

THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL,

OTHERWISE CALLED,
THE SECOND BOOK OF THE KINGS.

1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from ^othe slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;

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

3 And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

4 And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And ^ohe answered, That the People are fled from the battle, and many of the People also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

5 And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, ^{*}behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, ^{*}lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

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

8 And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I *am* an ^oAmalekite.

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

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

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

12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the People of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

13 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an ^sAmalekite.

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

1. 1 the slaughter. Cp. 1 Sam. 30:17.

4 he answered. He thought he brought news which would be welcomed.

8 Amalekite. Thus Saul was dishonored by one whom his disobedience spared. Cp. 1 Sam. 15:3 and Ezek. 17:16.

9 He said. His whole story was a fabrication. See the facts in 1 Sam. 31:4, 5.

10 fallen. i.e. upon his own sword (1Sam. 31:4).

18 lamentation. The *Ellipsis* "the use of" is wrongly supplied. The word "Lamentation" should be repeated from v. 17; "The Bow" being the *subject* of the Lamentation (v. 22).

the bow. This is the name of the Lamentation, because it is mentioned in v. 22; and it is what the tribe of Saul and Jonathan (Benjamin) was noted for (cp. 1 Chron. 8:40; 12:2. 2 Chron. 14:8; 17:17). For a similar reason the scripture (Ex. 3) about "The Bush" is so called in Mark 12:26. Luke 20:37.

19 gazelle. Symbolic of beauty and grace.

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

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

17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

18 (Also he bade them teach the *sons* of Judah *the lamentation* of ^othe bow: behold, *it is* written in the book of Jasher.)

19 The ^o*gazelle* of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

20 Tell *it* not in Gath, Publish *it* not in the streets of Askelon; Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, *let there be* no dew, Neither *let there be* rain, upon you, Nor fields of offerings: For there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, The shield of Saul, [*the weapon of one anointed with oil*], not anointed with oil.

22 From 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.

23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided: They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with *other* delights, Who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou was slain in thine high places.

26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: Thy love to me was wonderful, Passing the love of women.

27 *How is it that mighty ones have fallen, And weapons of war have perished!*

2 And it came to pass after this, that David ^oinquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And **He** said, Unto Hebron.

2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

3 And his men that *were* with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

4 And the men of Judah came, and there they ^oanointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabesh-gilead *were they* that buried Saul.

5 And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

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

7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye *sons of valour*: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

8 But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took ^oIsh-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

9 And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

10 Ish-bosheth Saul's son *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

12 And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

2. 1 **enquired.** Probably by Urim and Thummim, in the breastplate of Abiathar the High Priest, who was with David (1 Sam. 22:20).

4 **anointed David.** Aged thirty-years. See note on 1 Sam. 16:13.

8 **Ish-bosheth.** = man of shame: i.e. the idol "Baal". In 1 Chron. 8:23 = Esh-baal.

13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

14 And Abner said to Joab, Let the *common soldiers* now arise, and *make sport* before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.

15 Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, *pertaining* to Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

16 And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which *is* in Gibeon.

17 And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

18 And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel *was as* light of foot *as one of the gazelles which are in the field*.

19 And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

20 Then Abner looked behind him, and said, *Art* thou Asahel? And he answered, *I am*.

21 And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

22 And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?

23 Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth *rib*, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still [*with horror at the sight*].

24 Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that *lieth* before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

25 And the *sons* of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of an hill.

26 Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the People return from following their brethren?

27 And Joab said, As God liveth, unless thou hadst spoken [*the words which caused the provocation*], surely then in the morning the People had gone up every one from following his brother.

28 So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.

29 And Abner and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jordan, and went through all ^oBithron, and they came to Mahanaim.

30 And Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the People together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.

31 But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, *so that* three hundred and threescore men died.

32 And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which *was in* Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day.

3 Now there was long war between the house of ^oSaul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

2 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

3 And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the ^owife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, ^oAbsalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

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

5 And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah ^oDavid's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

6 And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

29 *Bithron*. = the ravine.

3. 1 *Saul*. Note the Fig. in this verse, and the Introversion of the subjects of this chapter.

3 *wife of Nabal*. Figs. *Epitheton* and *Ampliatio* (Ap. 6), by which Abigail is still called by way of explanation. See note on 1 Sam. 30:5.

Absalom. Born in the Jubilee year, 958-957. Hence his name.

5 *David's wife*. Probably added, parenthetically, to indicate his *first* wife.

7 *Ish-bosheth*. Ellipsis. But some codices, with three early printed editions, read "the name".

7 And Saul had a concubine, whose name *was* Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and ^o*Ish-bosheth* said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

8 Then was Abner very wroth for the words of *Ish-bosheth*, and said, *Am* I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with *iniquity* concerning this woman?

9 So do God to Abner, and more also, except, *according as* the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

10 To translate 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.

11 And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.

12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose *is* the land? saying *also*, Make thy *covenant* with me, and, ^{*}behold, my *helping hand shall be* with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

13 And he said, *Good !* I will make a *covenant* with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

14 And David sent messengers to *Ish-bosheth* Saul's son, saying, Deliver *me* my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

15 And *Ish-bosheth* sent, and took *her* from her husband, *even* from ^oPhaltiel the son of Laish.

16 And her husband went with her *weeping as he went* behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

17 And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past *to be* king over you:

18 Now then *act*: for the LORD hath 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.

19 And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.

20 So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that *were* with him a feast.

21 And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a *covenant* with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that *thy soul* desireth. And David *let Abner go*; and he went in peace.

22 And, *Behold, the servants of David and Joab came from *making a raid*, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner *was* not with David in Hebron; for he had *let him go*, and he was gone in peace.

23 When Joab and all the host that *was* with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

24 Then Joab came to the king, and said, *What hast thou done? *behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast *let him go*, and he is quite gone?

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

26 And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew *it* not.

27 And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

28 And afterward when David heard *it*, he said, I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before the LORD for ever from the *noble blood* of Abner the son of Ner:

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

30 So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

31 And David said to Joab, and to all the People that *were* with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David *himself* followed the *bed*.

32 And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the People wept.

33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said, *Died Abner as a fool dieth [*running into needless danger*]?

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

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

36 And all the People took notice *of it*, and it *was good in their eyes*: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the People.

37 For all the People and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

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

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

4 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

2 And Saul's son had two men *that were* captains of bands: the name of the one *was* Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the *sons* of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:

3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was* lame of *his* feet. He was five years old when the tidings came *of the death of Saul* and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name *was* Mephibosheth.

5 And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ish-bosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.

6 *Thither, into the interior of the house, came wheat-fetchers, and they smote* him under the fifth *rib*: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

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

8 And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, **Who** hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

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

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

12 And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth, and buried *it* in the ^osepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

5 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, *Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that ledest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt *feed as a shepherd* My People Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David *solemnized a covenant* with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they ^oanointed David king over Israel.

4 David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years.

5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

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5. 3 *anointed David*. See note on 1 Sam. 16:13.

7 *the strong hold of Zion*. i.e. the hill of Ophel, immediately south of Moriah.

Zion. First occurrence. Occurs 154 times in O.T. (7x22, Ap.10); used later (especially in prophecy) of the whole city.

the city of David. Which is on Jebus, therefore, and not on the west side. First occurrence. Occurs forty times in O.T. Used of Zion five times (2 Sam. 5:7, 9. 1 Kings 8:1. 1 Chron. 11:5 2 Chron. 5:2).

8 *through the zinnor*. the zinnor, a rock-cut passage from the lower Gihon or En-Rogel (now the Virgin's Fount on east of Ophel), leading up into the city and supplying water.

he shall be chief and captain. These words are supplied from 1 Chron. 11:6, which tells that Joab got up the *zinnor* first. Probably revealed to him (or to David) by Araunah, who (though a Jebusite) was not slain, but is found, later on, owning property quite near (24:16). Josephus says Araunah was a friend of David's.

9 *the Millo*. Or "the filling up": i.e. of the valley between Moriah and Jebus.

11 **Hariam**. Not the Hiram of 1 Kings 9:11, which was sixty years later. Josephus says he was his father. Cp. 2 Chron. 2:13. 1 Kings 5:1.

Tyre. Israel had no war with Phoenicians. Asher failed to expel them (Judg. 1:31).

13 **out of**. Perhaps this should read "into", as in 1 Chron. 14:3. But both accounts are independent and complementary.

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, *Thou shalt not come in hither, for the blind and the lame shall drive thee away by saying, 'David shall not come in hither'*.

7 Nevertheless David took ^othe strong hold of ^oZion: the same *is* ^othe city of David.

8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up ^o*through the zinnor*, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of David's soul, ^o*he shall be chief and captain*. **Because** they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9 So David dwelt in *the strong hold*, and called it ⁷the city of David. And David built round about from ^o*the Millo* and inward.

10 And David *went on and on*, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts *was* with him.

11 And ^oHiram king of ^oTyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that **He** had exalted his kingdom for **His** People Israel's sake.

13 And David took *him* more concubines and wives ^oout of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

14 And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

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

16 And Elishama, and °Eliada, and Eliphalet.

17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to °seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the °hold.

18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of °Rephaim.

19 And David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath *broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of °Rephaim.

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

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

25 And David did so, *according as* the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from *Gibeon* until thou come to Gazer.

6 Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from °Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, *whereupon is called the name* of °the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon °a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

16 *Eliada*. = Another name, Beeliada. See note on 1 Chron. 14:7.

17 *seek*. Cp. 1 Sam. 26:2.

hold. Probably Adullam.

1 Sam. 22:1. Not Zion, because he went "down" to it.

18 *Rephaim*. The descendants of the Nephilim through one "Rapha". See [Ap.23](#) and [25](#).

6. 2 *Baale*. The old Canaanite name of Kirjath-jearim.

the LORD of hosts. Heb. Jehovah Sebaoth. One of the Jehovah titles. [Ap. 4.II](#). Cp. 5:10, and see note on 1Sam. 1:3.

3 *a new cart*. This was contrary to the Divinely prescribed law (Num. 4:15; 7:9; 10:21. Deut. 10:8, . Josh 3:14, 2 Sam. 15:24. 1Chron. 13:7; 15:2, &c.). When the Philistines did it in ignorance (1 Sam. 6:7) no judgment fell on them, because the Law of Moses was not delivered to them. But David should have known: hence judgment came. The solemn lesson is that anything introduced into the worship of God contrary to His requirements is deserving of His judgments. This includes all that is contrary to John 4:24, and all that is of the flesh, which "profiteth nothing" (John 6:63). All this is like David's "new cart" and is sin in God's sight. See note on 1 Sam. 6:7, and cp. 1 Sam. 15:22.

6 *Nachon's*. Same as Chidon (1 Chron. 13:9).

his hand. These words are contained in the Aram., Sept., Syr., and Vulg.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of °*instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on *drums*, and on cornets, and on *tambourines*.

6 And when they came to °Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth °*his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his negligence*; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had *broke forth* upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perez-uzzah to this day.

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

10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obed-edom, and all his household.

12 And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and ^obrought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness.

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

14 And David ^odanced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with ^oa linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David ^oleaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the *tent* that David had pitched for it: and David *offered up* burnt offerings and peace offerings [*which were for thanksgiving*] before the LORD.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of *offering up* burnt offerings and ¹⁷peace offerings, he blessed the People in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the People, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and *a measure of wine*, and *a cake of raisins*. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the ^odaughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who ^o*disrobed* himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

21 And David said unto Michal, *Before Jehovah did I dance*, Which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the People of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

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

23 Therefore Michal the ²⁰daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

12 brought up the ark. Cp. 1 Chron. 15:3.

14 danced. This explains the subscription of Ps. 87 (not the title of 88, see note there), *Mahalath, Leannoth* =dancing with shoutings. Cp. 1 Chron. 15:25-29. See Ap.65.

a linen ephod. Cp. Aaron (Ex. 28:6) and Samuel (1 Sam. 2:18).

16 leaping and dancing. See note on v. 14.

20 daughter of Saul. Note this. It does not say "the wife of David". *disrobed.* referring to his royal robes.

7. 1 came to pass. This chapter takes its place with Gen. 15. It is the unconditional Covenant with David, to give him the *Throne*; as that was with Abraham, to give him the *Land*.

the king. Thus now dignified.

2 Nathan. The first occurrence of his name. Cp. 1 Chron. 29:29. An important figure in David's reign, and associated with his son Solomon (vv. 12, 13; 12:25. 1 Kings 1:10-45).

3 Nathan said. Not from Jehovah, as in v. 5, but from himself: and said what was wrong.

do all that, &c. This is seldom safe advice.

4 that night. After these words all the MSS. have a hiatus, marking a solemn pause, and pointing back to the corresponding night of Gen. 15:12-17, thus connecting the two great unconditional Covenants.

5 My servant. Note the repletion of this word throughout this chapter. See note on v. 18.

8 I took. Cp. 1 Sam. 16:11, 12. Ps. 78:70, 71.

7 And it ^ocame to pass, when ^othe king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2 That the king said unto ^oNathan the prophet, *See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within *a tent*.

3 And ^oNathan said to the king, Go, ^odo all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

4 And it came to pass ^othat night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

5 Go and tell ^oMy servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build **Me** an house for **Me** to dwell in?

6 Whereas **I** have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the *sons* of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but *have been walking habitually* in a tent *as My habitation*.

7 In all *the places* wherein **I** have walked with all the *sons* of Israel spake **I** a word with any of the *judges* of Israel, whom **I** commanded to feed **My** People Israel, saying, Why build ye not **Me** an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto **My** servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, ^o**I** took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over **My** People, ... Israel:

9 And **I** was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and **I will assuredly make** thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

10 Moreover **I** will appoint a place for **My People** Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the *sons* of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

11 And as since the time that **I** commanded judges *to be* over **My People** Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the **LORD** telleth thee that **He** will make thee ^o*a family*.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt ^osleep with thy fathers, **I** will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and **I** will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for **My** name, and **I** will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 **I** will be *to him a Father*, and he shall be **My** son. If he commit iniquity, **I** will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the *sons* of men:

15 But **My lovingkindness** shall not depart away from him, *according as* **I** took *it* from Saul, whom **I** put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before **Me**: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

18 ^oThen went king David in, and ^osat before the **LORD**, and he said, *Who *am* I, ^oO Lord **GOD**? and what *is* my house, that **Thou** hast brought me hitherto?

19 And this was yet a small thing in **Thy** sight, ¹⁸O Lord **GOD**; but **Thou** hast spoken also of **Thy** servant's house for a great while to come. *And is this the Law of* ^o*the man*, ¹⁸O Lord **GOD**?

20 And what can David say more unto **Thee**? for **Thou**, ¹⁸Lord **GOD**, knowest **Thy** servant.

21 For **Thy** word's sake, and according to **Thine** own heart, hast **Thou** done all these great things, to make **Thy** servant know *them*.

22 *Wherefore I will declare and praise Thee as great*, ^oO **LORD** God: for *there is* none like **Thee**, neither *is there any* God beside **Thee**, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And *what one nation in the earth *is* like **Thy** People, *even like Thy People Israel*, whom God went to redeem for a People to **Himself**, and to make **Him** a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for **Thy** land, before **Thy** People, which **Thou** redeemedst to **Thee** from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

11 *a family*. i.e. a line of succession.

12 *sleep with thy fathers*. Fig. *Euphemism* (Ap.6), put for "die". See note on Deut. 31:16.

18 *Then*. It is grace that really humbles.

sat before the Lord. Very different from sitting before one's self, as in v.1.

O Lord God. = O Adonai Jehovah. Adonai because (1) David is the servant and He the master; (2) because this title has to do with lordship in the earth. Ap.4.V.III(2). Cp. vv. 19 (twice), 20, 28, 29, &c.

19 *the man*. Heb. *ha adam*. i.e. the Man of Ps. 8:5, 6, who is to have dominion over all the earth, embracing all the world in the scope of this blessing in connection with the Messiah. This is an exclamation of the greatest surprise and wonder of this revelation concerning David's son and David's Lord.

22 **O Lord God**. = O Jehovah Elohim. Note the change, because it is not now in connection with *the earth*, but what He is in Himself.

8.1 *subdued*. While David was victorious over enemies without, he was defeated by enemies within. See chs. 11 and 12.

Metheg-ammah. 1 Chron. 18:1 gives us the meaning, and shows that Metheg=bridle or reins, is put by Fig. *Metonymy*, for power or government, and Ammah-mother-city: i.e. "Gath and her daughters (i.e. towns)" (1 Chron. 18:1).

24 For **Thou** hast confirmed to **Thyself** **Thy** People Israel *to be* a people unto **Thee** for ever: and **Thou**, **LORD**, art become their God.

25 And now, O **LORD** God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning **Thy** servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do *according as* **Thou** hast said.

26 And let **Thy** name be magnified for ever, saying, The **LORD** of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of **Thy** servant David be established before **Thee**.

27 For **Thou**, O **LORD** of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to **Thy** servant, saying, **I** will build thee an house: therefore hath **Thy** servant *become emboldened* in his heart to pray this prayer unto **Thee**.

28 And now, O Lord **GOD**, thou *art* that God, and **Thy** words be *truth*, and **Thou** hast promised this goodness unto **Thy** servant:

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

8 And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and ^osubdued them: and David took ^oMetheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

2 And he smote Moab, and *divided by lot their territory* with a line, *casting down the cities* to the ground; even with two lines *allotted* he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

3 David smote also *Hadarezer*, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his *boundary* at the river Euphrates.

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

5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour *Hadarezer* king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought *tribute*. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of *Hadarezer*, and brought them to Jerusalem.

8 And from Bethah, and from Berothai, cities of *Hadarezer*, king David took exceeding much brass.

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

10 Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against *Hadarezer*, and smitten him: for *Hadarezer* had wars with Toi. And Joram brought *in his hand* vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:

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

12 Of *Edom*, and of Moab, and of the *sons* of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of *Hadarezer*, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13 And David *made himself* a name when he returned from *his smiting* of the Syrians in the valley of salt, *being* eighteen thousand men.

14 And he put *political residents* in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his People.

16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* *remembrancer*;

2 smote Moab. Thus fulfilling Num. 24:17.

divided by lot. See note on "line" below: i.e. David divided into two companies those who were to be spared and those who were not.

line. Line, put by Fig., for dividing or allotting what was measured with it. Deut. 3:4, 13 (region); 32:8, 9. Josh. 17:6, 14.

to put to death. These were soldiers in arms, not inhabitants.

3 Zobah. See Ps. 60 (title), and cp. 1 Sam. 14:47.

7 shields. Sept. reads "bracelets".

9 Toi. Sept. and Vulg. read "Tou" throughout. Cp. 1Chron. 18:9. He was a Hittite king.

10 Joram. Sept. reads "Hadoram". Cp. 1 Chron. 18:10.

12 Amalek. See note on Ex. 17:16.

13 his smiting. This is David's exploit. In 1 Chron. 18:3, 12 it is Abishai's command, while in title of Ps. 60 it is Joab's share in the campaign (1 Kings 11:16).

eighteen thousand. This is the total. Joab's share was 12,000, and took six months longer. Cp. 1 Kings 11:15, 16.

17 Zadok. Probably served at Gibeon. Cp. 1 Chron. 18:16.

Ahimelech the son of Abiathar. Named after his grandfather (1 Sam. 21:1; 22:9, 16).

the scribe. The first occurrence of this title. Heb. *sophir*, a counter. Individual scribes held high positions as associates of the High Priests, and of the commander-in-chief. They were amanuenses, registrars, accountants (2 Kings 12:10); adjutants (2 Kings 25:19); secretaries of state (2 Sam. 8:17. Isa. 33:18). First occurrence as a class or caste (1 Chron. 2:55); a branch of the Levites (2 Chron. 34:13). When Priests, who should have been teachers of the Law (Deut. 17:11; 33:10), became absorbed in ritual, the Scribes became custodians. Ezra was an ideal priest and scribe.

18 Benaiah. Cp. 23:20.

Cherethites...Pelethites. David's body-guards. Here ends the *prosperous* part of David's reign.

9.1 favour. grace, or lovingkindness.

3 lame. Cp. 4:4.

17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, *were* the priests; and Seraiah *was* the scribe;

18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

9 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him *favour* for Jonathan's sake?

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

3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet *a man* of the house of Saul, that I may shew the *favour* of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet.

4 And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, *Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in °Lo-debar.

5 Then king David °sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from ⁴Lo-debar.

6 Now when °Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee ¹*favour* for Jonathan °thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of *Saul thy grandfather*; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

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

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

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

11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name *was* Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants unto °Mephibosheth.

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and *he was* lame on both his feet.

10 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the *sons* of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.

2 Then said David, I will shew °*grace* unto Hanun the son of Nahash, *according as* his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the *sons* of Ammon.

3 And the princes of the *sons* of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David *rather* sent his servants unto thee, to *explore* °the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

4 *Lo-debar*. = no pasture. Where the sinner is until found by God's grace.

5 *sent and fetched*. This is the action of grace towards the "lost" sinner. Cp. Luke 15:4, 5, 8, 9.

6 *Mephibosheth*. Born in 965 (4:4). Now seventeen, and a father of a young son (v. 12).

7 *thy father's sake*. So with God's grace to us; not for the sake of the lost one.

8 *a dead dog*. Self-abasement is ever the result of grace shown.

I am. So the sinner is concerned about what he *is*, rather than what he has *done*. Cp. Isa. 6:5. Luke 5:8.

12 *Mephibosheth*. Note the Fig. *Epanadiplosis* (Ap.6) in this verse: being repeated at the beginning of the next verse.

10. 2 *grace*. Or, lovingkindness. Cp. 9:1.

3 *the city*. Some codices with one early printed edition read "the land". Cp. 1Chron. 19:3.

12 *be strong and let us, &c*. Heb. hozak.

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

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

6 And when the *sons* of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the *sons* of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and *men of Tob* twelve thousand 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 entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and *men of Tob*, and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field.

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 And the rest of the People he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the *sons* of Ammon.

11 And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the *sons* of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.

12 Be of good courage, and let us °*be strong and let us put forth our strength* for our People, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth **Him** good.

13 And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.

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.

15 And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together.

16 And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that *were* beyond **the Euphrates**: and they came to Helam; and ^oShobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer *went* before them.

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.

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.

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 *sons* of Ammon any more.

11 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, *in the spring* when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the *sons* of Ammon, and besieged ^oRabbah. ^oBut David tarried still at Jerusalem.

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 ^o**bathing**; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

3 And David sent and inquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this ^oBath-sheba, the daughter of ^oEliam, the wife of ^oUriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; **and when** she was ^opurified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and ^osent and told David, and said, *I am* with child.

6 And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

16 Shobach. Another name, Shophach (1 Chron. 19:16).

11. 1 Rabbah. The capital of Ammon (Deut. 3:11. Josh. 13:25). **But David tarried.** Note Contrast with "kings" going forth, above, and this word "But".

2 bathing. Probably in the court below.

3 Bath-sheba. Called Bath-shua, 1 Chron. 3:5.

Eliam. Called "Ammiel", 1 Chron. 3:5. The son of Ahithophel (23:34). **Uriah.** One of David's faithful soldiers (23:39). Married the daughter of Eliam (11:3), who was the son of Ahithophel (23:34). This relationship probably led to Ahithophel's disloyalty (15:12).

4 purified. Cp. Lev. 15:18. It is possible to be more punctilious about the ceremonial Law than the moral Law.

5 sent and told. That David might shield her from the death penalty (Lev. 20:10).

11 thou. (emph.).Heb. nephesh. Ap. 13.

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.

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.

9 But Uriah slept at the **entrance** of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

10 And when they had told 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 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* ^o**thou** liveth, I will not do this thing.

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.

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.

14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

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.

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*.

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.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

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

20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot *from off* the wall?

21 Who smote Abimelech the son of ^oJerubbesheth? did not ^oa woman cast a *upper piece* of a ^omillstone 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.

22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

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 *entrance* of the gate.

24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and *some* of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing ^o*be evil in thine eyes*, for the sword devoureth *now this one, now that one*: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she *made lamentations* for her husband.

27 And when the mourning was past, David ^osent 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.

21 Jerubbesheth. (Judg. 9:1) = Jerubbaal. Baal=lord, Bosheth=shame; changed by the Holy Spirit here to suit his idolatry (Judg. 8:27), and now David's sin. **a woman.** One of the ten deaths caused by a woman. See note on Judg. 4:21. **millstone.** One of the "despised" things used. See note on Judg. 3:21; 9:53.

25 evil in thine eyes. This event put David in Joab's power, which Joab freely used. David was not tongue-tied in 3:29; but from now he had to endure Joab's insolence, being too suspicious to trust him, too weak to dismiss him. Cp. 14:19; 19:7. 1 Kings 2:5, 32, 33.

27 sent. Not till nine months after.

12. 1 sent. See 11:27.

5 shall surely die. Heb. is a son of death=liable to die.

6 fourfold. Cp. Ex. 22:1. Sept. reads "sevenfold".

7 Thou art the man. Many means used to produce conviction: God's greatness (Job 42:1-6); God's glory (Isa. 6:5); God's power (Luke 5:8); a famine (Luke 15:14, 18); a parable (2 Sam. 12:1-13), &c.

anointed thee. 1 Sam. 16:13.

12 And the LORD ^osent *Nathan the prophet* 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.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

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

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

5 And 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* ^oshall surely die:

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

7 And Nathan said to David, ^oThou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **I** ^oanointed thee king over Israel, and **I** delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And **I** gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in **His** sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be thy wife*, and hast slain him with the sword of the *sons* of Ammon.

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.

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

12 For °thou didst *it* secretly: but **I** will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

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; *therefore thou wilt not die.*

14 Howbeit, because by this deed °*thou hast greatly blasphemed Jehovah*, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

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.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David *made a strict fast*, and went in, and °lay all night upon the earth.

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

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of 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?

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.

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.

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

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

10 the sword. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), for manifested hostility.

never. Fig. *Synecdoche* (of the Whole), put for a part of time: i.e. lifetime.

11 thine own house. Disgraced by one son (13:14), banished by another (15:19), revolted against by a third (1 Kings 2), bearded by his servant, betrayed by his friends, deserted by his People, bereaved of his children.

12 thou. See note on v. 9.

13 I have sinned. Ps. 51 is the expansion of this.

hath put away. Divine forgiveness instantly follows the sinner's confession (1John 1:9). Cp. Job 42:6, 8, 10. Isa. 6:5, 6, "then flew". Luke 15:18, 20, "his father ran", &c.

14 Thou hast greatly, &c. This is noted in the *Massorah* (Ap.30) as one of the emendations of the *Sopherim* (Ap.33), who altered the primitive text out of a mistaken reverence for David and Jehovah. The original reading was "thou hast greatly blasphemed Jehovah".

16 lay all night, &c. As a penitent, with Ps. 51 for his utterance. Note his *sitting* before Jehovah as a worshipper, and his utterance (2 Sam. 7:18-29); and his *standing* as a servant (1 Chron. 28:2), and his utterance and service (1 Chron. 28:3-29:21).

23 I shall die, &c. i.e. I shall go to the (not "a") grave (*Sheol*). On the use of this Fig. *Euphemy* (Ap.6) as denoting death and burial, see Gen. 15:15, &c.

24 he. Some codices, with Syr. and Vulg., read "she", in contrast with "he" in next verse.

Solomon. Pacific or Peaceable. Cp. 7:13.

25 Jehovah. i.e. Jehovah, by the hand of Nathan, in contrast with Bath-sheba. see note on v. 24.

Jedidiah. =beloved of Jah. See note on Ps. 127.2.

27 city of waters. Fig. =waters of the city: i.e. the lower waters or town, cutting off the citadel, which David came and took.

23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? °*I shall die and be buried*, but he shall not return to me.

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.

25 And **He** sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and °*Jehovah, by the hand of Nathan* called his name °Jedidiah, *for Jehovah's sake.*

26 And Joab fought against Rabbah of the *sons* of Ammon, and took the royal city.

27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the °city of waters.

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

29 And David gathered all the People together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

30 And he took ^o*the crown of Milcom* 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.

31 And he brought forth the people that *were* therein, and *appointed them* ^o*to work with* saws, and *with* harrows of iron, and *with* axes of iron, and made them *pass by* the ^o*brick pavement*: and ^othus did he unto all the cities of the *sons* of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

13 And it came to pass ^oafter this, that ^oAbsalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

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.

3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab *was* a very *wise* man.

4 And he said unto him, Why *art* thou, *being* the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and *feign* thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me *heart-shaped cakes*, and dress the *cakes* in my sight, that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.

6 So Amnon lay down, and *feigned* 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.

7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him *heart-shaped cakes*.

8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took *dough*, and kneaded *it*, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

9 And she took *the 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.

30 the crown of Milcom. With Sept. Cp. 1 Chron. 20:2. Jer. 49:1, 3. Amos 1:15. Zeph. 1:5 (*Comp Bible*).

31 to work with. Heb. letter \beth (*Beth*), prefixed as prep.= *in, within, with*. *Beth*, when translated "under", is only in the sense of *within* (as "under (or within the shelter of) the wing", or "under (or within) the earth"). Otherwise, used with a tool or weapon or instrument, it always means "with", &c.

brick pavement. Not brickkiln; no brickkilns in Palestine. All bricks there are sun-dried. Only once spoken of as burnt—as being a strange thing (Gen. 11:3, and marg.). The very paved area of Jer. 43:9 was discovered at *Tahpanhes* by Flinders Petrie in 1886, where Nebuchadnezzar did exactly what David did here and in 8:2 and 1 Chron. 20:3.

thus did he. i.e. as in 8:2, with Moab, so here; he caused the captives to pass by before him, he seated on a pavement of brick-work, or paved area, where he appointed them to the various departments of labour for which they were suited. Cp. Jer. 43:9-11, &c.

13. 1 after this. i.e. 938. David, 53; Amnon, 22; Absalom, 20; Tamar, 15; Solomon, 2.

Absalom. Son of Maacah, daughter of king of Geshur.

10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the *cakes* 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.

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

12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not *humble* me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

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

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

15 Then 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.

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

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

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

19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her *long tunic with sleeves* that *was* on her, and *grieved*, and went on crying.

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 and remained desolate* in her brother Absalom's house.

21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

22 And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

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.

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.

25 And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be *burdensome* unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.

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?

27 But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him [*and Absalom made a banquet, like the banquet of a king*].

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 *sons of valour*.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

35 And Jonadab said unto the king, *Behold, the king's sons come: *according as* thy servant said, so it is.

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

37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of *Ammihur*, king of Geshur. And *David the king* mourned for his son every day.

38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

39 And *the soul* of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

14 Now Joab the son of Zeruah perceived that the king's heart *was* toward Absalom.

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:

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

4 And when the woman of Tekoah *came in unto the king*, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.

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

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

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

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

9 And the woman of 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.

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

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

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

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

14 For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* ^operson: yet doth **H**e devise means, that **H**is banished be not expelled from **H**im.

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

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

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

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

11 *recall to mind.* i.e. take an oath. *avengers.* Or next of kin. Heb *ga'al*. See note on Ex. 6:6, and cp. Num. 35:19, 21, 24, 25, 27.

14 *person.* = soul. Heb. *nepshesh.* Ap. 13.

21 **I.** Some codices read "thou".

26 *kings's weight.* To distinguish it from the sacred shekel.

27 *three sons.* Did not survive him. Cp. 18:18.

19 And the king said, *Is not* the *handiwork* of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, *no man* 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:

20 *To bring about this turn of affairs* 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.

21 And the king said unto Joab, *Behold now, ^oI have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

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

23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

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.

25 But in all Israel there was *no man* 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.

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 ^oking's weight.

27 And unto Absalom there were born ^othree sons, and one daughter, whose name *was* Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

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.

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.

31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto *his* house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

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.

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 And ^oit came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and ^ohorses, and fifty men to ^orun before him.

2 And Absalom *used to rise* 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.

3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy *pleas' are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.

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!

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

6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the ^ohearts of the men of Israel.

7 And it came to pass after ^oforty years [*from David's anointing*], that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay *my solemn vow* unto the LORD, in ^oHebron.

8 For thy servant *made a solemn 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. 1 it came to pass. Cp. Ps. 3 and chs. 15—18. David was now fifty-six, Absalom twenty-four, Solomon six.

horses. A sign of his pride (Deut. 17:16, 20).

run before. To clear the way. Mark of royalty or dignity (Still done in Cairo.) Cp. 1 Sam. 8:11. 1 Kings 1:5; 18:46.

6 hearts. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), for affections and adhesion.

7 forty years. from David's anointing (1 Sam. 16:13): i.e. 974-934.

Hebron. Where he was born, and had friends.

14 city. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Subject), for its inhabitants.

17 a place that was far off. Heb. *Beth-hammer-hah*. Probably a proper name.

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

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.

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.

12 And Absalom *sent and called* 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.

13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

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 ^ocity with the edge of the sword.

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

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

17 And the king went forth, and all the People after him, and tarried in ^oa place that was far off.

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.

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 foreigner*, and also an exile.

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

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.

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.

23 And *all the country round him* 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.

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.

25 And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: ^oif I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, **H**e will bring me again, and shew me *both* it, and **H**is habitation:

26 But if **H**e thus say, I have no delight in thee; ^{*}behold, *here am I*, let **H**im do to me *according as* seemeth good unto **H**im.

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.

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

29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.

30 And David went up by the ascent of *mount* ^oOlivet, and ^owept as he went up, and had ^ohis head covered, and he went ^obarefoot: and all the People that *was* with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

31 And *one* ^otold David, saying, Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

32 And it came to pass, that *when* David was come to ^othe top of the *mount*, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai [*David's friend*] the Archite came to meet him with his ^ocoat rent, and earth upon his head:

20 *faithfulness*. Sept. and Syr. read "Jehovah will deal with thee in lovingkindness and faithfulness".

25 *if I shall find favour, &c.* God's grace is the basis of all blessing. Cp. Num. 14:8. Deut. 10:15. 2 Sam. 22:20. 1 Kings 10:9. 2 Chron. 9:8.

30 *Olivet*. Name due to the Vulg. *Oliveti* in Acts 1:12.

wept. Cp. Luke 19:41.

head covered. Symbol of self-condemnation.

barefoot. Symbol of mourning. Isa. 20:2, 4. Ezek. 24:17.

31 *told David*. The news came when the trial was greatest. Cp. Ps. 41:9.

32 *the top*. Doubtless a high place where God was worshipped. Nob was near where the Tabernacle once stood.

coat. =the long tunic with sleeves.

16. 1 *top*. Cp. 15:32. **Mephibosheth**. Now thirty-one. Born in 965.

Cp. 4:4. *wine*. Heb. *yayin*. See Ap. 27.I.

3 *he said*. This was slander. See 19:24—30.

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

34 But if thou return to the city, and say unto 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.

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.

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.

37 So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

16 And when David was a little past the ^otop of the *hill*, ^{*}behold, Ziba the servant of ^oMephibosheth 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 *skin-bottle* of ^owine.

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.

3 And the king said, And where *is* thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, ^{*}Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for ^ohe said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

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.

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.

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.

7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, **Get gone**, thou °*man of bloods*, and °thou man of Belial:

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 man of bloods*.

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.

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?

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* Benjamite *do it?* let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

12 It may be that °**Jehovah will behold with His eye**, and that the LORD will °requite me good for his cursing this day.

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 much dust**.

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

15 And Absalom, and all the People the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

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.

17 And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?

5 Bahurim. On east side of Olivet; "in tribe of Benjamin".

7 man of bloods. (pl. denoting much blood).

thou man of Belial. Cp. 1 Sam. 1:16; 10:27.

9 dead dog. Figure. Cp. 1 Sam. 17:43.

10 What have I to do...? First occurrence of this idiom. Fig. *Erotosis*. Cp. 19:22. 1 Kings 17:18. 2 Kings 3:13. Matt. 8:29. Mark 1:24. Luke 4:34. John 2:4. **sons of Zeruiah.** Cp. 3:39 and Luke 9:55.

let him curse. Uriah's murder closed David's mouth (12:9).

12 Jehovah will behold, &c. This is one of the eighteen emendations of the *Sopherim* (Ap. 33). The primitive text reads "Jehovah will behold with His eye". This was thought to be too anthropomorphic, and so was altered to "look on mine afflictions", and the alternation recorded.

requite. Cp. Ps. 109:26-28.

14 weary. Heb. *Ayiphim*. Perhaps the name of a place, or of a caravansary with that name, "for the weary".

21 said. Instigated by feelings of private revenge against David for his sin with Bath-sheba; she being the daughter of his son, Eliam. See 23:34. Cp. 11:3. Foretold by Nathan (12:11, 12).

22 the top of the house. Cp. 11:2.

23 word. The first occurrence of "oracle" as a rendering (fifteen times) of *dabar*, word.

17.1 I will. Ahithophel, manifests personal vengeance. See note on 16:21 and 17:11.

this night. Cp. Ps. 4:8. Ps. 4 is concerning inheritances. David's was in jeopardy (v. 2), but his trust was in Jehovah's favour (15:25; 22:20; Ps. 18:19).

18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this People, and all the men of Israel, **hat chosen**, his will I be, and with him will I abide.

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

20 Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

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.

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.

23 And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, *was according as* if a man had inquired at the °**word** of God: so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

17 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now **choose for myself** twelve thousand men, and °I will arise and pursue after David °this night:

2 And ¹I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the People that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:

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

4 And the saying *was good in the eyes of Absalom, and in the eyes of all* the elders of Israel.

5 Then said Absalom, ^o*Call ye* Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.

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.

7 And Hushai said unto Absalom, The ^ocounsel that Ahithophel hath ^ogiven *is* not good at this time.

8 For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they *be* ^omighty men, and they *be bitter* in their ^ominds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father *is* a man of war, and will not lodge with the People.

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

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 sons of valour*.

11 Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, *as the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude; and that *thou thyself* go ^oto battle ^oin thine own person.

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

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

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 *the evil* upon Absalom.

5 *Call ye.* Heb. = "Call thou" (cp. "thou", v. 6); but Sept. and Vulg. read "Call ye".

7 *counsel...given.* Heb. counsel...counseled. Fig. *Ployptoton* =the good counsel (but "not good" now).

8 *mighty men.* Heb. gibborim. Ap. 14.IV. *minds.* =souls. Heb. *nephesh*.

11 *to battle.* Heb. *karab*, never used of battle (which is *mihamah*).

Bikkrah, rendered "to battle", as an abbreviation for *b^ekirbah*="in the midst of them", which is the reading of the Sept. and Vulg.

in thine own person. By all this emphasis Hushai represents Ahithophel's personal malice (which need not disturb Absalom) as being personal pride aimed against Absalom. See vv. 1-3, "I will arise"; "I will come"; "I will smite"; "I will bring back", &c.

17 *En-rogel.* Now the Virgin's Fount, on the east side of Ophel, or Jebus, from which the *Zinnor* runs up to the citadel. See note on 5:8. Cp. Josh. 15:7; 18:16, and Ap. 68. on Zion.

18 *went down.* Wells mostly dry in summer.

20 *said.* Probably misdirecting them.

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.

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 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by ^oEn-rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and *a maidservant* went and told them; and they went and told king David.

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 ^owent down.

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

20 And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where *is* Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman ^osaid unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

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.

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.

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 *gave charge unto his household*, and °hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and *the greater part of* the men of Israel with him.

25 And Absalom *appointed* Amasa *captain over* the host instead of Joab: which Amasa *was* a man's son, whose name *was* *Jetheran an Ishmeelite*, that °went in to °Abigail the daughter of Nahash, °sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

26 So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

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 Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

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

29 And honey, and °butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for 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 And David °*inspected* the People that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

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.

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 *come to us out of the city with help by prayer and counsel*.

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.

22 *Jordan*. Cp. Ps. 42:6 and 43; both Pss. referring to this period.

23 *hanged himself*. Not so much because his counsel was not taken, but his revenge was not taken on David (see note on 11:3; 16:21, and 17:1), and that the conspiracy must fail. Same word in Matt. 27:5 as in Sept. here (*apegxato*), as though to invite the comparison of Judas with Ahithophel.

25 *went in to*. Probably meaning seduced. If so, it would be during David's stay in Moab (1 Sam. 22:3, 4).

Abigail. David was probably half-brother to Abigail and Zeruiah, having the same mother; he having Jesse for his father, they having Nahash.

sister to Zeruiah. Implying that she was not sister to David.

27 *Machir*. He had brought up Maphibosheth. Cp. 9:5.

29 *butter*. Scarce in Lo-debar. Cp. 9:4. The word means place of "no pasture".

18.1 inspected. David was now fifty-six.

5 *heard*. This explains v. 12.

6 *wood of Ephraim*. Cp. Josh. 17:15—18.

8 *devoured*. Heb. "multiplied to devour", to emphasize the great number.

9 *taken up*. The tradition about his "hair" comes from Josephus.

11 *girdle*. A common present, made of silk, linen, or leather, and worked sometimes in gold. Used for fastening up loose garments.

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.

6 So the People went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the °wood of Ephraim;

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*.

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

9 And 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.

10 And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, *Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

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.

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, *Watch, for my sake any one who would touch the* young man Absalom.

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*.

14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three ^oclubs in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men that bare Joab's *weapons* compassed about and smote Absalom, and ^oslew him.

16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the People returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the People.

17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great ^oheap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

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 ^ono son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the ^opillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's *monument*.)

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.

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.

21 Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

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?

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.

24 And David sat ^obetween 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.

12 *our hearing*. See v. 5.

14 *clubs*. Heb. shebet, a club with a long spike at the end. Still used in Palestine.

15 *slew him*. David being fifty-seven years old; Absalom, twenty-four.

17 *heap of stones*. Not a memorial to honour but to warn (Josh. 7:26; 8:29). See note on v. 18.

18 *pillar*. Marks ambition's aim, while the heap of stones (v. 17) marks ambition's end.

no son. Cp. 14:27. Therefore built before the first-born; or after his sons (14:27) were dead.

monument. About a quarter of a mile east of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

24 *between the two gates*. The outer and inner gates of the city wall.

25 *if he be alone*. Otherwise it would be flight.

26 *gatekeeper*. No gates without the "Bawab", or gatekeeper. Cp. 2 Kings 7:17. 1 Chron. 9:21.

28 *Blessed be the Lord thy God*. Some codices, with three early printed editions, reverse the order, thus changing the emphasis, and read: "Jehovah thy God be blessed".

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

26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the ^o*gatekeeper*, and said, ^{*}Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

27 And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

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, ^oBlessed *be* the LORD thy God, Which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, *Is* the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, *even me* thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not *what it meant*.

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

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.

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*.

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 *instead of* thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

19 And it was told Joab, ^{*}Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.

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

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

4 But the king ^ocovered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

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 ^olife, and the ^olives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the ^olives of thy wives, and the ^olives of thy concubines;

6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast *made clear* 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.

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

8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the People, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the People came before the king: for ^oIsrael had fled every man to his tent.

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.

10 And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing ^othe king back?

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. 4 covered his face. Symbol of mourning. Occurs only here.

5 life...lives. =souls. Heb. *nephesh*.

7 Now. Note the Fig. *Epanadiplosis* (Ap. 6), to emphasize the completeness of Joab's reasoning. Cp. Isa. 40:2.

8 Israel. Note this name for Absalom's forces (17:24, 26; 18:6, 7).

10 the king. Note the Fig. "bringing back the king. And the king".

13 my bone, &c. i.e. my near relation =my nephew (17:25). Son of David's sister Abigail (1 Chron. 2:17).

15 Gilgal. Here Samuel renewed the kingdom. 1 Sam. 11:14. Cp. Josh. 5:9; 9:6; 10:6. 1 Sam. 7:16; 15:33.

16 Shimei. Cp. 16:5. Evidently a prominent Benjamite.

20 Joseph. Put by Fig. *Metonymy*, for the two tribes (Ephraim and Manasseh), or for the ten tribes, Israel (Amos 5:6, 15; 6:6. Obad. 18. Zech. 10:6). Cp. v. 43. In Ps 80:1 and 81:5, Joseph is put for the twelve tribes.

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

13 And say ye to Amasa, *Art* thou not of ^omy 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.

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.

15 So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to ^oGilgal, *to go down* to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

16 And ^oShimei the son of Gera, *the* Benjamite, which *was* of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

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.

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 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.

20 For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of ^oJoseph ¹⁵to go down to meet my lord the king.

21 But Abishai the son of Zeruah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?

22 And David said, °What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah, that ye should this day be *Satan* 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?

23 Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

24 And Mephibosheth the *grandson* 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.

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?

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

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

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

29 And the king said unto him, °Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? °I have said, °Thou and Ziba divide *Saul's estate*.

30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, *now that* as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

31 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.

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.

33 And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.

34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

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?

22 *What have I to do...?* See note on 16:10.

26 *Saddle for me, &c.* Sept. reads "Saddle for me the ass". A command which Ziba disobeyed, and went off himself instead. But was there only one ass in Jerusalem? See note v. 29.

28 *For all, &c.* Some codices, with one early printed edition, read "When in all the house of my father were none other than dead men".

What right...? Figure, to emphasize the free grace of David.

29 *Why speakest...?* Figure, to show dissatisfaction with Mephibosheth's defense. Hence his division of Saul's estate. See note on v. 26. *I have said.* Cp. 9:10. David revokes 16:4, and falls back on 9:10.

Thou and Ziba. Cp. 16:4.

40 *all...half.* A whole-hearted act on the part of Judah: and a half-hearted act on the part of Israel. This explains what follows.

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?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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?

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 And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name *was* Sheba, **a descendant of Becher**, 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 ^o**gods**, O Israel.

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.

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.

4 Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.

5 So Amasa went to assemble *the men of* Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

6 And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than *did* Absalom: take **now** *therefore* thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

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.

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 the sword dropped out, and fell.**

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.

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.

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.

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. 1 a descendant of Bacher. (Gen. 46:21).

gods. One of the emendations of the *Sopherim* (Ap. 33), by which they transposed the middle two letters of the primitive text and made it read "tents" instead of "gods". The same is done in 1 Kings 12:16, and 2Chron. 10:16. See note there.

19 a city, a mother city, &c. Figure, i.e. a metropolitan city.

22 tent. Cp. 19:8.

13 When he was **thrust** out of the highway, all the People went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

14 And **Joab** went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Beth-maachah, and all the **Bichrites**: and they were gathered together, and went also after **Sheba**.

15 And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a **mound** against the city, and it stood in the **rampart**: and all the People that *were* with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

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.

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.

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*.

19 I *am* one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy ^o**a city, a mother city, too** in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

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

21 The matter *is* not so: but a man of **the hill country** of 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.

22 Then the woman went unto ... 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 ^otent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

23 Now Joab *was* over all the host of Israel: and ^oBenaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:

24 And ^oAdoram *was* over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder:

25 And Sheva *was* ^oscribe: and Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests:

26 And Ira also the Jairite *was* a ^ochief ruler about David.

21 Then there *was* a ^ofamine in the days of David three years, ^o*the year after that year*; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

2 And the king called the ^oGibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites *they were* not of the *sons* of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the *sons* of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the *sons* of Israel and Judah.)

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?

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.

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 *borders* of Israel,

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*.

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.

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 *Merab* the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

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 *they were* put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

23 Benaiah. Cp. 8:18; 23:20. 1 Kings 1:8; 2:34.

24 Adoram. Same name as Adoniram (1 Kings 4:6).

25 scribe. Or secretary. Cp. 8:17.

26 chief ruler. Cp. 8:18; 23:38.

21. 1 famine. One of thirteen mentioned. See note on Gen. 12:10. *the year after that year.* i.e. 932. David being now fifty-eight.

2 Gibeonites. Cp. Josh. 9:3, 16, 17.

12 open space by the gate. (2 Chron. 32:6. Neh. 8:1, 3, 16).

15 war again. 930-923 B.C. **waxed faint.** David was now sixty.

16 giant. =Rapha. See Ap. 23 and 25.

17 lamp. Cp. Gen. 15:17. 1 Kings 15:4. Prov. 13:9; 20:20, though not the same word in Gen. 15:17.

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.

11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

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 ^o*open space by the gate* of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, *in the day* the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

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.

14 And the bones of Saul and *the bones of Jonathan* his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed *according to all* that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

15 Moreover the Philistines had yet ^owar again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David ^owaxed faint.

16 And Ishbi-benob, which *was* of the sons of the ^ogiant, the weight of whose spear *weighed* three hundred *shekels* of brass in weight, he being girded with a new *sword*, *said he would slay* David.

17 But Abishai the son of Zeruah 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 ^o*lamp* of Israel.

18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at ^oGob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which *was* of the sons of the ¹⁶giant.

19 And there was again a battle in ¹⁸Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew ^o~~the brother of~~ Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear *was* like a weaver's beam.

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 ¹⁶giant.

21 And when he *reproached* Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him.

22 These four were born to the ¹⁶giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

22 And ^oDavid spake unto the LORD the words of ^othis 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:

2 And he said, The LORD *is* my ^orock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

3 ^oThe God of my ^orock; in **Him** will I trust: *He is* my shield, and the horn of My salvation, My high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

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

5 *For* the waves of death compassed me, The floods of *Belial* made me afraid;

6 The *meshes of Sheol* compassed me about; The snares of death prevented me;

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

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

9 There went up a smoke out of **His** nostrils, And fire out of **His** mouth devoured: Coals were kindled by it.

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

11 And **He** rode upon a cherub, and did fly: And **He** ^owas seen upon the wings of the ^owind.

12 And **He** made darkness pavilions round about **Him**, *Gathering of* waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

13 Through the brightness before **Him** were coals of fire kindled.

18 **Gob.** Some codices, with two early printed editions, read "Nob".

19 *the brother of Goliath.* Omit the italics, and understand another giant of the same name as the Goliath of 1 Sam. 17.

22. 1 **David spake.** At this point in his history (about 1018 B.C.). This song was written and edited by him later as Ps. 18, with the full liberty of all other editors of their own work.

this song. Cp. Ex. 15. Deut. 32.

2 **rock.** Heb. *sel'a* = a shadow, or shelter. First occurrence.

3 **The God of my rock.** Sept. and Syr. read "My God was my rock" = immovable defense (Deut. 32:4).

rock. Heb. *zur* = a cliff, *in situ*. See Ps. 18:2; 31:3; 42:9; 71:3.

11 **was seen.** Some codices, with two early printed editions, read "and darted". **wind.** Heb. *ruach*. Ap. 9.

14 **The Most High.** Heb. *Elyon*. Ap. 4. VI.

16 **channels.** Heb. *aphikim*, a watercourse, constrained by rocks or pipes or rocky channels, &c.

23 **judgments.** Cp. Deut. 4:1, note.

14 The LORD thundered from heaven, And ^othe Most High uttered **His** voice.

15 And **He** sent out arrows, and scattered them; Lightning, and discomfited them.

16 And the ^ochannels of the sea appeared, The foundations of the world were *laid bare*, At the rebuking of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of **His** nostrils.

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

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

19 They *got before* me in the day of my calamity: But the LORD was my stay.

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

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

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

23 For all **His** ^ojudgments *were* before me: And as for **His** statutes, I did not depart from them.

24 I was also *blameless* before **Him**, And have kept myself from mine iniquity.

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

26 With the *gracious* Thou wilt shew Thyself *gracious*, *And* with the *blameless* man Thou wilt shew Thyself *blameless*.

27 With the pure Thou wilt shew Thyself pure; And with the froward Thou wilt shew Thyself *ready to contend*.

28 And the afflicted people Thou wilt save: But Thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *That* Thou mayest bring *them* down.

29 For Thou art my *light*, O LORD: And the LORD will lighten my darkness.

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

31 As for God, His way is perfect; The ^ostatements of the LORD *hath been proved*: He is a buckler to all them that trust in Him.

32 For ^{*}who is God, save the LORD? And ^{*}who is a rock, save our God?

33 God is my *fortress and strength*: And He ^oshoweth to the blameless His way.

34 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: And *maketh me to stand firm*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 They *looked about*, but *there was* none to save; *Even* unto the LORD, but He answered them not.

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

44 Thou also hast delivered me from the *contentions* of my People, Thou hast kept me *to be* head of the *Gentile nations*: A people *which* I knew not shall serve me.

45 *Foreigners give unwilling obedience* unto me: As soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

46 *Foreigners* shall fade away, And they *shall come forth trembling from their hiding-places*.

31 **statements.** Heb. *imrah*, what is said. See Ap. 73.v.

33 **showeth to the blameless, &c.** Some codices, with two early printed editions, read "my way", as Ps. 18:32.

49 **violent man.** i.e. Saul.

23. 1 **last words.** Hence their importance.

words. =discourse, message, oracle, revelation. Heb. *dabar*.

said. Heb. *na'am* = to speak with assurance and authority.

mighty man. Heb. *geber*. Ap. 14. IV.

God of Jacob. i.e. the God Who met Jacob when he had nothing and deserved nothing (but wrath), and promised him all =therefore "the God of all grace". Cp. Ps. 146:5 and 1 Pet. 5:10, referring to the grace which had called David.

2 **Spirit.** Heb. *ruach*. Ap. 9.

spake. referring to the *substance* of the Divine revelation. Heb. *dabar* = to utter.

word. Heb. *millah*. Used of a royal or Divine decree (Ps. 19:14. Dan. 3:22, 28, &c.).

3 **Israel.** The higher title (not Jacob), because human instrumentality not in question here.

said. Here Heb. '*amar*, referring to the *matter* of the Divine revelation.

spake. See note on "spake", v. 2.

4 **And he shall be.** Translate in present tense, describing such an ideal rule.

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

48 It is God **That** avengeth me, And **That** bringeth down the *Peoples* under me,

49 And **That** bringeth me forth from mine enemies: Thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: Thou hast delivered me from the ^oviolent man.

50 Therefore I will give thanks unto Thee, O LORD, among the *Gentiles*, And I will sing praises unto Thy name.

51 *He is* the ^{*}tower of salvation for His king: And sheweth mercy to His anointed, Unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

23 Now these *be* the ^olast ^owords of David. David the son of Jesse ^osaid, And the ^omighty man *who was* raised up on high, The anointed of the ^oGod of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, ^osaid,

2 The ^oSpirit of the LORD ^ospake by me, And His ^oword *was* in my tongue.

3 The God of ^oIsrael ^osaid, The Rock of ^oIsrael ^ospake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, Ruling in the fear of God.

4 ^oAnd *he shall be* as the light of the morning, *when* the sun riseth, *Even* a morning without clouds; As the tender grass *springing* out of the earth By clear shining after rain.

5 *For is not my house thus through God ? For He hath made a covenant with me everlasting and sure. For this Covenant is all my salvation, and all my desire. For shall He not cause it to prosper ?.*

6 But *the sons* of Belial *shall be* all of them as thorns *put to flight*, Because they cannot be *handled* with hands:

7 But the man *that* shall touch them must be *furnished* with iron and the staff of a spear; And they shall be utterly burned with fire *on the spot*.

8 These *be* the names of ^othe 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.

9 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, *one* of the three ⁸mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines *that* were there gathered together to battle, and ^othe men of Israel were gone away:

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.

11 And after him *was* ^oShammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together ^ointo a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

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

13 And ^othree of the ^othirty 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 *Rapha*.

14 And David *was* then in *a fort*, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem.

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!

16 And ^othe 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.

8 **the mighty men.** Heb. *gibbor*. This rehearsal comes at the end of David's reign, immediately before the setting up of the kingdom under Solomon. Even so will it be, at the time of the end, with the true David.

9 **the men of Israel were gone away.** This is the time for true courage to be manifested. Cp. v. 11. 2 Tim. 1:15; 4:16, 17.

11 **Shammah.** Like Acts 14:3.

in a troop. Probably =the place, Lehi.

13 **three...thirty.** See note on 1 Chron. 27:1.

Rapha. A noted descendant of the *Nephilim*. See [Ap. 23](#) and [25](#).

16 **the three.** The three referred to in v. 13.

20 **lionlike men.** Men of Ariel. Ariel, proper name, occurs only here and twice in Isa. 29:1, 2.

a...a...snow. All these have the Art., as being a well-known exploit.

21 **with his own spear.** Often done now spiritually by the servants of the true David.

24 **Asahel.** The third of the second three.

brother of Joab, but not Joab. His *name* here but not *himself*, because when the time of the end comes, with its "last words", *loyalty* will be the one test. Joab remained true in Absalom's rebellion, but fell away in Adonijah's. Hence in 1 Cor. 16:22 "love" is the test, in light of "Maranatha", *not* the "strife" of ch. 3, or the wrong judgments of ch. 4, or the uncleanness of ch. 5, or going to law of ch. 6; *not* the fornication of ch. 7, *not* wrong conscience of chs. 9, 10, *not* ecclesiastical disorders of ch. 11, *not* the misuse of special gifts (chs. 12, 13, 14), *not* orthodoxy (ch. 15), but "love" and loyalty to the Person of Christ, the true David, David's Son and David's Lord.

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

18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, **he was** chief among ¹³three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, **and slew them**, and had the name among ¹³three.

19 *Was he not most honourable **of the second three** ? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the *first* ¹³three.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two ^olionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew ^oa lion in the midst of ^oa pit in time of ^osnow:

21 And he slew an Egyptian, a **good looking** 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 ^owith his own spear.

22 These *things* did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three ⁸mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the *first* ¹³three. And David set him over his guard.

24 ^oAsahel the ^obrother of Joab *was* one of the ¹³thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

- 25 Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,
 26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
 27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,
 28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,
 29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,
 30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,
 31 Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,
 32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,
 33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,
 34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, °the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the °son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
 35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,
 36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,
 37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, °armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,
 38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,
 39 °Uriah the Hittite: °thirty and seven in all.

24 °And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and *He suffered David to be moved* against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

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 Beer-sheba, and number ye the People, that I may know the number of the People.

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?

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.

5 And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the *south side* of the city that *lieth* in the midst of *the river valley belonging to Gad, which was the Jabbok*, and toward Jazer:

6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi; and they came to Dan-jaan, and *passed round* to Zidon,

7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hibites, and of the Canaanites: and they °went out to the °south of Judah, *even* to Beer-sheba.

34 the. Probably :Hanan", the son, &c. (1 Chron. 11:43), making three named in this verse.

son of Ahithophel. But not Ahithophel himself, on account of his disloyalty. See note on v. 24, above.

37 armourbearer. Joab's armourbearer named, but not Joab himself. See note on v. 24, above.

39 Uriah. Is doubtly honoured, being named with his son; but Joab or Ahithophel are not named. Read Jer. 9:23, 24.

thirty and seven in all: i.e. first three+second three+thirty-one of vv. 24-39.

24. 1 And again. The history in this chapter precedes ch. 23, by Fig. *Hysterologia* (Ap.6). See note on 23:1.

He suffered, &c. By Hebrew idiom (and also by modern usage) a person is said to do that which he *permits* to be done. Here we have the historical fact. In 1 Chron. 21:1 we have the real fact from the Divine standpoint. Here the *exoteric*, in 1 Chron. 21:1 the *esoteric*. For examples, see Ex. 4:21; 5:22. Jer. 4:10. Ezek. 14:9; 20:25. Matt. 11:25; 13:11. Rom. 9:18; 11:7, 8. 2 Thess. 2:11. God's permission, but Satan's suggestion (Jas. 1:13, 14); or, *yasath*, may be taken impersonally, "David was moved".

7 went out. Some codices read "came [in]".

south. = the *Negeb*. Some codices read "land". See note on Gen. 13:1.

8 nine month, &c. The long time implies a period of great peace.

10 I have sinned. Probably conviction of pride or other sinful motive.

11 Gad. Cp. 1 Sam. 9:9. Gad last mentioned, 1 Sam. 22:5. Probably inspired to write this history.

12 I impose on thee. (Heb. natal). A choice out of God's four sore judgments (Ezek. 14:21).

13 seven years. 1 Chron. 21:12 =three years; also Sept., &c. Both may be right = "seven, or even three".

8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of °nine months and twenty days.

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.

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, *cause to pass over* the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

11 And when David *rose* up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet °Gad, David's seer, saying,

12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, °*I impose on thee* three *things*; choose thee one of them, that I may *do it* unto thee.

13 So ¹¹Gad 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 *consider*, and see what answer I shall return to **Him** That sent me.

14 And David said unto ¹¹Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for **His compassions are manifold:** and let me not fall into the hand of man.

15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the ^otime appointed: and there died of the People from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.

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.

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.

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.

19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up **according as** the LORD commanded.

20 And Araunah **looked down**, and saw the king and his servants **crossing over** toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

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.

15 time appointed. Sept. and Syr. say the plague lasted only till noon. So this "time" may mean for the evening sacrifice, 3 p.m. (Cp. v. 18).

24 the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. Heb. *goren* (Ruth 3:2), mentioned in vv. 16, 18, 21. Not the "place", Heb. *makom*, of 1 Chron. 21:25 (Ruth 4:10), which was afterward the Temple area, about eight acres, and for which David gave the much larger sum of 600 shekels of gold. Two separate purchases effected, the one here was hurried, as an earnest, the other was made later.

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.

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 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 ^othe threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

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.