

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 36

The 'hand of Gad' & the 'Hand of God' in Sefer Shmuel

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction

This week, we resume our study of Sefer Shmuel-

We begin with a quick overview of our study thus far, as it has been over a month since our last class, and will focus once again on Chazal's understanding of the Prophetic composition of Sefer Shmuel, as the combined work of 3 prophets: Shmuel, Gad, & Natan.

In our study, we have made an attempt to identify the Prophetic author of each distinct unit of Sefer Shmuel. First we will review our conclusions, and then try to explain why chapters 21 thru 24 form a 'stand alone' prophetic unit, and should be attributed to the Prophet Gad.

[and hence the title – the 'hand of Gad' in Sefer Shmuel]

Review - the units we have identified thus far by Author

SHMUEL

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

GAD

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)]

NATAN

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 – Chapters 21 thru 24

which will show how they most likely were composed by Gad

- and may belong chronologically much earlier in the life of King David

Let's review the subtopics within this unit

Noting their underlying military theme, and why logically, they seem to have taken place earlier in the life of King David, but after his Kingdom is firmly established.

chapter 21 – The revenge of the Givonim on the house of Shaul plus a few short stories re: David's war with the Plishtim

chapter 22 – “shirat David”
– The Psalm/ Song David sang after his military victories

chapter 23 - the 'heroes' of David's army [and their rank]

chapter 24 - David 'mistakenly' commissions a census of the nation followed by the severe Divine punishment – then David repents / and buys the field of Aravna the Jeubsite - [on the very site that later becomes the Temple mount]

note how the Prophet Gad, is a key character in this final chapter & hence, only logical to assume that he is its author –

If so, then possibly this entire unit may be the 'hand of Gad'

Let's begin with chapter 21, to determine when it may have occurred, noting first how chapter 20 concluded a unit:

Conclusion of chapter 20 with 'cabinet' summary:

כב וַתָּבוֹא הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם בְּחָכְמָתָהּ, וַיִּכְרְתוּ אֶת-רֹאשׁ שִׁבְעֵ בֶן-בִּיחְרִי וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֶל-יֹאבֵב, וַיִּתְקַע בַּשֹּׁפָר, וַיִּפְצְצוּ מֵעַל-הָעִיר אִישׁ לְאֹהֲלָיו; וַיּוֹאֲבֵב 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 וַיּוֹאֲבֵב, אֶל כָּל-הַצָּבָא יִשְׂרָאֵל; וּבְנֵינָה, בֶן-יְהוֹיָדָע, עַל-הַכְּרִתֵי וְעַל-הַפִּלְתֵי.

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 וַאֲדָרָם, עַל-הַמַּס; וַיְהוֹשֵׁפֶט בֶן-אַחִילוּד, הַמְזַפִּיר.

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

כה וְשִׁיָּא (וְשִׁוְא), סֹפֵר; וַצְדוֹק וְאַבְיָתָר, כֹּהֲנִים.

25 and Sheva was scribe; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

כו וְגַם, עִירָא הַיְאָרִי, הָיָה כֹהֵן לְדָוִד. {ס}

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

Chapter 21:

א וַיְהִי רָעַב בַּיָּמֵי דָוִד שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים, שָׁנָה אַחֲרֵי שָׁנָה, וַיִּבְקֹשׁ דָּוִד, אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה;

{ס} וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, **אֶל-שָׂאוּל וְאֶל-בֵּיתוֹ.**

הַדָּמִים, עַל אֲשֶׁר-הִמִּיתָ, אֶת-הַגִּבְעֹנִים.

ב וַיִּקְרָא הַמֶּלֶךְ לַגִּבְעֹנִים, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם: וְהַגִּבְעֹנִים **לֹא מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵמָּה,** כִּי אִם-מִמִּיתָר הָאֲמֹרִי, **וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נִשְׁבַּעוּ לָהֶם,** וַיִּבְקֹשׁ שָׂאוּל לְהַפְתֵּם בְּקִנְאָתוֹ לְבְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהוּדָה.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-הַגִּבְעֹנִים, מָה אַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם; **וּבְמָה אֲכַפֵּר,** וּבְרַכּוּ אֶת-נַחֲלַת יְהוָה.

ד וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַגִּבְעֹנִים, אִין-לִי (לָנוּ) כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב עִם-שָׂאוּל וְעִם-בֵּיתוֹ, וְאִין-לָנוּ אִישׁ, לְהַמִּית בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיֹּאמֶר מָה-אַתֶּם אֹמְרִים, אַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם.

ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, **הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כָּלְנוּ, וְאֲשֶׁר דָּמָה-לָנוּ; נִשְׁמְדָנוּ, מִהַתִּיצַב בְּכָל-גְּבֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל.**

ו יִתֶּן- (יִתֶּן-) לָנוּ שְׁבַעַה אֲנָשִׁים, מִבְּנֵיו, וְהוֹקְעָנוּם לַיהוָה, **בַּגִּבְעָת שָׂאוּל בַּחִיר יְהוָה;** {פ}

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲנִי אֶתֶן.

ז וַיַּחַמַּל הַמֶּלֶךְ, עַל-מְפִיבֹשֶׁת בֶּן-יְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-שָׂאוּל; **עַל-שְׁבַעַת יְהוָה, אֲשֶׁר בֵּינָתָם--בֵּין דָּוִד,** וּבֵין יְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-שָׂאוּל.

ח וַיִּקַּח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-שְׁנֵי בָנֵי רִצְפָה בַת-אִיָּה, אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְשָׂאוּל, אֶת-אַרְמֹנִי, וְאֶת-מְפִיבֹשֶׁת; וְאֶת-חַמִּשֵּׁת, בְּנֵי מִיכָל בַת-שָׂאוּל, אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְעַדְרִיאֵל בֶּן-בְּרִזַּלַי, הַמְּחֹלָתִית.

ט וַיִּתֵּןם בְּיַד הַגִּבְעֹנִים, וַיִּקְיַעֵם בָּהֶם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, וַיַּפְּלוּ שְׁבַעַתִּים (שְׁבַעֲתָם), יַחַד; וְהֵם (וְהֵמָּה) הִמְתּוּ בַּיָּמִי קָצִיר, בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה, תַּחֲלַת (בְּתַחֲלַת), קָצִיר שְׁעָרִים.

י וַתִּקַּח רִצְפָה בַת-אִיָּה אֶת-הַשֵּׁק וַתִּטְהוּ לָהּ אֶל-הַצּוּר, מִתַּחֲלַת קָצִיר, עַד נִתְּד-מַיִם עֲלֵיהֶם, מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם; וְלֹא-נִתְּנָה עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם לָנוּחַ עֲלֵיהֶם, יוֹמָם, וְאֶת-חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה, לַיְלָה.

יא וַיִּגַּד, לְדָוִד, אֶת אֲשֶׁר-עָשְׂתָה רִצְפָה בַת-אִיָּה, פִּלְגָשׁ שָׂאוּל.

יב וַיֵּלֶךְ דָּוִד, וַיִּקַּח אֶת-עַצְמוֹת שָׂאוּל וְאֶת-עַצְמוֹת יְהוֹנָתָן בְּנוֹ, מֵאֵת, בְּעַלֵי יָבִישׁ גִּלְעָד--אֲשֶׁר גָּנְבוּ

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.'

2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them--now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them; and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah--

3 and David said unto the Gibeonites: 'What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?'

4 And the Gibeonites said unto him: 'It is no matter of silver or gold between us and Saul, or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel.' And he said: 'What say ye that I should do for you?'

5 And they said unto the king: 'The man that consumed us, and that devised against us, so that we have been destroyed from remaining in any of the borders of Israel,

6 let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD.' {P}

And the king said: 'I will deliver them.'

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

8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

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

10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water was poured upon them from heaven; and she suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the broad

אתם מרחב בית-שן, אשר תלוס (תלאום) שם
הפלשתים (שמה פלשתים), ביום הכות פלשתים
את-שאול, בגלבע.

place of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged
them, in the day that the Philistines slew Saul in
Gilboa;

יג ויעל משם את-עצמות שאול, ואת-עצמות
יהונתן בנו; ויאספו, את-עצמות המוקעים.

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

יד ויקברו את-עצמות-שאול ויהונתן-בנו בארץ
בנימין בצלע, בקבר קיש אביו, ויעשו, כל אשר-צוה
המלך; ויעתר אלהים לארץ, אחרי-כן. {פ}

14 And they buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan
his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the
sepulchre of Kish his father; and they performed all
that the king commanded. And after that God was
entreated for the land. {P}

טו ותהי-עוד מלחמה לפלשתים, את-ישראל;
וירד דוד ועבדיו עמו, וילחמו את-פלשתים--ויערף
דוד.

15 And the Philistines had war again with Israel; and
David went down, and his servants with him, and
fought against the Philistines; and David waxed
faint.

טז וישבו (וישבי) בנב אשר בילידי הרפה, ומשקל
קיננו שלש מאות משקל נחשת, והוא, חגור חדשה;
ויאמר, להכות את-דוד.

16 And Ishbibenob, who was of the sons of the giant,
the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels
of brass in weight, he being girded with new armour,
thought to have slain David.

יז ויעזר-לו אבישי בן-צרויה, ויד את-הפלשתי
וימתהו; אז נשבעו אנשי-דוד לו לאמר,
לא-תצא עוד אתנו למלחמה,
ולא תכבה, את-נר ישראל. {פ}

17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him,
and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the
men of David swore unto him, saying: 'Thou shalt
go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench
not the lamp of Israel.' {P}

יח ויהי, אחרי-כן, ותהי-עוד המלחמה בגוב, עם-
פלשתים; אז הכה, סבכי החשתי, את-סף, אשר
בילידי הרפה. {ס}

18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again
war with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbecai the
Hushathite slew Saph, who was of the sons of the
giant. {S}

יט ותהי-עוד המלחמה בגוב, עם-פלשתים;
ויד אלחנן בן-יערי ארגים בית הלחמי,
את גלית הגתי, ועץ חניתו, כמנור ארגים. {ס}

19 And there was again war with the Philistines at
Gob; and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Beth-
lehemite slew Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose
spear was like a weaver's beam. {S}

כ ותהי-עוד מלחמה, בגת; ויהי איש מדין (מדון),
ואצבעת ידיו ואצבעת רגליו שש ושש עשרים
וארבע מספר, וגם-הוא, ילד להרפה.

20 And there was again war at Gath, where was a
champion, that had on every hand six fingers, and on
every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and
he also was born to the giant.

כא ויחרף, את-ישראל;
ויכהו, יהונתן, בן-שמעי (שמעה), אחי דוד.

21 And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of
Shimea David's brother slew him.

כב את-ארבעת אלה ילדו להרפה, בגת;
ויפלו ביד-דוד, וביד עבדיו. {ש}

22 These four were born to the giant in Gath; and
they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his
servants. {

