

# THE FIRST BOOK OF SĀM-Ū-ĒL, OTHERWISE CALLED, THE FIRST BOOK OF THE KINGS

## CHAPTER 1

**N**OW there was a certain man of Rā-mā-thā-īm-zō-phīm, of mount Ē-phrā-īm, and his name was Ēl-kā-nāh, the son of Jē-rō-hām, the son of Ē-li-hū, the son of Tō-hū, the son of Zūph, an Ēph-rā-thīte:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hān-nāh, and the name of the other Pē-nīn-nāh: and Pē-nīn-nāh had children, but Hān-nāh had no children.

3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shī-lōh. And the two sons of Ē-li, Hōph-nī and Phīn-ē-hāš, the priests of the LORD, were there.

4 ¶ And when the time was that Ēl-kā-nāh offered, he gave to Pē-nīn-nāh his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

5 But unto Hān-nāh he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hān-nāh: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Ēl-kā-nāh her husband to her, Hān-nāh, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

9 ¶ So Hān-nāh rose up after they had eaten in Shī-lōh, and after they had drunk. Now Ē-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Ē-li marked her mouth.

13 Now Hān-nāh, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Ē-li thought she had been drunken.

14 And Ē-li said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hān-nāh answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Bē-lī-āl: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Ē-li answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Īś-rā-ēl grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her

countenance was no more *sad*.

19 ¶ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Rā-māh: and Ēl-kā-nāh knew Hān-nāh his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hān-nāh had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Sām-ū-ēl, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

21 And the man Ēl-kā-nāh, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hān-nāh went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

23 And Ēl-kā-nāh her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 ¶ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ē-phāh of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shī-lōh: and the child was young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Ē-li.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

## CHAPTER 2

**A**ND Hān-nāh prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 *There is none* holy as the LORD: for *there is none* beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and

to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

11 And Ēl-kā'nāh went to Rā'māh to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Ē-lī the priest.

12 ¶ Now the sons of Ē-lī *were* sons of Bē-lī-āl; they knew not the LORD.

13 And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

14 And he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shī'lōh unto all the Īś-rā-ēl-ites that came thither.

15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

16 And *if* any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and *then* take *as much* as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, *Nay*; but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force.

17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

18 ¶ But Săm'ū-ēl ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ē-phōd.

19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 ¶ And Ē-lī blessed Ēl-kā'nāh and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

21 And the LORD visited Hăn'nāh, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Săm'ū-ēl grew before the LORD.

22 ¶ Now Ē-lī was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Īś-rā-ēl; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

24 *Nay*, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress.

25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

26 And the child Săm'ū-ēl grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

27 ¶ And there came a man of God unto Ē-lī, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Ē-ġypt in Phār'āōh's house?

28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ē-phōd before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Īś-rā-ēl?

29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Īś-rā-ēl *my* people?

30 Wherefore the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

32 And thou shalt see an enemy *in my* habitation, in all *the* wealth which God shall give Īś-rā-ēl: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

33 And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hōph-nī and Phīn-ē-hās; in one day they shall die both of them.

35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

36 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

#### CHAPTER 3

AND the child Săm'ū-ēl ministered unto the LORD before Ē-lī. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was* no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Ē-lī was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Săm'ū-ēl was laid down *to sleep*;

4 That the LORD called Săm'ū-ēl: and he answered, Here *am* I.

5 And he ran unto Ē-lī, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst

me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sắm'ū-ēl. And Sắm'ū-ēl arose and went to Ē'li, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Sắm'ū-ēl did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sắm'ū-ēl again the third time. And he arose and went to Ē'li, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Ē'li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore Ē'li said unto Sắm'ū-ēl, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Sắm'ū-ēl went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sắm'ū-ēl, Sắm'ū-ēl. Then Sắm'ū-ēl answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 ¶ And the LORD said to Sắm'ū-ēl, Behold, I will do a thing in Īś-rā-ēl, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Ē'li all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Ē'li, that the iniquity of Ē'li's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 ¶ And Sắm'ū-ēl lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Sắm'ū-ēl feared to shew Ē'li the vision.

16 Then Ē'li called Sắm'ū-ēl, and said, Sắm'ū-ēl, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I.

17 And he said, What *is* the thing that *the* LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18 And Sắm'ū-ēl told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

19 ¶ And Sắm'ū-ēl grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Īś-rā-ēl from Dān even to Bēer-shē'bā knew that Sắm'ū-ēl was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shī'lōh: for the LORD revealed himself to Sắm'ū-ēl in Shī'lōh by the word of the LORD.

#### CHAPTER 4

AND the word of Sắm'ū-ēl came to all Īś-rā-ēl. Now Īś-rā-ēl went out against the Phīl'īs-tīnēs to battle, and pitched beside Ēb-ēn-ē'zēr: and the Phīl'īs-tīnēs pitched in Ā'phēk.

2 And the Phīl'īs-tīnēs put themselves in array against Īś-rā-ēl: and when they joined battle, Īś-rā-ēl was smitten before the Phīl'īs-tīnēs: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

3 ¶ And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Īś-rā-ēl said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Phīl'īs-tīnēs? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shī'lōh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

4 So the people sent to Shī'lōh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth *between* the chēr'ū-bīms: and the two sons of Ē'li, Hōph-nī and Phīn'ē-hās, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Īś-rā-ēl shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

6 And when the Phīl'īs-tīnēs heard the noise of the shout, they said, What *meaneth* the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hē-brēw's? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

7 And the Phīl'īs-tīnēs were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these *are* the Gods that smote the Ē-gŷp'tīāns with all the plagues in the wilderness.

9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Phīl'īs-tīnēs, that ye be not servants unto the Hē-brēw's, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

10 ¶ And the Phīl'īs-tīnēs fought, and Īś-rā-ēl was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Īś-rā-ēl thirty thousand footmen.

11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Ē'li, Hōph-nī and Phīn'ē-hās, were slain.

12 ¶ And there ran a man of Bēn-jā-mīn out of the army, and came to Shī'lōh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

13 And when he came, lo, Ē'li sat upon a seat by the way-side watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told *it*, all the city cried out.

14 And when Ē'li heard the noise of the crying, he said, What *meaneth* the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Ē'li.

15 Now Ē'li was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

16 And the man said unto Ē'li, I *am* he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

17 And the messenger answered and said, Īś-rā-ēl is fled before the Phīl'īs-tīnēs, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also,

Hōph-nī and Phīn-ě-hăš, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Īś-rā-ěl forty years.

19 ¶ And his daughter in law, Phīn-ě-hăš' wife, was with child, *near* to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

20 And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*.

21 And she named the child Ī-chă-bōd, saying, The glory is departed from Īś-rā-ěl: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

22 And she said, The glory is departed from Īś-rā-ěl: for the ark of God is taken.

## CHAPTER 5

AND the Phīl-īs-tīneš took the ark of God, and brought it from Ĕb-ĕn-ĕ-zēr unto Āsh-dōd.

2 When the Phīl-īs-tīneš took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dā-gōn, and set it by Dā-gōn.

3 ¶ And when they of Āsh-dōd arose early on the morrow, behold, Dā-gōn was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dā-gōn, and set him in his place again.

4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dā-gōn was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dā-gōn and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off upon the threshold; only *the stump of* Dā-gōn was left to him.

5 Therefore neither the priests of Dā-gōn, nor any that come into Dā-gōn's house, tread on the threshold of Dā-gōn in Āsh-dōd unto this day.

6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Āsh-dōd, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, *even* Āsh-dōd and the coasts thereof.

7 And when the men of Āsh-dōd saw that *it was* so, they said, The ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dā-gōn our god.

8 They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl be carried about unto Găth. And they carried the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl about *thither*.

9 And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.

10 ¶ Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ĕk-rōn. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ĕk-rōn, that the Ĕk-rōn-ites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl to us, to slay us and our people.

11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

12 And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

## CHAPTER 6

AND the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Phīl-īs-tīneš seven months.

2 And the Phīl-īs-tīneš called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Īś-rā-ěl, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering; then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

4 Then said they, What *shall be* the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, *according to* the number of the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.

5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Īś-rā-ěl: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.

6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Ĕ-gŷp-tiāns and Phār-āōh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

8 And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him *for* a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bēth-shē-mēsh, *then* he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that *it is* not his hand *that* smote us; it was a chance *that* happened to us.

10 ¶ And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bēth-shē-mēsh, *and* went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš went after them unto the border of Bēth-shē-mēsh.

13 And *they of* Bēth-shē-mēsh *were* reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw

the ark, and rejoiced to see *it*.

14 And the cart came into the field of Jōsh-ū-ā, a Bēth-shē-mīte, and stood there, where *there* was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

15 And the Lē-vītes took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold *were*, and put *them* on the great stone: and the men of Bēth-shē-mēsh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

16 And when the five lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš had seen *it*, they returned to Ēk-rōn the same day.

17 And these *are* the golden emerods which the Phīl-īs-tīneš returned *for* a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Āsh-dōd one, for Gā-zā one, for Ās-kē-lōn one, for Gāth one, for Ēk-rōn one;

18 And the golden mice, *according to* the number of all the cities of the Phīl-īs-tīneš *belonging to* the five lords, *both of* fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Ā-bēl, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: *which stone remaineth* unto this day in the field of Jōsh-ū-ā, the Bēth-shē-mīte.

19 ¶ And he smote the men of Bēth-shē-mēsh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten *many* of the people with a great slaughter.

20 And the men of Bēth-shē-mēsh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

21 ¶ And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kīr-jāth-jē-ā-rīm, saying, The Phīl-īs-tīneš have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, *and* fetch it up to you.

#### CHAPTER 7

**A**ND the men of Kīr-jāth-jē-ā-rīm came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Ā-bīn-ā-dāb in the hill, and sanctified Ēl-ē-ā-zār his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

2 And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kīr-jāth-jē-ā-rīm, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Īs-rā-ēl lamented after the LORD.

3 ¶ And Sām-ū-ēl spake unto all the house of Īs-rā-ēl, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Āsh-tā-rōth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīneš.

4 Then the children of Īs-rā-ēl did put away Bā-ā-līm and Āsh-tā-rōth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Sām-ū-ēl said, Gather all Īs-rā-ēl to Mīz-pēh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

6 And they gathered together to Mīz-pēh, and drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And

Sām-ū-ēl judged the children of Īs-rā-ēl in Mīz-pēh.

7 And when the Phīl-īs-tīneš heard that the children of Īs-rā-ēl were gathered together to Mīz-pēh, the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš went up against Īs-rā-ēl. And when the children of Īs-rā-ēl heard *it*, they were afraid of the Phīl-īs-tīneš.

8 And the children of Īs-rā-ēl said to Sām-ū-ēl, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīneš.

9 ¶ And Sām-ū-ēl took a sucking lamb, and offered *it for* a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Sām-ū-ēl cried unto the LORD for Īs-rā-ēl; and the LORD heard him.

10 And as Sām-ū-ēl was offering up the burnt offering, the Phīl-īs-tīneš drew near to battle against Īs-rā-ēl: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Phīl-īs-tīneš, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Īs-rā-ēl.

11 And the men of Īs-rā-ēl went out of Mīz-pēh, and pursued the Phīl-īs-tīneš, and smote them, until *they came* under Bēth-cār.

12 Then Sām-ū-ēl took a stone, and set *it* between Mīz-pēh and Shēn, and called the name of it Ēb-ēn-ē-zēr, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

13 ¶ So the Phīl-īs-tīneš were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Īs-rā-ēl: and the hand of the LORD was against the Phīl-īs-tīneš all the days of Sām-ū-ēl.

14 And the cities which the Phīl-īs-tīneš had taken from Īs-rā-ēl were restored to Īs-rā-ēl, from Ēk-rōn even unto Gāth; and the coasts thereof did Īs-rā-ēl deliver out of the hands of the Phīl-īs-tīneš. And there was peace between Īs-rā-ēl and the Ām-ō-rītes.

15 And Sām-ū-ēl judged Īs-rā-ēl all the days of his life.

16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bēth-ēl, and Gīl-gāl, and Mīz-pēh, and judged Īs-rā-ēl in all those places.

17 And his return was to Rā-māh; for there was his house; and there he judged Īs-rā-ēl; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

#### CHAPTER 8

**A**ND it came to pass, when Sām-ū-ēl was old, that he made his sons judges over Īs-rā-ēl.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Jō-ēl; and the name of his second, Ā-bī-āh: *they were* judges in Beer-shē-bā.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Īs-rā-ēl gathered themselves together, and came to Sām-ū-ēl unto Rā-māh,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6 ¶ But the thing displeased Sām-ū-ēl, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Sām-ū-ēl prayed unto the LORD.

7 And the LORD said unto Sām-ū-ēl, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Ē-ġypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 ¶ And Sām'ū-ēl told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and to *be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters to *be* confectionaries, and to *be* cooks, and to *be* bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants.

15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your menservants, and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

19 ¶ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Sām'ū-ēl; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

21 And Sām'ū-ēl heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

22 And the LORD said to Sām'ū-ēl, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Sām'ū-ēl said unto the men of Īś-rā-ēl, Go ye every man unto his city.

#### CHAPTER 9

**N**OW there was a man of Bēn-jā-mīn, whose name was Kīsh, the son of Ā-bī-ēl, the son of Zē-rôr, the son of Bē-chō-rāth, the son of Ā-phī-āh, a Bēn-jā-mīte, a mighty man of power.

2 And he had a son, whose name was Sāul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and *there was* not among the children of Īś-rā-ēl a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward *he was* higher than any of the people.

3 And the asses of Kīsh Sāul's father were lost. And Kīsh said to Sāul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

4 And he passed through mount Ē-phrā-īm, and passed through the land of Shāl-ī-shā, but they found *them* not: then they passed through the land of Shāl-īm, and *there they were* not: and he passed through the land of the Bēn-jā-mītes, but they found *them* not.

5 And when they were come to the land of Zūph, Sāul said to his servant that *was* with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave *caring* for the asses, and take thought for us.

6 And he said unto him, Behold now, *there is* in this city a man of God, and *he is* an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.

7 Then said Sāul to his servant, But, behold, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and *there is* not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

8 And the servant answered Sāul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shē-kēl of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

9 (Beforetime in Īś-rā-ēl, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for *he that is now called* a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

10 Then said Sāul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.

11 ¶ And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

12 And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, *he is* before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for *there is* a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:

13 As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

14 And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Sām'ū-ēl came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

15 ¶ Now the LORD had told Sām'ū-ēl in his ear a day before Sāul came, saying,

16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Bēn-jā-mīn, and thou shalt anoint him to *be* captain over my people Īś-rā-ēl, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

17 And when Sām'ū-ēl saw Sāul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

18 Then Sāul drew near to Sām'ū-ēl in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

19 And Sām'ū-ēl answered Sāul, and said, I *am* the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Īś-rā-ēl? *Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?*

21 And Sāul answered and said, *Am not I a Bēn-jā-mīte, of the smallest of the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Bēn-jā-mīn? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?*

22 And Sām'ū-ēl took Sāul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which *were* about thirty persons.

23 And Sām'ū-ēl said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

24 And the cook took up the shoulder, and *that* which was upon it, and set *it* before Sāul. And Sām'ū-ēl said, Behold that which is left! set *it* before thee, *and* eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Sāul did eat with Sām'ū-ēl that day.

25 ¶ And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Sām'ū-ēl communed with Sāul upon the top of the house.

26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Sām'ū-ēl called Sāul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Sāul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Sām'ū-ēl, abroad.

27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Sām'ū-ēl said to Sāul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

#### CHAPTER 10

**T**HEN Sām'ū-ēl took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?*

2 When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rā'chēl's sepulchre in the border of Bēn-jā-mīn at Zēl-zāh; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tā-bôr, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bēth-ēl, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where *is* the garrison of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, *that* thou do as occasion serve thee; for God *is* with thee.

8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gīl-gāl; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, *and* to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

9 ¶ And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Sām'ū-ēl, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What *is* this *that* is come unto the son of Kīsh? *Is Sāul also among the prophets?*

12 And one of the same place answered and said, But *who* is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, *Is Sāul also among the prophets?*

13 And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

14 ¶ And Sāul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw *that they were* no where, we came to Sām'ū-ēl.

15 And Sāul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Sām'ū-ēl said unto you.

16 And Sāul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Sām'ū-ēl spake, he told him not.

17 ¶ And Sām'ū-ēl called the people together unto the LORD to Mīz-pēh;

18 And said unto the children of Īś-rā-ēl, Thus saith the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, I brought up Īś-rā-ēl out of Ē-gŷpt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Ē-gŷp-tīāns, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, *and* of them that oppressed you:

19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20 And when Sām'ū-ēl had caused all the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl to come near, the tribe of Bēn-jā-mīn was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Bēn-jā-mīn to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Sāul the son of Kīsh was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24 And Sām'ū-ēl said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

25 Then Sām'ū-ēl told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Sām'ū-ēl sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26 ¶ And Sāul also went home to Gīb'ē-āh; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

27 But the children of Bē'lī-āl said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

## CHAPTER 11

**T**HEN Nā'hāsh the Ām'mōn-ite came up, and encamped against Jā'bēsh-gīl'ē-ād: and all the men of Jā'bēsh said unto Nā'hāsh, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

2 And Nā'hāsh the Ām'mōn-ite answered them, On this *condition* will I make a *covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Īś'rā-ēl.

3 And the elders of Jā'bēsh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Īś'rā-ēl: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

4 ¶ Then came the messengers to Gīb'ē-āh of Sāul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

5 And, behold, Sāul came after the herd out of the field; and Sāul said, What *aileth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jā'bēsh.

6 And the Spirit of God came upon Sāul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Īś'rā-ēl by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Sāul and after Sām'ū-ēl, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

8 And when he numbered them in Bē'zēk, the children of Īś'rā-ēl were three hundred thousand, and the men of Jūd'āh thirty thousand.

9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jā'bēsh-gīl'ē-ād, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jā'bēsh; and they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jā'bēsh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

11 And it was so on the morrow, that Sāul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ām'mōn-ites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which

remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

12 ¶ And the people said unto Sām'ū-ēl, Who *is* he that said, Shall Sāul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

13 And Sāul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Īś'rā-ēl.

14 Then said Sām'ū-ēl to the people, Come, and let us go to Gīl'gāl, and renew the kingdom there.

15 And all the people went to Gīl'gāl; and there they made Sāul king before the LORD in Gīl'gāl; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Sāul and all the men of Īś'rā-ēl rejoiced greatly.

## CHAPTER 12

**A**ND Sām'ū-ēl said unto all Īś'rā-ēl, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

2 And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons *are* with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

3 Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

5 And he said unto them, The LORD *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, *He is* witness.

6 ¶ And Sām'ū-ēl said unto the people, *It is* the LORD that advanced Mō'sēs and Āa'rōn, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Ē'gypt.

7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

8 When Jā'qōb was come into Ē'gypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Mō'sēs and Āa'rōn, which brought forth your fathers out of Ē'gypt, and made them dwell in this place.

9 And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sīs'ē-rā, captain of the host of Hā'zōr, and into the hand of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, and into the hand of the king of Mō'āb, and they fought against them.

10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Bā'ā-līm and Āsh'tā-rōth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

11 And the LORD sent Jēr'ūb-bā'āl, and Bē'dān, and Jēph-thāh, and Sām'ū-ēl, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.

12 And when ye saw that Nā'hāsh the king of the children of Ām'mōn came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God was your king.

13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

14 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

16 ¶ Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

17 *Is it not* wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

18 So Sām'ū-ēl called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Sām'ū-ēl.

19 And all the people said unto Sām'ū-ēl, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.

20 ¶ And Sām'ū-ēl said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

21 And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.

22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

#### CHAPTER 13

SĀUL reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Īś-rā-ēl,

2 Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Īś-rā-ēl; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Mīch-māsh and in mount Bēth-ēl, and a thousand were with Jōn-ā-thān in Gīb-ē-āh of Bēn-jā-mīn: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

3 And Jōn-ā-thān smote the garrison of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs that was in Gē-bā, and the Phīl-īs-tīnēs heard of it. And Sāul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hē-brēw's hear.

4 And all Īś-rā-ēl heard say that Sāul had smitten a garrison of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs, and that Īś-rā-ēl also was had in abomination with the Phīl-īs-tīnēs. And the people were called together after Sāul to Gīl-gāl.

5 ¶ And the Phīl-īs-tīnēs gathered themselves together to fight with Īś-rā-ēl, thirty thousand chariots, and six

thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Mīch-māsh, eastward from Bēth-ā-vēn.

6 When the men of Īś-rā-ēl saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

7 And *some of* the Hē-brēw's went over Jōr-dān to the land of Gād and Gīl-ē-ād. As for Sāul, he was yet in Gīl-gāl, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 ¶ And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Sām'ū-ēl *had appointed*: but Sām'ū-ēl came not to Gīl-gāl; and the people were scattered from him.

9 And Sāul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Sām'ū-ēl came; and Sāul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

11 ¶ And Sām'ū-ēl said, What hast thou done? And Sāul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Phīl-īs-tīnēs gathered themselves together at Mīch-māsh;

12 Therefore said I, The Phīl-īs-tīnēs will come down now upon me to Gīl-gāl, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

13 And Sām'ū-ēl said to Sāul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Īś-rā-ēl for ever.

14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

15 And Sām'ū-ēl arose, and gat him up from Gīl-gāl unto Gīb-ē-āh of Bēn-jā-mīn. And Saul numbered the people *that were present* with him, about six hundred men.

16 And Sāul, and Jōn-ā-thān his son, and the people *that were present* with them, abode in Gīb-ē-āh of Bēn-jā-mīn: but the Phīl-īs-tīnēs encamped in Mīch-māsh.

17 ¶ And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Phīl-īs-tīnēs in three companies: one company turned unto the way *that leadeth to* Ōph-rāh, unto the land of Shū-āl:

18 And another company turned the way to Bēth-hôr-ōn: and another company turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zē-bō-īm toward the wilderness.

19 ¶ Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Īś-rā-ēl: for the Phīl-īs-tīnēs said, Lest the Hē-brēw's make *them* swords or spears:

20 But all the Īś-rā-ēl-ites went down to the Phīl-īs-tīnēs, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.

21 Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the

goads.

22 So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that *were* with Săul and Jŏn'ă-thăn: but with Săul and with Jŏn'ă-thăn his son was there found.

23 And the garrison of the Phîl'is-tîneš went out to the passage of Mîch-măsh.

#### CHAPTER 14

**N**OW it came to pass upon a day, that Jŏn'ă-thăn the son of Săul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Phîl'is-tîneš' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father.

2 And Săul tarried in the uttermost part of Gîb'ě-ăh under a pomegranate tree which is in Mîg'rŏn: and the people that *were* with him *were* about six hundred men;

3 And Ā-hî'ăh, the son of Ā-hî-tûb, Ī'chă-bŏd's brother, the son of Phî'n'ě-hăš, the son of Ē'li, the LORD's priest in Shî'lŏh, wearing an ē-phŏd. And the people knew not that Jŏn'ă-thăn was gone.

4 ¶ And between the passages, by which Jŏn'ă-thăn sought to go over unto the Phîl'is-tîneš' garrison, *there* was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bŏ'zěz, and the name of the other Sĕn'ĕh.

5 The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Mîch-măsh, and the other southward over against Gîb'ě-ăh.

6 And Jŏn'ă-thăn said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there* is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

8 Then said Jŏn'ă-thăn, Behold, we will pass over unto *these* men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.

10 But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this *shall be* a sign unto us.

11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Phîl'is-tîneš: and the Phîl'is-tîneš said, Behold, the Hĕ'brĕwš come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.

12 And the men of the garrison answered Jŏn'ă-thăn and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jŏn'ă-thăn said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Īš-ră-ĕl.

13 And Jŏn'ă-thăn climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jŏn'ă-thăn; and his armourbearer slew after him.

14 And that first slaughter, which Jŏn'ă-thăn and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, *which* a yoke of oxen might plow.

15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

16 And the watchmen of Săul in Gîb'ě-ăh of Bĕn-jă-mîn looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down *one another*.

17 Then said Săul unto the people that *were* with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jŏn'ă-thăn and his armourbearer *were not there*.

18 And Săul said unto Ā-hî'ăh, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Īš-ră-ĕl.

19 ¶ And it came to pass, while Săul talked unto the priest, that the noise that *was* in the host of the Phîl'is-tîneš went on and increased: and Săul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

20 And Săul and all the people that *were* with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, *and there* was a very great discomfiture.

21 Moreover the Hĕ'brĕwš that *were* with the Phîl'is-tîneš before that time, which went up with them into the camp from the country round about, even they also *turned* to be with the Īš-ră-ĕl-ites that *were* with Săul and Jŏn'ă-thăn.

22 Likewise all the men of Īš-ră-ĕl which had hid themselves in mount Ē'phră-îm, *when* they heard that the Phîl'is-tîneš fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

23 So the LORD saved Īš-ră-ĕl that day: and the battle passed over unto Bĕth-ă-vĕn.

24 ¶ And the men of Īš-ră-ĕl were distressed that day: for Săul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food.

25 And all *they* of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.

26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.

27 But Jŏn'ă-thăn heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food this day. And the people were faint.

29 Then said Jŏn'ă-thăn, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened,

because I tasted a little of this honey.

30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Phīl'īs-tīnēs?

31 And they smote the Phīl'īs-tīnēs that day from Mīch-māsh to Āi'jā-lōn: and the people were very faint.

32 And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew *them* on the ground: and the people did eat *them* with the blood.

33 ¶ Then they told Sāul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.

34 And Sāul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay *them* here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew *them* there.

35 And Sāul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.

36 ¶ And Sāul said, Let us go down after the Phīl'īs-tīnēs by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

37 And Sāul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Phīl'īs-tīnēs? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Īś-rā-ēl? But he answered him not that day.

38 And Sāul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.

39 For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Īś-rā-ēl, though it be in Jōn'-ā-thān my son, he shall surely die. But *there was* not a man among all the people *that* answered him.

40 Then said he unto all Īś-rā-ēl, Be ye on one side, and I and Jōn'-ā-thān my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Sāul, Do what seemeth good unto thee.

41 Therefore Sāul said unto the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, Give a perfect *lot*. And Sāul and Jōn'-ā-thān were taken: but the people escaped.

42 And Sāul said, Cast *lots* between me and Jōn'-ā-thān my son. And Jōn'-ā-thān was taken.

43 Then Sāul said to Jōn'-ā-thān, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jōn'-ā-thān told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.

44 And Sāul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jōn'-ā-thān.

45 And the people said unto Sāul, Shall Jōn'-ā-thān die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Īś-rā-ēl? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jōn'-ā-thān, that he died not.

46 Then Sāul went up from following the Phīl'īs-tīnēs: and the Phīl'īs-tīnēs went to their own place.

47 ¶ So Sāul took the kingdom over Īś-rā-ēl, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Mō'-āb, and against the children of Ām-mōn, and against Ē-dōm, and against the kings of Zō-bāh, and against the Phīl'īs-tīnēs: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed *them*.

48 And he gathered an host, and smote the Ā-māl'-ēk-ītes, and delivered Īś-rā-ēl out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

49 Now the sons of Sāul were Jōn'-ā-thān, and Īsh'-ū-ī, and Mēl'-chī-shū-ā: and the names of his two daughters *were these*; the name of the firstborn Mē-rāb, and the name of the younger Mī-chāl:

50 And the name of Sāul's wife was Ā-hīn'-ō-ām, the daughter of Ā-hī-mā-āz: and the name of the captain of his host was Āb-nēr, the son of Nēr, Sāul's uncle.

51 And Kīsh was the father of Saul; and Nēr the father of Āb-nēr was the son of Ā-bī-ēl.

52 And there was sore war against the Phīl'īs-tīnēs all the days of Sāul: and when Sāul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

#### CHAPTER 15

SĀM'Ū-ĒL also said unto Sāul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Īś-rā-ēl: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember *that* which Ām'-ā-lēk did to Īś-rā-ēl, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Ē-ggypt.

3 Now go and smite Ām'-ā-lēk, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

4 And Sāul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Tē-lā'im, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Jūd'-āh.

5 And Sāul came to a city of Ām'-ā-lēk, and laid wait in the valley.

6 ¶ And Sāul said unto the Kē-nītes, Go, depart, get you down from among the Ā-māl'-ēk-ītes, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Īś-rā-ēl, when they came up out of Ē-ggypt. So the Kē-nītes departed from among the Ā-māl'-ēk-ītes.

7 And Sāul smote the Ā-māl'-ēk-ītes from Hāv'-ī-lāh until thou comest to Shūr, that is over against Ē-ggypt.

8 And he took Ā-gāg the king of the Ā-māl'-ēk-ītes alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Sāul and the people spared Ā-gāg, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Sām'-ū-ēl, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Sāul to be king: for he

is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Sām'ū-ēl; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

12 And when Sām'ū-ēl rose early to meet Sāul in the morning, it was told Sām'ū-ēl, saying, Sāul came to Cār'mēl, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gīl'gāl.

13 And Sām'ū-ēl came to Sāul: and Sāul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Sām'ū-ēl said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Sāul said, They have brought them from the Ā-māl'ēk-ites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Sām'ū-ēl said unto Sāul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Sām'ū-ēl said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl, and the LORD anointed thee king over Īś-rā-ēl?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Ā-māl'ēk-ites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Sāul said unto Sām'ū-ēl, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Ā'gāg the king of Ām'ā-lēk, and have utterly destroyed the Ā-māl'ēk-ites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gīl'gāl.

22 And Sām'ū-ēl said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

24 ¶ And Sāul said unto Sām'ū-ēl, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Sām'ū-ēl said unto Sāul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Īś-rā-ēl.

27 And as Sām'ū-ēl turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

28 And Sām'ū-ēl said unto him, The LORD hath rent the

kingdom of Īś-rā-ēl from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

29 And also the Strength of Īś-rā-ēl will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Īś-rā-ēl, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Sām'ū-ēl turned again after Sāul; and Sāul worshipped the LORD.

32 ¶ Then said Sām'ū-ēl, Bring ye hither to me Ā'gāg the king of the Ā-māl'ēk-ites. And Ā'gāg came unto him delicately. And Ā'gāg said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33 And Sām'ū-ēl said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Sām'ū-ēl hewed Ā'gāg in pieces before the LORD in Gīl'gāl.

34 ¶ Then Sām'ū-ēl went to Rā'māh; and Sāul went up to his house to Gīb'ē-āh of Sāul.

35 And Sām'ū-ēl came no more to see Sāul until the day of his death: nevertheless Sām'ū-ēl mourned for Sāul; and the LORD repented that he had made Sāul king over Īś-rā-ēl.

#### CHAPTER 16

AND the LORD said unto Sām'ū-ēl, How long wilt thou mourn for Sāul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Īś-rā-ēl? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jēs'sē the Bēth'lē-hē-mīte: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Sām'ū-ēl said, How can I go? if Sāul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jēs'sē to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

4 And Sām'ū-ēl did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bēth'lē-hēm. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jēs'sē and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 ¶ And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Ē-lī'āb, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

7 But the LORD said unto Sām'ū-ēl, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

8 Then Jēs'sē called Ā-bīn'ā-dāb, and made him pass before Sām'ū-ēl. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

9 Then Jēs'sē made Shām'māh to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

10 Again, Jēs'sē made seven of his sons to pass before

Săm'ū-ēl. And Săm'ū-ēl said unto Jēs'sē, The LORD hath not chosen these.

11 And Săm'ū-ēl said unto Jēs'sē, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Săm'ū-ēl said unto Jēs'sē, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

13 Then Săm'ū-ēl took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon Dă'vīd from that day forward. So Săm'ū-ēl rose up, and went to Ră'măh.

14 ¶ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Săul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

15 And Săul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

16 Let our lord now command thy servants, *which are* before thee, to seek out a man, *who is* a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

17 And Săul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me.

18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jēs'sē the Bēth-lē-hē-mīte, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him.

19 ¶ Wherefore Săul sent messengers unto Jēs'sē, and said, Send me Dă'vīd thy son, *which is* with the sheep.

20 And Jēs'sē took an ass *laden* with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent *them* by Dă'vīd his son unto Săul.

21 And Dă'vīd came to Săul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.

22 And Săul sent to Jēs'sē, saying, Let Dă'vīd, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

23 And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was upon Săul, that Dă'vīd took an harp, and played with his hand: so Săul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

#### CHAPTER 17

**N**OW the Phīl'īs-tīneš gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shō'chōh, which *belongeth* to Jūd'ăh, and pitched between Shō'chōh and Ā-zē-kăh, in Ē-phēs-dăm'mīm.

2 And Săul and the men of Īś-rā-ēl were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Ē-lăh, and set the battle in array against the Phīl'īs-tīneš.

3 And the Phīl'īs-tīneš stood on a mountain on the one side, and Īś-rā-ēl stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them.

4 ¶ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, named Gō-lī-ăth, of Găth, whose height was

six cubits and a span.

5 And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shē-kēls of brass.

6 And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shē-kēls of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Īś-rā-ēl, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Phīl'īs-tīne, and ye servants to Săul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

10 And the Phīl'īs-tīne said, I defy the armies of Īś-rā-ēl this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

11 When Săul and all Īś-rā-ēl heard those words of the Phīl'īs-tīne, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

12 ¶ Now Dă'vīd was the son of that Ēph-ră-thīte of Bēth-lē-hēm-jū-dăh, whose name was Jēs'sē; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Săul.

13 And the three eldest sons of Jēs'sē went *and* followed Săul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Ē-lī-ăb the firstborn, and next unto him Ā-bīn-ă-dăb, and the third Shăm-măh.

14 And Dă'vīd was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

15 But Dă'vīd went and returned from Săul to feed his father's sheep at Bēth-lē-hēm.

16 And the Phīl'īs-tīne drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

17 And Jēs'sē said unto Dă'vīd his son, Take now for thy brethren an ē-phăh of this parched *corn*, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

19 Now Săul, and they, and all the men of Īś-rā-ēl, were in the valley of Ē-lăh, fighting with the Phīl'īs-tīneš.

20 ¶ And Dă'vīd rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jēs'sē had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

21 For Īś-rā-ēl and the Phīl'īs-tīneš had put the battle in array, army against army.

22 And Dă'vīd left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Phīl'īs-tīne of Găth, Gō-lī-ăth by name, out of the armies of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, and spake according to the same words: and Dă'vīd heard *them*.

24 And all the men of Īś-rā-ēl, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

25 And the men of Īś-rā-ēl said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Īś-rā-ēl is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Īś-rā-ēl.

26 And Dā-vīd spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Phīl-īs-tīne, and taketh away the reproach from Īś-rā-ēl? for who is this uncircumcised Phīl-īs-tīne, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

28 ¶ And Ē-lī-āb his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Ē-lī-āb's anger was kindled against Dā-vīd, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

29 And Dā-vīd said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

30 ¶ And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

31 And when the words were heard which Dā-vīd spake, they rehearsed *them* before Sāul: and he sent for him.

32 ¶ And Dā-vīd said to Sāul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; *thy* servant will go and fight with this Phīl-īs-tīne.

33 And Sāul said to Dā-vīd, Thou art not able to go against this Phīl-īs-tīne to fight with him: for thou *art* but a youth, and he a man of war from *his* youth.

34 And Dā-vīd said unto Sāul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Phīl-īs-tīne shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

37 Dā-vīd said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, *he* will deliver me out of the hand of this Phīl-īs-tīne. And Sāul said unto Dā-vīd, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

38 ¶ And Sāul armed Dā-vīd with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

39 And Dā-vīd girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And Dā-vīd said unto Sāul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And Dā-vīd put them off him.

40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a

shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Phīl-īs-tīne.

41 And the Phīl-īs-tīne came on and drew near unto Dā-vīd; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him.

42 And when the Phīl-īs-tīne looked about, and saw Dā-vīd, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

43 And the Phīl-īs-tīne said unto Dā-vīd, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Phīl-īs-tīne cursed Dā-vīd by his gods.

44 And the Phīl-īs-tīne said to Dā-vīd, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45 Then said Dā-vīd to the Phīl-īs-tīne, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Īś-rā-ēl, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Phīl-īs-tīne's this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Īś-rā-ēl.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

48 And it came to pass, when the Phīl-īs-tīne arose, and came and drew nigh to meet Dā-vīd, that Dā-vīd hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Phīl-īs-tīne.

49 And Dā-vīd put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Phīl-īs-tīne in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50 So Dā-vīd prevailed over the Phīl-īs-tīne with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Phīl-īs-tīne, and slew him; but *there* was no sword in the hand of Dā-vīd.

51 Therefore Dā-vīd ran, and stood upon the Phīl-īs-tīne, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Phīl-īs-tīne's saw their champion was dead, they fled.

52 And the men of Īś-rā-ēl and of Jûd-āh arose, and shouted, and pursued the Phīl-īs-tīne's, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ēk-rōn. And the wounded of the Phīl-īs-tīne's fell down by the way to Shā-ā-rā-īm, even unto Gāth, and unto Ēk-rōn.

53 And the children of Īś-rā-ēl returned from chasing after the Phīl-īs-tīne's, and they spoiled their tents.

54 And Dā-vīd took the head of the Phīl-īs-tīne, and brought it to Jē-rû-sā-lēm; but he put his armour in his tent.

55 ¶ And when Sāul saw Dā-vīd go forth against the Phīl-īs-tīne, he said unto Āb-nēr, the captain of the host, Āb-nēr, whose son is this youth? And Āb-nēr said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

56 And the king said, Inquire thou whose son the stripling is.

57 And as Dā'-vīd returned from the slaughter of the Phīl'īs-tīne, Āb-nēr took him, and brought him before Sāul with the head of the Phīl'īs-tīne in his hand.

58 And Sāul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And Dā'-vīd answered, *I am* the son of thy servant Jēs-sē the Bēth-lē-hē-mīte.

#### CHAPTER 18

AND it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Sāul, that the soul of Jōn'-ă-thăn was knit with the soul of Dā'-vīd, and Jōn'-ă-thăn loved him as his own soul.

2 And Sāul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jōn'-ă-thăn and Dā'-vīd made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jōn'-ă-thăn stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to Dā'-vīd, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

5 ¶ And Dā'-vīd went out whithersoever Sāul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Sāul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Sāul's servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when Dā'-vīd was returned from the slaughter of the Phīl'īs-tīne, that the women came out of all cities of Īś-rā-ēl, singing and dancing, to meet king Sāul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Sāul hath slain his thousands, and Dā'-vīd his ten thousands.

8 And Sāul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto Dā'-vīd ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Sāul eyed Dā'-vīd from that day and forward.

10 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Sāul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and Dā'-vīd played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Sāul's hand.

11 And Sāul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite Dā'-vīd even to the wall *with it*. And Dā'-vīd avoided out of his presence *twice*.

12 ¶ And Sāul was afraid of Dā'-vīd, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Sāul.

13 Therefore Sāul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And Dā'-vīd behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

15 Wherefore when Sāul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Īś-rā-ēl and Jūd'-ăh loved Dā'-vīd, because he went out and came in before them.

17 ¶ And Sāul said to Dā'-vīd, Behold my elder daughter Mē-rāb, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for

me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Sāul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Phīl'īs-tīne be upon him.

18 And Dā'-vīd said unto Sāul, Who *am* I? and what *is* my life, or my father's family in Īś-rā-ēl, that I should be son in law to the king?

19 But it came to pass at the time when Mē-rāb Sāul's daughter should have been given to Dā'-vīd, that she was given unto Ā-drī-ēl the Mē-hō-lā-thīte to wife.

20 And Mī-chāl Sāul's daughter loved Dā'-vīd: and they told Sāul, and the thing pleased him.

21 And Sāul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Phīl'īs-tīne be against him. Wherefore Sāul said to Dā'-vīd, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one* of the twain.

22 ¶ And Sāul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with Dā'-vīd secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

23 And Sāul's servants spake those words in the ears of Dā'-vīd. And Dā'-vīd said, Seemeth it to you a light *thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

24 And the servants of Sāul told him, saying, On this manner spake Dā'-vīd.

25 And Sāul said, Thus shall ye say to Dā'-vīd, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Phīl'īs-tīne, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Sāul thought to make Dā'-vīd fall by the hand of the Phīl'īs-tīne.

26 And when his servants told Dā'-vīd these words, it pleased Dā'-vīd well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

27 Wherefore Dā'-vīd arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Phīl'īs-tīne two hundred men; and Dā'-vīd brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Sāul gave him Mī-chāl his daughter to wife.

28 ¶ And Sāul saw and knew that the LORD was with Dā'-vīd, and that Mī-chāl Sāul's daughter loved him.

29 And Sāul was yet the more afraid of Dā'-vīd; and Sāul became Dā'-vīd's enemy continually.

30 Then the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīne went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that Dā'-vīd behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Sāul; so that his name was much set by.

#### CHAPTER 19

AND Sāul spake to Jōn'-ă-thăn his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill Dā'-vīd.

2 But Jōn'-ă-thăn Sāul's son delighted much in Dā'-vīd: and Jōn'-ă-thăn told Dā'-vīd, saying, Sāul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:

3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou *art*, and I will commune with my father of thee;

and what I see, that I will tell thee.

4 ¶ And Jōn'ă-thăn spake good of Dă'vîd unto Săul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against Dă'vîd; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good:

5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Phil'is-tine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Īś-ră-ēl: thou sawest *it*, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay Dă'vîd without a cause?

6 And Săul hearkened unto the voice of Jōn'ă-thăn: and Săul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

7 And Jōn'ă-thăn called Dă'vîd, and Jōn'ă-thăn shewed him all those things. And Jōn'ă-thăn brought Dă'vîd to Săul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

8 ¶ And there was war again: and Dă'vîd went out, and fought with the Phil'is-tineš, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Săul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and Dă'vîd played with *his* hand.

10 And Săul sought to smite Dă'vîd even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Săul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and Dă'vîd fled, and escaped that night.

11 Saul also sent messengers unto Dă'vîd's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning; and Mī-chăl Dă'vîd's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

12 ¶ So Mī-chăl let Dă'vîd down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

13 And Mī-chăl took an image, and laid *it* in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered *it* with a cloth.

14 And when Săul sent messengers to take Dă'vîd, she said, He is sick.

15 And Săul sent the messengers *again* to see Dă'vîd, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there* was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster.

17 And Săul said unto Mī-chăl, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Mī-chăl answered Săul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

18 ¶ So Dă'vîd fled, and escaped, and came to Săm'ū-ēl to Ră-măh, and told him all that Săul had done to him. And he and Săm'ū-ēl went and dwelt in Năi'ōth.

19 And it was told Săul, saying, Behold, Dă'vîd is at Năi'ōth in Ră-măh.

20 And Săul sent messengers to take Dă'vîd: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Săm'ū-ēl standing as appointed over *them*, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Săul, and they also

prophesied.

21 And when it was told Săul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Săul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

22 Then went he also to Ră-măh, and came to a great well that is in Sē-chû: and he asked and said, Where *are* Săm'ū-ēl and Dă'vîd? And *one* said, Behold, *they be* at Năi'ōth in Ră-măh.

23 And he went thither to Năi'ōth in Ră-măh: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Năi'ōth in Ră-măh.

24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Săm'ū-ēl in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, *Is* Săul also among the prophets?

#### CHAPTER 20

AND Dă'vîd fled from Năi'ōth in Ră-măh, and came and said before Jōn'ă-thăn, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

2 And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it is not so.

3 And Dă'vîd sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jōn'ă-thăn know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death.

4 Then said Jōn'ă-thăn unto Dă'vîd, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.

5 And Dă'vîd said unto Jōn'ă-thăn, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

6 If thy father at all miss me, then say, Dă'vîd earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bēth-lē-hēm his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.

7 If he say thus, *It is* well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him.

8 Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldst thou bring me to thy father?

9 And Jōn'ă-thăn said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

10 Then said Dă'vîd to Jōn'ă-thăn, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?

11 ¶ And Jōn'ă-thăn said unto Dă'vîd, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

12 And Jōn'ă-thăn said unto Dă'vîd, O LORD God of Īś-ră-ēl, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time,

or the third day, and, behold, *if there be* good toward Dā'vīd, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;

13 The LORD do so and much more to Jōn'ă-thăn: but if it please my father *to do thee evil*, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

15 But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of Dā'vīd every one from the face of the earth.

16 So Jōn'ă-thăn made a covenant with the house of Dā'vīd, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of Dā'vīd's enemies.

17 And Jōn'ă-thăn caused Dā'vīd to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18 Then Jōn'ă-thăn said to Dā'vīd, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

19 And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ē'zēl.

20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark.

21 And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is peace* to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth.

22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

23 And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.

24 ¶ So Dā'vīd hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.

25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jōn'ă-thăn arose, and Āb'nēr sat by Săul's side, and Dā'vīd's place was empty.

26 Nevertheless Săul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he is not clean; surely he is not clean.

27 And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second day of the month, that Dā'vīd's place was empty: and Săul said unto Jōn'ă-thăn his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jēs'sē to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

28 And Jōn'ă-thăn answered Săul, Dā'vīd earnestly asked *leave of me to go to Bēth-lē-hēm*:

29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore *he* cometh not unto the king's table.

30 Then Săul's anger was kindled against Jōn'ă-thăn, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious

woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jēs'sē to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

31 For as long as the son of Jēs'sē liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

32 And Jōn'ă-thăn answered Săul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

33 And Săul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jōn'ă-thăn knew that it was determined of his father to slay Dā'vīd.

34 So Jōn'ă-thăn arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for Dā'vīd, because his father had done him shame.

35 ¶ And it came to pass in the morning, that Jōn'ă-thăn went out into the field at the time appointed with Dā'vīd, and a little lad with him.

36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37 And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jōn'ă-thăn had shot, Jōn'ă-thăn cried after the lad, and said, *Is not the arrow beyond thee?*

38 And Jōn'ă-thăn cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jōn'ă-thăn's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

39 But the lad knew not any thing: only Jōn'ă-thăn and Dā'vīd knew the matter.

40 And Jōn'ă-thăn gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city.

41 ¶ And as soon as the lad was gone, Dā'vīd arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until Dā'vīd exceeded.

42 And Jōn'ă-thăn said to Dā'vīd, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jōn'ă-thăn went into the city.

#### CHAPTER 21

THEN came Dā'vīd to Nōb to Ā-hīm'ē-lēch the priest: and Ā-hīm'ē-lēch was afraid at the meeting of Dā'vīd, and said unto him, *Why art thou alone*, and no man with thee?

2 And Dā'vīd said unto Ā-hīm'ē-lēch the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and *hath* said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed *my* servants to such and such a place.

3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give *me* five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

4 And the priest answered Dā'vīd, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

5 And Dā'-vīd answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

6 So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Sāul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Dō'-ēg, an Ē'-dōm-īte, the chiefest of the herdmen that *belonged* to Sāul.

8 ¶ And Dā'-vīd said unto Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

9 And the priest said, The sword of Gō-lī-āth the Phīl'-īs-tīne, whom thou slewest in the valley of Ē'-lāh, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ē'-phōd: if thou wilt take that, take it: for *there is* no other save that here. And Dā'-vīd said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

10 ¶ And Dā'-vīd arose, and fled that day for fear of Sāul, and went to Ā'-chīsh the king of Gāth.

11 And the servants of Ā'-chīsh said unto him, *Is not this* Dā'-vīd the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and Dā'-vīd his ten thousands?

12 And Dā'-vīd laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Ā'-chīsh the king of Gāth.

13 And he *changed* his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

14 Then said Ā'-chīsh unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me?

15 Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play the mad man in my presence? shall this *fellow* come into my house?

#### CHAPTER 22

DĀ'-VĪD therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Ā'-dūl-lām: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

2 And every one *that was* in distress, and every one *that was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

3 ¶ And Dā'-vīd went thence to Mīz'-pēh of Mō'-āb: and he said unto the king of Mō'-āb, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be* with you, till I know what God will do for me.

4 And he brought them before the king of Mō'-āb: and they dwelt with him all the while that Dā'-vīd was in the hold.

5 ¶ And the prophet Gād said unto Dā'-vīd, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Jūd'-āh. Then Dā'-vīd departed, and came into the forest of Hār'-ēth.

6 ¶ When Sāul heard that Dā'-vīd was discovered, and the men that *were* with him, (now Sāul abode in Gīb'-ē-āh under a tree in Rā'-māh, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him;)

7 Then Sāul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Bēn'-jā-mītes; will the son of Jēs'-sē give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

8 That all of you have conspired against me, and *there is* none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jēs'-sē, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

9 ¶ Then answered Dō'-ēg the Ē'-dōm-īte, which was set over the servants of Sāul, and said, I saw the son of Jēs'-sē coming to Nōb, to Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch the son of Ā-hī-tūb.

10 And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Gō-lī-āth the Phīl'-īs-tīne.

11 Then the king sent to call Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch the priest, the son of Ā-hī-tūb, and all his father's house, the priests that *were* in Nōb: and they came all of them to the king.

12 And Sāul said, Hear now, thou son of Ā-hī-tūb. And he answered, Here I *am*, my lord.

13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jēs'-sē, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

14 Then Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch answered the king, and said, And who *is* so faithful among all thy servants as Dā'-vīd, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *any* thing unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch, thou, and all thy father's house.

17 ¶ And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also *is* with Dā'-vīd, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

18 And the king said to Dō'-ēg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Dō'-ēg the Ē'-dōm-īte turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ē'-phōd.

19 And Nōb, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

20 ¶ And one of the sons of Ā-hīm'-ē-lēch the son of Ā-hī-tūb, named Ā-bī-ā-thār, escaped, and fled after Dā'-vīd.

21 And Ā-bī-ā-thār shewed Dā'-vīd that Sāul had slain the LORD's priests.

22 And Dā'vīd said unto Ā-bī'ā-thār, I knew *it* that day, when Dō'ēg the Ē'dom-ite was there, that he would surely tell Sāul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house.

23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

#### CHAPTER 23

**T**HEN they told Dā'vīd, saying, Behold, the Phīl'īs-tīneš fight against Kē-ī'lāh, and they rob the threshing-floors.

2 Therefore Dā'vīd inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Phīl'īs-tīneš? And the LORD said unto Dā'vīd, Go, and smite the Phīl'īs-tīneš, and save Kē-ī'lāh.

3 And Dā'vīd's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Jūd'āh: how much more then if we come to Kē-ī'lāh against the armies of the Phīl'īs-tīneš?

4 Then Dā'vīd inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Kē-ī'lāh; for I will deliver the Phīl'īs-tīneš into thine hand.

5 So Dā'vīd and his men went to Kē-ī'lāh, and fought with the Phīl'īs-tīneš, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So Dā'vīd saved the inhabitants of Kē-ī'lāh.

6 And it came to pass, when Ā-bī'ā-thār the son of Ā-him'ē-lēch fled to Dā'vīd to Kē-ī'lāh, *that* he came down with an ē-phōd in his hand.

7 ¶ And it was told Sāul that Dā'vīd was come to Kē-ī'lāh. And Sāul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

8 And Sāul called all the people together to war, to go down to Kē-ī'lāh, to besiege Dā'vīd and his men.

9 ¶ And Dā'vīd knew that Sāul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Ā-bī'ā-thār the priest, Bring hither the ē-phōd.

10 Then said Dā'vīd, O LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, thy servant hath certainly heard that Sāul seeketh to come to Kē-ī'lāh, to destroy the city for my sake.

11 Will the men of Kē-ī'lāh deliver me up into his hand? will Sāul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

12 Then said Dā'vīd, Will the men of Kē-ī'lāh deliver me and my men into the hand of Sāul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up.

13 ¶ Then Dā'vīd and his men, *which were* about six hundred, arose and departed out of Kē-ī'lāh, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Sāul that Dā'vīd was escaped from Kē-ī'lāh; and he forbare to go forth.

14 And Dā'vīd abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Zīph. And Sāul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

15 And Dā'vīd saw that Sāul was come out to seek his life:

and Dā'vīd was in the wilderness of Zīph in a wood.

16 ¶ And Jōn'ā-thān Sāul's son arose, and went to Dā'vīd into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Sāul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Īś-rā-ēl, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and Dā'vīd abode in the wood, and Jōn'ā-thān went to his house.

19 ¶ Then came up the Zīph-ites to Sāul to Gīb'ē-āh, saying, Doth not Dā'vīd hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hā-chī'lāh, which is on the south of Jē-shī-mōn?

20 Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part *shall be* to deliver him into the king's hand.

21 And Sāul said, Blessed *be* ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.

22 Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, *and* who hath seen him there: for it is told me *that* he dealeth very subtilly.

23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Jūd'āh.

24 And they arose, and went to Zīph before Sāul: but Dā'vīd and his men *were* in the wilderness of Mā'ōn, in the plain on the south of Jē-shī-mōn.

25 Sāul also and his men went to seek *him*. And they told Dā'vīd: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Mā'ōn. And when Sāul heard *that*, he pursued after Dā'vīd in the wilderness of Mā'ōn.

26 And Sāul went on this side of the mountain, and Dā'vīd and his men on that side of the mountain: and Dā'vīd made haste to get away for fear of Sāul; for Sāul and his men compassed Dā'vīd and his men round about to take them.

27 ¶ But there came a messenger unto Sāul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Phīl'īs-tīneš have invaded the land.

28 Wherefore Sāul returned from pursuing after Dā'vīd, and went against the Phīl'īs-tīneš: therefore they called that place Sē-lā-hām-māh-lē-kōth.

29 ¶ And Dā'vīd went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Ēn-gē'dī.

#### CHAPTER 24

**A**ND it came to pass, when Sāul was returned from following the Phīl'īs-tīneš, that it was told him, saying, Behold, Dā'vīd is in the wilderness of Ēn-gē'dī.

2 Then Sāul took three thousand chosen men out of all Īś-rā-ēl, and went to seek Dā'vīd and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

3 And he came to the sheepecotes by the way, where was a cave; and Sāul went in to cover his feet: and Dā'vīd and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

4 And the men of Dā'vīd said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then Dā'vīd arose, and cut off the skirt of Sāul's robe privily.

5 And it came to pass afterward, that Dā'vīd's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

6 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

7 So Dā'vīd stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Sāul. But Sāul rose up out of the cave, and went on *his* way.

8 Dā'vīd also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Sāul, saying, My lord the king. And when Sāul looked behind him, Dā'vīd stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

9 ¶ And Dā'vīd said to Sāul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, Dā'vīd seeketh thy hurt?

10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and *some* bade *me* kill thee: but *mine eye* spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed.

11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

12 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

14 After whom is the king of Īś-rā-ēl come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.

15 The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

16 ¶ And it came to pass, when Dā'vīd had made an end of speaking these words unto Sāul, that Sāul said, Is this thy voice, my son Dā'vīd? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

17 And he said to Dā'vīd, Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Īś-rā-ēl shall be established

in thine hand.

21 Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

22 And Dā'vīd sware unto Sāul. And Sāul went home; but Dā'vīd and his men gat them up unto the hold.

#### CHAPTER 25

AND Sām'ū-ēl died; and all the Īś-rā-ēl-ites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Rā'māh. And Dā'vīd arose, and went down to the wilderness of Pār'ān.

2 And *there was* a man in Mā'ōn, whose possessions *were* in Cār'mēl; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Cār'mēl.

3 Now the name of the man was Nā'bāl; and the name of his wife Āb-ī-gail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Cā'lēb.

4 ¶ And Dā'vīd heard in the wilderness that Nā'bāl did shear his sheep.

5 And Dā'vīd sent out ten young men, and Dā'vīd said unto the young men, Get you up to Cār'mēl, and go to Nā'bāl, and greet him in my name:

6 And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

7 And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Cār'mēl.

8 Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son Dā'vīd.

9 And when Dā'vīd's young men came, they spake to Nā'bāl according to all those words in the name of Dā'vīd, and ceased.

10 ¶ And Nā'bāl answered Dā'vīd's servants, and said, Who is Dā'vīd? and who is the son of Jēs-sē? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.

11 Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

12 So Dā'vīd's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings.

13 And Dā'vīd said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and Dā'vīd also girded on his sword: and there went up after Dā'vīd about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

14 ¶ But one of the young men told Āb-ī-gail, Nā'bāl's wife, saying, Behold, Dā'vīd sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

15 But the men *were* very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields:

16 They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

17 Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is *such* a son of Bē'li-āl, that a man cannot speak to him.

18 ¶ Then Āb-ī-gail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses.

19 And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nā'bāl.

20 And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, Dā'vīd and his men came down against her; and she met them.

21 Now Dā'vīd had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

22 So and more also do God unto the enemies of Dā'vīd, if I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

23 And when Āb-ī-gail saw Dā'vīd, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before Dā'vīd on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

24 And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me let this iniquity be*: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Bē'li-āl, *even* Nā'bāl: for as his name is, so is he; Nā'bāl is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

26 Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nā'bāl.

27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee *all* thy days.

29 Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken

concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Īs-rā-ēl;

31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

32 ¶ And Dā'vīd said to Āb-ī-gail, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Īs-rā-ēl, which sent thee this day to meet me:

33 And blessed *be* thy advice, and blessed *be* thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.

34 For in very deed, as the LORD God of Īs-rā-ēl liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nā'bāl by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

35 So Dā'vīd received of her hand *that* which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

36 ¶ And Āb-ī-gail came to Nā'bāl; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nā'bāl's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

37 But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nā'bāl, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

38 And it came to pass about ten days *after*, that the LORD smote Nā'bāl, that he died.

39 ¶ And when Dā'vīd heard that Nā'bāl was dead, he said, Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nā'bāl, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nā'bāl upon his own head. And Dā'vīd sent and communed with Āb-ī-gail, to take her to him to wife.

40 And when the servants of Dā'vīd were come to Āb-ī-gail to Cār-mēl, they spake unto her, saying, Dā'vīd sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife.

41 And she arose, and bowed herself on *her* face to the earth, and said, Behold, *let* thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

42 And Āb-ī-gail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of Dā'vīd, and became his wife.

43 Dā'vīd also took Ā-hīn-ō-ām of Jēz-reēl; and they were also both of them his wives.

44 ¶ But Sāul had given Mī-chāl his daughter, Dā'vīd's wife, to Phāl-ti the son of Lā-īsh, which was of Gāl-līm.

#### CHAPTER 26

AND the Zīph-ites came unto Saul to Gīb-ē-āh, saying, *Doth* not Dā'vīd hide himself in the hill of Hā-chī-lāh, which is before Jē-shī-mon?

2 Then Sāul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Zīph, having three thousand chosen men of Īs-rā-ēl with

him, to seek Dā'vīd in the wilderness of Zīph.

3 And Sāul pitched in the hill of Hā-chī-lāh, which is before Jē-shī-mōn, by the way. But Dā'vīd abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Sāul came after him into the wilderness.

4 Dā'vīd therefore sent out spies, and understood that Sāul was come in very deed.

5 ¶ And Dā'vīd arose, and came to the place where Sāul had pitched: and Dā'vīd beheld the place where Sāul lay, and Āb-nēr the son of Nēr, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

6 Then answered Dā'vīd and said to Ā-hīm-ē-lēch the Hīt-tīte, and to Āb-ī-shāi the son of Zēr-ū-ī-āh, brother to Jō-āb, saying, Who will go down with me to Sāul to the camp? And Āb-ī-shāi said, I will go down with thee.

7 So Dā'vīd and Āb-ī-shāi came to the people by night: and, behold, Sāul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Āb-nēr and the people lay round about him.

8 Then said Āb-ī-shāi to Dā'vīd, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

9 And Dā'vīd said to Āb-ī-shāi, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?

10 Dā'vīd said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

12 So Dā'vīd took the spear and the cruse of water from Sāul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

13 ¶ Then Dā'vīd went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them:

14 And Dā'vīd cried to the people, and to Āb-nēr the son of Nēr, saying, Answerest thou not, Āb-nēr? Then Āb-nēr answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king?

15 And Dā'vīd said to Āb-nēr, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Īś-rā-ēl? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

17 And Sāul knew Dā'vīd's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son Dā'vīd? And Dā'vīd said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?

19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Īś-rā-ēl is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

21 ¶ Then said Sāul, I have sinned: return, my son Dā'vīd: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And Dā'vīd answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Sāul said to Dā'vīd, Blessed be thou, my son Dā'vīd: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So Dā'vīd went on his way, and Sāul returned to his place.

#### CHAPTER 27

AND Dā'vīd said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Sāul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philīis-tīneš; and Sāul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Īś-rā-ēl: so shall I escape out of his hand.

2 And Dā'vīd arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Ā-chīsh, the son of Mā-ōch, king of Gāth.

3 And Dā'vīd dwelt with Ā-chīsh at Gāth, he and his men, every man with his household, even Dā'vīd with his two wives, Ā-hīn-ō-ām the Jēz-reēl-ī-tēss, and Āb-ī-gail the Cār-mēl-ī-tēss, Nā-bāl's wife.

4 And it was told Sāul that Dā'vīd was fled to Gāth: and he sought no more again for him.

5 ¶ And Dā'vīd said unto Ā-chīsh, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

6 Then Ā-chīsh gave him Zīk-lāg that day: wherefore Zīk-lāg pertaineth unto the kings of Jūd-āh unto this day.

7 And the time that Dā'vīd dwelt in the country of the Philīis-tīneš was a full year and four months.

8 ¶ And Dā'vīd and his men went up, and invaded the Gē-shū-rītes, and the Gēz-rītes, and the Ā-māl-ēk-ites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shūr, even unto the land of Ē-gypt.

9 And Dā'vīd smote the land, and left neither man nor

woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Ā-chīsh.

10 And Ā-chīsh said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And Dā-vīd said, Against the south of Jūd-āh, and against the south of the Jē-rāh-meel-ites, and against the south of the Kē-nītes.

11 And Dā-vīd saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gāth, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did Dā-vīd, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Phīl-īs-tīneš.

12 And Ā-chīsh believed Dā-vīd, saying, He hath made his people Īs-rā-ēl utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

#### CHAPTER 28

AND it came to pass in those days, that the Phīl-īs-tīneš gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Īs-rā-ēl. And Ā-chīsh said unto Dā-vīd, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men.

2 And Dā-vīd said to Ā-chīsh, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Ā-chīsh said to Dā-vīd, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

3 ¶ Now Sām-ū-ēl was dead, and all Īs-rā-ēl had lamented him, and buried him in Rā-māh, even in his own city. And Sāul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

4 And the Phīl-īs-tīneš gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shū-nēm: and Sāul gathered all Īs-rā-ēl together, and they pitched in Gīl-bō-ā.

5 And when Sāul saw the host of the Phīl-īs-tīneš, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

6 And when Sāul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Ū-rīm, nor by prophets.

7 ¶ Then said Sāul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Ēn-dôr.

8 And Sāul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.

9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Sāul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

10 And Sāul swore to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Sām-ū-ēl.

12 And when the woman saw Sām-ū-ēl, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Sāul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Sāul.

13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Sāul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Sāul perceived that it was Sām-ū-ēl, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

15 ¶ And Sām-ū-ēl said to Sāul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Sāul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Phīl-īs-tīneš make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

16 Then said Sām-ū-ēl, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

17 And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to Dā-vīd:

18 Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Ām-ā-lēk, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Īs-rā-ēl with thee into the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīneš: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Īs-rā-ēl into the hand of the Phīl-īs-tīneš.

20 Then Sāul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Sām-ū-ēl: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

21 ¶ And the woman came unto Sāul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

22 Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

23 But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:

25 And she brought it before Sāul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

#### CHAPTER 29

NOW the Phīl-īs-tīneš gathered together all their armies to Ā-phēk: and the Īs-rā-ēl-ites pitched by a fountain which is in Jēz-reel.

2 And the lords of the Phīl-īs-tīneš passed on by hundreds,

and by thousands: but Dā'vīd and his men passed on in the rereward with Ā'chīsh.

3 Then said the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, What do these Hē-brēwš *here*? And Ā'chīsh said unto the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, *Is not this Dā'vīd*, the servant of Sāul the king of Īs-rā-ēl, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell *unto me* unto this day?

4 And the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīneš were wroth with him; and the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīneš said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? *should it not be* with the heads of these men?

5 *Is not this Dā'vīd*, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Sāul slew his thousands, and Dā'vīd his ten thousands?

6 ¶ Then Ā'chīsh called Dā'vīd, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD līveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is good* in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.

7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Phīl'īs-tīneš.

8 ¶ And Dā'vīd said unto Ā'chīsh, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

9 And Ā'chīsh answered and said to Dā'vīd, I know that thou *art good* in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Phīl'īs-tīneš have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.

10 Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart.

11 So Dā'vīd and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Phīl'īs-tīneš. And the Phīl'īs-tīneš went up to Jēz-rēel.

#### CHAPTER 30

AND it came to pass, when Dā'vīd and his men were come to Zīk-lāg on the third day, that the Ā-māl'ēk-ītes had invaded the south, and Zīk-lāg, and smitten Zīk-lāg, and burned it with fire;

2 And had taken the women captives, that *were* therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way.

3 ¶ So Dā'vīd and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it* was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

4 Then Dā'vīd and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

5 And Dā'vīd's two wives were taken captives, Ā-hīn-ō-ām

the Jēz-rēel-ī-tēss, and Āb-ī-gail the wife of Nā-bāl the Cār-mēl-ite.

6 And Dā'vīd was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but Dā'vīd encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7 And Dā'vīd said to Ā-bī-ā-thār the priest, Ā-hīm-ē-lēch's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ē-phōd. And Ā-bī-ā-thār brought thither the ē-phōd to Dā'vīd.

8 And Dā'vīd inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

9 So Dā'vīd went, he and the six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Bē-sôr, where those that were left behind stayed.

10 But Dā'vīd pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Bē-sôr.

11 ¶ And they found an Ē-gŷp-tīan in the field, and brought him to Dā'vīd, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights.

13 And Dā'vīd said unto him, To whom *belongest* thou? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Ē-gŷpt, servant to an Ā-māl'ēk-ite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

14 We made an invasion *upon* the south of the Chēr-ē-thītes, and upon *the coast* which *belongeth* to Jûd-āh, and upon the south of Cā-lēb; and we burned Zīk-lāg with fire.

15 And Dā'vīd said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

16 ¶ And when he had brought him down, behold, *they were* spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Phīl'īs-tīneš, and out of the land of Jûd-āh.

17 And Dā'vīd smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

18 And Dā'vīd recovered all that the Ā-māl'ēk-ītes had carried away: and Dā'vīd rescued his two wives.

19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: Dā'vīd recovered all.

20 And Dā'vīd took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drave before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* Dā'vīd's spoil.

21 ¶ And Dā'-vīd came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow Dā'-vīd, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Bē'-sôr: and they went forth to meet Dā'-vīd, and to meet the people that *were* with him: and when Dā'-vīd came near to the people, he saluted them.  
 22 Then answered all the wicked men and *men* of Bē'-lī-āl, of those that went with Dā'-vīd, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *ought* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead *them* away, and depart.  
 23 Then said Dā'-vīd, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.  
 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part *is* that goeth down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.  
 25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Īś-rā-ēl unto this day.  
 26 ¶ And when Dā'-vīd came to Zik'-lāg, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Jûd'-āh, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;  
 27 To *them* which *were* in Bēth'-ēl, and to *them* which *were* in south Rā'-mōth, and to *them* which *were* in Jāt'-tīr,  
 28 And to *them* which *were* in Ā-rō'-ēr, and to *them* which *were* in Sīph'-mōth, and to *them* which *were* in Ĕsh-tē-mō'-ā,  
 29 And to *them* which *were* in Rā'-chāl, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Jē-rāh-meel'-ītes, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Kē'-nītes,  
 30 And to *them* which *were* in Hôr'-māh, and to *them* which *were* in Chôr'-āsh'-ān, and to *them* which *were* in Ā'-thāch,  
 31 And to *them* which *were* in Hē'-brōn, and to all the p̄lāces where Dā'-vīd himself and his men were wont to haunt.

## CHAPTER 31

**N**ow the Phīl'-īs-tīneš fought against Īś-rā-ēl: and the men of Īś-rā-ēl fled from before the Phīl'-īs-tīneš, and

fell down slain in mount Gīl-bō'-ā.

2 And the Phīl'-īs-tīneš followed hard upon Sāul and upon his sons; and the Phīl'-īs-tīneš slew Jōn'-ā-thān, and Ā-bīn'-ā-dāb, and Māl'-chī-shû'-ā, Sāul's sons.

3 And the battle went sore against Sāul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

4 Then said Sāul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Sāul took a sword, and fell upon it.

5 And when his armourbearer saw that Sāul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

6 So Sāul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

7 ¶ And when the men of Īś-rā-ēl that *were* on the other side of the valley, and *they* that *were* on the other side Jōr'-dān, saw that the men of Īś-rā-ēl fled, and that Sāul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Phīl'-īs-tīneš came and dwelt in them.

8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Phīl'-īs-tīneš came to strip the slain, that they found Sāul and his three sons fallen in mount Gīl-bō'-ā.

9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Phīl'-īs-tīneš round about, to publish *it* in the house of their idols, and among the people.

10 And they put his armour in the house of Āsh'-tā-rōth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bēth'-shān.

11 ¶ And when the inhabitants of Jā'-bēsh-gīl'-ē-ād heard of that which the Phīl'-īs-tīneš had done to Saul;

12 All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Sāul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bēth'-shān, and came to Jā'-bēsh, and burnt them there.

13 And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jā'-bēsh, and fasted seven days.