

The First Book of  
Samuel

1:1 Elkanah and his Two Wives. 1:9 Hannah prays for a Child. 1:19 Samuel born. 2:1 Hannah's Song of Thanksgiving.

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of *the* hill-country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, *the* son of Jeroham, *the* son of Elihu, *the* son of Tohu, *the* son of Zuph, an Ephraimite: 2 and he had two wives; *the* name of *the* one was Hannah, and *the* name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 And this man went up out of his city from year to year to worship and to sacrifice unto Jehovah of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, priests unto Jehovah, *were* there. 4 And when the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: 5 but unto Hannah he gave a double portion; for he loved Hannah, but Jehovah had shut up her womb. 6 And her rival provoked her sore, to make her fret, because Jehovah had shut up her womb. 7 And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to *the* house of Jehovah, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. 8 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Hannah, 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 Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest was sitting upon *his* seat by *the* door-post of *the* temple of Jehovah. 10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto Jehovah, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Jehovah of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on *the* affliction of thy handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thy handmaid, but wilt give unto thy handmaid <sup>1</sup>a man-child, then I will give him unto Jehovah 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 Jehovah, that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I poured out my soul before Jehovah. 16 Count not thy handmaid for a <sup>2</sup>wicked woman; for out of *the* abundance of my complaint and my provocation have I spoken hitherto. 17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace; and *the* God of Israel grant thy petition that thou hast asked of him. 18 And she said, Let thy handmaid find favor in thy sight.

<sup>1</sup> *Hb.* seed of men,

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* daughter of worthlessness; *Hb.* ...of Belial;

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 Jehovah, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and Jehovah remembered her; 20 and it came to pass, when the time was come about, that Hannah conceived, and bare a son; and she called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of Jehovah.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto Jehovah the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. 22 But Hannah 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 Jehovah, and there abide <sup>3</sup>for ever. 23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only Jehovah establish <sup>4</sup>his word. So the woman tarried and gave her son suck, until she weaned him. 24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with <sup>5</sup>three bullocks, and one ephah of meal, and a <sup>6</sup>bottle of wine, and brought him unto *the* house of Jehovah in Shiloh: and the child *was* young. 25 And they slew the bullock, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, Oh, my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto Jehovah. 27 For this child I prayed; and Jehovah hath given me my petition which I asked of him: 28 therefore also I have <sup>7</sup>granted him to Jehovah; as long as he liveth he is granted to Jehovah. And he worshipped Jehovah there.

2 And Hannah prayed, and said:

My heart exulteth in Jehovah;

My mouth is enlarged over mine enemies;

Because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 *There is* none holy as Jehovah;

For *there is* none besides 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 Jehovah *is* a God of knowledge,

<sup>8</sup>And by him actions are weighed.

<sup>3</sup> *Or*, for his lifetime. See footnote on Ex 21:6.

<sup>4</sup> *So* Massoretic, Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *read* the words of thy mouth. Aram. *reads* thy word.

<sup>5</sup> *So* Massoretic, Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *read* a three-year-old bullock, the calf of a cow, bread, Aram. *reads* a three-year-old bullock, and an ephah of flour,

<sup>6</sup> *Or*, skin of wine,

<sup>7</sup> *Or*, lent him to Jehovah;

<sup>8</sup> *Hb*<sup>txt</sup> (Aram.) *read*, Though actions be not 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*<sup>9</sup> *have ceased to hunger:*  
 Yes, *the barren hath borne seven;*  
 And she that hath many children languisheth.  
 6 Jehovah killeth, and maketh alive:  
 He bringeth down to Sheol, and bringeth up.  
 7 Jehovah maketh poor, and maketh rich:  
 He bringeth low, he also lifteth up.  
 8 He raiseth up *the poor out of the dust,*  
 He lifteth up *the needy from the dunghill,*  
 To make *them sit with princes,*  
 And inherit *the throne of glory:*  
 For *the pillars of the earth are Jehovah's,*  
 And he hath set *the world upon them.*  
 9 He will keep *the feet of his*<sup>10</sup> *holy ones;*  
 But *the wicked shall be put to silence in darkness;*  
 For by strength shall no man prevail.  
 10 They that strive with Jehovah shall be broken to pieces;  
 Against them will he thunder in heaven:  
 Jehovah will judge *the ends of the earth;*  
 And he will give strength unto his king,  
 And exalt *the horn of his anointed.*  
 11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto Jehovah before Eli the priest.  
 12 Now *the sons of Eli were*<sup>11</sup> *base men; they*<sup>12</sup> *knew not Jehovah.* 13 And *the custom of the priests with the people was, that,* when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was boiling, with a flesh-hook of three teeth in his hand; 14 and he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the flesh-hook brought up the priest took therewith. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. 15 Yes, 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 boiled flesh of thee, but raw. 16 And *if* the man said unto him, They will surely burn the fat<sup>13</sup> first, and *then take as much* as thy soul desireth; then<sup>14</sup> he would say, *No,* but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force. 17 And *the sin of the young men was very great before Jehovah; for the men despised the offering of Jehovah.*

<sup>9</sup> *Or,* have rest:

<sup>10</sup> *Or,* godly ones; Hb<sup>ext</sup> reads holy one;

<sup>11</sup> *Hb.* sons of worthlessness;

<sup>12</sup> *Or,* they knew not Jehovah, nor *the due of the priests from the people.* when any man *etc.*

<sup>13</sup> *Hb.* today,

<sup>14</sup> *So Some Massoretic mss. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. Aram., Vg. Some Massoretic mss. read* he would say unto him, Thou shalt *etc.*

18 But Samuel ministered before Jehovah, *being a child, girded with a linen ephod.* 19 Moreover his mother made him a little robe, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, Jehovah give thee seed of this woman for the petition which was asked of Jehovah. And they went unto their own home. 21<sup>15</sup> And Jehovah visited Hannah, and she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before Jehovah.

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons did unto<sup>16</sup> all Israel, and how that they lay with the women that did service *at the door of the tent of meeting.* 23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings from all this people. 24 No, my sons; for *it is* no good report<sup>17</sup> that I hear: ye make Jehovah's people to transgress. 25 If one man sin against another,<sup>18</sup> God shall judge him; but if a man sin against Jehovah, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding, they hearkened not unto *the voice of their father, because Jehovah was minded to slay them.* 26 And the child Samuel grew on, and increased in favor both with Jehovah, and also with men.

27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Did I reveal myself unto *the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt*<sup>19</sup> *in bondage to Pharaoh's house?* 28<sup>20</sup> and did I choose him out of all *the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to*<sup>21</sup> go up unto mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me?<sup>22</sup> and did I give unto *the house of thy father* all the offerings of *the children of Israel made by fire?* 29 Wherefore<sup>23</sup> kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my habitation,* and honorest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with *the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?* 30 Therefore Jehovah, *the God of Israel, saith,* I said indeed *that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me*<sup>24</sup> for ever: but now Jehovah saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, *the days come, that I will*

<sup>15</sup> *So 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. Aram., Vg. Massoretic reads* For

<sup>16</sup> *So Massoretic, Vg. (Aram.). 4Sam<sup>a</sup> Sept. read the Israelites. (omitting the last clause)*

<sup>17</sup> *Or,* which I hear Jehovah's people do spread abroad.

<sup>18</sup> *Or,* *the judges shall judge him;*

<sup>19</sup> *Or,* in Pharaoh's house

<sup>20</sup> *Or,* And I chose him

<sup>21</sup> *Or,* offer upon mine altar,

<sup>22</sup> *Or,* and gave unto

<sup>23</sup> *Or,* trample ye upon my sacrifice and upon mine offering,

<sup>24</sup> *Or,* for time unlimited: *And so elsewhere. See footnote on Ex 21:6.*

cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thy house. 32 And thou shalt behold <sup>25</sup>*the affliction of my habitation*, in all *the wealth* which God shall give Israel; and there shall not be an old man in <sup>26</sup>thy house for ever. 33 <sup>27</sup>And *the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thy soul; and all *the increase of thy house shall die* <sup>28</sup>*in the flower of their age*. 34 And this *shall be* the sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: 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 my heart and in my soul*: 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 thy house shall come *and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a morsel of bread.*

3 And the child Samuel ministered unto Jehovah before Eli. And *the word of Jehovah was* <sup>29</sup>precious in those days; *there was no* <sup>30</sup>frequent vision. 2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was laid down in his place (now his eyes had begun to wax dim, so that he could not see), 3 and the lamp of God was not yet gone out, and Samuel was laid down to sleep, in the temple of Jehovah, where the ark of God was; 4 that Jehovah called Samuel: and he said, Here am I. 5 And he ran unto Eli, 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 Jehovah called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know Jehovah, neither was the word of Jehovah yet revealed unto him. 8 And Jehovah called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And Eli perceived that Jehovah had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*

10 And Jehovah came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel said, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 11 And Jehovah said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both *the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.*

<sup>25</sup> Or, an adversary in my habitation,

<sup>26</sup> So Massoretic, Aram., Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. read my

<sup>27</sup> Or, Yet will I not cut off every man of thine from mine altar, to consume etc.

<sup>28</sup> Hb. when they are men.

<sup>29</sup> Or, rare

<sup>30</sup> Hb. widely spread vision.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from *the beginning even unto the end*. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever, for *the iniquity which he knew, because his sons* <sup>31</sup>cursed God, and he restrained them not. 14 And therefore I have sworn unto *the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated with sacrifice nor offering* <sup>32</sup>forever.

15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of *the house of Jehovah*. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision. 16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he said, Here am I. 17 And he said, What is the thing that *Jehovah hath spoken unto thee?* I pray thee, hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *anything* from me of all the things that he spake unto thee. 18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, *It is Jehovah: let him do what is good in his sight.*

19 And Samuel grew, and Jehovah was with him, and did let none of his words fall to *the ground*. 20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel *was established to be* a prophet of Jehovah. 21 And Jehovah appeared again in Shiloh; for Jehovah revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by *the word of Jehovah*.

4 And *the word of Samuel came to all Israel.*

Now Israel went out against *the Philistines to battle, and encamped beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines encamped in Aphek. 2 And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when* <sup>33</sup>they joined battle, Israel was smitten before *the Philistines; and they slew of the* <sup>34</sup>army in the field about four thousand men. 3 And when the people were come into the camp, *the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath Jehovah smitten us today before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of Jehovah out of Shiloh unto us, that it may come among us, and save us out of the hand of our enemies. 4 So the people sent to Shiloh; and they brought from thence the ark of the covenant of Jehovah of hosts, who* <sup>35</sup>sitteth above the cherubim: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were there with the ark of the covenant of God.*

5 And when *the ark of the covenant of Jehovah came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. 6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of Jehovah was come into the camp. 7 And the Philistines were*

<sup>31</sup> Sopherim changed to bring a curse upon themselves,

<sup>32</sup> Or, for their lifetime.

<sup>33</sup> Or, the battle was spread,

<sup>34</sup> Hb. array And so in vs. 12, and in 16 (twice).

<sup>35</sup> Or, is enthroned over the cherubim:

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 <sup>36</sup>gods? these are the gods that smote the Egyptians with all manner of <sup>37</sup>plagues in the wilderness. 9 *Others said*, Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight. 10 And *the* Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man to his tent: and there was *a* very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. 11 And *the* ark of God was taken; and *the* two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. 13 And when he came, lo, Eli was sitting upon *his* seat by *the* wayside 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 Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What *meaneth the* noise of this tumult? And the man hasted, and came and told Eli. 15 Now Eli was ninety-eight years old; and his eyes were set, so that he could not see. 16 And the man said unto Eli, *I am* he that came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army. And he said, How went the matter, my son? 17 And he that brought the tidings answered and said, Israel is fled before *the* Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, 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 *Eli* fell from off *his* 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 Israel forty years.

19 And his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' 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 brought forth; 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 brought forth a son, But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*. 21 And she named the child <sup>38</sup>Ichabod, saying, *The* glory is departed from Israel; 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 Israel; for the ark of God is taken.

5 Now *the* Philistines had taken the ark of God, and they brought it from Eben-ezer unto Ashdod. 2 And

<sup>36</sup> *Hb.* ha elohim (*both times with the definite article*)  
Contrast with elohim in vs. 7.

<sup>37</sup> *Hb.* smiting

<sup>38</sup> *That is, There is no glory,*

*the* Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it into *the* house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. 3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on *the* morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to *the* ground before *the* ark of Jehovah. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. 4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to *the* ground before *the* ark of Jehovah; and the head of Dagon and both *the* palms of his hands lay cut off upon the threshold; only *the* stump of Dagon was left to him. 5. Therefore neither *the* priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on *the* threshold of Dagon in Ashdod, unto this day.

6 But the hand of Jehovah was heavy upon *them* of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with <sup>39</sup>tumors, *even* Ashdod and the borders thereof. 7 And when *the* men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so, they said, *The* ark of *the* God of Israel shall not abide with us; for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. 8 They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of *the* Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with *the* ark of *the* God of Israel? And they answered, Let *the* ark of *the* God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of *the* God of Israel *thither*. 9 And it was *so*, that, after they had carried it about, *the* hand of Jehovah was against the city with a very great discomfiture: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great; and tumors brake out upon them. 10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of *the* God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. 11 They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of *the* Philistines, and they said, Send away the ark of *the* God of Israel, and let it go again to its own place, that it slay us not, and our people. For there was a deadly discomfiture throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men that died not were smitten with the tumors; and *the* cry of the city went up to heaven.

6 And *the* ark of Jehovah was in *the* <sup>40</sup>country of *the* Philistines seven months. 2 And *the* Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do with *the* ark of Jehovah? show us wherewith we shall send it to its place. 3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of *the* God of Israel, send it not empty; but by all means 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? And they said, Five golden tumors, <sup>41</sup>and five

<sup>39</sup> *Or,* the plague boils, *As read by the Jews,* emerods,

<sup>40</sup> *Hb.* field

<sup>41</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram., Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *omit* and five golden mice,

golden mice, *according to the* number of *the* lords of *the* Philistines; for one plague was on <sup>42</sup>you all, and on your lords. 5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your tumors, and images of your <sup>43</sup>mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto *the* God of Israel: 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* Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When he had <sup>44</sup>wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let <sup>45</sup>the people go, and they departed? 7 Now therefore take and prepare you a new cart, and two <sup>46</sup>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 Jehovah 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 its own border <sup>47</sup>to Beth-shemesh, *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 put the ark of Jehovah upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their tumors. 12 And the kine took the straight way by *the* way to Beth-shemesh; they went along <sup>48</sup>*the* highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to *the* right hand or to *the* left; and *the* lords of *the* Philistines went after them unto *the* border of Beth-shemesh. 13 And *they of* Beth-shemesh 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 Joshua the Beth-shemite, and stood there, where *there was* a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered up the kine for a burnt-offering unto Jehovah. 15 And the Levites took down the ark of Jehovah, and the coffer that *was* with it, wherein the jewels of gold *were*, and put *them* on the great stone: and *the* men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto Jehovah. 16 And when *the* five lords of *the* Philistines had seen *it*, they returned to Ekron the same day.

17 And these *are* the golden tumors which *the* Philistines returned *for* a trespass-offering unto Jehovah: for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Ashkelon

one, for Gath one, for Ekron one; 18 and the golden mice, *according to the* number of all *the* cities of *the* Philistines *belonging* to the five lords, *both* of fortified cities and of country villages, even unto the great <sup>49</sup>stone, whereon they set down the ark of Jehovah, *which stone remaineth* unto this day in *the* field of Joshua the Beth-shemite.

19 And he smote of *the* men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into *the* ark of Jehovah, he smote of the people <sup>50</sup>seventy men, *and* fifty thousand men; and the people mourned, because Jehovah had smitten the people with a great slaughter. 20 And *the* men of Beth-shemesh said, Who is able to stand before Jehovah, this holy God? and to whom shall he go up from us? 21 And they sent messengers to *the* inhabitants of <sup>51</sup>Kiriath-jearim, saying, *The* Philistines have brought back the ark of Jehovah; come ye down, *and* fetch it up to you.

7 And *the* men of Kiriath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark of Jehovah, and brought it into *the* house of Abinadab in <sup>52</sup>the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of Jehovah. 2 And it came to pass, from *the* day that the ark abode in Kiriath-jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all *the* house of Israel lamented after Jehovah.

3 And Samuel spake unto all *the* house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto Jehovah with all your heart, *then* put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you, and direct your hearts unto Jehovah, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines. 4 Then *the* children of Israel did put away the Baalim and the Ashtaroth, and served Jehovah only.

5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray for you unto Jehovah. 6 And they gathered together to Mizpah, and drew water, and poured *it* out before Jehovah, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against Jehovah. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpah. 7 And when *the* Philistines heard that *the* children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpah, *the* lords of *the* Philistines went up against Israel. And when *the* children of Israel heard *it*, they were afraid of *the* Philistines. 8 And *the* children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto Jehovah our God for us, that he will save us out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines. 9 And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered *it for* a whole burnt-offering unto Jehovah: and Samuel cried unto Jehovah for Israel; and

<sup>42</sup> *Hb.* them

<sup>43</sup> *Perhaps as carriers of bubonic plague.*

<sup>44</sup> *Or,* made a mock of them,

<sup>45</sup> *Hb.* them go,

<sup>46</sup> *That is,* milk cows,

<sup>47</sup> *Uphill, which is the way up the Sorek Valley, to the hill country of Israel.*

<sup>48</sup> *Hb.* one raised way,

<sup>49</sup> *So* Sept. Massoretic, Vg. *read* Abel, (*that is,* a meadow) *Aram. reads* stone of Abel,

<sup>50</sup> *Written in alphanumeric, ך ןׁׂ ןׁׂ ןׁׂ might also be read* 70 men, even unseasoned (raw, or half-baked *per* Gesenius) men;

<sup>51</sup> *The next city upstream in the Sorek Valley.*

<sup>52</sup> *Or,* Gibeah

Jehovah answered him. 10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt-offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; but Jehovah thundered with a great <sup>53</sup>thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten down before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car.

12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it <sup>54</sup>Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us. 13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more within the border of Israel: and the hand of Jehovah was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the border thereof did Israel deliver out of the hand of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 And he sent from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all those places. 17 And his return was to Ramah, for there was his house; and there he judged Israel: and he built there an altar unto Jehovah.

8 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abijah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. 3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah; 5 and they 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 Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto Jehovah. 7 And Jehovah said unto Samuel, 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 be king over them. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, in that they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit thou shalt protest solemnly unto them, and shalt show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Samuel told all the words of Jehovah 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 unto him, <sup>55</sup>for

<sup>53</sup> *Hb.* voice

<sup>54</sup> *That is,* The stone of help,

<sup>55</sup> *Or,* over his chariots, and over his horses;

his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots; 12 and he will appoint them unto him for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and he will set some to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots. 13 And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, 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 <sup>56</sup>officers, and to his servants. 16 And he will take your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and your goodliest <sup>57</sup>young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks: and ye shall be his servants. 18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen you; and Jehovah will not answer you in that day.

19 But the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Samuel; and they said, No; 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 Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Jehovah. 22 And Jehovah said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

9 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of <sup>58</sup>valor. 2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a <sup>59</sup>young man and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people. 3 And the asses of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses. 4 And he passed through the hill-country of Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of Benjamites, but they found them not.

5 When they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return, lest my father leave off caring for the asses, and be anxious for us. 6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is a man that is held in honor; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can tell

<sup>56</sup> *Or,* eunuchs,

<sup>57</sup> *The Sept. has,* herds,

<sup>58</sup> *Or,* wealth.

<sup>59</sup> *Or,* choice

us concerning our journey whereon we go. 7 Then said Saul 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 Saul again, and said, Behold, I have in my hand *the* <sup>60</sup>fourth part of a shekel of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. 9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he said, Come, and let us go to the seer; for *he that is* now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.) 10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God *was*.

11 As they went up *the* ascent 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 thee: make haste now, for he is come today into the city; for the people *have* a sacrifice today in the high place. 13 As soon as ye are come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he goeth 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* are bidden. Now therefore get you up; for at *this* time ye shall find him. 14 And they went up to the city; *and* as they came within the city, behold, Samuel came out toward them, to go up to the high place.

15 Now Jehovah had <sup>61</sup>revealed unto Samuel a day before Saul came, saying, 16 Tomorrow about *this* time I will send thee a man out of *the* land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him *to be* <sup>62</sup>prince over my people Israel; and he shall save my people out of *the* hand of *the* Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. 17 And when Samuel saw Saul, Jehovah <sup>63</sup>said unto him, Behold, the man <sup>64</sup>of whom I spake to thee! *this same* shall have authority over my people. 18 Then Saul drew near to Samuel <sup>65</sup>in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house *is*. 19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, *I am* the seer; go up before me unto the high place, for ye shall eat with me today: and in the morning I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that *is* in thy heart. 20 And as for thine asses *that* were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And <sup>66</sup>for whom *is* all *that is* desirable *in* Israel? Is it not for thee, and for all thy father's house?

<sup>60</sup> About 2.9 gm (0.28 cm<sup>3</sup>) of silver.

<sup>61</sup> *Hb.* uncovered the ear of Samuel

<sup>62</sup> *Or,* leader

<sup>63</sup> *Hb.* answered him,

<sup>64</sup> *Or,* of whom I said unto thee, This same *etc.*

<sup>65</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram., Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *read* inside the city,

<sup>66</sup> *Or,* on whom is all *the* desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all *etc.*

21 And Saul answered and said, *Am* not I a Benjamite, of *the* smallest of *the* tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all *the* families of *the* <sup>67</sup>tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou to me after this manner?

22 And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into *the* guest-chamber, and made them sit in *the* chiefest place among them *that* were bidden, who *were* about thirty persons. 23 And Samuel 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 <sup>68</sup>thigh, and *that* which *was* upon it, and set *it* before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold, *that* which hath been reserved! set *it* before thee *and* eat; because unto the appointed time hath it been kept for thee, <sup>69</sup>for I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

25 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, he communed with Saul upon the housetop. 26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of *the* day, that Samuel called to Saul on the housetop, saying, *Get* up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. 27 As they were going down at *the* end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us (and he passed on), but stand thou still <sup>70</sup>first, that I may cause thee to hear the word of God.

10 Then Samuel took the vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not that Jehovah hath anointed thee *to be* prince over his inheritance? 2 When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre, in *the* border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, the asses which thou wentest to seek are found; and, lo, thy father hath left off caring for the asses, and is anxious 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* <sup>71</sup>oak of Tabor; and there shall meet thee there three men going up to God to Beth-el, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a <sup>72</sup>bottle of wine: 4 and they will salute thee, and give thee two *loaves* of bread,<sup>73</sup> which thou shalt receive of their hand. 5 After that thou shalt come to <sup>74</sup>the hill of God, where *is the* garrison of *the* Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the

<sup>67</sup> *Hb.* tribes

<sup>68</sup> *Or,* shoulder,

<sup>69</sup> *Hb.* saying,

<sup>70</sup> *Hb.* as the day, *or,* today,

<sup>71</sup> *Or,* terebinth

<sup>72</sup> *Or,* skin

<sup>73</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram., Vg. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *add* for a wave-offering,

<sup>74</sup> *Or,* Gibeah of God,

city, that thou shalt meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a timbrel, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they will be prophesying: 6 and *the* Spirit of Jehovah will come mightily upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. 7 And <sup>75</sup>let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, <sup>76</sup>*that* thou do as occasion shall serve thee; for God is with thee. 8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; 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 unto thee, and show thee what thou shalt do.

9 And it was *so*, that, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God <sup>77</sup>gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 And when they came thither to <sup>78</sup>the hill, behold, a band of prophets met him; and *the* Spirit of God came mightily upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied with *the* prophets, then the people said one to another, What *is* this *that* is come unto *the* son of Kish? *Is* Saul also among the prophets? 12 And one of *the* same place answered and said, And who *is* their father? Therefore it became a proverb, *Is* Saul also among the prophets? 13 And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

14 And Saul'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* not found, we came to Samuel. 15 And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you. 16 And Saul said unto his uncle, he told us plainly that the asses were found. But concerning the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.

17 And Samuel called the people together unto Jehovah to Mizpah; 18 and he said unto *the* children of Israel, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you out of *the* hand of *the* Egyptians, and out of *the* hand of all the kingdoms *that* oppressed you: 19 but ye have *this* day rejected your God, who himself saveth you out of all your calamities and your distresses; and ye have said unto him, *No*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before Jehovah by your tribes, and by your thousands. 20 So Samuel brought all *the* tribes of Israel near, and *the* tribe of Benjamin was taken. 21 And he brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families; and *the* family of the Matrites was taken; and Saul *the* son of Kish was taken: but when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they asked

<sup>75</sup> *Hb.* it shall come to pass, that when these signs *etc.*

<sup>76</sup> *Hb.* do for thee as thy hand shall find;

<sup>77</sup> *Hb.* turned

<sup>78</sup> *Or,* Gibeah,

of Jehovah further, <sup>79</sup>Is there yet a man to come hither? And Jehovah answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the baggage. 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 Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom Jehovah hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, *Long* live the king.

25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in <sup>80</sup>*a* book, and laid *it* up before Jehovah. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man *went* to his house. 26 And Saul also went to his house to Gibeah; and there went with him <sup>81</sup>the host, whose hearts God had touched. 27 But *certain* <sup>82</sup>sons of worthlessness said, How shall this *man* save us? And they despised him, and brought him no present. <sup>83</sup>But he held his peace.

11 <sup>84</sup>[Nahash king of the Ammonites oppressed the Gadites and the Reubenites viciously. He put out the right eye of all of them and brought fear and trembling on Israel. Not one of the Israelites in the region beyond the Jordan remained whose right eye Nahash king of the Ammonites did not put out, except seven thousand men who escaped from the Ammonites and went to Jabesh-gilead.] 1 Then <sup>85</sup>Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead: and all *the* men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. 2 And Nahash the Ammonite said unto them, On this *condition* will I make *it* with you, that all your right eyes be put out; and I will lay *it* *for* a reproach upon all Israel. 3 And *the* elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all *the* borders of Israel; and then, *if there* be none to save us, we will come out to thee. 4 Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and spake these words in *the* ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voice, and wept. 5 And, behold, Saul came following the oxen out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the words of *the* men of Jabesh.

6 And *the* Spirit of God came mightily upon Saul when he heard those words, and his anger was kindled greatly. 7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in

<sup>79</sup> *Or,* Is the man yet come hither?

<sup>80</sup> *Or,* the book,

<sup>81</sup> *Or,* men of valor,

<sup>82</sup> *Or,* sons of Belial *or,* base men *And so elsewhere.*

<sup>83</sup> *Or,* But he was as though he had been deaf.

4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. omit this sentence.

<sup>84</sup> Bracketed part added by 4QSam<sup>a</sup> and Josephus, Antiq. VI, v. 1. Omitted by Massoretic, Sept., Aram., Vg.

<sup>85</sup> So Massoretic, Aram. But 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept., Vg. add after about a month

pieces, and sent *them* throughout all *the* borders of Israel by *the* hand of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And <sup>86</sup>*the* dread of Jehovah fell on the people, and they came out as one man. 8 And he numbered them in Bezek; and *the* children of Israel were <sup>87</sup>three hundred thousand, and *the* men of Judah thirty thousand. 9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto *the* men of Jabesh-gilead, Tomorrow, by *the* time the sun is hot, ye shall have deliverance. And the messengers came and told *the* men of Jabesh; and they were glad. 10 Therefore *the* men of Jabesh said, Tomorrow 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 Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into *the* midst of the camp in the morning watch, and smote the Ammonites until *the* heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they that remained were scattered, so that not two of them were left together.

12 And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death. 13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day; for today Jehovah hath wrought <sup>88</sup>deliverance in Israel.

14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. 15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before Jehovah in Gilgal; and there they offered sacrifices of peace-offerings before Jehovah; and there Saul and all *the* men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

**12** And Samuel said unto all Israel, 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 youth unto this day. 3 Here I *am*: witness against me before Jehovah, 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 taken a <sup>89</sup>bribe to <sup>90</sup>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 aught of any man's hand. 5 And he said unto them, Jehovah *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found aught in my hand. And they said, He is witness.

<sup>86</sup> *Or*, a terror from Jehovah fell on the people,

<sup>87</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram., Vg.

4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. give 300,000... 70,000.

Josephus, Antiq. VI, v, 3 gives 700,000... 70,000.

<sup>88</sup> *Hb.* salvation

<sup>89</sup> *Or*, payment *or*, atonement

<sup>90</sup> *Or*, that I should hide mine eyes at him

6 And Samuel said unto the people, *It is* Jehovah that <sup>91</sup>appointed Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of *the* land of Egypt. 7 Now therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before Jehovah concerning all the righteous acts of Jehovah, which he did to you and to your fathers. 8 When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto Jehovah, then Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them to dwell in this place. 9 But they forgot Jehovah their God; and he sold them into *the* hand of Sisera, captain of *the* host of Hazor, and into *the* hand of *the* Philistines, and into *the* hand of *the* king of Moab; and they fought against them. 10 And they cried unto Jehovah, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken Jehovah, and have served the Baalim and the Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of *the* hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee. 11 And Jehovah sent Jerubbaal, and <sup>92</sup>Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of *the* hand of your enemies on every side; and ye dwelt in safety. 12 And when ye saw that Nahash *the* king of *the* children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, No, but a king shall reign over us; when Jehovah your God *was* your king. 13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have asked for: and, behold, Jehovah hath set a king over you. 14 If ye will fear Jehovah, and serve him, and hearken unto his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of Jehovah, and both ye and also the king that reigneth over you be followers of Jehovah your God, *well*: 15 but if ye will not hearken unto *the* voice of Jehovah, but rebel against the commandment of Jehovah, then will *the* hand of Jehovah be against you, as *it was* against your fathers. 16 Now therefore stand still and see this great thing, which Jehovah will do before your eyes. 17 *Is it* not wheat harvest today? I will call unto Jehovah, that he may send thunder and rain; and ye shall know and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in *the* sight of Jehovah, in asking you a king. 18 So Samuel called unto Jehovah; and Jehovah sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared Jehovah and Samuel.

19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto Jehovah thy God, that we die not; for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king. 20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have indeed done all this evil; yet turn not aside from following Jehovah, but serve Jehovah with all your heart: 21 and turn ye not aside; for *then would ye go* after vain *things* which cannot profit nor deliver, for they *are* vain. 22 For Jehovah will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it hath pleased Jehovah to make you a people unto himself.

<sup>91</sup> *Or*, made

<sup>92</sup> *So* Massoretic. Sept., Aram., *read* Barak,

23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against Jehovah in ceasing to pray for you: but I will instruct you in the good and the right way. 24 Only fear Jehovah, 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.

13 Saul was <sup>93</sup>*in his* first year when he began to reign; and *when* he had reigned two years over Israel, 2 Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel, *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in *the* mount of Beth-el, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and *the* rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. 3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of *the* Philistines that *was* in Geba; and *the* Philistines heard *of it*. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. 4 And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten the garrison of *the* Philistines, and also *that* Israel was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were gathered together after Saul to Gilgal.

5 And *the* Philistines assembled themselves together to fight with Israel, 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 encamped in Michmash, eastward of Beth-aven. 6 When *the* men of Israel 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 coverts, and in <sup>94</sup>pits. 7 Now *some of the* Hebrews had gone over the Jordan to *the* land of Gad and Gilead; but as for Saul, he *was* yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed*: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 And Saul said, Bring hither the burnt-offering to me, and the 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, Samuel came: and Saul went out to meet him, that he might <sup>95</sup>salute him. 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that the* Philistines assembled themselves together at Michmash; 12 therefore said I, Now will *the* Philistines come down upon me to Gilgal, and I have not entreated *the* favor of Jehovah: I forced myself therefore, and offered the burnt-offering. 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast

<sup>93</sup> *Unlike most of the Judean kings that followed him, who reckoned the coronation year as a year zero.*

*Hb.* Ben-shanah, a son of a year

<sup>94</sup> *Or,* the cisterns.

<sup>95</sup> *Or,* bless

done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of Jehovah thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would Jehovah have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: Jehovah hath sought him a man after his own heart, and Jehovah hath appointed him *to be* prince over his people, because thou hast not kept that which Jehovah commanded thee. 15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin.

And Saul numbered the people *that were* present with him, about six hundred men. 16 And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people *that were* present with them, abode in Geba of Benjamin: but *the* Philistines encamped in Michmash. 17 And *the* spoilers came out of *the* camp of *the* Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto *the* way *that leadeth to* Ophrah, unto *the* land of Shual; 18 and another company turned *the* way to Beth-horon; and another company turned *the* way of the border *that* looketh down upon the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

19 Now there was no smith found throughout all *the* land of Israel; for *the* Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make *them* swords or spears: 20 but all *the* Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock; 21 <sup>96</sup>yet they had *a* <sup>97</sup>file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for *the* forks, and for the axes, and to set 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 Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found. 23 And *the* garrison of *the* Philistines went out unto *the* pass of Michmash.

14 Now it fell upon *a* day, that Jonathan *the* son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over to *the* Philistines' garrison, that *is* on yonder side. But he told not his father. 2 And Saul abode in *the* uttermost part of Gibeah under the pomegranate-tree which *is* in Migron: and the people that *were* with him *were* about six hundred men; 3 and Ahijah, *the* son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, *the* son of Phinehas, *the* son of Eli, *the* priest of Jehovah in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. 4 And between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto *the* Philistines'

<sup>96</sup> *Or,* when the edges of the mattocks... and of the axes were blunt. *ARV comments,* The Hebrew text is obscure. *Aram. reads* And there was a broad file for the sickle and for the plowshare and for the mattocks and for the axe and to sharpen the goads. *Vg. reads* So that their shares, and their spades, and their forks, and their axes were blunt, even to the goad, which was to be mended.

<sup>97</sup> *Hb.* pīm *Bullinger suggests it means* a Philistine tax for sharpening. [*Possibly a monetary weight.*]

garrison, *there was a rocky crag on the one side, and a rocky crag on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.* 5 The one crag rose up on *the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.*

6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over unto *the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that Jehovah will work for us; for there is no restraint to Jehovah to save by many or by few.* 7 And his armorbearer said unto him, Do all that *is in thy heart: turn thee, behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.* 8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto the men, and we will disclose 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 Jehovah hath delivered them into our hand: and this *shall be the sign unto us.* 11 And both of them disclosed themselves unto *the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.* 12 And *the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, Come up to us, and* <sup>98</sup>*we will show you a thing.* And Jonathan said unto his armorbearer, Come up after me; for Jehovah hath delivered them into *the hand of Israel.* 13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armorbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armorbearer slew them after him. 14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armorbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were <sup>99</sup>*half a furrow's length in an acre of land.* 15 And there was a trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people; the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled; and the earth quaked: so there was <sup>100</sup>*an exceeding great trembling.*

16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went *hither and thither.* 17 Then said Saul unto the people that *were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us.* And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armorbearer *were not there.* 18 And Saul said unto Ahijah, <sup>101</sup>*Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was there at that time* <sup>102</sup>*with the children of Israel.* 19 And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the tumult that *was in the camp of the Philistines went on and increased: and*

<sup>98</sup> As modern slang, We'll show you a thing or two.

<sup>99</sup> Or, half an acre of land.

<sup>100</sup> Hb. a trembling of God.

<sup>101</sup> Rahlfs' Sept. (not Sept. A) reads Bring hither the ephod.

For he wore the ephod at that time before Israel.

(Compare Companion Bible note on 1Sa 14:18.)

<sup>102</sup> Hb. and

Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thy hand. 20 And Saul and all the people that *were with him were gathered together, and came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture.* 21 Now the Hebrews *that were with the Philistines as beforetime, and that went up with them* <sup>103</sup>*into the camp, from the country round about, even they also turned to be with the Israelites that were with Saul and Jonathan.* 22 Likewise all *the men of Israel that had hid themselves in the hill-country of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.* 23 So Jehovah saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over by Beth-aven.

24 And *the men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until it be the evening, and I be avenged on mine enemies.* So none of the people tasted food. 25 And all <sup>104</sup>*the people came into the forest; and there was honey upon the ground.* 26 And when the people were come unto the forest, behold, <sup>105</sup>*the honey dropped: but no man put his hand to his mouth; for the people feared the oath.* 27 But Jonathan 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 the 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 food this day.* And the people were faint. 29 Then said Jonathan, 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 today of *the spoil of their enemies which they found?* <sup>106</sup>*for now hath there been no great slaughter among the Philistines.*

31 And they smote of the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. 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 Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against Jehovah, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have dealt treacherously: roll a great stone unto me *this day.* 34 And Saul 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 Jehovah in eating with the blood.* And all the people brought every man

<sup>103</sup> Or, in the camp, round about,

<sup>104</sup> Hb. the land came

<sup>105</sup> Or, a stream of honey dropped:

<sup>106</sup> Or, for had there not been now a much greater slaughter etc.?

his ox with him *that* night, and slew *them* there. 35 And Saul built an altar unto Jehovah: the same was *the* first altar that he built unto Jehovah.

36 And Saul said, Let us go down after *the* Philistines by night, and take spoil among 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 Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after *the* Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into *the* hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day. 38 And Saul said, Draw nigh hither, all ye <sup>107</sup>chiefs of the people; and know and see wherein this sin hath been *this* day. 39 For *as* Jehovah liveth, who saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan 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 Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee. 41 Therefore Saul said unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, <sup>108</sup>Show *the* right. And Jonathan and Saul were taken *by lot*; but the people escaped. 42 And Saul said, Cast *lots* between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.

43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did certainly taste a little honey with *the* end of the rod that *was* in my hand; *and*, lo, I must die. 44 And Saul said, God do so and more also; for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan. 45 And the people said unto Saul, shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? Far from it: *as* Jehovah liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to *the* ground; for he hath wrought with God *this* day. So the people <sup>109</sup>rescued Jonathan, that he died not. 46 Then Saul went up from following *the* Philistines; and *the* Philistines went to their own place.

47 Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against *the* children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against *the* kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he put *them* to *the* worse. 48 And he did valiantly, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of *the* hands of them that despoiled them.

49 Now *the* sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishvi, and Malchi-shua; and *the* names of his two daughters *were these*: *the* name of the firstborn Merab, and *the* name of the younger Michal: 50 and *the* name of Saul's wife *was* Ahinoam *the* daughter of Ahimaaz. And *the* name of *the* captain of his host *was* Abner *the*

<sup>107</sup> *Hb.* corners

<sup>108</sup> *Or,* Give a perfect *lot*.

<sup>109</sup> *Hb.* loosed *or,* freed

son of Ner, Saul's uncle. 51 And Kish *was the* father of Saul; and Ner *the* father of Abner *was the* son of Abiel.

52 And there was sore war against *the* Philistines all *the* days of Saul: and when Saul saw any mighty man, or any valiant man, he <sup>110</sup>took him unto him.

15 And Samuel said unto Saul, Jehovah sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto *the* voice of *the* words of Jehovah. 2 Thus saith Jehovah of hosts, I <sup>111</sup>have marked *that* which Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against him in the way, when he came up out of Egypt. 3 Now go and smite Amalek, and <sup>112</sup>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 Saul summoned the people, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. 5 And Saul came to *the* city of Amalek, and <sup>113</sup>laid wait in the valley. 6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among *the* Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for ye showed kindness to all *the* children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So *the* Kenites departed from among *the* Amalekites. 7 And Saul smote the Amalekites, from Havilah *as* thou goest to Shur, that *is* before Egypt. 8 And he took Agag *the* king of *the* Amalekites alive, and <sup>114</sup>utterly destroyed all the people with *the* edge of *the* sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, 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 everything *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 Then came *the* word of Jehovah unto Samuel, saying, 11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul *to be* king; for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And Samuel was wroth; and he cried unto Jehovah all night. 12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning; and it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a <sup>115</sup>monument, and turned, and passed on, and went down to Gilgal. 13 And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of Jehovah: I have performed the commandment of Jehovah. 14 And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and *the* lowing of the oxen which I hear? 15 And Saul said, They have brought them from *the* Amalekites: for the people spared *the* best of the sheep and of the oxen, to

<sup>110</sup> *Hb.* gathered

<sup>111</sup> *Or,* will visit *that* which Amalek did to Israel,

<sup>112</sup> *Hb.* devote *And so elsewhere.*

<sup>113</sup> *Or,* strove in the valley.

<sup>114</sup> *Hb.* devoted all *And so elsewhere.*

<sup>115</sup> *Hb.* hand,

sacrifice unto Jehovah thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. 16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what Jehovah hath said to me *this* night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, <sup>116</sup>Though thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made the* head of *the* tribes of Israel? And Jehovah anointed thee king over Israel; 18 and Jehovah sent thee on a journey, and said, Go, and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. 19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey *the* voice of Jehovah, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst that which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah? 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yes, I have obeyed *the* voice of Jehovah, and have gone the way which Jehovah sent me, and have brought Agag *the* king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, *the* chief of the devoted things, to sacrifice unto Jehovah thy God in Gilgal. 22 And Samuel said, Hath Jehovah *as great* delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying *the* voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than *the* fat of rams. 23 For rebellion *is as the* sin of <sup>117</sup>witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* <sup>118</sup>idolatry and teraphim. Because thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Jehovah, 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 Jehovah. 26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee; for thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, and Jehovah hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. 27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, *Saul* laid hold upon *the* skirt of his robe, and it rent. 28 And Samuel said unto him, Jehovah hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee *this* day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, *that is* better than thou. 29 And also *the* <sup>119</sup>Strength of Israel will not <sup>120</sup>lie nor repent; for he *is* not a man, that he should repent. 30 Then he said, I have sinned: *yet* honor me now, I pray thee, before *the* elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship Jehovah thy God. 31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped Jehovah.

<sup>116</sup> *Or*, Though thou be little... art thou not head of *the* tribes of Israel?

<sup>117</sup> *Hb.* divination,

<sup>118</sup> *Or*, iniquity

<sup>119</sup> *Or*, Victory *or*, Glory

<sup>120</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept. *read* change his mind Douay (Vg.) *reads* spare

32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag *the* king of *the* Amalekites. And Agag came unto him cheerfully. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. 33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before Jehovah in Gilgal.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until *the* day of his death; <sup>121</sup>for Samuel mourned for Saul: and Jehovah repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

**16** And Jehovah said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? fill thy horn with oil, and go: I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons. 2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And Jehovah said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to Jehovah. 3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee. 4 And Samuel did *that* which Jehovah spake, and came to Beth-lehem. And *the* elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, <sup>122</sup>Comest thou peaceably? 5 And he said, Peaceably; I am come to sacrifice unto Jehovah: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on <sup>123</sup>Eliab, and said, Surely Jehovah's anointed is before him. 7 But Jehovah said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on *the* height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for *Jehovah seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath Jehovah chosen this. 9 Then Jesse made <sup>124</sup>Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath Jehovah chosen this. 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Jehovah hath not chosen these. 11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he is keeping the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him; for we will not sit <sup>125</sup>down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal <sup>126</sup>of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look upon. And Jehovah said, Arise,

<sup>121</sup> *Or*, but

<sup>122</sup> *So* Massoretic, Aram., Vg. 4QSam<sup>b</sup> Sept. *add* Seer,

<sup>123</sup> *In* 1Chr 27:18, Elihu,

<sup>124</sup> *In* 2Sam 13:3, Shimeah *In* 1Chr 2:13, Shimea

<sup>125</sup> *Hb.* around

<sup>126</sup> *Hb.* fair of eyes,

anoint him; for this *is* he. 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in *the* midst of his brethren: and *the* Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14 Now *the* Spirit of Jehovah departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from Jehovah <sup>127</sup>troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. 16 Let our lord now command thy servants, *that are* before thee, to seek out a man *who is* a skilful player on the 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 Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me. 18 Then answered one of the young men, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* skilful in playing, and a mighty man of valor, and a man of war, and <sup>128</sup>prudent in <sup>129</sup>speech, and a comely person; and Jehovah *is* with him. 19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, who *is* with the sheep. 20 And Jesse took an ass *laden* with bread and a <sup>130</sup>bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent *them* by David his son unto Saul. 21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armorbearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight. 23 And it came to pass, when *the* evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took the harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

17 Now *the* Philistines gathered together their armies to battle; and they were gathered together at Socoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and encamped in <sup>131</sup>the vale of Elah, and set *the* battle in array against *the* Philistines. 3 And *the* Philistines stood on the mountain on the *one* side, and Israel stood on the 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* Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was <sup>132</sup>six cubits and a span. 5 And *he had* a helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* clad with a coat of mail; and *the* weight of

<sup>127</sup> Or, terrified him.

<sup>128</sup> Or, skilful

<sup>129</sup> Or, business,

<sup>130</sup> Or, skin of wine,

<sup>131</sup> Or, *the* valley of the terebinth,

<sup>132</sup> So Massoretic, Aram., Vg. But 4QSam<sup>a</sup> Sept., Josephus, Antiq. VI, ix, 1 *read* four cubits and a span. A few Sept. mss. *read* five cubits and a span. [2.9, 2.0, and 2.45 m respectively.]

the coat was <sup>133</sup>five thousand shekels of copper. 6 And *he had* greaves of copper upon his legs, and a javelin of copper between his shoulders. 7 And *the* <sup>134</sup>staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and *his* shield-bearer went before him. 8 And he stood and cried unto *the* <sup>135</sup>armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. 9 If he be able to fight with me, and 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 Philistine said, I <sup>136</sup>defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 And when Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

12 Now David was *the* son of that Ephrathite of Beth-lehem-judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man was an old man in *the* days of Saul, stricken *in years* among men. 13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle: and *the* names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 And David was the youngest; and the three eldest followed Saul. 15 Now David went to and fro from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem. 16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched *grain*, and these ten loaves, and carry *them* quickly to the camp to thy brethren; 18 and bring these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all *the* men of Israel, <sup>137</sup>were in the vale of Elah, fighting with *the* Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the <sup>138</sup>place of the wagons, as the host that was going forth to the <sup>139</sup>fight shouted for the battle. 21 And Israel and *the* Philistines put *the* battle in array, army against army. 22 And David left his baggage in *the* hand of *the* keeper of the baggage, and ran to the army, and came and saluted his brethren. 23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of *the* ranks of *the* Philistines, and spake according to the

<sup>133</sup> 5,000 shekels = 58 kg. Likely tempered bronze.

<sup>134</sup> Hb<sup>txt</sup> alone reads blade [עצ vs. פצ]

<sup>135</sup> Hb. ranks And so in vss. 10, 21, 22, 26, etc.

<sup>136</sup> Or, reproach Also in vss. 25, 26.

<sup>137</sup> Or, are

<sup>138</sup> Or, barricade

<sup>139</sup> Or, battle ground

same words: and David heard *them*. 24 And all *the* men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And *the* men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man *that* is come up? surely to defy Israel 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 Israel. 26 And David spake to the men *that* stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away *the* reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, 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 Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why art thou come down? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thy heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I now done? <sup>140</sup>*Is there* not a cause? 30 And he turned away 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 David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul; and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail <sup>141</sup>because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. 33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou *art* *but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant was keeping his father's sheep; <sup>142</sup>and when there came *a* lion, or *a* bear, and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 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 smote both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath <sup>143</sup>defied *the* armies of *the* living God. 37 And David said, Jehovah 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 Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and Jehovah shall be with thee. 38 And Saul clad David with his apparel, and he put a helmet of copper upon his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his apparel, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul,

<sup>140</sup> *Or*, Was it not *but* a word?

<sup>141</sup> *Or*, within him;

<sup>142</sup> *Or*, and there came a lion and *a* bear... 35 and I went out after him,

<sup>143</sup> *Or*, reproached

I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him. 40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the <sup>144</sup>brook, and put them in *the* shepherd's bag which he had, even in his wallet; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and withal of a fair countenance. 43 And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto *the* birds of the heavens, and to *the* beasts of the field. 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin: but I come to thee in *the* name of Jehovah of hosts, *the* God of *the* armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will Jehovah deliver thee into my hand; and I will smite thee, and take thy head from off thee; and I will give *the* dead bodies of *the* host of *the* Philistines this day unto *the* birds of the heavens, and to *the* wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that Jehovah saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* Jehovah's, and he will give you into our hand. 48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in the bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead; and the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to *the* earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with *a* sling and with *a* stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in *the* hand of David. 51 Then David ran, and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of *the* sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw that their <sup>145</sup>champion was dead, <sup>146</sup>they fled. 52 And *the* men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou comest to <sup>147</sup>Gai, and to *the* gates of Ekron. And *the* wounded of *the* Philistines fell down by the way to <sup>148</sup>Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. 53 And *the* children of Israel returned from chasing after *the* Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

<sup>144</sup> *Or*, torrent bed,

<sup>145</sup> *Or*, mighty man was dead,

<sup>146</sup> *Thus, the promise of vs. 9 was forgotten.*

<sup>147</sup> Aram., Vg. and Rahlfs' Sept. read Gath,

<sup>148</sup> *Or*, *the* two gates,

54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent.

55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, *the* captain of the host, Abner, whose son *is* this youth? And Abner 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 David returned from *the* slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with *the* head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, *I am the* son of thy servant Jesse the Beth-lehemite.

18 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that *the* soul of Jonathan was knit with *the* soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. 3 then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan <sup>149</sup>stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his apparel, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. 5 And David <sup>150</sup>went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and <sup>151</sup>behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and it was good in *the* sight of all the people, and also in *the* sight of Saul's servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David returned from *the* slaughter of the <sup>152</sup>Philistine, that the women came out of all *the* cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with timbrels, with joy, and with <sup>153</sup>instruments of music. 7 And the women <sup>154</sup>sang *one to another* as they played, and said,

Saul hath slain his thousands,

And David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and this saying displeased him; and he said, they have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward

10 And it came to pass on *the* morrow, that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and <sup>155</sup>he prophesied in *the* midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as he did day by day. And Saul *had* the spear in his hand; 11 and Saul cast the spear; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall. And David avoided out of his presence twice. 12 And Saul

<sup>149</sup> *That is*, symbollically transferred *military* authority.

<sup>150</sup> *Or*, went out; whithersoever Saul sent him, he *etc.*

<sup>151</sup> *Or*, prospered: *Similarly* in vss. 14 and 15.

<sup>152</sup> *Or*, Philistines,

<sup>153</sup> *Or*, triangles *or*, three-stringed instruments

<sup>154</sup> *Or*, answered *one another* as they played,

<sup>155</sup> *Or*, he raved

was afraid of David, because Jehovah was with him, and was departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul <sup>156</sup>removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and Jehovah *was* with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he stood in awe of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David; for he went out and came in before them.

17 And Saul said to David, Behold, my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight Jehovah's battles. For Saul said, Let not my hand be upon him, but let *the* hand of *the* Philistines be upon him. 18 And David said unto Saul, Who *am* I, and <sup>157</sup>what *is* my life, *or* my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king? 19 But it came to pass at *the* time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. 20 And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that *the* hand of *the* Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt *this* day be my son-in-law a second time.

22 And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David 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 Saul's servants spake those words in *the* ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you *a light thing* to be the king's son-in-law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And *the* servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but a hundred foreskins of *the* Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. Now Saul thought to make David fall by *the* hand of *the* Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. And the days were not expired; 27 and David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. 28 And Saul saw and knew that Jehovah *was* with David; and Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him. 29 And Saul was yet *the* more afraid of David; and Saul was David's enemy all *his* days.

30 Then *the* princes of *the* Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, as often as they went forth, that David

<sup>156</sup> *A considerable demotion.*

<sup>157</sup> *Or*, who are my kinfolk,

<sup>158</sup>behaved himself more wisely than all *the* servants of Saul; so that his name was much <sup>159</sup>set by.

**19** And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should slay David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. **2** And Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to slay thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed *to thyself* in 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 if I see aught, I will tell thee. **4** And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* towards thee very good: **5** for he put his soul in his hand, and smote the Philistine, and Jehovah wrought a great <sup>160</sup>victory for all Israel: thou sawest *it*, and didst rejoice; wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? **6** And Saul hearkened unto *the* voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, *As* Jehovah liveth, he shall not be put to death. **7** And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as beforetime.

**8** And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled before him. **9** And <sup>161</sup>an evil spirit from Jehovah was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David was playing with *his* hand. **10** And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the spear; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the spear into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night. **11** And Saul sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, If thou save not thy soul tonight, tomorrow thou wilt be slain. **12** So Michal let David down through the window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. **13** And Michal took the teraphim, and laid *them* in the bed, and put *a* pillow of goats' *hair* at *the* head thereof, and covered *it* with the clothes. **14** And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He *is* sick. **15** And Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. **16** And when the messengers came in, behold, the teraphim *were* in the bed, with the pillow of goats' *hair* at *the* head thereof. **17** And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me thus, and let mine enemy go, so that he is escaped? And Michal

<sup>158</sup> *Or*, prospered more than all

<sup>159</sup> *Hb.* precious.

<sup>160</sup> *Hb.* salvation

<sup>161</sup> *Or*, the spirit of Jehovah was evil toward Saul,

answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

**18** Now David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. **19** And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah. **20** And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* head over them, *the* Spirit of God came upon *the* messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. **21** And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again a third time, and they also prophesied. **22** Then went he also to Ramah, and came to the great <sup>162</sup>well that *is* in Secu: and he asked and said, Where *are* Samuel and David? And *one* said, Behold, *they are* at Naioth in Ramah. **23** And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and *the* Spirit of God came upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. **24** And he also stripped off his clothes, and he also prophesied before Samuel, and <sup>163</sup>lay down naked all that day and all *that* night. Wherefore they say, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

**20** And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my soul? **2** And he said unto him, Far from it; thou shalt not die: behold, my father doeth nothing either great or small, but that he <sup>164</sup>discloseth it unto me; and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is* not *so*. **3** And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father knoweth well that I have found favor in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* Jehovah liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death. **4** Then said Jonathan unto David, <sup>165</sup>Whatsoever thy soul <sup>166</sup>desireth, I will even do *it* for thee. **5** And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow *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* til even. **6** If thy father miss me at all, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Beth-lehem his city; for *it is* the yearly sacrifice there for all the family. **7** If he say thus, *It is* well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be wroth, *then* know that evil is determined by him. **8** Therefore deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of Jehovah

<sup>162</sup> *Or*, cistern

<sup>163</sup> *Or*, fell

<sup>164</sup> *Hb.* uncovereth mine ear; *Similarly* in vss. 12, 13.

<sup>165</sup> *Or*, What doth thy soul desire, that I should do *it* for thee?

<sup>166</sup> *Hb.* saith,

with thee: but if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father? 9 And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee; for if I should at all know that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee? 10 Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me *if* perchance thy father answer thee roughly? 11 And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

12 And Jonathan said unto David, Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, *be witness*: when I have sounded my father about *this* time tomorrow, *or* the third *day*, behold, *if there be* good toward David, shall I not then send unto thee, and disclose it unto thee? 13 Jehovah do so to Jonathan, and more also, should it please my father *to do* thee evil, if I disclose it not unto thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and Jehovah be with thee, as he hath been with my father. 14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me *the* lovingkindness of Jehovah, that I die not; 15 but *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever; no, not when Jehovah hath cut off the enemies of David every one from *the* face of the earth. 16 So Jonathan made *a covenant* with *the* house of David, *saying*, And Jehovah will require *it* at *the* hand of David's enemies.

17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, <sup>167</sup>for *the* love that he had to him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. 18 Then Jonathan said unto him, Tomorrow *is the* new moon: and thou wilt be missed, because thy seat will be <sup>168</sup>empty. 19 And *when* thou hast stayed three days, thou shalt go down <sup>169</sup>quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself <sup>170</sup>when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. 20 And I will shoot three arrows on *the* side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark. 21 And, behold, I will send the lad, *saying*, Go, find the arrows. If I say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee; take <sup>171</sup>them and come; for *there is* peace to thee and <sup>172</sup>no hurt, *as* Jehovah liveth. 22 But if I say thus unto the boy, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way; for Jehovah hath sent thee away. 23 And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, Jehovah *is* between thee and me <sup>173</sup>forever.

24 So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat food. 25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at *other* times, *even* upon *the* seat by the wall; and Jonathan

<sup>167</sup> *Or*, by his love toward him;

<sup>168</sup> *Hb.* missed.

<sup>169</sup> *Hb.* greatly,

<sup>170</sup> *Hb.* in the day of the business, See ch. 19:2.

<sup>171</sup> *Or*, him,

<sup>172</sup> *Hb.* not any thing,

<sup>173</sup> *Or*, for our lifetimes.

stood up, and Abner sat by Saul's side: but David's place was empty. 26 Nevertheless Saul spake not anything 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 after the new moon, *which was* the second *day*, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not *the* son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor today? 28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Beth-lehem: 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 favor in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he is not come unto the king's table.

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of a perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen *the* son of Jesse to thine own shame, and unto *the* shame of thy mother's nakedness? 31 For as long as *the* son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he <sup>174</sup>shall surely die. 32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said *unto him*, Wherefore should he be put to death? What hath he done? 33 And Saul cast the spear at him to smite him; whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to put David to death. 34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no food the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

35 And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field <sup>175</sup>at *the* time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. 36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot *an* arrow <sup>176</sup>beyond him. 37 And when the lad was come to *the* place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is* not the arrow beyond thee? 38 And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master. 39 But the lad knew not anything: only Jonathan and David knew the matter. 40 And Jonathan gave his weapons unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city. 41 *And* as soon as the lad was gone, David arose <sup>177</sup>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 David exceeded. 42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have

<sup>174</sup> *Or*, is worthy to die. *Hb.* is a son of death.

<sup>175</sup> *Or*, to *the* place appointed

<sup>176</sup> *Hb.* making it pass over him.

<sup>177</sup> *Hb.* from beside the South,

sworn both of us in *the* name of Jehovah, saying, Jehovah shall be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed, forever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

**21** Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech came to meet David trembling, and said unto him, Why *art* thou alone, and no man with thee? **2** And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know anything of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed the young men to such and such a place. **3** Now therefore what is under thy hand? Give *me* five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatsoever there is present. **4** And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under my hand, but there is holy bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women. **5** And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days; when I came out, the vessels of the young men were holy,<sup>178</sup> though it *was but* a common journey; how much more then today shall their vessels be holy? **6** So the priest gave him holy *bread*; for there was no bread there but the showbread, *that* was taken from before Jehovah, to put hot bread in *the* day when it was taken away.

**7** Now a certain man of *the* servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before Jehovah; and his name *was* Doeg the Edomite, *the*<sup>179</sup> chiefest of the herdsmen that *belonged* to Saul. **8** And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thy 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 Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in<sup>180</sup> the vale of Elah, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take *it*; for *there is* no other save that here. And David said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

**10** And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish *the* king of Gath. **11** And *the* servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David *the* king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in the dances, saying,

Saul hath slain his thousands,

And David his ten thousands?

**12** And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish *the* king of Gath. **13** And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and<sup>181</sup> scabbled on *the* doors of the

<sup>178</sup> *Or*, and it may be used as common *bread*; and especially since today it will be holy in respect of their vessels.

<sup>179</sup> *Or*, mightiest

<sup>180</sup> *Or*, *the* vale of the terebinth,

<sup>181</sup> *Or*, made marks on *the* doors

gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. **14** Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see *the* man is mad; wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me? **15** Do I lack madmen, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play *the* madman in my presence? Shall this *fellow* come into my house?

**22** David therefore departed thence, and escaped to *the* cave of Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him. **2** And everyone *that was* in distress, and everyone that *was* in debt, and everyone *that was*<sup>182</sup> discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

**3** And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto *the* king of Moab, 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 Moab: and they dwelt with him all *the* while that David was in the stronghold. **5** And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the stronghold; depart, and get thee into *the* land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into *the* forest of Hereth.

**6** And Saul heard that David was discovered, and *the* men that *were* with him: now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk-tree<sup>183</sup> in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him. **7** And Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will *the* son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, **8** that all of you have conspired against me, and<sup>184</sup> *there is* none that discloseth to me when my son maketh a league with *the* son of Jesse, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or discloseth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? **9** Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who<sup>185</sup> stood by *the* servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech *the* son of Ahitub. **10** And he inquired of Jehovah for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

**11** Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, *the* son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that *were* in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. **12** And Saul said, hear now, thou son of Ahitub. 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 Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread,

<sup>182</sup> *Hb.* bitter of soul,

<sup>183</sup> *Or*, on the height,

<sup>184</sup> *Or*, *there was* none that disclosed *it* to me when my son made a league *etc.*

<sup>185</sup> *Or*, was set over *the* servants of Saul,

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 Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who among all thy servants *is so* faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and is taken into thy council, and is honorable in thy house? 15 Have I today begun to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me: let not the king impute *anything* unto his servant, *nor* to all *the* house of my father; for thy servant knoweth nothing of all this, less or more. 16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely *begin to* die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. 17 And the king said unto the <sup>186</sup>guard that stood about him, Turn, and slay *the* priests of Jehovah; because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew that he fled, and did not disclose it to me. But *the* servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of Jehovah. 18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon *the* priests, and he slew on that day eighty-five persons that did wear a linen ephod. 19 And Nob, *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 Ahimelech, *the* son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had slain Jehovah's priests. 22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the* death of all *the* souls of thy father's house. 23 Abide thou with me, fear not; for he that seeketh my soul seeketh thy soul: for with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

23 And they told David, saying, Behold, *the* Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and are robbing the threshing-floors. 2 Therefore David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And Jehovah said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah. 3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we are afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we go to Keilah against *the* armies of *the* Philistines? 4 Then David inquired of Jehovah yet again. And Jehovah answered him, and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thy hand. 5 And David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and slew them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. 6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar *the* son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, *that* he came down *with* an ephod in his hand.

7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath <sup>187</sup>delivered him into my hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that

hath double gates and bars. 8 And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. 9 And David knew that Saul was devising mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod. 10 Then said David, O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, thy servant hath surely heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. 11 Will *the* men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down as thy servant hath heard? O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And Jehovah said, He will come down. 12 Then said David, Will *the* men of Keilah deliver up me and my men into *the* hand of Saul? And Jehovah said, They will deliver *thee* up. 13 Then David and his men, *who were* about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbare to go forth. 14 And David abode in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill-country in *the* wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but <sup>188</sup>God delivered him not into his hand.

15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his soul: and David *was* in *the* wilderness of Ziph in <sup>189</sup>the wood. 16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose, and went to David into *the* wood, and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said unto him, Fear not; for *the* hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. 18 And they two made a covenant before Jehovah: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

19 Then came up *the* Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in the strongholds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* on *the* south of <sup>190</sup>the desert? 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 up into the king's hand. 21 And Saul said, Blessed *be* ye of Jehovah; for ye have had compassion on me. 22 Go, I pray you, make yet more sure, and know and see his place where his <sup>191</sup>haunt is, *and* who hath seen him there; for it is told me *that* he dealeth very subtly. 23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking-places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me <sup>192</sup>of a 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 among all *the* <sup>193</sup>thousands of Judah.

<sup>188</sup> So Massoretic, Aram. 4QSam<sup>a</sup> (Sept., Vg.)  
read Jehovah *Similarly* in vs. 16 (except Vg.)

<sup>189</sup> Or, Horesh. *And in* vss. 16, 18, and 19.

<sup>190</sup> Or, Jeshimon *And in* vs. 24.

<sup>191</sup> Hb. foot

<sup>192</sup> Or, with *the* certainty, or, to a set place,

<sup>193</sup> Or, families

<sup>186</sup> Hb. runners

<sup>187</sup> Sept. *alone reads* sold

24 And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men *were* in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah on the south of the desert. 25 And Saul and his men went to seek *him*. And they told David: wherefore he came down to the rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard *that*, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. 26 And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them. 27 But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have made a raid upon the land. 28 So Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place <sup>194</sup>Sela-hammachleqoth. 29 And David went up from thence, and dwelt in the strongholds of En-gedi.

24 And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David *is* in the wilderness of En-gedi. 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. 3 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where *was* a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet. Now David and his men were <sup>195</sup>abiding in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said unto him, Behold, the day of which Jehovah said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thy hand, and thou shalt do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. 5 And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. 6 And he said unto his men, Jehovah forbid that I should do this thing unto my lord, Jehovah's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he *is* Jehovah's anointed. 7 So David checked his men with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. And Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on *his* way.

8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and did obeisance. 9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearkenest thou to the words of man, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? 10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that Jehovah had delivered thee today into my hand in the cave: and *some* bade *me* kill thee; but *mine* eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth my hand against my lord; for he *is* Jehovah's anointed. 11 Moreover, my father, see, yes, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not,

<sup>194</sup> *That is*, The rock of divisions (*or*, of escape).

<sup>195</sup> *Or*, sitting

know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in my hand, and I have not sinned against thee, though thou <sup>196</sup>huntest after my soul to take it. 12 Jehovah judge between me and thee, and Jehovah avenge me of thee; but my hand shall not be upon thee. 13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Out of the wicked cometh forth wickedness; but my hand shall not be upon thee. 14 After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. 15 Jehovah therefore be judge, and give sentence between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and <sup>197</sup>deliver me out of thy hand.

16 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. 17 And he said to David, Thou *art* more righteous than I; for thou hast rendered unto me good, whereas I have rendered unto thee evil. 18 And thou hast declared *this* day how that thou hast dealt well with me, forasmuch as when Jehovah had delivered me up into thy hand, thou killedst me not. 19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore Jehovah reward thee good for that which thou hast done unto me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thy hand. 21 Swear now therefore unto me by Jehovah, 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 David swore unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the stronghold.

25 And Samuel died; and all Israel gathered themselves together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

2 And *there was* a man in Maon, whose <sup>198</sup>possessions *were* in Carmel; and the man *was* very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail; and the woman *was* 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 Caleb. 4 And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. 5 And David sent ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: 6 and <sup>199</sup>thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace *be* unto thee, and peace *be* to thy house, and peace *be* unto all that thou

<sup>196</sup> *Or*, layest wait for my life to take it.

<sup>197</sup> *Hb.* give sentence for me.

<sup>198</sup> *Or*, business was in Carmel;

<sup>199</sup> *Or*, thus shall ye say, All hail! and peace be unto thee, *etc.*

hast. 7 And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: thy shepherds have now been with us, and we did them no hurt, neither was there aught missing unto them, all *the* while they were in Carmel. 8 Ask thy young men, and they will tell thee: wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes; for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thy hand, unto thy servants, and to thy son David. 9 And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in *the* name of David, and <sup>200</sup>ceased.

10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, <sup>201</sup>Who *is* David? and who *is the* son of Jesse? there are many servants *now-a-days* that break away every man from his masters. 11 Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my <sup>202</sup>flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men of whom I know not whence they *are*? 12 So David's young men turned on their way, and went back, and came and told him according to all these words. 13 And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the baggage.

14 But one of *the* young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to <sup>203</sup>salute our master; and he railed at them. 15 But the men *were* very good unto us, and we were not <sup>204</sup>hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we went with them, when we were in the fields: 16 they were a wall unto us both by night and by 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 house: for he *is such* a <sup>205</sup>worthless fellow, that *one* cannot speak to him.

18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two <sup>206</sup>bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched *grain*, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses. 19 And she said unto her young men, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. 20 And it was *so*, *as* she rode on *her* ass, and came down by *the* covert of the mountain, that, behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. 21 Now David

<sup>200</sup> *Or*, remained quiet.

<sup>201</sup> *In modern English, equivalent to* Who are you?  
*or*, Who do you think you are?

<sup>202</sup> *Hb.* slaughter

<sup>203</sup> *Hb.* bless

<sup>204</sup> *Hb.* put to shame,

<sup>205</sup> *Lit.* son of worthlessness (*or*, of Belial), *That is*, schooled in *the ways of* worthlessness,

<sup>206</sup> *Or*, skins

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 returned me evil for good. 22 God do so <sup>207</sup>unto *the* enemies of David, and more also, if I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light so much as one man-child.

23 And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and alighted from *her* ass, and fell before David on *her* face, and bowed herself to *the* ground. 24 And she fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me be* the iniquity; and let thy handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine ears, and hear thou the words of thy handmaid. 25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this <sup>208</sup>worthless fellow, *even* Nabal; for as his name *is*, so *is* he; <sup>209</sup>Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I thy handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. 26 Now therefore, my lord, *as* Jehovah liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, seeing Jehovah hath withholden thee <sup>210</sup>from bloodguiltiness, and from <sup>211</sup>avenging thyself with thine own hand, now therefore let thine enemies, and them that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. 27 And now this <sup>212</sup>present which thy servant hath brought unto my lord, let it be given unto the young men that follow my lord. 28 Forgive, I pray thee, *the* trespass of thy handmaid: for Jehovah will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord fighteth *the* battles of Jehovah; and evil shall not be found in thee *all* thy days. 29 And though man be risen up to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul, yet *the* soul of my lord shall be bound in <sup>213</sup>the bundle of life with Jehovah thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, *as* from the hollow of a sling. 30 And it shall come to pass, when Jehovah shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee prince over Israel, 31 that this shall be no <sup>214</sup>grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, <sup>215</sup>either that thou hast shed blood without cause, or that my lord hath avenged himself. And when Jehovah shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thy handmaid.

32 And David said to Abigail, Blessed be Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, who sent thee this day to meet me: 33 and blessed *be* thy discretion, and blessed *be* thou, that hast kept me this day from bloodguiltiness, and

<sup>207</sup> *Aram. and some editions of Sept. read* unto David,

<sup>208</sup> *Lit.* man of worthlessness (*or*, of Belial), *That is*, master of *the ways of* worthlessness,

<sup>209</sup> *That is*, Fool

<sup>210</sup> *Hb.* from coming into blood,

<sup>211</sup> *Hb.* thine own hand saving thee,

<sup>212</sup> *Hb.* blessing

<sup>213</sup> *Or*, *the* bundle of the living

<sup>214</sup> *Hb.* cause of staggering 4QSam<sup>c</sup> reads vengeance  
Sept. reads abomination Aram. (Vg.) read grief

<sup>215</sup> *Or*, so that thou shouldst shed blood

from avenging myself with mine own hand. 34 For in very deed, as Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, liveth, who hath withholden me from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light so much as one man-child. 35 So David received of her hand *that* which she had brought him: and he said unto her, Go up in peace to thy house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

36 And Abigail came to Nabal; and behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart *was* merry within him, for he *was* very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. 37 And it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, that his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became *as* a stone. 38 And it came to pass about ten days *after*, that Jehovah smote Nabal, so that he died.

39 And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed *be* Jehovah, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from *the* hand of Nabal, and hath kept back his servant from evil: and the evil-doing of Nabal hath Jehovah returned upon his own head. And David sent and spake concerning Abigail, to take her to him to wife. 40 And when *the* servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David hath sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. 41 And she arose, and bowed herself with *her* face to *the* earth, and said, Behold, thy handmaid *is* a servant to wash *the* feet of *the* servants of my lord. 42 And Abigail hastened, and arose, and rode upon *an* ass, with five damsels of hers *that* followed her; and she went after *the* messengers of David, and became his wife.

43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they became both of them his wives. 44 Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to <sup>216</sup>Palti *the* son of Laish, who *was* of Gallim.

**26** And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before <sup>217</sup>the desert? 2 Then Saul arose, and went down to *the* wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in *the* wilderness of Ziph. 3 And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before the desert, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. 4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come <sup>218</sup>of a certainty. 5 And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had encamped; and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner *the*

<sup>216</sup> In 2Sa 3:15, Paltiel

<sup>217</sup> Or, Jeshimon Also in vs. 3. See ch. 23:19.

<sup>218</sup> Or, to a set place. See ch. 23:23.

son of Ner, *the* captain of his host: and Saul lay within the <sup>219</sup>place of *the* wagons, and the people were encamped round about him.

6 Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai *the* son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee. 7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the place of *the* wagons, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people lay round about him. 8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered up thine enemy into thy hand *this* day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear to the earth at one stroke, and I will not *smite* him a second time. 9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not; for who can put forth his hand against Jehovah's anointed, and be guiltless? 10 And David said, As Jehovah liveth, Jehovah will smite him; <sup>220</sup>or his day shall come to die; or he shall go down into battle, and perish. 11 Jehovah forbid that I should put forth my hand against Jehovah's anointed: but now take, I pray thee, the spear that *is* at his head, and the cruse of water, and let us go. 12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's head; and they gat them away: and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither did any awake; for they *were* all asleep, because a deep sleep from Jehovah was fallen upon them.

13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on *the* top of the mountain afar off; *a* great space *being* between them; 14 and David cried to the people, and to Abner *the* son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou *that* criest to the king? 15 And David said to Abner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man? And who *is* like to thee in Israel? Wherefore then hast thou not kept watch over 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 Jehovah liveth, ye *are* <sup>221</sup>worthy to die, because ye have not kept watch over your lord, Jehovah's anointed. And now see where the king's spear *is*, and the cruse of water that *was* at his head.

17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And David said, *It is* my voice, my lord, O king. 18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil *is* in my hand? 19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it be Jehovah that hath stirred thee up against me, let him <sup>222</sup>accept an offering: but if *it be* the children of

<sup>219</sup> Or, barricade, Also in vs. 7.

<sup>220</sup> Or, either

<sup>221</sup> Hb. sons of death,

<sup>222</sup> Hb. smell

men, cursed *be* they before Jehovah; for they have driven me out *this* day that I should <sup>223</sup>not cleave unto *the* inheritance of Jehovah, saying, Go, serve other gods. 20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to *the* earth away from *the* presence of Jehovah: for *the* king of Israel is come out to seek *a* flea, as when one doth hunt *a* partridge in the mountains.

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David; 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 David answered and said, Behold <sup>224</sup>the king's spear! let then one of the young men come over and fetch it. 23 And Jehovah will render to *every* man his righteousness and his faithfulness; forasmuch as Jehovah delivered thee into my hand today, and I would not put forth my hand against Jehovah's anointed. 24 And, behold, as thy soul was much set by *this* day in mine eyes, so let my soul be much set by *the* eyes of Jehovah, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. 25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do mightily, and shalt surely prevail. So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

27 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by *the* hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should escape into *the* land of *the* Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me any more in all *the* borders of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. 2 And David arose, and passed over, he and *the* six hundred men that *were* with him, unto Achish *the* son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, *even* David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife. 4 And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.

5 And David said unto Achish, If now I have found favor in thine eyes, let them give me a place in one of *the* cities in the <sup>225</sup>country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee? 6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto *the* kings of Judah unto *this* day. 7 And *the* number of the days that David dwelt in *the* country of *the* Philistines was a *full* year of days and four months.

8 And David and his men went up, and made a raid upon the Geshurites, and the <sup>226</sup>Girzites, and the Amalekites; for those *nations were the* inhabitants of the land, who were of old, as thou goest to Shur, even unto *the* land of Egypt. 9 And David smote the land,

<sup>223</sup> Or, have no share in *the* inheritance of Jehovah,

<sup>224</sup> Massoretic *alone reads* the spear, O king!

<sup>225</sup> Hb. field, *And in* vs. 7 and 11.

<sup>226</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> *reads*, Gizrites,

and saved neither man nor woman alive, and took away *the* sheep, and *the* oxen, and *the* asses, and *the* camels, and *the* apparel; and he returned, and came to Achish. 10 And Achish said, <sup>227</sup>Against whom have ye made a raid today? And David said, Against *the* South of Judah, and against *the* South of the Jerahmeelites, and against *the* South of the Kenites. 11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring them to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell of us, saying, So did David, and so *hath been* his manner all the while he hath dwelt in *the* country of *the* Philistines. 12 And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant <sup>228</sup>forever.

28 And it came to pass in those days, that *the* Philistines gathered their <sup>229</sup>hosts together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me in the host, thou and thy men. 2 And David said to Achish, Therefore thou shalt know what thy servant will do. And Achish said unto David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of my head all *my* days.

3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those *that* had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. 4 And *the* Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and encamped in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped in Gilboa. 5 And when Saul saw the host of *the* Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. 6 And when Saul inquired of Jehovah, Jehovah answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. 7 Then said Saul 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 En-dor.

8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, Divine unto me, I pray thee, by the familiar spirit, and bring me up whomsoever I shall name unto thee. 9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul 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 soul, to cause me to die? 10 And Saul sware to her by Jehovah, saying, As Jehovah liveth, there shall no <sup>230</sup>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

<sup>227</sup> So Sept. (4QSam<sup>a</sup>), Vg. Massoretic, Aram. *read* Where have ye

<sup>228</sup> Or, for *his* lifetime. *Similarly in* ch. 28:2.

<sup>229</sup> Hb. camps

<sup>230</sup> Or, guilt come upon thee for *this* thing.

Samuel. 12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou *art* Saul. 13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what seest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I see <sup>231</sup>gods coming up 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 robe. And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he bowed with *his* face to *the* ground, and did obeisance.

15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for *the* Philistines 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 And Samuel said, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing Jehovah is departed from thee, and is become thine adversary? 17 And Jehovah hath done unto <sup>232</sup>thee, as he spake by me: and Jehovah hath rent the kingdom out of thy hand, and given it to thy neighbor, *even* to David. 18 Because thou obeyedst not *the* voice of Jehovah, and didst not execute his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath Jehovah done this thing unto thee this day. 19 Moreover Jehovah will deliver Israel also with thee into *the* hand of *the* Philistines; and <sup>233</sup>tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons *be* with me: Jehovah will deliver the host of Israel also into *the* hand of *the* Philistines.

20 Then Saul fell straightway his full length upon *the* earth, and was sore afraid, because of *the* words of Samuel: 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 Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thy handmaid hath hearkened unto thy voice, and I have put my soul 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 thy 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, constrained him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed. 24 And the woman had a fatted calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it; and she took flour, and kneaded *it*, and did bake unleavened bread thereof: 25 and she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

**29** Now the Philistines gathered together all their hosts to Aphek: and *the* Israelites encamped by the

<sup>231</sup> Or possibly, a god coming up *Hb.* elohim (*plural*)

<sup>232</sup> So Rahlfs' Sept., Aram., Vg. Massoretic reads him,

<sup>233</sup> Though ch. 30:1 and 2Sa 1:2 might imply a delay.

fountain which is in Jezreel. 2 And *the* lords of *the* Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands; and David and his men passed on in the rearward with Achish. 3 Then said *the* princes of *the* Philistines, What *do* these Hebrews *here*? And Achish said unto *the* princes of *the* Philistines, *Is* not this David, *the* servant of Saul *the* king of Israel, who hath been with me these days, or *rather* these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell away *unto me* unto this day? 4 But *the* princes of *the* Philistines were wroth with him; and *the* princes of *the* Philistines said unto him, Make the man return, that he may go back to his place where thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us: for wherewith should this *fellow* reconcile himself unto his lords? *should it* not *be* with *the* heads of these men? 5 *Is* not this David, of whom they sang one to another in the dances, saying,

Saul hath slain his thousands,

And David his ten thousands?

6 Then Achish called David, and said unto him, As Jehovah liveth, 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 favor thee not. 7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not *the* lords of *the* Philistines. 8 And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been before thee unto this day, that I may not go and fight against *the* enemies of my lord the king? 9 And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou *art* good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding *the* princes of *the* Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle. 10 Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with *the* servants of thy lord that are come with thee; and as soon as ye are up early in the morning, and have light, depart. 11 So David rose up early, he and his men, to depart in the morning, to return into *the* land of *the* Philistines. And *the* Philistines went up to Jezreel.

**30** And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that <sup>234</sup>*the* Amalekites had made a raid upon *the* South, and upon Ziklag, and had smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire, 2 and had taken captive the women *and all* that were therein, both small and great: they slew not any, but carried *them* off, and went their way. 3 And when David and his men came to the city, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captive. 4 Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captive, Ahinoam the

<sup>234</sup> *The Philistine and Israelite armies were gone north.*

Jezeelites, and Abigail *the* wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David 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 David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired of Jehovah, saying, <sup>235</sup>If I pursue after this troop, shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue; for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and shalt without fail recover *all*. 9 So David went, he and *the* six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

11 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they gave him water to drink; 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 David said unto him, To whom *belongest* thou? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. 14 We made a raid *upon the* south of the Cherethites, and upon *that* which *belongeth* to Judah, and upon *the* South of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. 15 And David said to him, Wilt thou bring me down to this troop? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me up into *the* hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this troop.

16 And when he had brought him down, behold, *they* were spread abroad over all the ground, eating and drinking, and dancing, <sup>236</sup>because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of *the* land of the Philistines, and out of *the* land of Judah. 17 And David 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, who rode upon camels and fled. 18 And David recovered all that *the* Amalekites had taken; and David rescued his two wives. 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor *anything* that they had taken to them: David brought back all. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drove before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* David's spoil.

<sup>235</sup> *Or*, Shall I pursue after this troop,

<sup>236</sup> *Or*, amidst all

21 And David came to the two hundred men, who were so faint that they could not follow David, whom also they had made to abide at the brook Besor; and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that *were* with him: and when David came near <sup>237</sup>to the people, he <sup>238</sup>saluted them. 22 Then answered all the wicked men and base fellows, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *aught* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that he may lead *them* away, and depart. 23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which Jehovah hath given unto us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the troop that came against us into our hand. 24 And who will hearken unto you in this matter? for as his share *is* that goeth down to the battle, so *shall* his share *be* that tarrieth by the baggage: they shall share alike. 25 And it was *so* from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

26 And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto *the* elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold, a <sup>239</sup>present for you of *the* spoil of the enemies of Jehovah: 27 to *them* that *were* in Beth-el, and to *them* that *were* in Ramoth of *the* South, and to *them* that *were* in Jattir, 28 and to *them* that *were* in Aroer, and to *them* that *were* in Siphmoth, and to *them* that *were* in Eshtemoa, 29 and to *them* that *were* in Racal, and to *them* that *were* in *the* cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to *them* that *were* in *the* cities of the Kenites, 30 and to *them* that *were* in Hormah, and to *them* that *were* in Bor-ashan, and to *them* that *were* in Athach, 31 and to *them* that *were* in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

31 Now *the* Philistines fought against Israel: and *the* men of Israel fled from before *the* Philistines, and fell down <sup>240</sup>slain in mount Gilboa. 2 And *the* Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and *the* Philistines slew Jonathan, and <sup>241</sup>Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, *the* sons of Saul. 3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was greatly distressed by reason of the archers. 4 Then said Saul to his armorbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, <sup>242</sup>and abuse me. But his armorbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took *his* sword, and fell upon it. 5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead,

<sup>237</sup> *Or*, with

<sup>238</sup> *Or*, asked them of their welfare.

<sup>239</sup> *Hb.* blessing

<sup>240</sup> *Or*, wounded

<sup>241</sup> *In* ch. 14:49, Ishvi

<sup>242</sup> *Or*, or make a mock of me.

he likewise fell upon his sword, and died with him. 6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armorbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

7 And when *the* men of Israel that *were* on *the* other side of the valley, and *they* that *were* beyond the Jordan, saw that *the* men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and *the* Philistines came and dwelt in them. 8 And it came to pass on *the* morrow, when *the* Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. 9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armor, and sent into *the* land of *the* Philistines round about, to carry *the* tidings unto *the* house of their idols, and to the people. 10 And they put his armor in *the* house of *the* Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to *the* wall of Beth-shan. 11 And when <sup>243</sup>*the* inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard concerning him that which *the* Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all *the* valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from *the* wall of Beth-shan; and they came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. 13 And they took their bones, and buried *them* under the tamarisk-tree in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

*End of the First Book of Samuel*

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<sup>243</sup> *The men whom Saul had saved.* ch. 11:1-11.