

THE SECOND BOOK OF SĀM-Ū-ĒL, OTHERWISE CALLED, THE SECOND BOOK OF THE KINGS

CHAPTER 1

NOW it came to pass after the death of Sāul, when Dā-vīd was returned from the slaughter of the Ā-māl'ēk-ites, and Dā-vīd had abode two days in Zik'lāg;

2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Sāul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to Dā-vīd, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

3 And Dā-vīd said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Īś-rā-ēl am I escaped.

4 And Dā-vīd said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Sāul and Jōn-ā-thān his son are dead also.

5 And Dā-vīd said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Sāul and Jōn-ā-thān his son be dead?

6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gīl-bō-ā, behold, Sāul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I.

8 And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Ā-māl'ēk-ite.

9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.

10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

11 Then Dā-vīd took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:

12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Sāul, and for Jōn-ā-thān his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Īś-rā-ēl; because they were fallen by the sword.

13 ¶ And Dā-vīd said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Ā-māl'ēk-ite.

14 And Dā-vīd said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?

15 And Dā-vīd called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

16 And Dā-vīd said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed.

17 ¶ And Dā-vīd lamented with this lamentation over Sāul and over Jōn-ā-thān his son:

18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Jūd-āh the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jāsh-ēr.)

19 The beauty of Īś-rā-ēl is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

20 Tell it not in Gāth, publish it not in the streets of Ās-kē-lōn; lest the daughters of the Phīl-īs-tīneš rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21 Ye mountains of Gīl-bō-ā, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Sāul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jōn-ā-thān turned not back, and the sword of Sāul returned not empty.

23 Sāul and Jōn-ā-thān were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 Ye daughters of Īś-rā-ēl, weep over Sāul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jōn-ā-thān, thou wast slain in thine high places.

26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jōn-ā-thān: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

CHAPTER 2

AND it came to pass after this, that Dā-vīd inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Jūd-āh? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And Dā-vīd said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hē-brōn.

2 So Dā-vīd went up thither, and his two wives also, Ā-hīn-ō-ām the Jēz-reēl-ī-tēss, and Āb-ī-gail Nā-bāl's wife the Cār-mēl-ite.

3 And his men that were with him did Dā-vīd bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hē-brōn.

4 And the men of Jūd-āh came, and there they anointed Dā-vīd king over the house of Jūd-āh. And they told Dā-vīd, saying, That the men of Jā-bēsh-gīl-ē-ād were they that buried Sāul.

5 ¶ And Dā-vīd sent messengers unto the men of Jā-bēsh-gīl-ē-ād, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Sāul, and have buried him.

6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Sāul is dead, and also the house of Jūd-āh have anointed me king over them.

8 ¶ But Āb-nēr the son of Nēr, captain of Sāul's host, took Īsh-bōsh-ēth the son of Sāul, and brought him over to Mā-hā-nā-īm;

9 And made him king over Gīl-ē-ād, and over the Āsh-ū-rites, and over Jēz-reēl, and over Ē-phrā-īm, and over Bēn-jā-mīn, and over all Īś-rā-ēl.

10 Īsh-bōsh-ēth Sāul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Īś-rā-ēl, and reigned two years. But the house of Jūd-āh followed Dā-vīd.

11 And the time that Dā-vīd was king in Hē-brōn over the house of Jūd-āh was seven years and six months.

12 ¶ And Āb-nēr the son of Nēr, and the servants of Īsh-bōsh-ēth the son of Sāul, went out from Mā-hā-nā-īm to Gīb-ē-ōn.

13 And Jō-āb the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh, and the servants of Dā-vīd, went out, and met together by the pool of Gīb-ē-ōn: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

14 And Āb-nēr said to Jō-āb, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Jō-āb said, Let them arise.

15 Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Bēn-jā-mīn, which pertained to Īsh-bōsh-ēth the son of Sāul, and twelve of the servants of Dā-vīd.

16 And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust

his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Hēl-kāth-hāz-zū-rīm, which is in Gīb'ē-qn.

17 And there was a very sore battle that day; and Āb-nēr was beaten, and the men of Īś-rā-ēl, before the servants of Dā-vīd.

18 ¶ And there were three sons of Zēr-ū-ī'āh there, Jō'āb, and Āb-ī-shāi, and Ās'ā-hēl: and Ās'ā-hēl was as light of foot as a wild roe.

19 And Ās'ā-hēl pursued after Āb-nēr; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Āb-nēr.

20 Then Āb-nēr looked behind him, and said, *Art* thou Ās'ā-hēl? And he answered, *I am*.

21 And Āb-nēr said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Ās'ā-hēl would not turn aside from following of him.

22 And Āb-nēr said again to Ās'ā-hēl, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Jō'āb thy brother?

23 Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Āb-nēr with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Ās'ā-hēl fell down and died stood still.

24 Jō'āb also and Āb-ī-shāi pursued after Āb-nēr: and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ām-māh, that *lieth* before Gī'āh by the way of the wilderness of Gīb'ē-qn.

25 ¶ And the children of Bēn-jā-mīn gathered themselves together after Āb-nēr, and became one troop, and stood on the top of an hill.

26 Then Āb-nēr called to Jō'āb, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

27 And Jō'āb said, As God liveth, unless thou hadst spoken, surely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother.

28 So Jō'āb blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Īś-rā-ēl no more, neither fought they any more.

29 And Āb-nēr and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jōr-dān, and went through all Bīth-rōn, and they came to Mā-hā-nā-īm.

30 And Jō'āb returned from following Āb-nēr: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of Dā-vīd's servants nineteen men and Ās'ā-hēl.

31 But the servants of Dā-vīd had smitten of Bēn-jā-mīn, and of Āb-nēr's men, so *that* three hundred and threescore men died.

32 ¶ And they took up Ās'ā-hēl, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which was in Bēth-lē-hēm. And Jō'āb and his men went all night, and they came to Hē-brōn at break of day.

CHAPTER 3

NOW there was long war between the house of Sāul and the house of Dā-vīd: but Dā-vīd waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Sāul waxed weaker and weaker.

2 ¶ And unto Dā-vīd were sons born in Hē-brōn: and his firstborn was Ām-nōn, of Ā-hīn-ō-ām the Jēz-reel-ī-tēss;

3 And his second, Chī-lē-āb, of Āb-ī-gail the wife of Nā-bāl the Cār-mēl-ite; and the third, Āb-sā-lōm the son of Mā'ā-cāh the daughter of Tāl-māi king of Gē-shūr;

4 And the fourth, Ād-ō-nī-jāh the son of Hāg-gīth; and the fifth, Shēph-ā-tī'āh the son of Ā-bī-tāl;

5 And the sixth, Īth-rē-ām, by Ēg-lāh Dā-vīd's wife. These were born to Dā-vīd in Hē-brōn.

6 ¶ And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Sāul and the house of Dā-vīd, that Āb-nēr made himself strong for the house of Sāul.

7 And Sāul had a concubine, whose name was Rīz-pāh, the daughter of Āi'āh: and Īsh-bōsh-ēth said to Āb-nēr, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

8 Then was Āb-nēr very wroth for the words of Īsh-bōsh-ēth, and said, *Am* I a dog's head, which against Jūd'āh do shew kindness this day unto the house of Sāul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of Dā-vīd, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?

9 So do God to Āb-nēr, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to Dā-vīd, even so I do to him;

10 To translate the kingdom from the house of Sāul, and to set up the throne of Dā-vīd over Īś-rā-ēl and over Jūd'āh, from Dān even to Bēer-shē-bā.

11 And he could not answer Āb-nēr a word again, because he feared him.

12 ¶ And Āb-nēr sent messengers to Dā-vīd on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying *also*, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand *shall be* with thee, to bring about all Īś-rā-ēl unto thee.

13 ¶ And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Mī-chāl Sāul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

14 And Dā-vīd sent messengers to Īsh-bōsh-ēth Sāul's son, saying, Deliver *me* my wife Mī-chāl, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs.

15 And Īsh-bōsh-ēth sent, and took her from *her* husband, *even* from Phāl-tī-ēl the son of Lā-īsh.

16 And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bā-hū-rīm. Then said Āb-nēr unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

17 ¶ And Āb-nēr had communication with the elders of Īś-rā-ēl, saying, Ye sought for Dā-vīd in times past *to be* king over you:

18 Now then do *it*: for the LORD hath spoken of Dā-vīd, saying, By the hand of my servant Dā-vīd I will save my people Īś-rā-ēl out of the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs, and out of the hand of all their enemies.

19 And Āb-nēr also spake in the ears of Bēn-jā-mīn: and Āb-nēr went also to speak in the ears of Dā-vīd in Hē-brōn all that seemed good to Īś-rā-ēl, and that seemed good to the whole house of Bēn-jā-mīn.

20 So Āb-nēr came to Dā-vīd to Hē-brōn, and twenty men with him. And Dā-vīd made Āb-nēr and the men that *were* with him a feast.

21 And Āb-nēr said unto Dā-vīd, I will arise and go, and will gather all Īś-rā-ēl unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And Dā-vīd sent Āb-nēr away; and he went in peace.

22 ¶ And, behold, the servants of Dā-vīd and Jō'āb came from *pursuing* a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but

Āb-nēr was not with Dā-vīd in Hē-brōn; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.

23 When Jō-āb and all the host that was with him were come, they told Jō-āb, saying, Āb-nēr the son of Nēr came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

24 Then Jō-āb came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Āb-nēr came unto thee; why is it *that* thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone?

25 Thou knowest Āb-nēr the son of Nēr, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.

26 And when Jō-āb was come out from Dā-vīd, he sent messengers after Āb-nēr, which brought him again from the well of Sī-rāh: but Dā-vīd knew it not.

27 And when Āb-nēr was returned to Hē-brōn, Jō-āb took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth *rib*, that he died, for the blood of Ās-ā-hēl his brother.

28 ¶ And afterward when Dā-vīd heard it, he said, I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Āb-nēr the son of Nēr:

29 Let it rest on the head of Jō-āb, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Jō-āb one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

30 So Jō-āb and Āb-ī-shāi his brother slew Āb-nēr, because he had slain their brother Ās-ā-hēl at Gīb-ē-ōn in the battle.

31 ¶ And Dā-vīd said to Jō-āb, and to all the people that *were* with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Āb-nēr. And king Dā-vīd *himself* followed the bier.

32 And they buried Āb-nēr in Hē-brōn: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Āb-nēr; and all the people wept.

33 And the king lamented over Āb-nēr, and said, Died Āb-nēr as a fool dieth?

34 Thy hands *were* not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.

35 And when all the people came to cause Dā-vīd to eat meat while it was yet day, Dā-vīd sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

36 And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.

37 For all the people and all Īś-rā-ēl understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Āb-nēr the son of Nēr.

38 And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Īś-rā-ēl?

39 And I *am* this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zēr-ū-i-āh *be* too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

CHAPTER 4

AND when Sāul's son heard that Āb-nēr was dead in Hē-brōn, His hands were feeble, and all the Īś-rā-ēl-ites were troubled.

2 And Sāul's son had two men *that were* captains of bands: the name of the one was Bā-ā-nāh, and the name of the other Rē-chāb, the sons of Rīm-mōn the Beer-ō-thīte, of the children of Bēn-jā-mīn: (for Beer-ōth also was reckoned to Bēn-jā-mīn:

3 And the Beer-ō-thītes fled to Gīt-tā-īm, and were sojourners there until this day.)

4 And Jōn-ā-thān, Sāul's son, had a son *that was* lame of *his* feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Sāul and Jōn-ā-thān out of Jēz-reēl, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mē-phīb-ō-shēth.

5 And the sons of Rīm-mōn the Beer-ō-thīte, Rē-chāb and Bā-ā-nāh, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Īsh-bōsh-ēth, who lay on a bed at noon.

6 And they came thither into the midst of the house, *as though* they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth *rib*: and Rē-chāb and Bā-ā-nāh his brother escaped.

7 For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

8 And they brought the head of Īsh-bōsh-ēth unto Dā-vīd to Hē-brōn, and said to the king, Behold the head of Īsh-bōsh-ēth the son of Sāul thine enemy, which sought *thy* life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Sāul, and of his seed.

9 ¶ And Dā-vīd answered Rē-chāb and Bā-ā-nāh his brother, the sons of Rīm-mōn the Beer-ō-thīte, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Sāul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Zik-lāg, who *thought* that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

12 And Dā-vīd commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up over the pool in Hē-brōn. But they took the head of Īsh-bōsh-ēth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Āb-nēr in Hē-brōn.

CHAPTER 5

THEN came all the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl to Dā-vīd unto Hē-brōn, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Sāul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Īś-rā-ēl: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Īś-rā-ēl, and thou shalt be a captain over Īś-rā-ēl.

3 So all the elders of Īś-rā-ēl came to the king to Hē-brōn; and king Dā-vīd made a league with them in Hē-brōn before the LORD: and they anointed Dā-vīd king over Īś-rā-ēl.

4 ¶ Dā-vīd was thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years.

5 In Hē-brōn he reigned over Jūd-āh seven years and six months: and in Jē-rū-sā-lēm he reigned thirty and three years over all Īś-rā-ēl and Jūd-āh.

6 ¶ And the king and his men went to Jē-rū-sā-lēm unto the Jēb-ū-sītes, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto Dā-vīd, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, Dā-vīd cannot come in hither.

7 Nevertheless Dā-vīd took the strong hold of Zī-ōn: the same is the city of Dā-vīd.

8 And Dā-vīd said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jēb-ū-sītes, and the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of Dā-vīd's soul, *he shall be* chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into

the house.

9 So Dā'vīd dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of Dā'vīd. And Dā'vīd built round about from Mīl'lō and inward.

10 And Dā'vīd went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

11 ¶ And Hī'rām king of Tÿre sent messengers to Dā'vīd, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built Dā'vīd an house.

12 And Dā'vīd perceived that the LORD had established him king over Īs'rā-ēl, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Īs'rā-ēl's sake.

13 ¶ And Dā'vīd took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jē-rū-sā-lēm, after he was come from Hē-brōn: and there were yet sons and daughters born to Dā'vīd.

14 And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jē-rū-sā-lēm; Shām-mū-ā, and Shō-bāb, and Nā-thān, and Sōl'ō-mōn,

15 Īb-hār also, and Ē-lī-shū-ā, and Nēph-ēg, and Jā-phī-ā,

16 And Ē-lī-shā-mā, and Ē-lī-ā-dā, and Ē-līph-ā-lēt.

17 ¶ But when the Phīl'īs-tīnēs heard that they had anointed Dā'vīd king over Īs'rā-ēl, all the Phīl'īs-tīnēs came up to seek Dā'vīd; and Dā'vīd heard of *it*, and went down to the hold.

18 The Phīl'īs-tīnēs also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rēph-ā-īm.

19 And Dā'vīd inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Phīl'īs-tīnēs? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto Dā'vīd, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Phīl'īs-tīnēs into thine hand.

20 And Dā'vīd came to Bā-āl-pē-rā-zīm, and Dā'vīd smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Bā-āl-pē-rā-zīm.

21 And there they left their images, and Dā'vīd and his men burned them.

22 ¶ And the Phīl'īs-tīnēs came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rēph-ā-īm.

23 And when Dā'vīd inquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; *but* fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Phīl'īs-tīnēs.

25 And Dā'vīd did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Phīl'īs-tīnēs from Gē-bā until thou come to Gā-zēr.

CHAPTER 6

AGAIN, Dā'vīd gathered together all *the* chosen men of Īs'rā-ēl, thirty thousand.

2 And Dā'vīd arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Bā-ā-lē of Jūd-āh, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the chēr-ū-bīms.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Ā-bīn-ā-dāb that was in Gīb-ē-āh: and Ūz-zāh and Ā-hī-ō, the sons of Ā-bīn-ā-dāb, drave the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Ā-bīn-ā-dāb which was at Gīb-ē-āh, accompanying the ark of God: and Ā-hī-ō went before the ark.

5 And Dā'vīd and all the house of Īs'rā-ēl played before the LORD

on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 ¶ And when they came to Nā-chōn's threshingfloor, Ūz-zāh put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Ūz-zāh; and God smote him there for *his error*; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And Dā'vīd was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Ūz-zāh: and he called the name of the place Pē-rēz-ūz-zāh to this day.

9 And Dā'vīd was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

10 So Dā'vīd would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of Dā'vīd: but Dā'vīd carried it aside into the house of Ō-bēd-ē-dōm the Gīt-tīte.

11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Ō-bēd-ē-dōm the Gīt-tīte three months: and the LORD blessed Ō-bēd-ē-dōm, and all his household.

12 ¶ And it was told king Dā'vīd, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Ō-bēd-ē-dōm, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So Dā'vīd went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Ō-bēd-ē-dōm into the city of Dā'vīd with gladness.

13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

14 And Dā'vīd danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and Dā'vīd was girded with a linen ē-phōd.

15 So Dā'vīd and all the house of Īs'rā-ēl brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of Dā'vīd, Mī-chāl Sāul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king Dā'vīd leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 ¶ And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that Dā'vīd had pitched for it: and Dā'vīd offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And as soon as Dā'vīd had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Īs'rā-ēl, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of *flesh*, and a flagon of *wine*. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20 ¶ Then Dā'vīd returned to bless his household. And Mī-chāl the daughter of Sāul came out to meet Dā'vīd, and said, How glorious was the king of Īs'rā-ēl to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

21 And Dā'vīd said unto Mī-chāl, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Īs'rā-ēl: therefore will I play before the LORD.

22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

23 Therefore Mī-chāl the daughter of Sāul had no child unto the day of her death.

CHAPTER 7

AND it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;
 2 That the king said unto Nā'thān the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.
 3 And Nā'thān said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.
 4 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nā'thān, saying,
 5 Go and tell my servant Dā'vīd, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?
 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Īś'rā-ēl out of Ē'ġypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.
 7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Īś'rā-ēl spake I a word with any of the tribes of Īś'rā-ēl, whom I commanded to feed my people Īś'rā-ēl, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?
 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant Dā'vīd, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Īś'rā-ēl:
 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.
 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Īś'rā-ēl, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,
 11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Īś'rā-ēl, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.
 12 ¶ And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.
 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:
 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Sāul, whom I put away before thee.
 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.
 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nā'thān speak unto Dā'vīd.
 18 ¶ Then went king Dā'vīd in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?
 19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?
 20 And what can Dā'vīd say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.
 21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.
 22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Īś'rā-ēl, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Ē'ġypt, from the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Īś'rā-ēl to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.
 25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.

26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Īś'rā-ēl: and let the house of thy servant Dā'vīd be established before thee.

27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Īś'rā-ēl, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

CHAPTER 8

AND after this it came to pass, that Dā'vīd smote the Phil'īs-tineš, and subdued them: and Dā'vīd took Mēth'ēġ-ām'māh out of the hand of the Phil'īs-tineš.

2 And he smote Mō'āb, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Mō'āb-ītes became Dā'vīd's servants, and brought gifts.

3 ¶ Dā'vīd smote also Hād-ā-dē-zēr, the son of Rē'hōb, king of Zō'bāh, as he went to recover his border at the river Ēu-phrā-tēs.

4 And Dā'vīd took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and Dā'vīd houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

5 And when the Sŷr-ī-āns of Dā-mās-cūs came to succour Hād-ā-dē-zēr king of Zō'bāh, Dā'vīd slew of the Sŷr-ī-āns two and twenty thousand men.

6 Then Dā'vīd put garrisons in Sŷr-ī-ā of Dā-mās-cūs: and the Sŷr-ī-āns became servants to Dā'vīd, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved Dā'vīd whithersoever he went.

7 And Dā'vīd took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hād-ā-dē-zēr, and brought them to Jē-rū'sā-lēm.

8 And from Bē'tāh, and from Bē-rō'thāi, cities of Hād-ā-dē-zēr, king Dā'vīd took exceeding much brass.

9 ¶ When Tō-ī king of Hā-māth heard that Dā'vīd had smitten all the host of Hād-ā-dē-zēr,

10 Then Tō-ī sent Jōr-ām his son unto king Dā'vīd, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hād-ā-dē-zēr, and smitten him: for Hād-ā-dē-zēr had wars with Tō-ī. And Jōr-ām brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:

11 Which also king Dā'vīd did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

12 Of Sŷr-ī-ā, and of Mō'āb, and of the children of Ām-mōn, and of the Phil'īs-tineš, and of Ām-ā-lēk, and of the spoil of Hād-ā-dē-zēr, son of Rē'hōb, king of Zō'bāh.

13 And Dā-vīd gat *him* a name when he returned from smiting of the Sŷr-ī-āns in the valley of salt, *being* eighteen thousand *men*.

14 ¶ And he put garrisons in Ē-dōm; throughout all Ē-dōm put he garrisons, and all they of Ē-dōm became Dā-vīd's servants. And the LORD preserved Dā-vīd whithersoever he went.

15 And Dā-vīd reigned over all Īś-rā-ēl; and Dā-vīd executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

16 And Jō-āb the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh was over the host; and Jē-hōsh-ā-phāt the son of Ā-hī-lūd was recorder;

17 And Zā-dōk the son of Ā-hī-tūb, and Ā-hīm-ē-lēch the son of Ā-bī-ā-thār, were the priests; and Sē-rai-āh was the scribe;

18 And Bē-naī-āh the son of Jē-hoi-ā-dā was over both the Chēr-ē-thītes and the Pēl-ē-thītes; and Dā-vīd's sons were chief rulers.

CHAPTER 9

AND Dā-vīd said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jōn-ā-thān's sake?

2 And *there* was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Zī-bā. And when they had called him unto Dā-vīd, the king said unto him, *Art* thou Zī-bā? And he said, Thy servant *is* he.

3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Zī-bā said unto the king, Jōn-ā-thān hath yet a son, *which* is lame on his feet.

4 And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Zī-bā said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Mā-chīr, the son of Ām-mī-ēl, in Lō-dē-bār.

5 ¶ Then king Dā-vīd sent, and fetched him out of the house of Mā-chīr, the son of Ām-mī-ēl, from Lō-dē-bār.

6 Now when Mē-phīb-ō-shēth, the son of Jōn-ā-thān, the son of Saul, was come unto Dā-vīd, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And Dā-vīd said, Mē-phīb-ō-shēth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

7 ¶ And Dā-vīd said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jōn-ā-thān thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?

9 ¶ Then the king called to Zī-bā, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in *the* fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mē-phīb-ō-shēth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Zī-bā had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then said Zī-bā unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mē-phīb-ō-shēth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

12 And Mē-phīb-ō-shēth had a young son, whose name was Mī-chā. And all that dwelt in the house of Zī-bā were servants unto Mē-phīb-ō-shēth.

13 So Mē-phīb-ō-shēth dwelt in Jē-rū-sā-lēm: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

CHAPTER 10

AND it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ām-mōn died, and Hā-nūn his son reigned in his stead.

2 Then said Dā-vīd, I will shew kindness unto Hā-nūn the son of

Nā-hāsh, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And Dā-vīd sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And Dā-vīd's servants came into the land of the children of Ām-mōn. 3 And the princes of the children of Ām-mōn said unto Hā-nūn their lord, Thinkest thou that Dā-vīd doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not Dā-vīd *rather* sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

4 Wherefore Hā-nūn took Dā-vīd's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, *even* to their buttocks, and sent them away.

5 When they told *it* unto Dā-vīd, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jēr-ī-chō until your beards be grown, and *then* return.

6 ¶ And when the children of Ām-mōn saw that they stank before Dā-vīd, the children of Ām-mōn sent and hired the Sŷr-ī-āns of Bēth-rē-hōb, and the Sŷr-ī-āns of Zō-bā, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Mā-ā-cāh a thousand men, and of Īsh-tōb twelve thousand men.

7 And when Dā-vīd heard of *it*, he sent Jō-āb, and all the host of the mighty men.

8 And the children of Ām-mōn came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Sŷr-ī-āns of Zō-bā, and of Rē-hōb, and Īsh-tōb, and Mā-ā-cāh, were by themselves in the field.

9 When Jō-āb saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice *men* of Īś-rā-ēl, and put *them* in array against the Sŷr-ī-āns:

10 And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Āb-ī-shāi his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the children of Ām-mōn.

11 And he said, If the Sŷr-ī-āns be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ām-mōn be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.

12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

13 And Jō-āb drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Sŷr-ī-āns: and they fled before him.

14 And when the children of Ām-mōn saw that the Sŷr-ī-āns were fled, then fled they also before Āb-ī-shāi, and entered into the city. So Jō-āb returned from the children of Ām-mōn, and came to Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

15 ¶ And when the Sŷr-ī-āns saw that they were smitten before Īś-rā-ēl, they gathered themselves together.

16 And Hād-ā-rē-zēr sent, and brought out the Sŷr-ī-āns that were beyond the river: and they came to Hē-lām; and Shō-bāch the captain of the host of Hād-ā-rē-zēr went before them.

17 And when it was told Dā-vīd, he gathered all Īś-rā-ēl together, and passed over Jōr-dān, and came to Hē-lām. And the Sŷr-ī-āns set themselves in array against Dā-vīd, and fought with him.

18 And the Sŷr-ī-āns fled before Īś-rā-ēl; and Dā-vīd slew *the* men of seven hundred chariots of the Sŷr-ī-āns, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shō-bāch the captain of their host, who died there.

19 And when all the kings that were servants to Hād-ā-rē-zēr saw that they were smitten before Īś-rā-ēl, they made peace with Īś-rā-ēl, and served them. So the Sŷr-ī-āns feared to help the children of Ām-mōn any more.

CHAPTER 11

AND it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that Dā-vid sent Jō-āb, and his servants with him, and all Īś-rā-ēl; and they destroyed the children of Ām-mōn, and besieged Rāb-bāh. But Dā-vid tarried still at Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

2 ¶ And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that Dā-vid arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

3 And Dā-vid sent and inquired after the woman. And *one* said, Is not this Bāth-shē-bā, the daughter of Ē-lī-ām, the wife of Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite?

4 And Dā-vid sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told Dā-vid, and said, I am with child.

6 ¶ And Dā-vid sent to Jō-āb, saying, Send me Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite. And Jō-āb sent Ū-rī-āh to Dā-vid.

7 And when Ū-rī-āh was come unto him, Dā-vid demanded of him how Jō-āb did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

8 And Dā-vid said to Ū-rī-āh, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Ū-rī-āh departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

9 But Ū-rī-āh slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

10 And when they had told Dā-vid, saying, Ū-rī-āh went not down unto his house, Dā-vid said unto Ū-rī-āh, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

11 And Ū-rī-āh said unto Dā-vid, The ark, and Īś-rā-ēl, and Jūd-āh, abide in tents; and my lord Jō-āb, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

12 And Dā-vid said to Ū-rī-āh, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Ū-rī-āh abode in Jē-rū-sā-lēm that day, and the morrow.

13 And when Dā-vid had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

14 ¶ And it came to pass in the morning, that Dā-vid wrote a letter to Jō-āb, and sent it by the hand of Ū-rī-āh.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Ū-rī-āh in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16 And it came to pass, when Jō-āb observed the city, that he assigned Ū-rī-āh unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Jō-āb; and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of Dā-vid; and Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite died also.

18 ¶ Then Jō-āb sent and told Dā-vid all the things concerning the war;

19 And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee,

Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

21 Who smote Ā-bīm-ē-lēch the son of Jē-rūb-bē-shēth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thē-bēz? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite is dead also.

22 ¶ So the messenger went, and came and shewed Dā-vid all that Jō-āb had sent him for.

23 And the messenger said unto Dā-vid, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and *some* of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite is dead also.

25 Then Dā-vid said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Jō-āb, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26 ¶ And when the wife of Ū-rī-āh heard that Ū-rī-āh her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27 And when the mourning was past, Dā-vid sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that Dā-vid had done displeased the LORD.

CHAPTER 12

AND the LORD sent Nā-thān unto Dā-vid. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And Dā-vid's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nā-thān, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 ¶ And Nā-thān said to Dā-vid, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, I anointed thee king over Īś-rā-ēl, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Īś-rā-ēl and of Jūd-āh; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ām-mōn.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tite to be thy wife.

11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy

wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Īś-rā-ēl, and before the sun.

13 And Dā'vīd said unto Nā-thān, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nā-thān said unto Dā'vīd, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

15 ¶ And Nā-thān departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Ū-rī-āh's wife bare unto Dā'vīd, and it was very sick.

16 Dā'vīd therefore besought God for the child; and Dā'vīd fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

17 And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of Dā'vīd feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

19 But when Dā'vīd saw that his servants whispered, Dā'vīd perceived that the child was dead: therefore Dā'vīd said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

20 Then Dā'vīd arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

24 ¶ And Dā'vīd comforted Bāth-shē-bā his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Sōl-ō-mōn: and the LORD loved him.

25 And he sent by the hand of Nā-thān the prophet; and he called his name Jēd-ī-dī-āh, because of the LORD.

26 ¶ And Jō-āb fought against Rāb-bāh of the children of Ām-mōn, and took the royal city.

27 And Jō-āb sent messengers to Dā'vīd, and said, I have fought against Rāb-bāh, and have taken the city of waters.

28 Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

29 And Dā'vīd gathered all the people together, and went to Rāb-bāh, and fought against it, and took it.

30 And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on Dā'vīd's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

31 And he brought forth the people that *were* therein, and put *them* under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ām-mōn. So Dā'vīd and all

the people returned unto Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

CHAPTER 13

AND it came to pass after this, that Āb-sā-lōm the son of Dā'vīd had a fair sister, whose name was Tā'mār; and Ām-nōn the son of Dā'vīd loved her.

2 And Ām-nōn was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tā'mār; for she was a virgin; and Ām-nōn thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

3 But Ām-nōn had a friend, whose name was Jōn-ā-dāb, the son of Shīm-ē-āh Dā'vīd's brother: and Jōn-ā-dāb was a very subtil man.

4 And he said unto him, Why *art* thou, *being* the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Ām-nōn said unto him, I love Tā'mār, my brother Āb-sā-lōm's sister.

5 And Jōn-ā-dāb said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tā'mār come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.

6 ¶ So Ām-nōn lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Ām-nōn said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tā'mār my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.

7 Then Dā'vīd sent home to Tā'mār, saying, Go now to thy brother Ām-nōn's house, and dress him meat.

8 So Tā'mār went to her brother Ām-nōn's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded *it*, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

9 And she took a pan, and poured *them* out before him; but he refused to eat. And Ām-nōn said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

10 And Ām-nōn said unto Tā'mār, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tā'mār took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Ām-nōn her brother.

11 And when she had brought *them* unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Īś-rā-ēl: do not thou this folly.

13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Īś-rā-ēl. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

15 ¶ Then Ām-nōn hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Ām-nōn said unto her, Arise, be gone.

16 And she said unto him, *There is* no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.

17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her.

18 And *she had* a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters *that were* virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

19 ¶ And Tā'mār put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

20 And Āb-sā-lōm her brother said unto her, Hath Ām-nōn thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is

thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tā-mār remained desolate in her brother Āb-sā-lōm's house.

21 ¶ But when king Dā-vīd heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

22 And Āb-sā-lōm spake unto his brother Ām-nōn neither good nor bad: for Āb-sā-lōm hated Ām-nōn, because he had forced his sister Tā-mār.

23 ¶ And it came to pass after two full years, that Āb-sā-lōm had sheepshearers in Bā-āl-hā-zōr, which is beside Ē-phrā-īm: and Āb-sā-lōm invited all the king's sons.

24 And Āb-sā-lōm came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant.

25 And the king said to Āb-sā-lōm, Nay, my son, let us not all go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.

26 Then said Āb-sā-lōm, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Ām-nōn go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?

27 But Āb-sā-lōm pressed him, that he let Ām-nōn and all the king's sons go with him.

28 ¶ Now Āb-sā-lōm had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Ām-nōn's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Ām-nōn; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

29 And the servants of Āb-sā-lōm did unto Ām-nōn as Āb-sā-lōm had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

30 ¶ And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to Dā-vīd, saying, Āb-sā-lōm hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left.

31 Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

32 And Jōn-ā-dāb, the son of Shīm-ē-āh Dā-vīd's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose *that* they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Ām-nōn only is dead: for by the appointment of Āb-sā-lōm this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tā-mār.

33 Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Ām-nōn only is dead.

34 But Āb-sā-lōm fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

35 And Jōn-ā-dāb said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is.

36 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.

37 ¶ But Āb-sā-lōm fled, and went to Tāl-māi, the son of Ām-mī-hūd, king of Gē-shūr. And Dā-vīd mourned for his son every day.

38 So Āb-sā-lōm fled, and went to Gē-shūr, and was there three years.

39 And *the soul of* king Dā-vīd longed to go forth unto Āb-sā-lōm: for he was comforted concerning Ām-nōn, seeing he was dead.

CHAPTER 14

Now Jō-āb the son of Zēr-ū-tī-āh perceived that the king's

heart was toward Āb-sā-lōm.

2 And Jō-āb sent to Tē-kō-āh, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

3 And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Jō-āb put the words in her mouth.

4 ¶ And when the woman of Tē-kō-āh spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.

5 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I *am* indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead.

6 And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and *there was* none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him.

7 And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband *neither* name nor remainder upon the earth.

8 And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee.

9 And the woman of Tē-kō-āh said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity *be* on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne *be* guiltless.

10 And the king said, Whosoever saith *ought* unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.

11 Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

12 Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak *one* word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.

13 And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.

14 For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

15 Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, *it is* because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

16 For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man *that would* destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

17 Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so *is* my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

18 Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

19 And the king said, *Is not* the hand of Jō-āb with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord

the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Jō-āb, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

20 To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Jō-āb done this thing: and my lord *is* wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.

21 ¶ And the king said unto Jō-āb, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Āb-sā-lōm again.

22 And Jō-āb fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Jō-āb said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.

23 So Jō-āb arose and went to Gē-shūr, and brought Āb-sā-lōm to Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

24 And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Āb-sā-lōm returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

25 ¶ But in all Īs-rā-ēl there was none to be so much praised as Āb-sā-lōm for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled *it*: because *the hair* was heavy on him, therefore he polled *it*;) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shē-kēls after the king's weight.

27 And unto Āb-sā-lōm there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tā-mār: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

28 ¶ So Āb-sā-lōm dwelt two full years in Jē-rū-sā-lēm, and saw not the king's face.

29 Therefore Āb-sā-lōm sent for Jō-āb, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Jō-āb's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Āb-sā-lōm's servants set the field on fire.

31 Then Jō-āb arose, and came to Āb-sā-lōm unto *his* house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

32 And Āb-sā-lōm answered Jō-āb, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Gē-shūr? *it had been* good for me to *have been* there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be *any* iniquity in me, let him kill me.

33 So Jō-āb came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Āb-sā-lōm, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Āb-sā-lōm.

CHAPTER 15

AND it came to pass after this, that Āb-sā-lōm prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 And Āb-sā-lōm rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Āb-sā-lōm called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Īs-rā-ēl.

3 And Āb-sā-lōm said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.

4 Āb-sā-lōm said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come

unto me, and I would do him justice!

5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

6 And on this manner did Āb-sā-lōm to all Īs-rā-ēl that came to the king for judgment: so Āb-sā-lōm stole the hearts of the men of Īs-rā-ēl.

7 ¶ And it came to pass after forty years, that Āb-sā-lōm said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hē-brōn.

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Gē-shūr in Sūr-ī-ā, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jē-rū-sā-lēm, then I will serve the LORD.

9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hē-brōn.

10 ¶ But Āb-sā-lōm sent spies throughout all the tribes of Īs-rā-ēl, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Āb-sā-lōm reigneth in Hē-brōn.

11 And with Āb-sā-lōm went two hundred men out of Jē-rū-sā-lēm, *that were* called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

12 And Āb-sā-lōm sent for Ā-hīth-ō-phēl the Gī-lō-nīte, Dā-vīd's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Gī-lōh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Āb-sā-lōm.

13 ¶ And there came a messenger to Dā-vīd, saying, The hearts of the men of Īs-rā-ēl are after Āb-sā-lōm.

14 And Dā-vīd said unto all his servants that *were* with him at Jē-rū-sā-lēm, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not *else* escape from Āb-sā-lōm: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

15 And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants *are ready* to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

16 And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, *which were* concubines, to keep the house.

17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.

18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Chēr-ē-thītes, and all the Pēl-ē-thītes, and all the Gīt-tītes, six hundred men which came after him from Gāth, passed on before the king.

19 ¶ Then said the king to Īt-tā-ī the Gīt-tīte, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou *art* a stranger, and also an exile.

20 Whereas thou camest *but* yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth *be* with thee.

21 And Īt-tā-ī answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

22 And Dā-vīd said to Īt-tā-ī, Go and pass over. And Īt-tā-ī the Gīt-tīte passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that *were* with him.

23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kī-drōn, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

24 ¶ And lo Zā-dōk also, and all the Lē-vītes were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Ā-bī-ā-thār went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

25 And the king said unto Zā-dōk, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation:

26 But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am I*, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

27 The king said also unto Zā-dōk the priest, *Art not* thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ā-hī-mā-āz thy son, and Jōn-ā-thān the son of Ā-bī-ā-thār.

28 See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.

29 Zā-dōk therefore and Ā-bī-ā-thār carried the ark of God again to Jē-rū-sā-lēm: and they tarried there.

30 ¶ And Dā-vīd went up by the ascent of *mount Ōl-ī-vēt*, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went bare-foot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

31 ¶ And one told Dā-vīd, saying, Ā-hīth-ō-phēl is among the conspirators with Āb-sā-lōm. And Dā-vīd said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ā-hīth-ō-phēl into foolishness.

32 ¶ And it came to pass, that *when* Dā-vīd was come to the top of the *mount*, where he worshipped God, behold, Hū-shāi the Ār-chīte came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

33 Unto whom Dā-vīd said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

34 But if thou return to the city, and say unto Āb-sā-lōm, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ā-hīth-ō-phēl.

35 And *hast* thou not there with thee Zā-dōk and Ā-bī-ā-thār the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zā-dōk and Ā-bī-ā-thār the priests.

36 Behold, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ā-hī-mā-āz Zā-dōk's son, and Jōn-ā-thān Ā-bī-ā-thār's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear.

37 So Hū-shāi Dā-vīd's friend came into the city, and Āb-sā-lōm came into Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

CHAPTER 16

AND when Dā-vīd was a little past the top of the *hill*, behold, Zī-bā the servant of Mē-phīb-ō-shēth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

2 And the king said unto Zī-bā, What meanest thou by these? And Zī-bā said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

3 And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Zī-bā said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jē-rū-sā-lēm: for he said, To day shall the house of Īs-rā-ēl restore me the kingdom of my father.

4 Then said the king to Zī-bā, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mē-phīb-ō-shēth. And Zī-bā said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

5 ¶ And when king Dā-vīd came to Bā-hū-rīm, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shīm-ē-ī, the son of Gē-rā: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

6 And he cast stones at Dā-vīd, and at all the servants of king Dā-vīd: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7 And thus said Shīm-ē-ī when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Bē-lī-āl:

8 The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Sāul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Āb-sā-lōm thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

9 ¶ Then said Āb-ī-shāi the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zēr-ū-ī-āh? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse Dā-vīd. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

11 And Dā-vīd said to Āb-ī-shāi, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Bēn-jā-mīte do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

13 And as Dā-vīd and his men went by the way, Shīm-ē-ī went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

14 And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

15 ¶ And Āb-sā-lōm, and all the people the men of Īs-rā-ēl, came to Jē-rū-sā-lēm, and Ā-hīth-ō-phēl with him.

16 And it came to pass, when Hū-shāi the Ār-chīte, Dā-vīd's friend, was come unto Āb-sā-lōm, that Hū-shāi said unto Āb-sā-lōm, God save the king, God save the king.

17 And Āb-sā-lōm said to Hū-shāi, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?

18 And Hū-shāi said unto Āb-sā-lōm, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Īs-rā-ēl, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.

19 And again, whom should I serve? *should I* not serve in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

20 ¶ Then said Āb-sā-lōm to Ā-hīth-ō-phēl, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

21 And Ā-hīth-ō-phēl said unto Āb-sā-lōm, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Īs-rā-ēl shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

22 So they spread Āb-sā-lōm a tent upon the top of the house; and Āb-sā-lōm went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Īs-rā-ēl.

23 And the counsel of Ā-hīth-ō-phēl, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ā-hīth-ō-phēl both with Dā-vīd and with Āb-sā-lōm.

CHAPTER 17

MOREOVER Ā-hīth'ō-phēl said unto Āb'sā-lōm, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after Dā'vīd this night:

2 And I will come upon him while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:

3 And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

4 And the saying pleased Āb'sā-lōm well, and all the elders of Īs'rā-ēl.

5 Then said Āb'sā-lōm, Call now Hū-shāi the Ār'chīte also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.

6 And when Hū-shāi was come to Āb'sā-lōm, Āb'sā-lōm spake unto him, saying, Ā-hīth'ō-phēl hath spoken after this manner: shall we do *after* his saying? if not; speak thou.

7 And Hū-shāi said unto Āb'sā-lōm, The counsel that Ā-hīth'ō-phēl hath given is not good at this time.

8 For, said Hū-shāi, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they *be* mighty men, and they *be* chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

9 Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some *other* place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Āb'sā-lōm.

10 And he also *that* is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Īs'rā-ēl knoweth that thy father is a mighty man, and *they* which *be* with him *are* valiant men.

11 Therefore I counsel that all Īs'rā-ēl be generally gathered unto thee, from Dān even to Beer-shē'bā, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.

12 So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that *are* with him there shall not be left so much as one.

13 Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Īs'rā-ēl bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

14 And Āb'sā-lōm and all the men of Īs'rā-ēl said, The counsel of Hū-shāi the Ār'chīte is better than the counsel of Ā-hīth'ō-phēl. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ā-hīth'ō-phēl, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Āb'sā-lōm.

15 ¶ Then said Hū-shāi unto Zā-dōk and to Ā-bī-ā-thār the priests, Thus and thus did Ā-hīth'ō-phēl counsel Āb'sā-lōm and the elders of Īs'rā-ēl; and thus and thus have I counselled.

16 Now therefore send quickly, and tell Dā'vīd, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that *are* with him.

17 Now Jōn-ā-thān and Ā-hī-mā-āz stayed by Ĕn-rō-gēl; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king Dā'vīd.

18 Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Āb'sā-lōm: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bā-hū-rīm, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.

19 And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.

20 And when Āb'sā-lōm's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where is Ā-hī-mā-āz and Jōn-ā-thān? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

21 And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king Dā'vīd, and said unto Dā'vīd, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ā-hīth'ō-phēl counselled against you.

22 Then Dā'vīd arose, and all the people that *were* with him, and they passed over Jōr'dān: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jōr'dān.

23 ¶ And when Ā-hīth'ō-phēl saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

24 Then Dā'vīd came to Mā-hā-nā-īm. And Āb'sā-lōm passed over Jōr'dān, he and all the men of Īs'rā-ēl with him.

25 ¶ And Āb'sā-lōm made Ā-mā-sā captain of the host instead of Jō'āb: which Ā-mā-sā was a man's son, whose name was Īth-rā an Īs'rā-ēl-ite, that went in to Āb-ī-gail the daughter of Nā-hāsh, sister to Zēr-ū-ī-āh Jō'āb's mother.

26 So Īs'rā-ēl and Āb'sā-lōm pitched in the land of Gīl-ē-ād.

27 ¶ And it came to pass, when Dā'vīd was come to Mā-hā-nā-īm, that Shō'bī the son of Nā-hāsh of Rāb-bāh of the children of Ām-mōn, and Mā-chīr the son of Ām-mī-ēl of Lō-dē-bār, and Bār-zīl-lā-ī the Gīl-ē-ād-ite of Rō-gē-līm,

28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse,

29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for Dā'vīd, and for the people that *were* with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

CHAPTER 18

AND Dā'vīd numbered the people that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2 And Dā'vīd sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Jō'āb, and a third part under the hand of Āb-ī-shāi the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh, Jō'āb's brother, and a third part under the hand of Īt-tā-ī the Gīt-tite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3 But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now *thou art* worth ten thousand of us: therefore now *it is* better that thou succour us out of the city.

4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And the king commanded Jō'āb and Āb-ī-shāi and Īt-tā-ī, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, *even* with Āb'sā-lōm. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Āb'sā-lōm.

6 ¶ So the people went out into the field against Īs'rā-ēl: and the battle was in the wood of Ē-phrā-īm;

7 Where the people of Īs'rā-ēl were slain before the servants of

Dā-vid, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*.

8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9 ¶ And Āb-sā-lom met the servants of Dā-vid. And Āb-sā-lom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

10 And a certain man saw *it*, and told Jō-āb, and said, Behold, I saw Āb-sā-lom hanged in an oak.

11 And Jō-āb said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest *him*, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten *shē-kēls* of silver, and a girdle.

12 And the man said unto Jō-āb, Though I should receive a thousand *shē-kēls* of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Āb-ī-shāi and Īt-tā-ī, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Āb-sā-lom.

13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldst have set thyself against *me*.

14 Then said Jō-āb, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Āb-sā-lom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men that bare Jō-āb's armour compassed about and smote Āb-sā-lom, and slew him.

16 And Jō-āb blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Īś-rā-ēl: for Jō-āb held back the people.

17 And they took Āb-sā-lom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Īś-rā-ēl fled every one to his tent.

18 ¶ Now Āb-sā-lom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Āb-sā-lom's place.

19 ¶ Then said Ā-hī-mā-āz the son of Zā-dōk, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.

20 And Jō-āb said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

21 Then said Jō-āb to Cū-shī, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cū-shī bowed himself unto Jō-āb, and ran.

22 Then said Ā-hī-mā-āz the son of Zā-dōk yet again to Jō-āb, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cū-shī. And Jō-āb said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?

23 But howsoever, *said he*, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ā-hī-mā-āz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cū-shī.

24 And Dā-vid sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.

26 And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

27 And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ā-hī-mā-āz the son of Zā-dōk. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

28 And Ā-hī-mā-āz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed *be* the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, *Is* the young man Āb-sā-lom safe? And Ā-hī-mā-āz answered, When Jō-āb sent the king's servant, and *me* thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what *it was*.

30 And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, *and* stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cū-shī came; and Cū-shī said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

32 And the king said unto Cū-shī, *Is* the young man Āb-sā-lom safe? And Cū-shī answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that* young man *is*.

33 ¶ And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Āb-sā-lom, my son, my son Āb-sā-lom! would God I had died for thee, O Āb-sā-lom, my son, my son!

CHAPTER 19

AND it was told Jō-āb, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Āb-sā-lom.

2 And the victory that day was *turned* into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.

3 And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Āb-sā-lom, O Āb-sā-lom, my son, my son!

5 And Jō-āb came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;

6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Āb-sā-lom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.

7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Īś-rā-ēl had fled every man to his tent.

9 ¶ And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs; and now he is fled out of the land for Āb-sā-lom.

10 And Āb-sā-lom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

11 ¶ And king Dā-vid sent to Zā-dōk and to Ā-bī-ā-thār the

priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Jûd-âh, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Īś-rā-ēl is come to the king, *even* to his house.

12 Ye *are* my brethren, ye *are* my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?

13 And say ye to Ā-mā-sā, *Art* thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Jō-âb.

14 And he bowed the heart of all the men of Jûd-âh, even as *the heart of one man*; so that they sent *this word* unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.

15 So the king returned, and came to Jôr-dân. And Jûd-âh came to Gîl-gāl, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jôr-dân.

16 ¶ And Shîm-ê-î the son of Gê-rā, a Bën-jă-mîte, which was of Bă-hû-rîm, hastened and came down with the men of Jûd-âh to meet king Dă-vîd.

17 And *there were* a thousand men of Bën-jă-mîn with him, and Zî-bă the servant of the house of Săul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jôr-dân before the king.

18 And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shîm-ê-î the son of Gê-rā fell down before the king, as he was come over Jôr-dân;

19 And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jê-rû-să-lēm, that the king should take it to his heart.

20 For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Jō-sēph to go down to meet my lord the king.

21 But Āb-î-shaî the son of Zêr-û-î-âh answered and said, Shall not Shîm-ê-î be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?

22 And Dă-vîd said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zêr-û-î-âh, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Īś-rā-ēl? for do not I know that I *am* this day king over Īś-rā-ēl?

23 Therefore the king said unto Shîm-ê-î, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

24 ¶ And Mě-phîb-ô-shêth the son of Săul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came *again* in peace.

25 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jê-rû-să-lēm to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mě-phîb-ô-shêth?

26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant *is* lame.

27 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king *is* as an angel of God: do therefore *what is* good in thine eyes.

28 For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of

thy matters? I have said, Thou and Zî-bă divide the land.

30 And Mě-phîb-ô-shêth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

31 ¶ And Băr-zîl-lă-î the Gîl-ê-âd-îte came down from Rô-gě-lîm, and went over Jôr-dân with the king, to conduct him over Jôr-dân.

32 Now Băr-zîl-lă-î was a very aged man, *even* fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mă-hă-nă-îm; for he was a very great man.

33 And the king said unto Băr-zîl-lă-î, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jê-rû-să-lēm.

34 And Băr-zîl-lă-î said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jê-rû-să-lēm?

35 I *am* this day fourscore years old: *and* can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

36 Thy servant will go a little way over Jôr-dân with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

37 Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, *and be buried* by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chîm-hăm; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

38 And the king answered, Chîm-hăm shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, *that* will I do for thee.

39 And all the people went over Jôr-dân. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Băr-zîl-lă-î, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.

40 Then the king went on to Gîl-gāl, and Chîm-hăm went on with him: and all the people of Jûd-âh conducted the king, and also half the people of Īś-rā-ēl.

41 ¶ And, behold, all the men of Īś-rā-ēl came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Jûd-âh stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all Dă-vîd's men with him, over Jôr-dân?

42 And all the men of Jûd-âh answered the men of Īś-rā-ēl, Because the king *is* near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's cost? or hath he given us any gift?

43 And the men of Īś-rā-ēl answered the men of Jûd-âh, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more *right* in Dă-vîd than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Jûd-âh were fiercer than the words of the men of Īś-rā-ēl.

CHAPTER 20

AND there happened to be there a man of Bê-lî-âl, whose name was Shê-bă, the son of Bîch-rî, a Bën-jă-mîte: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in Dă-vîd, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jês-sê: every man to his tents, O Īś-rā-ēl.

2 So every man of Īś-rā-ēl went up from after Dă-vîd, *and* followed Shê-bă the son of Bîch-rî: but the men of Jûd-âh clave unto their king, from Jôr-dân even to Jê-rû-să-lēm.

3 ¶ And Dă-vîd came to his house at Jê-rû-să-lēm; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the

house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

4 ¶ Then said the king to Ā-mā-sā, Assemble me the men of Jūd-āh within three days, and be thou here present.

5 So Ā-mā-sā went to assemble *the men of Jūd-āh*: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

6 And Dā-vīd said to Āb-ī-shāi, Now shall Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī do us more harm than *did* Āb-sā-lom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

7 And there went out after him Jō-āb's men, and the Chēr-ē-thītes, and the Pēl-ē-thītes, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jē-rū-sā-lēm, to pursue after Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī.

8 When they *were* at the great stone which *is* in Gīb-ē-on, Ā-mā-sā went before them. And Jō-āb's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle *with* a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

9 And Jō-āb said to Ā-mā-sā, *Art* thou in health, my brother? And Jō-āb took Ā-mā-sā by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

10 But Ā-mā-sā took no heed to the sword that was in Jō-āb's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth *rib*, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Jō-āb and Āb-ī-shāi his brother pursued after Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī.

11 And one of Jō-āb's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Jō-āb, and he that *is* for Dā-vīd, *let him go* after Jō-āb.

12 And Ā-mā-sā wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Ā-mā-sā out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

13 When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Jō-āb, to pursue after Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī.

14 ¶ And he went through all the tribes of Īs-rā-ēl unto Ā-bēl, and to Bēth-mā-ā-chāh, and all the Bē-rītes: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.

15 And they came and besieged him in Ā-bēl of Bēth-mā-ā-chāh, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that *were* with Jō-āb battered the wall, to throw it down.

16 ¶ Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Jō-āb, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.

17 And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, *Art* thou Jō-āb? And he answered, *I am he*. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, *I do hear*.

18 Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask *counsel* at Ā-bēl: and so they ended *the matter*.

19 *I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful* in Īs-rā-ēl: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Īs-rā-ēl: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

20 And Jō-āb answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

21 The matter *is* not so: but a man of mount Ē-phrā-īm, Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, *even* against Dā-vīd: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Jō-āb, Behold, his head shall be

thrown to thee over the wall.

22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Shē-bā the son of Bīch-rī, and cast it out to Jō-āb. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Jō-āb returned to Jē-rū-sā-lēm unto the king.

23 ¶ Now Jō-āb was over all the host of Īs-rā-ēl: and Bē-nai-āh the son of Jē-hoi-ā-dā was over the Chēr-ē-thītes and over the Pēl-ē-thītes:

24 And Ā-dōr-ām was over the tribute: and Jē-hōsh-ā-phāt the son of Ā-hī-lūd was recorder:

25 And Shē-vā was scribe: and Zā-dōk and Ā-bi-ā-thār were the priests:

26 And Ī-rā also the Jā-īr-īte was a chief ruler about Dā-vīd.

CHAPTER 21

THEN there was a famine in the days of Dā-vīd three years, year after year; and Dā-vīd inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, *It is* for Sāul, and for *his* bloody house, because he slew the Gīb-ē-on-ītes.

2 And the king called the Gīb-ē-on-ītes, and said unto them; (now the Gīb-ē-on-ītes were not of the children of Īs-rā-ēl, but of the remnant of the Ām-ō-rītes; and the children of Īs-rā-ēl had sworn unto them: and Sāul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Īs-rā-ēl and Jūd-āh.)

3 Wherefore Dā-vīd said unto the Gīb-ē-on-ītes, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?

4 And the Gīb-ē-on-ītes said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Sāul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Īs-rā-ēl. And he said, What ye shall say, *that* will I do for you.

5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Īs-rā-ēl,

6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gīb-ē-āh of Sāul, *whom* the LORD did choose. And the king said, *I will give them*.

7 But the king spared Mē-phīb-ō-shēth, the son of Jōn-ā-thān the son of Sāul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between Dā-vīd and Jōn-ā-thān the son of Sāul.

8 But the king took the two sons of Rīz-pāh the daughter of Āi-āh, whom she bare unto Sāul, Ār-mō-nī and Mē-phīb-ō-shēth; and the five sons of Mī-chāl the daughter of Sāul, whom she brought up for Ā-drī-ēl the son of Bār-zil-lā-ī the Mē-hō-lā-thīte:

9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gīb-ē-on-ītes, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell *all* seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

10 ¶ And Rīz-pāh the daughter of Āi-āh took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

11 And it was told Dā-vīd what Rīz-pāh the daughter of Āi-āh, the concubine of Sāul, had done.

12 ¶ And Dā-vīd went and took the bones of Sāul and the bones of Jōn-ā-thān his son from the men of Jā-bēsh-gil-ē-ād, which had stolen them from the street of Bēth-shān, where the Phīl-īs-tīnēs had hanged them, when the Phīl-īs-tīnēs had slain Sāul in

Gīl-bō-ā:

13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Sāul and the bones of Jōn-ā-thān his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

14 And the bones of Sāul and Jōn-ā-thān his son buried they in the country of Bēn-jā-mīn in Zē-lāh, in the sepulchre of Kīsh his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

15 ¶ Moreover the Phīl-īs-tīnēs had yet war again with Īs-rā-ēl; and Dā-vid went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Phīl-īs-tīnēs: and Dā-vid waxed faint.

16 And Īsh-bī-bē-nōb, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shē-kēls of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain Dā-vid.

17 But Āb-ī-shāi the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh succoured him, and smote the Phīl-īs-tīne, and killed him. Then the men of Dā-vid sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Īs-rā-ēl.

18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Phīl-īs-tīnēs at Gōb: then Sīb-bē-chāi the Hūsh-ā-thīte slew Sāph, which was of the sons of the giant.

19 And there was again a battle in Gōb with the Phīl-īs-tīnēs, where Ēl-hā-nān the son of Jā-ā-rē-ōr-ē-gīm, a Bēth-lē-hē-mīte, slew the brother of Gō-lī-āth the Gīt-tīte, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

20 And there was yet a battle in Gāth, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant.

21 And when he defied Īs-rā-ēl, Jōn-ā-thān the son of Shīm-ē-ā the brother of Dā-vid slew him.

22 These four were born to the giant in Gāth, and fell by the hand of Dā-vid, and by the hand of his servants.

CHAPTER 22

AND Dā-vid spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Sāul:

2 And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

8 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

9 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

11 And he rode upon a chēr-üb, and did fly: and he was seen upon

the wings of the wind.

12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

13 Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.

14 The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.

15 And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.

16 And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

17 He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;

18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.

19 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

20 He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

23 For all his judgments were before me: and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them.

24 I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

25 Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

28 And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

29 For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

30 For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.

31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

32 For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?

33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

34 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.

35 He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.

39 And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.

40 For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.

41 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.

42 They looked, but *there was none to save; even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

43 Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.

44 Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me *to be* head of the heathen: a people *which* I knew not shall serve me.

45 Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

46 Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

47 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

48 It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,

49 And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

51 *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto Dā-vid, and to his seed for evermore.

CHAPTER 23

NOW these *be* the last words of Dā-vid. Dā-vid the son of Jēs-sē said, and the man *who was* raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jā-cōb, and the sweet psalmist of Īs-rā-ēl, said,

2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

3 The God of Īs-rā-ēl said, the Rock of Īs-rā-ēl spake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

4 And *he shall be* as the light of the morning, *when* the sun riseth, *even* a morning without clouds; *as* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

5 Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

6 ¶ But *the sons* of Bē-lī-āl *shall be* all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

7 But the man *that shall* touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the *same* place.

8 ¶ These *be* the names of the mighty men whom Dā-vid had: The Tāch-mō-nīte that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Ād-ī-nō the Ēz-nīte: *he lift up his spear* against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him was Ēl-ē-ā-zār the son of Dō-dō the Ā-hō-hīte, *one* of the three mighty men with Dā-vid, when they defied the Phil-īs-tīneš *that were* there gathered together to battle, and the men of Īs-rā-ēl were gone away:

10 He arose, and smote the Phil-īs-tīneš until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him was Shām-māh the son of Ā-gēe the Hār-ā-rīte. And the Phil-īs-tīneš were gathered together into a troop, where

was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Phil-īs-tīneš.

12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Phil-īs-tīneš: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to Dā-vid in the harvest time unto the cave of Ā-dūl-lām: and the troop of the Phil-īs-tīneš pitched in the valley of Rēph-ā-īm.

14 And Dā-vid was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Phil-īs-tīneš was then in Bēth-lē-hēm.

15 And Dā-vid longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bēth-lē-hēm, *which is* by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Phil-īs-tīneš, and drew water out of the well of Bēth-lē-hēm, *that was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it* to Dā-vid: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: *is not this* the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

18 And Āb-ī-shai, the brother of Jō-āb, the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, *and slew them*, and had the name among three.

19 Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the *first* three.

20 And Bē-nai-āh the son of Jē-hoi-ā-dā, the son of a valiant man, of Kāb-zeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Mō-āb: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

21 And he slew an Ē-gyp-tiān, a goodly man: and the Ē-gyp-tiān had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Ē-gyp-tiān's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22 These *things* did Bē-nai-āh the son of Jē-hoi-ā-dā, and had the name among three mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the *first* three. And Dā-vid set him over his guard.

24 Ās-ā-hēl the brother of Jō-āb was one of the thirty; Ēl-hā-nān the son of Dō-dō of Bēth-lē-hēm,

25 Shām-māh the Hār-ō-dīte, Ē-lī-kā the Hār-ō-dīte,

26 Hē-lēz the Pāl-tīte, Ī-rā the son of Īk-kēsh the Tē-kō-īte,

27 Ā-bī-ē-zēr the Ān-ē-thō-thīte, Mē-būn-nai the Hūsh-ā-thīte,

28 Zāl-mōn the Ā-hō-hīte, Mā-hā-rai the Nē-tōph-ā-thīte,

29 Hē-lēb the son of Bā-ā-nāh, a Nē-tōph-ā-thīte, Īt-tā-ī the son of Rī-bā-ī out of Gīb-ē-āh of the children of Bēn-jā-mīn,

30 Bē-nai-āh the Pī-rā-thōn-īte, Hīd-dā-ī of the brooks of Gā-āsh,

31 Ā-bī-āl-bōn the Ār-bā-thīte, Āz-mā-vēth the Bār-hū-mīte,

32 Ē-lī-āh-bā the Shā-āl-bō-nīte, of the sons of Jāsh-ēn, Jōn-ā-thān,

33 Shām-māh the Hār-ā-rīte, Ā-hī-ām the son of Shār-ār the Hār-ā-rīte,

34 Ē-līph-ē-lēt the son of Ā-hās-bai, the son of the Mā-āch-ā-thīte, Ē-lī-ām the son of Ā-hīth-ō-phēl the Gī-lō-nīte,

35 Hēz-rā-ī the Cār-mēl-īte, Pā-ā-rai the Ār-bīte,

36 Ī-gāl the son of Nā-thān of Zō-bāh, Bā-nī the Gād-īte,

37 Zē-lēk the Ām-mōn-īte, Nā-hā-rai the Beer-ō-thīte, armourbearer to Jō-āb the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh,

38 Ī-rā an Īth-rīte, Gār-ēb an Īth-rīte,

39 Ū-rī-āh the Hīt-tīte: thirty and seven in all.

CHAPTER 24

AND again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Īś-rā-ēl, and he moved Dā-vīd against them to say, Go, number Īś-rā-ēl and Jūd-āh.

2 For the king said to Jō-āb the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl, from Dān even to Bēer-shē-bā, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

3 And Jō-āb said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see *it*: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Jō-āb, and against the captains of the host. And Jō-āb and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Īś-rā-ēl.

5 ¶ And they passed over Jōr-dān, and pitched in Ā-rō-ēr, on the right side of the city that *lieth* in the midst of the river of Gād, and toward Jā-zēr:

6 Then they came to Gīl-ē-ād, and to the land of Tāh-tīm-hōd-shī; and they came to Dān-jā-ān, and about to Zī-dōn,

7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hī-vītes, and of the Cā-nā-ān-ītes: and they went out to the south of Jūd-āh, *even* to Bēer-shē-bā.

8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jē-rū-sā-lēm at the end of nine months and twenty days.

9 And Jō-āb gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Īś-rā-ēl eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Jūd-āh *were* five hundred thousand men.

10 ¶ And Dā-vīd's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And Dā-vīd said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

11 For when Dā-vīd was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gād, Dā-vīd's seer, saying,

12 Go and say unto Dā-vīd, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three *things*; choose thee one of them, that I may *do it* unto thee.

13 So Gād came to Dā-vīd, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise,

and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

14 And Dā-vīd said unto Gād, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies *are* great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

15 ¶ So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Īś-rā-ēl from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dān even to Bēer-shē-bā seventy thousand men.

16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jē-rū-sā-lēm to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Ā-rau-nāh the Jēb-ū-sīte.

17 And Dā-vīd spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

18 ¶ And Gād came that day to Dā-vīd, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ā-rau-nāh the Jēb-ū-sīte.

19 And Dā-vīd, according to the saying of Gād, went up as the LORD commanded.

20 And Ā-rau-nāh looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Ā-rau-nāh went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

21 And Ā-rau-nāh said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And Dā-vīd said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

22 And Ā-rau-nāh said unto Dā-vīd, Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seemeth* good unto him: behold, *here be* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and *other* instruments of the oxen for wood.

23 All these *things* did Ā-rau-nāh, as a king, give unto the king. And Ā-rau-nāh said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

24 And the king said unto Ā-rau-nāh, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So Dā-vīd bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shē-kēls of silver.

25 And Dā-vīd built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Īś-rā-ēl.