



The Word Concerning Samuel, Saul and David

Comprising the books commonly
referred to in English Bibles as 1 Samuel,
2 Samuel and part of 1 Kings

translated and edited by
Glen Prideaux

Second Edition

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Preface

The Reason for this Edition

There are a number of copies of the various books that make up the Word which the Lord has spoken. Some of these copies are faithful but some, sadly, are not. Differences between copies can make it difficult to know which truly represent the Word of God. There are tests, however, which we can use to recognise the true word of God. These are the tests that God has given for his people to use to discern if a person who claims to speak in His name does so truly or not.

For most of the Law and the Prophets the ‘standard’ copies are *substantially* correct. This is not the case with the Word concerning Samuel and Kings Saul and David. Here it can be shown that the ‘standard’ copies again and again fail to teach what the Word of God teaches.

This edition is translated from a group of Greek and Hebrew copies that can be shown to be faithful. The reader will be able to confirm this by examination of the passages where the ‘standard’ copies differ from this edition, and comparison with what the Word of God teaches in other places.

The Name Used for these Words

This edition contains all of what is traditionally called “First Samuel” and “Second Samuel”, and two chapters of what is traditionally called “First Kings”. For this work, however, these traditional names have been rejected as misleading. The name of Samuel can hardly be associated with the whole of so-called “First and Second Samuel” since the death of Samuel is recorded in the first part (25:1). Even the division into a ‘first’ and a ‘second’ book is arbitrary.

Jesus and his apostles referred to passages of scripture in terms descriptive of their content. The name I have used, The “Word Concerning Samuel, Saul and David” is also intended to be descriptive of the content. I expect many other such descriptive names could also be used.

Similar practices apply to scriptures referred to in cross references, particularly references to the Book of Moses, as follows:

In this work	Traditional name
Moses I	Genesis
Moses II	Exodus
Moses III	Leviticus
Moses IV	Numbers
Moses V	Deuteronomy

This approach may be criticised as being excessively pedantic, and perhaps this is so, but it is consistent with a desire to speak the truth in all things. I hope that this does not become a barrier to those who might otherwise find this work useful.

Verse and Chapter Divisions

Different editions use slightly different verse numbering systems. The reader should remember that verse divisions are entirely arbitrary. This edition follows, as much as

possible, the numbering system used in the majority of English language editions. The chapter divisions are de-emphasised.

Principles of Translation

I have favoured a word-for-word approach in preparing this translation, translating the words and grammatical structures from the original language to English, but leaving the idioms and linguistic style untranslated. This jumps out at the reader from the very first word: 'And'—a word not generally used to begin an account! Indeed, the Hebrew conjunction **וְ** could have been reasonably translated with many different words ('now', 'so', 'but', etc.) or left out entirely where English usage does not require it, but I have sought to make this not only readable, but usable for study where details like the actual words used in the original may be of interest.

Text presented *in italics* represents text not found in the original language, but needed to make the English text understandable.

'You'—Singular/Plural Ambiguity

Sometimes it is not possible with modern English to distinguish between you (singular) and you (plural), even though the original language text is unambiguous. Wherever I have observed that the English translation is ambiguous as to whether the word 'you' refers to one person or more than one I have resolved the ambiguity for the reader unobtrusively by using a single dagger for singular and a double dagger for plural, thus: you[†] (singular); you[‡] (plural).

New or Remaining Errors

If you find any errors that have been introduced by me in the transcription/translation process, or any errors that remain from the incorrect copies, please let me know so I can correct them in future editions, if there are to be any.

The Name of God

The name of God is rendered here as "the LORD". In some places this is used with the ordinary word "lord". Although unambiguous in print, when reading aloud one may choose to use "Jehovah" instead.

Acknowledgements

This work was inspired by and relies heavily on a manuscript comparison prepared by Evan Blackmore. Translation is loosely based on word choice and syntax of the American Standard Version 1901 but extensively updated to reduce the archaisms characteristic of the ASV, and with extensive reference to Hebrew and Greek texts.

Glen Prideaux
1 Bates Road, INNALOO WA 6018, AUSTRALIA

**The word concerning
Samuel, Saul and David**
The first part,
concerning Samuel and King Saul.
Commonly called "first Samuel".

^{1:1}And there was a man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite of the hill-country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jerahmeel, the son of Elihu, the son of Toah, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ²And he had two wives; the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah, and Peninnah had children, and Hannah had no children. ³And this man went up from his city from days to days to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, priests to the LORD, were there. ⁴And when the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: ⁵and he gave Hannah one portion^a, because she had no child. However, he loved Hannah, and the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁶And her rival provoked her greatly, to trouble her, because the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁷And so he did year by year. When she went up to the house of the LORD, she provoked her thus; and she wept, and didn't eat. ⁸And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah"; and she said to him, "Here I am, my lord"; and he said to her, "Why do you weep, and why don't you eat, and why is your heart grieved? Am I not better than ten sons to you?"

^{1:9}And Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh and after they had drunk and stood before the LORD. And Eli the priest was sitting upon his seat by the door-post of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰And her soul was bitter, and she prayed to the LORD, and wept greatly. ¹¹And she made a vow, and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your handmaid, and remember me, and not forget your handmaid, and will give to your handmaid a seed of men, then I will give him as a Nazirite before you till the day of his death, and he will not drink wine or strong drink, and no razor will come upon his head."

^{1:12}And it happened as she multiplied praying before the LORD, that Eli observed her mouth. ¹³And Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard, and Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴And Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you." ¹⁵And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman hard of day: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, and I have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Don't count your handmaid as a daughter of belial^b; because I have lingered till now because of the abundance of my complaint and my provocation." ¹⁷And Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your request that you have asked from him." ¹⁸And she said, "Let your handmaid find favour in your eyes." And the woman went her way, and when she came to the room, she ate with her husband and drank, and her face was no longer fallen.

^{1:19}And they rose up early in the morning, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰And it happened when the time had come about, that Hannah conceived, and bore a son; and she called his name Samuel, "Because I have asked him of the LORD."

^{1:21}And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer the sacrifice of the days in Shiloh, and to redeem all his vows and all the tithes of his hand. ²²And Hannah didn't go up, because she said to her husband, "Until the child comes up when I have weaned him, that he may appear before the LORD, and stay there forever." ²³And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what is good in your eyes; wait until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm what goes forth from your mouth." And the woman waited and nursed her son until she weaned him. ²⁴And she went up when she had weaned him, with a three-year-old bull and bread and one ephah of meal, and a jug of wine. And she came to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, and the child was with them. ²⁵And they went before the LORD, and his father slaughtered the offering, as he did from year to year to the LORD; and she took the child, and he slaughtered the bull. And Hannah, the mother of the child, went to Eli. ²⁶And she said, "O my lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman that stood here by you, praying to the LORD. ²⁷I prayed for this child, and the LORD has given me my request that I asked of him: ²⁸so I have also given him to the LORD. As long as he lives he is given to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there."

^{2:1}And Hannah prayed, and said:

a cf. Moses V 21:15-17; Moses II 21:8,10.

b "son of belial" or "daughter of belial" is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'worthless' or 'wicked'.

"My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in my God;
my mouth is enlarged over my enemies.
I rejoice in your salvation for ²there is no-one holy as the LORD,
for there is no-one righteous like our God, nor is there any rock besides
you.

³Don't boast, and don't speak proudly;
don't let arrogance come out of your[‡] mouth,
for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and a God who weighs his actions^a.

⁴The bows of the mighty men are broken,
and those who stumbled are girded with strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired out themselves for bread;
and those who were hungry have ceased.

Also, the barren has borne seven, and she who has many children
languishes.

⁶The LORD kills and makes alive.

He brings down to Sheol, and brings up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich.

He brings low, he also lifts up.

⁸He raises up the poor out of the dust; he lifts up the needy from the
rubbish heap,

to make them sit with princes, and inherit the throne of glory.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he has set the world upon
them.

⁹He will keep the feet of his holy ones, and the wicked will be put to
silence in darkness.

He gives his petition to the one who prays, and he blesses the years of
the righteous,

for no man will prevail by strength.

¹⁰The LORD shatters his adversaries. The LORD is holy.

The LORD has gone up in the heavens, and he has thundered.

He will judge the ends of the earth, and he will give strength to our king,
and exalt the horn of his anointed."

^{2:11}And she left him there before the LORD, and went to Ramah. And the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

^{2:12}And the sons of Eli were sons of belial^b; they didn't know the LORD, ¹³and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came while the flesh was boiling with a flesh-hook of three teeth in his hand, ¹⁴and he thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot. All that the flesh-hook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites that came to sacrifice to the LORD: ¹⁵even before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, "Give flesh to roast for the priest; because he will not have boiled flesh from the pan from you." ¹⁶And the man who was sacrificing said to him, "Let the fat be burnt first, and take as much as your soul desires," and he said, "No, for you must give it to me now, and if not, I will take it by force." ¹⁷And the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for they despised the offering of the LORD.

^{2:18}And Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

¹⁹And his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him from days to days, when she came up with her husband to offer the sacrifice of the days. ²⁰And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, "May the LORD repay you seed from this woman in place of the gift that you have given to the LORD." And the man went to his own place. ²¹And the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived, and bore three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

^{2:22}And Eli was very old; and he heard what his sons did to the sons of Israel, and how they lay with the women who did service at the door of the tent of meeting. ²³And he said to them, "Why do you do such things that I hear being said of you from the mouth of the LORD's people? ²⁴No, my sons, for the report that I hear isn't good. Don't do this, for the reports that I hear are not good, so that the people don't serve God. ²⁵If one man sins against another, they may pray to the LORD for him, and if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" However, they didn't listen to the voice of their father, because the LORD was minded to put them to death.

^{2:26}And the child Samuel went on, and was good both with the LORD, and with men.

²⁷And a man of God came to Eli, and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'I revealed myself to the

a "Are not my actions weighed?", Ezekiel 18:29; 25; cf. Isaiah 40:13.

b "son of belial" or "daughter of belial" is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'worthless' or 'wicked'.

house of your father, when they were in Egypt, slaves to Pharaoh's house,²⁸and I chose the house of your father out of all the tribes of Israel to serve me as priests, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me, and I gave to the house of your father as food all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire.²⁹Why do you look at my sacrifice and at my offering with distress of eye^a and honour your sons above me, to be blessed with the first of all the offerings of Israel before me?³⁰Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'I said that your house, and the house of your father, should walk before me for ever;' and now the LORD says, 'Far be it from me; for those who honour me I will honour, and those who despise me will be lightly esteemed.³¹Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your seed and the seed of your father's house,³²and you will not have an old man in my house forever.³³And one man of yours I will not cut off from my altar, to waste away his eyes and to pine away his soul; and all the increase of your house will fall by the swords of men.³⁴And this will be the sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day both of them will die.³⁵And I will raise up a faithful priest for myself who will do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind: and I will build him a faithful house; and he will walk before my anointed forever.³⁶And it will happen that every one who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread, and say, "Please put me into one of the priests' offices, so that I may eat a morsel of bread."

^{3:1}And the child Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; no vision spread abroad.

^{3:2}And it happened at that time, when Eli had laid down in his place (and his eyes had begun to grow dim; he couldn't see),³and the lamp of God hadn't yet gone out, and Samuel had laid down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was,⁴that the LORD called and said, "Samuel, Samuel"; and he said, "Here I am."⁵And he ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I didn't call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.⁶And the LORD called yet again, "Samuel, Samuel." And he rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he answered, "I didn't call, my son; lie down again."⁷And Samuel didn't yet know God, neither had the word of the LORD been revealed to him yet.⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; for you called me." And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child,⁹and Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down: and it will be, if he calls you, that you will say, 'Speak, LORD; for your servant hears.'" And Samuel went and lay down in his place.

^{3:10}And the LORD came, and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." And Samuel said, "Speak; for your servant hears."¹¹And the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one who hears it will tingle.¹²In that day I will raise up against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from the beginning even to the end.¹³For I have told him that I will judge his house forever, for the iniquity of his sons, because his sons spoke evil against God, and he didn't dim them.¹⁴And not so; I have promised to the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house will not be expiated with sacrifice nor offering forever."

^{3:15}And Samuel lay until the morning, and rose early in the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision.¹⁶And Eli called Samuel, and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am."¹⁷And he said, "What is the word which he has spoken to you? Please don't hide it from me: God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that he spoke to you in your ears."¹⁸And Samuel told him every word, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD: let him do what is good in his eyes."¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and let none of his words fall to the ground.²⁰And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the LORD.²¹And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh; for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel. And Samuel was faithful as a prophet of the LORD to all Israel from one end of the land to the other. And Eli was very old, and his sons kept going on, and their way was evil before the LORD.

^{4:1}And in those days the Philistines gathered against Israel to make war; and Israel went out to meet them in battle, and camped beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines camped in Aphek.²And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and the battle turned, and Israel was struck before the Philistines; and they killed about four thousand men of the army in the field.

^{4:3}And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD struck us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of our God to us from Shiloh, that it may come among us, and save us out of the hand of our enemies."⁴And the

a cf. first part 18:9; Moses I 42:21.

people sent to Shiloh; and they brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who sits *above* the cherubim, from there: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. ⁵And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, and the earth resounded. ⁶And when the Philistines heard the shout, they said, "What is this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews?" And they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp. ⁷And the Philistines were afraid, and they said, "These are the gods that have come to them into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For no such thing has happened previously^a. ⁸Woe to us! Who will deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods that struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues, and in the wilderness. ⁹Be strong, and be men, O Philistines, that you may not be servants to the Hebrews, as they have been to you: be men, and fight them." ¹⁰And the Philistines fought them, and Israel was struck, and they fled every man to his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell 30,000 foot soldiers of Israel. ¹¹And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were killed.

^{4:12}And a man of Benjamin ran out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn, and with earth on his head. ¹³And when he came, behold, Eli was sitting on the seat by the gate, watching the road; for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. ¹⁴And when Eli heard the sound of the crying, he said, "What is the sound of this crying?" And the man hurried, and came and told Eli. ¹⁵And Eli was ninety eight years old; and his eyes were set, and he couldn't see. And Eli said to those who were standing around him, What is the sound of this tumult? ¹⁶And the man said to Eli, "I am the one who came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army." And he said, "How did it go, my son?" ¹⁷And the one who brought the news answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great slaughter among the people, and your two sons also are dead, and the ark of God is taken." ¹⁸And it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell backwards off his seat by the side of the gate; and his neck broke, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel twenty years.

^{4:19}And his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, about to give birth: and when she heard the news that the ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. ²⁰And when her time came, she was about to die, and the women that stood by her said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have given birth to a son." And she neither answered nor paid attention. ²¹And she named the child Ichabod^b, because of the ark of God, and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²²And she said, "The glory of Israel departed when the ark of God was taken."

^{5:1}And the Philistines had taken the ark of God, and they brought it from Eben-ezer to Ashdod. ²And the Philistines took it and brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. ³And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And they raised Dagon up, and set him in his place again. ⁴And when they arose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the soles of his feet were cut off on the threshold, and both the palms of his hands were fallen on the threshold; only the back of Dagon was left to him. ⁵Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor anyone who comes into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day, for they leap over it.

^{5:6}And the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and struck them with swellings, Ashdod and its borders. And he brought mice on them, and they swarmed in their ships, and mice went up into their land; and there was a deadly confusion in the city. ⁷And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of God will not stay with us; for his hand is hard on us, and on Dagon our god." ⁸And they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines to them, and said, "What will we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried around to us." And the ark of God was brought to Gath. ⁹And it happened that after it was brought to Gath, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great turmoil: and he struck the men of the city, both small and great with swellings. ¹⁰And the men of Gath made golden swellings for themselves; and mice swarmed among them. And they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it happened, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekonites cried out, saying, "Why have you brought the ark of the God of Israel around to us, to kill us and our people?" ¹¹And they sent and gathered together all the lords of the

a Hebrew: yesterday and the third day.

b The name means "Woe to the glory".

Philistines, and they said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go to its own place again, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly turmoil throughout all the city, when the ark of God came there. ¹²And the men that lived, and didn't die, were struck with the swellings; and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

^{6:1}And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months; and their land swarmed with mice. ²And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What will we do with the ark of the LORD? Show us with what to send it to its place." ³And they said, "If you send away the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the God of Israel, don't send it empty, for by all means return him a guilt offering: then you will be healed, and atonement will be made for you. Why should his hand not be removed from you?" ⁴And they said, "What will be the guilt offering which we will return to him?" And they said, "Five golden swellings, the number of the lords of the Philistines; for one plague was on you, and on your lords, and on the people. ⁵And you will make images of your swellings, and images of your mice that destroy the land; and you will give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel: perhaps he will lighten his hand from you, and from your gods, and from your land. ⁶And why do you harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When he had mocked among them, didn't they let the people go, and they departed? ⁷And now take and prepare a new cart, and two milk cows without their calves; and hitch the cows to the cart, and bring their calves home, away from them; ⁸and take the ark of the LORD, and place it on the cart; and put the articles of gold, which you are returning to him for a guilt offering, in a box by its side; and send it away, and it will go. ⁹And watch; if it goes up by the way of its own border to Beth-shemesh, he has done us this great evil: and if not, then we will know that it isn't his hand that struck us; it was a chance that happened to us.

^{6:10}And the men did so, and took two milk cows and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home; ¹¹and they put the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the mice of gold, and the swellings of gold; and they put the box by its side. ¹²And the cows took the straight way by the way to Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, mooing as they went, and didn't turn aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth-shemesh.

^{6:13}And *the people* of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to meet it. ¹⁴And the cart came into the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite, and stood there, beside a great stone: and they split the wood of the cart, and offered up the cows for a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹⁵And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the box that was with it, which had the articles of gold in it, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day to the LORD. ¹⁶And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day. ¹⁷And these are the golden swellings which the Philistines returned for a guilt offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; ¹⁸and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fortified cities and of country villages. And the great stone upon which they set down the ark of the LORD is to this day in the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite.

^{6:19}And the sons of Jechoniah didn't rejoice with the men of Beth-shemesh, when they saw the ark of the LORD; and he struck down 70 men of them. And the people mourned, because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter. ²⁰And the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And who will the ark of the LORD go up to from us?" ²¹And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down, and take it up to you."

^{7:1}And the men of Kiriath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ²And it happened, from the day that the ark stayed in Kiriath-jearim that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel turned after the LORD. ³And Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, put away the foreign gods and the Asherim^a from among you, and direct your hearts to the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁴And the children of Israel did put away the Masters^b and

a Or, groves. The word in Hebrew is plural of Asherah, usually identified with a Canaanite fertility goddess.

b The Hebrew word is Baalim, plural of Baal. It is probably intended as a proper noun here referring to the chief Canaanite god, but the word is identical with the common noun 'master'.

the Ashtaroth^c, and served the LORD only. ⁵And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." ⁶And they gathered together to Mizpah, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpah.

⁷⁷And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸And the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Don't stop crying to the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁹And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD: and Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel; and the LORD answered him. ¹⁰And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; and the LORD thundered on the Philistines with a great thunder on that day, and crushed them; and they were struck down before Israel. ¹¹And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah, and pursued the Philistines, and struck them, until they came below Beth-car.

⁷¹²And Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it the Help Stone, saying, "The LORD has helped us this far." ¹³And the LORD subdued the Philistines, and they didn't come within the border of Israel any more: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. ¹⁴And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even to Gath; and they delivered their border out of the hand of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. ¹⁵And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all those places. ¹⁷And his return was to Ramah, for his house was there; and there he judged Israel: and he built there an altar to the LORD.

⁸¹And it happened, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. ²And these were the names of his sons: the first-born was Joel; and the name of his second, Abijah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. ³And his sons didn't walk in his way, and turned aside after profit, and took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴And the men of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel at Ramah; ⁵and they said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons don't walk in your way: and now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." ⁶And the thing was evil in the eyes of Samuel, when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁸⁷And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they haven't rejected you, for they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them. ⁸According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, in that they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so they also do to you. ⁹And now listen to their voice: however you will testify to them, and you will show them the justice of the king that will reign over them.

⁸¹⁰And Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people that asked him for a king. ¹¹And he said, "This will be the justice of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them to himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they will run before his chariots; ¹²and he will appoint them to himself for captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, and to plough his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to gather his grapes, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots. ¹³And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. ¹⁴And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive groves, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. ¹⁶And he will take your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and your best cattle, and your donkeys, and tithe them for his work. ¹⁷And he will take the tenth of your flocks: and you will be his servants. ¹⁸And you will cry out in that day from before the face of your king you will have chosen for yourselves; and the LORD will not answer you in those days, because you have chosen a king for yourselves.

⁸¹⁹And the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, for we will have a king over us, ²⁰that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." ²¹And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he spoke them in the ears of the LORD. ²²And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice, and make a king to reign over them." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

⁹¹And there was a man of the children of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bakir, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty

c Ashtaroth is plural of Ashtoreth, the name of a Canaanite goddess supposedly associated with the moon and fertility.

man of valour. ²And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a young and good man, and there wasn't a better person than he among the children of Israel: from his shoulders and upward he was taller than any of the people.

^{9:3}And some of the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, "Take now one of the servants with you, and rise, go and look for the donkeys." And Saul rose, and took one of his father's servants with him, and went to look for the donkeys of Kish his father. ⁴And they passed through the hill-country of Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalishah, and they didn't find them: and they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they weren't there: and they passed through the land of Jabin, and they didn't find them.

^{9:5}And they came to the land of Zuph, and Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, and let us return, lest my father stop caring for the donkeys, and be anxious for us." ⁶And he said to him, "Behold now, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man that is held in honour; all that he says surely happens: now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us about the journey we are on." ⁷And Saul said to his servant who was with him, "And, behold, if we go, what will we bring the man, for the bread in our vessels has run out, and there is no present to bring to the man of God: what do we have?" ⁸And the servant answered Saul again, and said, "Behold, I have in my hand a quarter of a shekel of silver: give that to the man of God, to tell us our way." ⁹(Before in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said thus, "Come, and let us go to the seer;" for the people called a Prophet a Seer before.) ¹⁰And Saul said to his servant, "Your word is good; come, let us go." And they went to the city where the man of God was.

^{9:11}As they went up the ascent to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" ¹²And they answered them, and said, "He is; behold, *he is* before you: now he has come, today, into the city; for the people have a sacrifice today in the high place. ¹³As soon as you have come into the city, you will find him straight away, before he goes up to the high place to eat; for the people will not eat until he comes, because he blesses the sacrifice; and afterwards those who are invited eat. And now go up; for you will find him at this time." ¹⁴And they went up to the city. As they came into the midst of the city, behold, Samuel came out toward them, to go up to the high place.

^{9:15}And the LORD had uncovered the ear of Samuel a day before Saul came, saying, ¹⁶"Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin, and you will anoint him to be prince over my people Israel; and he will save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have seen the affliction of my people, because their cry has come to me." ¹⁷And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "Behold, the man I spoke of to you! This one will have authority over my people." ¹⁸And Saul approached Samuel in the midst of the city, and said, "Tell me, please, where the seer's house is." ¹⁹And Samuel answered Saul, and said, "I am he; go up before me to the high place, for you will eat with me today: and in the morning I will let you go, and will tell you all that is in your heart. ²⁰And as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, don't set your mind on them; for they have been found. And who are the treasures of Israel for? Aren't they for you, and for all your father's house?" ²¹And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and of the least family of all the tribe of Benjamin? And why do you speak to me *a word* like this word?

^{9:22}And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the guest-chamber, and made them sit in a place at the head of those who were invited, who were about seventy persons. ²³And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, "Set it aside." ²⁴And the cook took up the thigh, and that which was on it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, "Behold, that which has been reserved! Set it before you and eat; because it has been kept from the people for you, until the appointed time. Break it." And Saul ate with Samuel that day.

^{9:25}And when they had come down from the high place into the city, they spread a bed for Saul on the roof, and he slept. ²⁶And it happened about daybreak, that Samuel called to Saul on the roof, saying, "Get up, so I may send you on your way." And Saul rose, and they both went out, he and Samuel. ²⁷As they were going down at the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Bid the servant pass on before us, and you stand still first, so I may make you hear the word of God."

^{10:1}And Samuel took the vial of oil, and poured it on his head, and kissed him, and said, "Hasn't the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people, over Israel? And you will rule among the people of the LORD, and you will save them from the hand of their enemies. ²And this will be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you a ruler over his inheritance: when you have departed from me today you will find two men by Rachel's sepulchre, within the border of Benjamin, rushing in the ascent; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which

you went to look for have been found; and, behold, your father has left off the matter^a of the donkeys, and is anxious for you, saying, "What will I do for my son?" ³And you will go on from there and you will come to the oak of Tabor; and there three men going up to God at Beth-el will meet you, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three bags of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: ⁴and they will ask you of your peace, and give you two wave offerings of bread, which you will receive from their hand. ⁵After that you will come to the hill of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is. It will happen when you have come to the city there, that you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a timbrel, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they will be prophesying: ⁶and the Spirit of the LORD will come on you mightily, and you will prophesy with them, and you will be turned into another man. ⁷And when these signs have come to you, do what your hand finds for you to do, for God is with you. ⁸And you will go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down to you, to offer burnt-offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace-offerings: you will wait for seven days until I come to you and show you what you will do."

^{10:9} And it was so, that, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs happened that day. ¹⁰And when they came from there to the hill, behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came mightily upon him, and he prophesied among them. ¹¹And it happened that all who knew him previously^b saw that, behold, he prophesied with the prophets, and the people said to one another, "What is this that has come to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹²And one of them answered and said, "And who is his father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?

^{10:13} And when he had finished prophesying, he came to the hill. ¹⁴And his uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To look for the donkeys; and when we saw that they weren't found, we came to Samuel." ¹⁵And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." ¹⁶And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys were found." And he didn't tell him about the word of the kingdom which Samuel had spoken of.

^{10:17} And Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah; ¹⁸and he said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I saved you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all the kingdoms that oppressed you: ¹⁹and today you have rejected your God, who himself saves you from all your evils and your distresses; and you have said, 'No, for you will set a king over us.' And now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your families."

^{10:20} And Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken. ²¹And he brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families; and the family of the Matriites was taken; and he brought the family of Matri near, man by man, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they looked for him, he couldn't be found. ²²And he asked further of the LORD, "Has the man come here?" And the LORD answered, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." ²³And he ran and brought him from there, and he stood among the people; and he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders up. ²⁴And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him who the LORD has chosen, that there is none like him among you all?" And all the people shouted, and said, "May the king live!"

^{10:25} And Samuel told the people the justice of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and placed it before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, and they went every man to his place. ²⁶And Saul also went to his house to Gibeath; and the sons of valour whose hearts God had touched went with Saul. ²⁷And certain sons of belial^c said, "How will this man save us?" And they despised him, and brought him no present.

^{11:1} And Nahash, the king of the Ammonites, had been oppressing the sons of Gad and the sons of Reuben grievously, and he put out the right eye of each of them, and allowed Israel no deliverer; and no man of the sons of Israel who were across the Jordan remained, whose right eye Nahash, king of the Ammonites hadn't put out; and 7,000 men had escaped from the Ammonites and entered into Jabesh-gilead. And about a month later Nahash the Ammonite came up, and camped against Jabesh-gilead: and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you." ²And Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "I will make it with you on this condition: that all your right eyes be put out; and I will make it for a reproach on all Israel." ³And the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers to all the borders of Israel; and if there is no one to save us, then we will come out to you."

a Hebrew: words.

b Hebrew, from yesterday and the third day.

c "son of belial" or "daughter of belial" is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'worthless' or 'wicked'.

^{11:4} And the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, and spoke these words in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵ And, behold, Saul came following the oxen out of the field; and Saul said, "What is the matter with the people, why do they weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh. ⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily on Saul when he heard those words, and his anger was kindled greatly because of them. ⁷ And he took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the borders of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever doesn't come forth after Saul and after Samuel, so will it be done to his oxen." And the dread of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out as one man. ⁸ And he numbered them in Bezek at the high place; and the children of Israel were 600,000, and the men of Judah 70,000.

^{11:9} And he said to the messengers that had come, "Thus you will say to the men of Jabesh, 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you will have deliverance.'" And the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. ¹⁰ And the men of Jabesh said to Nahash the Ammonite, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you will do with us all that is good in your eyes." ¹¹ And it happened on the next day, that Saul put the people into three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and struck the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it happened that those who remained were scattered, and no two of them were left together.

^{11:12} And the people said to Samuel, "Who is the one who said, 'Saul will not reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death." ¹³ And Samuel said, "Not a man will be put to death this day; for today the LORD has worked salvation in Israel." ¹⁴ And Samuel said to the people, saying, "Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there." ¹⁵ And all the people went to Gilgal; and there Samuel anointed Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they offered sacrifices of peace-offerings before the LORD; and Samuel and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

^{12:1} And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. ² And now, behold, the king walks before you; and I am old and grey headed; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my youth to this day. ³ Here I am: answer against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or who have I defrauded? Who have I oppressed, or of whose hand have I taken a ransom or a pair of shoes^a? Accuse me and I will restore it to you." ⁴ And they said to Samuel, "You haven't defrauded us, nor oppressed us, nor afflicted us, neither have you taken anything from any man's hand." ⁵ And he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you haven't found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness."

^{12:6} And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And now stand still, that I may judge you before the LORD, and I will recount for you all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers, ⁸ as when Jacob and his sons had come into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, and your fathers cried to the LORD, and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, and he brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them to dwell in this place. ⁹ And they forgot the LORD their God; and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Jabin king of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. ¹⁰ And they cried to the LORD, and they said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served the Masters^b and the Ashtaroth^c: and now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' ¹¹ And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samson, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety. ¹² And when you saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, for a king will reign over us.' ¹³ And now behold the king who you have chosen, and who you have asked for: and, behold, the LORD has set a king over you. ¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD, and serve him, and listen to his voice, and not rebel against the mouth of the LORD, and both you and also the king who reigns over you be followers of the LORD your God, then he will deliver you. ¹⁵ And if you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, and rebel against the mouth of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and against your king to destroy you. ¹⁶ Also now stand still and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. ¹⁷ Isn't it wheat harvest today? I will call to the LORD, that he may send thunder

a c.f. Amos 2:6; 8:6.

b The Hebrew word is Baalim, plural of Baal. It is probably intended as a proper noun here referring to the chief Canaanite god, but the word is identical with the common noun 'master'.

c Ashtaroth is plural of Ashtoreth, the name of a Canaanite goddess supposedly associated with the moon and fertility.

and rain; and you will know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the eyes of the LORD, in asking for a king.

^{12:18} And Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. ¹⁹ And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added evil to all our sins, to ask for a king." ²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, "Don't be afraid; you have indeed done all this evil, only don't turn aside from following the LORD, and serve the LORD with all your heart: ²¹ and don't turn aside after vain things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are vain. ²² For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. ²³ And as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: and I will serve the LORD and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. ²⁴ Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for you have seen what great things he has done for you. ²⁵ And if you still do evil, you will be consumed, both you and your king."

^{13:1} Saul was thirty years old when he began to reign; and he reigned forty years over Israel. ² And Saul chose for himself 3,000 men of Israel; 2,000 of them were with Saul in Michmash and on the mount of Beth-el, and 1,000 were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and he sent each man of the rest of the people to his tent. ³ And Jonathan struck the garrison of the Philistines that was in Gibeah: and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "The slaves have rebelled." ⁴ And all Israel heard, saying "Saul has struck the garrison of the Philistines", and Israel was also had in abomination by the Philistines. And the people were gathered together to Gilgal after Saul.

^{13:5} And the Philistines assembled themselves together to fight with Israel, and they brought up against Israel 3,000 chariots, and 6,000 horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and camped in Michmash, eastward of Beth-horon. ⁶ And the men of Israel saw that they were oppressed and distressed, and the people hid themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in coverts, and in pits. ⁷ And they crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead; and as for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

^{13:8} And he waited seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had set: and Samuel didn't come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. ⁹ And Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here, and the peace offerings, so that I may offer them." And he offered the burnt offering. ¹⁰ And it happened that, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might bless him. ¹¹ And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you didn't come within the set days, and that the Philistines assembled themselves together at Michmash; ¹² and I said, "Now the Philistines will come down upon me to Gilgal, and I haven't entreated the favour of the LORD:" and I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." ¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you haven't kept my command which the LORD your God commanded you: for now the LORD would have established your kingdom upon Israel for ever. ¹⁴ And now your kingdom will not continue: the LORD has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you haven't kept that which the LORD commanded you."

^{13:15} And Samuel rose, and went from Gilgal, and the rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army, and they went from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about 600 men. ¹⁶ And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin and they wept; and the Philistines camped in Michmash. ¹⁷ And the destroyers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned to the way that leads to Ophrah, to the land of Shual; ¹⁸ and another company turned to the way to Beth-horon; and another company turned to the road of Geba that looks down on the valley of Zeboim.

^{13:19} And there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel; for the Philistines said, "So the Hebrews don't make swords or spears for themselves." ²⁰ And all the Israelites went down to the land of the Philistines, each man to sharpen his ploughshare, his mattock, his axe, and his goad; ²¹ and there was a charge of a pim for sharpening the ploughshares and the mattocks; and three shekels for the forks and the axes, and for setting the goads. ²² And it happened in the days of the battle of Michmash, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan (and they were found with Saul and with Jonathan his son). ²³ And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

^{14:1} And a day came when Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armour, "Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side." And

he didn't tell his father. ²And Saul stayed in the furthest part of Gibeah under the pomegranate-tree which is in Migron: and the people who were with him were about 600 men; ³and Ahijah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people didn't know that Jonathan had gone. ⁴And between the passes by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison there was a rocky crag on the one side, and a rocky crag on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. ⁵One crag was on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

^{14:6}And Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armour, "Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us; for the LORD isn't constrained to save by many or by few." ⁷And his armour bearer said to him, "Do all that your heart desires: here I am with you; my heart is as your heart". ⁸And Jonathan said, "Behold, we will pass over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. ⁹If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you;' then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them. ¹⁰And if they say, 'Come up to us;' then we will go up; for the LORD has delivered them into our hand: and this will be the sign to us." ¹¹And both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, "Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hidden themselves." ¹²And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armour bearer, and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." And Jonathan said to his armour bearer, "Come up after me; for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel."

^{14:13}And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and on his feet, and his armour bearer after him: and they turned towards Jonathan, and he struck them down, and his armour bearer put them to death after him. ¹⁴And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armour bearer made, was about twenty men, with arrows and slingstones and flints of the field. ¹⁵And there was a trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people; and the garrison and the destroyers trembled; and they would not labour; and the earth quaked: so there was a trembling from God.

^{14:16}And some of the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude was melting away, here and there. ¹⁷And Saul said to the people who were with him, "Number now, and see who has gone from us." And they numbered, and behold, Jonathan and his armour bearer weren't found. ¹⁸And Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ephod here;" for he wore the ephod at that time before Israel. ¹⁹And it happened, while Saul was talking to the priest, that the disturbance that was in the camp of the Philistines continued and increased: and Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." ²⁰And Saul and all the people who were with him were gathered together, and came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, a very great confusion. ²¹And the slaves that were with the Philistines as previously^a, and that went up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. ²²And all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing and they also followed hard after them in the battle. ²³And the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over by Beth-horon. And all Israel was with Saul, about 10,000 men, and the battle spread into every city in the hill country of Ephraim.

^{14:24}And Saul committed a great error on that day, for he had bound the people with an oath, saying, "Any man who eats food until it is evening and I am avenged on my enemies is cursed." And none of the people^b tasted food, ²⁵and all the land tasted food. And a honeycomb was on the ground, ²⁶and the people came to it; and the bees had gone, and no man put his hand to his mouth; for the people feared the promise. ²⁷And Jonathan hadn't heard when his father made the people promise: and he reached out the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes brightened. ²⁸And one of the people answered and said, "Your father made the people promise a promise, saying, 'Whoever eats food this day is cursed.'" And the people were faint. ²⁹And Jonathan knew, and he said, "My father has troubled the land: please see how my eyes have brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. ³⁰How much more, if only the people had eaten freely today from the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now the slaughter among the Philistines would have been greater."

^{14:31}And they struck those of the Philistines that day at Michmash, and the people were very faint; ³²and the people rushed upon the spoil, and took sheep, and cattle, and calves, and killed them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. ³³And they told Saul, saying, "Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood." And he said, "You^f have acted treacherously: roll a great stone here to me." ³⁴And Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, 'Every man bring his ox, and every

a Hebrew: yesterday and the third day.

b That is, the army, as in Moses IV 20:20, etc.

man bring his sheep here, and kill them here, and eat; and don't sin against the LORD by eating with the blood." And all the people brought what every man had in his hand and slaughtered it there at night.³⁵ And Saul built an altar to the LORD: this was the first altar that he built to the LORD.

^{14:36} And Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and take spoil among them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever is good in your eyes." And the priest said, "Let us come near to God here."³⁷ And Saul asked counsel from God, "Will I go down after the Philistines? Will you deliver them into the hand of Israel?" And he didn't answer him that day.³⁸ And Saul said, "Come here, all you families of the people; and know and see who this sin has been in this day.³⁹ For, as the LORD lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he will surely die." And there wasn't a man among all the people who answered him.⁴⁰ And he said to all the men of Israel, "You be on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what is good in your eyes."⁴¹ And Saul said, "O LORD God of Israel, why haven't you answered your servant today? If this guilt is on account of me or on account of Jonathan my son, O LORD God of Israel, give Urim^a; and if it is on account of your people Israel, give Thummim^b." And Jonathan and Saul were taken; and the people escaped.⁴² And Saul said, "Cast between me and Jonathan my son. Whoever the LORD takes, let him die." And the people said to him, "Let it not be so;" and Saul prevailed over them, and they cast between him and Jonathan his son. And Jonathan was taken.

^{14:43} And Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I certainly did taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand; and, behold, I must die."⁴⁴ And Saul said, "God do so to me and more also; for you will surely die today."⁴⁵ And the people said to Saul, "Will the person who has worked this great salvation in Israel die today? Far from it: as the LORD lives, not one hair of his head will fall to the ground; for he has worked with God this day." And the people interceded for Jonathan, and he didn't die.

^{14:46} And Saul went up from following the Philistines; and the Philistines went to their own place.⁴⁷ And Saul took the kingdom, and he took property outside Israel, and he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and Beth-rehob and the king of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and wherever he turned himself, he worked salvation.⁴⁸ And he acted valiantly, and struck the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of those who despoiled them.

^{14:49} And the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishiah, and Malchishua, and Eshbaal; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the first-born Merob, and the name of the younger Michal:⁵⁰ and the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the captain of his host was Abiner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.⁵¹ And Kish the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abiner, were the sons of Abiel of Benjamin.⁵² And there was severe war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any mighty man, or any son of valour, he took him to himself.

^{15:1} And Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you to be king over his people, over Israel: and now listen to the voice of the words of the LORD.² Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have noticed what Amalek did to Israel, how he met him in the way, when he came up out of Egypt.³ And now, go and strike Amalek, and completely destroy all that they have, and don't spare them; and kill both man and woman, infant and sucking, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

^{15:4} And Saul summoned the people, and numbered them in Gilgal, 400,000 footmen, and 30,000 men of Judah.⁵ And Saul came to the cities of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.⁶ And Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart from among Amalek, lest I destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt." And the Kenites departed from being among the Amalekites.⁷ And Saul struck the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, that is before Egypt.⁸ And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and completely destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.⁹ And Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not completely destroy them: and everything that was despised and worthless, that they completely destroyed.

^{15:10} And the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,¹¹ I repent that I have made Saul king; for he has turned back from following me, and hasn't raised up my words. And Samuel was angry; and he cried to the LORD all night.¹² And Samuel rose early and went to meet Israel in the morning; and it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set up a monument, and turned his chariot, and passed on, and went down to Gilgal."¹³ And

a (lights)

b (perfections)

Samuel came to Saul; and behold, he was offering a burnt offering to the LORD, the first of the spoils that he had taken from Amalek; and Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD: I have raised up the word of the LORD." ¹⁴And Samuel said, "And what is this sound of the sheep in my ears, and the sound of the cattle which I hear?" ¹⁵And Saul said, "I have brought them from Amalek: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest I have completely destroyed."

^{15:16}And Samuel said to Saul, "Stay, and I will tell you what the LORD has said to me this night." And he said to him, "Say on." ¹⁷And Samuel said, "Though you were little in your own eyes, weren't you made the head, being of the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest of the families of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel; ¹⁸and the LORD sent you on a journey, and said, 'Go, and completely destroy the sinners against me, the Amalekites, and fight against them until you have exterminated them.' ¹⁹And why didn't you obey the voice of the LORD? And you flew upon the spoil, and did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD."

^{15:20}And Saul said to Samuel, "Yes, I have obeyed the voice of the people, and I have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹And the people took from the spoil, sheep and cattle, the chief of the devoted things, before the LORD your God in Gilgal." ²²And Samuel said, "Does the LORD have as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as the iniquity of teraphim^a. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king over Israel."

^{15:24}And Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and your words, because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. ²⁵And now, please, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD." ²⁶And Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold of the skirt of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to your neighbour, who is better than you. ²⁹And Israel will be divided in two. And the Holy One of Israel will not turn nor repent; for he isn't like a man, that he should repent."

^{15:30}And Saul said, "I have sinned: yet honour me now, please, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." ³¹And Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD. ³²And Samuel said, "Bring Agag the king of the Amalekites here to me." And Agag came to him in bonds. And Agag said, "Would the bitterness of death have been thus?" ³³And Samuel said to Agag, "As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women." And Samuel cut Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. ³⁴And Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house, to Gibeah. ³⁵And Samuel didn't come to see Saul any more until the day of his death; for Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

^{16:1}And the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn over Saul, for I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse, to Bethlehem, for I have seen a king for myself among his sons." ²And Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears, he will kill me!" And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make you know what you will do. And you will anoint for me the one I say to you." ⁴And Samuel did all that the LORD said to him, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him, and they said, "Do you come in peace, O seer?" ⁵And he said, "Peace! I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves and rejoice with me today." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice.

^{16:6}And it happened when they entered that he saw Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷And the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't look at his appearance or at the greatness of his height, for I have rejected him, for God sees not as man sees, for man sees to the face, and the LORD sees to the heart." ⁸And Jesse called to Amminadab and he passed before Samuel, and he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹And Jesse made Shammah pass *before him*, and he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD hasn't chosen from among these." ¹¹And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the young men?" And he said, "The youngest still remains, and behold, he is tending the flock." And Samuel said

a 'Teraphim' is some kind of household idol, although the exact nature is unknown. See Moses I 31:19, 30, 34.

to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not go around until he comes here." ¹²And he sent and brought him, and he was reddish, with beautiful eyes and a good appearance to the LORD, and the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him among his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day onward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

^{16:14}And the spirit of the LORD left from *being* with Saul and an evil spirit from the LORD frightened him. ¹⁵And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from the LORD frightens you. ¹⁶Let our lord now command^a your servants before you, let them seek a man who knows how to play the harp, and it will be that when the evil spirit of God is on you, then he will play *it* with his hand, and you will be well, it will let you alone." ¹⁷And Saul said to his servants, "Look for me now for a man who plays well, and bring him to me." ¹⁸And one of the young men answered and said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who knows how to play, a mighty, valiant man, and a man of battle, and understanding in speech, and a handsome man^b, and the LORD is with him."

^{16:19}And Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send to me your son David who is with the flock." ²⁰And Jesse took a donkey loaded with an omer of bread and a jug of wine, and one young goat, and sent them to Saul by his son David. ²¹And David came to Saul and stood before him, and he loved him greatly, and David became his armour bearer. ²²And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David stand before me now, for he has found favour in my eyes." ²³And it happened that when the evil spirit of God came to Saul, then David would take the harp and play *it* with his hand and Saul would have relief, and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from upon him.

^{17:1}And the Philistines gathered their armies for battle and they gathered at Socoh (which is Judah's), and they camped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim. ²And Saul and the men of Israel gathered and camped in the valley of Elah and they arrayed for battle to meet the Philistines. ³And the Philistines stood on the mountain on this *side* and Israel stood on the mountain on that *side*, and the valley was between them. ⁴And a man between the two went out from the armies of the Philistines, named Goliath of Gath. His height was four cubits and a span^c, ⁵and a helmet of bronze was on his head, and he was clothed with scaled armour, and the weight of the armour was five thousand shekels^d of bronze and iron. ⁶And he had greaves of bronze upon his legs, and a javelin of bronze between his shoulders. ⁷And the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear was six hundred shekels of iron, and his shield bearer went before him. ⁸And he stood and called to the armies of Israel, and he said to them, "Why have you come out to array for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and you Saul's Hebrews? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me, and strike me, then we will be your servants, and if I prevail against him, and strike him, then you will be our servants, and serve us." ¹⁰And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day. Give me a man and let us fight together." ¹¹And Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, and they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

^{17:12}And David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem of Judah whose name was Jesse (and he had eight sons). And in the days of Saul the man came to be old, going on in years. ¹³And the three eldest^e sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab, the first-born, and his second, Abinadab, and the third Shammah. ¹⁴And David was the youngest, and the three eldest had gone after Saul. ¹⁵And David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's flock at Bethlehem. ¹⁶And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself for forty days before Israel. ¹⁷And Jesse said to David his son, "Take now to your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp, and give them to your brothers. ¹⁸And bring these ten cuttings of cheese to the captain of the thousand, and you will visit your brothers for peace, and bring their pledge. ¹⁹And Saul and they and every man of Israel were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines.

^{17:20}And David got up early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper, and took *the food* and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the track and the army was going out to the battle array and they shouted for the battle. ²¹And Israel and the

a Hebrew, say to.

b Hebrew, a man of form.

c A cubit is about the length of a man's thigh (Judges 3:16) so man's height is about four cubits. See also the account of the Generations and Kings (called 1 Chronicles 11:23) "a man of stature, five cubits high".

d Archelological evidence suggests a weight between 9 and 17 grams for a shekel. Based on this Goliath's armour weighed between 45kg and 85kg, and his spear head weighed between 5½kg and 10kg.

e Hebrew, great.

Philistines put the battle in array, rank to meet rank.²² And David left his baggage in the hand of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the rank and came and asked his brothers as to *their* peace.²³ And he was speaking with them, and behold, the man between the two came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, Goliath the Philistine was his name, of Gath. And he spoke according to these words, and David heard them.²⁴ And every man of Israel, when they saw the man, ran away from before him and were very much afraid.

^{17:25} And a man of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? He has surely come up to reproach Israel, and whoever strikes him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and he will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel."²⁶ And David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What will be done to the man who strikes this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should reproach the armies of the living God?"²⁷ And the people answered him according to this word^a, saying, "So will it be done to the man who strikes him."²⁸ And Eliab, his eldest brother, heard when he spoke to the men, and Eliab's anger burned against David, and he said, "Why have you come down, and who have you left that small flock with in the wilderness? I know your pride, and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Wasn't it *just* a word?"³⁰ And he turned away from him to another and said the same thing, and the people answered him as before.³¹ And the words David spoke were heard, and they told them before Saul, and he received him.³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him! Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go and fight with this Philistine, for you are a young man, and he has been a man of war from his youth."³⁴ And David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending among the flock for his father, and the lion came, and the bear, and took away a sheep from the flock,³⁵ and I went out after him, and struck him, and I rescued it from his mouth, and when he rose against me I took hold of his beard and struck him and killed him.³⁶ Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them. Will I not go and strike him, and remove the reproach from Israel today? For who is that uncircumcised one, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who rescued me from the hand of the lion and from the hand of the bear, *it is* he who will rescue me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

^{17:38} And Saul clothed David with his gear, and he put a helmet of brass on his head, and he clothed him with armour.³⁹ And David put on his sword over his gear, and he wearied himself to walk, for he hadn't proved it. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I haven't proved them." And David took them off,⁴⁰ and he took his staff in his hand, and he chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherds' bag which he had, that is, in a pouch, and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

^{17:41} And the Philistine came and drew near to David, and his shield bearer was before him.⁴² And the Philistine looked and saw David, and he disdained him, for he was a young man, and reddish, and with a beautiful appearance.⁴³ And the Philistine said, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the heavens and to the beasts of the field."⁴⁵ And David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, and I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel who you have reproached.⁴⁶ This day the LORD will shut you up into my hand, and I will strike you and take off your head from you, and I will give your dead body and the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the heavens and to the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God for Israel,⁴⁷ and all this assembly will know that the LORD doesn't save with sword and spear, for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.

^{17:48} And it happened that when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the rank to meet the Philistine.⁴⁹ And David put his hand into his bag, and took a stone out of it, and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, and the stone sank through the helmet into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.⁵⁰ Thus David took hold of a sling and a stone on that day and struck the Philistine and killed him. And there was no sword in David's hand;⁵¹ and David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And the Philistines saw that their warrior was dead, and they fled.⁵² And the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and they pursued the Philistines until you come to Gath and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way of Shaaraim, even to Gath and to Ekron.⁵³ And the children of Israel

a That is, as in verse 25.

returned from chasing after the Philistines and they plundered their camp.⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put his armour in his tent.

^{17:55} And as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abiner, the captain of the host, "Whose son is this young man?" And Abiner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I don't know." ⁵⁶ And the king said, "Ask whose son this stripling is." ⁵⁷ And as David returned from striking the Philistine, Abiner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David said, "The son of your servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite."

^{18:1} And it happened that when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan saw David, and the soul of Jonathan was knit together with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² And Saul took him that day, and would not let him return to his father's house. ³ And Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that he had on and gave it to David, and his gear, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. And Saul let him be over the men of war. ⁵ And he went out and came in, and in whatever Saul sent him to do, he prospered. And it was good in the eyes of all the people, and also in the eyes of Saul's servants.

^{18:6} And it happened that as they came, as David returned from striking the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul with timbrels, with joy, and with musical instruments^a. And the women who danced answered and said, "Saul has struck his thousands, and David his ten thousands." ⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this word was evil in his eyes, and he said, "They have given David ten thousands, and me thousands. What more can he have? Only the kingdom!" ⁹ And Saul was eyeing David from that day on.

^{18:10} And it happened on the next day that an evil spirit of God came mightily upon Saul and he prophesied in the midst of the house. And David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as he did day by day. And Saul had his spear in his hand, ¹¹ and Saul raised the spear, and he said, "I will strike David, and the wall." And twice David turned aside from before him. ¹² And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him and had departed from Saul. ¹³ And Saul removed him from *being* before him, and made him his captain over a thousand, and he went out and came before the people. ¹⁴ And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵ And Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, and he feared him. ¹⁶ And all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came before the people.

^{18:17} And Saul said to David, "Behold my elder daughter Merob; I will give her to you for a wife; only be a son of valour for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul said, "Let my hand not be on him, and let the hand of the Philistines be on him." ¹⁸ And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my father's family in Israel, that I should be the king's son-in-law?" ¹⁹ And it happened when it was time to give Merob, Saul's daughter, to David, that she was afraid of David, and was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

^{18:20} And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David, and they told Saul, and the thing was right in his eyes. ²¹ And Saul said, "I will give her to him that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be on him." And Saul said to David a second time, "You will be my son-in-law today." ²² And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak secretly to David, and say 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you; and now, be the king's son-in-law.'"

^{18:23} And Saul's servants spoke these words in David's ears, and David said, "Is it a light thing in your eyes to be the king's son-in-law? For I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed." ²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, saying, "This is how David spoke." ²⁵ And Saul said, "Say thus to David: 'The king has no delight in a dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged on the king's enemies.'" And Saul planned him to fall into the hand of the Philistines. ²⁶ And Saul's servants told David these words, and it was right in David's eyes to be the king's son-in-law. And the days had not been fulfilled, ²⁷ and David rose and went, he and his men, and struck a hundred Philistine men. And David brought their foreskins and gave them in full to the king, to be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife. ²⁸ And Saul saw that the LORD was with David, and Michal, his daughter, and all Israel loved him. ²⁹ And Saul was even more afraid before David, and Saul hated David continually.

^{18:30} And the captains of the Philistines went out, and it happened that whenever they went out, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul, and his name was greatly esteemed.

a The Hebrew word suggests some kind of three-element musical instrument, such as a triangle or a three-stringed instrument.

^{19:1} And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. And Jonathan, Saul's son, took much delight in David. ² And Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul is seeking to kill you, and please be watchful now in the morning, and hide yourself, and stay in a secret place, ³ and I will go out and stand by my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; and I will see what happens and I will tell you." ⁴ And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let the king not sin against his servant, against David, for he hasn't sinned against you, and his works have been very good for you, ⁵ for he put his soul in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD made a great salvation by his hand; and all Israel saw it and rejoiced; and why do you sin against innocent blood, to kill David for nothing?" ⁶ And Saul paid attention to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul promised, "As the LORD lives, he will not be killed." ⁷ And Jonathan called to David and told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was before him as previously^a.

^{19:8} And there was war again against the Philistines, and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a very great slaughter; and they fled before him.

^{19:9} And an evil spirit from God was on Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David was playing *the harp* with his hand. ¹⁰ And Saul sought to strike David with the spear; and he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he struck the spear into the wall: and David fled, and escaped. ¹¹ And that night Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning: and Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you don't save your soul tonight, you will be killed tomorrow." ¹² And Michal let David down through the window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. ¹³ And Michal took the teraphim^b, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' *hair* at its head, and covered it with the clothes. ¹⁴ And Saul sent messengers to take David; and they said, "He is sick." ¹⁵ And Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." ¹⁶ And when the messengers came in, behold, the teraphim was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' *hair* at its head. ¹⁷ And Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and let my enemy go, and he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go; and if not, I will kill you.'"

^{19:18} And David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel, to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. ¹⁹ And it was told Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." ²⁰ And Saul sent messengers to take David: and they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, and the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they prophesied. ²¹ And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. And Saul became angry. ²² And he himself went to Ramah, and came as far as the well that is on the bare height. And he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." ²³ And he went there to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God came upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴ And he stripped off his clothes, and he prophesied before them, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

^{20:1} And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came before Jonathan and said, "What have I done? What is my iniquity and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my soul?" ² And Jonathan said to him, "Far from it; you will not die: behold, my father does nothing either great or small that he doesn't uncover my ear; and why should my father hide this thing from me? It isn't so." ³ And David answered Jonathan and said, "Your father knows well that I have found favour in your eyes, and he says, 'Don't let Jonathan know this, lest he take counsel with David: and truly as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, he has promised *an oath* between me and death.' ⁴ And Jonathan said to David, "Whatever your soul desires, I will also do it for you." ⁵ And David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should certainly sit with the king at meat: and let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until evening. ⁶ If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city; for it is the yearly sacrifice there for all the family.' ⁷ If he says thus: 'It is well,' your servant will have peace: and if he answers you harshly, then you will know that evil is determined by him. ⁸ And show lovingkindness to your servant; for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you: and if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself; for why should you bring me to your father?" ⁹ And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you; for if I should at all know that evil were determined by my father to come upon you, and if he came to your cities, I would tell you." ¹⁰ And David

a Hebrew, as yesterday and the third day.

b 'Teraphim' is some kind of household idol, although the exact nature is unknown. See Moses I 31:19, 30, 34.

said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?" ¹¹And Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." And they both went out into the field. ¹²And Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness: when I have sounded my father about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if there is good toward David, I will send to you in the field. ¹³God do so to Jonathan, and more also, if it pleases my father to do you evil, and I don't uncover your ear, and send you away, that you may go in peace: and the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. ¹⁴And if I am still alive, show me the lovingkindness of the LORD; and if I die, ¹⁵don't cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever; and when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth, ¹⁶if the name of Jonathan is cut off from the house of David, may the LORD require it at the hand of David." ¹⁷And Jonathan promised to David again, for the love that he had to him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

^{20:18}And Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon: and you will be missed; because your seat will be missed. ¹⁹And since you will be missed on the third day, come to the place where you hid yourself when the work was in hand, and you will remain by the mound. ²⁰And on the third day I will shoot an arrow on the side of it, as though I shot at a mark. ²¹And, behold, I will send the lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrow.' If I say to the lad, 'Behold, the arrow is on this side of you;' take it, and come; for there is peace to you and there is no evil, as the LORD lives. ²²And if I say thus to the boy, 'Behold, the arrow is beyond you;' go your way; for the LORD has sent you away. ²³And as for the word which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is a witness between you and me forever.

^{20:24}And David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon had come the king sat down to eat. ²⁵And the king sat on his seat as at other times, on the seat by the wall; and Jonathan was in front, and Abiner sat by Saul's side: and David's place was missing. ²⁶Nevertheless Saul didn't say anything that day for he thought, "Something has happened to him, he isn't clean; surely he isn't clean." ²⁷And it happened on the next day after the new moon, the second day, that David's place was missing. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why doesn't the son of Jesse come to meat, neither yesterday nor today?" ²⁸And Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem his city, ²⁹and he said, 'Let me go, I pray, for our family has a sacrifice in the city; and as for me, my brothers have commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favour in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he hasn't come to the king's table." ³⁰And Saul's anger was greatly kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a rebellious young woman, don't I know that you are in league with the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹For all the days that the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you will not establish your kingdom. And now send and fetch him to me, for he is a son of death." ³²And Jonathan answered Saul, "Why should he be put to death? what has he done?" ³³And Saul raised his spear at him to strike him; and Jonathan knew that this evil was determined by his father to put David to death. ³⁴And Jonathan sprang up from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month; because his father had shamed him.

^{20:35}And it happened in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. ³⁶And he said to his lad, "Run, find now the arrow which I shoot." And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷And when the lad had come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad, and said, "Further; the arrow is beyond you." ³⁸And Jonathan called after the lad, "Make speed, haste, don't stay." And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrow, and came to his master. ³⁹And the lad didn't know anything, only Jonathan and David knew the matter^a.

^{20:40}And Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go to the city." ⁴¹And as soon as the lad was gone, David rose out from the mound, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept together greatly. ⁴²And Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, as we have both promised in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will be a witness between me and you, and between my seed and your seed, forever.'" And David rose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

^{21:1}And David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech came to meet David trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no man with you?" ²And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has commanded me a word today, and has said to me, 'Let no man know anything of the word on which I am sending you, and what I have commanded you; and I have appointed the young men to such and such a place.' ³And now, if there are five loaves of bread under your hand, give into my hand whatever can be found." ⁴And the priest answered David, and said, "There is no common bread under my hand, for there is holy bread; if the young men have kept themselves from women, then they may eat

a Hebrew, word.

of it.”⁵ And David answered the priest, and said to him, “Surely we have kept ourselves from women; in the past, when I set out on a journey, each of the young men was holy, even though it was a common journey; and how much more today, when they are sanctified together with the weapons? ⁶And Ahimelech the priest gave him the bread of the face; for there was no bread there except the bread of the face, that was taken from before the face of the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

^{21:7} And a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the keeper of Saul's mules. ⁸And David said to Ahimelech, “Is there here under your hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's word required haste.” ⁹And the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, who you killed in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it; for there is no other here except that.” And David said, “There is none like that; give it to me.”

^{21:10} And David rose, and fled that day for fear from Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹And the servants of Achish said to him, “Isn't this David, the king of the land? Didn't they sing one to another of him in dances, saying, ‘Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?’” ¹²And David laid up these words in his heart, and was very afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³And he changed his face before him, and pretended to be mad in their hands, and spat on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. ¹⁴And Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad; why have you brought him to me? ¹⁵Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Will this fellow come into my house?”

^{22:1} And David went from there, and escaped, and came to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down to him there. ²And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter of soul, gathered themselves to him; and he became captain over them: and there were about four hundred men with him.

^{22:3} And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and my mother be with you till I know what God will do for me.” ⁴And he brought them before the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the days that David was in the stronghold.

^{22:5} And the prophet Gad said to David, “Don't stay in the stronghold; leave, and go into the land of Judah.” And David left, and came and stayed in the city of Hereth. ⁶And Saul heard that David had been discovered. And Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him. ⁷And Saul said to his servants who stood around him, “Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, ⁸that all of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who uncovers my ear when my son makes *a covenant* with the son of Jesse, and there is no one of you who has compassion for me, or uncovers my ear that my son has stirred up my servant against me, as an enemy, as at this day?” ⁹And Doeg the Edomite who stood by the donkeys of Saul, answered, and said, “I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub the priest. ¹⁰And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”

^{22:11} And the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob, and all of them came to the king. ¹²And Saul said, “Hear now, son of Ahitub.” And he answered, “Here I am; speak, my lord.” ¹³And Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread, and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me as an enemy, as at this day?” ¹⁴And Ahimelech answered the king, and said, “And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and is captain over your guard, and is honourable in your house? ¹⁵Have I today begun to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me: let the king not impute anything to his servant, nor to all the house of my father; for your servant knows nothing of all this, small or great.” ¹⁶And the king said, “You will surely die, Ahimelech, you, and all your father's house.” ¹⁷And the king said to the guard that stood about him, “Turn, and kill the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew that he fled, and didn't uncover my ear. And the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall on the priests of the LORD. ¹⁸And the king said to Doeg, “Turn and fall on the priests.” And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he killed the priests of the LORD on that day, eighty five persons who wore a linen ephod. ¹⁹And he struck Nob, the city of the priests, with the edge of the sword, from man even to woman, from child even to suckling, and ox and donkey and sheep, with the edge of the sword. ²⁰And one of the sons of Ahimelech, the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. ²¹And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. ²²And

David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I am guilty of every soul of your father's house. ²³Stay with me, don't fear; for he who seeks my soul seeks your soul: for with me you will be in safe keeping."

^{23:1}And they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and are robbing the threshing-floors." ²And David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Will I go and strike these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go, and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah." ³And David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah: and how much more if we go to Keilah into the remote parts of the Philistines?" ⁴And David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him, and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand." ⁵And David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and they fled before him, and they brought away their cattle, and killed them with a great slaughter. And David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

^{23:6}And it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. ⁷And it was told to Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has sold him into my hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that has gates and bars." ⁸And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. ⁹And David knew that Saul was devising mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod of the LORD here." ¹⁰And David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹And now, will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." ¹²And David said, "Will the masters of Keilah deliver me and my men up into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you up." ¹³And David and his men, about six hundred men, rose and departed out of Keilah, and went wherever they could go. And it was told to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; and he refrained from going forth.

^{23:14}And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and stayed in the hill-country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, and the LORD didn't deliver him into his hand. ¹⁵And David was afraid, for Saul had come out to seek his soul, and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in the wood. ¹⁶And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose, and went to David, into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. ¹⁷And he said to him, "Don't fear; for the hand of Saul my father will not find you; and you will be king over Israel, and I will be next to you; and my father Saul knows this also." ¹⁸And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house. ¹⁹And the Ziphites came up to Saul, to Gibeah, saying, "Behold, David is hiding himself with us in the strongholds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of the desert. ²⁰And now come down, according to all the desire of the king to come down, let him come down; and our part will be to deliver him up into the king's hand." ²¹And Saul said, "You are blessed of the LORD; for you have had compassion on me. ²²Please go and make even more sure, and know, and see his place where his foot hastens;" for he said, "Perhaps he is very cunning. ²³And see, and find out all the lurking-places where he hides himself, and be sure to come again to me, and I will go with you: and it will happen that if he is in the land I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." ²⁴And they rose, and went to Ziph before Saul: and David and his men were in the wilderness of Simeon, in the plain on the south of the desert. ²⁵And Saul and his men went to search for him. And they told David, and he came down to the rock which is in the wilderness of Simeon. And when Saul heard, he pursued David in the wilderness of Simeon. ²⁶And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain: and David hurried to get away for fear of Saul and his men; for Saul and his men were crossing over against David and his men round about, to take them. ²⁷And a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry, and come; for the Philistines have made a raid on the land." ²⁸And Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place The Rock of Divisions^a. ^{29b}And David went up from there, and dwelt in the strongholds of En-gedi.

^{24:1}And it happened that when Saul had returned from following the Philistines it was told him, saying, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi." ²And Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. ³And he came to the sheep enclosures by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet. And David and his men were staying in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴And the men of David said to him, "Behold, the day of which the LORD

a The word here for divisions is as in the Word on the Generations and the Kings (so-called 1 Chr chapter 27).

b Some editions count chapter 24 from this verse.

said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you will do to him as it will be good in your eyes.’” And David rose, and cut off the skirt of Saul’s robe secretly. ⁵And it happened afterward, that David’s heart struck him, because he had cut off the edge of Saul’s robe. ⁶And he said to his men, “Far be it from me before the LORD that I should do this thing to the LORD’s anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD’s anointed.” ⁷And David persuaded his men with these words, and didn’t let them rise and kill Saul. And Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

^{24:8}And David rose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, “My lord the king.” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and prostrated himself. ⁹And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to men’s words, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks your soul?’ ¹⁰Behold, this day your eyes have seen how that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave: and I refused to kill you, and spared you; and I said, ‘I will not put forth my hand against my lord; for he is the LORD’s anointed.’ ¹¹And see the skirt of your robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of your robe, and didn’t kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in my hand, and I haven’t sinned against you, though you hunt my soul to take it. ¹²The LORD judge between me and you, and the LORD avenge me of you; and my hand will not be upon you. ¹³As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness;’ and my hand will not be upon you. ¹⁴And now, who have you come out after, O the king of Israel? Who do you pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea? ¹⁵And the LORD be judge, and give justice between me and you, and see, and plead my cause, and give me justice out of your hand.”

^{24:16}And it happened, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. ¹⁷And he said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have rendered good to me, and I have rendered evil to you. ¹⁸And you have declared to me this day how that you have dealt well with me, in that when the LORD had delivered me up into your hand, you didn’t kill me. ¹⁹For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go on a good way? And the LORD will reward you with good for that which you have done to me this day. ²⁰And now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. ²¹And now promise to me by the LORD, that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father’s house. ²²And David promised to Saul. And Saul went home; and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

^{25:1}And Samuel died; and all Israel gathered themselves together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David rose, and went down to the wilderness of Simeon.

^{25:2}And there was a man in the wilderness, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³And the man’s name was Nabal^a; and the name of his wife was Abigail; and the woman was of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: and the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was a Calebite. ⁴And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. ⁵And David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and ask him as to his peace in my name: ⁶and thus you will say to my brother, ‘Peace to you, and peace to your house, and peace to all that you have. ⁷And now I have heard that you have shearers: your shepherds have been with us in the wilderness, and we did them no harm, neither was there anything missing to them, all the while they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask your young men, and they will tell you: and let the young men find favour in your eyes; for we come in a good day: please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.’”

^{25:9}And when David’s young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and he sprang up. ¹⁰And Nabal answered David’s servants, and said, “Who is David and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who break away every man from his master. ¹¹And will I take my bread, and my wine, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men not knowing where they are from?” ¹²And David’s young men turned on their way, and went back, and came and told him according to all these words. ¹³And David said to his men, “Every man gird on his sword.” And every man girded on his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred stayed by the baggage.

^{25:14}And one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, saying, “Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to bless our master; and he railed at them. ¹⁵And the men were very good to us, and we weren’t hurt, neither did we miss anything, as long as we went with them, when we were in the fields: ¹⁶they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the days we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷And now know and see what you will do;

a Nabal (נָבָל) means Fool.

for evil is determined against our master, and against all his house: for he is such a son of belial^a that one cannot speak to him.” ¹⁸And Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep made ready, and five seahs of parched grain, and one omer of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. ¹⁹And she said to her young men, “Go on before me; behold, I come after you.” And she didn’t tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰And it happened, as she rode on her donkey, and came up by the covert of the mountain, that behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. ²¹And David had said, “Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow has in the wilderness, and nothing was missed of all that was his: and he has returned me evil for good. ²²God do so to David, and more also, if I leave of all that are his by the morning light one that passes urine against the wall.”

^{25:23}And when Abigail saw David, she hurried, and dismounted from her donkey, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground ²⁴at his feet, and said, “Upon me, my lord, be the iniquity; and please let your handmaid speak in your ears, and hear the words of your handmaid. ²⁵Please let my lord not regard this man of belial^b, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: and I, your handmaid, didn’t see the young men of my lord, who you sent. ²⁶And now, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, seeing the LORD has withheld you from coming in with innocent blood, and from saving yourself with your own hand, and now let your enemies, and them that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. ²⁷And now take this blessing which your servant has brought to my lord, and let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸Please forgive the trespass of your handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a faithful house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD; and evil will not be found in you all your days. ²⁹And though men rise up to pursue you, and to seek your soul, yet the soul of my lord will be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD your God; and he will sling out the souls of your enemies, in the hollow of a sling. ³⁰And it will happen, when the LORD will have done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and will have appointed you prince over Israel, ³¹that this will be no grief to you, nor offence of heart to my lord, neither that you have shed innocent blood without cause, nor that my lord has saved himself. And when the LORD will have dealt well with my lord, then remember your handmaid.”

^{25:32}And David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me: ³³and blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from coming in with blood, and from saving myself with my own hand. ³⁴For in very deed, as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has withheld me from doing evil to you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal by the morning light one that passes urine against the wall. ³⁵And David received from her hand that which she had brought him: and he said to her, “Go up in peace to your house; see, I have listened to your voice, and have lifted up your face.”

^{25:36}And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk: and she didn’t tell him a word, less or more, until the morning light. ³⁷And it happened in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, that his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. ³⁸And it happened about ten days after, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died. ³⁹And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from the hand of evil-doers: and the LORD has returned the evil-doing of Nabal upon his own head.”

And David sent and spoke concerning Abigail, to take her to him as a wife. ⁴⁰And when the servants of David had come to Abigail to Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you, to take you to him as a wife.” ⁴¹And she rose, and bowed herself with her face to the earth, and said, “Behold, your handmaid is a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” ⁴²And Abigail hurried, and rose, and rode upon a donkey, with five maids of hers that followed her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. ⁴³David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they both became his wives. ⁴⁴And Saul had given Michal his daughter, David’s wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.

^{26:1}And the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Behold, David is hiding himself with us in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert.” ²And Saul rose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. ³And Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert, by the way. And David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the

a “son of belial” or “daughter of belial” is a Hebrew idiom meaning ‘worthless’ or ‘wicked’.

b “son of belial” or “daughter of belial” is a Hebrew idiom meaning ‘worthless’ or ‘wicked’.

wilderness. ⁴And David sent out spies, and understood that Saul was coming to Hachilah.

⁵And David rose in secret, and came to the place where Saul had camped; and David saw the place where Saul lay; and there was Abiner the son of Ner, the captain of his host. And Saul lay within the track, and the people were camped round about him.

^{26:6}And David answered and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul, to the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you." ⁷And David and Abishai came to the people by night: and behold, Saul lay sleeping within the track with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abiner and the people lay round about him. ⁸And Abishai said to David, "The LORD has delivered up your enemy into your hand this day: and now please let me strike him with the spear to the earth at one stroke, and I will not repeat it to him." ⁹And David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him, for who puts forth his hand against the LORD's anointed and is guiltless?" ¹⁰And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. ¹¹Far be it from me before the LORD that I should put forth my hand against the LORD's anointed: and now please take the spear that is at his head, and the jar of water, and let us go." ¹²And David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head; and they went away: and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither did any awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

^{26:13}And David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of the mountain a long way off, with a great space between them; ¹⁴and David called to the people, and to Abiner the son of Ner, saying, "Don't you answer, Abiner?" And Abiner answered and said, "Who is it who calls to me?" ¹⁵And David said to Abiner, "Aren't you a man, and who is like you in Israel? And why haven't you kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. ¹⁶This thing^a that you have done isn't good. As the LORD lives, you are sons of death, because you haven't kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jar of water that was at his head.

^{26:17}And Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is your servant, my lord, O king." ¹⁸And David said, "Why does my lord the king pursue his servant? For how have I sinned, and what evil is found in me? ¹⁹And now please let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it be God who has stirred you up against me, let him smell an offering: and if it be the children of men, let them be cursed before the LORD: for they have driven me out this day that I should not hold fast to the inheritance of the LORD, saying, "Go, serve other gods." ²⁰And now, don't let my blood fall to the earth away from the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel has come out to seek my soul, as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.

^{26:21}And Saul said, "I have sinned: return, my son David; for I will not do evil to you any more, because my soul was precious in your eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly." ²²And David answered and said, "Behold the king's spear! And let one of the young men come over and fetch it. ²³And the LORD will render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put forth my hand against the LORD's anointed. ²⁴And behold, as your soul was highly regarded in my eyes this day, so let my soul be highly regarded in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all distress." ²⁵And Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David: you will both do mightily, and will surely prevail." And David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

^{27:1}And David said in his heart, "I will now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me except that I escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me any more in all the borders of Israel: and I will escape out of his hand." ²And David rose, and passed over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maoch, king of Gath. ³And David stayed with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite, and Abigail the Carmelite, Nabal's wife. ⁴And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath: and he didn't look for him any more. ⁵And David said to Achish, "If now your servant has found favour in your eyes, let them give me a place in one of the cities in the country, that I may stay there: for why should your servant stay in the royal city with you?" ⁶And Achish gave him Ziklag that day: therefore Ziklag belongs to the kings of Judah to this day. ⁷And the number of the days that David stayed in the country of the Philistines was four months.

^{27:8}And David and his men went up, and made a raid upon the Geshurites, and the Girzites, and the Amalekites; for the land was inhabited from of old, as you go to Shur, and to Egypt. ⁹And David struck the land, and saved neither man nor woman alive, and took

a Hebrew, word.

away the sheep, and the oxen, and the donkeys, and the camels, and the apparel; and he returned, and came to Achish. ¹⁰And Achish said, "Who have you made a raid against today?" And David said, "Against the South of Judah, and against the South of the Jerahmeelites, and against the South of the Kenizzites." ¹¹And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring them to Gath, saying, "Lest they should tell Gath of us, saying, 'So did David, and so has been his justice all the days he has stayed in the country of the Philistines.'" ¹²And Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; and he will be my servant for ever."

^{28:1} And it happened in those days, that the Philistines gathered their hosts together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, "Know that you will surely go out with me to battle, you and your men." ²And David said to Achish, "Therefore you will know what your servant will do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you keeper of my head for ever."

^{28:3} And Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah his own city. And Saul had put away the necromancers, and the wizards, out of the land. ⁴And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and camped in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they camped in Gilboa.

^{28:5} And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD didn't answer him, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. ⁷And Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a mistress of necromancy, that I may go to her, and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a mistress of necromancy at En-dor." ⁸And Saul disguised himself, and put on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, "Please divine to me by necromancy, and bring me up whoever I will say to you." ⁹And the woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the necromancers, and the wizards, out of the land: and why do you lay a snare for my soul, to cause me to die?" ¹⁰And Saul promised to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment will happen to you for this thing^a."

^{28:11} And the woman said, "Who will I bring up to you?" And he said, "Bring me up Samuel." ¹²And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? for you are Saul." ¹³And the king said to her, "Don't be afraid: for what do you see? Speak." And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth." ¹⁴And he said to her, "What form does he have?" And she said, "An upright man is coming up; and he is covered with a robe." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and bowed down to him. ¹⁵And Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disquieted me, to bring me up?" And Saul answered, "I am severely distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me, and answers me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: and I have called you, that you may make known to me what I will do." ¹⁶And Samuel said, "And why do you ask of me, seeing the LORD has departed from you to be with your neighbour? ¹⁷And the LORD has done to you as he spoke by me: and the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbour, to David. ¹⁸Because you didn't listen to the voice of the LORD, and didn't execute his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this word to you this day. ¹⁹And the LORD will deliver Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons will fall; and the LORD will also give the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

^{28:20} And Saul fell straight away his full length upon the earth, and was very afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night. ²¹And the woman came to Saul, and saw that he was very troubled, and said to him, "Behold, your handmaid has listened to your voice, and I have put my soul in my hand, and have listened to your words which you spoke to me. ²²And now please you also listen to the voice of your handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength, when you go on your way." ²³And he refused, and would not eat. And his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he listened to their voice. And he rose from the earth, and sat on the bed. ²⁴And the woman had a fatted calf in the house; and she hurried, and killed it; and she took flour, and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it: ²⁵and she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they ate. And they rose up, and went away that night.

^{29:1} And the Philistines gathered together all their hosts to Aphek: and the Israelites camped by the fountain which is in Jezreel. ²And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands; and David and his men passed on in the rear with Achish.

a Hebrew, word.

³And the princes of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews?" And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, "Isn't this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days this year, and I have found no fault in him from the time he fell to me to this day?" ⁴And the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; and they said to him, "Make the man return, that he may go back to his place where you have appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, and be an adversary in the camp: for how should this fellow reconcile himself with his lord if not with the heads of these men? ⁵Isn't this David, who they answered one another about in dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'"

^{29:6}And Achish called David, and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the host is good in my eyes; for I haven't found evil in you since the day of your coming to me to this day: nevertheless you are not good in the eyes of the lords. ⁷And now return, and go in peace, and you will not do evil in the eyes of the lords of the Philistines." ⁸And David said to Achish, "For what have I done, and what have you found in your servant so long as I have been before you to this day, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?" ⁹And Achish answered and said to David, "I know that you are good in my eyes, as an angel of God: however the princes of the Philistines have said, 'He will not go up with us to the battle.' ¹⁰And now arise early in the morning, you and the servants of your lord who have come with you, and go to the place which I appointed for you. And as for evil words, take none to heart, for you have been good in my eyes. And arise early for the road, and when you have light, depart." ¹¹And David rose up early, he and his men, to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

^{30:1}And it happened when David and his men had come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had made a raid upon the South, and upon Ziklag, and had struck Ziklag, and burned it with fire, ²and of the women, and of all who were in it, both small and great, they didn't kill anyone; and they carried them off captive, and went their way. ³And when David and his men came to the city, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captive. ⁴And David and the people who were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. ⁵And David's two wives were taken captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelite, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. ⁶And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: and David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

^{30:7}And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸And David asked the LORD, saying, "Will I pursue this troop? Will I overtake them?" And he answered him, "Pursue; for you will surely overtake, and will surely deliver them." ⁹And David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the brook Besor, and those who were left behind stayed. ¹⁰And David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so faint that they couldn't go over the brook Besor.

^{30:11}And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he ate; and they gave him water to drink. ¹²And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came to him again; for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. ¹³And David said to him, "Who do you belong to and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. ¹⁴We made a raid upon the South of the Cherethites, and upon that which belongs to Judah, and upon the South of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire." ¹⁵And David said to him, "Will you bring me down to this troop?" And he said, "Promise to me by God, that you will neither kill me, nor deliver me up into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this troop." And he promised to him.

^{30:16}And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the ground, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. ¹⁷And David went against them and struck them from the twilight even to the evening of the next day, and he put them to death; and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who rode upon camels and fled. ¹⁸And David delivered all that the Amalekites had taken; and David delivered his two wives. ¹⁹And nothing that belonged to them was missing, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor anything that they had taken to them: David brought back all. ²⁰And David took all the flocks and the herds, and he drove them ahead of the spoil; and they said, "This is David's spoil."

^{30:21}And David came to the two hundred men, who were so faint that they couldn't follow David, those they had made to stay at the brook Besor; and they went out to meet

David, and to meet the people who were with him: and when David came near to the people, he asked them as to *their* peace. ²²And all the evil men and ones of belial^a, of those who went with David, answered and said, “Because they didn't pursue with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have delivered, except to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.” ²³And David said, “You will not do so, my brothers, after the LORD has given us the adversaries, and he has preserved us, and delivered the troop that came against us into our hand. ²⁴And who will listen to you in this word? For they are not less than you; for the share of him who waits by the baggage will be as the share of him who goes down to the battle: they will share alike.” ²⁵And it was so from that day forward, that it became a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

^{30:26}And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil to the elders of Judah, and to his friends, saying, “Behold, a blessing for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD,” ²⁷to those who were in Beth-zur, and to those who were in Ramoth of the South, and to those who were in Jattir, ²⁸and to those who were in Aroer, and to those who were in Siphmoth, and to those who were in Eshtemoa, ²⁹and to those who were in Carmel, and to those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to those who were in the cities of the Kenizzites, ³⁰and to those who were in Hormah, and to those who were in Beer-sheba, and to those who were in Athach, ³¹and to those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men had gone up and down.

^{31:1}And the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down killed in mount Gilboa. ²And the Philistines followed hard on Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. ³And the battle went very badly against Saul, and the archers found him; and he was greatly wounded in the belly. ⁴And Saul said to his armour bearer, “Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me.” And his armour bearer would not; for he was very afraid. And Saul took his sword, and fell upon it. ⁵And when his armour bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell upon his sword, and died with him. ⁶And Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour bearer, and all his men, that same day together.

^{31:7}And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were beyond the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and stayed in them. ⁸And it happened on the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. ⁹And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry the tidings to their idols, and to the people. ¹⁰And they put his armour in the house of the Ashtaroth^b; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. ¹¹And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard concerning him that which the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹²all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan; and they came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. ¹³And they took their bones, and buried them under the tamarisk-tree in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

a “son of belial” or “daughter of belial” is a Hebrew idiom meaning ‘worthless’ or ‘wicked’.

b Ashtaroth is plural of Ashtoreth, the name of a Canaanite goddess supposedly associated with the moon and fertility.

The word concerning
Samuel, Saul and David
The second part,
concerning King David.
Traditionally called "second Samuel".

^{1:1}And it happened after the death of Saul, when David had returned from killing Amalek, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, ²it happened on the third day that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes torn, and earth on his head. And so it was, when he came to David, that he fell on his face to the earth, and did obeisance. ³And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped out of the camp of Israel." ⁴And David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." ⁵And David said to the young man who told it to him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?" ⁶And the young man who told it to him said, "It happened that I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear, and, behold, the chariots and the horsemen followed hard after him. ⁷And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' ⁸And he said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹And he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has taken hold of me, because my soul is still in me.' ¹⁰And I stood beside him, and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

^{1:11}Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and all the men who were with him did the same. ¹²And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until evening, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³And David said to the young man who told it to him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." ¹⁴And David said to him, "Why were you not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed one?" ¹⁵And David called one of the young men, and said, "Go near, and fall on him." And he struck him, and threw him to the ground. ¹⁶And David said to him, "Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has given witness against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed one.'"

^{1:17}And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, ¹⁸and he told them to teach it to the sons of Israel and Judah. Behold, it is written in the book of Jashar. And he said:

^{1:19}Take your stand, O Israel, over your dead who are slain.

How the mighty ones have fallen!

²⁰Tell it not in Gath,

Announce it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

²¹You mountains of Gilboa, Let it not fall upon you,
And let there be no dew nor rain upon your ridges, O mountains of death,
For there the shield of the mighty was vilely cast away,
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

²²From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
The bow of Jonathan turned not back,
And the sword of Saul returned not empty.

²³Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant.
They were not separated in their life,
And in their death they were not divided.

They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.

²⁴Weep over Saul, O daughters of Israel,
Who clothed you delicately in scarlet,
Who put ornaments of gold on your clothing.

²⁵How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan is slain upon death.

²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan,
Very pleasant have you been to me,
Your love fell on me like the love of the women.

²⁷How are the mighty fallen,
And the precious articles have perished!

^{2:1}And it happened after this, that David asked of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” And David said, “Where shall I go up?” And he said, “To Hebron.” ²And David went up to Hebron with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite, ³and his men who were with him, every man with his household, and they lived in the cities of Hebron. ⁴And the men of Judah came and anointed David king over the house of Judah there.

And they told David, saying, “The men of Jabesh-gilead were the ones who buried Saul.” ⁵And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, “You are blessed of the LORD, in that you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him. ⁶And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you, and I also will do good to you because you have done this thing. ⁷And now let your hands be strong, and be sons of valour, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah have also anointed me king over them.”

^{2:8}And Abiner the son of Ner was captain of Saul's host and he had taken Eshbaal the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim. ⁹And he made him king over the Gileadites, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. ¹⁰Eshbaal, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. ¹¹And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

^{2:12}And Abiner the son of Ner and the servants of Eshbaal the son of Saul went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. ¹³And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon, and they sat, one on one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. ¹⁴And Abiner said to Joab, “Please let the young men rise and play before us.” And Joab said, “Let them rise.” ¹⁵Then they rose and went over by number: twelve of the Benjamites of Eshbaal the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. ¹⁶And each caught his neighbour by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his neighbour's side and they fell down together. And that place was called Helkath-hazodim^a, which is in Gibeon.

^{2:17}And the battle was very severe that day, and Abiner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David. ¹⁸And the three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel. And Asahel was as light of foot as a wild doe. ¹⁹And Asahel pursued Abiner, and in going he did not turn to the right hand nor to the left from following Abiner. ²⁰Then Abiner looked behind him, and said, “Is it you, Asahel?” And he answered, “It is I.” ²¹And Abiner said to him, “Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men, and take his armour.” And Asahel would not turn from following him. ²²And again Abiner said to Asahel, “Turn from following me! Why should I strike you to the ground? How then should I hold up my face to Joab your brother? And how can these things be? Return to your brother Joab.” ²³And Asahel refused to turn aside; and Abiner struck him in the body with the foot of the spear, and the spear came out behind him, and he fell down there and died in the same place. And it happened, that whoever came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

^{2:24}And Joab and Abishai pursued Abiner, and the sun went down when they had come to the hill of Ammah that lies before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon. ²⁵And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abiner, and became one band, and stood on the top of a hill. ²⁶Then Abiner called to Joab, and said, “Shall the sword devour forever? Don't you know that the end will be bitter? How long shall it be, then, before you tell the people to return from following their brothers?” ²⁷And Joab said, “As the LORD lives, surely if you had not spoken then in the morning the people would have gone away and each would not have followed his brother.” ²⁸And Joab blew the trumpet and all the people stood still, and did not pursue Israel any more, nor did they fight any more. ²⁹And Abiner and his men went all that night through the Arabah, and they passed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and came to Mahanaim. ³⁰And Joab returned from following Abiner, and when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing those of David's servants who had fallen: nineteen men and Asahel. ³¹And of the children of Benjamin and of Abiner's men the servants of David had struck 360 men. ³²And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which was in Beth-lehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and the day broke on them at Hebron.

^{3:1}And there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David, and David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. ²And six

a That is, Field of plotters, as in the first part, 24:11.

sons were born to David in Hebron: his first-born was Aminon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelite; ³and his second, Daluiah, by Abigail of Carmel; and the third, Abishalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; ⁴and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah by Abital; ⁵and the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah, David's wife. These were born to him, to David in Hebron.

^{3:6} And it happened, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abiner made himself strong in the house of Saul. ⁷And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, and Abiner took her. And Eshbaal said to Abiner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" ⁸Then Abiner was very angry over this word of Eshbaal, and said, "Am I a dog's head? Is it for myself that I have done all these things today and shown kindness to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not made peace with the house of David? And yet this day you charge me with a fault concerning a woman. ⁹God do so to me, and more also, if I do not do to David as the LORD has promised to him, ¹⁰to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba." ¹¹And Eshbaal could not answer Abiner another word, because he feared him.

^{3:12} And Abiner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "Make a covenant with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with you, to bring all Israel around to you." ¹³And David said, "Good! I will make a covenant with you, but I require one thing from you: you shall not see my face unless you bring Michal, Saul's daughter with you, when you come to see my face." ¹⁴And David sent messengers to Eshbaal, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, who I took for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." ¹⁵And Eshbaal sent, and took her from her husband, Paltiel the son of Laish. ¹⁶And her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her to Bahurim. Then Abiner said to him, "Go, return," and he returned.

^{3:17} And Abiner had a word with the elders of Israel, saying, "Previously you sought for David to be king over you. ¹⁸Now then do it, for the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.'" ¹⁹And Abiner also spoke in the ears of the children of Benjamin, and Abiner also went to Hebron to speak in the ears of David all that seemed good to Israel, and to the children of Benjamin. ²⁰And Abiner came with twenty men to David at Hebron. And David made a feast for Abiner and the men who were with him. ²¹And Abiner said to David, "I will rise and go and gather all the people of Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your soul desires." And David sent Abiner away, and he went in peace.

^{3:22} And behold, the servants of David and Joab came from a foray, and brought in spoil with them. And Abiner was not with David in Hebron for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. ²³When Joab and all the host who were with him had come, it was told to Joab, saying, "Abiner the son of Ner came to David, and he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace." ²⁴Then Joab came to the king and said to him, "What have you done? Behold, Abiner the son of Ner came to you. Why have you sent him away, and he is quite gone? ²⁵You know Abiner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

^{3:26} And when Joab had come out from David, he sent messengers after Abiner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah, and David did not know about it. ²⁷And when Abiner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside beside the gate to speak with him quietly, and struck him there in the body, and he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. ²⁸And afterward, when David heard it, he said, "My kingdom and I are guiltless before the LORD from now on and forever, and may the blood of Abiner the son of Ner ²⁹be on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house, and let there not fail from the house of Joab one who has an issue, or who is a leper, or who leans on a staff, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread."

^{3:30} And Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abiner, because he had lain in wait for their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle. ³¹And David said to Joab, and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, and clothe yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn before Abiner." And king David followed the bier. ³²And they buried Abiner in Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abiner, and all the people wept. ³³And the king lamented for Abiner, and said,

"Alas, Abiner has died as a fool dies.

³⁴Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put into fetters:

As a fool falls, so did you fall."

And all the people gathered to weep over him. ³⁵And all the people came to make David eat bread while it was still day, and David promised, saying, "God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or anything else, until the sun is down." ³⁶And all the people took notice of it, and whatever the king did pleased all the people. ³⁷And all the people and all Israel understood that day that the killing of Abiner the son of Ner was not from the king.

³⁸And the king said to his servants, “Don’t you know that a prince and a great man has fallen in Israel this day? ³⁹And he was a relative and an appointed officer of the king this day, and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too hard for me. The LORD reward the evil-doer according to his wickedness.”

^{4:1}And when Eshbaal, Saul's son, heard that Abiner was dead in Hebron, his hands became feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled. ²And Eshbaal, Saul's son, had two men who were captains of bands. The name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin (for Beeroth is reckoned to Benjamin, ³and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have been sojourners there until this day).

^{4:4}And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son whose feet were lame. He was five years old when the news of Saul and Jonathan came out of Jezreel. And his nurse took him up, and fled. And it happened, as she hurried to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibaal.

^{4:5}And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah his brother, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Eshbaal, as he was resting at noon. ⁶And behold, the porter of the house had been gathering wheat, and she slumbered and fell asleep. And Rechab and Baanah his brother slipped past. ⁷And when they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him, and killed him, and cut off his head, and took it, and went by the way of the Arabah all night. ⁸And they brought the head of Eshbaal to David to Hebron, and said to the king, “Behold, the head of Eshbaal, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life! The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul, your enemy, and on his seed.” ⁹And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of all adversity, ¹⁰when someone told me, saying, ‘Behold, Saul is dead,’ thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and killed him in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his tidings. ¹¹How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed, shall I now seek his blood from your hand, and take you away from the earth.” ¹²And David commanded his young men, and they killed them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. And they buried the head of Eshbaal in the grave of Abiner in Hebron.

^{5:1}Then all the rod-bearers of Israel came to David at Hebron, and spoke, saying, “Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. ²In the past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought Israel in, and the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” ³And all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and king David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over all Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. ⁵He reigned over Judah in Hebron for seven years and six months, and he reigned over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem for thirty three years.

^{5:6}And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, “You shall not come in here,” for the blind and the lame had incited them, saying, “David cannot come in here.” ⁷And David took the stronghold of Zion. This is the city of David. ⁸And David said on that day, “Whoever strikes the Jebusites, let him get up to the watercourse, and strike the lame and the blind, who are hated of David's soul.” Therefore they say, “There are the blind and the lame, he cannot come into the house.”

^{5:9}And David lived in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And he built the city round about from Millo and inward. ¹⁰And David grew greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him. ¹¹And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar-trees, and carpenters, and builders of walls, and they built David a house. ¹²And David perceived that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom was exalted for the sake of his people Israel. ¹³And David took for himself more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. ¹⁴And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, ¹⁵and Ibhar, and Elishua, and Eliphelet, and Nogah, and Nepheg, and Japhia, ¹⁶and Elishama, and Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

^{5:17}And when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, the Philistines went up to look for David. And David heard of it, and went down to the stronghold. ¹⁸And the Philistines had come and made a raid in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹And David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give them into your

hand.”²⁰And David came to Baal-perazim^a, and David struck them there, and David said, “The LORD has broken my enemies before me, like the breach of waters.” Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.²¹And the Philistines left their gods there, and David and his men took them away, and David spoke, and they were burned with fire.

^{5:22}And the Philistines came up yet again, and made a raid in the valley of Rephaim.²³And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, “You shall not go up. Circle behind them, and come on them over against Bacaim.²⁴And it shall be, when you hear the sound of turmoil in the groves^b of Bacaim, then you shall stir yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike the host of the Philistines.”²⁵And David did so, as the LORD commanded him, and struck the Philistines from Gibeon until Gezer.

^{6:1}And David again gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, 70,000 *men*.²And David rose, and went with all the people who were with him, from Baalah, that is Kiriat-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits *above* the cherubim.³And they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart⁴with the ark, and Uzzah was walking alongside and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark.⁵And David and all the children of Israel played before the LORD with all their might, with songs, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with castanets, and with cymbals.

^{6:6}And when they came to the threshing-floor of Chidon, Uzzah put his hand out onto the ark to take hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.⁷And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him there because he put his hand out onto the ark. And he died there by the ark of God.⁸And David was displeased, because the LORD had broken forth on Uzzah, and he called that place Perez-uzzah^c, to this day.

^{6:9}And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, “How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?” And when the ark of the LORD came,¹⁰David was unwilling to remove the ark of the LORD to himself in the city of David, and David carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.¹¹And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-edom, and all his house.

^{6:12}And it was told king David, saying, “The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that is his because of the ark of God.” And David said, “I will bring the blessing back to my house.” And David went and brought up the ark of the LORD from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with joy.¹³And seven companies were with him bearing the ark, and he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.¹⁴And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And he was girded with a linen ephod.¹⁵And David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

^{6:16}And it happened, as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looked down through the window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.¹⁷And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before the LORD.¹⁸And when David had finished offering the burnt-offerings and the peace-offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.¹⁹And he distributed among all the people, from Dan to Beersheba, among the whole multitude of Israel, both to men and women, to every one a cake of bread, and a portion, and a cake of raisins. And all the people left, every one to his house.

^{6:20}Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and greeted him and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the dancers shamelessly uncovers himself!”²¹And David said to Michal, “Before the LORD I will dance. Blessed be the LORD who chose me above your father, and above all his house, to appoint me prince over his people, over Israel; therefore I will play and dance before the LORD.²²And I will uncover myself like this again and I will be lowly in your eyes, and with the handmaids you spoke about, with them I will be honoured.”²³And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

^{7:1}And it happened, when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I live in a house of cedar, and the ark of God lives inside curtains of the LORD.³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.”

a That is, Master of the breaches.

b Or, Asherim.

c That is, Breach of Uzzah.

^{7:4} And it happened on the same night, that the word of the LORD came to Nathan the prophet, saying, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD,

“You are not the one who should build a house for me to live in, ⁶for I have not lived in a house since the day I brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt, even to this day, and have walked in a tent, in a tabernacle. ⁷In all places where I have walked with all Israel, did I speak a word with one of the rod-bearers of Israel, who I commanded to be shepherd of my people Israel, saying, ‘Why haven’t you[‡] built me a house of cedar?’”

^{7:8} “And now you shall say thus to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts,

“I took you from the habitation, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people, over Israel, ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great ones who are in the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may live in their own place, and not tremble any more. Neither shall the son of wickedness afflict them any more, as at the first, ¹¹and from the day that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. And I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD tells you that, as for a house, the LORD will make one for you.

^{7:12} “When your days are fulfilled, and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who shall come from your body^a, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build me a house for my name, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he sins I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the strokes of the children of men. ¹⁵And I will not take my lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from the one I put away before you. ¹⁶And his house and his kingdom shall be made sure forever before my face. And his throne shall be established forever.””

^{7:17} According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

^{7:18} Then David the king went in, and sat before the LORD, and he said,

“Who am I, O Lord the LORD, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹And this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord the LORD, and you have spoken of your servant’s house concerning a time far off, and this is the law of men, O Lord the LORD! ²⁰And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord the LORD. ²¹For your servant’s sake, and according to your own heart, you have done all this greatness, to make your servant know it. ²²Therefore you are great, O Lord the LORD, for there is none like you, neither is there any God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

^{7:23} “And what other nation on earth is like your people, like Israel, who God went to redeem for you as a people, to make you a name, and to do for you a great and awesome thing in driving out, before your people who you have redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its tents? ²⁴And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever, and you, the LORD, became their God.

^{7:25} “And now, O Lord the LORD, let the word that you have spoken concerning your servant, and concerning his house, be established forever, and do as you have spoken. ²⁶And let your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David shall be established before you. ²⁷For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have revealed to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore your servant has found in his heart in God to pray this prayer to you.

^{7:28} “And now, O Lord the LORD, you are God, and your words are truth, and you have promised this good thing concerning your servant. ²⁹And now let it please you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord the LORD, have spoken it, and with your blessing let the house of your servant be blessed forever.”

^{8:1} And after this it happened that David struck the Philistines, and subdued them, and David took the suburbs out of the hand of the Philistines.

^{8:2} And he struck Moab, and measured them with the line, making them to lie down on the ground. And two lines were to be put to death, and one full line to be kept alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, and brought tribute.

^{8:3} David also struck Hadarezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his dominion at the River Euphrates. ⁴And David took from him 1,000 chariots and 7,000 horsemen, and 20,000 footmen, and David hocked all the chariot horses, and reserved enough of them for a hundred chariots for himself.

^{8:5} And when the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David struck 22,000 men of the Arameans. ⁶Then David put an officer in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

a Hebrew: inward parts. The word is used to refer to either reproductive (as here) or digestive organs.

^{8:7} And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer king of Zobah, and brought them to Jerusalem. (And Shishak king of Egypt took them when he came up to Jerusalem in the days of Rehoboam son of Solomon.) ⁸ And from Tebah and from the choice cities of Hadarezer, king David took very much bronze, and with it Solomon made the bronze sea and the pillars and the basin and all the bronze utensils.

^{8:9} And when Tou, king of Hamath heard that David had struck all the host of Hadarezer, ¹⁰ then Tou sent Hadoram his son to king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadarezer and had struck him, for Hadarezer had wars with Tou. And he brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of bronze. ¹¹ King David also dedicated these to the LORD, with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations which he subdued; ¹² of Edom, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadarezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

^{8:13} And David got himself a name, and when he returned he killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. ¹⁴ And David put garrisons in Edom. He put garrisons throughout all Edom and all in Edom were servants to David. And the LORD saved David wherever he went.

^{8:15} And David reigned over all Israel, and David executed justice and righteousness to all his people. ¹⁶ And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, ¹⁷ and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Shavsha was scribe, ¹⁸ and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were princes.

^{9:1} And David said, "Is there still anyone left from the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba the servant?" And he said, "Your servant is he." ³ And the king said, "Isn't there anyone left from the house of Saul, who I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "Jonathan still has a son, who has lame feet." ⁴ And the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar."

^{9:5} Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. ⁶ And Mephibaal, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, and fell on his face, and did obeisance to him. And David said to him, "Mephibaal." And he answered, "Behold, your servant!" ⁷ And David said to him, "Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of Jonathan your father, and will restore you all the land of Saul your father, and you will eat bread at my table continually." ⁸ And he did obeisance, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look on such a dead dog as I am?"

^{9:9} Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's son. ¹⁰ And you shall till the land for him, you, and your sons, and your servants, and you shall bring food into your master's house and they will eat, and Mephibaal your master's son shall always eat bread at my table." And Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so shall your servant do." And Mephibaal ate at the king's table, as one of the king's sons.

^{9:12} And Mephibaal had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibaal. ¹³ And Mephibaal lived in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

^{10:1} And it happened after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. ² And David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." And David sent to comfort him concerning his father by the hand of his servants. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon. ³ And the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Is David honouring your father in your eyes because he has sent comforters to you? Hasn't David sent his servants to you to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?" ⁴ And Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. ⁵ And when David was told about the men, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

^{10:6} And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank to David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob, and the Arameans of Zobah, 20,000 footmen, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob: 12,000 men. ⁷ And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. ⁸ And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entrance of the city. And the Arameans of Zobah and of Rehob, and the men of Tob and Maacah, were by themselves in

the field. ⁹And when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose from all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Arameans. ¹⁰And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of Abishai his brother, and he put them in array against the children of Ammon. ¹¹And Joab said to Abishai, "If the Arameans are too strong for me then you shall help me, and if the children of Ammon are too strong for you then I will come and help you. ¹²Be strong, and let us be strong and fight for our people, and for the cities of our God, and the LORD do that which is good in his eyes concerning us."

^{10:13} And Joab and the people who were with him approached the battle against the Arameans, and the Arameans fled before him. ¹⁴And when the children of Ammon saw that the Arameans had fled, they likewise fled before Abishai, and entered into the city. Then Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem. ¹⁵And when Aram saw that they were beaten before the children of Israel, they gathered themselves together. ¹⁶And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam, with Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer at their head. ¹⁷And it was told David, and he gathered all Israel together, and passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans set themselves in array against David, and fought with him. ¹⁸And the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 7,000 charioteers, and 40,000 foot soldiers of Aram, and struck Shobach the captain of their host and he died there. ¹⁹And when all the kings who were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were beaten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. And the Arameans feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

^{11:1} And it happened, at the return of the year, at the time when kings go out, that David sent Joab together with his servants and all Israel and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. And David stayed in Jerusalem. ²And it happened at evening, that David rose from his bed, and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. ³And David sent and asked about the woman. And *someone* said, "Isn't this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴And David sent messengers, and took her, and he went in to her, and he lay with her, and she purified herself from her uncleanness, and she returned to her house.

^{11:5} And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." ⁶And David sent to Joab and said, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to him. ⁷And when Uriah had come to David, David asked him about Joab's peace and the peace of the people and the peace of the war. And he said, "There is peace." ⁸And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah left the king's presence, and he went out after those who stand by the king. ⁹And Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

^{11:10} And when they had told David the king, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Haven't you come from a journey? And why didn't you go down to your house?" ¹¹And Uriah said to David, "If the holy ark, and Israel, and Judah, live in booths, and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are camped in the open field, how then shall I go into my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹²And David said to Uriah, "Stay here today too, and tomorrow I will let you leave." And Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. And on the following day ¹³David called him and he ate and drank before him, and he became drunk. And at evening Uriah went out and lay on a bed with the servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴And it happened in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Put Uriah into the strong fighting and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck and die." ¹⁶And it happened, when Joab kept watch on the city, that he assigned Uriah to a weak place because he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab, and some of the people fell there according to David's words, and Uriah the Hittite died too.

^{11:18} Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, ¹⁹and Joab charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the king all the things concerning the war, ²⁰it shall be that, if the king's anger rises, and he says to you, 'Why did you[‡] go so near the city to fight? Didn't you[‡] know they would shoot from the wall?' ²¹Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? Didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, and he died at Thebez? Why did you[‡] go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, and we were upon them as far as the entrance of the city. And it was heavy with arrows on your servants from the wall, so some eighteen of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

^{11:22} And the messenger went, and came to the king in Jerusalem and showed David all that Joab had sent him for. And David's anger burned against Joab, and he said to the

messenger, "Why did you[‡] go so near the city to fight? Didn't you[‡] know they would shoot from the wall? Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? Didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, and he died at Thebez? Why did you[‡] go so near the wall?" ²³And the messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us, and came out to us into the field, and we were upon them as far as the entrance of the city. ²⁴And it was heavy with arrows on your servants from the wall, so some eighteen of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." ²⁵Then David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Don't let this thing be evil in your eyes, for the sword consumes one as well as another. Make your battle stronger against the city, and overthrow it.'"

^{11:26} And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷And when the mourning was past, David sent and took Bathsheba to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

And the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. ^{12:1} And the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to David. And Nathan came to David, and said to him, "Judge this case for me. There were two men in one city, one rich, and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³and the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and kept safe and nourished. And it grew up together with him, and with his children, it ate from his own morsel, and drank from his own cup, and lay on his chest, and was like a daughter to him. ⁴And a stranger came to the rich man, and he spared his own flock and his own herd from being taken to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, and took the poor man's lamb, and slaughtered it for the man who had come to him."

^{12:5} And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is a son of death, ⁶and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." ⁷And Nathan said to David, "You are the man. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul, ⁸and I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added to you as many again as these. ⁹Why have you despised the LORD, to do that which is evil in his sight? You have struck Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the children of Ammon. ¹⁰And now the sword shall never leave your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For you did it secretly, and I will do this thing before all Israel, and before this sun.'"

^{12:13} And David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD has also put your sin away, you shall not die. ¹⁴However, because by this deed you have despised the LORD the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

^{12:15} And Nathan departed to his house. And God struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it was very sick. ¹⁶And David sought God for the child, and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night in sackcloth on the earth. ¹⁷And the elders of his house came near him, to raise him up from the earth, and he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸And it happened on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him to raise him up from the ground, and he did not listen to our voice. How will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead!" ¹⁹And when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead, and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

^{12:20} Then David rose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothes. And he came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped, then he came to his own house and he asked for food to eat, and food was brought before him, and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept and watched; and when the child was dead, you rose and ate food and drank." ²²And he said, "While the child was still alive I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will not be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³And now the child is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back? I shall go to him, and he will not return to me."

^{12:24} And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in to her, and she lay with him, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him ²⁵and he sent

by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and he called his name Jedidiah^a, by the word of the LORD.

^{12:26} And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city. ²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, also I have taken the city of waters. ²⁸ And now gather the rest of the people together, and camp against the city, and take it yourself, lest I take the city, and it be called after my name." ²⁹ And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. ³⁰ And he took the crown of their king from his head, and the weight of it was a talent of gold and there was a precious stone, and it was set on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. ³¹ And he brought forth the people who were in it, and cut it with saws, and with harrows of iron, and with axes of iron; and he made them pass to the brickwork. And thus he did to all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

^{13:1} And it happened after this, that Abishalom the son of David had a sister very beautiful in appearance, whose name was Tamar, and Aminon the son of David loved her. ² And Aminon was so distressed that he became sick because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin and it seemed hard to Aminon to do anything to her. ³ And Aminon had a friend, whose name was Jonathan, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, and Jonathan was very subtle. ⁴ And he said to Aminon, "O son of the king, why are you so poor from day to day? Won't you tell me?" And Aminon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Abishalom's sister." ⁵ And Jonathan said to him, "Lie down on your bed, and pretend to be sick, and when your father comes to visit you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"

^{13:6} And Aminon lay down, and pretended to be sick, and when the king had come to visit him, Aminon said to the king, "Let my sister Tamar come to me, please, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." ⁷ Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Aminon now, and prepare food for him. ⁸ And Tamar went to her brother Aminon, and he was lying down. And Tamar took dough, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. ⁹ And she took the pan and poured them out before him and he refused to eat. And Aminon said, "Make all the men go out from me." And they made all the men go out from him.

^{13:10} And Aminon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Aminon her brother. ¹¹ And when she had brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, "Come, lie with me." ¹² And she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing ought to be done in Israel. Don't do this folly. ¹³ And where wouldn't my reproach go? And as for you, you will be as one of the fools in Israel. And now, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." ¹⁴ And he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he forced her, and lay with her.

^{13:15} Then Aminon hated her with very great hatred, for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Aminon said to her, "Arise, be gone." ¹⁶ And she said to him, "No, my brother, because this latter evil in putting me out is greater than the former that you did to me." And he would not listen to her. ¹⁷ Then he called his servant who ministered to him, and said to him, "Put this woman out from me now, and bolt the door after her."

^{13:18} And she had a varicoloured^b garment on her, for like that the king's daughters who were virgins clothed themselves in their robes. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. ¹⁹ And Tamar took ashes and put them on her head, and tore her varicoloured garment that was on her, and she laid her hands on her head, and went her way, crying aloud as she went. ²⁰ And Abishalom her brother said to her, "Has Aminon your brother been with you? And now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother, do not set your heart to say anything." And Tamar remained and was desolate in her brother Abishalom's house.

^{13:21} And when king David heard of all these things, he was very angry, but did nothing to pain his son Aminon, for he loved him because he was his firstborn. ²² And Abishalom spoke neither good nor bad to Aminon, for Abishalom hated Aminon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

^{13:23} And it happened after two years, that Abishalom had sheep-shearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephron, and Abishalom invited all the king's sons. ²⁴ And Abishalom came to the king, and said, "Behold now, your servant has sheep-shearers. Please let the king and his servants go to his servant." ²⁵ And the king said to Abishalom, "No, my son, let us not all go,

a That is, beloved of the LORD.

b Like Joseph's in Moses I 37:3.

lest we be burdensome to you." And he urged him, and the king would not go, and blessed him. ²⁶Then Abishalom said, "If not, please let my brother Aminon go with me." And the king said, "Why should he go with you?" ²⁷And Abishalom urged him, and he let Aminon and all the king's sons go with him.

And Abishalom made a banquet like a king's banquet. ²⁸And Abishalom commanded his servants, saying, "Now see, when Aminon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, "Strike Aminon," then kill him. Do not fear, for I have commanded you. Be courageous, and be valiant men." ²⁹And the servants of Abishalom did to Aminon as Abishalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man got onto his mule, and fled.

^{13:30}And it happened, while they were on the way, that the news came to David, saying, "Abishalom has killed all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left." ³¹Then the king rose, and tore his garments, and lay on the earth, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. ³²And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Don't let my lord the king say that all the young men the king's sons are dead, for Aminon only is dead: because Abishalom has been angry against him from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. ³³And now don't let my lord the king take the thing to his heart, saying that all the king's sons are dead, for Aminon only is dead."

^{13:34}And Abishalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, many people came by the Horonaim road by the side of the mountain in the descent. And the watchman came and told the king, and said, "I have seen men on the Horonaim road by the side of the mountain." ³⁵And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come. As your servant said, so it is." ³⁶And it happened, as soon as he had finished speaking, that behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice, and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept with a very great weeping.

^{13:37}And Abishalom fled, and went to Talmai the son of Ammihur, king of Geshur. And the king mourned for his son every day. ³⁸And Abishalom fled, and went to Geshur in the region of Helam, and was there three years. ³⁹And the spirit of the king stopped going out against Abishalom, for he was comforted concerning Aminon, seeing he was dead.

^{14:1}And Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart was on Abishalom. ²And Joab sent to Tekoa, and fetched from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning clothes, and please, do not anoint yourself with oil, and be as a woman who has mourned a long time for the dead, ³and go in to the king, and speak in this manner to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

^{14:4}And when the woman of Tekoa came to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, "Help, O king, help." ⁵And the king said to her, "What ails you?" And the woman answered, "Truly, I am a widow, and my husband is dead. ⁶And your handmaid had two sons, and they struggled together in the field, and there was no mediator between them, and one struck his brother, and killed him. ⁷And, behold, the whole family has risen against your handmaid, saying, "Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may kill him for the life of his brother who he killed," and destroy your heir. Thus they will quench the one coal that I have left to me, and will leave to my husband neither name nor remainder on the face of the earth."

^{14:8}And the king said to the woman, "Go to your house in peace, and I will give charge concerning you." ⁹And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and the king's throne be guiltless." ¹⁰And the king said, "Whoever says a word to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you any more." ¹¹Then said she, "Please, let my lord the king remember the LORD your God, that the avengers of blood not destroy any more, lest you destroy my son." And the king said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the earth."

^{14:12}Then the woman of Tekoa said, "Let your handmaid, please, speak a word to my lord the king." And the king said, "Say on." ¹³And the woman said, "Why then have you devised such a thing against the people of the LORD? For because the king has put aside this thing, the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not fetch home again the one banished from him. ¹⁴For your son is dead, and as water spilled on the ground cannot be gathered up again, he cannot take up his soul again, yet the king thinks to banish the banished one from him. ¹⁵And now, seeing that I have come to speak this word to the king, it is because the people have made me afraid, and your handmaid said, 'Your handmaid will now speak to the king. It may be that the king will perform the request of his servant.' ¹⁶For the king will hear, and deliver his servant out of the hand of the man who is seeking to destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of the LORD.' ¹⁷Then your handmaid said, 'Please let the word of my lord the king be comfortable, for as an angel of the LORD, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad, and the LORD your God will be with you.'"

^{14:18}Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I shall ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king now speak." ¹⁹And

the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said to the king, "As your soul lives, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken, for your servant Joab, he told me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your handmaid.²⁰ Your servant Joab has done this thing to change the face of the matter. And my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know what is in the earth."

^{14:21} And the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I will do according to your advice. And go, bring the young man Abishalom back."²² And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and did obeisance, and blessed the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant."²³ And Joab rose and went to Geshur, and brought Abishalom to Jerusalem.²⁴ And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. And Abishalom turned to his own house, and did not see the king's face.

^{14:25} And there was no one in Israel to be praised for his beauty as much as Abishalom. From the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.²⁶ And when he cut the hair of his head (now it was at every year's end that he cut it, because it was heavy on him, and he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head at 100 shekels, by the king's shekel.²⁷ And to Abishalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Maacah. She was a woman of a beautiful appearance, and she became the wife of Rehoboam son of Solomon, and bore to him Abijah.

^{14:28} And Abishalom lived two full years in Jerusalem and he did not see the king's face.²⁹ Then Abishalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, and Joab would not come to him. And he sent again a second time, and he would not come.³⁰ And Abishalom said to his servants, "See, Joab's portion in the field is near ours, and he has barley there. Go and see, and set it on fire." And Abishalom's servants set the field on fire. Then Joab's servants came to him with their clothes torn, and said, "Abishalom's servants have set the field on fire."³¹ And Joab rose, and came to Abishalom at his house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"³² And Abishalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent to you once and a second time, saying, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be still there. And now let me see the king's face, and if there is iniquity in me, let me be put to death.'"

^{14:33} And Joab came to the king and told him. And when he had called for Abishalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself to him and fell on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Abishalom.

^{15:1} And it happened after this, that Abishalom prepared for himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.² And Abishalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate. And whenever there was any man who had a suit that should come to the king for judgment, then Abishalom called to him, and said, "What city are you from?" And he answered and said, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."³ And Abishalom said to him, "See, your matters are good and right, and there is no one from the king to hear you."⁴ And Abishalom said, "Who shall make me judge over the land, over Israel, that every man who has any suit might come to me, and I would do him justice?"⁵ And it happened that when any man came near to bow down to him, he put out his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him.⁶ And Abishalom behaved like this to all Israel who came to the king for judgment. And Abishalom stole the hearts of all the men of Israel.

^{15:7} And it happened at the end of four years, that Abishalom said to the king, saying, "Please, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron.⁸ For your servant vowed a vow while I stayed at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD shall indeed bring me again to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD in Hebron.'"⁹ And the king said to him, "Go in peace." And Abishalom arose, and went to Hebron.¹⁰ And Abishalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Abishalom is king in Hebron.'"

^{15:11} And two hundred men who were invited went with Abishalom out of Jerusalem. And they went in their simplicity, and they did not know anything.¹² And Abishalom sent and called Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was going on and was strong, and the people went on increasing with Abishalom.

^{15:13} And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of all Israel are with Abishalom."¹⁴ And David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Rise, and let us flee, otherwise none of us shall escape from Abishalom. Leave quickly, lest the people overtake us quickly, and bring down the city upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."¹⁵ And the king's servants said to him, "Behold, we are your servants in whatever the king shall choose."¹⁶ And the king went out, and all his household with him. And the king left ten of his concubines to keep his house.

^{15:17} And the king went forth, and all the people with him, and they waited in Beth-merhak. ¹⁸ And all his servants passed on beside him, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites, and they stopped beside a certain olive tree in the wilderness, and all the people passed on beside him. And all those who were with him, all the officers and the warriors, were 600 men, and they passed on beside him.

And when all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites who had come to his feet from Gath, passed on, ¹⁹ then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you going with us too? Return, and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner, and an exile from your own place. ²⁰ Since you only came yesterday, should I today make you go up and down with us, seeing I go where I may? Go, return and take your brothers back, may the LORD show mercy and truth to you." ²¹ And Ittai answered the king, and said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, my lord the king, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, even there also will your servant be." ²² And David the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Go and pass over with me." And Ittai passed over, and all his servants, and the king and all his men. ²³ And all the country blessed and wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over. The king himself also passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over before him on the Way of Olives in the wilderness.

^{15:24} And, behold, Zadok also *passed over*, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of the covenant until all the people had finished passing out of the city. ²⁵ And the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city and set it in its place. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and his dwelling place. ²⁶ And if he says to me thus, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me as is good in his eyes." ²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Behold, return into the city in peace, together with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. ²⁸ See, I will wait beside an olive tree in the wilderness, until there word comes from you to report to me." ²⁹ And Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God to Jerusalem again and set it there.

^{15:30} And David went up by the ascent of the Olives, and wept as he went up, and he had his head covered, and went barefoot. And of all the people who were with him every man covered his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. ³¹ And it was told to David, saying, "Ahithophel also is among the conspirators with Abishalom." And David said, "O LORD God, please, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

^{15:32} And it happened that when David had come to the top, and worshipped the LORD there, behold, David's friend Hushai the Archite came to meet him there with his coat torn, and earth on his head. ³³ And the king said to him, "If you pass on with me, then you will be a burden to me, ³⁴ and if you return to the city, and say to Abishalom, 'Your brothers departed, O king, after your father departed, and now I will be your servant, O king. Let me live. I have been your father's servant in time past, and I will now be your servant,'— then defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel. ³⁵ And Zadok and Abiathar will be the priests with you there. And it shall be, that whatever thing you hear from the king, you shall tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. ³⁶ Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, and by them you shall send to me everything that you shall hear." ³⁷ And Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came into the city, and Abishalom came into Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.

^{16:1} And when David was a little past the top, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibaal met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, an ephah of raisins, two hundred date-cakes, and a bottle of wine. ² And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean by these?" And Ziba said, "The saddled donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, and the bread and date-cakes and raisins for the young men to eat, and the wine is so that whoever is faint in the wilderness may drink." ³ And the king said, "Where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem, and he said, 'Today the children of Israel will restore me the kingdom of my father.'" ⁴ Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belongs to Mephibaal is yours." And Ziba said, "I bow down! I have found favour in your sight, my lord, O king."

^{16:5} And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, was coming out from there. He came out, cursing as he came, ⁶ and throwing stones at David, and at all his servants. And all the people and all the mighty men were on the right hand and on the left of the king. ⁷ And as he cursed, Shimei said, "Go away, go away, you man of blood, and man of belial^a. ⁸ The LORD has returned on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Abishalom your son, and he caused you to see your own evil, because you are a man of blood."

a "son of belial" or "daughter of belial" is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'worthless' or 'wicked'.

^{16:9}Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this accursed dog curse my lord the king? Please let me go over and take off his head." ¹⁰And the king said to Abishai, "What do I have to do with you, O son of Zeruiah? And let him alone; for he curses me because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David;' and who shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" ¹¹And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, "Behold, my son who came forth from my body^a seeks my life: how much more this Benjamite now? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has spoken to him. ¹²It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will return me good for his cursing of me this day."

^{16:13}And David and his men went by the way, and Shimei went along on the hill-side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and threw dust.

^{16:14}And the king, and all the people who were with him, came weary at the Jordan, and he refreshed himself there. ¹⁵And Abishalom, and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him. ¹⁶And it happened, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Abishalom, to the city, that Hushai said to Abishalom, "May the king live! ¹⁷And Abishalom said to Hushai, "Is this your kindness to your friend? Why didn't you go with your friend?" ¹⁸And Hushai said to Abishalom, "No! for I will belong to the one the LORD, this people, and all the men of Israel have chosen, and I will stay with him. ¹⁹And again, who should I serve? Is it not in the presence of his son? As I have served your father, so will I be with you."

^{16:20}Then Abishalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your advice what we shall do." ²¹And Ahithophel said to Abishalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, who he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have put your father to shame. Then your hands and the hands of all who are with you will be strong." ²²And they spread Abishalom a tent on the top of the house and Abishalom went in to all his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. ²³And the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in former days, was as if a man inquired at the oracle of God, so was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Abishalom.

^{17:1}And Ahithophel said to Abishalom, "Please let me choose for myself 10,000 men, and I will rise and pursue David tonight, ²and I will come upon him while he is weary and weak-handed, and I will make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will run away, and I will strike the king only. ³And all the people will come back to you, as a bride returns to her husband. It is only the life of one man that you seek, and all the people will be at peace." ⁴And the saying pleased Abishalom well, and all the elders of Israel. ⁵Then Abishalom said, "Please call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says."

^{17:6}And when Hushai had come to Abishalom, Abishalom spoke to Hushai about the word that Ahithophel had said. Shall we do his word? And if not, you speak." ⁷And Hushai said to Abishalom, "The advice that Ahithophel has given this time is not good." ⁸And Hushai said again, "You know your father and the men with him, that they are very mighty men, and they are bitter of soul, as a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. And your father is a man of war, and will not spend the night with the people. ⁹And behold, he will be hidden in some pit, or somewhere. And it will happen, when the people fall at the first attack, that whoever hears it will say, "There is a slaughter among the people who follow Abishalom." ¹⁰And even he who is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, will absolutely melt, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men. ¹¹For this is the advice that I advise: Let all Israel be gathered together to you, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, like the sand that is by the sea in number, and that you go into their midst in your own person. ¹²And we shall come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground, and of him and of all the men who are with him we will not leave so much as one. ¹³And, if he has gone into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there."

^{17:14}And Abishalom and all Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel." For the LORD had commanded the defeat of the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD's evil might be brought on Abishalom. ¹⁵Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, "Ahithophel gave such and such advice to Abishalom and the elders of Israel, and I have given such and such advice. ¹⁶And now quickly tell the king, saying, 'Do not spend the night tonight at the fords of the wilderness, and also pass over the waters, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.'"

^{17:17}And Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying by En-rogel, and a maid-servant used to go and tell them, and they went and told king David. For they could not be seen or come into the city. ¹⁸And a young man saw them and told Abishalom, and both of them went away

a Hebrew: inward parts. The word is used to refer to either reproductive (as here) or digestive organs.

quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim, and the man had a well in his court, and they went down it.¹⁹ And the woman took the covering and spread it over the well's mouth and spread grain on it, and nothing was known.²⁰ And Abishalom's servants came to the woman at the house and said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said to them, "They have gone quickly over the water." And when they had looked and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

^{17:21} And it happened, after they had gone, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David. And they said to him, "Get up, and quickly cross the water, for Ahithophel has advised thus against you."²² Then David and all the people who were with him got up, and they passed over the Jordan. By the morning light not even one was left behind. Thus they crossed the Jordan.

^{17:23} And when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled his donkey, and got up, and went home to his city, and set his house in order, and hanged himself. And he died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

^{17:24} Then David came to Mahanaim. And Abishalom passed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.²⁵ And Abishalom set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. And Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Jether the Ishmaelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Jesse, sister to Zeruiah, Joab's mother.²⁶ And Abishalom and all the men of Israel encamped in the land of Gilead.

^{17:27} And it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,²⁸ brought ten beds, and rugs, and ten basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and meal, and parched grain, and beans, and lentils,²⁹ and honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese from the herd, and the brought them near for David and for his people to eat; for they said, "The people are hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness."

^{18:1} And David numbered all the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.² And David divided the people into three parts, one third under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go forth with you myself."³ And the people said, "You shall not go forth, for if we run away no-one will set their heart on us, neither will anyone set their heart on us if half of us die. For you are like ten thousand of us. Therefore now it is better for us that you be ready to help us in the city."⁴ And the king said to them, "I will do what is good in your eyes." And the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

^{18:5} And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently with the young man, with Abishalom, for my sake." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Abishalom.⁶ And all the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was in the forest of Mahanaim.⁷ And the people of Israel were struck there before the servants of David, and there was a great slaughter of 20,000 men that day.⁸ For the battle was spread over the whole forest, and the forest consumed more people that day than the sword consumed.

^{18:9} And Abishalom was far ahead of the servants of David. And he was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was left hanging in the tree between heaven and earth, and the mule that was under him went on.¹⁰ And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, "Behold, I saw Abishalom hanging in an oak."¹¹ And Joab said to the man who had told him, "And, behold, you saw it, and why did you not strike him to the ground there? And I would have given you fifty of silver, and a girdle."¹² And the man said to Joab, "Though I should receive a thousand of silver in my hand, I would still not put out my hand against the king's son, for the king charged you and Abishai and Ittai in our hearing saying, "Beware that no one touch the young man Abishalom."¹³ And how can I deal falsely against my soul? For no matter is hidden from the king, and you yourself have set yourself against me."

^{18:14} Then Joab said, "Then I will begin before you." And Joab took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Abishalom, while he was still alive in the midst of the oak.¹⁵ And ten young men who bore Joab's armour circled about and struck Abishalom, and killed him.¹⁶ And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab held the people back.¹⁷ And Joab took Abishalom, and threw him into the great pit in the forest, and raised a very great heap of stones over him. And all Israel fled, every one to his tent.

^{18:18} And when he was still alive Abishalom had taken and raised up the 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 Abishalom's monument to this day.

^{18:19}Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said to Joab, “Let me run now, let me bring news to David the king, for the LORD has avenged him from the hand of his enemies.” ²⁰And Joab said, “You shall not be the one who brings news on this day, and you shall bring news another day. And today you shall bring no news, because the king’s son is dead.” ²¹Then said Joab to the Cushite, “Go and tell the king what you have seen.” And the Cushite bowed to Joab, and ran. ²²Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said yet again to Joab, “And come what may, please let me also run after the Cushite.” And Joab said, “Why do you want to run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?” ²³And Ahimaaz said, “And come what may, let me run.” And he said to him, “Run.” Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain, and outran the Cushite.

^{18:24}And David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate to the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, a single man was running towards him. ²⁵And the watchman called, and told the king. And the king said, “If he runs alone there is news in his mouth.” And he came quickly and drew near. ²⁶And the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman on the gate called and said, “Behold, another man running alone.” And the king said, “He is also bringing news.” ²⁷And the watchman said, “I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” And the king said, “He is a good man, he comes with good news.”

^{18:28}And Ahimaaz drew near, and said to the king, “All is well.” And he bowed himself before the king with his face to the earth, and said, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king.” ²⁹And the king said, “Is the young man Abishalom alright?” And Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab the king’s servant was sending your servant, I heard a great noise behind me, and I did not know what was there.” ³⁰And the king said, “Turn aside, and stand here.” And he turned aside and stood behind him.

^{18:31}And, behold, the Cushite came, and he said to the king, “Tidings for my lord the king, for the LORD has avenged you today of all those who rose up against you.” ³²And the king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Abishalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you to harm you, be as that young man is.” ³³^aAnd the king began to weep, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he wept, he said thus, “O my son Abishalom, my son, my son Abishalom! Would that I had died for you, O Abishalom, my son, my son!”

^{19:1}And they told Joab, “Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Abishalom.” ²And the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for the people heard it said that day, “The king is dismayed and grieves for his son.” ³And the people came into the city stealthily that day, as people who are shattered and ashamed steal away when they run away in battle. ⁴And the king covered his face, and he cried with a loud voice, “O my son Abishalom, O Abishalom, my son!”

^{19:5}And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, “Today you have shamed the faces of your servants, who have saved your life today, and the lives of your sons and of your daughters, and the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines, ⁶because you love those who hate you, and hate those who love you. For you have declared this day, that princes and servants are nothing to you, for you know that if Abishalom were alive today, we would all have died; then you would have been well pleased. ⁷And now rise, go out and speak comfortably to your servants, for they have promised by the LORD that if you do not go out there to meet with the people, not a man will stay with you this night. And know for yourself that will be worse to you than all the evil that has happened to you from your youth until now.”

^{19:8}Then the king rose, and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate,” and all the people came before the king.

And every man of Israel had fled to his tent. ⁹And all the people were murmuring throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “David the king saved us from all our enemies, and he saved us out of the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land and from being over the kingdom and from Abishalom. ¹⁰And Abishalom, who we anointed king over us, is dead in battle. And now, why don’t you[†] speak a word to bring the king back?

And when the word of all Israel came to the king, ¹¹then king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, “Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, ‘Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house? ¹²You are my brothers, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring the king back to his house?’ ¹³And say to Amasa, ‘Are you[†] not my bone and my flesh? And now, God do so to me, and more also, if you are not

^a Some other editions count this verse (18:33) as 19:1 and number the verses numbered here as chapter 19 one verse number higher (i.e. 19:2 And they told Joab ... 19:3 And the victory that day ... etc.).

captain of the army before me continually in place of Joab.”¹⁴And Amasa bowed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man and they sent to the king, “Return, you and all your servants.”¹⁵And the king returned, and came to the Jordan. And the men of Judah came to Gilgal, to go down to meet the king, to bring the king over the Jordan.

^{19:16}And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.¹⁷And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him, and they sent across the Jordan in the presence of the king.¹⁸And they performed the service of bringing the king over, and doing what was good in his eyes.

And Shimei the son of Gera fell on his face before the king, when he had come over the Jordan.¹⁹And he said to the king, “Let my lord not impute iniquity, and do not remember that which your servant did perversely on the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.²⁰For your servant knows that I have sinned, and behold, I have come today as the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.”

^{19:21}And Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, “Shimei shall be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed.”²²And David said, “What do I have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For don't you know that today I am king over Israel?”²³And the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king promised to him.

^{19:24}And Mephibaal the son of Jonathan the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and he had neither dressed his feet nor his hands, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came home in peace to Jerusalem.²⁵And it happened, when he had come from Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, “Why didn't you go with me, Mephibaal?”²⁶And Mephibaal said to him, “My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said to him, “Saddle me a donkey, so I may ride on it, and go with the king,” because your servant is lame.²⁷And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, and my lord the king, as the angel of God, did what was good in my sight.²⁸For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king, yet you put your servant among those who ate at your own table. From whose hand could I receive justice?” And he cried out to the king.²⁹And the king said to him, “Why multiply your words? I say, you and Ziba divide the land.”³⁰And Mephibaal said to the king, “Yes, let him take it all, for my lord the king has come in peace to his own house.”

^{19:31}And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and he went from the Jordan with the king, to conduct him from the Jordan.³²Now Barzillai was a very old man, even eighty years old, and he had provided the king with sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim, for he was a very great man.

^{19:33}And the king said to Barzillai, “Come over with me, and I will sustain your old age with me in Jerusalem.”³⁴And Barzillai said to the king, “How many days would I live there, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?³⁵Today I am eighty years old. Can I discern between good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a burden to my lord the king?³⁶For your servant would but just go over the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward?³⁷Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, and be buried in the grave of my father and my mother. And behold, your servant Chimham my son; let him go over with my lord the king, and do to him what is good in your eyes.”

^{19:38}And the king said to him, “Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which is good in my eyes. And whatever you shall require of me I will do for you.”³⁹And all the people went over the Jordan, and the king stayed, and the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him. And Barzillai returned to his own place.⁴⁰And the king went over to Gilgal, and Chimham went over with him, and all the people of Judah and also half the people of Israel brought the king over.

^{19:41}And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, “Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away, and brought the king, and his household, over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?”⁴²And the men of Judah answered the men of Israel and said, “Because the king is a close relative to us. Why then are you angry because of this? Have we eaten at all at the king's cost? Or has he given us any gift? Or has he brought us a present?”⁴³And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, “We have ten parts in the king, and also I am the firstborn rather than you. Why then did you despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king?” And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

^{20:1}And there happened to be there a worthless fellow, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew the trumpet, and said, “We have no portion in David,

neither do we have any inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every man to his tents, O Israel."

²And all Israel went up from following David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. And the men of Judah clung to their king, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem.

^{20:3}And David came to his house at Jerusalem, and the king took the ten women, his concubines who he had left to keep his house, and put them in a watch-house and sustained them, and he did not go into them. And they were shut up to the day of their death, living as widows.

^{20:4}Then said the king to Amasa, "Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and you be here present. ⁵And Amasa went to call Judah together, and he delayed longer than the time which he had appointed him. ⁶And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Abishalom did. And now, take with you your lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he should get fortified cities, and cast a shadow on our sight." ⁷And after Abishai he called out the people and Joab, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men from Jerusalem to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

^{20:8}When they were at the great stone which is on the hill, Amasa came to meet them. And Joab was girded in his tunic for clothing, and he was girded with a sword in its sheath fastened at his waist, and it came out and fell. ⁹And Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰And Amasa was not on guard against the sword that was in Joab's hand, and he struck him with it in the body, and spilled his bowels to the ground. And he did not strike him again, and he died. And Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

^{20:11}And one of Joab's young men stood beside Amasa, and said, "He who favours Joab, and he who is for David, let him follow Joab." ¹²And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field, and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came by him stood still. ¹³When he had removed Amasa from the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

^{20:14}And he went through all the tribes of Israel, even to Abel, and to Beth-maacah, and all the cities gathered together and also went after him. ¹⁵And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah, and they cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab were intending to topple the wall.

^{20:16}Then a wise woman cried out of the city, "Hear, hear! Please tell Joab to come here so I may speak with him." ¹⁷And Joab came near her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" And he answered, "I am." Then she said, "Hear the words of your handmaid." And he answered, "I hear. Speak." ¹⁸Then she said, "They used to say a saying in the old time, "They shall surely ask at Abel and Dan, whether what the builders of Israel intended has been carried out." ¹⁹You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?" ²⁰And Joab answered and said, "Far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. ²¹The matter is not so. For a man of the hill-country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against the king, even against David. Deliver him only, and I will leave the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head shall be thrown to you from the wall." ²²And she spoke wisely to all the city. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. And Joab blew the trumpet, and they were dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

^{20:23}And Joab was over all the host of Israel, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites, ²⁴and Adonairam was over the forced labour, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, ²⁵and Shavsha was scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar were priests, ²⁶and also Jehoiada the Jairite was chief minister to David.

^{21:1}And there was a famine in the land in the days of David three years, year after year, and David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is blood on Saul and on his house. The guilt is because of his killing of the Gibeonites." ²And the king called the Gibeonites, and spoke to them. (And the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, for they were of the remnant of the Amorites, and the children of Israel had promised them not to destroy them. And Saul had risen to exterminate them in zeal for Israel and Judah).

^{21:3}And David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? and how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?" ⁴And the Gibeonites said to him, "It is no matter of silver or gold between us and Saul, or his house, neither is it for us to put any man to death from all Israel." And he said, "What do you want? For I will do it for you." ⁵And they said to the king, "The man who set himself against us and persecuted us, and that plotted against us, *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the borders of Israel, ⁶let seven men of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them up to the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." And the king said, "I will give them to you."

^{21:7}And the king spared Mephibaal, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that they had sworn between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. ⁸And the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, who she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibaal, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, who she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. ⁹And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the mountain before the LORD, and the seven fell there together. And they were put to death in the days of Ziv, at the beginning of barley harvest.

^{21:10}And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah the concubine of Saul took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the water of God poured from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the heavens to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. ¹¹And it was told David all that Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. ¹²And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the street of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, in the day that the Philistines slew Saul in Gilboa. ¹³And he brought the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son up from there, and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged, ¹⁴and they buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan and the bones of those who were hanged in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the sepulchre of Kish his father. And they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God atoned for the land.

^{21:15}And the Philistines had war again with Israel, and David went down with his men and fought against the Philistines. And David grew faint, ¹⁶and Dado the son of Joash, who was of the sons of the giant captured him; the weight of his spear was 300 shekels of brass in weight, he being clothed with armour, thought he would kill David. ¹⁷And Abishai the son of Zeruiah saved David, and struck the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David promised, saying, "You shall not go out to battle with us any more, that you should not extinguish the lamp of Israel."

^{21:18}And it happened after this, that there was again war with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was of the sons of the giant. ¹⁹And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaar killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰And there was again war at Gath with the Philistines, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on every hand, and six toes on every foot, twenty four in number, and he also was born to the giant. ²¹And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him. ²²These four were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

^{22:1}And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Sheol. ²And he said, "I have compassion on you."

O LORD, my strength,

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine;

³My God, my rock, in him will I take refuge;

My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge;

My saviour, he saves me from violent men, who is worthy to be praised.

⁴I will call upon the LORD,

So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁵For the cords of death were around me;

The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶The cords of Sheol were around me;

The snares of death came upon me.

⁷In my distress I called upon the LORD;

Yes, I cried to my God:

And he heard my voice out of his temple,

And my cry came into his ears.

⁸Then the earth shook and trembled,

The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, because he was angry.

⁹Smoke went up out of his nostrils,

And fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰He bowed the heavens also, and came down;

And thick darkness was under his feet.

¹¹And he rode on a cherub, and he did fly;

Yes, he sped on the wings of the wind.

¹²And he made darkness his hiding place,

Canopies around him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.

¹³At the brightness before him passed hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven,
And the Most High uttered his voice.
¹⁵And he sent out arrows, and scattered them;
Lightnings, and discomfited them.
¹⁶Then the channels of the sea appeared,
The foundations of the world were laid bare,
By the rebuke of the LORD,
At the blast of his nostrils.
¹⁷He sent from on high, he took me;
He drew me out of many waters;
¹⁸He delivered me from my enemies of strength,
From those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me.
¹⁹They came upon me in the day of my calamity;
And the LORD was my stay.
²⁰He also brought me forth into a large place;
He delivered me, because he delighted in me.
²¹The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands he has recompensed me.
²²For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
And have not wickedly departed from my God.
²³For all his ordinances were before me;
And I did not put away his statutes from me.
²⁴I was also blameless with him;
And I kept myself from my iniquity.
²⁵And the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
According to the cleanness of my hands in his eyes.
²⁶With the merciful you will show yourself merciful;
With the perfect man you will show yourself perfect;
²⁷With the pure you will show yourself pure;
And with the perverse you will show yourself astute.
²⁸For you will save the afflicted people;
And you bring down haughty eyes.
²⁹For you light my lamp, O LORD;
And the LORD my God will lighten my darkness.
³⁰For by you I run upon a troop;
By my God I leap over a wall.
³¹As for God, his way is perfect:
The word of the LORD is tried;
He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.
³²For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, but our God?
³³The God who girds me with strength,
And sets my way blameless,
³⁴He makes my feet like those of hinds,
And sets me upon my high places.
³⁵He teaches my hands to war,
So that my arms bend a bow of brass.
³⁶You have also given me the shield of your salvation;
And your right hand upholds me,
And your condescension makes me great.
³⁷You have enlarged my steps under me;
And my feet have not slipped.
³⁸I have pursued my enemies, and destroyed them;
Neither did I turn again until they were consumed.
³⁹And I shattered them through, and they cannot arise:
Yes, they have fallen under my feet.
⁴⁰For you have girded me with strength for the battle;
You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.
⁴¹And my enemies, you have given me their neck,
That I might cut off those who hate me.
⁴²They cried for help, and there was none to save;
Even to the LORD, and he did not answer them.
⁴³Then I beat them small as the dust before the wind;
I emptied them out as the mire of the streets.
⁴⁴You have also delivered me from the strivings of the people;

You have placed me to be the head of the nations:
A people who I have not known shall serve me.
⁴⁵The foreigners shall submit themselves to me:
As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me.
⁴⁶The foreigners shall fade away,
And shall come trembling out of their close places.
⁴⁷The LORD lives; and blessed be my rock;
And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,
⁴⁸Even the God who executes vengeance for me,
And who subdues peoples under me,
⁴⁹And who brings me forth from my enemies:
Yes, you lift me up above those who rise up against me;
You deliver me from the violent man.
⁵⁰Therefore I will give thanks to you among the nations, O LORD,
And will sing praises to your name.
⁵¹He gives great deliverance to his king,
And shows mercy to his anointed,
To David and to his seed, for evermore.

^{23:1}And these are the last words of David.
David the son of Jesse says,
And the man who God established says,
The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
^{23:2}The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And his word was upon my tongue.
³The God of Jacob said,
The Rock of Israel spoke by me:
One who rules over men righteously,
Who rules in the fear of God,
⁴*He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises,*
A morning without clouds,
When the tender grass springs out of the earth,
Through clear shining after rain.
⁵For is not my house so with God?
For he has made an everlasting covenant
To save me, until now, in all things; And he will keep it:
For all those that are set against me he will not desire,
For all those that grow like a thorn.
⁶And those of belial^a are, all of them, as a thorn of a fire,
Because they cannot be taken with the hand;
⁷Nor can a man touch them,
Except with iron or wood:
And burning, they shall be utterly burned with fire in their shame.

^{23:8}These are the names of the mighty men David had: Jeshbaal the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the three; he lifted up his spear against 900 killed at one time. ⁹And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodai, one of the three mighty men. He was with David at Pasdammim when the Philistines were gathered together there to battle, and the men of Israel went up to meet them. ¹⁰He rose, and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. And the LORD worked a great salvation that day, and the people returned after him only to take spoil. ¹¹And after him was Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines. ¹²And he stood in the middle of the plot, and defended it, and killed the Philistines. And the LORD worked a great salvation that day.

^{23:13}And three of the thirty chief men went down, and came to the rock to David at the cave of Adullam, and the troop of the Philistines was encamped in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴And David was in the stronghold then, and the garrison of the Philistines was in Bethlehem then. ¹⁵And David longed, and said, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" ¹⁶And the three mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David. And David would not drink of it, and poured it out to the LORD. ¹⁷And he said, "Far be it from me before the LORD, that I should do this! Shall I drink

a "son of belial" or "daughter of belial" is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'worthless' or 'wicked'.

the blood of the men who went with their souls?" And he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

^{23:18}And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the thirty. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred and killed them, and had a name among the three.
¹⁹By the three he was honoured like two men, and he was made their captain; and he did not attain to the three.

^{23:20}And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, he killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit in time of snow. ²¹And he killed an Egyptian, a man of appearance. And the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. ²²These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name among the three mighty men. ²³By the three he was honoured, and he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his guard.

And these are the names of the mighty men of king David: ²⁴Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, ²⁵Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite, ²⁶Helez the Pelonite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, ²⁷Abiezer the Anathothite, Sibbecai the Hushathite, ²⁸Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, ²⁹Heldai the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribbai of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, ³⁰Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, ³¹Abiel the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Bahurumite, ³²Eliahba the Shaalbonite, Jashen the Gunite, Jonathan the son of ³³Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sachar the Hararite, ³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai the Mecherathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, ³⁵Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbit, ³⁶Joel the brother of Nathan of Zobah, Mibhar the son of Hagri, ³⁷Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, the armour-bearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah, ³⁸Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, ³⁹Uriah the Hittite: thirty seven in all.

^{24:1}And the anger of God was kindled against Israel again, and he moved David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah." ²And the king said to Joab and to the captains of the host who were with him in Jerusalem, "Go about now through all Israel and Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, and number the people, and bring it to me that I may know the sum of the people." ³And Joab said to the king, "And may the LORD your God add to the people, however many they may be, a hundredfold, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it! And why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" ⁴Nevertheless, the king's word defeated Joab and the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

^{24:5}And they passed over the Jordan, and began from Aroer, and from the city that is in the middle of the valley of Gad, and to Jazer. ⁶Then they came to Gilead, and to Kadesh of the Hittites, and they came to Dan, and they went around Sidon, ⁷and came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites, and they went out to the south of Judah, at Beer-sheba. ⁸And when they had gone about through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. ⁹And Joab gave up the sum of the numbering of the people to the king. And there were in Israel 900,000 men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 400,000 men who drew the sword.

^{24:10}And David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in this thing that I have done. And now, O LORD, please put away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly." ¹¹And when David rose up in the morning, the word of the LORD came to Gad, David's seer, saying, ¹²"Go and speak to David, 'Thus says the LORD, "I offer you three things, choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'"'" ¹³And Gad came to David, and told him, and said to him, "Choose for yourself: shall three years of famine come to you in your land, or will you run away from your enemies for three months while they pursue you, or shall there be three days' pestilence in the land? And now consider and see what answer I shall return to him who sent me." ¹⁴And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress! Only now let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercies are great, and do not let me fall into the hand of man."

And David chose the pestilence, and in the days of the wheat harvest, ¹⁵the LORD gave a pestilence on Israel from the morning even to the time of nourishment. And the plague caused sickness among the people, and 70,000 men of the people died from Dan even to Beer-sheba. ¹⁶And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented of the evil, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough. Now hold back your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. And David and the elders, covered in sackcloth, fell on their faces. ¹⁷And David spoke to the LORD when he

saw the angel who struck the people, and said, "Behold, it is I who have sinned. And it is I, the shepherd, who have done wrong. And these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house."

^{24:18}And Gad came to David that day, and said, "Go up, raise an altar to the LORD in the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite." ¹⁹And David went up as Gad had said, as the LORD commanded. ²⁰And Araunah looked out, and saw the king and his servants approaching him, and Araunah went out and bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. ²¹And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said to him, "To buy the threshing-floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be stopped from the people." ²²And Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what is good in his eyes. Behold, the oxen for the burnt-offering, and the threshing instruments and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. ²³All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." ²⁴And the king said to Araunah, "No, for I will surely buy it from you at a price. Neither will I offer burnt-offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing." And David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

^{24:25}And David built an altar to the LORD there, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. And Solomon added to the altar later, for it was small at first. And the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

The word concerning
Samuel, Saul and David
The third part,
concerning the death of King David.
Traditionally called "first Kings".

^a ^{1:1}And king David was very old and stricken in days, and they covered him with clothes, and he had no heat. ²And his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and cherish him, and let her lie in his bosom, that the king may have heat." ³And they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴And the young woman was very beautiful to look on, and she cherished the king, and served him, and the king did not know her.

^{1:5}Then Adonijah the son of David exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared chariots and horsemen for himself, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶And his father had not grieved him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very well formed man to look on, and he was born after Abishalom. ⁷And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed Adonijah and helped him. ⁸And Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and David's mighty men, were not with Adonijah.

^{1:9}And Adonijah killed oxen and sheep by the stone of Zoheleth which is beside En-rogel. And he called all his brothers, the king's sons, and the men of Judah, David the king's servants. ¹⁰And he did not call Nathan, or Benaiah, or the mighty men, or Solomon.

^{1:11}Then Nathan came and spoke to Bath-sheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Haven't you heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith reigns, and David our lord does not know it? ¹²And now come, please let me give you counsel, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³Go and get yourself in to king David, and say to him, 'Didn't you, my lord, O king, promise by the LORD God to your handmaid, saying, 'Surely Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?' Why then does Adonijah reign?' ¹⁴While you are still talking with the king there, I will also come in after you, and confirm your words."

^{1:15}And Bath-sheba went in to the king in the chamber. And the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king. ¹⁶And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance to the king. And the king said, "What do you want?" ¹⁷And she said to him, "My lord, O king, you promised by the LORD your God to your handmaid, saying, 'Surely Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' ¹⁸And now, behold, Adonijah reigns, and you, my lord the king, do not know it. ¹⁹And he has killed many sheep and oxen and has called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host. ²⁰And you, my lord the king, the eyes of all the people are on you, that you should tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted sinners."

^{1:22}And, behold, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. ²³And they told the king, saying, "Behold, Nathan the prophet." And when he had come in before the king, he bowed himself before David the king with his face to the ground. ²⁴And he said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?'" ²⁵For he has gone down this day, and has killed many oxen and sheep, and has called all the king's sons, and Joab the captain of the host, and Abiathar the priest, and, behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and say, 'May king Adonijah live!' ²⁶And he has not called me, even me your servant, or Zadok the priest, or Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, or your son Solomon. ²⁷And has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not shown your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

^{1:28}Then David answered and said, "Call to me Bath-sheba." And she came and stood before the king. ²⁹And the king promised, and said, "As the LORD lives who has redeemed my soul out of all adversity, ³⁰surely as I promised to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, 'Surely Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' I will truly do so this day." ³¹Then Bath-sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did obeisance to the king, and said, "Let my lord king David live for ever."

a The chapter numbering of the following section follows the traditional numbering system which has the so-called "First Book of the Kings" commencing at this point. Some other editions count the following as chapters 25 and 26.

^{1:32}And the king said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." And they came before the king. ³³And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and make Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon." ³⁴And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel. And blow the trumpet, and say, "May king Solomon live!" ³⁵Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be prince over Israel and over Judah." ³⁶And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, "Amen! Thus may the LORD, the God of my lord the king, confirm it." ³⁷And as the LORD has been with my lord, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David."

^{1:38}And Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, went down, and made Solomon ride on king David's mule, and went after him to Gihon. ³⁹And Zadok the priest took the horn of oil out of the tent, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "May king Solomon live!" ⁴⁰And all the people came up after him, and all the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, and the earth shook with the sound of them.

^{1:41}And Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they had finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What is the reason for this noise of the city being in an uproar?" ⁴²While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a worthy man, and bring good news."

^{1:43}And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "Surely our lord king David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴And he has sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they have made him ride on the king's mule. ⁴⁵And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him in Gihon, and they have come up from there rejoicing, and the land rang again. This is the noise that you have heard. ⁴⁶And also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom. ⁴⁷And also the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, and they came, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the king bowed himself on his bed. ⁴⁸And also the king said thus, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has given one of my seed to sit on my throne this day, my eyes even seeing it.'

^{1:49}And all the guests of Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and every man went his way. ⁵⁰And Adonijah feared because of king Solomon, and he arose and went to the tent of the LORD and caught hold on the horns of the altar. ⁵¹And it was told Solomon, saying, "Behold, Adonijah fears king Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let Solomon promise to me first that he will not kill his servant with the sword.'" ⁵²And Solomon said, "If he shall show himself to be a worthy man, not a hair of his head shall fall to the earth. And if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." ⁵³And Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed down to Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

^{2:1}And the days drew near for David to die, and he charged Solomon his son before his death, saying, ²"I am going the way of all the earth. And you be strong, and show yourself a man, ³and keep the charge of the God of Israel, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, and his ordinances, and his testimonies, according to that which is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do, and where-ever you turn yourself, ⁴that the LORD may establish his word which he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your children take heed to their ways, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

^{2:5}"And also, you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, even what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, to Abiner the son of Ner, and to Amasa the son of Jether, who he killed, and avenged the blood of war in peace. And he put innocent blood on the belt that was about my waist, and on my shoes that were on my feet. ⁶And do according to your wisdom, and do not let his grey hair go down to Sheol in peace. ⁷And show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Abishalom your brother.

^{2:8}"And, behold, Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, of Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim, and he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I promised to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' ⁹And as for you, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man, and you will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his grey hair down to Sheol with blood."

^{2:10}And David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron, and he reigned thirty three years in Jerusalem.