

## 2 Samuel

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A verse can express a spiritual truth even if it is in a story which may not be historical.

Each time the subject of a verse changes from “Yahweh”  
to “God” and vice versa, there is a new line.

(Because of Microsoft software problems, verses can independently move from where they have been placed. A ` mark was placed on each blank line in an attempt to stop the verses from moving around so much.)

1:1 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,

### David hears of the passing of Saul and Jonathan

1:1 After the death of Saul and Jonathan, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, David stayed two days in Ziklag.  
2 It came to pass on the third day that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent (torn) and dirt upon his head. And when he came to David, he bowed to the earth in

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, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

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

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

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

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

9 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.

10 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

respect.

3 And David asked him, "Where did you come from?" And the man said to David, "I escaped out of the camp of Israel."

4 And David asked him, "How did the battle go? Tell me." And the man answered, "The Israelites fled from the battle, and many of them fell and are dead. And Saul and Jonathan his son are also dead."

5 And David asked the young man who told him this, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan are dead?"

6 And the young man that had told him said, "As I happened by chance upon Mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear to try to end his life. And chariots and cavalry were attacking him.

7 "And when Saul looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'What do you want?'

8 "And he asked me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.'

9 "He said to me, 'Please stand over me and slay me: for I am in anguish because I am still alive.'

10 "So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure he could not live after he had been injured and fell. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm and have brought them here to my lord."

11 Then David took hold of his clothes and rent (tore) them, and all the soldiers who were with David did likewise.

12 And they mourned, wept and fasted until the evening for Saul, for Jonathan his son, for the people of Yahweh, and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 And David asked the young man who had told him all this, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite."

14 And David asked him, "Why were you not afraid to reach out your hand to destroy Yahweh's anointed?"

15 And David called one of the young men and said, "Come and kill him." And the young man struck the Amalekite so that he died.

16 And David said to the Amalekite, "Your blood is upon your head. You are responsible for your own death, for your mouth has testified against you,

<p>17 ¶ And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:  18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)  19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!  20 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.  21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.  22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.  23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.  24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.  25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast 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 are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!</p>	<p>saying, 'I have slain Yahweh's anointed.'"    <p style="text-align: center;"><b>David's lament for Saul and Jonathan</b></p> <p>17 And David sang this lament in memory of Saul and of Jonathan his son.  18 (Also David told them to teach the children of Judah the use of the bow; behold, it is written in the scroll of Jashar.)  19 "The beauty of Israel is slain upon your high places; how have the mighty fallen!  20 "Do not tell it in Gath; do not publish it in the streets of Askelon lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.  21 "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain upon you, nor fields yielding grain offerings. For there, the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with olive oil.  22 "From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back; and the sword of Saul did not return empty.  23 "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives; and in their death, they were not divided. They were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.  24 "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul who clothed you in scarlet with jewels, who put ornaments of gold upon your apparel.  25 "The mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan, you were slain in your high places.  26 "I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan; you were very pleasant to me; your love toward me was wonderful, beyond the love of women.  27 "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"</p> </p>
<p>2:1 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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David is anointed king over Judah</b></p> <p>2:1 And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of Yahweh, "Shall I move to any of the cities of Judah?" And Yahweh said to him, "Yes, go." And David asked, "Where shall I go?" And Yahweh said, "To Hebron."  2 So David went there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail, Nabal's widow, the</p>

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 Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.

5 ¶ And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, 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 valiant: 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 Ishbosheth 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 Ishbosheth 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 Ishbosheth 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 young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.

15 Then there arose and went over by number

Carmelite.

3 And David brought his soldiers who were with him—all the soldiers with their households; and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

4 And the people of Judah came and anointed David king over the house of Judah there. And they told David, "It was the people of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul."

5 And David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh-gilead to tell them, "Blessed are you by Yahweh because you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.

6 "And now may Yahweh show kindness and truth to you. And I also will reward this kindness of yours because you have done this thing.

7 " Now therefore, be strong and valiant, for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

#### **Abner makes Ishbosheth king over Gilead**

8 But Abner, the son of Ner, the captain of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him to Mahanaim.

9 And Abner made Ishbosheth king over Gilead, the Ashurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel except Judah.

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

11 And David ruled as king in Hebron over the tribe of Judah for seven years and six months.

#### **Twelve young soldiers of David fight with twelve young soldiers of Ishosheth**

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

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

14 And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young soldiers arise and fight before us now." And Joab said, "Let them arise and do so."

15 Then twelve young soldiers of Benjamin,

twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth 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 Helkathhazzurim, 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 a wild roe.

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.

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 children 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

followers of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, and twelve young soldiers of the servants of David, arose to fight.

16 And everyone caught their opponent by the head and thrust their sword in his side, so that they fell together. Therefore, that place was called Helkathhazzurim (field of swords) which is in Gibeon.

### **Abner kills Asahel**

17 Then a fierce battle followed that day. Abner and the soldiers of Israel who were loyal to Ishbosheth were beaten by the servants of David.

18 And there were three sons of Zeruiah there: followers of David, Joab, Abishai and Asahel. And Asahel was as swift-footed as a wild deer.

19 And Asahel pursued Abner, not turning to the right or the left as he chased him.

20 Then Abner looked behind him and asked, "Are you Asahel?" And he answered, "I am."

21 And Abner said to him, "Turn to the right or left, seize a young soldier, take his armor and stop following me." But Asahel would not turn aside from chasing him.

22 And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face Joab your brother?"

23 But Asahel refused to turn aside, so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into his belly, and it came out his back, and he fell dead in that spot. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died stood still.

### **Joab agrees with Abner and ceases fighting**

24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, and the sun was setting when they came to the hill of Ammah that lies before Giah by way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

25 And the descendants of Benjamin, who were loyal to Ishbosheth, rallied behind Abner as one group, and stood on the top of a hill.

26 Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that this will only end in bitterness? How long shall it be then before you tell the soldiers to stop pursuing their

<p>their brethren?  27 And Joab said, As God liveth, unless thou hadst spoken, 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.</p>	<p>relatives?"  27 And Joab said, "As Yahweh lives, if you had not spoken, surely the soldiers would have continued chasing their relatives until the morning."  28 So Joab blew a trumpet, and all his soldiers stopped pursuing the soldiers of Israel loyal to Ishbosheth, and did not fight anymore.  29 And Abner and his soldiers walked all that night through the plain, passed over the Jordan River and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim.  30 And Joab returned from following Abner; and when he had assembled all the soldiers, only twenty of David's servants were missing, including Asahel.  31 But the servants of David had destroyed three hundred sixty of Benjamin and Abner's soldiers.  32 And they took Asahel and buried him in the sepulcher of his father, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his soldiers marched all night, and they came to Hebron at daybreak.</p>
<p>3:1 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 sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;  3 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;  4 And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;  5 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.  7 And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ishbosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my</p>	<p><b>David grows stronger and stronger in his war with the followers of Saul</b>  3:1 Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David became stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.  2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess.  3 And his second son was Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal, the Carmelite. And the third son was Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai King of Geshur.  4 And the fourth son was Adonijah the son of Haggith, and the fifth son was Shephatiah the son of Abital.  5 And the sixth was Ithream, by Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.  6 And it came to pass during the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner strengthened his position in the house of Saul.  7 And Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you slept with my father's concubine?"</p>

father's concubine?

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

9 So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;  
10 To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.

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

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

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

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

15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

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

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

18 Now then do it: 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 soldiers with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.

8 Then Abner was furious at Ishbosheth's accusation and said, "Am I a dog, showing kindness this day to the house of Saul your father, to his brethren and to his friends, by opposing Judah and not delivering you into David's hands? Yet you still charge me today with a fault concerning this woman?"

### **Abner switches his allegiance to David**

9 "May Yahweh deal harshly with Abner if I do not do for David what Yahweh promised him, and 10 take the kingdom from the house of Saul, and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan even to Beersheba."

11 And Ishbosheth could not answer Abner at all because he feared him.

12 And Abner sent messengers to David, asking, "Whose is the land?" and also saying, "Make your treaty with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel to you."

13 And David said, "I will make a treaty with you. But one thing I require of you: unless you bring Michal, Saul's daughter, with you, you shall not see my face when you come to see me."

14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Deliver to me my wife Michal, whom I espoused to myself for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."

15 And Ishbosheth sent for her, and took her from her husband, Phaltiel, the son of Laish.

16 And Phaltiel went with her, weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then Abner told him, "Go home." And he did so.

17 And Abner communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, "In the past, you sought for David to be king over you.

18 "Now then do it, for Yahweh has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines and out of the hand of all their enemies.'"

19 And Abner also spoke to the descendants of Benjamin, and then reported to David in Hebron about the goodwill of Israel including the whole house of Benjamin toward David.

20 So Abner came to David in Hebron with twenty soldiers. And David held a feast for them.

21 And Abner said to David, "I will arise and go, and

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 league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

22 ¶ And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, 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 sent him away, 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 blood of Abner the son of Ner:

29 Let it rest 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

will gather all Israel to my lord the king so that they may make a treaty with you so that you may reign over all that your heart desires." And David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

### **Joab kills Abner for having killed Joab's brother Asahel**

22 And behold, the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought in much plunder with them. But Abner was not with David in Hebron; for David had sent him away, and Abner had gone in peace.

23 When Joab and all the army who were with him came, he was told, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and the king sent him away. And Abner went in peace."

24 Then Joab came to the king, and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why did you sent him away? Now he is long gone?"

25 "You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you, and to learn of your every movement and all you do."

26 And when Joab returned from seeing David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah; but David did not know it.

27 And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate as though to speak with him privately, and struck him there in the belly, killing him to avenge the death of Asahel, Joab's brother, whom Abner had killed.

### **David laments for Abner**

28 And afterward when David heard it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before Yahweh from the blood of Abner, the son of Ner.

29 "Let the blood of Abner rest on the head of Joab and on all his father's house. And may the house of Joab always have someone with an issue of blood, or leprosy, or who needs a staff to walk, or who dies by the sword, or who lacks bread."

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

31 And David said to Joab and all the people with him, "Rend (tear) your clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourn for Abner." And King David



<p>David himself followed the bier. `</p> <p>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.</p> <p>33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?</p> <p>34 Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.</p> <p>35 And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat 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.</p> <p>36 And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>himself walked behind the bier (movable frame) carrying Abner's dead body.</p> <p>32 And they buried Abner in Hebron, and the king lifted his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.</p> <p>33 And the king lamented over Abner, saying, "Why did Abner die a shameful death?</p> <p>34 "Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put into fetters; as a person falls before wicked people, so did you fall." And all the people wept over Abner.</p> <p>35 And when people came to persuade David to eat something while it was yet day, David swore, "May Yahweh treat me harshly if I eat anything before sundown."</p> <p>36 And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, for everything the king did pleased them.</p> <p>37 For all the people and all Israel understood that day that the king was not involved in the plot to slay Abner the son of Ner.</p> <p>38 And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince, a great man, has fallen this day in Israel?</p> <p>39 "And I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too fierce for me. Yahweh will repay these evil doers according to their wickedness." `</p>
<p>`</p> <p>`</p> <p>4:1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.</p> <p>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 children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin: `</p> <p>3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p><b>Ishbosheth is killed, after which David kills Ishbosheth's murderers</b></p> <p>4:1 And when Saul's son Ishbosheth heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, he became terrified, and all his followers were troubled.</p> <p>2 And Saul's son Ishbosheth had two persons who commanded bands: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab. They were the sons of Rimmon, a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin; (for Beeroth also belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.</p> <p>3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have dwelt there to this day.)</p> <p>4 (And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame. He had been five years old when news came from Jezreel of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. And his nurse picked him up and fled, but in her hurry to escape, he fell and became lame. And his name was</p>

<p>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 Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.  6 And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; 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 Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.  9 ¶ And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,  10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:  11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?  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 Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.</p>	<p>Mephibosheth.)  5 And Rechab and Baanah, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, went during the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.  6 And they came into the house, as though they were getting wheat, and they struck Ishbosheth in the belly. And Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.  7 When they entered the house, Ishbosheth was lying on his bed. They struck and killed him, then beheaded him, took his head, and traveled all night by way of the plain.  8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David in Hebron, and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life. Yahweh has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and his descendants."  9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As Yahweh lives, who has redeemed my <i>soul</i> (spirit) out of all adversity,  10 when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I seized and killed him in Ziklag, although he thought that I would have given him a reward for his news.  11 "How much more evil is it, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood from your hands and rid you from the earth?"  12 And David commanded his young soldiers, and they killed them, cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the sepulcher of Abner in Hebron.  `  `</p>
<p>5:1 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 my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David is anointed king over Israel</b></p> <p>5:1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron, and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh.  2 "Also in the past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel to war and brought us back victorious. And Yahweh said to you, 'You shall feed My people Israel, and you shall be the head over Israel.'"</p>

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league 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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6 ¶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

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7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.

8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

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

11 ¶ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

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

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

15 Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,  
16 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, and King David made a treaty with them in Hebron before Yahweh; 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 six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all the northern tribes of Israel and Judah.

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#### **David takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites**

6 And David and his soldiers went to Jerusalem to the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land. And the Jebusites said to David, "Even the blind and the lame could keep you out; you shall not come in here." For they thought that David could not enter the city.

7 Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, which became known as the city of David.

8 And David said on that day, "Whoever strikes down the Jebusites must strike through their water tunnel, because David hates the blind and lame Jebusites." That is why it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not enter the temple."

9 So from that time, David lived in that fortress and called it the city of David. And David built up the city in the surrounding area from Millo inward.

10 And David became greater and greater, and God was with him.

11 And King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs, carpenters, and masons; and they built David a palace.

12 And David perceived that God had established him king over Israel, and that God had exalted the kingdom for His people Israel's sake.

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#### **David acquires more wives and concubines**

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he had come there from Hebron. And there were more sons and daughters born to David.

14 And these are the names of the sons born to David: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphalet.

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<p>17 ¶ But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.</p> <p>18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>19 And David enquired 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.</p> <p>20 And David came to Baalperazim, 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 Baalperazim.</p> <p>21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.</p> <p>22 ¶ And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 And when David enquired 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David defeats the Philistines in battle</b></p> <p>17 But when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they all planned to destroy him. And David heard of it and went down to the fortress.</p> <p>18 The Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>19 And David inquired of Yahweh, asking, "Shall I attack the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And Yahweh said to David, "Go, for I will absolutely deliver the Philistines into your hand."</p> <p>20 And David came to Baalperazim, struck them there and said, "Yahweh has broken forth upon my enemies before me like a great flood of waters." Therefore, he called the name of that place Baalperazim.</p> <p>21 And the Philistines abandoned their images there and David and his soldiers burned them.</p> <p>22 And the Philistines came up again and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 And when David inquired of Yahweh, He said, "You shall not directly attack them, but rather circle behind them to attack them by the mulberry trees.</p> <p>24 "And when you hear the sound as of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall attack. For then Yahweh shall go before you to strike the army of the Philistines."</p> <p>25 And David did as Yahweh had commanded him and struck the Philistines from Geba to Gazer.</p> <p>˘ ˘ ˘</p>
<p>˘</p> <p><b>6:1</b> Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.</p> <p>2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.</p> <p>˘</p> <p>˘</p> <p>3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab,</p>	<p><b>David gets the ark of Yahweh</b></p> <p><b>6:1</b> Again, David assembled thirty thousand chosen warriors of Israel.</p> <p>2 And David and all his troops set out for Baale of Judah, to bring up from there the ark (chest) of Yahweh, which is called by the name of Yahweh that dwells on the mercy seat between the angels on top of the ark.</p> <p>˘</p> <p><b>Uzzah is killed by Yahweh for touching the ark</b></p> <p>3 And they set the ark of Yahweh on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of</p>

drive 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 instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

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

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

8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah 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 Obedom the Gittite.

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

12 ¶ And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, 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 Obedom 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

Abinadab, drove the cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah. Uzzah walked beside the ark of Yahweh, and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel made music before Yahweh on all kinds of instruments made of pine, and with harps, zithers, tambourines, cornets and cymbals.

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, the ark of Yahweh shook as the oxen pulled it across uneven ground. And Uzzah reached out with his hand to steady the ark.

7 Yahweh was furious with Uzzah for his error and struck him down. And he died there by the ark of Yahweh.

8 And David was angry because Yahweh had struck Uzzah, and he named the place Perez-uzzah (punishment of Uzzah), which it is called to this day.

#### **David eventually brings the ark into Jerusalem**

9 And David was afraid of Yahweh that day, and asked, "How shall the ark of Yahweh come to me?"

10 So David was unwilling to move the ark of Yahweh to the city of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

11 And the ark of Yahweh remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, and Yahweh blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

12 And King David was told, "Yahweh has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him because of the ark of Yahweh." So David went and confidently brought up the ark of Yahweh from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David.

#### **The people of Jerusalem, except for Michal, celebrate the arrival of the ark**

13 And when those who carried the ark of Yahweh had gone six paces, they sacrificed oxen and fattened calves.

14 And David danced before Yahweh with all his might, wearing a linen priestly vest.

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

16 And as the ark of Yahweh came into the city

<p>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.</p> <p>17 ¶ And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.</p> <p>18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.</p> <p>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 good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.</p> <p>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, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!</p> <p>21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.</p>	<p>of David, Saul's daughter Michal looked through a window and saw King David leaping and dancing before Yahweh. And she despised him in her heart.</p> <p>17 And they brought in the ark of Yahweh and set it in its place in the tabernacle (tent) that David had prepared for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before Yahweh.</p> <p>18 And as soon as David had completed sacrificing burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of Yahweh.</p> <p>19 Then he distributed to every man and woman among the multitude of Israel a loaf of bread, a good piece of meat and a raisin cake. Then all the people departed to their houses.</p> <p>20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul David, angrily confronted David, saying, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, who exposed himself today in the eyes of the slave girls of his subjects, as a vulgar fellow would shamelessly expose himself!"</p> <p>21 And David said to Michal, "I danced before Yahweh, which chose me instead of your father and all his house, to be ruler over the people of Yahweh, over Israel. Therefore, I will dance before Yahweh.</p> <p>22 "And I will be even more vile than this, and humbled in my own sight. But I will be honored by the slave girls you spoke of."</p> <p>23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul, had no children to the day of her death.</p> <p>、 、 、</p>
<p>、</p> <p>7:1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;</p> <p>2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.</p> <p>3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.</p> <p>4 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,</p> <p>5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell</p>	<p><b>Yahweh establishes the dynasty of David</b></p> <p>7:1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his palace, and God had given him rest from all his enemies,</p> <p>2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a palace of cedar, but the ark of Yahweh dwells only within a tent."</p> <p>3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."</p> <p>4 And it came to pass that night that this word of Yahweh came to Nathan:</p> <p>5 "Go and tell My servant David that Yahweh says, 'Is it a wise intention, to build a temple for Me to</p>

in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

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

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children 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 an house.

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 stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his 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 children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, 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 thee: 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?

dwell in?

6 'I have not dwelt in any temple since the time I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have dwelt in a tent, in a tabernacle.

7 'In all the places I have journeyed with all the children of Israel, have I ever said a single word to any of the tribal chiefs of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, about building Me a temple of cedar?'

8 "Therefore, tell My servant David now that Yahweh of hosts says, 'I took you from a pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

9 'And I was with you wherever you went, and cut off all your enemies from your sight, and made you a great name, like the name of the greatest persons in the world.

10 'Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them so that they may dwell in a place of their own and not move anymore. And the children of wickedness shall not afflict them anymore.

11 'The time is past when I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Now I have given you rest from all your enemies. Also, David, I told you that I would make you a dynasty.

12 And when your days are fulfilled, and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up your descendant after you, who shall proceed from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 'He shall build a temple for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 'I will be his father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod and with stripes.

15 'But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you, David.

16 'And your dynasty and your kingdom shall be established forever before you; your throne shall be established forever.'"

17 According to all these words, and according to this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

18 Then King David went, and sat before Yahweh, and he asked, "Who am I, Yahweh? And what is my family status, so that You have brought me to this point?"

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 manner of 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 thou art 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 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 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 found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

28 And now, O LORD God, thou art that God, and thy words be true, 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.

19 "And, Yahweh, You have also spoken of something even greater, of Your servant's dynasty in the far future. And is this Your way of dealing with humanity, Yahweh?"

**David expresses gratitude to Yahweh for establishing his dynasty**

20 "And what can I, David, say more to You? For You, God, know Your servant.

21 "For Your word's sake, and according to Your love for humanity, You have done all these great things to make Your servant know them.

22 "How great You are, O God, for there is none like You, nor is there any God beside You according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 "And what nation on the earth is like Your people, like Israel, whom You worked to redeem to become a people to Yourself. You made Yourself a name, by doing great and wonderful things for Your land, before Your people. You redeemed them to Yourself from Egypt, from the nations and their gods.

24 "For You have confirmed to Yourself Your people Israel to be a people to You forever; and You, Yahweh, have become their Deity.

25 "And now, O Yahweh, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant, and concerning his dynasty, establish it forever, and do as You have said.

26 "And let Your people magnify Your name forever, saying, 'Yahweh is the Deity over Israel.' And let the dynasty of Your servant David be established before You.

27 "For You, Yahweh of hosts, the Deity of Israel, have revealed to Your servant Your will, saying, 'I will build you a dynasty.' Therefore, Your servant has found courage in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

28 "And now, Yahweh, You are the Deity, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.

29 "Therefore, now let it please You to bless the dynasty of Your servant, so that it may continue forever before You; for You, Yahweh, have spoken it. And with Your blessing, let the descendants of Your servant be blessed forever."



<p>8:1 And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines.</p> <p>2 And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.</p> <p>3 ¶ David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.</p> <p>6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.</p> <p>7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.</p> <p>8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.</p> <p>9 ¶ When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer,</p> <p>10 Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>12 Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.</p> <p>13 And David gat him a name when he returned</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David defeats many enemies of Israel</b></p> <p>8:1 And after this it came to pass that David struck down the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Metheg-ammah from the hands of the Philistines.</p> <p>2 And he struck down Moab. He made the captured soldiers lie down on the ground and then killed two out of every three of them.<sup>1</sup> And so the Moabites became David's servants and brought tribute.</p> <p>3 David also struck down Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as Hadadezer went to re-establish his border at the River Euphrates.</p> <p>4 And David took from him a thousand chariots, seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. And David crippled all the chariot horses, except for enough to pull a hundred chariots.</p> <p>5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to the aid of Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of them.</p> <p>6 Then David put garrisons in Damascus of Syria, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And Yahweh preserved David wherever he went.</p> <p>7 And David took the shields of gold that belonged to Hadadezer's servants and brought them to Jerusalem.</p> <p>8 And from Betah and Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took great quantities of bronze.</p> <p>9 When Toi, king of Hamath, heard that David had destroyed all the army of Hadadezer,</p> <p>10 Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and to bless him because David had fought against Hadadezer and destroyed him, for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, gold, and bronze.</p> <p>11 These King David dedicated to Yahweh, along with the silver and gold that he had taken from all the nations which he subdued:</p> <p>12 from Syria, from Moab, from the children from Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.</p> <p>13 And David had earned himself a name when he returned from striking down eighteen thousand</p>
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<p>from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.</p> <p>14 ¶ And he put garrisons 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.</p> <p>15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.</p> <p>16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;</p> <p>17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;</p> <p>18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.</p>	<p>Syrians in the valley of salt.</p> <p>14 And he put garrisons throughout Edom, and all the people of Edom became David's servants. And Yahweh preserved David wherever he went.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>David executes justice within Israel</b></p> <p>15 And David reigned over all Israel and executed justice and equity to all his people.</p> <p>16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army of David, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder.</p> <p>17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests, and Seraiah was the scribe.</p> <p>18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were chief rulers.</p>
<p>9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?</p> <p>2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.</p> <p>3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.</p> <p>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 Lodebar.</p> <p>5 ¶ Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>7 ¶ And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David makes a special provision for Jonathan's son Mephibosheth</b></p> <p>9:1 And David asked, "Is any person left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"</p> <p>2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I your servant am he."</p> <p>3 And the king said, "Is any person left of the house of Saul to whom I may show God's kindness?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still living a son of Jonathan who is lame."</p> <p>4 And the king said to Ziba, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lodebar."</p> <p>5 Then King David sent and fetched Mephibosheth out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel from Lodebar.</p> <p>6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he prostrated himself before David out of respect. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he answered, "Behold your servant!"</p> <p>7 And David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake and will restore to you all the land of Saul your</p>

<p>father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.</p> <p>8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.</p> <p>13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.</p>	<p>father. And you shall eat at my table always."</p> <p>8 And Mephibosheth bowed, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I am?"</p> <p>9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his family.</p> <p>10 "Therefore, You, your sons, and your servants shall till the land for him, and you shall harvest fruits so that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.</p> <p>11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so your servant shall do." "As for Mephibosheth," the king said, "he will eat at my table as if he were one of the king's sons."</p> <p>12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth.</p> <p>13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both his feet.</p>
<p>10:1 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.</p> <p>2 Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, 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 children of Ammon.</p> <p>3 And the princes of the children 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 search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>David's kindness is misunderstood, resulting in conflict</b></p> <p>10:1 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the tribe of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.</p> <p>2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." And David sent some servants to comfort Hanun concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the tribe of Ammon.</p> <p>3 And the princes of the tribe of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David honors your father by sending comforters to you? Has not David instead sent his servants to you, to search the city, to spy on it, and to overthrow it?"</p> <p>4 So Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their garments at the hips, and sent them away.</p> <p>5 When David was told, he sent word to his servants because they were greatly ashamed. The king told</p>

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 children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob 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 Ishtob, 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 children of Ammon.

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

12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

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

14 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

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

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

17 And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array

them, "Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown back, and then return."

6 And when the tribe of Ammon saw how greatly they had angered David, they hired twenty thousand Syrian foot soldiers from Bethrehob and Zoba, a thousand soldiers of king Maacah, and twelve thousand soldiers of Ishtob.

7 And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and the entire army of mighty warriors.

8 And the tribe of Ammon came out and put the battle in array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Rehob, Ishtob and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

9 When Joab saw that the battle was set against him, both in the front and rear, he chose the best soldiers of Israel, and arrayed them against the Syrians.

10 And he placed the remaining soldiers under the command of his brother Abishai to array them against the Ammonites.

11 And Joab told Abishai, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me. But if the tribe of Ammon is too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

12 "Be of good courage, and let us fight bravely for our people and for the cities of our Deity. And may God do that which seems good to Him."

13 And Joab and his soldiers approached the Syrians to battle them, and the Syrians fled before him.

14 And when the tribe of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, then they fled before Abishai and entered the city. So Joab returned from the tribe of Ammon and came to Jerusalem.

15 And when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they regrouped.

16 And Hadarezer sent for and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the river. And they came to Helam, and Shobach the captain of Hadarezer's army was leading them.

17 And when this was told to David, he assembled all Israel, crossed the Jordan River and came to Helam. And the Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him.

18 And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed the soldiers in seven hundred chariots and forty thousand foot soldiers, and struck Shobach the

<p>against David, and fought with him.  18 And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.  19 And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.</p>	<p>commander of their army, who died there.  19 And when all the kings who were servants to Hadarezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the tribe of Ammon any more.  `  `  `  `</p>
<p>`  `  <b>11:1</b> And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.  2 ¶ And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.  3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, 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; for 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 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 door 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</p>	<p><b>David commits adultery with Bathsheba and has her husband Uriah killed</b>  <b>11:1</b> And it came to pass, at the end of the year, when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him and all Israel. And they destroyed the tribe of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.  2 And it came to pass one evening, that David arose from his bed, and walked on the roof of his palace. And from the roof he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman was very beautiful to look at.  3 And David sent a messenger to inquire about the woman. And a servant said, "This is Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite."  4 And David sent messengers and took her. And when she came to him, he lay with her, for she was purified from her uncleanness.<sup>2</sup> And she returned to her house.  5 And she conceived and sent a messenger to tell David, "I am pregnant."  6 And David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.  7 And when Uriah came to him, David demanded of Uriah how Joab did, and how the soldiers did, and how the war was going.  8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah departed from the king's house and received a present of food from the king.  9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go to his house.  10 And when they told David that Uriah did not go to his house, David said to Uriah, "Did you not come</p>

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 thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

12 And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

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

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

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

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

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

21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

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

23 And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the

here after a long journey? Why then did you not go to your house?"

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark of Yahweh, and Israel and Judah abide in tents; and my lord Joab and his soldiers are camped in open fields. Shall I then go into my house to eat, drink and lie with my wife? As you live, and as your *soul* (spirit) lives, I will not."

12 And David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next day.

13 And when David called him, Uriah ate and drank before him, and David made him drunk. And in the evening Uriah went out to lie on his bed with his lord's servants but did not go to his house.

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

15 And he wrote in the letter, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle and then pull back from him so that he may be struck and pass on."

16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant warriors.

17 And those in the city who could fight went out and fought Joab. And some of the soldiers of David fell, and Uriah the Hittite fell also.

18 Then Joab sent a messenger to inform David how the war was going.

19 And Joab ordered the messenger, "Tell all the details of the war to the king.

20 "Then the king may get angry and ask you, 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

21 'Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? Did not a woman throw a piece of millstone down upon him from the wall so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' Then say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'"

22 So the messenger came and told David all that Joab had sent him to say.

23 And the messenger said to David, "Surely their fighters prevailed against us, and came out against us in the field. And we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.

24 "And the archers shot at your servants from the

<p>entering of the gate.  24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.  25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.  26 ¶ And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.  27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.</p>	<p>wall. Some of the king's servants died, and your servant Uriah the Hittite also died.”  25 Then David said to the messenger, “Encourage Joab, tell him, ‘Do not despair, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your battle against the city and overthrow it.’”  26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.  27 And when the mourning was past, David sent for her and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased Yahweh.  `  `  `  `</p>
<p>`  `  <b>12:1</b> And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.  2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:  3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.  4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.  5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:  6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.  7 ¶ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;  8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the</p>	<p><b>Yahweh punishes David for David's sins by killing David's newborn baby</b>  <b>12:1</b> And God sent Nathan to David. And Nathan came and said to him, “There were two men in the same city: the one rich, and the other poor.  2 “The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds.  3 “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and his children. The lamb ate of the man's own food and drank from his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was to him as a daughter.  4 “And a traveler came to the rich man, but he refused to take a lamb from his own flock to make a feast to welcome the traveler who had come to him. Instead he took the poor man's lamb, killed and cooked it for the traveler.”  5 And David was infuriated with the rich man and said to Nathan, “As Yahweh lives, the man who has done this thing shall surely be put to death.  6 “And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no pity.”  7 And Nathan said to David, “That man is you! The God of Israel says, ‘I anointed you king over Israel and delivered you from the hands of Saul.  8 ‘And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms, and the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I</p>

house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

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

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

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

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

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

15 ¶ And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, 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,

would have given you even more.

9 "Therefore, why have you despised My commandments and committed evil in My sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife. You killed him with a sword of the Ammonites.

10 "Therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house because you have despised Me, by taking Uriah wife to be your own.

11 "Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor. And he shall lie with them in broad daylight.

12 "For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel in broad daylight."

13 And David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against Yahweh." And Nathan said to David, "Yahweh has forgiven your sin so you shall not pass on.

14 "However, because you have given the enemies of Yahweh a great opportunity to blaspheme by this deed, the child that is born to you shall surely pass on."

15 And Nathan departed to his house. And Yahweh struck the child that Uriah's wife had by David, and it became very sick.

16 Therefore, David begged Yahweh on behalf of the child. He fasted, went into his house, and lay all night on the ground.

17 And the servants of his house arose and tried to raise him up, but he would not, nor would he eat with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day that the child died. And David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, saying, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he would not answer us. How then can we tell him that the child is dead? He might harm himself."

19 But when David saw his servants whispering, he perceived that the child was dead. So David asked his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

20 Then David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, changed his apparel, came into the house of Yahweh, and worshiped. Then he went to his palace, asked for food to be set before him, and ate.

21 Then his servants said to him, "We do not



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 go to him, but he shall not return to me.

24 ¶ And David comforted Bathsheba 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 he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

26 ¶ And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

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

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

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

30 And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

31 And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

understand. You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive. But when the child died, you rose up and ate.”

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#### **David mourns for his child**

22 And he said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell whether Yahweh will be gracious to me so that the child may live?’

23 “But now that the child is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went to her and lay with her. And she bore another son, and David called his name Solomon. And Yahweh loved the boy.

25 And Yahweh commanded Nathan the prophet to name the boy Jedidiah (beloved of Yahweh) because Yahweh loved him.

26 And Joab fought against Rabbah of the tribe of Ammon and besieged the royal city.

27 And Joab sent messengers to David, saying, “I have fought against Rabbah and have captured the water supply lake.

28 “Therefore assemble the rest of the people now to surround the city and capture it. Otherwise, I will capture it and get the credit.”

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#### **David conquers an Ammonite city**

29 And David assembled the entire army, went to Rabbah, fought against it and captured it.

30 And he took their king's crown from off his head. The crown weighed as much as a talent of gold, and had precious stones, and it was set on David's head. And David brought forth the plunder of the city in great abundance.

31 And he brought out the people who were in the city, and put them to work with saws, iron cutting tools and iron axes. He also made them make bricks. And he did this to all the cities of the tribe of Ammon. Then David and all the army returned to Jerusalem.

<p>13:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.</p> <p>2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.</p> <p>3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.</p> <p>4 And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.</p> <p>5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.</p> <p>6 ¶ So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.</p> <p>7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.</p> <p>8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.</p> <p>9 And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.</p> <p>10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.</p> <p>11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annon rapes his half-sister Tamar</b></p> <p>13:1 Now Absalom, the son of David and his wife Maacah, had a beautiful, unmarried sister whose name was Tamar. And Amnon the son of David and his wife Ahinoam lusted for his half-sister Tamar.</p> <p>2 And Amnon, the eldest son of David, was so obsessed with Tamar that he fell sick. For she was a virgin, and Amnon knew that it would be hard for him to possess her.</p> <p>3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very shrewd man.</p> <p>4 And Jonadab said to Amnon, "Why do you, being the king's son, look sad day after day? Will you not tell me?" And Amnon said to him, "I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."</p> <p>5 And Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be sick. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my half-sister Tamar come and bring me food and prepare it in my sight so that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"</p> <p>6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, so that I may eat them from her hand."</p> <p>7 Then David sent to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him."</p> <p>8 So Tamar went to her half-brother Amnon's house, and he was lying down. And she took flour and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes.</p> <p>9 And she took a pan and set out the cakes before him, but he refused to eat. And he said, "Let everyone but Tamar leave me." And they all left him.</p> <p>10 And Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into my bedroom, so that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made and brought them into the bedroom to Amnon her half-brother.</p> <p>11 And when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come lie with me, my sister."</p>
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12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

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

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

15 ¶ Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

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

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

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

19 ¶ And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

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

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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 Baalhazor, 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.

12 And she said to him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not make such a terrible mistake.

13 "And I, where can I go in my shame? And as for you, you shall be called a great fool in Israel. Now therefore, I beg you, speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you."

14 However, he refused to listen to her, but being stronger than she was, he violated and raped her.

15 Then Amnon hated her so intensely that his hatred exceeded the lust which he had felt for her before. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, go away."

16 And she said to him, "This wrong in sending me away is greater than what you just did to me." But he would not listen to her.

17 Then he called his servant who did his bidding and said, "Throw this woman out from my presence now and bolt the door after her."

18 And she was wearing a garment of many colors, for the king's daughters who were virgins were clothed with such robes. Then his servant took her out and bolted the door after her.

19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, rent (tore) the robe of many colors that she wore, laid her hand on her head and did not cease crying.

20 And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But be quiet, my sister; he is your half-brother. Do not be upset about this thing." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

21 And when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

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### **Absalom kills Amnon for raping Absalom's sister Tamar**

22 And Absalom did not say anything good or bad to his brother Amnon, but Absalom hated Amnon because Amnon had raped his sister Tamar.

23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor which is beside Ephraim. And he invited all the king's sons to help him celebrate the shearing of his sheep.

24 And Absalom came to the king, and said, "Behold now, I am celebrating sheep shearing; let the king and his servants come and join me."

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

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.

28 ¶ Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

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 with their clothes rent.

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: 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 very sore.

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

25 And the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, we should not all go now or we will make things difficult for you." And Absalom urged the king to go; however, the king refused, but he blessed Absalom.

26 Then Absalom said, "If you will not go, please let my eldest brother Amnon go with us." And the king asked him, "Why should he go with you?"

27 But Absalom pleaded with the king until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with Absalom.

28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, "Wait until Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not be afraid, have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

29 And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man mounted his mule and fled.

30 And it came to pass, while they were on the way home, that a message came to David, saying, "Absalom has slain all the king's other sons. There is not one of them left."

31 Then the king arose and rent (tore) his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by him with their clothes rent (torn).

32 And Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said to the king, "Do not believe that they have slain all the young sons of the king. For only Amnon is dead, since by the decision of Absalom this was determined from the day that Amnon raped Absalom's sister Tamar.

33 "Therefore let not my lord the king be troubled, believing that all his sons are dead, for only Amnon is dead."

34 And Absalom fled. And the young sentinel standing watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, a crowd of people was approaching on the hillside behind him.

35 And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons are coming! As your servant said, so it is."

36 And it came to pass, as soon as he had finished speaking that, behold, the king's sons came and lifted their voices and wept. And the king and all his servants wept bitterly.

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

<p>38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.</p> <p>39 And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.</p>	<p>38 So Absalom fled to Geshur and stayed there for three years.</p> <p>39 And the <i>soul</i> (spirit) of King David longed to see Absalom, for King David accepted the death of Amnon.</p>
<p>14:1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>3 And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.</p> <p>4 ¶ And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.</p> <p>5 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8 And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>10 And the king said, Whosoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.</p> <p>11 Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they</p>	<p><b>Joab schemes to get David to take back Absalom</b></p> <p>14:1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king longed for Absalom.</p> <p>2 And Joab sent to Tekoah, and brought from there a wise woman. He told her, "Please pretend to be a mourner and put on mourning apparel. And do not anoint yourself with olive oil, but be as a woman who has mourned for the dead a long time.</p> <p>3 "Then go to the king and speak in this manner to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth.</p> <p>4 And when the woman of Tekoah spoke to the king, she respectfully bowed her face to the ground before the king and said, "Help, O king."</p> <p>5 And the king said to her, "What ails you?" And she answered, "I am indeed a widow, and my husband is dead.</p> <p>6 "And your servant had two sons, and they quarreled together in the field, and there was no one to part them. But one of them struck the other one and killed him.</p> <p>7 "And behold, the whole family has risen against me and said, 'Deliver the one who struck down his brother, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed. Then we will cut off the heir as well!' So they would extinguish my one remaining coal by not preserving my husband's name or descendant on the earth."</p> <p>8 And the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give an order on your behalf."</p> <p>9 And the woman of Tekoah said to the king, "My lord, O king, let the guilt be on me, and on my father's house; and let the king and his throne be guiltless."</p> <p>10 And the king said, "Whoever threatens you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."</p> <p>11 Then she said, "I beg you, let the king remember you promised that you would not allow the revengers of blood to destroy any more, or else they will destroy my son." And he said, "As Yahweh lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the earth."</p>

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 hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

20 To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

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 thanked the king: and Joab said,

12 Then the woman said, "Let your servant, I beg you, speak one word to my lord the king." And he said, "Say it."

13 And the woman said, "Why do you cause sadness among the people of Yahweh? For the king is guilty of wrongdoing by not bringing his banished son home again.

14 "For we all must pass on. We are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither does God respect any person. Yet He devises means so that those who are banished are not expelled from Him.

15 "I have come to present this matter to my lord the king because people have made me afraid, and I said that I will speak to the king now. Perhaps the king will perform my request.

16 "For the king will hear, to deliver me from the hands of the person who would cut off the inheritance of Yahweh from my son and me.

17 "The word of my lord the king shall be comforting, for like an angel of Yahweh, my lord the king is able to discern good and bad. Therefore, Yahweh will be with you."

18 Then the king answered the woman, "Do not hide from me anything I shall ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king speak."

19 And the king said, "Is not the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered, "As your *soul* (spirit) lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or the left to deceive my lord the king. For your servant Joab commanded me to say this, and he put all these words in the mouth of your servant.

20 "Your servant Joab did this thing to make you hear these words, and my lord has the wisdom of an angel of God to know all things that are on the earth."

21 And the king said to Joab, "Behold, I have decided; go then and bring the young man Absalom to me."

22 And Joab fell forward to the ground and thanked the king, saying, "Today your servant knows that I have found grace in your sight, my lord O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant."

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

24 And the king said, "Let him return to his own

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 none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

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.

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

29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

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

32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

33 So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

house without seeing my face." So Absalom returned to his own house and did not see the king's face.

25 But in all Israel there was none praised so much as Absalom for his beauty. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, there was no blemish in him.

26 And when he cut his hair (for it was at every year's end that he cut it because his hair was heavy on his head), he weighed the hair. And it weighed as much as two hundred shekels (silver coins) by the royal weight.

27 And to Absalom were born three sons and one daughter, whose name was Tamar; she was a woman with a beautiful face.

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#### **Absalom is unhappy that he is not allowed back into David's presence**

28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem without being allowed a meeting with the king.

29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king; but Joab would not come to him. And when Absalom sent for him a second time, Joab would not come.

30 Therefore, Absalom said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

31 Then Joab arose and came to Absalom in his house and asked him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

32 And Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent for you to come here so that I would then send you to the king, to ask, 'Why did I return from Geshur when it would have been better for me to stay there?' Therefore, let me see the king's face now; and if there is any iniquity in me, let him kill me."

33 So Joab came to the king and told him. And when the king had called for Absalom, he came to the king and fell forward to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

15:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

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

4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

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

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

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

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

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

10 ¶ But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

13 ¶ And there came a messenger to David, saying,

### **Absalom wins the hearts of the Israelites and plots against David his father**

15:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses and fifty persons to run before him.

2 And Absalom arose early and stood beside the gate. And when anyone with a controversy came to the king for judgment, Absalom would ask, "Of what city are you?" And the person would say, "Your servant is of such and such tribe of Israel."

3 And Absalom would say to him, "See, your matters are good and right, but the king has not assigned anyone to hear you."

4 Absalom would then say, "Oh that I was appointed a judge in the land so that anyone with a lawsuit or cause might come to me. And I would give that person justice!"

5 And, when anyone approached to bow down to him, Absalom put forth his hand and kissed the person.

6 Absalom did this to all the people who came to the king for judgment, so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go to Hebron and pay my vow which I have made to Yahweh.

8 "For I made this vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria: 'If Yahweh brings me again to Jerusalem, then I will serve Yahweh.'"

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

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron.'"

11 And two hundred people went with Absalom from Jerusalem as invited guests, but they knew nothing of Absalom's plan.

12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor from Giloh, while Absalom offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy gained strength as Absalom's following kept increasing.

13 And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the people of Israel are turned to Absalom."

14 And David said to all his servants who were with



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

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

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

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

18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19 ¶ Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, 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: mercy and truth 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 wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

24 ¶ And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

25 And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes

him in Jerusalem, "Arise and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom. Prepare to depart quickly, or he will overtake us, bring evil on us, and attack the city with the edge of the sword."

15 And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides."

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### David flees Jerusalem

16 And the king left with his entire household, except for ten women, who were concubines, to keep the palace.

17 And the king set forth with all the people following him, and stayed in a place that was far off.

18 And all his servants marched past him. Also, all the Cherethites and Pelethites, and six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed by him.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "You do not need to go with us. Return to your country and live there, for you are a foreigner and an exile.

20 "Since you came only yesterday, should I make you suffer hardship with us? Seeing that I am not certain where I may go, return with your relatives. May mercy and truth be with you."

21 And Ittai answered the king, "As Yahweh lives and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether in death or life, there your servant will also be."

22 And David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over the stream." And Ittai the Gittite passed over, along with all his people and the little ones with him.

23 While all the people wept with a loud voice, all the people passed over. The king also himself passed over the boundary stream Kidron. And all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness.

24 Also Zadok and all the Levites with him passed out of the city, carrying the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and they set down the ark of Yahweh. And Abiathar the priest offered sacrifices until all the people had passed out of the city.

25 And the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of Yahweh back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of Yahweh, He will bring me back again and show

<p>of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation:</p> <p>26 But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>28 See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.</p> <p>29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.</p> <p>30 ¶ And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>32 ¶ And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:</p> <p>33 Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>37 So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.</p>	<p>me both the city and His habitation.</p> <p>26 "But if He says, 'I have no delight in you.' Behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."</p> <p>27 The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are not you a seer? Return to the city in peace with Abiathar, and the two young persons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.</p> <p>28 "See, I will wait in the plain of the wilderness until word comes from you telling me what to do."</p> <p>29 Therefore, Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of Yahweh to Jerusalem and stayed there.</p> <p>30 And David went up Mount Olive, weeping as he ascended, with his head covered and walking barefoot. And all the people with him covered their heads, and they also went up, weeping.</p> <p>31 And someone told David, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "Yahweh, I pray to You, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."</p> <p>、 、 、</p> <p><b>David arranges to hear news from Jerusalem</b></p> <p>32 And it came to pass, when David had come to the top of the mountain where people worshiped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent (torn), and dirt upon his head.</p> <p>33 And David said to him, "If you go with me, you will be a burden to me.</p> <p>34 "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king. As I was your father's servant, so I will now also be your servant.' That way, to benefit me, you may oppose the counsel of Ahithophel.</p> <p>35 "And do you not have with you Zadok and Abiathar the priests? Therefore, whatever you hear in the king's palace, you shall tell Zadok and Abiathar.</p> <p>36 "Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son. By them you shall send information to me of everything that you hear."</p> <p>37 So Hushai, David's friend, and Absalom both came into Jerusalem.</p>
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16:1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

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.

4 Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

5 ¶ And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

6 And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

8 The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

9 ¶ Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants,

### Ziba betrays his master

16:1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him with a couple of saddled donkeys. And on the donkeys were two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred summer fruits, and a leather bag full of wine.

2 And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean by these?" And Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit are for the young people to eat, and the wine is for those who are weary in the wilderness to drink."

3 And the king said, "Where is your master Saul's grandson?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is living in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel shall restore to me the kingdom of my grandfather.'"

4 Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly beg you that I may find grace in your sight, my lord O king."

### Shimei curses David

5 And when King David came to Bahurim, behold, a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, came out, yelling curses as he came.

6 And he cast stones at David and all his servants. And all the people and all the mighty warriors were on David's right hand and his left.

7 And while yelling curses, he said, "Come out, come out, you murderer, you man of Belial.

8 "Yahweh has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul in whose place you have reigned. And Yahweh has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son; and, behold, you are caught up in your evil, because you are a murderer."

9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head."

10 And the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? Let him curse. Doubtless Yahweh has said to him, 'Curse David.' Therefore, who shall say to him, 'Why have you done so?'"

11 And David said to Abishai, and all his servants, "Behold, my son, whom I fathered, seeks my life;

<p>Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.</p> <p>12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.</p> <p>13 And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.</p> <p>14 And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.</p> <p>15 ¶ And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.</p> <p>16 And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.</p> <p>17 And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?</p> <p>18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.</p> <p>19 And again, whom should I serve? should I not serve in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.</p> <p>20 ¶ Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.</p> <p>21 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.</p> <p>22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.</p> <p>23 And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.</p>	<p>how much more now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone and let him curse, for Yahweh has commanded him to curse me.</p> <p>12 "It may be that Yahweh will look on my affliction and will reward me with good for his cursing this day."</p> <p>13 And as David and his people went on their way, Shimei went along beside him on the hillside, cursing, throwing stones and dust at David as he went.</p> <p>14 And the king and all those with him became weary and refreshed themselves there.</p> <p>15 And Absalom and the people of Israel came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.</p> <p>16 And it came to pass when David's friend, Hushai the Archite, had come to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Yahweh save the king! Yahweh save the king!"</p> <p>17 And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?"</p> <p>18 And Hushai said to Absalom, "Whoever God, and these people, and all the people of Israel choose as their king, his I will be, and with him I will abide.</p> <p>19 "Whom should I serve? Should I not serve in your presence? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I serve in your presence."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ahithophel gives Absalom bad advice</b></p> <p>20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Decide what we shall do."</p> <p>21 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go lie with your father's concubines, whom he has left to look after the palace. And all Israel shall hear that your father detests you; then the hands of all who are with you shall be strong."</p> <p>22 So they spread a tent upon the top of the palace for Absalom, and he lay with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.</p> <p>23 And the counsel that Ahithophel gave in those days was as if someone had inquired at the oracle of Yahweh. So was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and Absalom.</p>
<p>17:1 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Absalom rejects the good counsel of Ahithophel</b></p> <p>17:1 Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let</p>

me now choose out 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 seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

4 And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.

5 Then said Absalom, Call now 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 chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

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 valiant men.

11 Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.

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

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

me choose twelve thousand warriors, and I will arise and pursue David this night.

2 "And I will approach him while he is weary and weak-handed. I will terrify him, and all the people with him. And I will kill only the king.

3 And I will bring back all the people to you like a bride returning to her husband. You seek the life of only one person, so all the people will be at peace."

4 And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

5 Then Absalom said, "Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says."

6 And when Hushai arrived, Absalom told him Ahithophel's plan and then said, "Shall we do what he says? If not, say so."

7 And Hushai said to Absalom, "The counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time.

8 "For you know your father and his people. They are mighty warriors, enraged as a mother bear robbed of her cubs in the field. And your father is a warrior who will not stay with the people.

9 "Behold, he is hiding now in some pit or some other place. And it will come to pass when some of your followers are overthrown during the start of the battle, whoever knows it will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.'

10 "And even Absalom's most valiant follower with the heart of a lion shall become afraid. For all Israel knows that your father is a mighty warrior, and those who are with him are valiant warriors.

11 "Instead, I advise that all Israel gather to you from Dan, even to Beersheba—a multitude like the sand by the seashore—and that you lead the battle yourself.

12 "So we shall come upon him wherever he is found, and light on him like the dew falls on the ground. And of him and of all his soldiers there shall not be so much as one remaining.

13 "Moreover, if he is found in a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will pull it into the river, until not one small stone is left there."

14 And Absalom and all the people of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." For Yahweh had appointed Hushai to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel so that Yahweh might bring evil upon Absalom.

15 Then Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar, the

counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

15 ¶ Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

16 Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him.

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.

18 Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.

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.

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22 Then David arose, and all the people that were with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.

23 ¶ And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom

priests, what Ahithophel had advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and what he himself had advised, and then said,

16 "Therefore now send quickly and tell David, 'Do not lodge this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass through them. Otherwise the king and all the people with him will be swallowed up.'"

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by the spring of Enrogel near Jerusalem, to avoid the risk of being seen approaching the city. And a female servant was to go and tell them what was happening in the city, and they were to go and tell King David.

18 But a young person saw them and told Absalom. But Jonathan and Ahimaaz left quickly and came to the house of a person in Bahurim whose house had a well in the courtyard which they went down.

19 And a woman placed a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it, so no one would suspect they were hidden there.

20 And when Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said to Absalom's servants, "They have crossed over the stream nearby." And after searching for them and not finding them, Absalom's servants returned to Jerusalem.

21 And it came to pass, after Absalom's servants had departed, that Ahimaaz and Jonathan came up from the well and went to King David, saying, "Arise and pass quickly over the river. For Ahithophel has counseled against you."

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**David and his followers cross the Jordan River, and Absalom and his followers also cross**

22 Then David and all the people with him arose and crossed the Jordan River. By morning, all of them had crossed the Jordan River.

23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went home to his city. And he put his house in order, hanged himself and died. And he was buried in the sepulcher of his father.

24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan River, and all the people of Israel

<p>passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.</p> <p>25 ¶ And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruah Joab's mother.</p> <p>26 So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.</p> <p>27 ¶ And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,</p> <p>28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse,</p> <p>29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.</p>	<p>were with him.</p> <p>25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab. Amasa was the son of Ithra, an Israelite. His mother was Abigail the daughter of Nahash, who was the sister of Zeruah, Joab's mother.</p> <p>26 So the Israelites and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.</p> <p>27 And it came to pass, when David came to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the tribe of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim</p> <p>28 brought beds, bowls, clay pots, wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, dried peas,</p> <p>29 honey, butter, sheep, and cheese from cows for David and his people to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry, weary, and thirsty in the wilderness."</p> <p>`</p> <p>`</p>
<p>`</p> <p><b>18:1</b> And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.</p> <p>2 And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, 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.</p> <p>3 But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now thou art worth ten thousand of us: therefore now it is better that thou succour us out of the city.</p> <p>4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.</p> <p>5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Joab kills Absalom</b></p> <p><b>18:1</b> And David counted the people who were with him, and set commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds over them.</p> <p>2 And David sent out a third of the people under the command of Joab the son of Zeruah, and a third under the command of Abishai, Joab's brother, and a third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And David said to the people, "I will go out with you."</p> <p>3 But the people answered, "No, you shall not go out, for we cannot risk your getting hurt or killed, for you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore, it is better that you support us while staying in the city."</p> <p>4 And the king said to them, "What seems best to you, I will do." And the king stood by the side of the gate while all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.</p> <p>5 And the king commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom my son." And all the people heard the king's orders to his captains concerning Absalom.</p> <p>6 So the people went out into the field against the followers of Absalom, and the battle was in the</p>

6 ¶ So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;  
 7 Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men.  
 8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.  
 9 ¶ And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.  
 10 And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.  
 11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.  
 12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.  
 13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.  
 14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.  
 15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.  
 16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.  
 17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.  
 18 ¶ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own

woods of Ephraim.

7 There the followers of Absalom were defeated by David's servants, and there was a great slaughter there that day of twenty thousand soldiers.  
 8 For the battle was scattered over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.  
 9 And Absalom met the servants of David while riding upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak. And Absalom's hair became caught in the branches, and he was suspended between the heavens and the earth. And the mule that was under him left him hanging there.  
 10 And a certain person saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."  
 11 And Joab said to the person who told him, "Behold, you saw him, and yet you did not strike him to the ground right there? I would have given you ten silver coins and a belt."  
 12 And the person said to Joab, "Though I were to receive a thousand silver coins in my hand, yet I would not put forth my hand against the king's son. For we heard the king command you, Abishai, and Ittai, 'Make sure that no one harms Absalom.'  
 13 "Otherwise I would have endangered my own life, for there is no matter which is hidden from the king. And you would have opposed me."  
 14 Then Joab said, "I do not have time for this." And he took three small daggers in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was still alive hanging from the oak.  
 15 And ten young men who carried Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, struck him and killed him.  
 16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing the followers of Absalom, for Joab held them back.  
 17 And they took Absalom, cast him into a great pit in the woods and laid a great heap of stones upon him. And all of Absalom's followers fled to their tents.  
 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had built for himself a pillar which is in the King's Valley; for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." And he called the pillar by his own name; and it is called to this day, "Absalom's monument."<sup>3</sup>  
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name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

19 ¶ Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.

20 And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

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

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

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

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

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

26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

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

28 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

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

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

31 And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings,

### David weeps greatly for Absalom

19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me now run and carry the news to the king, how Yahweh has avenged him on his enemies."

20 And Joab said to him, "You shall not give the news this day, but you shall give the news another day. But this day you shall not give any news because the king's son is dead."

21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go tell the king what you have seen." And the Cushite bowed to Joab and ran.

22 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Let me, I beg you, run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why would you run, my son, seeing that you have no news?"

23 But Ahimaaz said, "Let me run." And Joab said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite.

24 And David sat between the inner and outer gate to the city, and the sentinel went up to the roof over the passageway between the gates. And the sentinel looked out and saw a person running alone.

25 And the sentinel cried out to the king. And the king said, "If the runner is alone, the runner has news to tell." And the runner came quickly and drew near.

26 And the sentinel saw another person running, and the sentinel called to the porter, "I see another person running alone." And the king said, "This runner also brings news."

27 And the sentinel said, "I think the first person runs the same way as Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good person and comes with good news."

28 And Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well." And Ahimaaz fell forward to the earth before the king, and said, "Praised be Yahweh, who has delivered up the people who raised their hands against my lord the king."

29 And the king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I do not know what it was."

30 And the king said to him, "Turn aside and stand here." And Ahimaaz turned aside and stood still.

31 And, behold, the Cushite came and said,

<p>my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.</p> <p>32 And the king said unto Cushite, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushite answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.</p> <p>33 ¶ And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!</p>	<p>“News, my lord the king. For Yahweh has avenged you this day upon all those who revolted against you.”</p> <p>32 And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And the Cushite answered, "May what became of the young man happen to the enemies of my lord the king and to all who rise up against you to harm you."</p> <p>33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the room over the gate and wept, "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"</p>
<p>19:1 And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.</p> <p>2 And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.</p> <p>3 And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.</p> <p>4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!</p> <p>5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;</p> <p>6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.</p> <p>7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.</p> <p>8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they</p>	<p><b>David is criticized for not being grateful for the support of his followers</b></p> <p>19:1 And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."</p> <p>2 And the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for that day they heard that the king grieved for his son.</p> <p>3 And the soldiers came back silently into the city that day as though they were fleeing from a battle in shame.</p> <p>4 And the king covered his face and cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"</p> <p>5 And Joab came into the palace to the king and said, "Now you are shaming all your servants who this day have saved your life, and the lives of your sons, your daughters, your wives and the lives of your concubines.</p> <p>6 "You love your enemies and hate your friends. For you appear today not to respect your commanders. For this day I perceive that if Absalom had lived and we all had died in the battle, then it would have pleased you.</p> <p>7 "Therefore, arise, go forth now, and speak kindly to your servants. For I swear by God, if you do not do this, no one will remain with you tonight. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that befell you from your youth until now."</p> <p><b>Arguments arise concerning the re-establishment of loyalties</b></p> <p>8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And</p>

told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.  
9 ¶ And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom.

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

11 ¶ And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house.

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

13 And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

14 And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent this word unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.

15 So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

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16 ¶ And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

17 And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.

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18 And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan;

19 And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that

they told all the people, "Behold, the king sits in the gate." And all the people came before the king, for all of Absalom's followers had fled to their tents.

9 And all the people were impatient throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us out of the hands of our enemies. And he delivered us out of the hands of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land for fear of Absalom.

10 "And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, died in battle. Therefore, why are you elders of Judah now not speaking of bringing the king back?"

11 When King David learned of what all Israel was saying, he sent this message to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his palace?'"

12 'You are my relatives, my bones and my flesh; therefore why are you the last to bring back the king?'

13 "And say to Amasa, 'Are you not of my bone and my flesh? May Yahweh deal harshly with me, and more also, if you are not the commander of my army continually in place of Joab.'"

14 And he moved the hearts of all the people of Judah as the heart of one person so that they sent this word to the king, "Return with all your servants."

15 So the king returned and came to the Jordan River. And the tribe of Judah came to Gilgal to go to meet the king and to conduct the king over the Jordan River.

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#### **Shimei seems to be forgiven**

16 And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite who was of Bahurim, hurried down with the people of Judah to meet King David.

17 And a thousand people of the tribe of Benjamin were with him, along with Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants. And they went over the Jordan River before the king.

18 And a ferry boat went over to carry across the king's household, and to do what was pleasing to the king. And Shimei the son of Gera bowed before the king, as he came over the Jordan River.

19 And he said to the king, "Let not my lord impute guilt to me, nor remember what your servant did

which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

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

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

22 And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?

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

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24 ¶ And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

25 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?

26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame.

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

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

29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land.

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

31 ¶ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from

perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem. May the king not take it to heart.

20 "For I know that I have sinned; therefore, I am the first one of all the house of Joseph this day to go down to meet my lord the king."

21 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall Shimei not be put to death for this, because he cursed Yahweh's anointed?"

22 And David said, "I do not think as you think, you sons of Zeruiah. Why should you this day be adversaries to me? Shall any one be put to death this day in Israel? For do I not know that I am this day truly king over Israel?"

23 Therefore, the king said to Shimei, "You shall not be put to death." And the king swore this to him.

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#### **Various people offer to escort the king back to Jerusalem**

24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither washed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

25 And it came to pass when Mephibosheth arrived at Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king asked him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

26 And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for I said, 'I will saddle a donkey so that I may ride it and go to the king. For I am lame.'"

27 "But my servant slandered me to my lord the king, but my lord the king is as wise as an angel of God, so do what is good in your sight.

28 "For all of my father's family deserved to die before my lord the king, yet you set me your servant among those who ate at your own table. Therefore, what right do I have to ask anything more of the king?"

29 And the king said to him, "Do not speak any more of your matters. I have said that you and Ziba are to divide the land."

30 And Mephibosheth said to the king, "I would willingly let him take all, for my lord the king has come again in peace to his own palace."

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

Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.

32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man.

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

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

35 I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

36 Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

37 Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

38 And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee.

39 And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.

40 Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

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41 ¶ And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan?

42 And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king is near of kin to us:

32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with sustenance while the king lay at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

33 And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over the Jordan River with me, and I will feed you in Jerusalem."

34 And Barzillai said to the king, "How much longer do I have to live, so that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?"

35 "I am eighty years old today. Can I still discern between good and evil? Can your servant taste what he eats or drinks anymore? Can I still hear the voice of singing men and singing women? Therefore, why should your servant be a burden to my lord the king?"

36 "Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan River with the king, but why should the king recompense me with such a reward?"

37 "Let me, I beg you, turn back again, so that I may pass on in my own city and be buried by the grave of my father and my mother. But behold your servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king and do for him what seems good to you."

38 And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over the Jordan River with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you; and whatever you ask from me, I will do for you."

39 And all the people went over the Jordan River. And when the king crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and Barzillai returned to his own place.

40 Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went with him; and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

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**The people of Israel are angry because they were not invited to bring back King David**

41 And, behold, all the people of Israel came to the king and asked, "Why have our relatives, the people of Judah, stolen you away, and have brought the king, his household and all his people over the Jordan River?"

42 And all the people of Judah answered the people of Israel, "Because the king is our relative.

<p>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?</p> <p>43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.</p>	<p>Therefore, you have no right to be angry about this matter. Have we ever eaten at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?"</p> <p>43 And the people of Israel answered the people of Judah, "We have ten parts in the king, so we have more claim in David than you. Why then did you despise us so that our advice would not be followed as to how to bring back our king?" And the words of the people of Judah were fiercer than the words of the people of Israel.</p>
<p>20:1 And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.</p> <p>2 So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.</p> <p>3 ¶ And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.</p> <p>4 ¶ Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.</p> <p>5 So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.</p> <p>6 And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.</p> <p>7 And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.</p> <p>8 When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him,</p>	<p><b>Sheba rebels against David, is pursued by Joab, and killed</b></p> <p>20:1 And a man of Belial happened to be there whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite, and he blew a trumpet. And he said, "We have no part in David, neither do we have any inheritance in the son of Jesse; all people to their tents, O Israel."</p> <p>2 So every person of Israel deserted David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the people of Judah stayed with their king from the Jordan River to Jerusalem.</p> <p>3 And David came to his palace at Jerusalem, and the king took the ten women who were his concubines, whom he had left to take care of the palace, and put them in a house under guard. And he fed them but did not visit them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living like widows.</p> <p>4 Then the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the people of Judah within three days and present yourself here."</p> <p>5 So Amasa went to assemble the people of Judah, but he took longer than the time the king had set.</p> <p>6 And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri shall do us more harm than Absalom did. Take my servants and pursue him or he will find a fortified city to escape from us."</p> <p>7 And Joab's people, the Cherethites, the Pelethites and all the mighty soldiers set out under the command of Abishai. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.</p> <p>8 When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment he was wearing was wrapped around him. And over it was a belt with a sword in a sheath; and</p>

and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

9 And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

11 And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab.

12 And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

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

14 ¶ And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.

15 And they came and besieged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

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 and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

20 And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it

as he walked, the sword fell out.

9 And Joab said to Amasa, "Are you well, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

10 But Amasa did not notice the sword in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the belly and spilled out his insides to the ground and did not need to strike him again; and Amasa died.

Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

11 And one of Joab's soldiers stood by him and said, "He who favors Joab and he who is for David, let him follow Joab."

12 And Amasa lay in blood in the middle of the road. And when a person saw all the people stopping there, he moved Amasa off the highway into the adjacent field, and threw a cloth over his body, seeing that everyone who came by was staring.

13 When the body was moved off the road, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

14 And Sheba went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maachah, and all the Berites assembled and went into the city with him.

15 And Joab and his soldiers came and besieged Sheba in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they built a ramp against the wall of the city and began to tunnel under the wall. And all the people with Joab battered the wall to break it down.

16 Then a wise woman in the city cried out to Joab, "Hear, hear; I beg you, come close so that I may speak with you."

17 And when he came near to her, the woman asked, "Are you Joab?" And he answered, "I am he." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your servant." And he answered, "I am listening."

18 Then she spoke, "In the old days there was a common saying, 'They shall surely ask advise in Abel to settle a dispute.'

19 "I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the inheritance of Yahweh?"

20 And Joab answered, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I would swallow up or destroy.

21 "That is not our purpose. But a person of the hill country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by

<p>from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.                  21 The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.                  22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.                  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 Ahilud 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.</p>	<p>name, has raised his hand against the king, even against David. Deliver only him, and I will depart from the city.” And the woman said to Joab, “Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.”                  22 Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And Joab blew a trumpet, and all the soldiers retired from the city to their tents. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.                  23 Now Joab was over all the army of Israel, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites.                  24 And Adoram was in charge of the tribute, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder.                  25 And Sheva was the scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests.                  26 And Ira the Jairite was one of David’s priests.                  \,                  \,                  \,</p>
<p>\,                  \,  <b>21:1</b> Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.                  2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)                  3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?                  4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.                  5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we</p>	<p><b>Seven descendants of Saul are hanged to satisfy the Gibeonites’ desire for revenge</b>  <b>21:1</b> Then there was a famine in the days of David for three successive years, and David inquired of Yahweh. And Yahweh answered, "Saul and his household are guilty because he killed the Gibeonites."                  2 And the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but were of the remnant of the Amorites, and the children of Israel had sworn to spare them. But Saul was determined to slay them in an excess of zeal to serve the children of Israel and Judah.)                  3 Therefore, David said to the Gibeonites, “How shall I make an atonement so that you may bless the inheritance of Yahweh?”                  4 And the Gibeonites said to him, “We will not have any of the silver or gold of Saul, nor of his household. Neither shall you kill any person in Israel for us.” And David said, “Whatever you shall ask me to do, I will do for you.”                  5 And they answered the king, “There is a man, namely Saul, who consumed us, and plotted to</p>



should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,

6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them.

7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

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.

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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 Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

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

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15 ¶ Moreover the Philistines had yet war again

destroy us from remaining in any portion of Israel. 6 "Let seven of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them<sup>4</sup> before Yahweh in Gibeah, the home of Saul, whom Yahweh chose to be king." And David said, "I will give them."

7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul because of Yahweh's oath that was between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth,<sup>5</sup> as well as the five sons of Michal<sup>6</sup> the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai, the Meholathite.

9 And the king delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before Yahweh. And all seven fell together and died during the beginning of the barley harvest.

10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens. And she did not allow either the birds of the air to approach the bodies by day or the beasts of the field by night.

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#### **David buries the bones of Saul, Jonathan, and the hanged descendants of Saul**

11 And David was told 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 people of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the street of Bethshan where the Philistines had hanged them when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa.

13 So David ordered the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan to be brought from there, along with the bones of those who had been hanged.

14 And they buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah in the sepulcher of Kish, Saul's father. And they performed all that the king commanded. And after that, people prayed to God to bless the land.

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#### **The Philistines are defeated by the Israelites in various wars**

15 Moreover, the Philistines waged war again

<p>with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.</p> <p>16 And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.</p> <p>17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>19 And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>21 And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him.</p> <p>22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.</p>	<p>with Israel, and David went down with his servants and fought against the Philistines. And David became weak and exhausted.</p> <p>16 A giant of a man named Ishbibenob, whose spear weighed about seven and a half pounds, and was armed with a new sword, intended to kill David.</p> <p>17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to the aid of David and struck down the Philistine, killing him. Then the soldiers of David swore to him, "You shall not go out anymore with us to battle so that you do not quench the light of Israel."</p> <p>18 And it came to pass after this, that there was another battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the sons of the huge man.</p> <p>19 And there was once again a battle in Gob with the Philistines. There, Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.</p> <p>20 And there was yet another battle in Gath, where there was a man of great stature who had six fingers on every hand, and six toes on every foot, twenty-four in number. And he also was born to the huge man.</p> <p>21 And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, the brother of David, killed him.</p> <p>22 These four were born to the huge man in Gath and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.</p>
<p>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:</p> <p>2 And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.</p> <p>5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David's song of triumph and gratitude</b></p> <p>22:1 And David sang to God the words of this song on the day that God delivered him out of the hands of all his enemies, and out of the hands of Saul.</p> <p>2 David sang, "God is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.</p> <p>3 "God is my rock; I will trust in God; God is my shield, the horn of my salvation, my high tower, my refuge and my Savior who saves me from violence.</p> <p>4 "I will call on God, who is worthy to be praised; so I shall be saved from my enemies.</p> <p>5 "When the waves of death encompassed me, the floods of ungodly people made me afraid</p> <p>6 "and the sorrows of hell smothered me, and the</p>

6 The sorrows of hell 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; 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, dark 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 discovered, 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 prevented 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 upright 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.

snares of death held me tight.  
 7 "In my distress I called on Yahweh, cried out to Yahweh; and He heard my voice; out of His temple, He heard my cry.  
 8 "Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the heavens moved and shook with His anger.  
 9 "Smoke went up, and a devouring fire started up; coals were kindled by it.  
 10 "He bent the heavens and came down, and darkness was beneath Him.  
 11 "He was everywhere, as if on the wings of the wind.  
 12 "And He made curtains of darkness around Him, dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.  
 13 "Through the brightness before Him coals of fire were kindled.  
 14 "Yahweh thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice.  
 15 "And He sent out arrows and scattered the evil ones; with lightning he sent them fleeing.  
 16 "And the channels of the sea appeared, and the foundations of the world shook at the rebuke of Yahweh, at the blast of wind from Him.  
 17 "He reached from above; He took me; He drew me out of many waters.  
 18 "He delivered me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.  
 19 "They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but God was my protection.  
 20 "He brought me into a spacious place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.  
 21 "God rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to my innocence He has recompensed me.  
 22 "For I have kept the ways of God, and have not wickedly departed from God.  
 23 "For all His commandments were before me; and as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.  
 24 "I was also upright before Him and have kept myself from iniquity.  
 25 "Therefore God has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my innocence in His sight.  
 26 "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful, and with the true You will show Yourself

26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

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 lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

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

31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

32 For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?

33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

34 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.

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, 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 strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me.

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27 "With the pure You will show Yourself pure, and with the wicked You will show Yourself opposed to wickedness.

28 "And You will save the afflicted people, but Your sight is on the haughty so that You may bring them down.

29 "For You are my lamp, O God; God will lighten my darkness.

30 "For by You I have run unharmed through a troop of enemies; by my God I have leaped over a wall.

31 "As for God, His ways are perfect; the word of God has been proven. He is a shield to all those who trust in Him.

32 "For who is God except God? And who is a rock except our God?

33 "God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect.

34 "He makes my feet like the sure hooves of a deer and sets me on high places.

35 "God teaches my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by my arms.

36 "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your gentleness has made me great.

37 "You have made my steps sure, so that my feet do not slip.

38 "With the help of Yahweh, I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them, and I did not turn back until I had wiped them out.

39 "And I have wounded and destroyed them so that they could not rise up again. Yes, they have fallen under my feet.

40 "For You have armored me with strength for the battle; You have subdued my adversaries under me.

41 "Yahweh, You have also exposed to me the necks of my enemies so that I might destroy those who hate me.

42 "They looked, but there was no one to save them, even to Yahweh, but He did not answer them.

43 Then I beat them as small as the dust of the earth; I stamped them into the mud of the street and spread them abroad.

44 "You also have delivered me from the rebellions of my people; You have strengthened me to become the leader over the heathen; a people whom I did not know shall serve me.

<p>45 Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.</p> <p>46 Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.</p> <p>47 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.</p> <p>48 It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.</p> <p>51 He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.</p>	<p>45 "Foreigners shall submit themselves to me; as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient to me.</p> <p>46 "Foreigners shall be afraid, and they shall crawl to me from their hiding places.</p> <p>47 "God lives, and blessed be my rock! And may God, the rock of my salvation, be exalted.</p> <p>48 "It is Yahweh who avenges me and places people under my rule.</p> <p>49 "God, You bring me forth from my enemies. You also have lifted me up on high above those who rose up against me. You have delivered me from the violent ones.</p> <p>50 "Therefore I will give thanks to You, God, among the nations, and I will sing praises to Your name (nature)."</p> <p>51 He is the tower of salvation for His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David, and to His descendants forever.</p>
<p>23:1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,</p> <p>2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5 Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.</p> <p>6 ¶ But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:</p> <p>7 But the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.</p> <p>8 ¶ These be the names of the mighty men whom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The last words of David</b></p> <p>23:1 Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse, the man who was raised up on high; the anointed of Yahweh, the Deity of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel said,</p> <p>2 "The Spirit of God spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.</p> <p>3 "The God of Israel, the rock of Israel, said to me, 'The person who rules over people must be just, ruling in the reverence of God.</p> <p>4 'And this person shall be as the light of the morning when the sun rises, like a morning without clouds, like the tender grass springing out of the earth, shining after rain.'"</p> <p>5 This is the way my house is with God. And He has made an everlasting covenant with me, ordered in all things and sure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire, and God will surely bring it to pass.</p> <p>6 But all of the offspring of Belial shall be as thorns thrown away because they cannot be handled.</p> <p>7 No one can deal with them except with an iron rod or a spear; they shall be utterly burned with fire where they are.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The names of the mighty warriors of David</b></p> <p>8 These are the names of the mighty warriors</p>

David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three 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 Rephaim.

14 And David was then in an hold, 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.

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

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

19 Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto

whom David had: the Tachmonite was chief among the captains; he was Adino the Eznite. He lifted up his spear against eight hundred enemy soldiers whom he killed at one time.

9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty warriors with David when they defied the Philistines who had gathered together to battle and the army of Israel had fallen back.

10 Eleazar arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and stuck to his sword, and Yahweh achieved a great victory that day. And the army returned after him only to plunder.

11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop where there was a field full of lentils, and the army fled from the Philistines.

12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, defended it and killed the Philistines, and Yahweh achieved a great victory.

13 And three of the thirty chiefs went down and came to David at harvest time to the cave of Adullam. And a band of the Philistines camped in the valley of Rephaim.

14 And at that time, David was in a stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed for water and said, "Oh if only someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate of Bethlehem!"

16 And the three mighty soldiers broke through the army of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and brought it to David. However, David would not drink it but rather poured it out to Yahweh.

17 For he said, "Far be it from me, Yahweh, that I should drink this. This water was obtained by warriors who obtained it in jeopardy of their lives." Therefore, he would not drink it. These things these three mighty warriors did.

18 And Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among the three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred and killed them and made a name for himself among the thirty chiefs.

19 Was he not the most honorable of the three? Therefore, he was their captain, but was not one of

<p>the first three.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.</p> <p>22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.</p> <p>23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.</p> <p>24 Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,</p> <p>25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,</p> <p>26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,</p> <p>27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,</p> <p>28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,</p> <p>29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,</p> <p>30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,</p> <p>31 Abiathron the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,</p> <p>32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,</p> <p>33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,</p> <p>34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,</p> <p>35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,</p> <p>36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,</p> <p>37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,</p> <p>38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,</p> <p>39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.</p>	<p>the first three.</p> <p>20 And Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel who had done many brave deeds. He killed two great warriors of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day.</p> <p>21 And he killed an Egyptian, a strong man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went against him with only a staff, took the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.</p> <p>22 These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did and made a name for himself among the thirty chiefs.</p> <p>23 He was more honorable than others of the thirty chiefs, but he was not one of the first three. And David set him over his guard.</p> <p>24 Members of the thirty included Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,</p> <p>25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,</p> <p>26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh, the Tekoite,</p> <p>27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,</p> <p>28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,</p> <p>29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah, of the children of Benjamin,</p> <p>30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the streams of Gaash,</p> <p>31 Abiathron the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,</p> <p>32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,</p> <p>33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar, the Hararite,</p> <p>34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel, the Gilonite,</p> <p>35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,</p> <p>36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,</p> <p>37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armor-bearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,</p> <p>38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite, and</p> <p>39 Uriah the Hittite:<sup>7</sup> thirty-seven in all.</p>
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24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

5 ¶ And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer:

6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon,

7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba.

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, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

11 For when David was 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

### David sins by taking a census of Israel

24:1 And again the anger of Yahweh burned against Israel, and He stirred up David against them to say, "Go, make a count of Israel and Judah."

2 For the king said to Joab, the head of the army who was with him, "Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, so that I may know the number of the people."

3 And Joab said to the king, "Now may God multiply the people greatly, perhaps a hundredfold, and grant that the eyes of my lord the king may see it. But why does my lord the king wish to do this thing?"

4 However, the king's word prevailed against Joab and the officers of the army. And Joab and the officers of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

5 And they crossed over the Jordan River and camped in Aroer on the right side of the city that lies in the midst of the river valley of Gad and toward Jazer.

6 Then they came to Gilead and the land of Tahtimhodshi, and then to Danjaan and almost to Sidon.

7 And they came to the stronghold of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites, and then to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba.

8 And when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem after nine months and twenty days.

9 And Joab gave the sum of the number of warriors to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant warriors who drew the sword, and the warriors of Judah numbered five hundred thousand.

10 And David's heart struck him after he had counted the people. And he said to God, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, I pray to You, O God, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

### Because of David's sin, Yahweh strikes Israel with a plague

11 For when David arose in the morning, this word of Yahweh came to the prophet Gad, David's seer:

12 "Go and tell David what Yahweh says, 'I offer you



offer 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 advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

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

15 ¶ So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba 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 as the LORD commanded.

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

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.

three options. Choose one of them; and I will do it to you.”

13 So Gad came to David, and told him, “Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months from your enemies while they pursue you? Or will there be pestilence for three days in your land? Now advise and tell me what answer I shall give Him who sent me.”

14 And David said to Gad, “I am so troubled I cannot choose between the options. I now place Israel under the control of Yahweh, for His mercies are great, and more merciful than that of humans.”

15 So Yahweh sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the appointed time, and seventy thousand people died from Dan to Beersheba.

16 But when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, Yahweh repented of the evil and said to the angel that was ready to destroy the people, “It is enough. Withdraw your hand.” And the angel of Yahweh was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 And David spoke to Yahweh when he saw the angel that struck the people, and said, “Behold, I have sinned, and have acted wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hands, I pray you, be against me instead, and against my father's house.”

18 And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go and build an altar to Yahweh on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

19 And David went up in obedience to Gad's command, as Yahweh commanded.

20 And Araunah looked and saw the king and his servants coming toward him, and Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.

21 And Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” And David said, “To buy your threshing floor, to build an altar to Yahweh so that the plague may be turned away from the people.”

22 And Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take, and offer up, whatever he wishes. Behold, here are oxen for the burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments, and other instruments of the oxen for wood.”

23 With his authority, Araunah, offered freely all

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>this to King David. And Araunah said to David, "May Yahweh accept you."</p> <p>24 And David said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to Yahweh of that which does not cost me anything." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty silver coins.</p> <p>25 And David built there an altar to Yahweh, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on it. So Yahweh heeded the prayers for the land, and Israel was saved from the plague.</p> <p>` `</p>
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<sup>1</sup> 8:3 This passage helped to free me from the tendency that Christian Scientists have to engage in hero worship of David.

<sup>2</sup> 11:4 Just because Bathsheba was ritually pure, did not make the adultery any less wrong.

<sup>3</sup> 18:18 This verse is from a different tradition: according to 2 Samuel 14:27, Absalom had three sons.

<sup>4</sup> 21:6 To hand offspring for the sons of their father was not in accord with the law of Moses as it was later interpreted.

<sup>5</sup> 21:8 This Mephibosheth is a different person than the Mephibosheth who is the son of Jonathan.

<sup>6</sup> 21:8 This is a different tradition. According to 2 Samuel 6:23, Michal had no children.

<sup>7</sup> 23:39 Uriah was the husband of Bathsheba.