

# ***The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 32***

## ***King David & BatSheva - a 'story' or a 'unit'? - Part Two***

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

### **Introduction**

Our study of Sefer Shmuel thus far has focused on identifying unique thematic units, and then attributing them to specific Prophet- and afterward attempting to understand how each unit contributes to the Prophetic purpose of the entire book.

In today's class, we continue our study from last week, as we attempt to understand the thematic purpose of the famous story of David & BatSheva.

### **I. A review of the units we have identified thus far**

And how they relate to the prophetic theme of the entire book

#### **Shmuel Aleph chapters 1->7 / Shmuel the Prophet & Judge**

Establishing Shmuel as a 'trusted' Prophet - & his religious and educational reform

#### **Chapters 8-> 12 – God agrees to a Monarchy (despite Shmuel's reservations The people's request a King/ & Shaul's two coronations**

#### **Chapter 13 -> 14 Shaul's Kingdom**

Despite Shaul's military victory, Hashem promises to dethrone him.

#### **Chapters 15-16 - The war with Amalek / & Shaul's punishment**

#### **Chapters 17->31 – The rise of David & the fall of Shaul**

A new unit, written by the Prophet Gad, David is the protagonist!

### **SHMUEL BET**

#### **Chapters 1->4 – The reign of Ish-boshet until his assassination**

[ or basically, the fall of the short dynasty of Shaul / (navi Gad)]

#### **Chapters 5->8 David become King over all of Israel [navi Natan]**

[moves capital to Jerusalem, bring the Aron, & want to build Temple]

#### **Chapters 9->20 – David's sin with Bat Sheva & its consequences**

[ the TOPIC OF TODAY'S CLASS !!] - the Navi Natan !

## II. The 'bookends' of the two Natan units

### Note end of chapter 8

**יד** וַיִּשָּׂם בְּאֶדְוֹם נֹצְבִים, בְּכָל-אֶדְוֹם שָׁם נֹצְבִים,  
וַיְהִי כָל-אֶדְוֹם, עֲבָדִים לְדָוִד;  
וַיִּוָּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶת-דָּוִד, בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר הִלָּךְ.

14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the LORD gave victory to David whithersoever he went.

**טו** וַיִּמְלֹךְ דָּוִד, עַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל;  
וַיְהִי דָוִד, עֹשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט וַצְדָקָה--לְכָל-עַמּוֹ.

15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed justice and righteousness unto all his people.

**טז** וַיֹּאבֵב בֶּן-צְרוּיָה, עַל-הַצָּבָא;  
וַיְהוֹשֵׁפֶט בֶּן-אַחִילוּד, מִזְכִּיר.

16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

**יז** וַצְדוֹק בֶּן-אַחִיטוּב וְאַחִימֶלֶךְ בֶּן-אַבִּיחָיָה,  
כֹּהֲנִים; וְשֶׁרָיָה, סוֹפֵר.

17 and Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were priests; and Seraiah was scribe;

**יח** וּבְנֵיָהוּ, בֶּן-יְהוֹיָדָע, וְהַפְּרָתִי, וְהַפְּלִתִי;  
וּבְנֵי דָוִד, כֹּהֲנִים הָיוּ. {ס}

18 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

### Concluding lines of chapter 20

**כב** וַתָּבוֹא הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם בְּחַכְמָתָהּ,  
וַיִּכְרְתוּ אֶת-רֹאשׁ שִׁבְעָה בֶּן-בִּיחִי, וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֶל-  
יֹאבֵב, וַיִּתְקַע בַּשֹּׁפָר, וַיִּפְּצוּ מֵעַל-הָעִיר אִישׁ  
לְאֵהָלָיו; וַיֹּאבֵב שָׁב יְרוּשָׁלַם, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. And he blew the horn, and they were dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king. {S}

**כג** וַיֹּאבֵב, אֶל כָּל-הַצָּבָא יִשְׂרָאֵל;  
וּבְנֵיָהוּ, בֶּן-יְהוֹיָדָע, עַל-הַפְּרָתִי, וְעַל-הַפְּלִתִי.

23 Now Joab was over all the host of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites;

**כד** וְאַדְרָם, עַל-הַמִּס; וַיְהוֹשֵׁפֶט  
בֶּן-אַחִילוּד, הַמְּזַכֵּיר.

24 and Adoram was over the levy; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder;

**כה** וְשֵׁבָא (וְשֹׁא), סוֹפֵר; וַצְדוֹק  
וְאַבִּיחָיָה, כֹּהֲנִים.

25 and Sheva (and Shoa), scribe; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

**כו** וְיִרְאֵה הַיְאֵרִי, הָיָה כֹהֵן, לְדָוִד. {ס}

26 and Ira also the Jairite was chief minister unto David. {

### III. Topics within the unit – and their connection

- 9 – David does “chessed” with M’fivoshet -son of Yonatan ben Shaul
- 10 – A diplomatic incident in Rabbat Amon that leads to massive war with Amon
- 11 – David’s sin with Bat Sheva
- 12- Natan the Prophet challenges David’s behavior - [famous “mashal”]  
The baby dies, David marries Bat Sheva - and Shlomo is born
- 13 Amon & Tamar story [after that, Avshalom kills Amnon
- 14 Yoav’s employs a woman from Tekoa to convince David to bring back Avshalom
- 15 - Avshalom’s rebellion
- 16 – David flees Jerusalem while making key decisions
- 17 The two advisors to Avshalom – Achitofel & Chushai – and background to civil war
- 18 – The war against Avshalom’s army & Avshalom’s death
- 19 - David’s return to Jerusalem & his political decisions
- 20 The rebellion for Sheva ben Bichri from the tribe of Binyamin

Note how chapter 21 begins a new topic that must have happened much earlier

**א** וַיְהִי רָעַב בַּיָּמֵי דָוִד שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים, שָׁנָה אַחֲרֵי שָׁנָה, וַיִּבְקֹשׁ דָּוִד, אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה; {ס} וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-שָׂאוּל וְאֶל-בֵּית הַדְּמִים, עַל אֲשֶׁר-הִמִּית, אֶת-הַגִּבְעֹנִים.

1 And there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David sought the face of the LORD. {S} And the LORD said: 'It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he put to death the Gibeonites.'

### IV. Did King David sin?

#### Shmuel bet chapter 12

**א** וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אֶת-נָתָן, אֶל-דָּוִד; וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים הָיוּ בְּעִיר אַחַת, אֶחָד עָשִׂיר, וְאֶחָד רָאשׁ.

1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him: 'There were two men in one city: the one rich, and the other poor.

**ב** לְעָשִׂיר, הָיָה צֹאן וּבָקָר--הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds;

**ג** וּלְרֹשׁ אֶיּוֹן-כֹּל, כִּי אִם-כִּבְשָׂה אַחַת קָטָנָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה, וַיַּחְיֶהָ, וַתִּגְדֹּל עִמּוֹ וְעַם-בָּנָיו יַחְדָּו; מִפֶּתֶחַ תֹּאכַל וּמִכַּסּוֹ תִשְׁתֶּה, וּבִחְיקוֹ תִשָּׂב, וַתְּהִי-לוֹ, כִּבְתָר.

3 but the poor man had nothing save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and reared; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own morsel, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

**ד** וַיָּבֹא הַלֵּךְ, לְאִישׁ הָעָשִׂיר, וַיַּחְמַל לְקַחַת מִצֹּאֲנוֹ וּמִבָּקָרוֹ, לְעָשׂוֹת לְאִרְחַ הַבָּא-לוֹ; וַיִּקַּח, אֶת-כִּבְשֶׂת הָאִישׁ הָרָאשׁ, וַיַּעֲשֶׂהָ, לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֵלָיו.

4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him, but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.'

**ה** וַיַּחַר-אַף דָּוִד בְּאִישׁ, מְאֹד; וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶל-נָתָן, חִי-יְהוָה, **כִּי בֶן-מֹות הָאִישׁ הָעָשִׂה זֹאת.**

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan: 'As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this deserveth to die;

**ו** וְאֶת-הַכִּבְשָׂה, **יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתָּים**; עֵקֶב, אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה, וְעַל, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-חָמַל.

6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.' {S}

ז וַיֹּאמֶר נָתַן אֶל-דָּוִד, אֶתְּהָ הָאִישׁ; {ס}  
כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲנֹכִי מִשְׁחַתְּתִיךָ  
לְמַלְךְ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאֲנֹכִי הַצַּלְתִּיךָ, מִיַּד שָׁאוּל.

7 And Nathan said to David: 'Thou art the man. {S} Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

ח וְאֶתְּנָה לְךָ אֶת-בַּיִת אֲדֹנֶיךָ, וְאֶת-נְשֵׁי אֲדֹנֶיךָ  
בְּחִיקְךָ, וְאֶתְּנָה לְךָ, אֶת-בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיְהוּדָה;  
וְאִם-מְעַט--וְאִסְפָּה לְךָ, כְּהֵנָּה וְכֵהֵנָּה.

8 and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that were too little, then would I add unto thee so much more.

ט מִדְּוַע בְּזִית אֶת-דְּבַר יְהוָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע  
בְּעֵינֵינוּ (בְּעֵינֶיךָ), אֶת אֹרֶיָּה הַחֲתִי הַכִּיתָ בַּחֶרֶב,  
וְאֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ לָקַחְתָּ לְךָ לְאִשָּׁה; וְאֶתוֹ הֲרַגְתָּ,  
בְּחֶרֶב בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן.

9 Wherefore hast thou despised the word of the LORD, to do that which is evil in My sight? Uriah the Hittite thou hast smitten with the sword, and his wife thou hast taken to be thy wife, and him thou hast slain with the sword of the children of Ammon.

י וְעַתָּה, לֹא-תָסוּר חֶרֶב מִבַּיִתְךָ--עַד-עוֹלָם:  
יַעֲקֹב, כִּי בְזַתְנִי, וַתִּקַּח אֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ אֹרֶיָּה הַחֲתִי,  
לְהִיּוֹת לְךָ לְאִשָּׁה. {ס}

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

יא כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, הִנְנִי מִקִּים עָלֶיךָ רָעָה  
מִבַּיִתְךָ, וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶת-נְשֵׁיךָ לְעֵינֶיךָ, וְנָתַתִּי  
לְרַעֲיֶיךָ; וְשָׁכַב עִם-נְשֵׁיךָ, לְעֵינֵי הַשָּׁמֶשׁ הַזֹּאת.

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

יב כִּי אַתָּה, עָשִׂיתָ בְּסֵתֶר; וְאֲנִי, אֶעֱשֶׂה אֶת-  
הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה, נֶגְדׁ כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְנֶגְדׁ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ.  
{ס}

12 For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.' {S}

יג וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-נָתַן, חָטָאתִי לַיהוָה; {ס}  
וַיֹּאמֶר נָתַן אֶל-דָּוִד,  
גַּם-יְהוָה הֶעֱבִיר חַטָּאתְךָ--לֹא תָמוּת.

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

## Famous discussion in Talmud - Shabbat 56a

אָמַר רַבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחֲמָנִי אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹנָתָן:

**כָּל הָאוֹמֵר דָּוִד חָטָא אֵינּוּ אֵלָא טוֹעָה,**

שְׁנֵאמַר: "וַיְהִי דָּוִד לְכָל דְּרַכְיוֹ מִשְׁכִּיל וְהוּא עֲמוֹ וְגו'".

אֲפֻשֶׁר חָטָא בָּא לְיָדוֹ וַיִּשְׁכַּיְנָה עֲמוֹ!?

אֵלָא מָה אֲנִי מְקַיִּים "מִדְּוַע בְּזִית אֶת דְּבַר ה' לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע" —

**שְׁבִיקֵנִשׁ לַעֲשׂוֹת וְלֹא עָשָׂה.**

אָמַר רַב: רַבִּי דָּאֲתִי מְדוּד מְהַפֵּךְ וְדָרִישׁ בְּזִכּוּתֵיהּ דְּדָוִד...

## Tehillim 51

- א** לְמַנְצֵחַ, מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד. 1 For the Leader. A Psalm of David;
- ב** בָּבוֹא-אֵלָיו, נָתַן הַנְּבִיא-- כְּאִשֶׁר-בָּא, אֶל-בֵּית-שֶׁבַע. 2 When Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.
- ג** חַנּוּנֵי אֱלֹהִים כְּחַסְדֶּךָ; כָּרַב רַחֲמֶיךָ, מִחַה פְּשָׁעַי. 3 Be gracious unto me, O God, according to Thy mercy; according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgressions.
- ד** הַרְבֵּה (הָרַב), כִּבְּסֵנִי מַעֲוֹנֵי; וּמַחְטָאתֵי טְהַרְנֵי. 4 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ה** כִּי-פִשְׁעַי, אָנִי אֲדַע; וְחַטָּאתֵי נִגְדֵי תִמְיֵד. 5 For I know my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.
- ו** לָךְ לְבַדְּךָ, חָטָאתִי, וְהִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ, עֲשִׂיתִי: לְמַעַן, תִּצְדַּק בְּדַבְרֶךָ-- תִּזְכֶּה בְּשִׁפְטֶךָ. 6 Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight; {N} that Thou mayest be justified when Thou speakest, and be in the right when Thou judgest.
- ז** הֵן-בְּעוֹוֹן חוֹלַלְתִּי; וּבַחֲטָא, יַחַמְתַּנִּי אִמִּי. 7 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ח** הֵן-אֱמֶת, חִפְצְתָּ בְּטַחוֹת; וּבִסְתֵם, חִכְמָה תוֹדִיעֵנִי. 8 Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts; make me, therefore, to know wisdom in mine inmost heart.
- ט** תְּחַטְּאֵנִי בְּאִזּוֹב וְאֶטְהַר; תִּכְבֹּסֵנִי, וּמִשְׁלַג אֶלְבִּין. 9 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- י** תִּשְׂמְעֵנִי, שְׁשׁוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה; תִּגְלַנָּה, עֲצָמוֹת דְּכִיתָ. 10 Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast crushed may rejoice.
- יא** הַסְתֵּר פָּנֶיךָ, מִחַטָּאֵי; וְכַל-עוֹנְתֵי מִחַה. 11 Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
- יב** יִבְרָא לִי אֱלֹהִים; וְרוּחַ נְכוֹן, חֲדָשׁ בְּקִרְבִּי. 12 Create me a clean heart, O God; and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- יג** אַל-תִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִלְּפָנֶיךָ; וְרוּחַ קִדְשְׁךָ, אַל-תִּקַּח מִמֶּנִּי. 13 Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me.
- יד** הַשִּׁיבָה לִּי, שְׁשׁוֹן יִשְׁעֶךָ; וְרוּחַ נְדִיבָה, תִּסְמְכֵנִי. 14 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and let a willing spirit uphold me.
- טו** אֲלַמְּדָה פְּשָׁעִים דְּרַכֶּיךָ; 15 Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall return unto Thee.

וְחַטָּאִים, אֱלֹהִים יְשׁוּבוּ.

**טז** הַצִּילֵנִי מִדַּמַּיִם, אֱלֹהִים - 16 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; {N} - אֱלֹהֵי תְשׁוּעָתִי: תִּרְנֶן לְשׁוֹנִי, צְדָקָתְךָ. - so shall my tongue sing aloud of Thy righteousness.

**יז** אֲדַנִּי, שְׂפָתַי תִּפְתָּח; 17 O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. **וּפִי, יַגִּיד תְּהִלָּתְךָ.**

**יח** כִּי, לֹא-תִחַפֵּץ זֶבַח וְאֶתְנָה; 18 For Thou delightest not in sacrifice, else would I give it; Thou hast no pleasure in burnt-offering. **עוֹלָה, לֹא תִרְצֶה.**

**יט** זִבְחֵי אֱלֹהִים, רוּחַ נְשֻׁבָה: 19 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; {N} **יֵב-נְשֻׁבָר וְנֹדְכָה--** אֱלֹהִים, לֹא תִבְזֶה. a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

**כ** הִיטִיבָה בְּרַצוֹנְךָ, אֶת-צִיּוֹן; תִּבְנֶה, 20 Do good in Thy favour unto Zion; build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. **חוֹמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם.**

**כא** אָז תִּחַפֵּץ זִבְחֵי-צֶדֶק, עוֹלָה וְכָלִיל; 21 Then wilt Thou delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, in burnt-offering and whole offering; {N} **אָז יַעֲלוּ עַל-מִזְבֵּחֶךָ פָּרִים.** then will they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

## V. David's passivity leading to Avshalom's rebellion

### Chapter 15

**א** וַיְהִי, מֵאַחֲרֵי כֵן, וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ אַבְשָׁלוֹם, מֶרְכָבָה וְסָסִים; 1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. **וְחַמְשִׁים אִישׁ, רָצִים לִפְנָיו.**

**ב** וְהִשָּׁפִים, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, וַעֲמַד, עַל-יַד דָּרֶךְ הַשָּׁעַר; וַיְהִי כָל- 2 And Absalom used to rise up early, and stand beside the way of the gate; and it was so, that when any man had a suit which should come to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said: 'Of what city art thou?' And he said: 'Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.' **הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יְהִי־לוֹ-רִיב לְבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמִשְׁפָּט, וַיִּקְרָא אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אִי-מִזֶּה עִיר אַתָּה, וַיֹּאמֶר, מֵאֶחָד שְׁבֹטֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדְּךָ.**

**ג** וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְשָׁלוֹם, רְאֵה דְבָרֶיךָ טוֹבִים וְנִכְחִים; 3 And Absalom said unto him: 'See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.' **וְשִׁמְעֵ אִין-לְךָ, מֵאֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ.**

**ד** וַיֹּאמֶר, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, מִי-יִשְׁמַנִּי שֵׁפֶט, בְּאֶרֶץ; וְעָלִי, יְבוֹא 4 Absalom said moreover: 'Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!' **כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יְהִי־לוֹ-רִיב וּמִשְׁפָּט--וְהִצַּדִּיקְתִּיו.**

**ה** וְהָיָה, בְּקָרְב־אִישׁ, לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת, לוֹ; וְשָׁלַח אֶת-יָדוֹ 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to prostrate himself before him, he put forth his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him. **וְהִחֲזִיק לוֹ, וְנָשַׁק לוֹ.**

**ו** וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְשָׁלוֹם כַּדְּבַר הַזֶּה, לְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר-יָבִאוּ 6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. {P} **לְמִשְׁפָּט, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַיִּגְנֹב, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, אֶת-לֵב, אַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל. {פ}**

**ז** וַיְהִי, מִקֶּץ אַרְבַּעִים שָׁנָה; וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְשָׁלוֹם, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, 7 And it came to pass at the end of forty years, that Absalom said unto the king: 'I

אֲלֶכָה נָא וְאַשְׁלֵם אֶת-נְדָרֵי אֲשֶׁר-נְדַרְתִּי לַיהוָה, בְּחֶבְרוֹן.

pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

**ח** כִּי-נִדְרָר נְדָר עֲבַדְדָּךְ, בְּשִׁבְתִּי בְּגֶשׁוּר בְּאַרְם לֵאמֹר: אִם-יָשִׁיב (יָשׁוּב) יְשִׁיבֵנִי יְהוָה יְרוּשָׁלַם, וְעַבַּדְתִּי אֶת-יְהוָה.

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

**ט** וַיֹּאמֶר-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, לֵךְ בְּשָׁלוֹם; וַיָּקָם, וַיֵּלֶךְ חֶבְרוֹנָה.

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

**י** וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲבִשָׁלוֹם מְרַגְלִים, בְּכָל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר: כְּשָׁמַעְכֶם, אֶת-קוֹל הַשָּׁפָר, וְאַמַּרְתֶּם, מֶלֶךְ אֲבִשָׁלוֹם בְּחֶבְרוֹן.

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying: 'As soon as ye hear the sound of the horn, then ye shall say: Absalom is king in Hebron.'

**יא** וְאֵת-אֲבִשָׁלוֹם, הִלְכוּ מֵאֲתָיִם אִישׁ מִירוּשָׁלַם, קְרָאִים, וְהִלְכִים לְתַמָּם; וְלֹא יָדְעוּ, כָּל-דָּבָר.

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

**יב** וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲבִשָׁלוֹם אֶת-אַחִיתּוֹפֶל הַגִּילוֹנִי יוֹעֵץ דָּוִד, מֵעִירוֹ מְגִלָּה, בְּזָבָחוֹ, אֶת-הַזְּבָחִים; וַיְהִי הַקְּשֶׁר אֲמָץ, וְהָעַם הוֹלֵךְ וָרַב אֶת-אֲבִשָׁלוֹם.

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

**יג** וַיָּבֵא, הַמַּגִּיד, אֶל-דָּוִד, לֵאמֹר: הָיָה לֵב-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אַחֲרֵי אֲבִשָׁלוֹם.

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

**יד** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְכָל-עֲבָדָיו אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ בִירוּשָׁלַם, קוּמוּ וְנִבְרַחָה--כִּי לֹא-תִהְיֶה-לָּנוּ פְּלִיטָה, מִפְּנֵי אֲבִשָׁלוֹם; מַהְרוּ לָלֶכֶת, פֶּן-יַמְהַר וְהִשְׁגָּנוּ וְהִדִּיחַ עָלֵינוּ אֶת-הַרְעָה, וְהִכָּה הָעִיר, לְפִי-חֶרֶב.

14 And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem: 'Arise, and let us flee; for else none of us shall escape from Absalom; make speed to depart, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.'

**טו** וַיֹּאמְרוּ עֲבָדֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ: כָּל אֲשֶׁר-יִבְחַר אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, הִנֵּה עֲבָדֶיךָ.

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

**טז** וַיֵּצֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-בֵּיתוֹ, בְּרַגְלָיו; וַיַּעֲזֹב הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת עֶשֶׂר נָשִׁים פְּלִגְשִׁים--לְשֹׁמֵר הַבַּיִת.

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

**יז** וַיֵּצֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-הָעָם, בְּרַגְלָיו; וַיַּעֲמִדוּ, בַּיַּת הַמֶּרְחָק.

17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him; and they tarried in Bethmerhak.

**יח** וְכָל-עֲבָדָיו עֹבְרִים עַל-יַדוֹ, וְכָל-הַכְּרֵתִי וְכָל-הַפְּלִתִי; וְכָל-הַגִּתִּיתִים שֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ בְּרַגְלֵי מִגַּת, עֹבְרִים, עַל-פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

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

**יט** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-אִתַּי הַגִּתִּי, לָמָּה תֵּלֵךְ גַּם-אַתָּה אִתָּנוּ; שׁוּב וּשְׁב עִם-הַמֶּלֶךְ: כִּי-נֹכְרִי אַתָּה, וְגַם-גֵּלָה אַתָּה לְמִקְוָמְךָ.

19 Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite: 'Wherefore goest thou also with us? return, and abide with the king; for thou art a foreigner, and also an exile from thine own place.'

**כ** תָּמוּל בּוֹאֶךָ, וְהַיּוֹם אֲנוּעַךְ (אֲנִיעֶךָ) עִמָּנוּ לָלֶכֶת, וְאֲנִי הוֹלֵךְ, עַל אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי הוֹלֵךְ; שׁוּב וְהִשָּׁב אֶת-אַחִיךָ עִמָּךְ, חֲסֵד וְאֱמֶת.

20 Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us, seeing I go whither I may? return thou, and take back thy brethren with thee in kindness and truth.'

**כא** וַיַּעַן אִתַּי אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיֹּאמֶר: חִי-יְהוָה, וְחִי אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, כִּי אִם ( ) בְּמִקּוֹם אֲשֶׁר יְהִיֶה-שָׁם אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ אִם-לְמֹות אִם-לְחַיִּים, כִּי-שָׁם יְהִיֶה עֲבָדְךָ.

21 And Ittai answered the king, and said: 'As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, even there also will thy servant be.'

**כב** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אֶתִי, לֵךְ וְעֵבֶר; וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶתִי הַגִּתִּי, וְכָל-אֲנָשָׁיו, וְכָל-הַטָּף, אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ.

22 And David said to Ittai: 'Go and pass over.' And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.

**כג** וְכָל-הָאָרֶץ, בּוֹכִים קוֹל גָּדוֹל, וְכָל-הָעָם, לְעִבְרִים; וְהַמֶּלֶךְ, לְעֵבֶר בְּנַחַל קִדְרוֹן, וְכָל-הָעָם לְעִבְרִים, עַל-פְּנֵי-דָרֶךְ אֶת-הַמִּדְבָּר.

23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, as all the people passed over; and as the king passed over the brook Kidron, all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

**כד** וְהִנֵּה גַם-צְדוֹק וְכָל-הַלְוִיִּם אִתּוֹ, נֹשְׂאִים אֶת-אֲרוֹן-בְּרִית הָאֱלֹהִים, וַיֵּצְקוּ אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים, וַיַּעַל אֲבִיָּתָר-עַד-תַּם כָּל-הָעָם, לְעֵבֹר מִן-הָעִיר. {ס}

24 And, lo, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God; and they set down the ark of God--but Abiathar went up--until all the people had done passing out of the city. {S}

**כה** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְצְדוֹק, הֲשֵׁב אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים הָעִיר: אִם-אֲמַצָּא חַן, בְּעֵינַי יְהוָה--וְהִשְׁבֵּנִי, וְהִרְאֵנִי אֶתוֹ וְאֶת-נִוְהוֹ.

25 And the king said unto Zadok: 'Carry back the ark of God into the city; if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back, and show me both it, and His habitation;

**כו** וְאִם כֹּה יֹאמֶר, לֹא חִפְצָתִי בָּךְ: הִנְנִי--יַעֲשֶׂה-לִּי, כַּאֲשֶׁר טוֹב בְּעֵינָיו. {ס}

26 but if He say thus: I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let Him do to me as seemeth good unto Him.' {S}

**כז** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-צְדוֹק הַכֹּהֵן, הֲרוּאָה אֶתְּךָ, שְׁבֵה הָעִיר בְּשָׁלוֹם; וְאַחִימַעַץ בֶּנְדָם וַיהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-אֲבִיָּתָר, שְׁנֵי בְנֵיכֶם--אֶתְּכֶם.

27 The king said also unto Zadok the priest: 'Seest thou? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

**כח** רְאוּ אֲנֹכִי מִתְמַהֵמָה, בְּעִבְרוֹת (בְּעִרְבוֹת) הַמִּדְבָּר--עַד בּוֹא דָבָר מֵעַמְּכֶם, לְהַגִּיד לִי.

28 See, I will tarry in the plains of the wilderness, until there come word from you to announce unto me.'

**כט** וַיֵּשֶׁב צְדוֹק וְאֲבִיָּתָר אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים, יְרוּשָׁלַם; וַיֵּשְׁבוּ, שָׁם.

29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem; and they abode there.

**ל** וַדָּוִד עָלָה בְּמַעְלֵה הַזַּיִתִּים עָלָה וּבֹכָה, וְרָאשׁ לוֹ חֲפוּי, וְהוּא, הֶלֶךְ יַחַף; וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, חֲפוּ אִישׁ רֹאשׁוֹ, וְעָלוּ עָלָה, וּבָכָה.

30 And David went up by the ascent of the mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered, and went barefoot; and all the people that were with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

**לא** וְדָוִד הִגִּיד לְאֹמֶר, אַחִיתֹפֶל בְּקִשְׁרִים עִם-אֲבִשָׁלוֹם; וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד, סִכְּל-נָא אֶת-עֲצַת אַחִיתֹפֶל יְהוָה.

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

**לב** וַיְהִי דָוִד בָּא עַד-הָרֹאשׁ, אֲשֶׁר-יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה שָׁם לְאֱלֹהִים; וְהִנֵּה לְקִרְאָתוֹ, חוּשֵׁי הָאָרֶץ, קְרוּעַ כְּתָנָתוֹ, וְאֲדָמָה עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ.

32 And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the ascent, where God was wont to be worshipped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head.

**לג** וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, דָּוִד: אִם עֲבַרְתָּ אֶתִּי, וְהִיתָ עָלַי לְמִשָּׂא.

33 And David said unto him: 'If thou passest on with me, then thou wilt be a burden unto Me;

**לד** וְאִם-הָעִיר תָּשׁוּב, וְאָמַרְתָּ לְאֲבִשָׁלוֹם עֲבָדְךָ אֲנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲהִיָּה--עֲבָד אֲבִיךָ וְאֲנִי מָאֵז, וְעַתָּה וְאֲנִי עֲבָדְךָ; וְהִפְרַתָּה לִּי, אֶת עֲצַת אַחִיתֹפֶל.

34 but if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom: I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant in time past, so will I now be thy servant; then wilt thou defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.

**לה** וְהִלּוּא עֲמָדָה שָׁם, צְדוֹק וְאֲבִיָּתָר הַכֹּהֲנִים; וְהָיָה, כָּל-הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמַע מִבֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ--תִּגִּיד, לְצְדוֹק וּלְאֲבִיָּתָר הַכֹּהֲנִים.

35 And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

**לו** הִנֵּה-שָׁם עִמָּם, שְׁנֵי בְנֵיהֶם--אַחִימַעַץ לְצְדוֹק, וַיהוֹנָתָן לְאֲבִיָּתָר; וַיִּשְׁלַחְתֶּם בְּיָדָם אֵלַי, כָּל-דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמָעוּ.

36 Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye shall hear.'

