

the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men. {10:7} And when David heard of [it,] he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. {10:8} And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-tob, and Maacah, [were] by themselves in the field. {10:9} When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice [men] of Israel, and put [them] in array against the Syrians: {10:10} And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put [them] in array against the children of Ammon. {10:11} And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee. {10:12} Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good. {10:13} And Joab drew nigh, and the people that [were] with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him. {10:14} And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

{10:15} And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together. {10:16} And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that [were] beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer [went] before them. {10:17} And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him. {10:18} And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew [the men of] seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there. {10:19} And when all the kings [that were] servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

{11:1} And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth [to battle,] that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

{11:2} And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman [was] very beautiful to look upon. {11:3} And David sent and enquired after the woman. And [one] said, [Is] not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? {11:4} And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. {11:5} And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I [am] with child.

{11:6} And David sent to Joab, [saying,] Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. {11:7} And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded [of him] how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. {11:8} And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess [of meat] from

the king. {11:9} But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. {11:10} And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from [thy] journey? why [then] didst thou not go down unto thine house? {11:11} And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? [as] thou livest, and [as] thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. {11:12} And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. {11:13} And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

{11:14} And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent [it] by the hand of Uriah. {11:15} And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. {11:16} And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men [were]. {11:17} And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell [some] of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

{11:18} Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; {11:19} And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, {11:20} And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? {11:21} Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

{11:22} So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for. {11:23} And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. {11:24} And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and [some] of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. {11:25} Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

{11:26} And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. {11:27} And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

{12:1} And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. {12:2} The rich [man] had exceeding many flocks and herds: {12:3} But the poor [man] had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto

him as a daughter. {12:4} And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. {12:5} And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this [thing] shall surely die: {12:6} And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

{12:7} And Nathan said to David, Thou [art] the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; {12:8} And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if [that had been] too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. {12:9} Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife [to be] thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. {12:10} Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. {12:11} Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give [them] unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. {12:12} For thou didst [it] secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. {12:13} And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. {12:14} Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also [that is] born unto thee shall surely die.

{12:15} And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. {12:16} David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. {12:17} And the elders of his house arose, [and went] to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. {12:18} And it came to pass 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 yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? {12:19} But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. {12:20} Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed [himself,] and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. {12:21} Then said his servants unto him, What thing [is] this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, [while it was] alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. {12:22} And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell [whether] GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? {12:23} But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

{12:24} And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and

went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. {12:25} And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

{12:26} And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city. {12:27} And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters. {12:28} Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name. {12:29} And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. {12:30} And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof [was] a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was [set] on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance. {12:31} And he brought forth the people that [were] therein, and put [them] under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

{13:1} And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name [was] Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. {13:2} And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she [was] a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her. {13:3} But Amnon had a friend, whose name [was] Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab [was] a very subtil man. {13:4} And he said unto him, Why [art] thou, [being] the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. {13:5} And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see [it,] and eat [it] at her hand.

{13:6} So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. {13:7} Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. {13:8} So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded [it,] and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. {13:9} And she took a pan, and poured [them] out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. {13:10} And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought [them] into the chamber to Amnon her brother. {13:11} And when she had brought [them] unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. {13:12} And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. {13:13} And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. {13:14} Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

{13:15} Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her [was] greater than the love

wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. {13:16} And she said unto him, [There is] no cause: this evil in sending me away [is] greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. {13:17} Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this [woman] out from me, and bolt the door after her. {13:18} And [she had] a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters [that were] virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

{13:19} And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that [was] on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. {13:20} And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he [is] thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

{13:21} But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth. {13:22} And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

{13:23} And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal- hazor, which [is] beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. {13:24} And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. {13:25} And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. {13:26} Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? {13:27} But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

{13:28} Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous and be valiant. {13:29} And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

{13:30} And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left. {13:31} Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent. {13:32} And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose [that] they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. {13:33} Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only is dead. {13:34} But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him. {13:35} And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is. {13:36} And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.

{13:37} But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And [David] mourned for his son every day. {13:38} So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. {13:39} And [the soul of] king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

{14:1} Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart [was] toward Absalom. {14:2} And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead: {14:3} And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

{14:4} And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king. {14:5} And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I [am] indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead. {14:6} And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and [there was] none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him. {14:7} And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband [neither] name nor remainder upon the earth. {14:8} And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee. {14:9} And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity [be] on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne [be] guiltless. {14:10} And the king said, Whosoever saith [ought] unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more. {14:11} Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth. {14:12} Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak [one] word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on. {14:13} And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished. {14:14} For we must needs die, and [are] as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect [any] person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him. {14:15} Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, [it is] because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid. {14:16} For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man [that would] destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God. {14:17} Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so [is] my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee. {14:18} Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak. {14:19} And the king said, [Is not] the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, [As] thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all

these words in the mouth of thine handmaid: {14:20} To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord [is] wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all [things] that [are] in the earth.

{14:21} And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. {14:22} And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, Today thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant. {14:23} So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. {14:24} And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

{14:25} But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. {14:26} And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled [it:] because [the hair] was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight. {14:27} And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name [was] Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

{14:28} So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face. {14:29} Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come. {14:30} Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. {14:31} Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto [his] house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire? {14:32} And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? [it had been] good for me [to have been] there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be [any] iniquity in me, let him kill me. {14:33} So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

{15:1} And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. {15:2} And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city [art] thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. {15:3} And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters [are] good and right; but [there is] no man [deputed] of the king to hear thee. {15:4} Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! {15:5} And it was [so,] that when any man came nigh [to him] to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. {15:6} And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

{15:7} And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron. {15:8} For

thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD. {15:9} And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

{15:10} But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. {15:11} And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, [that were] called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing. {15:12} And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, [even] from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

{15:13} And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. {15:14} And David said unto all his servants that [were] with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not [else] escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword. {15:15} And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants [are ready to do] whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint. {15:16} And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, [which were] concubines, to keep the house. {15:17} And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. {15:18} And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

{15:19} Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou [art] a stranger, and also an exile. {15:20} Whereas thou camest [but] yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth [be] with thee. {15:21} And Ittai answered the king, and said, [As] the LORD liveth, and [as] my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be. {15:22} And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that [were] with him. {15:23} And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

{15:24} And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites [were] with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city. {15:25} And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me [both] it, and his habitation: {15:26} But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, [here am] I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him. {15:27} The king said also unto Zadok the priest, [Art not] thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. {15:28} See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me. {15:29} Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.

{15:30} And David went up by the ascent of [mount] Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that [was] with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

{15:31} And [one] told David, saying, Ahithophel [is] among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

{15:32} And it came to pass, that [when] David was come to the top [of the mount,] where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head: {15:33} Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me: {15:34} But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; [as] I [have been] thy father's servant hitherto, so [will] I now also [be] thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel. {15:35} And [hast thou] not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, [that] what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell [it] to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. {15:36} Behold, [they have] there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's [son,] and Jonathan Abiathar's [son;] and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear. {15:37} So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

{16:1} And when David was a little past the top [of the hill,] behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred [loaves] of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine. {16:2} And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses [be] for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink. {16:3} And the king said, And where [is] thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, Today shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father. {16:4} Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine [are] all that [pertained] unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee [that] I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

{16:5} And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name [was] Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. {16:6} And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men [were] on his right hand and on his left. {16:7} And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: {16:8} The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou [art taken] in thy mischief, because thou [art] a bloody man.

{16:9} Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head. {16:10} And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? {16:11} And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels,

seeketh my life: how much more now [may this] Benjaminite [do it?] let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. {16:12} It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day. {16:13} And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust. {16:14} And the king, and all the people that [were] with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

{16:15} And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. {16:16} And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king. {16:17} And Absalom said to Hushai, [Is] this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend? {16:18} And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide. {16:19} And again, whom should I serve? [should I] not [serve] in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

{16:20} Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do. {16:21} And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that [are] with thee be strong. {16:22} So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. {16:23} And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, [was] as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so [was] all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

{17:1} Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night: {17:2} And I will come upon him while he [is] weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that [are] with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only: {17:3} And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest [is] as if all returned: [so] all the people shall be in peace. {17:4} And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel. {17:5} Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith. {17:6} And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do [after] his saying? if not; speak thou. {17:7} And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given [is] not good at this time. {17:8} For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they [be] mighty men, and they [be] chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father [is] a man of war, and will not lodge with the people. {17:9} Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some [other] place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom. {17:10} And he also [that is] valiant, whose heart [is] as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knoweth that thy father [is] a mighty man, and [they] which [be] with him [are] valiant men. {17:11} Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that [is] by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person. {17:12} So shall we

come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that [are] with him there shall not be left so much as one. {17:13} Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there. {17:14} And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite [is] better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

{17:15} Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled. {17:16} Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that [are] with him. {17:17} Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by En-rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David. {17:18} Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down. {17:19} And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known. {17:20} And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find [them,] they returned to Jerusalem. {17:21} And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you. {17:22} Then David arose, and all the people that [were] with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.

{17:23} And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled [his] ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father. {17:24} Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

{17:25} And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name [was] Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother. {17:26} So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

{17:27} And it came to pass, when David was 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, {17:28} Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched [corn,] and beans, and lentiles, and parched [pulse, ] {17:29} And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that [were] with him, to eat: for they said, The people [is] hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

{18:1} And David numbered the people that [were] with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds

over them. {18:2} And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also. {18:3} But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now [thou art] worth ten thousand of us: therefore now [it is] better that thou succour us out of the city. {18:4} And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands. {18:5} And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, [Deal] gently for my sake with the young man, [even] with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

{18:6} So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim; {18:7} Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand [men. ] {18:8} For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

{18:9} And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that [was] under him went away. {18:10} And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak. {18:11} And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest [him,] and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten [shekels] of silver, and a girdle. {18:12} And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand [shekels] of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none [touch] the young man Absalom. {18:13} Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against [me. ] {18:14} Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he [was] yet alive in the midst of the oak. {18:15} And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him. {18:16} And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people. {18:17} And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

{18:18} Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which [is] in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

{18:19} Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies. {18:20} And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. {18:21} Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran. {18:22} Then said