchman, raised up his eyes, and looked, and behold! a crowd of people came by the road, on the side of the hill behind him.*)

³⁵ And Jonadab said to the king, Lo! the sons of the king come; after the word of thy servant, so it is done, (*or so it is done, just as thy servant hath said*).

³⁶ And when he had ceased to speak, also the sons of the king appeared; and they entered, and raised up their voice, and wept; but also the king and all his servants wept with full great weeping.

³⁷ Forsooth Absalom fled, and went to Talmi, the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. Therefore David bewailed his son Amnon in many days (*or And so David bewailed his son Amnon for many days*).

³⁸ Forsooth Absalom, when he had fled, and had come into Geshur, was there (*for*) three years.

³⁹ And [*king*] David ceased to pursue Absalom, for he was comforted upon the death of Amnon. (*And after King David resigned himself to Amnon's death, he longed for his son Absalom.*)

CHAPTER 14

¹ Forsooth Joab, the son of Zeruiah, understood, that the heart of the king was turned to(*wards*) Absalom;

² and he sent to Tekoah, and took from thence a wise woman, and he said to her, Feign thee to mourn, and be thou clothed with a cloak of dole, and be thou not anointed with oil, that thou be as a woman by mourning now in full much time a dead man (*or so that thou be like a woman now after a great deal of time mourning for her husband*).

³ And thou shalt enter to the king, and thou shalt speak to him such *manner* words. And Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴ Therefore when the woman of Tekoah had entered to the king, she felled before him on the earth, and worshipped, and said, O! king, keep thou me. (*And so when the woman from Tekoah had entered before the king, she fell on the ground before him, and honoured him, and said, O king! help thou me.*)

⁵ And the king said to her, What hast thou of cause? And she answered, Alas! I am a woman widow, for mine husband is dead; (*And the king said to her, What is thy problem? And she answered, Alas! I am a widow woman, for my husband is dead;*)

⁶ and twain sons were of thine handmaid, which debated against themselves in the field, and none was that might forbid them, and the one smote the tother, and killed him. (*and thy servantess had two sons, who raged against each other out in the field, and no one could separate*

them, and one of them struck the other, and killed him.)

⁷ And lo! all the kindred riseth against thine handmaid, and saith, Give thou him *to us* that killed his brother; that we slay him, for the life of his brother whom he killed, and that we do away the heir; and they seek to quench my spark that is left, that the name dwell not to mine husband, and that remnants *be not to him* on earth. *(And behold! all the kinsmen riseth against thy servantess, and saith, Give thou to us he who killed his brother; so that we can kill him for taking his brother's life, and so that we can do away the heir; yea, they seek to quench what is left of my spark, so that my husband's name not remain, and that there be no remnant of him left here on the earth.)*

⁸ And the king said to the woman, Go into thine house, and I shall *(give a)* command for thee.

⁹ And the woman of Tekoah said to the king, My lord the king, this wickedness be on me, and on the house of my father; forsooth *(let)* the king and his throne be innocent/be guiltless.

¹⁰ And the king said, Bring thou him to me, that against-saith thee, and he shall no more add to *(it)*, that he touch thee.

¹¹ And she said, The king have mind on his Lord God, and the next *(kins)*men of blood to take vengeance be not multiplied, and they shall not slay my son. And the king said, The Lord liveth, for none of the hairs of thy son shall fall upon the earth. *(And she said, May the king pray to the Lord his God, that the kinsmen who be next of*

blood, and who desire vengeance, be not able to take it, and so they shall not kill my son. And the king said, As the Lord liveth, none of the hairs of thy son shall fall on the ground!)

¹² Therefore the woman said, Thine handmaid speak a word to my lord the king, *(or And the woman said, May thy servantess speak a word to my lord the king?)*. And the king said, Speak thou.

¹³ And the woman said, Why hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? and the king spake this word, that he do sin, and bring not again his son(who is) cast out? *(And the woman said, Why then hast thou done this same thing against the people of God? and so by speaking this word, the king hath sinned, for he hath not brought back his own son who is cast out.)*

¹⁴ All we die, and as waters that shall not turn again, we slide into the earth; and God will not that a soul perish, but he withdraweth, and thinketh, lest he perish utterly, which is cast away. *(We shall all die, and we shall slide into the earth, like water that shall not return; but God desireth that no soul perish, but he withdraweth, and thinketh, lest he, who is cast away, utterly perish.)*

¹⁵ Now therefore come thou, that I speak to my lord the king this word, while the people is present; and thine handmaid said, I shall speak to the king, if in any manner the king do the word of his handmaid. *(And so now, I have come that I may speak of this thing to my lord the king, because the people have threatened me; and so thy*

servantess said to herself, I shall speak to the king, if by any chance the king will do what I request.)

¹⁶ And the king heard the words, that he should deliver his handmaid from the hands of all men, that would do away me, and my son together, from the heritage of the Lord. *(And for the king to hear these words, so that he might deliver his servantess from the hands of all those who would do away me, and my son, from the Lord's inheritance.)*

¹⁷ Therefore thine handmaid say, that the word of my lord the king be made as sacrifice, *that is, that the sentence given of him be pleasant to God, as sacrifice pleaseth God, (or And so thy servantess said to herself, that the words of my lord the king would be like a sacrifice, that is, that his judgement would be pleasing to God, like a sacrifice pleaseth God);* for as an angel of the Lord, so is my lord the king, that he be not moved by blessing neither by cursing. Wherefore and thy Lord God is with thee.

¹⁸ And the king answered, and said to the woman, Hide thou not from me the word which I ask thee *(or Hide thou not from me what I ask thee)*. And the woman said to him, Speak thou, my lord the king.

¹⁹ And the king said, Whether the hand of Joab is with thee in all these things? The woman answered, and said, By the health of thy soul, my lord the king, neither to the left side neither to the right side is *anything* of all these things, which my lord the king hath spoken. For thy servant Joab himself commanded to me, and he

putted all these words into the mouth of thine handmaid,

²⁰ that I should turn the figure of this word (*or so that I might help straighten out this matter*); for thy servant Joab commanded this thing. Forsooth thou, my lord the king, art wise, as an angel of God that hath wisdom, that thou understand all things on (*the*) earth.

²¹ And (*later*), the king said to Joab, Lo! I am pleased, and I have done thy word; therefore go thou, and again-call thou the child Absalom. (*And later, the king said to Joab, Behold! I grant thy request; go thou, and bring back the young man Absalom.*)

²² And Joab felled upon his face to the earth, and he worshipped, and blessed the king; and Joab said, Thy servant hath understood today, that I have found grace in thine eyes, my lord (*the*) king, for thou hast done the word of thy servant. (*And Joab fell down on the ground, or the floor; and he honoured the king, and blessed him; and Joab said, Thy servant knoweth today, that I have found favour in thine eyes, my lord the king, for thou hast granted my request.*)

²³ Therefore Joab rose up, and went into Geshur, and brought Absalom into Jerusalem. (*And so Joab rose up, and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.*)

²⁴ And the king said, Turn he again into his house, and see not he my face. Therefore Absalom turned again into his house, and saw not the face of the king. (*And the king said, Go he back to his own house, for he shall not come before*

me, or into my presence. And so Absalom returned to his own house, and did not come before the king.)

²⁵ Soothly no man in all Israel was so fair as Absalom, and full comely; from the step of the foot unto the top, there was no wem in him (*or there was no flaw, or blemish, on him*);

²⁶ and inasmuch as he clipped more his hairs, by so much the more they waxed; but he was clipped once in the year, for his hair grieved him. And when he clipped the hairs, he weighed the hairs of his head by two hundred shekels by common weight, (*or And when he cut his hair, the hairs of his head weighed two hundred shekels by common weight*).

²⁷ And three sons, and a daughter, Tamar by name, (*and she was*) of seemly shape, *or excellent form*, were born to Absalom.

²⁸ And Absalom dwelled in Jerusalem two years, and he saw not the face of the king. (*And Absalom lived in Jerusalem for two years, but he never came before the king.*)

²⁹ Therefore he sent to Joab, that he should send him to the king; and Joab would not come to him. And when he had sent the second time, and Joab would not come, (*And so he sent for Joab, so that he could take a message to the king; but Joab would not come to him. And when he had sent for him a second time, and Joab would still not come,*)

³⁰ Absalom said to his servants, Ye know the field of Joab beside my field, (*the field of his*) having ripe barley; therefore go ye, and burn ye it [*up*] with fire. Therefore the servants

of Absalom burnt the (*barley*) corn with fire. (*Absalom said to his servants, Ye know Joab's field beside my field, the one with the ripe barley; go ye, and burn it down. And so Absalom's servants burned down the crop.*)

³¹ And Joab rose up, and came to Absalom into his house, and said, Why have thy servants burnt [*up*] my (*barley*) corn with fire? (*And Joab rose up, and came to Absalom at his house, and said, Why have thy servants burned down my crop?*)

³² And Absalom answered to Joab, I sent to thee, and besought that thou shouldest come to me, and that I should send thee to the king, that thou shouldest say to him, Why came I from Geshur? It was better to me to have been there; therefore I beseech, that I see the face of the king, that if he is mindful of my wickedness, slay he me. (*And Absalom answered to Joab, I sent for thee, and desired that thou wouldest come to me, so that I could send thee to the king, and thou couldest say to him for me, Why did I come back from Geshur? It was better for me to have stayed there; and so I beseech thee, let me go before the king, and if he thinketh on my wickedness, then let him kill me.*)

³³ (*So*) Joab entered to the king, and told to him. And Absalom was called, and he entered to the king, and he worshipped on the face of [*the*] earth before him, (*or and honouring him, he bowed low to the ground before him*), and the king kissed Absalom.

CHAPTER 15

¹ Therefore after these things, Absalom made a chariot to him, and *(had)* knights and fifty men, that should go before him. *(And so after these things, Absalom got a chariot and horses for himself, and had fifty men who went before him.)*

² And Absalom rose early, and stood beside the entering of the gate in the way; and Absalom called to him each man, that had a cause, *[(or) a need]*, that he should come to the doom of the king, and Absalom said, Of what city art thou? Which answered, and said, Of one lineage of Israel I am, thy servant. *(And Absalom would rise up early, and stand beside the entrance to the city gate on the road; and then he would call over each man who had a case, or a dispute, that should have gone before the king for judgement, and Absalom would say, Of what city art thou? And each one would answer, and say, I, thy servant, am from such and such tribe of Israel.)*

³ And Absalom answered to him, Thy words seem to me good and just, but none is ordained of the king to hear thee. *(And then Absalom would say to him, Thy words seem good and just to me, but no one is ordained by the king to hear thee.)*

⁴ And Absalom said, Who shall ordain me judge on the land, that all men that have *(a)* cause come to me, and I deem justly? *(And Absalom would add, Who shall ordain me judge over the land, so that all who have a case, or a dispute, can come before me, and I shall give them justice?)*

⁵ But when a man came to Absalom to greet him, he held forth his hand, and took, and kissed

that man; *(And whenever a man came to Absalom to greet him, he would stretch out his hand, and take hold of him, and kiss him;)*

⁶ and Absalom did this to all Israel, that came to doom to be heard of the king, *(or and Absalom did this for all of Israel who came to the king for a judgement);* and *(so)* Absalom stole the hearts of *[the]* men of Israel.

⁷ But after four years, Absalom said to king David, I shall go, and shall yield my vows, which I vowed to the Lord in Hebron; *(And after four years, Absalom said to King David, I shall now go to Hebron, and yield my vows, which I vowed to the Lord;)*

⁸ for thy servant vowing vowed, when he was in Geshur of Syria, and said, If the Lord bringeth again me into Jerusalem, I shall make sacrifice to the Lord. *(for thy servant made a vow, when he was in Geshur of Syria, and said, If the Lord bringeth me back again to Jerusalem, I shall go and make sacrifice to the Lord in Hebron.)*

⁹ And the king said to him, Go thou in peace. And Absalom rose up, and went into Hebron, *(or And so Absalom rose up, and went to Hebron).*

¹⁰ Forsooth Absalom sent spyers into all the lineage[s] of Israel, and said, Anon as ye hear the sound of *[the]* clarion, say ye, Absalom shall reign in Hebron. *(But Absalom also sent messengers to all the tribes of Israel, who said, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, say ye, Absalom is king in Hebron.)*

¹¹ And two hundred men called *(out)* of Jerusalem went forth with Absalom, and went

with simple heart, and utterly they knew not the cause. *(And Absalom invited two hundred men to go out of Jerusalem with him, and they went innocently, that is, in good faith, and utterly knew nothing about his true intentions.)*

¹² Also Absalom called *(for)* Ahithophel of Giloh, the counsellor of David, from his city Giloh. And when he offered sacrifices, a strong swearing together was made, and the people running together was increased with Absalom. *(And Absalom summoned Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city of Giloh. And so while he offered his sacrifices, the conspiracy strengthened, and the number of people joining Absalom increased.)*

¹³ Therefore a messenger came to David, and said, With all *[the]* heart all Israel followeth Absalom,

¹⁴ And David said to his servants that were with him in Jerusalem, Rise ye up, and flee we; for none escaping shall be to us from the face of Absalom; therefore haste ye to go out, lest he come, and occupy us, and fulfill upon us his falling, and smite the city with sharpness of *[the]* sword. *(And David said to his servants who were with him in Jerusalem, Rise ye up, and flee we; for there shall be no escape for us from Absalom; and so haste ye to go out, lest he come, and occupy us, and fulfill his falling on us, that is, that he destroy us, and strike down the people of the city with the sharpness of his sword.)*

¹⁵ And the servants of the king said to him, We thy servants shall perform gladly all things

(or We thy servants shall gladly do all things), whatever our lord the king shall command.

¹⁶ Then the king went out, and all his house, upon their feet; and the king left ten women concubines, *that is, secondary wives*, to keep the house. *(Then the king departed, and all his household followed him; but the king left ten of his concubines, or his secondary wives, to look after the palace.)*

¹⁷ And (so) the king went out, and all Israel, upon their feet, and the king stood far from the house *(or and they stopped far away from the palace).*

¹⁸ And all his servants went beside him, and the legions of Cherethites and of Pelethites, and all the strong fighting men of Gath, six hundred men, that followed him from Gath, went on foot before the king.

¹⁹ And the king said to Ittai of Gath, Why comest thou with us? Turn thou again, and dwell with the *(new)* king, for thou art a pilgrim, and wentest out from thy place.

²⁰ Thou camest yesterday, and today thou art compelled to go out with us. Soothly I shall go, whither I shall go; *(but thou)* turn again, and lead again thy brethren with thee, and the Lord do mercy and truth with thee, for thou hast showed to me grace and faith. *(Thou camest but yesterday, and so today, art thou compelled to go out with us? No! Truly I shall go, wherever I shall go; but thou return, and take thy kinsmen with thee, and may the Lord show kindness and truth*

to thee, for thou hast shown favour and faith to me.)

²¹ And Ittai answered to the king, and said, (As) The Lord liveth, and (as) my lord the king liveth, for in whatever place thou shalt be, my lord the king, either in death either in life, there thy servant shall be.

²² And David said to Ittai, Come thou, and pass forth. And Ittai of Gath passed forth, and the king, and all men that were with him, and the tother multitude. *(And David said to Ittai, Then come thou, and let us go. And so Ittai the Gittite, and the king, and the men who were with him, and all the other people, went forth.)*

²³ And all men wept with great voice, and all the people passed forth; and the king went over the strand of Kidron, and all the people went against the way of the olive tree(s), that beholdeth to the desert. *(And all the people wept loudly, as they all went forth; and the king led the people over the Kidron Stream or over the Kidron Gorge, and they went toward the way of the olive trees which looketh toward the wilderness.)*

²⁴ Forsooth and Zadok the priest came, and all the deacons with him, and they bare the ark of *[the]* bond of peace of God, and they setted down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, till all the people was passed forth that went out of the city. *(And Zadok the priest came, and all the Levites with him, carrying the Ark of the Covenant of God; and they set down the Ark of God beside Abiathar, until all the people who went out of the city had passed by.)*

²⁵ And the king said to Zadok, Bear again the ark of God into the city; if I shall find grace in the eyes of the Lord, he shall lead me again, and he shall show to me that ark, and his tabernacle. *(And the king said to Zadok, Take the Ark of God back to the city; if I shall find favour before the Lord, he shall bring me back here, and he shall let me see that Ark, and its resting place again.)*

²⁶ Soothly if the Lord saith, Thou pleasest not me; I am ready, do he that, that is good before himself. *(But if the Lord saith, Thou pleasest me not; I am ready; do he what he desireth with me.)*

²⁷ And the king said to Zadok, the priest, O! thou seer, *that is, (a) prophet*, turn again into the city, with peace; and Ahimaaz, thy son, and Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, your two sons, be with you. *(And the king said to Zadok, the priest, O! thou prophet, return to the city in peace; and thy son Ahimaaz, and Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, these two young men, go they with you.)*

²⁸ Lo! I shall be hid in *[the]* field places of the desert, till word come from you, and show to me. *(Behold! I shall hide at the Fords, or the river crossings, of the Wilderness, until word come from thee to me.)*

²⁹ Therefore Zadok and Abiathar bare again the ark of God into Jerusalem, and they dwelled there *(or and they stayed there)*.

³⁰ Forsooth David went up upon the hill of olive trees, going up and weeping, with his head covered, and with bare feet passing forth; but also all the people that was with him, went up with their head(s) covered, and *(they also)*

wept. *(And David went up on the Mount of Olives, walking and weeping, with his head covered, and going forth with bare feet; and all the people who were with him also went up weeping, and with their heads covered.)*

³¹ And it was told to David, that Ahithophel was in the swearing together with Absalom; and David said, Lord, I beseech, make thou fond the counsel of Ahithophel. *(And it was told to David that Ahithophel was in the conspiracy with Absalom; and David said, Lord, I beseech thee, turn thou Ahithophel's advice into foolishness.)*

³² And when David went up into *[the]* highness of the hill, in which he should worship the Lord, lo! Hushai of Archi, with *his* cloth rent, and with *his* head full of earth, came to him. *(And when David reached the top of the hill, where he would worship the Lord, behold! Hushai the Archite came to him, with his cloak torn, and with earth, or with dirt, on his head.)*

³³ And David said to him, If thou comest with me, thou shalt be to me *(a)* charge *(or thou shalt be a burden to me)*;

³⁴ soothly if thou turnest again to the city, and sayest to Absalom, I am thy servant, O king, suffer thou me to live; as I was the servant of thy father, so I shall be thy servant; thou shalt destroy the counsel of Ahithophel *(or then thou shalt be able to destroy Ahithophel's advice)*.

³⁵ And thou hast with thee Zadok and Abiathar, the priests; and whatever word thou shalt hear in the house of the king, thou shalt show it to the priests, Zadok and Abiathar. *(And thou shalt*

have with thee Zadok and Abiathar; the priests; and whatever thing that thou shalt hear in the king's house, thou shalt tell it to those priests, Zadok and Abiathar.)

³⁶ And their two sons be with them, Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, and Jonathan, the son of Abiathar; and ye shall send by them to me each word that ye shall hear (*or and ye shall send them to me with all that ye hear*).

³⁷ Therefore when Hushai, friend of David, came into the city, also Absalom entered into Jerusalem. (*And so David's friend Hushai came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.*)

CHAPTER 16

¹ And when David had passed a little (*by*) the top of the hill, Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, appeared into his coming, with twain asses, that were charged with two hundred loaves, and with an hundred bundles of dried grapes, and with an hundred gobbets/an hundred pieces of pressed figs, and with two vessels of wine. (*And after David had just left the hilltop, Mephibosheth's servant Ziba appeared before him, with two donkeys that were loaded with two hundred loaves, a hundred bundles of dried grapes, a hundred pieces of pressed figs, and two vessels of wine.*)

² And the king said to Ziba, What will these things to themselves? And Ziba answered, My lord the king, the asses be to the menials of the king, that they sit *on them*; and the loaves and the pressed figs be to thy children to eat; forsooth the

wine is, that if any man fail in desert, he *(may)* drink. *(And the king said to Ziba, What doest thou with these things? And Ziba answered, My lord the king, the donkeys be for the king's menials to siton; and the loaves and the pressed figs be for thy young men to eat; and the wine, so that if any man feel faint in the wilderness, he hath something to drink.)*

³ And the king said, Where is the son of thy lord? And Ziba answered to the king, He dwelled *[still]* in Jerusalem, and said, Today the Lord of the house of Israel shall restore to me the realm of my father. *(And the king said, Where is the grandson of thy lord? And Ziba answered to the king, He remaineth in Jerusalem, and said, Today the house of Israel shall restore my grandfather's kingdom to me.)*

⁴ And the king said to Ziba, All things that were of Mephibosheth be thine. And Ziba said, I pray, find I grace before thee, my lord the king. *(And the king said to Ziba, All the things that were Mephibosheth's now be thine. And Ziba said, I pray thee, that I may find favour before thee, my lord the king.)*

⁵ Therefore king David came to Bahurim, and lo! a man of the family of the house of Saul, Shimei by name, *[the]* son of Gera, went out from thence; he went forth going out, and cursed, *(or and he cursed David as he went forth).*

⁶ And he sent stones against David, and against all the servants of king David; and all the people, and all the fighting men went at the right side and at the left side of the king.

⁷ And Shimei spake thus, when he cursed the king, Go out, go out, thou man of bloods, *that is, the shedder out of much guiltless blood*, and man of Belial!

⁸ The Lord hath yielded to thee all the blood of the house of Saul, for thou hast ravished the realm from him (*or for thou hast stolen the kingdom from him*); and the Lord hath given the realm into the hand of Absalom, thy son; and lo! thine evils oppress thee, for thou art a man of bloods.

⁹ And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, said to the king, Why curseth this dog, that shall die, my lord the king? I shall go, and I shall gird off his head. (*And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, said to the king, Why let this dead dog curse my lord the king? I shall go, and I shall cut off his head!*)

¹⁰ And the king said, Ye sons of Zeruiah, what is (*it*) to me and to you? Suffer ye him, that he curse, (*or But the king said, Ye sons of Zeruiah, what is it to me, or to you? Allow ye him to curse me*); forsooth the Lord hath commanded to him, that he should curse David; and who is he that dare say, Why did he so?

¹¹ And the king said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Lo! my son, that went out of my womb, seeketh my life; how much more now this son of Benjamin? Suffer ye him, that he curse (*me*) by [*the*] commandment of the Lord;

¹² if in hap the Lord behold my tormenting, and yield good to me for this day's cursing. (*perhaps the Lord shall behold my torments, and shall yield good to me for this day's curses.*)

¹³ Therefore David went forth, and his fellows, by the way with him; but Shimei went aside by the slade of the hill (*over*) against David; and cursed *David*, and threw stones against him, and sprinkled earth. (*And so David, and his fellows, went forth by the way; but Shimei went alongside by the ridge of the hill opposite David; and cursed David, and threw stones at him, and threw dirt.*)

¹⁴ And so king David came, and all the people weary with him, and they were refreshed there. (*And so the king, and all the people who were with him, came weary to the Jordan River, and they were refreshed there.*)

¹⁵ And Absalom, and all the people of Israel entered into Jerusalem, but also Ahithophel with him (*or and Ahithophel was with him*).

¹⁶ And when Hushai of Archi, the friend of David, had come to Absalom, he said to him, Hail, king! hail, king!

¹⁷ To whom Absalom said, This is thy grace to thy friend (*or This is how thou showest thy loyalty to thy friend?*); why wentest thou not with thy friend?

¹⁸ And Hushai answered to Absalom, Nay, for I shall be the *servant* of him, whom the Lord hath chosen, and all this people, and all Israel; and I shall dwell with him (*or and I shall stay with him*).

¹⁹ But that I say also this, to whom shall I serve? whether not to the son of the king? as I obeyed to thy father, so I shall obey to thee.

²⁰ And Absalom said to Ahithophel, Take ye counsel (*or Give ye advice to me*), what we ought to do.

²¹ And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Enter thou [*in*] to the concubines of thy father; which he left to keep the house; that when all Israel heareth, that thou hast defouled thy father's *bed*, the hands of them be strengthened with thee. (*And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Enter thou in to thy father's concubines, whom he left in charge of the palace; and when all Israel heareth, that thou hast defiled thy father's bed, the hands of them who be with thee shall be strengthened.*)

²² Therefore they stretched out (*for*) Absalom a tabernacle in the solar, and he entered [*in*] to the concubines of his father before all Israel. (*And so they stretched out a tent on the roof for Absalom, and he lay with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.*)

²³ And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if a man had counselled with God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel, both when he was with David, and when he was with Absalom.

CHAPTER 17

¹ Then Ahithophel said to Absalom, I shall choose to me twelve thousand of men, and I shall rise up, and pursue David in this night. (*Then Ahithophel said to Absalom, Let me choose twelve thousand men, and then I shall rise up, and pursue David this very night.*)

² And I shall fall on him, for he is weary, and with unbound hands I shall smite him. And when all the people fleeth that is with him, I shall smite the king left alone. *(And I shall fall on him, for he is weary, and with enfeebled hands, and I shall strike him down. Yea, when all the people who be with him fleeth away, then I shall strike down only the king or then I shall strike down the king alone.)*

³ And I shall lead again all the people, as one man is wont to be turned again; for thou seekest *(only)* one man, and *(then)* all the people shall be in peace. *(And I shall bring back all the people, and they shall return as if but one man; for thou seekest only one man, and all the other people shall be unharmed.)*

⁴ And the word(s) of Ahithophel pleased Absalom, and all the greater men in birth of Israel. *(And Ahithophel's plan pleased Absalom, and all the men of great age, that is, the elders, of Israel.)*

⁵ And Absalom said, Call ye also Hushai of Archi, and hear we what also he saith. *(And Absalom said, Now call ye Hushai the Archite, and let us hear what he saith.)*

⁶ And when Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom said to him, Ahithophel hath spoken such a word; ought we *(to)* do thereafter, either nay? what counsel givest thou?

⁷ And Hushai said to Absalom, This is not good counsel, that Ahithophel hath given in this time. *(And Hushai said to Absalom, This is not good advice which Ahithophel hath given thee at this time.)*

⁸ And again Hushai said, Thou knowest, that thy father, and the men that be with him, be most strong, and in bitter soul, as if a she bear is fierce in the forest, when her whelps be ravished *from her*; but also thy father is a man warrior, and he shall not dwell with the people. *(And Hushai said, Thou knowest, that thy father, and the men who be with him, be most strong, and with bitter souls, like when a she bear is fierce in the forest, after her cubs be stolen from her; but also thy father is a fighting man, and he shall not stay with the army.)*

⁹ In hap now he is hid, *either lurketh*, in ditches, either in one place, in which he will *hide him*; and when any man falleth in the beginning, whoever shall hear *(of)it*, he shall hear, and shall say, Vengeance is done in the people that followed Absalom. *(Perhaps even now he is hid, or lurketh, in a ditch, or some other place, where he hideth himself; and when any of your men falleth at the beginning, whoever shall hear of it, he shall say, Revenge is now taken on the people who followed Absalom.)*

¹⁰ And each full strong man, whose heart is as *the heart* of a lion, shall be discomfited for dread; for all the people of Israel knoweth, that thy father is strong, and that all the men be strong, that be with him. *(And then even the strongest man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, shall be enfeebled by fear; for all the people of Israel know that thy father is strong, and that all the men who be with him also be strong.)*

¹¹ But this seemeth to me to be rightful counsel; *(let)* all Israel be gathered to thee, from Dan till to Beersheba, *(and they shall be as)* unnumberable as the sand of the sea; and thou shalt be in the midst of them.

¹² And we shall fall upon him, in whatever place he is found, and we shall cover him, as dew is wont to fall on the earth; and we shall not leave *(any)* of the men that be with him, soothly not one. *(And then we shall fall on David wherever he is found, and we shall cover him like dew is wont to fall on the ground; and we shall not leave alive any of the men who be with him, no not one.)*

¹³ That if he entereth into any city, all Israel shall compass that city with ropes, and we shall draw it into the strand, yea that nothing be found, soothly not a little stone thereof. *(And if he entereth into any city, all Israel shall surround that city with ropes, and we shall draw it into the stream, yea so that nothing be found of it, truly not even a little stone of it.)*

¹⁴ And Absalom said, and all the men of Israel, The counsel of Hushai of Archi is better than the counsel of Ahithophel; and the profitable counsel of Ahithophel was destroyed by God's will, that the Lord should bring in evil on Absalom. *(And Absalom, and all the men of Israel, said, Hushai the Archite's advice is better than Ahithophel's; and so Ahithophel's good advice was destroyed by God's will, so that the Lord could bring in evil upon Absalom.)*

¹⁵ And Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar, the priests, Ahithophel gave counsel to Absalom,

and to the elder men of Israel in this and this manner, and I gave such and such counsel.

¹⁶ Now therefore send ye soon, and tell ye to David, and say ye, Dwell thou not this night in *[the]* field places of the desert, but pass thou *[over]* without delay; lest peradventure the king be swallowed up, and all the people that is with him. *(And so now send ye to him soon, and tell ye to David, Stay thou not this night at the Fords, or the crossings, of the Wilderness, but cross thou over the river without delay; lest perhaps the king be swallowed up, and all the people who be with him.)*

¹⁷ And Jonathan and Ahimaaz stood beside the well of Rogel *(or And Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at Enrogel)*; *(and)* an handmaid went, and told to them, and *(then)* they went forth to tell the message to king David; for they might not be seen, neither *(could)* enter into the city.

¹⁸ And a child saw them, and he showed *it* to Absalom; and they entered with swift going into the house of a man in Bahurim, that had a pit in his place, and they went down into that pit. *(But a boy saw them, and he went and told Absalom; and going swiftly, Jonathan and Ahimaaz entered into the house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well at his place, and they went down into that well.)*

¹⁹ And a woman took, and spread abroad a covering over the mouth of the pit, as *(if)* drying barley with the peel taken away, and so the thing was hid. *(And a woman took, and spread out a covering over the mouth of the well, and then put*

some peeled barley on top of it, as if to dry it, and so they were hid.)

²⁰ And when the servants of Absalom had come into the house, they said to the woman, Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman answered to them, They passed (over) the river of waters, *that is, (over the) Jordan*. And when they that sought them had not found them, they turned again into Jerusalem, *(or And so when the men who sought them could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem)*.

²¹ And when they had gone forth, they went up from the pit; and they went, and told to king David, and said, Rise ye up, and passeth soon (over) the flood, for Ahithophel hath given such counsel against you. *(And when the men had gone, Ahimaaz and Jonathan went up from the well; and they went, and said to King David, Quickly rise ye up, and cross ye over the river, and know ye also that Ahithophel hath spoken such and such a plan against you.)*

²² Therefore David rose up, and all the people that was with him, and they passed (over) Jordan, till it was clear day, before that the word was published; and soothly not one was left, that passed not (over) the flood. *(And so David, and all the people who were with him, rose up, and they crossed the Jordan River before anyone knew it; and by daylight, everyone had crossed over the river.)*

²³ And Ahithophel saw, that his counsel was not done, and he saddled his ass, and rose up, and went into his house, and into his city;

and when his house was disposed, he perished by hanging himself, and he was buried in the sepulchre of his father. *(And Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, and so he saddled up his donkey, and went back to his house in his city; and after his affairs were in order, he hanged himself, and he was buried in his father's tomb, or his grave.)*

²⁴ And David came into the castles, and Absalom passed [over] Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. *(And as David came to Mahanaim, Absalom, and all the men of Israel who were with him, crossed over the Jordan River.)*

²⁵ And Absalom ordained Amasa for Joab upon his host; and Amasa was the son of a man that was called Ithra of Jezreel, the which entered to Abigail, the daughter of Nahash, *(and) the sister of Zeruiah, that was the mother of Joab. (And Absalom ordained Amasa upon his army, in Joab's place; and Amasa was the son of a man called Ithra, an Ishmaelite, who entered in to Abigail, who was Nahash's daughter, and Zeruiah's sister, Joab's mother.)*

²⁶ And Israel setted tents with Absalom in the land of Gilead.

²⁷ And when David had come into the castles *(or And when David had come to Mahanaim)*, Shobi, the son of Nahash of Rabbah, of the sons of Ammon, and Machir, the son of Ammiel, of Lodebar, and Barzillai, of Gilead, of Rogelim,

²⁸ brought to him beddings, and tapets, *(or brought him bedding, and blankets)*, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and meal, and

flour, and beans, and lentils/and vetches, and fried chick(*pea*)s,

²⁹ and honey, and butter, and sheep, and fat calves. And they gave *those* to David, and to the people that were with him, to eat; for they supposed the people to be made faint for hunger and thirst in desert (*or for they knew that the people would be made hungry and thirsty in the wilderness*).

CHAPTER 18

¹ Therefore David, when he had beheld his people, ordained chieftains of thousands, and (*chieftains*) of hundreds upon them.

² And he gave the third part of the people under the hand of Joab; and the third part under the hand of Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab; and the third part under the hand of Ittai, that was of Gath. And the king said to the people, Also I shall go out with you. (*And he sent out a third part of the people under Joab's command; and a third part under Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother; and a third part under Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, And I shall go out with all of you.*)

³ And the people answered, Thou shalt not go out; for whether we flee, it shall not pertain to them by great work of us; whether half the part fall down of us, they shall not reckon (*it*) enough, for thou art reckoned for ten thousand; therefore it is better, that thou be to us in the city in strong succour. (*And the people answered, Thou shalt not go out with us; for if we flee, it shall not pertain*

to them to make any great effort against us; and even if half of us shall fall down, or shall die, they shall not reckon it enough or they shall not reckon it much, for thou art reckoned for ten thousand; and so it is better for us, if thou be in the city, and support us from here.)

⁴ And the king said to them, I shall do that, that seemeth rightful to you. Therefore the king stood beside the gate, and the people went out by their companies, by hundreds, and by thousands.

⁵ And the king commanded to Joab, and to Abishai, and to Ittai, and said, Keep ye to me the child Absalom. And all the people heard the king commanding to all the princes for Absalom. *(And the king commanded to Joab, and Abishai, and Ittai, and said, For my sake, do not ye harm the young man Absalom. And all the people heard the king commanding to all his officers about Absalom.)*

⁶ Therefore the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was made in the forest of Ephraim.

⁷ And the people of Israel was slain there of the host of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand was made in that day. *(And many Israelites were killed there by David's army, yea, there was a great slaughter of twenty thousand that day.)*

⁸ And the battle was scattered there upon the face of all the land, and many more were of the people which the forest wasted, than they which the sword devoured in that day. *(And the battle there was scattered over all the countryside, and*

the forest killed many more people that day, than they whom the sword devoured.)

⁹ Soothly it befelled, that Absalom, sitting on a mule, came against the servants of David; and when the mule had entered under a thick oak, and great, the head of Absalom cleaved to the oak; and when he was hanged betwixt heaven and earth, the mule, on which he sat, passed (forth). *(And it befell, that Absalom, sitting on a mule, came toward David's men; and when the mule had entered under a great thick oak, Absalom's head got caught in the branches; and while he hung in the air above the ground, the mule, on which he sat, went forth.)*

¹⁰ And some man saw this, and told it to Joab, and said, I saw Absalom hanged on an oak, *(or and said, I saw Absalom hung up in an oak).*

¹¹ And Joab said to the man that told to him, If thou saw *him*, why piercest thou not him through to the earth, and I should have given to thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle? *(And Joab said to the man who told him this, If thou saw him thus, why didest thou not pierce him through to the ground, and then I would have gladly given thee ten silver shekels, and a girdle.)*

¹² And he said to Joab, Though thou paidest in mine hands a thousand pieces of silver, I would not send mine hand into the son of the king; for while we heard, the king commanded to thee, and to Abishai, and to Ittai, and said, Keep ye to me the child Absalom. *(And he said to Joab, Though thou paidest me a thousand pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against*

the king's son; for while we heard, the king commanded to thee, and to Abishai, and to Ittai, and said, For my sake, do not ye harm the young man Absalom.)

¹³ But and though I had done fool hardily against my life (*or But if I had acted so foolishly against my own life*), this might not be hid from the king, and thou wouldest stand on the contrary side.

¹⁴ And Joab said, Not as thou wilt, but I shall assail him before thee. Therefore Joab took three spears in his hand, and fixed those in(*to*) the heart of Absalom. And when he sprawled, yet cleaving in the oak, (*or And yet while he sprawled, still caught up in the oak*),

¹⁵ ten young squires of Joab ran, and smote, and killed him. (*ten young squires of Joab ran over to him, and struck, or stabbed, and killed him.*)

¹⁶ And Joab trumped with a clarion, and held with him the people, lest it pursued Israel fleeing, and he would spare the multitude. (*And then Joab sounded with a trumpet, to hold back the army with him, lest they pursued the men of Israel fleeing away, for he would spare the multitude.*)

¹⁷ And they took Absalom, and casted forth him into a great ditch in the forest, and bare together a full great heap of stones on him; and all Israel fled into their tabernacles. (*And they took Absalom's body, and threw it forth into a great ditch in the forest, and put a great heap of stones on it; and all Israel fled back to their homes.*)

¹⁸ Forsooth Absalom, while he lived yet, had raised to him a memorial, which is in the valley of the king; for he said, I have no son, and this shall be the mind of my name; and he called the memorial by his name, and it is called The Hand, *that is, (the) Work*, of Absalom, till to this day. *(And Absalom, while yet he lived, had raised up a memorial to himself, in the King's Valley; for he said, I have no son, and this shall be in remembrance of my name; and he called the memorial after his own name, and unto this day it is still called The Work of Absalom.)*

¹⁹ And Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, said, I shall run, and I shall tell to the king, that the Lord hath made doom to him of the hand of his enemies. *(And Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, said, I shall run, and I shall tell the king, that the Lord hath made judgement for him, that is, hath avenged him, upon his enemies.)*

²⁰ To whom Joab said, Thou shalt not be a messenger in this day, but thou shalt tell in another day; I will not that thou tell this today, for the son of the king is dead, *(or I do not desire that thou tell this news today, for the king's son is dead).*

²¹ And Joab said to Cush, Go thou, and tell to the king those things that thou hast seen. Cush worshipped Joab, and ran forth, *(or Cush bowed to Joab, and ran off).*

²² And again Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, said to Joab, What hindereth, if also I run after Cush? And Joab said to him, What wilt thou run, my son? Come thou hither; thou shalt not be a bearer

of good message, *(or And Joab said to him, Why would thou run, my son? It is better to stay here, for thou shalt not be a bearer of good news).*

²³ The which answered, But what if I shall run? And Joab said to him, Run thou. Therefore Ahimaaz ran by the way of shortness, and speed, and passed Cushy.

²⁴ And David sat betwixt *(the)* two gates; soothly the espyer, that was in the highness of the gate on the wall, raised up his eyes, and he saw a man alone running; *(And David sat between the two gates of the city; and the watchman, who was on the roof of the gate by the wall, raised up his eyes, and he saw a man running alone;)*

²⁵ and the espyer cried, and showed to the king. And the king said to him, If he is alone, good message is in his mouth. But while he hasted, and nighed near, *(and the watchman cried aloud, and told the king. And the king said to himself, If he is alone, then he hath good news. But while he hastened, and drew near;)*

²⁶ the espyer saw another man running; and the espyer cried on high, and said, Another man running alone appeareth to me. And the king said to him, And this man is a good messenger. *(the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman cried out on high, and said, Another man also running alone appeareth to me. And the king said to himself, This man must also have good news.)*

²⁷ Soothly the espyer said *(or And the watchman said),* I behold the running of the former, as

the running of Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and he cometh bringing a good message.

²⁸ And Ahimaaz cried, and said to the king, Hail king! And he worshipped the king lowly before him to the earth, and said, Blessed be thy Lord God, that hath closed together the men, that raised their hands against my lord the king. *(And Ahimaaz cried out, and said to the king, Hail king! And honouring the king, he bowed low to the ground before him, and said, Blessed be the Lord thy God, who hath given thee victory over the men who raised up their hands, that is, who rebelled, against my lord the king.)*

²⁹ And the king said, Whether peace is to the child Absalom? And Ahimaaz said, I saw, *that is, I heard*, a great noise, when Joab, thy servant, thou king, sent me, thy servant; I know none other thing. *(And the king said, Is all well with the young man Absalom? And Ahimaaz said, I saw a great tumult or I heard a great noise, when thy servant Joab, O king, sent me, thy servant; I know nothing else.)*

³⁰ To whom the king said, Pass thou, and stand here. And when he had passed, and stood, *(To whom the king said, Stand thou over there. And when he had stepped aside, and stood in silence,)*

³¹ Cushie appeared; and he came and said, My lord the king, I bring good message; for the Lord hath deemed today for thee of the hand of all men that rised against thee. *(Cushi appeared; and he came and said, My lord the king, I bring good*

news; for the Lord hath given thee victory today over all the men who rebelled against thee.)

³² And the king said to Cush, Whether peace is to the child Absalom? To whom Cush answered, and said, The enemies of my lord the king, and all men that rise against him into evil, be made as the child. *(And the king said to Cush, Is all well with the young man Absalom? To whom Cush answered, May all the enemies of my lord the king, and all the men who rebel against him, be made like that young man!)*

³³ Therefore the king was sorry, and went up into the solar of the gate, and he wept, and spake thus going, *(or And so the king was deeply grieved, and went up to the roof of the gate, and as he went, he wept, and spoke thus)*, My son, Absalom! Absalom, my son! who giveth to me, that I die for thee? Absalom, my son! my son, Absalom!

CHAPTER 19

¹ Forsooth it was told to Joab, that the king wept, and bewailed his son;

² and the victory in that day was turned into mourning to all the people; for the people heard, that it was said in that day, The king maketh sorrow on his son. *(and so the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people; for the people heard, that it was said that day, The king sorroweth for his son.)*

³ And the people eschewed to enter into the city in that day, as the people turned and fleeing from *[the]* battle is wont to bow away. *(And the people entered into the city on that day in shameful quiet,*

like the people who turned, and fled away from a battle, be wont to go.)

⁴ And the king covered his head, and cried with great voice (*or and cried with a loud voice*), My son, Absalom! Absalom, my son!

⁵ Therefore Joab entered to the king into the house, and said, Thou hast shamed today the cheeks of all thy servants, that have made safe thy life, and the life of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the life of thy wives, and the life of thy secondary wives. (*And so Joab entered into the palace, and said to the king, Today thou hast brought shame upon all of thy servants who have made thy life safe, and also upon the lives of thy sons and thy daughters, and thy wives, and thy secondary wives, or thy concubines.*)

⁶ Thou lovest them that hate thee, and thou hatest them that love thee; and thou hast showed today that thou reckest not of thy dukes and of thy servants; and verily I have known now, that if Absalom lived, and all we had been dead, then it should please thee. (*Thou lovest them who hate thee, and thou hatest them who love thee; and thou hast shown today that thou carest not for thy leaders or for thy men; and now I truly know, that if Absalom had lived, and all of us had died, it would have pleased thee.*)

⁷ Now therefore rise up, and go thou forth, and speak thou, and make satisfaction to thy servants; for I swear to thee by the Lord, that if thou shalt not go forth, soothly not one man shall dwell with thee in this night; and this shall be worse to thee, than all the evils that came [*up*]

on thee from thy young waxing age till into *this present time. (And so now rise up, and go thou out, and speak thou, and give satisfaction to thy men; for I swear by the Lord to thee, that if thou shalt not go out to them, truly not one man shall stay with thee through this night; and this shall be worse for thee, than all the evil that hath come upon thee from thy youngest age unto this present time.)*

⁸ Therefore the king rose up, and sat in the gate; and it was told to all the people, that the king sat in the gate, and all the multitude came before the king. Forsooth Israel fled into their tabernacles *(or Meanwhile all the Israelites had fled to their homes).*

⁹ And all the people strived in all the lineages of Israel, and said, The king delivered us from the hand of all our enemies, and he saved us from the hand of Philistines; and now he hath fled from the land for Absalom *(or and now he hath fled from the land because of Absalom).*

¹⁰ Certainly Absalom, whom we anointed upon us, is dead in battle; how long be ye still, and bring not again the king? *(or how long shall ye be silent, and not bring back the king?)* And the counsel of all Israel came to the king.

¹¹ And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar, the priests, and said, Speak ye to the greater men in birth of Judah, and say ye, Why came ye the last to bring again the king into his house? Soothly the word of all Israel came to the king, that they would bring him again into his house. For the king said, Ye shall say these things

to the people, (*And King David sent word to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, and said, Speak ye to the men of great age, that is, to the elders, of Judah, and say ye, Why be ye the last to help bring back the king to his palace? Truly the word of all Israel had come to the king, that they would bring him back to his palace. And so the king said, Ye shall say these things to the elders.*)

¹² Ye be my brethren, ye be my bone and my flesh; why the last bring ye again the king? (*Ye be my kinsmen, ye be my flesh and blood; so why be ye the last to bring back the king?*)

¹³ And say ye to Amasa, Whether thou art not my bone and my flesh? God do these things to me, and add these things too, if thou shalt not be master of chivalry (*or if thou shalt not be the leader of the cavalry, or of the army*), before me in all time after Joab.

¹⁴ And David bowed to him the heart of all [*the*] men of Judah as of one man; and they sent to the king, and said, Turn thou again, and all thy servants. (*And so David turned to himself the hearts of all the men of Judah as if one man; and they sent word to the king, and said, Come thou back again with all thy men.*)

¹⁵ And the king turned again, and came till to Jordan, (*or And so the king returned, and came to the Jordan River*); and all Judah came till into Gilgal to meet the king, and to lead him over (*the*) Jordan.

¹⁶ But Shimei, the son of Gera, the son of Benjamin, of Bahurim, hasted, and came down with the men of Judah into the meeting of king

David, *(And Shimei, the son of Gera, the son of Benjamin, hastened from Bahurim, and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David.)*

¹⁷ with a thousand men of Benjamin; and Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, and *(the)* fifteen sons of him, and *(his)* twenty servants were with him; and they brake into *(the)* Jordan, before the king, *(or and they went over the Jordan River, before the king),*

¹⁸ and they passed the fords, that they should lead over the house of the king, and do by the behest of the king. Soothly Shimei, the son of Gera, kneeled before the king, when he had passed now Jordan, *(and they passed over the crossing, in order to bring over the king's household, and to do whatever the king commanded. And Shimei, the son of Gera, kneeled before the king, when he had crossed over the Jordan River),*

¹⁹ and said to the king, My lord the king, areckon thou not wickedness to me, neither have thou mind of the wrongs of thy servant in the day *(nor remember the wrongs of thy servant on the day),* in which thou, my lord the king, wentest out of Jerusalem, neither set thou, king, those wrongs in thine heart;

²⁰ for I thy servant acknowledge my sin; and therefore today I came the first of all the house of Joseph, and I came down into the meeting of my lord the king *(or and I came down to meet my lord the king).*

²¹ And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, answered and said, Whether Shimei, that cursed the christ

of the Lord, shall not be slain for these words? *(And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, answered to him and said, Should not Shimei, who cursed the Lord's anointed, be killed for those words?)*

²² And David said, What is *(it)* to me and to you, ye sons of Zeruiah? Why be ye made to me today into Satan, *that is, (an) adversary?* Therefore whether a man shall be slain today in Israel? Whether I know not *(that)* me *(am)* made king today on Israel? *(And David said, What is it to me or to you, ye sons of Zeruiah? Why be ye made into my adversaries today? Should any man be put to death on this day in Israel? The day that I am made king upon Israel? No!)*

²³ And the king said to Shimei, Thou shalt not die; and the king swore to him.

²⁴ Also Mephibosheth, the son of Saul, came down with unwashed feet, and with his beard unclipped, into the coming of the king. And Mephibosheth had not washed his clothes, from the day in which the king went out of Jerusalem till to the day of his coming again in peace. *(And Mephibosheth, Saul's son, came down with unwashed feet, and with his beard unclipped, to meet the king. And Mephibosheth had not washed his clothes from the day in which the king went out of Jerusalem until the day that he returned in victory or until the day that he safely returned home.)*

²⁵ And when at Jerusalem he had come to the king *(or And when he had come from Jerusalem to meet the king)*, the king said to him, Mephibosheth, why camest thou not with me?

²⁶ And he answered and said, My lord the king, my servant despised me; and I thy servant said to him, that he should saddle the ass to me, and I should ascend, and I should go with the king; for I thy servant am crooked. *(And he answered, My lord the king, my servant deceived me; for I thy servant had said to him, that he should saddle up the donkey for me, and then I would get on it, and I would go with the king; for I thy servant am crippled.)*

²⁷ Moreover and he accused me, thy servant, to thee, my lord the king; but thou, my lord the king, art as the angel of God; do thou that, that is pleasant to thee. *(And moreover he hath accused me, thy servant, to thee, my lord the king; but thou, my lord the king, art like the angel of God to me; so do thou what is pleasing to thee.)*

²⁸ For the house of my father was not no but guilty of death to my lord the king; soothly thou hast set me thy servant among the guests of thy board; what therefore have I of just complaint, either *(of)* what may I more cry to the king? *(For my father's family was guilty of death before my lord the king; but thou hast put me thy servant among the guests at thy table; so what right have I of any complaint, or what more may I ask for from the king?)*

²⁹ And the king said to him, What speakest thou more? that that I have spoken is steadfast; thou and Ziba part the possessions. *(And the king said to him, Why sayest thou anything more? my decision is final; thou and Ziba will share the possessions.)*

³⁰ And Mephibosheth answered to the king, Yea, take he all things, after that my lord the king turned again peaceably into his house, (*or now that my lord the king hath returned home in victory, or now that my lord the king hath safely returned home*).

³¹ Also Barzillai of Gilead, a full eld man, came down from Rogelim, and led the king over Jordan, ready also to follow him over the flood. (*And Barzillai of Gilead, a very old man, came down from Rogelim, and joined in escorting the king over the Jordan River.*)

³² And Barzillai of Gilead was full eld, that is, of fourscore years; and he gave meats to the king, when the king dwelled in castles; for Barzillai was a full rich man. (*And Barzillai of Gilead was very old, that is, eighty years old; and he gave food to the king, when the king lived at Mahanaim; for Barzillai was a very rich man.*)

³³ And so the king said to Barzillai, Come thou with me, that thou rest securely with me in Jerusalem. (*And so the king said to Barzillai, Come thou with me, so that thou can have a peaceful life there in Jerusalem with me.*)

³⁴ And Barzillai said to the king, How many (*more*) be the days of [*the*] years of my life, that I (*should*) go up with the king into Jerusalem?

³⁵ I am of fourscore years today; whether my wits be quick to deem sweet thing either bitter, either meat and drink may delight thy servant, either may I hear more the voice of singers either of singsters? Why is thy servant to (*be a*) charge to my lord the king? (*I am eighty years old now;*

can my wits still judge a thing bitter or sweet? or can food and drink still delight thy servant? or can I still hear the voice of singers and singsters? No! So why should thy servant be a burden to my lord the king?)

³⁶ I thy servant shall go forth a little from *(the)* Jordan with thee, I have no need to this yielding; *(I thy servant shall go forth a little from the Jordan River with thee, but I have no need for this reward;)*

³⁷ but I beseech *thee*, that I thy servant turn again, and die in my city, and be buried beside the sepulchre of my father and of my mother; forsooth *(my son)* Chimham is thy servant, my lord the king, *(so)* go he with thee, and do thou to him that that seemeth good to thee.

³⁸ Therefore the king said to Barzillai, Chimham *(shall)* go forth with me; and I shall do to him whatever thing pleaseth thee *(or and I shall do for him whatever pleaseth thee)*, and thou shalt get all thing, that thou askest of me.

³⁹ And when all the people and the king had passed *[over]* Jordan, the king abode; and the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he turned again into his place. *(And when the king and all the people had crossed over the Jordan River, the king stopped there; and he kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and then Barzillai returned to his home.)*

⁴⁰ Then the king passed forth into Gilgal, and Chimham *(was)* with him. And all the people of Judah had led the king over, and the half part

only of the people of Israel was present (*or and also half the people of Israel*).

⁴¹ Therefore all the men of Israel came together to the king, and said to him, Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen thee, and have led the king and his house over Jordan, and all the men of David with him? (*And so all the men of Israel who were there came together to the king, and said to him, Why have our brothers, the men of Judah, stolen thee away, and have led the king, and his household, and all the men of David with him, over the Jordan River?*)

⁴² And each man of Judah answered to the men of Israel, (*and said*), For the king is near (*of kin*) to me (*or For the king is our next of kin*); why art thou wroth upon this thing? Whether we have eaten anything of the king's, either gifts be given to us?

⁴³ And a man of Israel answered to the men of Judah, and said, I am greater by ten parts to the king, and David pertaineth more to me than to thee; why hast thou done wrong to me, and it was not told to me the former, that I should bring again my king? Forsooth the men of Judah answered harder to the men of Israel. (*And the men of Israel answered to the men of Judah, and said, We have a greater stake in the king by ten parts, and David pertaineth more to us than to thee; why hast thou done us this wrong? were we not the first to say that we should bring back our king? But the men of Judah answered back even harder to the men of Israel.*)

CHAPTER 20

¹ Also it befell, that a man of Belial was there, Sheba by name, the son of Bichri, a man of the generation of Benjamin; and he sounded with a trump, and said, No part is to us in David, neither heritage in the son of Jesse; thou Israel, turn again into thy tabernacles. *(And it befell, that a man of Belial was there, named Sheba, the son of Bichri, a man of the tribe of Benjamin; and he sounded with a trumpet, and said, There is no part for us with David, nor inheritance with the son of Jesse; O Israel, return to thy homes!)*

² And all Israel was parted from David, and followed Sheba, the son of Bichri; and the men of Judah cleaved to their king, from Jordan till to Jerusalem. *(And so all Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba, the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah cleaved to their king, from the Jordan River unto Jerusalem.)*

³ And when the king had come into his house in Jerusalem, he took *[the]* ten women, his secondary wives, which he had left to keep the house, and he betook them into keeping, and gave meat to them; and he entered not *[in]* to them; but they were closed *(up)* till to the day of their death, and lived in widowhood. *(And when the king had come to his palace in Jerusalem, he took his secondary wives, the ten women whom he had left in charge of the palace, and he put them under guard, and gave them food; but he did not sleep with them any more; and they were enclosed until the day of their death, and lived in widowhood.)*

⁴ And David said to Amasa, Call thou together to me all the men of Judah into the third day, and be thou present. *(And David said to Amasa, Call thou together for me all the men of Judah in three days' time, and be thou present with them.)*

⁵ Therefore Amasa went forth, that he call together the people of Judah; and he dwelled over the covenanted time, which the king had set to him. *(And so Amasa went out to call together the people of Judah; but he took more time to arrange matters than what the king had set for him.)*

⁶ And (so) David said to Abishai, Now Sheba, the son of Bichri, shall torment us *(even)* more than Absalom *did*; therefore take the servants of thy lord *(or and so take my bodyguards)*, and pursue him, lest in hap he find strengthened, *(or fortified)*, cities, and escape us.

⁷ Therefore the men of Joab went out with Abishai, and *(the)* Cherethites and Pelethites, and all the strong men, *(and they)* went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba, the son of Bichri.

⁸ And when they were beside the great stone, which is in Gibeon, Amasa came, and ran to them; and Joab was clothed with a strait coat at the measure of his shape, and he was girded above with a sword hanging down unto his entrails in a sheath; and it went out, and felled down. *(And when they were beside the great stone, which is in Gibeon, Amasa came over to them; and Joab was clothed with a narrow coat tight to his body, and he was girded with a sword in a sheath hanging down to his entrails; and as*

Amasa came over, it fell out or he secretly took it out.)

⁹ And so Joab said to Amasa, Hail, my brother! And Joab held with his right hand the chin of Amasa, as kissing him, *(or And Joab held Amasa's chin with his right hand, as if to kiss him).*

¹⁰ Forsooth Amasa took not keep of the sword, which sword Joab had, and Joab smote Amasa in the side, and shedded out his entrails into the earth, and Amasa was dead; and Joab added not the second wound. And *(then)* Joab, and Abishai, his brother, pursued Sheba, the son of Bichri. *(But Amasa was not on guard for the sword which Joab had, and suddenly Joab struck, or stabbed, Amasa in the side with it, and poured out his entrails onto the ground, and so Amasa died; and Joab did not need to add a second wound. And then Joab, and his brother Abishai, pursued Sheba, the son of Bichri.)*

¹¹ In the meantime, when some of the children of David, of the fellows of Joab, had stood beside the dead body of Amasa, they said, Lo! he that would be the fellow of David, *(be)* for Joab. *(In the meantime, one of Joab's young men stood beside Amasa's dead body, and he said, Behold! he who would be the fellow of Joab and of David, follow he Joab!)*

¹² And Amasa was besprinkled with blood, and lay in the middle of the way. Some man saw this/A man saw this, that all the people abode to see Amasa, and he removed Amasa from the way into the field, and he covered Amasa with a cloth, lest men passing should abide *[still]* for

him. *(And Amasa was covered with blood, and lay in the middle of the road. And some man saw that all the people stood about looking at Amasa, and so he moved Amasa's body from the road to a nearby field, and he covered it with a cloak, lest men passing by should stand there, and gawk at him.)*

¹³ Therefore when he was removed from the way, each man passed forth, following Joab to pursue Sheba, the son of Bichri.

¹⁴ Forsooth Sheba had passed by all the lineages of Israel till into Abel, and into Bethmaachah; and all the chosen men were gathered to him. *(And Sheba passed through the territories of all the tribes of Israel unto Abel of Bethmaachah; and all the men of Bichri or and all the Berites were gathered to him, and followed him.)*

¹⁵ Therefore they came, and fought against him in Abel, and in Bethmaachah, and *(en)*compassed the city with strongholds; and the city was besieged. And all the company, that was with Joab, enforced to destroy the walls. *(And then Joab and his men came, and fought against him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and surrounded the city with strongholds; and the city was besieged. And all the men who were with Joab endeavoured to destroy the walls.)*

¹⁶ And a wise woman of the city cried *(out from)* on high, Hear ye! hear ye! say ye to Joab, Nigh thou hither *(or Come thou here)*, and I shall speak with thee.

¹⁷ And when he had nighed to her, she said to him, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am. To whom she spake thus, Hear thou the words of thine handmaid. Joab answered, I hear, *(or And Joab answered, I am listening)*.

¹⁸ And again she said, A word was said in *(an)* eld proverb, They that ask, ask in Abel; and so they profited.

¹⁹ Whether I am not, that answer truth to Israel? and seekest thou to destroy a city, and to do away a mother city in Israel*? why castedest thou down/why throwest thou down the heritage of the Lord? *(My city is one of the most peaceful, and faithful, in all of Israel; so why seekest thou to destroy such a city, and to do away such a mother in Israel? why throwest thou down the Lord's inheritance?)*

²⁰ And Joab answered, and said, Far be *(this)*, far be this from me; I cast not down, neither I destroy *(or I do not want to destroy this city)*.

²¹ The thing hath not so itself; but a man of the hill of Ephraim, Sheba, the son of Bichri, by surname, raised his hand against king David; betake ye him alone *to us*, and we shall go away from the city, *(or That is not my goal; but a man named Sheba, the son of Bichri, of the hill country of Ephraim, raised a rebellion against King David; deliver ye him to us, and him alone, and we shall*

* **CHAPTER 20:19** *The woman speaketh in the person of the city, as if she said, 'This city held ever truth and faith to the king'; and therefore in Hebrew it is thus, 'I am one of peaceable and true', that is, one of the number of cities (that be) peaceable and true to the king.*

go away from your city). And the woman said to Joab, Lo! his head shall be sent to thee by the wall.

²² Then the woman went in to all the people, and she spake to them wisely; and they threw (out) to Joab the head of Sheba, the son of Bichri, girded off. And Joab sounded with a trump, and they departed from the city, each man into his tabernacles; and Joab turned again to Jerusalem to the king. *(Then the woman went to all the people, and she spoke wisely to them; and so they cut off the head of Sheba, the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. And then Joab sounded with a trumpet, and they left the city, and each man went back to his home; and Joab returned to the king in Jerusalem.)*

²³ Therefore Joab was on all the host of Israel; forsooth Benaiah, *[the]* son of Jehoiada, was on Cherethites and Pelethites; *(And so Joab was over all of Israel's army; and Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, was over the Cherethites and Pelethites;)*

²⁴ and Adoram was upon the tributes *(or and Adoram was over the forced labour or was over the taxation)*; and Jehoshaphat, the son of Ahilud, was *(the)* chancellor;

²⁵ and Sheva was scribe; but Zadok and Abiathar were priests; *(and Sheva was the writer; and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests;)*

²⁶ and Ira of Jairites was the priest of David.

CHAPTER 21

¹ And hunger was made *in the land of Israel* in the days of David, by three years continually.

And David counselled the answer of the Lord, *that is, asked counsel of the Lord in the answering place*; and the Lord said, *It is for Saul, and for his house, and for [the] blood, for he killed the men of Gibeon. (And in the days of David, there was hunger in the land of Israel, for three years without ceasing. And David counselled with the Lord; and the Lord said, It is because Saul, and his family, were guilty of the blood, or of murder, for he killed the Gibeonites.)*

² Therefore when *[the] Gibeonites* were called, the king said to them; soothly Gibeonites be not of the sons of Israel, *but they be the relics of Amorites*; and the sons of Israel had sworn to them, *that they should not slay them*, and Saul would smite them for *(his) fervent love*, as for the sons of Israel and of Judah; *(And so when the Gibeonites were called, the king said to them; now the Gibeonites be not Israelites, but they be the remnants of the Amorites; and the Israelites had sworn to them, that they would not kill them, but Saul did strike many of them down in his fervent love for the people of Israel and of Judah;)*

³ therefore David said to Gibeonites, What shall I do to you, and what shall be your amends, that ye bless the heritage of the Lord? *(and so David said to the Gibeonites, What can I do for you? and what shall be your amends, so that ye bless the Lord's inheritance, that is, his people?)*

⁴ And Gibeonites said to him, No question is to us upon gold and silver, but against Saul, and against his house; neither we will, that a man of Israel be slain. To whom the king said, What

therefore will ye, that I do to you? *(And the Gibeonites said to him, No answer shall be for us in gold or silver; but rather with Saul and his family; and we do not desire that just any man of Israel be killed. To whom the king said, And so what do ye desire, that I do for you?)*

⁵ And they said to the king, We ought so to do away the man, that defouled and oppressed us wickedly, that not one soothly be left of his generation in all the coasts of Israel. *(And they said to the king, We want to completely do away the man, who defiled and wickedly oppressed us, so that truly not one of his generation be left in all the coasts of Israel.)*

⁶ Seven men of his sons be given to us, that we crucify them to the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, sometime the chosen man of the Lord. And the king said, I shall give them to you. *(Let seven of his kinsmen be given to us, so that we can hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, who was, at one time, the Lord's chosen man. And the king said, I shall give them to you.)*

⁷ And the king spared Mephibosheth *(or But the king spared Mephibosheth)*, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, for the oath of the Lord, that was betwixt David and Jonathan, the son of Saul.

⁸ And so the king took *(the)* two sons of Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, which she childed to Saul, Armoni, and *(another)* Mephibosheth; and he took~~[the]~~ five sons of Michal, the daughter of Saul, *(or andhe took the five sons of Saul's daughter Merab)*, which she engendered to Adriel, the son of Barzillai, that was of *(the)* Meholathites.

⁹ And he gave them (*up*) into the hands of (*the*) Gibeonites, and they did those seven sons upon (*a*) cross in an hill before the Lord (*or and they hanged those seven kinsmen on a hill before the Lord*); and (*so*) these seven fell down slain together in the days of the first reap(*ing*), when the reaping of barley began.

¹⁰ Forsooth Rizpah, (*the*) daughter of Aiah, took an hair-shirt, and arrayed to herself *a place* above the stone/and laid it under her(*self*) upon a stone (*or and arrayed for herself a place on the rock where their bodies lay*), from the beginning of harvest till water dropped on them from (*the*) heaven(s); and she suffered not (*the*) birds to tear them by day, neither (*the*) beasts by night.

¹¹ And those things which Rizpah, the secondary wife of Saul, the daughter of Aiah, had done, were told to David.

¹² And David went, and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan, his son, from the men of Jabesh of Gilead; which had stolen those bones from the street of Bethshan, in which Philistines had hanged them, when they had slain Saul in Gilboa, (*or for they had stolen those bones from the street in Bethshan, where the Philistines had hung them, after they had killed Saul at Gilboa*).

¹³ And David bare out from thence the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan, his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were crucified (*or and they also gathered up the bones of the seven men who were hanged*),

¹⁴ and they buried those with the bones of Saul and of Jonathan, his son, in the land of Benjamin,

in the side of the sepulchre of Kish, the father of Saul, (*or in the tomb, or the grave, of Saul's father Kish*). And they did all things, whatever the king commanded *them*; and the Lord did mercy to the land after these things.

¹⁵ Forsooth battle of the Philistines was made again against Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines. Soothly when David failed, (*And again the Philistines made battle against Israel; and David and his men went down, and fought against the Philistines. And when David grew weary,*)

¹⁶ Ishbibenob, that was of the kin of Harapha, *that is, (the father) of the giants*, and the iron of his spear weighed three hundred ounces, and he was girded with a new sword, enforced to smite David. (*Ishbibenob, who was a descendant of Harapha, that is, the father of the giants, whose iron of his spear weighed three hundred ounces, and who was girded with a new sword, endeavoured to strike down David.*)

¹⁷ And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, was in help to David; and he smote and killed the Philistine. Then the men of David swore, and said, Now thou shalt not go out with us into battle, lest thou quench the lantern of Israel. (*But Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, helped David; and he struck and killed the Philistine. And then the men of David swore, and said, From now on, thou shalt not go out with us into battle, lest thou quench Israel's lantern.*)

¹⁸ Also the second battle was in Gob against [*the*] Philistines; then Sibbechai of Hushathites

smote Saph, of the generation of Harapha, of the kin of giants. *(And there was a second battle against the Philistines at Gob; there Sibbechai of the Hushathites struck down Saph, a descendant of Harapha, that is, the father of the giants.)*

¹⁹ Also the third battle was in Gob against *[the]* Philistines; in which battle a man given of God, the son of a forest, and a(n)(em)broiderer, a man of Bethlehem, smote *(the brother of)* Goliath of Gath, whose spear shaft was as a beam of webs. *(And the third battle against the Philistines was also at Gob; in which battle Elhanan, the son of Jair or the son of Jaareoregim, a man of Bethlehem, struck down the brother of Goliath of Gath, whose spear shaft was like a weaver's beam.)*

²⁰ The fourth battle was in Gath; wherein was an high man, that had six fingers in his hands and *(six toes)* in his feet, that is, four and twenty *(digits)*; and he was of the kin of Harapha, *(that is, the father of the giants)*; *(And the fourth battle was at Gath; and there was a very tall man there, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, that is, twenty-four digits altogether; and he was a descendant of Harapha, that is, the father of the giants;)*

²¹ and he blasphemed Israel; and Jonathan, the son of Shimeah, the brother of David, killed him.

²² These four were born of Harapha in Gath, and they felled down in the hand of David, and of his servants. *(These four were descendants of Harapha of Gath, that is, the father of the giants,*

and they all fell down at the hands of David and his men.)

CHAPTER 22

¹ Soothly David spake to the Lord the words of this song, in the day in which the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

² And David said, The Lord is my stone, and my strength/and my stronghold, and my saviour;

³ my God, my strength, I shall hope into him; my shield, and the horn of mine health, my raiser (*up*), and my refuge; my saviour, thou shalt deliver me from wickedness, *that is, (thou) hast delivered (me from violence).* (*my God, my strength or my stronghold, yea, I have hope in him; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, or of my victory, my raiser-up, and my refuge; my saviour, thou hast delivered me from all violence.*)

⁴ I shall inwardly call (*upon*) the Lord, worthy to be praised; and I shall be safe from mine enemies. (*I shall call to the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; and I shall be saved from my enemies.*)

⁵ For the sorrows of death compassed me; the strands of Belial made me afeared.

⁶ The cords of hell (*en*)compassed me; the snares of death have gone before me. (*The cords of hell surrounded me; the snares of death were set to catch me.*)

⁷ In tribulation I shall call thee, Lord, *that is, I have called thee, Lord*, and I shall cry to my God; and he heard from his holy temple my voice, and my cry shall come to his ears. (*In tribulation I*

called on thee, Lord, yea, I cried to my God; and he heard my voice in his holy Temple, and my cry came to his ears.)

⁸ The earth was moved, and trembled; the foundations of hills were smitten and shaken together, for the Lord was wroth to them. *(The earth was moved, and trembled; the foundations of heaven were altogether shaken, for the Lord was angry.)*

⁹ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and fire of his mouth shall devour; coals were kindled of it. *(Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire came out of his mouth; coals were kindled by it.)*

¹⁰ And he bowed *(the)* heavens, and came down; and mist *(was)* under his feet.

¹¹ And he went upon cherubim, and flew; and he slid on the pens/on the feathers of the wind *(or and he went upon the wings of the wind)*.

¹² He put darkness *(a)* hiding place in his compass, and riddled, or winnowed, waters from the clouds of heavens; *(He hid himself in darkness, and the clouds of the heavens, which were filled with water, encompassed, or surrounded, him;)*

¹³ for brightness in his sight coals of fire were kindled. *(coals of fire were kindled from the brightness going out before him.)*

¹⁴ The Lord shall thunder from *(the)* heaven(s); and *[the]* high God shall give his voice.

¹⁵ He sent his arrows, and scattered them; *and sent lightnings, and wasted them.*

¹⁶ And the sheddings out of the sea appeared, and the foundations of the world were showed;

from the blaming of the Lord, from the breathing of the spirit of his strong vengeance. *(And the seabed appeared, and the foundations of the world were uncovered; at the Lord's rebuke, and at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.)*

¹⁷ He sent from heaven, and took *(hold of)* me; and drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸ He delivered me from my mightiest enemy, and from them that hated me; for they were stronger than I.

¹⁹ They came before me in the day of my tormenting; and the Lord was made my steadfastness.

²⁰ And he led me out into largeness, and he delivered me; for I pleased him. *(And he led me out into a large place, and he saved me; because he delighted in me.)*

²¹ The Lord shall yield to me after my right-wiseness; and he shall yield to me after the cleanness of mine hands.

²² For I *[have]* kept the ways of the Lord; and I did not *(turn)* wickedly from my God. *(For I have followed the Lord's ways; and I have not wickedly turned from my God.)*

²³ For all his dooms *were* in my sight; and I did not away from me his behests. *(For all his laws were before me; and I did not turn away from his commands.)*

²⁴ And I shall be perfect with him *(or And I shall be upright before him)*; and I shall keep me from my wickedness.

25 And the Lord shall restore to me after my rightwiseness; and after the cleanness of mine hands in the sight of his eyes.

26 With the holy thou shalt be holy, and with the strong, *that is, to suffer adversities patiently*, thou shalt be perfect; (*With the holy thou shalt be holy, and with the upright, thou shalt be upright;*)

27 and with a chosen man thou shalt be chosen, and with a wayward man thou shalt be made wayward*. (*and with the pure, thou shalt be pure, but to the wicked, thou shalt be hostile to them.*)

28 And thou shalt make safe a poor people; and with thine eyes thou shalt make low them that be high. (*And thou shalt save the poor; and thou shalt humble those who be high in their own eyes or and thou shalt look with contempt upon the proud.*)

29 For thou, Lord, art my lantern, and thou, Lord, shalt lighten my darkness.

30 For I girded, *that is, made ready to battle*, shall run in thee, *that is, in thy strength*; and in my God I shall skip over the wall. (*For when I am girded, that is, made ready for battle, I shall run by thy strength; and so, with God's help, I shall leap over the wall.*)

31 God, his way is without wem; the speech of the Lord is examined with fire, *that is, is (as) pure and clean as metal proved in the furnace*; he is a shield of all men hoping in him. (*As for God,*

* **CHAPTER 22:27** *For when wayward men be justly punished of God, they say that God doeth waywardly with them. (For when wicked men be justly punished by God, they say that God doeth wickedly to them.)*

his way is without fault; the word of the Lord is examined with fire, that is, is as pure and clean as metal proved in the furnace; he is a shield for all men hoping in him.)

³² For who is God, except the Lord; and who is strong, except our God?

³³ God, that hath girded me with strength, and hath made plane my perfect way; *(Yea, God, who hath girded me with strength, and hath made my way perfect, or without blame;)*

³⁴ and he hath made even my feet with harts' *(feet)*, and hath set me upon mine high things; *(and he hath made my feet like the feet of a hart, or of a deer; and hath set me on high places, that is, on the mountains;)*

³⁵ and he taught mine hands to battle, and a brazen bow was granted to mine arm(s). *(and he taught my hands in battle, and now my arms can break a bronze bow.)*

³⁶ Thou hast given to me the shield of thine health; and thy mildness hath multiplied me. *(Thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation; and thy gentleness hath made me great.)*

³⁷ Thou shalt alarge my steps under me; and mine heels shall not fail. *(Thou hast broadened my steps under me; and my feet have not slipped.)*

³⁸ I shall pursue mine enemies, and I shall all-brake *them*; and I shall not turn again, till I waste them, *(or and I shall not return, until I destroy them).*

³⁹ I shall waste them, and I shall break *them*, that they rise not; they shall fall under my feet. *(I shall break them, and I shall destroy them, so*

that they shall not rise again; they shall all fall under my feet.)

⁴⁰ Thou hast girded me with strength to battle; thou hast bowed under me them that stood against me. *(Thou hast girded me with strength for the battle; thou hast put those who stood against me under me.)*

⁴¹ Thou hast given mine enemies' aback to me, men hating me; and I shall destroy them. *(Thou hast given me the backs of my enemies; and I destroy those who hate me.)*

⁴² They shall cry, *that is, to idols either to men's help*, and none shall be that shall save *them*; they shall cry to the Lord, and he shall not hear them. *(They cry to their idols, or to men, for help, but no one can save them; they cry to the Lord, but he will not answer them.)*

⁴³ I shall do away them as the dust of *[the]* earth; I shall pound them, and I shall do *[them]* away as the clay, or the fen, of streets. *(I shall do them away like the dust of the earth; I shall pound them, and I shall do them away like the fen, or the clay, of the streets.)*

⁴⁴ Thou shalt save me from *[the]* against-sayings of my people; thou shalt keep me into the head of folks *(or thou shalt make me the head of the nations, or thou shalt keep me the head of the nations)*; the people, whom I know not, shall serve me.

⁴⁵ Alien sons shall *(not)* against-stand me; by hearing of *[the]* ear, they shall obey to me. *(The sons of foreigners shall bow low to me; and after hearing me, they shall obey me.)*

⁴⁶ Alien sons floated away; and they shall be drawn together in their enclosings. *(The courage of the sons of foreigners shall fade away; and they shall slink out of their strongholds together.)*

⁴⁷ The Lord liveth, and my God is blessed; and the strong God of mine health shall be enhanced. *(The Lord liveth, and blessed is my God; yea, the strong God of my salvation shall be exalted.)*

⁴⁸ God, that givest vengeance to me, and hast cast down peoples under me. *(The God, who grantest me vengeance, and hast thrown down peoples, or nations, under me.)*

⁴⁹ Which leadest me out from mine enemies, and raisest me from men against-standing me; thou shalt deliver me from the wicked man. *(Who leadest me out from my enemies, and raisest me up from those who stand against me; yea, thou shalt deliver me from violent people.)*

⁵⁰ Therefore, Lord, I shall acknowledge to thee in heathen men; and I shall sing to thy name. *(And so, Lord, I shall praise thee before the heathen; and I shall sing praises to thy name.)*

⁵¹ That he maketh great the healths of his king; and doeth mercy to his christ, David, and to his seed till into without end. *(Yea, he who maketh the great victories of his king; and who doeth mercy to his anointed, yea, to David, and to his descendants forevermore.)*

CHAPTER 23

¹ Forsooth these be the last words, which David, the son of Jesse, said. The *(words that the)* man said, to whom it is ordained of Christ, of the

God of Jacob, the noble psalm-maker of Israel; *(These be the last words which David, the son of Jesse, said. The words that the man to whom it was ordained to be the anointed of the God of Jacob, the noble psalm-maker of Israel, yea, the last words that he said;)*

² The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word by my tongue.

³ David said, God of Israel spake to me, the strong *help* of Israel, the just Lord of men, is Lord in the dread of God. *(The God of Israel spoke, the Strong One of Israel said to me, The lord, or the leader, of men should be just, ruling in the fear of God.)*

⁴ As the light of the morrowtide, when the sun riseth early, *(and)* is bright without clouds; and as an herb cometh forth of the earth by rains. *(He is like the morning light, when the sun riseth early, and it is bright without clouds; and like a herb that cometh forth out of the ground after the rain.)*

⁵ And mine house is not so great with God, that he should make with me everlasting covenant, steadfast and made strong in all things; for all mine health *is of him*, and all my will, *that is, all my desire, goeth into him*, and nothing is thereof, that maketh not fruit*. *(And though my house is not so great before God, yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, steadfast and strong in all things; for all my salvation is from him, and*

* **CHAPTER 23:5** *And this is done, when all thing that cometh forth of the will, either of advisement, is done into the glory of God.*

all my desire is for him, and there is nothing of it, that maketh not fruit.)

⁶ Forsooth all trespassers shall be drawn out as thorns, that be not taken with hands. *(And all trespassers shall be drawn out like thorns, which cannot be picked, or touched, by hand.)*

⁷ And if any man will touch those, he shall be armed with iron, and with a *(piece of)* wood formed into a spear; and *(then)* the thorns shall be kindled, and shall be burnt till to nought.

⁸ These be the names of the strong men of David. David sitteth in the chair, the wisest prince among *(the)* three; he is as a most tender worm of a tree, that killed eight hundred with one fierceness. *(These be the names of David's strong men. The Hachmonite sitteth in the chair; he is the wise leader of The Three, or The first, Jashobeam, the son of Hachmoni, was the leader of The Three; he raised up his spear against eight hundred men, and killed all of them at one time.)*

⁹ After him was Eleazar, the son of his father's brother, *(the)* Ahohite; *(he was)* among *[the]* three strong men, that were with David, when they said shame to the Philistines, and were gathered thither into battle. And when the men of Israel had gone up, *(After him was Eleazar, the son of Dodo, the Ahohite; he was one of The Three, who were with David, when they said shame to, or taunted, the Philistines, and were gathered there in battle. And when the men of Israel had gone away,)*

¹⁰ he/eleazar stood in battle, when his fellows went aback, and smote the Philistines, till that

his hand failed, and was stark with the sword. And the Lord made great health in that day; and the people that fled turned again, to draw away the spoils of [the] slain men. *(Eleazar stood his ground in the battle, while his fellows fled, and he struck down the Philistines, until his hand failed, and was fixed, or frozen, to the sword. And the Lord gave great victory that day; and the people who had fled returned to take away the spoils from the dead.)*

¹¹ And after him was Shammah, the son of Agee, of Hararites. And Philistines were gathered in the station; and there was a field full of lentils, or vetches; and when the people of Israel[had] fled from the face of Philistines, *(And the third member of The Three was Shammah, the son of Agee, of the Hararites. And when the Philistines were gathered at Lehi; and there was a field full of lentils; and the people of Israel had fled from before the Philistines,)*

¹² he stood in the midst of the field, and beheld it, *for he defended the field;* and he smote the Philistines, and the Lord made there [a] great health. *(he stood there in the midst of the field, and held it, and he defended that field; and he struck down the Philistines, and the Lord gave a great victory there.)*

¹³ Also and three men went down before, that were princes among (the) thirty, and came to David in the time of reap(ing) into the den of Adullam. And the tents of Philistines were set in the valley of giants. *(And three of The Thirty came down at the beginning of the harvest to join*

David at the cave of Adullam. And the Philistines' tents were pitched in the Rephaim Valley.)

¹⁴ And David was in a stronghold; and the station of Philistines was then in Bethlehem. *(And David was in a stronghold; and a Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem.)*

¹⁵ Then David desired water of the well *(or Then David desired water out of the cistern)*, and said, *(O!)* If any man would give to me *(a)* drink of the water *(out)* of the cistern, which is in Bethlehem, beside the gate.

¹⁶ Therefore *(the)* three strong men brake into the tents of Philistines, and drew water of the cistern of Bethlehem, that was beside the gate, and they brought it to David; and he would not drink, but offered it to the Lord, *(And so The Three broke into the camp of the Philistines, and drew water out of the cistern of Bethlehem, that was beside the gate, and they brought it to David; but he would not drink it, but offered it to the Lord,)*

¹⁷ and said, The Lord be merciful to me, that I do not this; whether I shall drink the blood of these men, that went forth, and the peril of their lives? Therefore he would not drink. *(The) Three full strong men did these things. (and said, May the Lord be merciful to me, so that I do not do this; for should I drink the blood of these men, who went down there, risking their own lives? And so he would not drink it. The Three did these things.)*

¹⁸ Also Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was prince of *[the]* three; he it is that raised his spear against three hundred men,

which he killed; *he was named among [the] three, (And Abishai, Joab's brother, the son of Zeruiah, was the leader of The Thirty; it was he who raised up his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed; he had the famous name among The Thirty,)*

¹⁹ and was the nobler among *(the) three*, and he was the prince of them; but he came not to the three first men. *(yea, he was the most famous of The Thirty, and he was their leader; but he did not come up to, or rival, The Three.)*

²⁰ And Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, the strongest man of great works, of Kabzeel, he smote *[the] two lions of Moab, that is, two knights hardy as lions /two strong hardy knights*; and he went down, and smote a lion in the middle *(of a) cistern in the days of snow.*

²¹ Also he killed a man of Egypt, a man worthy of beholding, having a spear in his hand; and so when he had gone down with a rod to that man, by might he wrung out the spear from the hand of the man of Egypt, and killed him with his own spear. *(And he killed an Egyptian man, a man worthy of beholding, who had a spear in his hand; for he had gone down to that man with a staff, and by might he wrung the spear out of the hand of the Egyptian, and then killed him with his own spear.)*

²² Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, did these things; and he was named among *[the] three strong men (or and he had a famous name among The Thirty),*

²³ that were among the thirty nobler men; nevertheless he came not (*up*) to the *first* three. And David made him a counsellor of private to himself. (*indeed some said he was the most famous of The Thirty; nevertheless he came not up to, or rivaled, The Three. And David made him his personal counsellor or the head of his bodyguard.*)

²⁴ Asahel, the brother of Joah, was among the thirty men; Elhanan, the son of his father's brother, of Bethlehem; (*And other members of The Thirty; Asahel, Joah's brother; and Elhanan, the son of Dodo, of Bethlehem;*)

²⁵ Shammah, of Harodites; Elikah, of Harodites;

²⁶ Helez, of Paltites; Ira, the son of Ikkesh, of Tekoa; (*Helez, of Pelet; Ira, the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite;*)

²⁷ Abiezer, of Anathoth (*or Abiezer the Anethothite*); Mebunnai, of Hushathites;

²⁸ Zalmon, of Ahohites; Maharai, of Netophah;

²⁹ Heleb, the son of Baanah, and he was of Netophah; Ittai, the son of Ribai, of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin;

³⁰ Benaiah, of Pirathon; Hiddai, of the strand of Gaash;

³¹ Abialbon, of Arabah; Azmaveth, of Barhumites;

³² Eliahba, of Shaalbonites; the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, and Jashen; (*Eliahba, of Shaalbon; the sons of Jashen; Jonathan; Eliahba, of Shaalbon; Hashem the Gizonite;*)

³³ Shammah, of Hararites; Ahiam, the son of Sharar, of Hararites; (*Jonathan, the son of Shammah the Hararite; Ahiam, the son of Sharar the Hararite;*)

³⁴ Eliphelet, the son of Ahasbai, the son of *(the)* Maachathite; Eliam, the son of Ahithophel, of Giloh;

³⁵ Hezrai, of Carmel; Paarai, of Arbites;

³⁶ Igal, the son of Nathan, of Zobah; Bani, of Gadites;

³⁷ Zelek, of Ammonites; Nahari, of Beeroth, the squire of Joab, the son of Zeruiah;

³⁸ Ira, of Ithrites; Gareb, and he was of Ithrites;

³⁹ Uriah of Hittites; all these were seven and thirty men *(or in all, there were thirty-seven famous fighting men).*

CHAPTER 24

¹ And the strong vengeance of the Lord added to be wroth against Israel, and he stirred against them David, saying to Joab, Go thou, and number thou Israel and Judah. *(And again the Lord was angry with Israel, and in his strong vengeance he stirred David against them, so that he said to Joab, Go thou, and count the people of Israel and Judah.)*

² And the king said to Joab, the prince of his host, Go thou by all the lineages of Israel, from Dan till to Beersheba, and number thou the people, that I know the number thereof. *(And the king said to Joab, the leader of his army, Go thou through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan unto Beersheba, and count the people, so that I can know their number.)*

³ And Joab said to the king, Thy Lord God increase to this people, how great it is now, and again multiply he it an hundredfold in the sight of my lord the king; but what will my lord the

king to himself in such a thing? *(And Joab said to the king, May the Lord thy God increase this people to be more numerous than they be now, and may he multiply them a hundredfold before my lord the king; but why would my lord the king desire to do such a thing as to count the people?)*

⁴ But the word of the king overcame the words of Joab, and of the princes of the host; and Joab went out, and the princes of the knights, from the face of the king, that they should number the people of Israel. *(But the king's word overruled what Joab and the other leaders of the army said; and so Joab, and the leaders of the horsemen, went out from before the king, to count the people of Israel.)*

⁵ And when they had passed [over] Jordan *(or And when they had crossed over the Jordan River)*, they came into Aroer, to the right side of the city that is in the valley of Gad; and they passed forth by Jazer

⁶ into Gilead, and into the lower land of Hodshi, and they came into the woody places of Dan; and they went about beside Sidon, *(to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi, and they came to Danjaan; and they went about beside Sidon,)*

⁷ and passed nigh the walls of Tyre, and nigh all the land of Hivites, and of Canaanites; and they came to the south of Judah, in[to] Beersheba.

⁸ And when all the land was compassed, they came after nine months and twenty days into Jerusalem. *(And when they had gone throughout all the land, they came back to Jerusalem after nine months and twenty days.)*

⁹ And so Joab gave the number of *[the]* describing of the people to the king. And of Israel were found nine hundred thousand of strong men, that drew out sword; and of Judah five hundred thousand of fighters. *(And so Joab gave the census count to the king. And there were found in Israel eight hundred thousand strong men who drew out the sword; and in Judah five hundred thousand fighting men.)*

¹⁰ And the heart of David smote him, *that is, his conscience reproved him*, after that the people was numbered; and David said to the Lord, I have sinned greatly in this deed; but, Lord, I pray, that thou turn away the wickedness of thy servant, for I have done full follily. *(And then David's heart struck him, that is, his conscience rebuked him, after that the people were counted; and David said to the Lord, I have greatly sinned by doing this deed; but, Lord, I pray thee, that thou turn away thy servant's wickedness, yea, what I have done so foolishly.)*

¹¹ Therefore David rose *(up)* early; and the word of the Lord was made to Gad, the prophet and seer, and said,

¹² Go thou, and speak to David, *(or Go thou, and say to David)*, The Lord saith these things, The choice of three things is given to thee; choose thou one, which thou wilt of these, that I do to thee.

¹³ And when Gad had come to David, he told to him, and said, Either hunger shall come to thee in thy land seven years; either three months thou shalt flee thine adversaries, and they shall

pursue thee; either certainly three days pestilence shall be in thy land; now therefore deliver thou, *either advise thou /examine thou*, and see, what word I shall answer to him that sent me. *(And so when Gad had come to David, he told him, and said, Either seven years of hunger; or of famine, shall come upon thee in thy land; or for three months thou shalt flee thy adversaries, and yet they shall pursue thee; or for three days a pestilence shall be in thy land; and so now thou deliberate, and examine thou it, and see, what I shall answer to him who sent me.)*

¹⁴ And David said to Gad, I am constrained on each side greatly *(or I am greatly constrained on every side)*; but it is better that I fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercies be many, than into the hands of men.

¹⁵ And *(so)* the Lord sent *(a)* pestilence into Israel from the morrowtide till to the time ordained; and seventy thousand of men were dead of the people from Dan till to Beersheba.

¹⁶ And when the angel of the Lord had held forth his hand over Jerusalem, that he should destroy it, the Lord had mercy on the tormenting; and said to the angel smiting the people, It sufficeth now; withhold thine hand. And the angel of the Lord was beside the cornfloor of Araunah *(the)* Jebusite. *(And when the angel of the Lord had put forth his hand over Jerusalem, to destroy it, the Lord had mercy on the tormenting; and he said to the angel striking the people, That is enough; withdraw thy hand. And the angel of the Lord was beside the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.)*

17 And David said to the Lord, when he had seen the angel slaying the people, I am *he* that have sinned, and I have done wickedly; what have these done, that be sheep? I beseech, thine hand be turned against me, and against the house of my father. *(And David said to the Lord, when he had seen the angel killing the people, I am the one who hath sinned, and I have done wickedly; what have these people done, yea, they who be but sheep? I beseech thee, let thy hand be turned against me, and against the house of my father.)*

18 Forsooth Gad, the prophet, came to David in that day, and said to him, Go thou up, and ordain an altar to the Lord in the cornfloor of Araunah *(the)* Jebusite. *(And that same day, the prophet Gad came to David, and said to him, Go thou up, and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.)*

19 And David went up, after the word of Gad, which the Lord had commanded to him.

20 And Araunah beheld, and perceived, that the king and his servants passed over to him; and he went out, and worshipped the king with low cheer to the earth; *(And Araunah looked up, and saw the king and his servants coming over to him; and he went over, and bowed before the king, with his face low to the ground;)*

21 and said, What is the cause, that my lord the king cometh to his servant? To whom David said, That I buy of thee the cornfloor, and build an altar to the Lord, and the slaying cease, that is cruel in the people. *(and he said, What*

is the reason that my lord the king cometh to his servant? To whom David said, To buy the threshing floor from thee, and to build on it an altar to the Lord, so that the slaughter that is so cruel upon the people will cease.)

²² And Araunah said to David, My lord the king take, and offer, as it pleaseth to him; thou hast oxen into burnt sacrifice, and a wain and yokes of oxen into uses of wood. *(And Araunah said to David, My lord the king take it, and offer, as it pleaseth thee; behold, thou hast here oxen for a burnt sacrifice, and a wagon, and the yokes of the oxen for wood.)*

²³ Araunah gave, *that is, would give*, all *(these)* things to the king. And Araunah said to the king, Thy Lord God receive thy vow. *(And so Araunah would gladly have given all these things to the king. And Araunah said to the king, May the Lord thy God receive thy vow.)*

²⁴ To whom the king answered, and said, Not as thou wilt, but I shall buy it of thee for *(a)* price, and I shall not offer to the Lord my God burnt sacrifices given freely. Therefore David bought the cornfloor for six hundred shekels of gold*, and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. *(To whom the king answered, No, not as thou wilt, but I shall buy it from thee for a price; for I shall not offer to the Lord my God burnt sacrifices that cost nothing. And then David bought the threshing floor for six hundred shekels of gold, and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.)*

* **CHAPTER 24:24** *(As written) in the first book of Chronicles, Chapter 21.*

25 And David builded there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt sacrifices and peaceable sacrifices; and the Lord did mercy to the land, and the vengeance was refrained from Israel. *(And David built an altar there to the Lord, and offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings; and then the Lord gave mercy to the land, and the plague in Israel was stopped.)*

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