

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

Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready? {18:23} But howsoever, [said he,] let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cush. {18:24} And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone. {18:25} And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he [be] alone, [there is] tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near. {18:26} And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold [another] man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. {18:27} And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He [is] a good man, and cometh with good tidings. {18:28} And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed [be] the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king. {18:29} And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and [me] thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what [it was. ] {18:30} And the king said [unto him,] Turn aside, [and] stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still. {18:31} And, behold, Cush came; and Cush said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee. {18:32} And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do [thee] hurt, be as [that] young man [is].

{18:33} And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

{19:1} And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. {19:2} And the victory that day was [turned] into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. {19:3} And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. {19:4} But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son! {19:5} And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; {19:6} In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well. {19:7} Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now. {19:8} Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

{19:9} And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of

our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. {19:10} And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

{19:11} And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, [even] to his house. {19:12} Ye [are] my brethren, ye [are] my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king? {19:13} And say ye to Amasa, [Art] thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab. {19:14} And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as [the heart of] one man; so that they sent [this word] unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants. {19:15} So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

{19:16} And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which [was] of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. {19:17} And [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 went over Jordan before the king. {19:18} And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan; {19:19} And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. {19:20} For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king. {19:21} But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed? {19:22} And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I [am] this day king over Israel? {19:23} Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

{19:24} And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came [again] in peace. {19:25} And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? {19:26} And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant [is] lame. {19:27} And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king [is] as an angel of God: do therefore [what is] good in thine eyes. {19:28} For all [of] my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king? {19:29} And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. {19:30} And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

{19:31} And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan. {19:32} Now Barzillai was a very aged man, [even] fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he [was] a very great man. {19:33} And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem. {19:34} And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem? {19:35} I [am] this day fourscore years old: [and] can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king? {19:36} Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward? {19:37} Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, [and be buried] by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee. {19:38} And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, [that] will I do for thee. {19:39} And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place. {19:40} Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

{19:41} And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan? {19:42} And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king [is] near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's [cost?] or hath he given us any gift? {19:43} And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more [right] in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

{20:1} And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name [was] Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel. {20:2} So every man of Israel went up from after David, [and] followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

{20:3} And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women [his] concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

{20:4} Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present. {20:5} So Amasa went to assemble [the men of] Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him. {20:6} And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than [did] Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us. {20:7} And there went out

after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri. {20:8} When they [were] at the great stone which [is] in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle [with] a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out. {20:9} And Joab said to Amasa, [Art] thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. {20:10} But Amasa took no heed to the sword that [was] in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth [rib,] and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri. {20:11} And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that [is] for David, [let him go] after Joab. {20:12} And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still. {20:13} When he was removed out of 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 unto Abel, and to Beth-maachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him. {20:15} And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that [were] with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

{20:16} Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee. {20:17} And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, [Art] thou Joab? And he answered, I [am he.] Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear. {20:18} Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask [counsel] at Abel: and so they ended [the matter. ] {20:19} I [am one of them that are] peaceable [and] faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD? {20:20} And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. {20:21} The matter [is] not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, [even] against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall. {20:22} Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast [it] out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

{20:23} Now Joab [was] over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada [was] over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites: {20:24} And Adoram [was] over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud [was] recorder: {20:25} And Sheva [was] scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar [were] the priests: {20:26} And Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.

{21:1} Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, [It is] for Saul, and for [his] bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. {21:2} And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the

Gibeonites [were] not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah. {21:3} Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? {21:4} And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, [that] will I do for you. {21:5} And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us [that] we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, {21:6} Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, [whom] the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give [them]. {21:7} But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that [was] between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. {21:8} But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholahite: {21:9} And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell [all] seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first [days,] in the beginning of barley harvest.

{21:10} And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. {21:11} And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

{21:12} And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-gilead, which had stolen them from the street of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa: {21:13} And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged. {21:14} And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

{21:15} Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. {21:16} And Ishbi-benob, which [was] of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear [weighed] three hundred [shekels] of brass in weight, he being girded with a new [sword,] thought to have slain David. {21:17} But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel. {21:18} And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which [was] of the sons of the giant. {21:19} And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew [the brother of] Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear [was] like a weaver's beam. {21:20} And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of [great] stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in

number; and he also was born to the giant. {21:21} And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him. {21:22} These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

{22:1} And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day [that] the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: {22:2} And he said, The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; {22:3} The God of my rock; in him will I trust: [he is] my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. {22:4} I will call on the LORD, [who is] worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. {22:5} When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; {22:6} The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; {22:7} In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry [did enter] into his ears. {22:8} Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wrath. {22:9} There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. {22:10} He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness [was] under his feet. {22:11} And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. {22:12} And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, [and] thick clouds of the skies. {22:13} Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled. {22:14} The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. {22:15} And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. {22:16} And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. {22:17} He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; {22:18} He delivered me from my strong enemy, [and] from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me. {22:19} They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. {22:20} He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me. {22:21} The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. {22:22} For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. {22:23} For all his judgments [were] before me: and [as for] his statutes, I did not depart from them. {22:24} I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. {22:25} Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight. {22:26} With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, [and] with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. {22:27} With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. {22:28} And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes [are] upon the haughty, [that] thou mayest bring [them] down. {22:29} For thou [art] my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. {22:30} For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall. {22:31} [As for] God, his way [is] perfect; the word of the LORD [is] tried: he [is] a buckler to all them that trust in him. {22:32} For who [is] God, save the LORD? and who [is] a rock, save our God? {22:33} God [is] my strength [and] power: and he maketh my way perfect. {22:34} He maketh my feet like hinds [feet:] and setteth me upon my high places. {22:35} He teacheth my hands to war; so that a

bow of steel is broken by mine arms. {22:36} Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. {22:37} Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip. {22:38} I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. {22:39} And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet. {22:40} For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me. {22:41} Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. {22:42} They looked, but [there was] none to save; [even] unto the LORD, but he answered them not. {22:43} Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, [and] did spread them abroad. {22:44} Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me [to be] head of the heathen: a people [which] I knew not shall serve me. {22:45} Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me. {22:46} Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places. {22:47} The LORD liveth; and blessed [be] my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. {22:48} It [is] God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, {22:49} And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. {22:50} Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. {22:51} [He is] the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

{23:1} Now these [be] the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man [who was] raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, {23:2} The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word [was] in my tongue. {23:3} The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men [must be] just, ruling in the fear of God. {23:4} And [he shall be] as the light of the morning, [when] the sun riseth, [even] a morning without clouds; [as] the tender grass [springing] out of the earth by clear shining after rain. {23:5} Although my house [be] not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all [things,] and sure: for [this is] all my salvation, and all [my] desire, although he make [it] not to grow.

{23:6} But [the sons] of Belial [shall be] all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: {23:7} But the man [that] shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the [same] place.

{23:8} These [be] the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same [was] Adino the Eznite: [he lift up his spear] against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. {23:9} And after him [was] Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, [one] of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines [that] were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: {23:10} He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. {23:11} And after him [was] Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the

Philistines. {23:12} But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory. {23:13} And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim. {23:14} And David [was] then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines [was] then [in] Bethlehem. {23:15} And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which [is] by the gate! {23:16} And the three mighty men brake 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: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. {23:17} And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: [is not this] the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men. {23:18} And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, [and] slew [them,] and had the name among three. {23:19} Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the [first] three. {23:20} And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow: {23:21} And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. {23:22} These [things] did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. {23:23} He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the [first] three. And David set him over his guard. {23:24} Asahel the brother of Joab [was] one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, {23:25} Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite, {23:26} Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, {23:27} Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, {23:28} Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, {23:29} Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, {23:30} Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, {23:31} Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, {23:32} Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, {23:33} Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, {23:34} Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, {23:35} Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, {23:36} Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, {23:37} Zelek the Ammonite, Nahari the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah, {23:38} Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite, {23:39} Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

{24:1} And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. {24:2} For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which [was] with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people. {24:3} And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see [it:] but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing? {24:4} Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against 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 Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that [lieth] in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer: {24:6} Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi; and they came to Dan-jaan, and about to Zidon, {24:7} And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, [even] to Beer-sheba. {24:8} So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. {24:9} And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah [were] five hundred thousand men.

{24:10} And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. {24:11} For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, {24:12} Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three [things;] choose thee one of them, that I may [do it] unto thee. {24:13} So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. {24:14} And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies [are] great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

{24:15} So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men. {24:16} And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite. {24:17} And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

{24:18} And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite. {24:19} And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. {24:20} And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. {24:21} And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. {24:22} And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what [seemeth] good unto him: behold, [here be] oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and [other] instruments of the oxen for wood. {24:23} All [these] things did Araunah, [as] a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. {24:24} And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy [it] of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the

oxen for fifty shekels of silver. {24:25} And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.