

Early Prophets, Book 4
The Second Book of
Samuel
(II Samuel)



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JBIL International, Inc.

110 East 30th Street

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212-889-2525 800-433-1531

E-mail: library@JBILibrary.org

Website: JBILibrary.org

II Samuel

Chapter 1

1. And it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag;

2. It came to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came from the camp from Saul with his clothes torn and earth upon his head; and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and bowed down.

3. And David said to him, From where do you come? And he said to him, From the camp of Israel have I escaped.

4. And David said to him, How went the matter? I beg you, tell me. And he answered, The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

5. And David said to the young man who told him, How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son

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are dead?

6. And the young man who told him said, As I happened by chance upon Mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, behold, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

7. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called me. And I answered, Here am I.

8. And he said to me, Who are you? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite.

9. And he said to me, Stand, I beg you, upon me, and slay me; for agony has come upon me, and yet I still have life in me.

10. So I stood beside him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after he was fallen; and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord.

11. Then David took hold of his clothes, and tore them; and likewise all the men who were with him;

12. And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until the

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evening, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they had fallen by the sword.

13. And David said to the young man who told him, Where are you from? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

14. And David said to him, How were you not afraid to stretch forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?

15. And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he struck him that he died.

16. And David said to him, Your blood be upon your head; for your mouth has testified against you, saying, I have killed the Lord's anointed.

17. And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son;

18. And he said To teach the sons of Judah the use of the bow; behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.

19. The beauty, O Israel, is slain upon your high

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places; how are the mighty fallen!

20. Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21. You, Mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

22. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

23. Saul and Jonathan were loved and dear in their lives, and in their death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24. You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

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25. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!
O Jonathan, you were slain in your high places.

26. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very dear have you been to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

27. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Chapter 2

1. And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said to him, Go up. And David said, Where shall I go up? And he said, To Hebron.

2. So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

3. And his men who were with him did David bring up, every man with his household; and they lived in the

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cities of Hebron.

4. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabesh-Gilead were those who buried Saul.

5. And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, and said to them, Blessed be you of the Lord, that you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.

6. And now the Lord show kindness and truth to you; and I also will reward you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

7. Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be brave; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

8. And Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's army, took Ish-Bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

9. And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and

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over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

10. Ish-Bosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

11. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

12. And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-Bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

13. And Joab the son of Zeruah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

14. And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.

15. Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which belongs to Ish-Bosheth the son

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of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

16. And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together; therefore that place was called Helkath-Hazzurim, which is in Gibeon.

17. And there was a very hard battle that day; and Abner was defeated, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

18. And there were three sons of Zeruah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel; and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild gazelle.

19. And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

20. Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Are you Asahel? And he answered, I am.

21. And Abner said to him, Turn you aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men, and take you his armor. But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

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22. And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn aside from following me; why should I strike you to the ground? How then should I hold up my face to Joab your brother?

23. But he refused to turn aside; therefore Abner, with the butt end of the spear, struck him in the belly, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there, and died in the same place; and it came to pass that all those who came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

24. Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner; and the sun went down when they came to the hill of Ammah, that lies before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

25. And the sons of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of a hill.

26. Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitterness in the end? How long shall it be then,

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before you bid the people return from following their brothers?

27. And Joab said, As God lives, unless you had spoken, surely then in the morning the people would have gone up every one from following his brother.

28. So Joab blew the shofar, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, nor did they fight any more.

29. And Abner and his men walked all that night through the Arabah, and passed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim.

30. And Joab returned from following Abner; and when he had gathered all the people together, nineteen of David's servants, and Asahel, were missing.

31. But the servants of David had struck of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, three hundred and sixty men, and they died.

32. And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulcher of his father, which was in Beth-Lehem.

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And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day.

Chapter 3

1. And there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David became stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

2. And to David were sons born in Hebron; and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

3. And his second, Kileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maachah the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur;

4. And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

5. And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

6. And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that

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Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

7. And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and Ish-Bosheth said to Abner, Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?

8. Then was Abner very angry for the words of Ish-Bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head of Judah? I show kindness this day to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, by not delivering you to the hand of David; nevertheless you charge me today with a fault concerning this woman.

9. So do God to Abner, and more also, unless, as the Lord has sworn to David, so I do to him;

10. To transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba.

11. And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.

12. And Abner sent messengers to David from his

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place, saying, Whose is the land? Make your covenant with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with you, to bring all Israel to you.

13. And he said, Well; I will make a covenant with you; but one thing I require of you, that is, You shall not see my face, unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face.

14. And David sent messengers to Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed at the price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

15. And Ish-Bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.

16. And her husband went with her along weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then said Abner to him, Go, return. And he returned.

17. And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, You sought for David in times past to be king over you;

18. And then do it; for the Lord has spoken of David,

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saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.

19. And Abner also spoke in the ears of Benjamin; and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.

20. So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men who were with him a feast.

21. And Abner said to David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

22. And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great booty with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace.

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23. When Joab and all the army that was with him came, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he went in peace.

24. Then Joab came to the king, and said, What have you done? behold, Abner came to you; why is it that you have sent him away, and is he quite gone?

25. You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you, and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you do.

26. And when Joab came out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him again from the well of Sirah; but David knew it not.

27. And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and struck him there in the belly, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

28. And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the Lord forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner;

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29. Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one who has a discharge, or who is a leper, or who leans on crutches, or who is killed by the sword, or who lacks bread.

30. So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

31. And David said to Joab, and to all the people who were with him, Tear your clothes, and gird yourself with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier.

32. And they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

33. And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Should Abner die as a fool dies?

34. Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put into fetters; as a man falls before wicked men, so fell you. And all the people wept again over him.

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35. And when all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day, David swore, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or anything else, till the sun be down.

36. And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them; as everything that the king did pleased all the people.

37. For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

38. And the king said to his servants, Do you not know you that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?

39. And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruah are too hard for me; the Lord shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

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Chapter 4

1. And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

2. And Saul's son had two men who were captains of bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin; for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin.

3. And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.

4. And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the news came of Saul and Jonathan from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled; and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

5. And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ish-Bosheth, who was laying

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down for his noon rest.

6. And they came into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they struck him in the belly; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

7. For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bed chamber, and they struck him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and went away through the Arabah all night.

8. And they brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-Bosheth the son of Saul your enemy, which sought your life; and the Lord has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

9. And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul from all adversity,

10. When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good news, I took hold of

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him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would give him a reward for his news;

11. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

12. And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-Bosheth, and buried it in the sepulcher of Abner in Hebron.

Chapter 5

1. Then came all the tribes of Israel to David to Hebron, and spoke, saying, Behold, we are your bone and your flesh.

2. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were he that led out and brought in Israel; and the Lord said to you, You shall feed my people Israel, and you shall be a captain over Israel.

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3. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anointed David king over Israel.

4. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty three years over all Israel and Judah.

6. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem to the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land; who spoke to David, saying, Unless you even take away the blind and the lame, you shall not come in here; thinking, David cannot come in here.

7. Nevertheless David took the fortress of Zion; the same is the city of David.

8. And David said on that day, Whoever gets up to the aqueduct, and strikes the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Therefore the saying,

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The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9. So David lived in the fortress, and called it the city of David. And David built around from the Millo inward.

10. And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him.

11. And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons; and they built David a house.

12. And David perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

13. And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and there were more sons and daughters born to David.

14. And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem; Shammuah, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

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15. Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

16. And Elishama, and Eliadah, and Eliphalet.

17. But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the fortress.

18. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

19. And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand? And the Lord said to David, Go up; for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines to your hand.

20. And David came to Baal-Perazim, and David defeated them there, and said, The Lord has broken forth upon my enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-Perazim.

21. And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

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22. And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

23. And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, You shall not go up; but make a circuit behind them, and come upon them opposite the balsam trees.

24. And let it be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, that then you shall bestir yourself; for then shall the Lord go out before you, to strike the camp of the Philistines.

25. And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him; and struck the Philistines from Geba until you come to Gezer.

Chapter 6

1. Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2. And David arose, and went with all the people who were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the

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name of the Lord of hosts who dwells between the kerubim.

3. And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it from the house of Abinadab that was in Geba; and Uzza and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

4. And they brought it from the house of Abinadab which was at Geba, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

5. And David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of cypress wood, on lyres, and on lutes, and on tambourines, and on rattles, and on cymbals.

6. And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

7. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God struck him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

8. And David was displeased, because the Lord had

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made a burst out against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez-Uzzah to this day.

9. And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, How shall the ark of the Lord come to me?

10. So David would not move the ark of the Lord to him into the city of David; but David carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

11. And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months; and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom, and all his household.

12. And it was told king David, saying, The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the city of David with gladness.

13. And it was so, that when those who carried the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.

14. And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

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15. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the shofar.

16. And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17. And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

18. And as soon as David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.

19. And he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of meat, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20. Then David returned to bless his household. And

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Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the maidservants of his servants, as one of the low fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!

21. And David said to Michal, It was before the Lord, who chose me before your father, and before all his house, to appoint me prince over the people of the Lord, over Israel; therefore will I play before the Lord.

22. And I will make myself more contemptible than this, and will be abased in my sight; and of the maidservants which you have spoken of, of them shall I be held in honor.

23. And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

Chapter 7

1. And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies;

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2. That the king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I live in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains.

3. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you.

4. And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying,

5. Go and tell my servant David, Thus said the Lord, Shall you build me a house for me to dwell in?

6. Because I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the people of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7. In all the places where I have walked with all the people of Israel spoke I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why do you not build me a house of cedar?

8. And therefore so shall you say to my servant David, Thus said the Lord of hosts, I took you from

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the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel;

9. And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from your sight, and have made you a great name, like the names of the great men who are in the earth.

10. And I have appointed a place for my people Israel, and have planted them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; nor shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as formerly,

11. From the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord tells you that he will make you a house.

12. And when your days are fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who shall issue from your bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13. He shall build a house for my name, and I will

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establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with such plagues as befall the sons of men;

15. But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you.

16. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you; your throne shall be established forever.

17. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak to David.

18. Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?

19. And this was yet a small thing in your sight, O Lord God; but you have spoken also of your servant's house continuing for a great while to come. And does any man deserve such a course, O Lord God?

20. And what can David say more to you? for you,

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Lord God, know your servant.

21. For your word's sake, and according to your own heart, have you done all these great things, to make your servant know them.

22. Therefore you are great, O Lord God; for there is none like you, neither is there any God beside you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23. And what one nation in the earth is like your people, like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and awesome, for your land, before your people, which you redeemed to you from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24. For you have confirmed to yourself your people Israel to be a people to you forever; and you, Lord, have become their God.

25. And now, O Lord God, the word that you have spoken concerning your servant, and concerning his house, establish it forever, and do as you have said.

26. And let your name be magnified forever, saying,

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The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel; and let the house of your servant David be established before you.

27. For you, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to your servant, saying, I will build you a house; therefore has your servant found in his heart to pray this prayer to you.

28. And now, O Lord God, you are that God, and your words are true, and you have promised this goodness to your servant;

29. Therefore now let it please you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord God, have spoken it; and with your blessing let the house of your servant be blessed forever.

Chapter 8

1. And after this it came to pass, that David defeated the Philistines, and subdued them; and David took Methegammah from the hand of the Philistines.

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2. And he defeated Moab, and measured them with a line, making them lie down in the ground; with two lines he measured to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.

3. David defeated also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to extend his dominion at the river Euphrates.

4. And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers; and David lamed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for a hundred chariots.

5. And when the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Arameans twenty two thousand men.

6. Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus; and the Arameans became servants to David, and brought tribute. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.

7. And David took the shields of gold that were on the

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servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

8. And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took very much bronze.

9. When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer,

10. Then Toi sent Joram his son to king David, to greet him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and defeated him; for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him utensils of silver, and utensils of gold, and utensils of bronze;

11. Which also king David consecrated to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had consecrated from all the nations which he had conquered;

12. Of Aram, and of Moab, and of the Ammonites, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the booty of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13. And David won a name for himself when he returned from striking the Arameans in the valley of

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salt, being eighteen thousand men.

14. And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.

15. And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice to all his people.

16. And Joab the son of Zeruah was over the army; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

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

18. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Kerethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

Chapter 9

1. And David said, Is there yet any who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for

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Jonathan's sake?

2. And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him to David, the king said to him, Are you Ziba? And he said, Your servant is he.

3. And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan, who is lame on his feet.

4. And the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-Debar.

5. Then king David sent, and fetched him from the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-Debar.

6. And when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he fell on his face, and bowed to the ground. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold your servant!

7. And David said to him, Fear not; for I will surely

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show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore you all the land of Saul your father; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.

8. And he bowed, and said, What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I am?

9. Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

10. You therefore, and your sons, and your servants, shall till the land for him, and you shall bring in the fruits, that your master's son may have food to eat; but Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread always at my table. And Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11. Then said Ziba to the king, According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so shall your servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

12. And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all who lived in the house of Ziba

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were servants to Mephibosheth.

13. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem; and he ate continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

Chapter 10

1. And it came to pass after this, that the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

2. Then said David, I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came to the land of the Ammonites.

3. And the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, Do you think that David does honor your father, that he has sent comforters to you? Has not David rather sent his servants to you, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

4. Therefore Hanun took David's servants, and

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shaved off one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, to their buttocks, and sent them away.

5. When they told it to David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed; and the king said, Remain at Jericho until your beards are grown, and then return.

6. And when the Ammonites saw that they had become odious to David, the Ammonites sent and hired the Arameans of Beth-Rehob, and the Arameans of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers, and of king Maachah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.

7. And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the army of the mighty men.

8. And the Ammonites came out, and put the battle in array at the entrance of the gate; and the Arameans of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maachah, were by themselves in the field.

9. When Joab saw that the front of the battle was

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against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Arameans;

10. And the rest of the people he delivered to the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the Ammonites.

11. And he said, If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

12. Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people, and for the cities of our God; and the Lord do that which seems good in his eyes.

13. And Joab drew near, and the people who were with him, to the battle against the Arameans; and they fled before him.

14. And when the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, then they also fled before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the Ammonites, and came to Jerusalem.

15. And when the Arameans saw that they were

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defeated before Israel, they gathered themselves together.

16. And Hadadezer sent, and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the river; and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the army of Hadadezer went before them.

17. And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.

18. And the Arameans fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Arameans, and forty thousand horse soldiers, and struck Shobach the captain of their army, who died there.

19. And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Arameans feared to help the Ammonites any more.

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Chapter 11

1. And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained still at Jerusalem.

2. And it came to pass one evening, that David arose from his bed, and walked on the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

3. And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4. And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in to him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness; and she returned to her house.

5. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

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6. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7. And when Uriah came to him, David asked of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

8. And David said to Uriah, Go down to your house, and wash your feet. And Uriah departed from the king's house, and there followed him a portion of food from the king.

9. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

10. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house, David said to Uriah, Did you not come from your journey? why then did you not go down to your house?

11. And Uriah said to David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, remain in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into my house, to eat and to

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drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.

12. And David said to Uriah, Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day, and the next day.

13. And when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk; and at the evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but did not go down to his house.

14. And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set Uriah in the front of the hottest battle, and retire from him, that he may be struck, and die.

16. And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew that brave men were.

17. And the men of the city went out, and fought with

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Joab; and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18. Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

19. And charged the messenger, saying, When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,

20. And if the king's anger should arise, and he says to you, Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

21. Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall? Then you will say: Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

22. So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him for.

23. And the messenger said to David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out to us into the

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field, and we were upon them up to the entrance of the gate.

24. And the shooters shot from the wall upon your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

25. Then David said to the messenger, Thus shall you say to Joab, Let not this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; make your battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it; and encourage him.

26. And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27. And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

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Chapter 12

1. And the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2. The rich man had very many flocks and herds;

3. But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it ate of his own food, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was to him as a daughter.

4. And there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take from his own flock and of his own herd, to prepare for the traveller who came to him; but took the poor man's lamb, and prepared it for the man who came to him.

5. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord lives, the man who has done this thing shall surely die;

6. And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

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7. And Nathan said to David, You are the man. Thus said the Lord God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul;

8. And I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives to your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given to you such and such things.

9. Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

10. And therefore the sword shall never depart from your house; because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

11. Thus said the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your

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neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun.

12. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

13. And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14. But because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child who is born to you shall surely die.

15. And Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it was very sick.

16. David therefore prayed to God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

17. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the

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child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he would not listen to our voice; how will he then harm himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

19. But when David saw that his servants whispered, David understood that the child was dead; therefore David said to his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

20. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his garment, and came to the house of the Lord, and bowed down; then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he ate.

21. Then said his servants to him, What thing is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child, while he was alive; but when the child was dead, you did rise and eat bread.

22. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who can tell whether God will

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be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23. But now he is dead, why should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

24. And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon; and the Lord loved him.

25. And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

26. And Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites, and took the royal city.

27. And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.

28. And therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it; lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

29. And David gathered all the people together, and

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went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

30. And he took their king's crown from off his head, its weight was a talent of gold with the precious stones; and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the booty of the city in great abundance.

31. And he brought out the people who were there, and set them to labor with saws, and iron picks and iron axes, and made them pass through the brick kilns; and thus did he to all the cities of the Ammonites. So David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Chapter 13

1. And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

2. And Amnon was so tormented, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

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3. But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother; and Jonadab was a very cunning man.

4. And he said to him, Why are you, being the king's son, so wasted from day to day? will you not tell me? And Amnon said to him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

5. And Jonadab said to him, Lay down on your bed, and make yourself sick; and when your father comes to see you, say to him, I pray you, let my sister Tamar come, and give me bread, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it of her hand.

6. So Amnon lay down, and feigned to be sick; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, I beg you, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat of her hand.

7. Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare him food.

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8. So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. and she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes.

9. And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Send out all the men from me. And they went out every man from him.

10. And Amnon said to Tamar, Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat of your hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

11. And when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12. And she answered him, No, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel; do not do this shameful deed.

13. And I, where shall I carry my shame? and as for you, you shall be as one of the base men in Israel.

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And therefore, I beg you, speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you.

14. But he would not listen to her voice; but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

15. Then Amnon hated her very much; so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, Get up, be gone.

16. And she said to him, Do not add this greater wrong of sending me away to the other that you did to me. But he would not listen to her.

17. Then he called his servant who ministered to him, and said, Take now this woman away from me, and bolt the door after her.

18. And she had a long sleeved robe upon her; for with such robes were the king's daughters who were virgins dressed. Then his servant took her out, and bolted the door after her.

19. And Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her long sleeved robe, that was on her, and laid her

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hand on her head, crying aloud as she went.

20. And Absalom her brother said to her, Has Amnon your brother been with you? but keep silence, my sister; he is your brother; take not this thing to heart. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

21. But when king David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

22. And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had raped his sister Tamar.

23. And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-Hazor, which is beside Ephraim; and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

24. And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, your servant has sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech you, and his servants go with your servant.

25. And the king said to Absalom, No, my son, let us not all now go, lest we should be a burden to you.

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And he pressed him; but he would not go, and he blessed him.

26. Then said Absalom, If not, I beg you, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said to him, Why should he go with you?

27. But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

28. And Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, Strike Amnon; then kill him, fear not; have I not commanded you? be courageous, and be brave.

29. And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man rode on his mule, and fled.

30. And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that news came to David, saying, Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left.

31. Then the king arose, and tore his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with

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their clothes torn.

32. And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men the king's sons; for only Amnon is dead; for by the command of Absalom this has been ordained from the day that he raped his sister Tamar.

33. And therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead; for only Amnon is dead.

34. And Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, many people came by the way of the hill side behind him.

35. And Jonadab said to the king, Behold, the king's sons come; as your servant said, so it is.

36. And it came to pass, as soon as he had finished speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept; and the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly.

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37. And Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

38. So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

39. And the soul of king David longed to go out to Absalom; for he was comforted concerning the death of Amnon.

Chapter 14

1. And Joab the son of Zeruah perceived that the king's heart was towards Absalom.

2. And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched there a wise woman, and said to her, I beg you, feign yourself to be a mourner, and put on now a mourning dress, and anoint not yourself with oil, but be as a woman that has for a long time mourned for the dead;

3. And come to the king, and speak on this manner to him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

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4. And when the woman of Tekoah spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and bowed, and said, Help, O king.

5. And the king said to her, What ails you? And she answered, I am indeed a widowed woman, and my husband is dead.

6. And your maidservant had two sons, and they quarrelled with one another in the field, and there was none to part them, but one struck the other, and slew him.

7. And, behold, the whole family is risen against your maidservant, and they said, Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also; and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband a name or a remainder upon the earth.

8. And the king said to the woman, Go to your house, and I will give charge concerning you.

9. And the woman of Tekoah said to the king, My lord,

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O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house; and the king and his throne be guiltless.

10. And the king said, Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you any more.

11. Then said she, I beg you, let the king remember the Lord your God, that the avenger of blood to destroy not any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the Lord lives, there shall not one hair of your son fall to the earth.

12. Then the woman said, Let your maidservant, I beg you, speak one word to my lord the king. And he said, Speak.

13. And the woman said, Why then have you thought such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not fetch home again his banished one.

14. For we shall surely die, and are as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither does God take away life; but devises means,

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that none of us be banished.

15. And therefore I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid; and your maidservant said, I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant.

16. For the king will hear, to deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.

17. Then your maidservant said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable; for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad; therefore the Lord your God will be with you.

18. Then the king answered and said to the woman, Hide not from me, I pray you, the thing that I shall ask you. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

19. And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with you in all this? And the woman answered and said, As your soul lives, my lord the king, none can turn to the

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right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken; for your servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant;

20. To turn this matter the other way has your servant Joab done this thing; and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

21. And the king said to Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing; go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

22. And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed, and thanked the king; and Joab said, Today your servant knows that I have found grace in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant.

23. So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

24. And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to

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his own house, and saw not the king's face.

25. But in all Israel there was none so much praised as Absalom for his beauty; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

26. And when he shaved his head, for it was at every year's end that he shaved it; because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he shaved it; he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's weight.

27. And to Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar; she was a beautiful woman.

28. So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

29. Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him; and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

30. Therefore he said to his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it

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on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

31. Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom to his house, and said to him, Why have your servants set my field on fire?

32. And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent for you, saying, Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say, Why have I come from Geshur? It would have been good for me to have been there still; now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there is any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

33. So Joab came to the king, and told him; and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed on his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

Chapter 15

1. And it came to pass after this, that Absalom got himself chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the

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way of the gate; and it was so, that when any man who had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called to him, and said, Of what city are you? And he said, Your servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

3. And Absalom said to him, See, your matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear you.

4. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who has any suit or cause might come to me, and I would do him justice!

5. And it was so, that when any man came near to him to bow down to him, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

6. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

7. And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said to the king, I beg you, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron.

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8. For your servant vowed a vow while I stayed at Geshur in Aram, saying, If the Lord shall bring me back indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.

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

10. But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as you hear the sound of the shofar, then you shall say, Absalom reigns in Hebron.

11. And with Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem, who were invited; and they went in their simplicity, and knew nothing.

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

13. And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.

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14. And David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom; make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword.

15. And the king's servants said to the king, Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king shall choose.

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

17. And the king went out, and all the people after him, and stayed in a place that was far away.

18. And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Kerethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19. Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Why do you go with us? Return, and stay with the king; for you

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are a foreigner, and also an exile from your place.

20. You came but yesterday, should I this day make you go up and down with us? Return and take back your brothers with you in loyal kindness and truth.

21. And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will your servant be.

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 who were with him.

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

24. And behold, Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, carrying the ark of the covenant of God; and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had passed out of the city.

25. And the king said to Zadok, Carry back the ark of

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God to the city; if I shall find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and its habitation;

26. But if he says, I have no delight in you; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seems good to him.

27. The king said also to Zadok the priest, Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

28. See, I will remain in the plains of the wilderness, until there comes word from you bringing me news.

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

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

31. And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O

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Lord, I beg you, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

32. And it came to pass, that when David came to the top of the mount, where he bowed down to God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn, and earth upon his head;

33. To whom David said, If you pass on with me, then you shall be a burden to me;

34. But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant till now, so will I now also be your servant; then may you defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.

35. And have you not there with you Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that whatever matter you shall hear from the king's house, you shall tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

36. Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son;

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and by them you shall send to me every matter that you can hear.

37. So Hushai David's friend came to the city, and Absalom came to Jerusalem.

Chapter 16

1. And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and a hundred bunches of raisins, and a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

2. And the king said to Ziba, What do you mean by these? And Ziba said, The asses are for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

3. And the king said, And where is your master's son? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, he remains at Jerusalem; for he said, Today shall the house of

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Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

4. Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, yours is all that belonged to Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech you that I may find grace in your sight, my lord, O king.

5. And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out, cursing as he came.

6. And he threw stones at David, and at all the servants of king David; and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, you bloody man, and you worthless man;

8. The Lord has returned upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the Lord has delivered the kingdom to the hand of Absalom your son; and, behold, you are in evil plight, because you are a bloody man.

9. Then said Abishai the son of Zeruah to the king,

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Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I beg you, and take off his head.

10. And the king said, What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? so let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Why have you done so?

11. And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, who came forth from my bowels, seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjamite do? Let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord has bidden him.

12. It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will reward me good for his cursing this day.

13. And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side opposite him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and flung dust.

14. And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived tired, and refreshed themselves there.

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15. And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

16. And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, Long live the king; long live the king!

17. And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this your kindness to your friend? why did you not go with your friend?

18. And Hushai said to Absalom, No; but whom the Lord, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I remain.

19. And again, whom should I serve? should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence.

20. Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

21. And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that you have made yourself odious to your father; then shall the hands

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of all who are with you be strengthened.

22. So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

23. And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had inquired of the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Chapter 17

1. And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night;

2. And I will come upon him while he is tired and weak handed, and will make him afraid; and all the people who are with him shall flee; and I will strike the king only;

3. And I will bring back all the people to you; when all return, after the death of the man who you seek, all

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the people shall be in peace.

4. And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.

5. Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he says.

6. And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, Ahithophel has spoken after this manner; shall we do after his saying? if not; speak you.

7. And Hushai said to Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time.

8. For, said Hushai, you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are embittered in their minds, as a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not spend the night with the people.

9. Behold, he is hidden now in some pit, or in some other place; and it will come to pass, when some of them fall in the first attack, that whoever hears it will say, There is a slaughter among the people who

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follow Absalom.

10. And he also who is brave, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall completely melt; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who be with him are brave men.

11. Therefore I counsel that all Israel should be gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that you go to battle in your own person.

12. So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will encamp upon him like the dew falling on the ground; and of him and of all the men who are with him there shall not be left so much as one.

13. Moreover, if he withdraws himself into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will drag it into the ravine, until not one small stone should be found there.

14. And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the

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counsel of Ahithophel. For the Lord had ordained it to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom.

15. Then said Hushai to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

16. And therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people who are with him.

17. And Jonathan and Ahimaaz waited by Ein-Rogel; for they might not be seen coming into the city; and a maidservant went and told them; and they went and told king David.

18. Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom; but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; where they went down.

19. And the woman took and spread a covering over

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the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known.

20. And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said to them, They are gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

21. And it came to pass, after they departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said to David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water; for thus has Ahithophel counselled against you.

22. Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they passed over the Jordan; by the morning light not one of them had failed to pass over the Jordan.

23. And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and went home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was

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buried in the sepulcher of his father.

24. Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

25. And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab; and Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Ithra an Israelite, who had taken to himself Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruah Joab's mother.

26. So Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

27. And it came to pass, when David came to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-Debar, and Barzilai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

28. Brought beds, and basins, and earthen utensils, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched grain, and beans, and lentils, and parched pulse,

29. And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of cows, for David, and for the people who were with

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him, to eat; for they said, The people are hungry, and tired, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

Chapter 18

1. And David counted the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2. And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3. But the people answered, You shall not go forth; for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us; but now you are worth ten thousand of us; therefore now it is better that you should be our help from the city.

4. And the king said to them, What seems you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all

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the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5. And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

6. So the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

7. And there the people of Israel were defeated by the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men.

8. For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9. And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the sky and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

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10. And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanging from an oak.

11. And Joab said to the man who told him, And, behold, you saw him, and why did you not strike him there to the ground? And I would have given you ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

12. And the man said to Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, still I would not put forth my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king charged you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

13. Otherwise I should have acted falsely against my own life; for there is no matter hidden from the king, and you would have stood aloof.

14. Then said Joab, It is not proper for me to beg before you. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the midst of the oak.

15. And ten young men who carried Joab's armor

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surrounded him and struck Absalom, and slew him.

16. And Joab blew the shofar, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel; for Joab held back the people.

17. And they took Absalom, and threw him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him; and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

18. And Absalom in his lifetime had taken and erected for himself a pillar, which is in the king's valley; for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance; and he called the pillar after his own name; and it is called to this day, Absalom's monument.

19. Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bring the king news, how the Lord has avenged him of his enemies.

20. And Joab said to him, You shall not bring news this day, but you shall bring news another day; but this day you shall bring no news, because the king's son is dead.

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21. Then said Joab to the Kushite, Go tell the king what you have seen. And the Kushite bowed to Joab, and ran.

22. Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But nonetheless, let me, I beg you, also run after the Kushite. And Joab said, Why will you run, my son, seeing that you have no profitable news?

23. But nonetheless, said he, let me run. And he said to him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overtook the Kushite.

24. And David sat between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate to the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

25. And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he is alone, there are news in his mouth. And he came nearer and nearer.

26. And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gatekeeper, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king

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said, He also brings news.

27. And the watchman said, I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and comes with good news.

28. And Ahimaaz called, and said to the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29. And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

30. And the king said to him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31. And, behold, the Kushite came; and the Kushite said, News, my lord the king; for the Lord has avenged you this day of all those who rose up against you.

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32. And the king said to the Kushite, Is the young man Absalom safe? And the Kushite answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do you hurt, be as that young man is.

Chapter 19

1. And the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!

2. And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Absalom.

3. And the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people; for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.

4. And the people went by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

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5. But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

6. And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, You have shamed this day the faces of all your servants, who this day have saved your life, and the lives of your sons and of your daughters, and the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines;

7. In that you love your enemies, and hate your friends. For you have declared this day, that you regard neither princes nor servants; for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and we had all died this day, then it would have pleased you well.

8. And therefore arise, go forth, and speak kindly to your servants; for I swear by the Lord, if you do not go, no one will remain with you this night; and that will be worse to you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.

9. Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told to all the people, saying, Behold, the king sits in

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the gate. And all the people came before the king; for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

10. And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, and he saved us from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom.

11. And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. And therefore why do you not speak a word about bringing the king back?

12. And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel has already come to the king, to his house.

13. You are my brothers, you are my bones and my flesh; why then are you the last to bring back the king?

14. And say to Amasa, Are you not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you

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are not captain of the army before me continually in place of Joab.

15. And he turned the hearts of all the men of Judah, like the heart of one man; so that they sent this word to the king, Return, you, and all your servants.

16. So the king returned, and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over the Jordan.

17. And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was of Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

18. And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan to meet the king.

19. And there went over a boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he came over the Jordan;

20. And said to the king, Let not my lord impute

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iniquity to me, nor should you remember that which your servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went from Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

21. For your servant knows that I have sinned; therefore, behold, I am the first to come this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

22. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?

23. And David said, What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be adversaries to me? Shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? For do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?

24. Therefore the king said to Shimei, You shall not die. And the king swore to him.

25. And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor

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trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

26. And it came to pass, when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?

27. And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for your servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride on, and go to the king; because your servant is lame.

28. And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king; but my lord the king is like an angel of God; do therefore what is good in your eyes.

29. For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king; yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more to the king?

30. And the king said to him, Why do you speak any more of your affairs? I have decided, You and Ziba divide the land.

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31. And Mephibosheth said to the king, Let him take it all, since my lord the king has returned in peace to his own house.

32. And Barzilai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over the Jordan with the king, to conduct him over the Jordan.

33. And Barzilai was a very old man, eighty years old; and he had provided the king with food while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very wealthy man.

34. And the king said to Barzilai, Come over with me, and I will feed you with me in Jerusalem.

35. And Barzilai said to the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?

36. I am this day eighty years old; and can I discern between good and evil? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king?

37. Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan

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with the king; and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

38. Let your servant, I beg you, turn back, that I may die in my own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold your servant Kimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good in your eyes.

39. And the king answered, Kimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good in your eyes; and whatever you shall require of me, that will I do for you.

40. And all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king came over, the king kissed Barzilai, and blessed him; and he returned to his own place.

41. Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Kimham went on with him; and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

42. And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away, and have brought the

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king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over the Jordan?

43. And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king is near of kin to us. Why then are you angry about this matter? Have we eaten at all of the king's cost? Or has he given us any gift?

44. And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than you; why then did you despise us. And was not our word first for bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

Chapter 20

1. And there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite; and he blew a shofar, and said, We have no part in David, nor do we have an inheritance in

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the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel.

2. So every man of Israel withdrew from David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah followed fast their king, from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

3. And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them under guard, and fed them, but went not in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, widows of a living husband.

4. Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and you be present here.

5. So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah; but he delayed longer than the set time which he had assigned him.

6. And David said to Abishai, And shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom; take you your lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest

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he get himself fortified cities, and escape us.

7. And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Kerethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men; and they went from Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

8. When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab was girded with a coat, his usual garment, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in its sheath; and as he went forth it fell out.

9. And Joab said to Amasa, Are you well, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

10. But Amasa took no heed of the sword that was in Joab's hand; so he struck him with it in the belly, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and did not strike him again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai, his brother, pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

11. And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He who favors Joab, and he who is for David, let him go

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after Joab.

12. And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa from the highway to the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one who came by him stood still.

13. When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

14. And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, and to Beth-Maachah, and all the Berites; and they were gathered together, and went also after him.

15. And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-Maachah, and they threw up a mound of earth against the city, and it stood up against the wall; and all the people who were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

16. Then cried a wise woman from the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, to Joab, Come near here, that I may speak with you.

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17. And when he came near to her, the woman said, Are you Joab? And he answered, I am. Then she said to him, Hear the words of your maidservant. And he answered, I hear.

18. Then she spoke, saying, They were wont to speak in old times, saying, Let them ask counsel at Abel, and so they would have ended the matter.

19. I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel; you seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel; why will you swallow up the inheritance of the Lord?

20. And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

21. The matter is not so; but a man of Mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has lifted up his hand against the king, against David; deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said to Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.

22. Then the woman went to all the people in her

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wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. And he blew a shofar, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

23. And Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and over the Pelethites;

24. And Adoram was over the tribute; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

25. And Sheva was scribe; and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests;

26. And Ira also the Jairite was also a priest to David.

Chapter 21

1. Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

2. And the king called the Gibeonites, and said to

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them; now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the people of Israel had sworn to them; and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the people of Israel and Judah.

3. Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord?

4. And the Gibeonites said to him, We will have no silver nor gold from Saul, nor from his house; neither for us shall you kill any man in Israel. And he said, What you shall say, that will I do for you.

5. And they answered the king, The man who consumed us, and who plotted against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the borders of Israel,

6. Let seven men of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them up to the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord did choose. And the king said, I will give them.

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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 to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzilai the Meholathite;

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

10. And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took a sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of the harvest until water dropped upon them from heaven, and did not let the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

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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 street of Beth-Shean, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa;

13. And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged.

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

15. Moreover the Philistines had war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines; and David grew tired.

16. And Ishbi-Benob, which was of the sons of the

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Rapha, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of bronze in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have killed David.

17. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his help, and struck the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, You shall go no more out with us to battle, that you quench not the lamp of Israel.

18. And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, who was of the sons of the Rapha.

19. And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

20. And there was yet another battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, who had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, twenty four in

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number; and he also was born to the Rapha.

21. And he taunted Israel, and Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him.

22. These four were born to the Rapha in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Chapter 22

1. And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul;

2. And he said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

3. The God of my rock; in him will I trust; he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.

4. I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

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5. When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

6. The cords of Sheol encircled me; the snares of death confronted me;

7. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God; and he heard my voice from his temple, and my cry entered into his ears.

8. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because of his anger.

9. There went up a smoke from his nostrils, and fire from his mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it.

10. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

11. And he rode upon a kerub, and did fly; and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

12. And he made darkness pavilions around him, the heavy mass of waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

13. Through the brightness before him were coals of

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fire kindled.

14. The Lord thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.

15. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and confounded them.

16. And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuking of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

17. He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;

18. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me.

19. They surprised me in the day of my calamity; but the Lord was my stay.

20. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

21. The Lord rewards me according to my

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righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he recompenses me.

22. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

23. For all his judgments were before me; and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them.

24. I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from my iniquity.

25. Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eyesight.

26. With the merciful you will show yourself merciful, and with the upright man you will show yourself upright.

27. With the pure you will show yourself pure; and with the perverse you will show yourself subtle.

28. And the afflicted people you will save; but your eyes are upon the haughty, that you may bring them down.

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29. For you are my lamp, O Lord; and the Lord will lighten my darkness.

30. For by you I run through a troop; by my God I leap over a wall.

31. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried; he is a shield to all those who trust in him.

32. For who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God?

33. God is my strength and rampart; And he makes my way perfect.

34. He makes my feet like hinds' feet; and sets me upon my heights.

35. He teaches my hands to war; and trains my arms to bend a bow of bronze..

36. You have also given me the shield of your salvation; and your condescension has made me great.

37. You have enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

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38. I have pursued my enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.

39. And I have consumed them, and crushed them, that they could not arise; they are fallen under my feet.

40. For you have girded me with strength to battle; those who rose up against me have you subdued under me.

41. You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, that I might destroy those who hate me.

42. They looked, but there was none to save; to the Lord, but he answered them not.

43. Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad.

44. You also have delivered me from strife with of my people, you have kept me to be chief of the nations; a people whom I knew not shall serve me.

45. Strangers shall submit themselves to me; as soon

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as they hear, they shall be obedient to me.

46. Strangers shall fade away, and they shall come tottering from their closed places.

47. The Lord lives; and blessed be my rock; and exalted is the God of the rock of my salvation.

48. It is God who avenges me, and who brings down the people under me,

49. And who brings me out from my enemies; you also have lifted me up on high above those who rose up against me; you have saved me from the violent man.

50. Therefore I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praises to your name.

51. He is the tower of salvation for his king; and shows mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed forever.

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Chapter 23

1. And these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet singer of Israel, said,

2. The spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue.

3. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

4. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

5. Does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure; for will he not make all my salvation, and all my desire, to prosper?

6. But the wicked shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, that cannot be taken with hands;

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7. But the man who shall touch them must be fortified with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be completely burned with fire in their place.

8. These are the names of the mighty men whom David had; The Tachmonite, Yoshev-Bashevet, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite; he raised his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9. And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away;

10. He arose, and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand cleaved to the sword; and the Lord wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder the killed.

11. And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together in a troop, where there was a piece of ground full of

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lentils; and the people fled from the Philistines.

12. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines; and the Lord wrought a great victory.

13. And these three, chief of the thirty, went down, and came to David in harvest time to the cave of Adullam; and the troop of the Philistines camped in the valley of Rephaim.

14. And David was then in a fortress, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Beth-Lehem.

15. And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Beth-Lehem, which is by the gate!

16. And the three mighty men broke through the army of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Beth-Lehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David; nevertheless he would not drink of it, but poured it out to the Lord.

17. And he said, Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this; is not this the blood of the men who

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went risking their lives? Therefore he he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men do.

18. And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief among the three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred killed, and had the name among three.

19. Was he not the most honorable of the three? Therefore he was their captain; but he attained not to the first three.

20. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a brave man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lion hearted men of Moab; he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in a time of snow;

21. And he slew an Egyptian, a good looking man; and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22. These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and

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he had a name among the three mighty men.

23. He was more renowned than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.

24. Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Beth-Lehem,

25. Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,

26. Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

27. Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

28. Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

29. Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai from Geba of the sons of Benjamin,

30. Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

31. Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

32. Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,

33. Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar

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the Hararite,

34. Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilohnite,

35. Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

36. Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

37. Zelek the Ammonite, Nahari the Beerothite, armor bearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

38. Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,

39. Uriah the Hittite; thirty seven in all.

Chapter 24

1. And again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, count Israel and Judah.

2. For the king said to Joab the captain of the army, who was with him, Go now through all the tribes of

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Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people.

3. And Joab said to the king, Now the Lord your God add to the people, how many they may be, a hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king should see it; but why does my lord the king desire this thing?

4. However the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the army. And Joab and the captains of the army went from the presence of the king, to count the people of Israel.

5. And they passed over the Jordan, and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lies in the midst of the river of Gad, towards Jazer;

6. Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-Hodshi; and they came to Dan-Yaan, and about to Sidon,

7. And came to the fortress of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites; and they went out to the south of Judah, to Beersheba.

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8. So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

9. And Joab gave the result of the census of the people to the king; and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand brave men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

10. And David's heart struck him after he had counted the people. And David said to the Lord, I have sinned greatly in what I have done; and now, I beseech you, O Lord, take away the iniquity of your servant; for I have done very foolishly.

11. For when David was up in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

12. Go and say to David, Thus said the Lord, I offer you three alternatives; choose one of them, that I may do it to you.

13. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said to

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him, Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or should there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and see what answer I shall return to him who sent me.

14. And David said to Gad, I am in great distress; let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man.

15. So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning to the time appointed; and there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

16. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented of the evil, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, It is enough; stay now your hand. And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite.

17. And David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who struck the people, and said, Behold, I

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have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I beg you, be against me, and against my father's house.

18. And Gad came that day to David, and said to him, Go up, erect an altar to the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

19. And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded.

20. And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on towards him; and Araunah went out, and bowed before the king on his face upon the ground.

21. And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be averted from the people.

22. And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him; behold, here are oxen for a burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for

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wood.

23. All these things did Araunah, a king, give to the king. And Araunah said to the king, The Lord your God accept you.

24. And the king said to Araunah, No; but I will surely buy it from you at a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God of that which costs me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

25. And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.