1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the 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 he answered, Here am I. And he 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. And he answered me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite.
8 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.
9 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.
10 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:
11 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.
12 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.
13 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?
14 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.
15 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.
16 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:
17 (Also he bade them teach the sons of Judah the lamentation of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)
18 The gazelle of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!
19 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.
20 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.
21 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.
22 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.
23 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, Who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
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1. 25

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 enquired 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 anointed 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 Ish-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.

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 Bithron, 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 Saul 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 born sons in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David'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.
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 fallest 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 Zeruiah 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-boseth, 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 bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

8 And they brought the head of Ish-boseth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-boseth 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 his head, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

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-boseth, and buried it in the sepulchre 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 leddest 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 anointed 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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14 And these be the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,
15 Ibbat also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, and
16 And Elishama, and 2Eliada, and Eliphelet.
17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to 3seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the 4hold.
18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of 5Rephaim.
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 6Rephaim.
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 3Baale 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 4a 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.
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 4instruments 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 4Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth 4his 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 brought 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 danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a 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 leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the 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 peace offerings, he blessed the People in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the People, even among the whole multitude of 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 daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, which 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 daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.
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 a family.

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

13 He shall build an house for My name, and I will establish 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 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, "Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto?"

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

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

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

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

23 And what one nation in the earth is like Thy People, even like 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?

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 subdued them: and David took Metheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.
2 And he 2smote Moab, and 2divided by lot their territory with a 2line, casting down the cities to the ground; even with two 2lines allotted he 2to put to death, and with one full 2line 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 eighteen thousand.

6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and David reigned over all Israel; and David gathered an army to fight against the Syrians, and when he returned he went.

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

8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadarezer, and from Zobah, as he went to recover his territory, David smote also Toi king of Hamath, and took of him a thousand chariots, and an hundred chariots of brass;

9 And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

10 And 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;

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.
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 Lo-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 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 at my table, as one of the king's sons.

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 Michah. 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 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 Hadadrezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the Euphrates: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadadrezer 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 Hadadrezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the kings 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 Rabbah. But 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 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 Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah 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 purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.
5 And the woman conceived, and sent 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.
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 eat and to drink, 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 thou livest, 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 the house of his lord 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.

10. 13
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.
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).
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 wall?
21 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing 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.
22 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentations for her husband.
23 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.
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 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 smote the child that Uriah’s wife bare unto David, and it was dead.

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?

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.
And he took 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.

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

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

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.

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

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.

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 dress me heart-shaped cakes, and dress the cakes in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

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 my sister Tamar come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.

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

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.

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.
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.
40 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah 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 recall to mind the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the 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 person: yet doth He devise means, that His banished be not expelled from Him.

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

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

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

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

19 And the king said, Is not the 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, *I 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 king's weight.

27 And unto Absalom there were born three 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.
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.

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.

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

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.

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.

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

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.

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

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!

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.

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

And it came to pass after forty 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 Hebron.

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 will I serve the LORD.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

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

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

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

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.

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 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 voice, and all the People passed over: the king also.

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: and they tarried there. And the people had done passing out of the city.

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

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 Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the People that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

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

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

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 top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a skin-bottle of wine.

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 he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.
Then said the king to Ziba, "Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephiboseth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

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.

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.

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

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.

Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah, *Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, and were cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursing this day.

The king 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 Benamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath hid him bin.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

3 And I will bring back all the People unto thee: the man whom thou seest 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, 

   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 counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time.

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

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

12 So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him 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.

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 lodge this night in the city of En-rogel.

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by En-rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a maidservant went down 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; whereunto they went.

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 said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

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.
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.

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.

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

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.

So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

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,

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

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.

And David inspected the People that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

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.

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.

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.

And the companion Bible (Condensed): II SAMUEL: Page: 21
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.

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.

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

And ten young men that bare Joab's weapons compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cushi. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?

But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushi.

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

And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.

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.

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

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

And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died for his life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;

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.

Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one man to his house.

And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Return thou, and all thy servants. And the king returned, and came to Jordan. And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And there went over Jordan before the king.

And said unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants. And the king returned, and came to Jordan. 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 went down to meet my lord the king. And the king said, Shimei, the son of Gera, the Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

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.

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

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.

And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Return thou, and all thy servants. And the king returned, and came to Jordan. 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 went down to meet my lord the king.
And David said, "What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, 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?"

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

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.

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?

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."

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.

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?"

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

And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him go over with my lord the king; and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem."

And the king said unto him, "Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?"

And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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?

And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.
20. 1  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.


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 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 tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.
23 Now Joab was over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:
24 And Adoram was over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahihud was recorder:
25 And Sheva was scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:
26 And Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.

21 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, 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 Gibeonites, 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? And they answered the king, The man that consumed them, that we should be put to death in the days of harvest, in the first beginning of barley harvest.

4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shall 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 them, that God was intreated for the land. And the king commanded. And after that the LORD did choose. And the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered them in the hill before the gate of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, in the day the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

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 open space by the gate of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered them in the beginning of barley harvest.

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 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 war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.

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

17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the lamp of Israel.

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

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

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

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

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

22. 1 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

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

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

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

5 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 was seen upon the wings of the wind.

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.

14 The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.

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

16 And the channels of the sea appeared, The foundations of the world were 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 judgments 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.
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 statements 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 showeth 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.

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 violent 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 last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, And the mighty man who was raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

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

3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.

4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, Even a morning without clouds; As the tender grass springing out of the earth By clear shining after rain.
5 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 the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Ezrite: 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 mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the 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 Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.
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 three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of 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 the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

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

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 Zeruiah, was chief among thirty. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among thirty.
19 Was he not most honourable of the second three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the first three.
20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:
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 with his own spear.
22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.
23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.
24 Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,
Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite, Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, Eliahuha the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, Hezra the Carmelite, Paara the Arbite, Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, Naarah the Beerethite, Zalek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, Naarah the Beerethite, Naarah the Beerethite, Naarah the Beerethite, Naarah the Beerethite, Naarah the Beerethite, North side, the Negeb, the South side, the side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river valley belonging to Gad, which was the Jabbok, and toward Jazer:

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

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.

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. For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, and number the People unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand men of valiant heart.

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

And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the People of Israel: 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.

The long time implies a period of great peace.

And again. The history in this chapter precedes ch. 23, by Fig. Hysteronorogia (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 exoteric. 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”.

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.

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 Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now consider, and see what answer I shall return to Him that sent me.

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14 And David said unto Gad, 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 7 time 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.

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 the 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.