

The Game of Thrones:

II Samuel – I Kings and the Problem with Divisions and dynasties

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * July 20th 2021 * Storytelling and the rise of Kings lesson #8

1: The turning point

II Samuel 11

(1) At the turn of the year, the season when kings go out [to battle], David **sent** Joab with his officers and all Israel with him, and they devastated Ammon and besieged Rabbah; David **remained** in Jerusalem. (2) Late one afternoon, David rose from his couch and strolled on the roof of the royal palace; and from the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, (3) and the king **sent** someone to make inquiries about the woman. He reported, “She is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam [and] wife of Uriah the Hittite.” (4) David **sent** messengers to fetch her; she came to him and he lay with her—she had just purified herself after her period—and she went back home. (5) The woman conceived, and she **sent** word to David, “I am pregnant.” (6) Thereupon David **sent** a message to Joab, “**Send** Uriah the Hittite to me”; and Joab **sent** Uriah to David...

(11) Uriah answered David, “The Ark and Israel and Judah are **located** at Succoth, and my master Joab and Your Majesty’s men are camped in the open; how can I go home and eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As you live, by your very life, I will not do this!”...(14) In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab, which he **sent** with Uriah....

(18) Joab **sent** a full report of the battle to David...

(26) When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she lamented over her husband.

(27) After the period of mourning was over, David sent and had her brought into his palace; she became his wife and she bore him a son. But the LORD was displeased with what David had done,

שמואל ב י"א

(א) ויהי לתשובת השנה לעת ו צאת המלכים וישלח דוד את-יואב ואת-עבדיו עמו ואת-כל-ישראל וישחתו את-בני עמון ויצרו על-רבה ודוד יושב בירושלם. {ס} (ב) ויהי לעת הערב וילקם דוד מעל משכבו ויתהלך על-גג בית-המלך וירא אשה רחצת מעל הגג והאשה טובת מראה מאד. (ג) וישלח דוד וידרש לאשה ויאמר הלא-זאת בת-שבע בת-אליעם אשת אוריה החתי. (ד) וישלח דוד מלכאים ויקחה ותבוא אליו וישכב עמה והיא מתקדשת מטמאתה ותשב אל-ביתה. (ה) ותהר האשה ותשלח ותגיד לדוד ותאמר הרה אנכי. (ו) וישלח דוד אל-יואב שלח אלי את-אוריה החתי וישלח יואב את-אוריה אל-דוד... (יא) ויאמר אוריה אל-דוד הארון וישראל ויהודה ישבים בסכות ואדני יואב ועבדי אדני על-פני השדה חנים ואני אבוא אל-ביתי לאכל ולשתות ולשכב עם-אשתי חיה וחי נפשי אם-אעשה את-הדבר הזה... (יד) ויהי בבקר ויכתב דוד ספר אל-יואב וישלח ביד אוריה... (יח) וישלח יואב ויגיד לדוד את-כל-דברי המלחמה... (כו) ותשמע אשת אוריה כי-מת אוריה אישה ותספד על-בעלה. (כו) ויעבר האכל וישלח דוד ויאספה אל-ביתו ותהי-לו לאשה ותלד לו בן וירע הדבר אשר-עשה דוד בעיני יהוה. {פ}

2. Within which plot?

David's personal arc:

שמואל א י"ח:י"ד-ט"ז

I Samuel 18:14-16

(14) David was successful in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him; (15) and when Saul saw that he was successful, he dreaded him. (16) All Israel and Judah loved David, for he marched at their head.

(יד) וַיְהִי דָוִד לְכָל-דָּרְכָו מְשָׁכִיל וַיהוָה עִמּוֹ: (טו) וַיֵּרָא שָׂאֻל אֲשֶׁר-הוּא מְשָׁכִיל מְאֹד וַיִּגַּר מִפְּנָיו: (טז) וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיהוּדָה אָהָב אֶת-דָּוִד כִּי-הוּא יוֹצֵא וּבָא לִפְנֵיהֶם: {פ}

Leadership and initiative:

שופטים א':א'-ב'

Judges 1:1-2

(1) After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, "Which of us shall be the first to go up against the Canaanites and attack them?" (2) The LORD replied, "Let [the tribe of] Judah go up. I now deliver the land into their hands."

(א) וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּיהוָה לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ אֶל-הַכְּנָעֲנִי בְּתַחֲלָה לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה הַנְּגַה נְתַתִּי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ בְּיָדוֹ:

I Samuel 1:9

(9) After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose.—The priest Eli was sitting on the seat near the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.—

שמואל א א':ט'

(ט) וַתִּקַּם חַנָּה אַחֲרַי אֹכְלָה בְשֵׁלָה וְאַחֲרַי שָׁתָה וְעַלִּי הַכֹּהֵן יֹשֵׁב עַל-הַכֹּסֵא עַל-מְזוֹזֹת הַיֵּכָל יְהוָה:

The nature of kingship:

I Samuel 8:10-18

(10) Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people, who were asking him for a king. (11) He said, "This will be the practice of the king who will rule over you...(17) He will take a tenth part of your flocks, and you shall become his slaves. (18) The day will come when you cry out because of the king whom you yourselves have chosen; and the LORD will not answer you on that day."

שמואל א ח':י'-י"ח

(י) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל-דִּבְרֵי יְהוָה אֶל-הָעָם הַשְּׂאֵלִים מֵאֵתוֹ מֶלֶךְ: (ס) (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר זֶה יְהִיָּה מְשַׁפֵּט הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיכֶם... (יז) צֹאנְכֶם יַעֲשֶׂר וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לוֹ לְעֹבְדִים: (יח) וּזְעַקְתֶּם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מִלִּפְנֵי מֶלֶכְכֶם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתֶּם לָכֶם וְלֹא-יַעֲנֶה יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:

3: The costs of passivity: children problems

II Samuel 13:20-22

(20) Her brother Absalom said to her, “Was it your brother Amnon who did this to you? For the present, sister, keep quiet about it; he is your brother. Don’t brood over the matter.” And Tamar remained in her brother Absalom’s house, forlorn. (21) When King David heard about all this, he was greatly upset. (22) Absalom didn’t utter a word to Amnon, good or bad; but Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar.

II Samuel 14:28-33

(28) Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years without appearing before the king. (29) Then Absalom sent for Joab, in order to send him to the king; but Joab would not come to him. He sent for him a second time, but he would not come. (30) So [Absalom] said to his servants, “Look, Joab’s field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire.” And Absalom’s servants set the field on fire. (31) Joab came at once to Absalom’s house and said to him, “Why did your servants set fire to my field?” (32) Absalom replied to Joab, “I sent for you to come here; I wanted to send you to the king to say [on my behalf]: ‘Why did I leave Geshur? I would be better off if I were still there. Now let me appear before the king; and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death!’” (33) Joab went to the king and reported to him; whereupon he summoned Absalom. He came to the king and flung himself face down to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

שמואל ב י"ג:כ-כ"ב

(כ) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיָהּ אַבְשָׁלוֹם אַחִיָּהּ הַאֲמִינוּן אַחִיָּהּ הֲיֵהָ עִמָּךְ וְעִתָּהּ אַחֹתִי הַחֲרִישִׁי אֶתְּךָ הוּא אֶל-תִּשְׁתִּי אֶת-לִבְךָ לְדַבֵּר הִנֵּה וּתִשָּׁב תִּמְרֵךְ וְשִׁמְמָהּ בֵּית אַבְשָׁלוֹם אַחִיָּהּ: (כא) וְהִמְלִךְ דָּוִד שָׁמֹעַ אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיַּחַר לּוֹ מְאֹד: (כב) וְלֹא-דִבֶּר אַבְשָׁלוֹם עִם-אַמְנוֹן לְמִרְעָה וְעַד-טוֹב כִּי-שָׁנָא אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֶת-אַמְנוֹן עַל-דִּבְרֵי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת תִּמְרֵךְ אַחֹתוֹ: {פ}

שמואל ב י"ד:כ"ח-ל"ג

(כח) וַיָּשָׁב אַבְשָׁלוֹם בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם שְׁנַתִּים יָמִים וַפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ לֹא רָאָה: (כט) וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֶל-יוֹאָב לְשַׁלַּח אֹתוֹ אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְלֹא אָבָה לָבוֹא אֵלָיו וַיִּשְׁלַח עוֹד שְׁנִיית וְלֹא אָבָה לָבוֹא: (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-עֲבָדָיו רְאוּ חִלְקַת יוֹאָב אֶל-יָדָיו וְלוֹ-שָׁם שְׁעָרִים לְכוּ (וְהוֹצִיתֶיהָ) [וְהִצִּיתֶיהָ] בְּאֵשׁ וַיִּצְתּוּ עֲבָדָיו אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֶת-הַחִלְקָה בְּאֵשׁ: (לא) וַיָּקָם יוֹאָב וַיָּבֹא אֶל-אַבְשָׁלוֹם הַבַּיְתָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לָמָּה הִצִּיתָ עֲבָדָי אֶת-הַחִלְקָה אֲשֶׁר-לִי בְּאֵשׁ: (לב) וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֶל-יוֹאָב הִנֵּה שְׁלַחְתִּי אֵלָיָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנֵה הַנֶּה וְאִשְׁלַחְהָ אֵתְךָ אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לֵאמֹר לָמָּה בָּאתִי מִגְּשׁוּר טוֹב לִי עַד אֲנִי-שָׁם וְעִתָּהּ אֶרְאֶה פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם-יִשְׁכַּח עוֹן וְהִמְתִּנִּי: (לג) וַיָּבֹא יוֹאָב אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּגְדֵּל-לוֹ וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-אַבְשָׁלוֹם וַיָּבֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לּוֹ עַל-אַפְּיוֹ אֶרְצָה לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁק הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם: {ס}

4: The costs of passivity: a civil war

II Samuel 18:1-24

(1) David mustered the troops who were with him and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds.

(2) David sent out the troops, one-third under the command of Joab, one-third under the command of Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and one-third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And David said to the troops, "I myself will march out with you." (3) But the troops replied, "No! For if some of us flee, the rest will not be concerned about us; even if half of us should die, the others will not be concerned about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore, it is better for you to support us from the town." (4) And the king said to them, "I will do whatever you think best." So the king stood beside the gate as all the troops marched out by their hundreds and thousands. (5) The king gave orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: "Deal gently with my boy Absalom, for my sake." All the troops heard the king give the order about Absalom to all the officers. (6) The troops marched out into the open to confront the Israelites, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. (7) The Israelite troops were routed by David's followers, and a great slaughter took place there that day—twenty thousand men...

(14) Joab replied, "Then I will not wait for you." He took three darts in his hand and drove them into Absalom's chest. [Absalom] was still alive in the thick growth of the terebinth, (15) when ten of Joab's young arms-bearers closed in and struck at Absalom until he died. (16) Then Joab sounded the horn, and the troops gave up their pursuit of the Israelites; for Joab held the troops in check. (17) They took Absalom and flung him into a large pit in the forest, and they piled up a very great heap of stones over it. Then all the Israelites fled to their homes.— (24) David was sitting between the two gates. The watchman on the roof of the gate walked over to the city wall. He looked up and saw a man running alone.

שמואל ב י"ח:א'-כ"ד

(א) ויפקד דוד את־העם אשר אתו וישם עליהם שרי אלפים ושרי מאות: (ב) וישלח דוד את־העם השלשית ביד־יואב והשלישית ביד־אבישי בן־צרויה אחי יואב והשלישית בקד אתי הגתי {ס} ויאמר המלך אל־העם צא אצא גם־אני עמכם: (ג) ויאמר העם לא תצא כל־אם־נס ננוס לא־ישׁימו אלינו לב ואם־ימתו חצינו לא־ישׁימו אלינו לב כִּי־עתה כמנו עשרה אלפים ועתה טוב כִּי־תהיה לנו מעיר (לעזיר) {ס} ויאמר אליהם המלך אשר־יטב בעיניכם אעשה ויעמד המלך אל־יד השער וכל־העם יצאו למאות ולאלפים: (ה) ויצו המלך את־יואב ואת־אבישי ואת־אתי לאמר לאט־לי לנער לאבשלום וכל־העם שמעו בצנת המלך את־כל־השרים על־דבר אבשלום: (ו) ויצא העם השדה לקראת ישראל ותהי המלחמה ביצר אפרים: (ז) וינגפו שם עם ישראל לפני עבדי דוד ותהי שם המגפה גדולה ביום ההוא עשרים אלה...

(יד) ויאמר יואב לא־כן אתילה לפניך ויקח שלשה שבטים בכפו ויתקעם בלב אבשלום עודנו חי בלב האלה: (טו) ויסבו עשרה נערים נשאי כלי יואב ויכו את־אבשלום וימתו: (טז) ויתקע יואב בשפך וישב העם מדרך אחרי ישראל כִּי־חשה יואב את־העם... (כד) ודוד יושב בין־שני השערים וילה הצפה אל־גג השער אל־החומה וישא את־עיניו וירא והנה־איש רץ לבדו:

5: Silver linings: David's response

II Samuel 12:1-13

(1) and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said, “There were two men in the same city, one rich and one poor. (2) The rich man had very large flocks and herds, (3) but the poor man had only one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He tended it and it grew up together with him and his children: it used to share his morsel of bread, drink from his cup, and nestle in his bosom; it was like a daughter to him. (4) One day, a traveler came to the rich man, but he was loath to take anything from his own flocks or herds to prepare a meal for the guest who had come to him; so he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” (5) David flew into a rage against the man, and said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! (6) He shall pay for the lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.”

(7) And Nathan said to David, “That man is you! Thus said the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘It was I who anointed you king over Israel and it was I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. (8) I gave you your master's house and possession of your master's wives; and I gave you the House of Israel and Judah; and if that were not enough, I would give you twice as much more. (9) Why then have you flouted the command of the LORD and done what displeases Him? You have put Uriah the Hittite to the sword; you took his wife and made her your wife and had him killed by the sword of the Ammonites. (10) Therefore the sword shall never depart from your House—because you spurned Me by taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite and making her your wife.’ (11) Thus said the LORD: ‘I will make a calamity rise against you from within your own house; I will take your wives and give them to another man before your very eyes and he shall sleep with your wives under this very sun. (12) You acted in secret, but I will make this happen in the sight of all Israel and in broad daylight.’” (13) David said to Nathan, “I stand guilty before the LORD!” And Nathan replied to David, “The LORD has remitted your sin; you shall not die.

שמואל ב י"ב:א'-י"ג

(א) וישלח יהוה את־נָתָן אל־דָּוִד ויבא אליו ויאמר לוֹ שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים הָיוּ בְּעִיר אַחַת אֶתֶד עֹשִׂיר וְאֶתֶד רָאשׁ: (ב) לְעֹשִׂיר הָיָה צֹאן וּבָקָר הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: (ג) וְלָרֵשׁ אֵיזֶר־כֶּלֶל כִּי אִם־כֶּבֶשֶׂה אַחַת קָטְנָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה וַיִּחְיֶיהָ וַתִּגְדֵּל עִמּוֹ וְעַם־בְּנָיו יִחְדָּו מִפֶּתוֹ תֹאכֵל וּמִכֶּסֶד תִּשְׁתֶּה וּבְחִיקוֹ תִשְׁכָּב וַתְּהִי־לּוֹ כִּבְתֵּ: (ד) וַיָּבֵא הַלֵּל לְאִישׁ הָעֹשִׂיר וַיִּחְמַל לְקַחַת מִצֹּאָנוֹ וּמִבָּקָרוֹ לְעֹשׂוֹת לְאִרְחֵ הַבָּא־לוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־כֶּבֶשֶׂת הָאִישׁ הָרֵאשׁ וַיַּעֲשֶׂהָ לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֵלָיו: (ה) וַיַּחֲרֵאֲרָ דָּוִד בְּאִישׁ מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָתָן חִי־יְהוָה כִּי בֹן־מָוֶת הָאִישׁ הָעֹשֶׂה זֹאת: (ו) וְאֶת־הַכֶּבֶשֶׂה יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתַּיִם עֶקֶב אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־חָמַל: {ס}

(ז) וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד אַתָּה

הָאִישׁ {ס} כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי מִשְׁחָתִיךָ לְמַלְכֵךְ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנֹכִי הִצַּלְתִּיךָ מִיַּד שָׂאוּל: (ח) וְאַתָּנָה לָךְ אֶת־בַּיִת אֲדֹנֶיךָ וְאֶת־נְשֵׁי אֲדֹנֶיךָ בְּחִיקֶךָ וְאַתָּנָה לָךְ אֶת־בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהוּדָה וְאִם־מְעֻט וְאִסְפָּה לָּךְ כְּהֵנָה וּכְהֵנָה: (ט) מִדּוֹעַ בּוֹנֵית וְאֶת־דָּבָר יְהוָה לְעֹשׂוֹת הָרַע (בְּעֵינֵינוּ) [בְּעֵינֵינוּ] אֶת אֹרֶיךָ הַחַתִּילִי הַכִּיתִי בַחֲרֹב וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ לְקַחַת לָּךְ לְאִשָּׁה וְאֶתוֹ הִרְגַתְּ בַחֲרֹב בְּגֵי עַמּוֹן: (י) וְעַתָּה לֹא־תִסּוּר חֲרֹב מִבֵּיתְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם עֶקֶב כִּי בּוֹתְנִי וַתִּקַּח אֶת־אִשְׁת־אֹרֶיךָ הַחַתִּילִי לְהַיִּית לָּךְ

לְאִשָּׁה: {ס} (יא) כֹּה וְאָמַר יְהוָה הַנְּנִי מְקִוִּים עֲלֶיךָ רַעַה מִבֵּיתְךָ וּלְקַחַתִּי אֶת־נְשֵׁיךָ לְעֵינֶיךָ וְנָתַתִּי לְרַעֲיָה וְשָׁכַב עִם־נְשֵׁיךָ לְעֵינֶיךָ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ הַזֹּאת: (יב) כִּי אַתָּה עֹשִׂית בְּסִתְרֵךְ וְאֲנִי אַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה נֶגֶד כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנֶגֶד הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: {ס} (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר

דָּוִד אֶל־נָתָן חַטָּאתִי לִיהוָה {ס} וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד גַּם־יְהוָה הָעֹבֵר חַטָּאתְךָ לֹא תָמוּת:

6: Silver linings: Recovering initiative

II Samuel 24

(1) The anger of the LORD again flared up against Israel; and He incited David against them, saying, “Go and number Israel and Judah.”..(10) But afterward David reproached himself for having numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, “I have sinned grievously in what I have done. Please, O LORD, remit the guilt of Your servant, for I have acted foolishly.”

(11) When David rose in the morning, the word of the LORD had come to the prophet Gad, David’s seer: (12)

“Go and tell David, ‘Thus said the LORD: I hold three things over you; choose one of them, and I will bring it upon you.’” (13) Gad came to David and told him; he asked, “Shall a seven-year famine come upon you in the land, or shall you be in flight from your adversaries for three months while they pursue you, or shall there be three days of pestilence in your land? Now consider carefully what reply I shall take back to Him who sent me.” (14) David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for His compassion is great; and let me not fall into the hands of men.”...

(17) When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, “I alone am guilty, I alone have done wrong; but these poor sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand fall upon me and my father’s house!”...

(25) And David built there an altar to the LORD and sacrificed burnt offerings and offerings of well-being. The LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague against Israel was checked.

I Samuel 28:15

(15) Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me and brought me up?” And Saul answered, “I am in great trouble. The Philistines are attacking me and God has turned away from me; He no longer answers me, either by prophets or in dreams. So I have called you to tell me what I am to do.”

שמואל ב כ"ד

(א) ויִסַּף אֶת־יְהוָה לְחַרּוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּסַּת אֶת־דָּוִד בְּהִם לְאָמַר לְךָ מִנָּה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־יְהוּדָה... (י) וַיָּךְ לִב־דָּוִד אֹתוֹ אַחֲרֵי־כֵן סָפַר אֶת־הָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־יְהוָה חַטָּאתִי מְאֹד אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי וְעַתָּה יְהוָה הַעֲבֵר־נָא אֶת־עֲוֹנוֹ עֲבֹדָה כִּי גִסְפִּלְתִּי מְאֹד: (יא) וַיִּקָּם דָּוִד בַּבֶּקֶר {פ} וַדְּבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֶל־גָּד הַנְּבִיא חֹנֵה דָוִד לְאָמַר: (יב) הֲלוֹה וּדְבַרְתָּ אֶל־דָּוִד כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה שְׁלֹשׁ אֲנֹכִי נוֹטֵל עֲלֶיךָ בְּחַר־לְךָ אַחַת־מֵהֶם וְאֶעֱשֶׂה־לְךָ: (יג) וַיָּבֵא־גָד אֶל־דָּוִד וַיִּגְדֵּלּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲתִבְּנָא לְךָ שְׁבַע שָׁנִים וְרָעַב וּבְאֶרְצֶךָ אִם־שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים גָּסוּד לִפְנֵי־צָרֶיךָ וְהָיָה רִדְפָךָ וְאִם־הָיִיתָ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים דִּבְרִי בְּאֶרְצֶךָ עַתָּה דַע וְרָאָה מִה־אֲשַׁיֵּב שְׁלַחֲךָ דִּבְרִי: {ס} (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־גָּד צַר־לִי מְאֹד נִפְלְאָה־נָּא בְּיַד־יְהוָה כִּי־רַבִּים רַחֲמָיו וּבְיַד־אָדָם אֶל־אֶפְלָה... (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־יְהוָה בְּרַאתְנוּ וְאֶת־הַמַּלְאָךְ וְהַמַּכָּה בָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי חַטָּאתִי וְאֲנֹכִי הַעֲוִיתִי וְאֵלֶּה הַצֹּאֵן מִן־עֲשׂוֹ תַהֲיִי נָא יְדֹהָ בִּי וּבְבִית אָבִי... (כה) וַיָּבֹן שָׁם דָּוִד מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת וּשְׁלָמִים וַיַּעֲתֶר יְהוָה לְאַרְצָא וַתַּעֲצֵר הַמַּגֶּפֶה מֵעַל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

שמואל א כ"ח:ט"ו

(טו) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל־שָׁאוּל לָמָּה הִרְגִזְתָּנִי לְהַעֲלֹת אֹתִי וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל צַר־לִי מְאֹד וּפְלִשְׁתִּים וּגְלַחְמִים בִּי וְאֱלֹהִים סָר מֵעָלַי וְלֹא־עֲנִי עוֹד גַּם בְּיַד־הַנְּבִיאִים גַּם־בַּחֲלָמוֹת וְאֶקְרָאָה לְךָ לְהוֹדִיעַנִי מִן־אֲעֹשֶׂה: {ס}

7: Moving forward

I Kings 2:1-4

(1) When David's life was drawing to a close, he instructed his son Solomon as follows: (2) "I am going the way of all the earth; be strong and show yourself a man. (3) Keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in His ways and following His laws, His commandments, His rules, and His admonitions as recorded in the Teaching of Moses, in order that you may succeed in whatever you undertake and wherever you turn. (4) Then the LORD will fulfill the promise that He made concerning me: 'If your descendants are scrupulous in their conduct, and **walk before Me faithfully**, with all their heart and soul, your line on the throne of Israel shall never end!'

מלכים א ב' א' ד'

(א) וַיִּקְרְבוּ יְמֵי־דָוִד לָמוּת וַיִּצְוֶה אֶת־
שְׁלֹמֹה בְּנוֹ לֵאמֹר: (ב) אַנְכִי הָלֵךְ
בְּדֶרֶךְ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ וְחֻזְקִיתָ וְהִיִּיתָ לְאִישׁ:
(ג) וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת וְהִנֵּה
אֱלֹהִים לְלָכֶת בְּדַרְכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֹּתָיו
מִצְוֹתָיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו וְעֲדוֹתָיו כִּכְתוּב
בְּתוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה לְמַעַן תִּשְׁכַּל אֶת כָּל־
אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר תִּפְנֶה שָׁם:
(ד) לְמַעַן יִקְיָם יְהוָה אֶת־דְּבָרֹו אֲשֶׁר
דִּבֶּר עָלַי לֵאמֹר אִם־יִשְׁמְרוּ בְּנֵיךָ אֶת־
דַּרְכֹּם לְלָכֶת לְפָנַי בְּאֵמֶת בְּכָל־לִבָּבָם
וּבְכָל־נַפְשָׁם לֵאמֹר לֹא־יִכָּרֵת לְךָ אִישׁ
מֵעַל כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Yoram Hazony, The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture:

...biblical ethics proposes to evaluate human action from a completely different point of vantage than that of Greek ethics – a point of vantage associated with the life of the nomad, who observes and evaluates all that goes on in human life from a perspective that is outside the political state and free of any prior commitment to it...Independence of judgement and action, then, depends on an ability to resist the creeping advance of justified fears and unjustified commitments to human beings and their institutions – which together work to deprive the individual of his freedom to discern what is right and to act in its name. A vigilant maintenance of one's ability to resist these justified fears and unjustified commitments is thus basic to the ethics of a shepherd, the ethics of the History of Israel.

(133-135)

Ultimately, it is the qualities associated with Judah that are vindicated by the narrative as being most suited for ruling over men, and this despite the fact that Joseph's political abilities... are recognized to be superior...the ability of the ruler to humble himself and change his ways is seen as the only hope of correcting the direction of the state when its off course. (72-73)