

Second Samuel

Chapter 1

Now it came to pass after the death of Saul
{three thousand sixty-three A.H./nine hundred seventy-nine B.C.},
when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two
days in Ziklag;

That on the third day, a man came out of the camp of Saul with his clothes torn, and dirt upon
his head:

and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and bowed to David.

And David said to him,
Where have you come from?
And he said to him,
I have escaped out of the camp of Israel.

And David said to him,
How did things go?
I ask you, tell me.
And he answered,
The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and *are* dead;
and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

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

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

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

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

He said to me again,
I ask you to stand upon me, and kill me:
because anguish has come upon me, because my life *is* yet in me.

So I stood upon him, and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had

fallen upon his sword:

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.

Then David took hold on his clothes, and tore them;
and all the men who *were* with him did likewise:

And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until evening, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD {Jehovah}, and for the house of Israel;
because they had fallen by the sword.

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

And David said to him,
How was it that you were not afraid to stretch forth your hand to destroy the LORD's {Jehovah's} anointed?

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

And David said to him,
Your blood *is* upon your own head;
because your mouth has testified against you, saying,
I have killed the LORD's {Jehovah's} anointed.

And David cried with a great cry over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

(Also he commanded them to teach the children of Judah *the use of* the bow:
as *it is* written in the book of Jasher.

The beauty of Israel has died upon your high places:
how the mighty have fallen!

Do not tell *it* in Gath, do not publish *it* in the streets of Askelon;
lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

You mountains of Gilboa, *let there be* no dew, neither *let there be* rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings:
because there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, *as though he had* not *been* anointed with oil.

From the blood of those killed, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, and the sword of Saul did not return empty.

Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided:

they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

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

How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
O Jonathan, *you were* killed in your high places.

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

How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Second Samuel Chapter 2

And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of the LORD {Jehovah}, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?

And the LORD {Jehovah} said to him,

Go up.

And David said,

Where shall I go up?

And He said,

To Hebron.

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

And his men who *were* with him David brought up, every man with his household: and they lived in the cities of Hebron.

And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah {three thousand sixty-three A.H./nine hundred seventy-nine B.C }.

And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabesh-gilead *were the ones* who buried Saul.

And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them,

Blessed *are* you of the LORD {Jehovah}, because you have shown this kindness to your lord, *even* to Saul, and have buried him.

And now *may* the LORD {Jehovah} show kindness and truth to you: and I also will show you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant:

because your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.

But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host {army},

took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

Ishbosheth 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.

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

And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

And Joab the son of Zeruiah, 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.

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

Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, who *belonged* to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

And everyone caught his opponent by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together:
therefore that place was called Helkathhazzurim
{field of swords},
which *is* in Gibeon.

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

And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel:
and Asahel *was as* light of foot as a wild deer.

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

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

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

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

Nevertheless he refused to turn aside:
therefore Abner with the back end of the spear struck him under the fifth *rib*, that the spear came out behind him;
and he fell down there, and died in the same place:
and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood

still.

Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner:
and the sun went down when they had come to the hill of Ammah, that *lies* before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

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

Then Abner called to Joab, and said,
Shall the sword devour forever?
do you not know that it will be bitterness to the very end?
how long shall it be then, before you bid the people return from following their brothers?

And Joab said,
As God lives, if you had not challenged us, surely this *very* morning the people would have stopped pursuing their brothers.

So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and did not pursue after Israel any more, neither did they fight them anymore.

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

And Joab returned from following Abner:
and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.

But the servants of David had killed of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, three hundred sixty men.

And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the tomb of his father, which *was in* Bethlehem.
And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at day break.

Second Samuel Chapter 3

Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David:
but David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

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

And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite;
and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

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

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

And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David,
that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

And Saul had a concubine, whose name *was* Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah:
and *Ishbosheth* said to Abner,
Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?

Then Abner was very angry because of the words of Ishbosheth, and said,
Am I a dog's head, I who show kindness this day to the house of Saul your father against
Judah, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the hand of David,
that you charge me today with a fault concerning this woman?

So God do to Abner, and more also, if I do not do to David as the LORD {Jehovah} has sworn
to him;

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

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

And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying,
Whose *is* the land?
saying *also*,
Make your league
{alliance}
with me, and, indeed, my hand *will be* with you, to bring about all Israel to you.

And he {David} said,
Well;
I will make a league with you:
but one thing I require of you, that is, You shall not see my face, except you first bring Michal

Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face.

And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying,
Deliver to *me* my wife Michal, whom I married for one hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from *her* husband, *even* from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim.
Then Abner said to him,
Go, return.
And he returned.

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

Now then do *it*:
because the LORD {Jehovah} has spoken of David, saying,
**By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines,
and out of the hand of all their enemies.**

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.

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.

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 league
{alliance}
with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires.
And David sent Abner away;
and he went in peace.

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

When Joab and all the host
{army}
that *was* with him had come, they told Joab, saying,
Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace.

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

Do you not know that 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.

And when Joab had left David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah:
but David did not know *it*.

And when Abner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and struck him there under the fifth *rib*, that he died, to avenge the blood of Asahel his brother.

And afterward when David heard *it*, he said,
I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before the LORD {Jehovah} forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:

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 an issue, or who is a leper, or who leans on a staff, or who falls on the sword, or who lacks bread.

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

And David said to Joab, and to all the people who *were* with him, tear your clothes, and clothe yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.
And king David *himself* followed the stretcher which carried the dead body.

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.

And the king cried greatly over Abner, and said,
Did Abner die as a fool dies?

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

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

And all the people took notice *of it*, and it pleased them:
as whatever the king did pleased all the people.

Because all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to kill Abner the son of Ner.

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

And I *am* this day weak, though anointed king;
and these men the sons of Zeruah *are* too hard for me:
the LORD {Jehovah} shall reward the one who does evil according to his wickedness.

Second Samuel Chapter 4

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

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 children of Benjamin:
(because Beeroth also was counted to Benjamin:

And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and lived there until this day.)

And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *who was* lame in *his* feet.

He was five years old when the news came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled:
and it came to pass, as she hurried to flee, that he fell, and became lame.
And his name *was* Mephibosheth
{dispeller of shame}.

And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.

And they came there into the midst of the house, *as though* they would have fetched wheat;
and they struck him under the fifth *rib*:
and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

Because when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they struck him, and killed him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and fled away through the plain all night.

And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David to Hebron, and said to the king,
Look,
the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life;
and the LORD {Jehovah} has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his offspring.

And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them,
As the LORD {Jehovah} lives, Who has redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

When one told me who *thought* that I would have given him a reward for his news:
saying,
Saul is dead, I took hold of him, and killed him in Ziklag.

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

And David commanded his young men, and they killed them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up over the pool in Hebron.
But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried *it* in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

Second Samuel Chapter 5

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

Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led out and brought in Israel:
and the LORD {Jehovah} said to you,
You shall feed My people Israel, and you shall be a captain over Israel.

So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron;
and king David made a league
{alliance}
with them in Hebron before the LORD {Jehovah}:
and they anointed David king over Israel.

David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign
{three thousand sixty-three A.H./nine hundred seventy-nine B.C.},
and he reigned forty years.

In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months:
and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah
{three thousand seventy A.H./nine hundred seventy-two B.C }.

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem to the Jebusites, those who lived in the land:
who spoke to David, saying,
Except you take away the blind and the lame, you shall not come in here:
thinking,
David cannot come in here.

Nevertheless David took the fortress of Zion:
which *is* the city of David.

And David said on that day,
Whoever goes up to the gutter, and kills the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, *who are*
hated by David's soul, *he shall be chief and captain.*
Therefore they said,
The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

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

And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD {Jehovah} God of hosts
{armies}
was with him.

And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and

masons:
and they built David a palace.

And David perceived that the LORD {Jehovah} had established him king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for His people Israel's sake.

And David took for *himself* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron:
and there were yet more sons and daughters born to David.

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

Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

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.

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

And David inquired of the LORD {Jehovah}, saying,
Shall I go up to the Philistines?
will You deliver them into my hand?
And the LORD {Jehovah} said to David,
Go up:
because I will without a doubt deliver the Philistines into your hand.

And David came to Baalperazim, and David struck them there, and said,
The LORD {Jehovah} has broken forth upon my enemies before me, as the breach
{splitting}
of waters.
Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim
{the breach of Baal}.

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

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

And when David inquired of the LORD {Jehovah},
He said,
You shall not go up;
but instead circle behind them, and come upon them opposite the mulberry trees.

And let it be, when you hear the sound of a wind in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then you shall stir up yourself:
because then the LORD {Jehovah} shall go out before you, to strike the host

{army}
of the Philistines.

And David did so, as the LORD {Jehovah} had commanded him;
and struck the Philistines from Geba to Gazer.

Second Samuel Chapter 6

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

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 Name of the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts
{armies}
Who lives *between* the cherubims.

And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah:
and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God:
and Ahio went before the ark.

And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD {Jehovah} on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on stringed instruments, and on tambourines, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

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

And the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was kindled against Uzzah;
and God struck him there because of *his* error;
and there he died by the ark of God.

And David was displeased, because the LORD {Jehovah} had made a breach upon Uzzah:
and he called the name of the place Perez-uzzah
{breach of Uzzah}
to this day.

And David was afraid of the LORD {Jehovah} that day, and said,
How shall the ark of the LORD {Jehovah} come to me?

So David would not remove the ark of the LORD {Jehovah} to himself into the city of David:
but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.

And the ark of the LORD {Jehovah} continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months:
and the LORD {Jehovah} blessed Obededom, and all his household.

And it was told king David, saying,
The LORD {Jehovah} has blessed the house of Obededom, 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 Obededom into the city of David with gladness.

And it was *so*, that when those who carried the ark of the LORD {Jehovah} had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fattened calves.

And David danced before the LORD {Jehovah} with all *his* might; and David *was* clothed with a linen ephod {priestly robe}.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD {Jehovah} with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

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

And they brought in the ark of the LORD {Jehovah}, and set it in its place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD {Jehovah}.

And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the Name of the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts {armies}.

And he gave all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, both to the women as well as to the men, to everyone a cake of bread, and a good piece *of meat*, and a container *of wine*. So all the people departed each to his own house.

Then David returned to bless his household.

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

And David said to Michal, *It was* before the LORD {Jehovah}, Who chose me above your father, and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD {Jehovah}, over Israel: therefore I will play before the LORD {Jehovah}.

And I will yet be more vile than this, and will be base in my own sight: and of the maidservants which you have spoken of, by them I shall be held in honor.

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

Second Samuel Chapter 7

And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD {Jehovah} had given him rest all around from all his enemies;

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

And Nathan said to the king,
Go, do all that *is* in your heart;
because the LORD {Jehovah} *is* with you.

But it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD {Jehovah} came to Nathan, saying,

Go and tell My servant David,
This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says,
Shall you build Me a house {temple} for Me to live in?

Since I have not lived in *any* house {temple} since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

In all *the places* in which I have walked with all the children of Israel *have* I spoken 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 {temple} of cedar?

Now therefore you say this to My servant David,
This is what the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts {armies} says,
I took you from sheep herding, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel:

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

Furthermore I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may live in a place of their own, and move no more;
neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as in earlier times,

And as since 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 {Jehovah} tells you that He will make you a house.

And when your days are fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your offspring after you, who shall proceed out of your body and I will establish his kingdom.

He shall build a house {temple} for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

I will be his father, and he shall be My son.

If he commits sin, I will discipline him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

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

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

So Nathan spoke according to all these words, and according to all this vision to David.

Then king David went in, and sat before the LORD {Jehovah}, and he said,
Who *am* I, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}?
and what is my house, that You have brought me here?

And this was yet a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD {Jehovah};
but You have spoken also of Your servant's house for a great while to come.
And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}?

And what can David say more to You?
because You, Lord GOD {Jehovah}, know Your servant.

For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things,
to make Your servant know *them*.

Therefore You are great, O LORD {Jehovah} God:
because *there is* no one like You, neither *is there any* God besides You, according to all that
we have heard with our ears.

And what one nation in the earth *is* like Your people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to
redeem for a people to Himself, and to make for Himself a Name, and to do for You great and
terrible things, because Your land, before Your people, which You have redeemed to Yourself
from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

Because You have confirmed to Yourself Your people Israel *to be* a people to You forever:
and You, LORD {Jehovah}, have become their God.

And now, O LORD {Jehovah} God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant,
and concerning his house, establish *it* forever, and do as You have said.

And let Your Name be magnified forever, saying,
The LORD {Jehovah} of hosts {armies; multitudes} *is* the God over Israel:
and let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

Because You, O LORD {Jehovah} of hosts
{armies},
God of Israel, have revealed to Your servant, saying,
I will build you a house:
therefore Your servant has found in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

And now, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}, You *are* that God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant:

Therefore now let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You:

because You, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}, have spoken *it*:

and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.

Second Samuel Chapter 8

And after this it came to pass, that David struck the Philistines, and subdued them:
and David took Metheg-ammah
{bridle of Ammah}
out of the hand of the Philistines.

And he struck Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground;
even 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 gifts.

David struck also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his
border at the river Euphrates.

And David took from him a thousand *chariots*, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty
thousand footmen:
and David hamstringed all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them *for* one hundred chariots.

And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed of the
Syrians twenty-two thousand men.

Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus:
and the Syrians became servants to David, *and* brought gifts.
And the LORD {Jehovah} preserved David wherever he went.

And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them
to Jerusalem.

And from Bethah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceedingly much
brass.

When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had stricken all the host
{army}
of Hadadezer,

Then Toi sent Joram his son to king David, to greet him, and to bless him, because he {David}
had fought against Hadadezer, and killed him:
because Hadadezer had wars with Toi.
And *Joram* brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:

Which also king David dedicated to the LORD {Jehovah}, with the silver and gold that he had
dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek,
and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

And David made a name for *himself* when he returned from striking the Syrians in the valley
of salt, *being* eighteen thousand *men*.

And he put garrisons in Edom;
throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all those of Edom became David's servants.
And the LORD {Jehovah} preserved David wherever he went.

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

And Joab the son of Zeruah *was* over the host
{army};
and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder;

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

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

Second Samuel Chapter 9

And David said,
Is there yet any who are left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

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,
I, your servant, am *he*.

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, Jonathan has yet a son, *who is lame on his feet*.

And the king said to him,
Where is he?
And Ziba said to the king,
He is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

Now when Mephibosheth
{dispeller of shame},
the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face, and did reverence.
And David said,
Mephibosheth.
And he answered,
See,
your servant!

And David said to him,
Do not be afraid:
because I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your father;
and you shall eat bread at my table continually.

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

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.

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.

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

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

And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name *was* Micha
{who is like Jehovah}.
And all who lived in the house of Ziba *were* servants to Mephibosheth.

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

Second Samuel Chapter 10

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

Then David said,
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 into the land of the children of Ammon.

And the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord,
Do you think that David honors your father, that he has sent comforters to you?
has David not *rather* sent his servants to you, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

Therefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their clothes in the middle, *even* to their buttocks, and sent them away.

When they told *it* to David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed:
and the king said,
Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown, and *then* return.

And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.

And when David heard of *it*, he sent Joab, and all the host
{army}
of the mighty men.

And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entrance of the gate:
and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field.

When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice *men* of Israel, and put *them* in array against the Syrians:

And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the children of Ammon.

And he said,
If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me:
but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God:
and the LORD {Jehovah} do that which seems good to Him.

And Joab drew near, and the people that *were* with him, to the battle against the Syrians:

and they fled before him.

And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, then they also fled before Abishai, and entered into the city.
So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

And when the Syrians saw that they were stricken before Israel, they gathered themselves together.

And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that *were* beyond the river:
and they came to Helam;
and Shobach the captain of the host
{army}
of Hadarezer *went* before them.

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

And the Syrians fled before Israel;
and David killed *the men of* seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and struck Shobach the captain of their host
{army},
who died there.

And when all the kings *that were* servants to Hadarezer saw that they were stricken before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them.
So the Syrians were afraid to help the children of Ammon any more.

Second Samuel Chapter 11

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 children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem.

And it came to pass one evening, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon 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.

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

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

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

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

And when Uriah had come to him, David asked *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

And David said to Uriah,
Go down to your house, and wash your feet.
And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and the king sent after him a mess *of meat*.

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.

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?

And Uriah said to David,
The ark, and Israel, and Judah, live 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 drink, and to lie with my wife?
as you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.

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

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

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

And he wrote in the letter, saying,
Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and withdraw from him, that he may be stricken, and die.

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

And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab:
and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David;
and Uriah the Hittite died also.

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

And charged the messenger, saying,
When you have made an end of telling the matters of the war to the king,

And if the king's wrath {anger; judgment} arises, and he says to you,
Why did you approach so close to the city when you fought?
did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

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 near the wall?
then you say,
Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.

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

And the messenger said to David,
Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out to us into the field, and we were upon them even to the entrance of the gate.

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

Then David said to the messenger,

This is what you shall say to Joab,
Do not let this thing displease you, because the sword devours one as well as another:
make your battle stronger against the city, and overthrow it:
and you encourage him.

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

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 {Jehovah}.

Second Samuel Chapter 12

And the LORD {Jehovah} 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.

The rich *man* had exceedingly many flocks and herds:

But the poor *man* had nothing, except 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 meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was to him as a daughter.

And there came a traveler to the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the traveling man who had come to him;
but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man who had come to him.

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:

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

And Nathan said to David,
You *are* the man.
This is what the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel says,
I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul;

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

Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD {Jehovah}, 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 children of Ammon.

Now 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.

This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says,
Indeed, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give *them* to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

Because you did *it* secretly:
but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

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

However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD {Jehovah} to blaspheme {curse the Lord}, the child also *who is* born to you shall surely die.

And Nathan departed to his house.
And the LORD {Jehovah} struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it was very sick.

David therefore pleaded with God for the child;
and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

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.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died.
And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead:
because they said,
Indeed,
while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he would not listen to our voice:
how will he then torment himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead:
therefore David asked his servants,
Is the child dead?
And they said,
He is dead.

Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes,
and came into the house of the LORD {Jehovah}, and worshiped:
then he came to his own house;
and when he required, they set bread before him, and he ate.

Then his servants said to him,
What thing *is* this that you have done?
You fasted and wept for the child, *while it was* alive;
but when the child was dead, you arose and ate bread.

And he said,
While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept:
because I said,
Who can tell *whether* GOD {Jehovah} will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

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.

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
{peaceful}:
and the LORD {Jehovah} loved him.

And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet;
and he called his
{Solomon's}
name Jedidiah
{beloved of Jehovah},
because of the LORD {Jehovah}.

And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

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

Now 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.

And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and
took it.

And he took their king's crown from off his head, its weight *was* a talent of gold
{about seventy-five point six pounds; thirty-four point three kilograms}
with the precious stones:
and it was *set* on David's head.
And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

And he brought forth the people who *were* in it, and put *them* under saws, and under sharp
cutting tools of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick kiln:
and this he did to all the cities of the children of Ammon.
So David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Second Samuel Chapter 13

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

And Amnon was so consumed with lust, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar;
because she *was* a virgin;
and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her.

But Amnon had a friend, whose name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother:
and Jonadab *was* a very subtle man.

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

And Jonadab said to him,
Lay down on your bed, and pretend to be sick:
and when your father comes to see you, say to him,
I ask you to let my sister Tamar come, and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight,
that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.

So Amnon lay down, and pretended to be sick:
and when the king had come to see him, Amnon said to the king,
I ask you, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat
at her hand.

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

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

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

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

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.

And she answered him,
No, my brother, do not force me;
because no such thing ought to be done in Israel:
do not commit this folly.

And I, where shall I cause my shame to go?
and as for you, you shall be as one of the fools in Israel.
Now therefore, I ask you, speak to the king;
because he will not withhold me from you.

However he would not listen to her voice:
but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

Then Amnon hated her exceedingly;
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,
Arise, be gone.

And she said to him,
There is no reason:
this evil in sending me away *is* greater than the other that you have done to me.
But he would not listen to her.

Then he called his servant who ministered to him, and said,
Put this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her.

And *she had* a robe of various colors upon her:
because with such robes were the king's daughters who *were* virgins clothed.
Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

And Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of various colors that *was* on her, and
laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

And Absalom her brother said to her,
Has Amnon your brother been with you?
but now hold your peace, my sister:
he *is* your brother;
do not regard this thing.
So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

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

And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad:
because Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheep shearers in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim:
and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

And Absalom came to the king, and said,
See now, your servant has sheep shearers;
I ask the king, let his servants go with your servant.

And the king said to Absalom,
No, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable to you.
And he pressed him:
however he would not go, but blessed him.

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

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

Now 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, do not be afraid:
have I not commanded you?
be courageous, and be valiant.

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

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.

Then the king arose, and tore his clothes, and lay on the earth;
and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said,
Do not let my lord suppose *that* they have killed all the young men the king's sons;
because Amnon only is dead:
because by appointment of Absalom has determined this from the day that he forced his sister
Tamar.

Now therefore do not let my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the
king's sons are dead:
because only Amnon is dead.

But Absalom fled.

And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, indeed, there came many people by the road of the hillside behind him.

And Jonadab said to the king,
See, the king's sons are coming:
as your servant said, so it is.

And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept:
and the king also and all his servants wept greatly.

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

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

And *the soul of* king David longed to go forth to Absalom:
because he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead.

Second Samuel Chapter 14

Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart *was* toward Absalom.

And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched a wise woman from there, and said to her,
I ask you, to pretend to be a mourner, and put on now mourning clothes, and do not anoint yourself with oil, but be as a woman who has for a long time mourned for the dead:

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

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

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

And your handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and *there was* no one to part them, but the one struck the other, and killed him.

And, indeed, the whole family has risen against your handmaid, and they said,
Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he killed;
and we will destroy the heir also:
and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband *neither* name nor remainder upon the earth.

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

And the woman of Tekoah said to the king,
My lord, O king, the sin *is* on me, and on my father's house:
and the king and his throne *is* guiltless.

And the king said,
Whoever says *anything* to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore.

Then she said,
I ask you, let the king remember the LORD {Jehovah} your God, that you would not allow those who want to avenge blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son.
And he said,
As the LORD {Jehovah} lives, there shall not one hair of your son fall to the earth.

Then the woman said,
Let your handmaid, I ask you, speak *one* word to my lord the king.

And he said,
Say on.

And the woman said,
Why then have you thought such a thing against the people of God?
Because the king does speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king does not fetch home again his banished.

Because we must needs die, and *are* as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again;
neither does God respect *any* person:
yet He devises means, that His banished not be expelled from Him.

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

Because the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man who *would* destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

Then your handmaid said,
The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable:
because as an angel of God, so *is* my lord the king to discern good and bad:
therefore the LORD {Jehovah} your God will be with you.

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

And the king said,
Is the hand of Joab not with you in all this?
And the woman answered and said,
As your soul lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken:
because your servant Joab, he asked me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your handmaid:

To fetch about this form of speech your servant Joab has 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.

And the king said to Joab,
Indeed now, I have done this thing:
go therefore, bring the young man Absalom back.

And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, 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.

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

And the king said,
Let him turn to his own house, but do not let him see my face.
So Absalom returned to his own house, and he did not see the king's face.

But in all Israel there was no one to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty:
from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

And when he cut his hair,
(because it was at every year's end that he cut *it*:
because *the hair* was heavy on him, therefore he cut it):
he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels {about five pounds; two point twenty-eight kilograms} after the king's weight.

And to Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name *was* Tamar:
she was a woman of beauty.

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

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

Therefore he said to his servants,
Look, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there;
go and set it on fire.
And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

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

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

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

Second Samuel Chapter 15

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

And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate:
and it was, that when any man that 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.

And Absalom said to him,
Indeed, your matters *are* good and right;
but *there is* no man *appointed* by the king to hear you.

Furthermore Absalom said,
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!

And *so* it was, that when any man came near *to him* to kneel before him, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

And in this manner Absalom acted towards all Israel who came to the king for judgment:
so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said to the king,
I ask you, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD {Jehovah}, in Hebron.

Because your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Syria, saying,
If the LORD {Jehovah} shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD {Jehovah}.

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

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

And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *who were* called;
and they went in their innocence, and they did not know anything
{that Absalom was planning}.

And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices.
And the conspiracy was strong;

because the people increased continually with Absalom.

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

And David said to all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem,
Arise, and let us flee;
because we shall not 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.

And the king's servants said to the king,
Indeed, your servants *are ready to do* whatever my lord the king shall appoint.

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

And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and waited in a place that was far off.

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

Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite,
Why do you also go with us?
return to your place, and stay with the king:
because you *are* a stranger, and also an exile.

Since you came *but* yesterday, should I this day cause you go up and down with us?
since I go where I may, return, and take back your brothers:
mercy and truth *be* with you.

And Ittai answered the king, and said,
As the LORD {Jehovah} 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.

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.

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
road of the wilderness.

And 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 completed passing out of the city.

And the king said to Zadok,

Carry the ark of God back into the city:
if I shall find favor in the eyes of the LORD {Jehovah}, He will bring me again, and show me *both* it, and His house:

But if he says, I have no delight in you;
look, *here I am*, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.

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

Indeed, I will wait in the plain of the wilderness, until there comes word from you to certify me.

Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem:
and they waited there.

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 were* with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

And *one* told David, saying,
Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom.
And David said,
O LORD {Jehovah}, I ask You, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

And it came to pass, that *when* David had come to the top *of the mount*, where he worshiped God, that Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn, and earth upon his head:

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

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 up to now, so I *will* now also *be* your servant:
then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

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

Look, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's *son*, and Jonathan Abiathar's *son*;
and by them you shall send to me everything that you can hear.

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

Second Samuel Chapter 16

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

And the king said to Ziba,
What do you mean by these?

And Ziba said,
The donkeys *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 those who are faint in the wilderness may drink.

And the king said,
And where *is* your master's son?
And Ziba said to the king, he remains at Jerusalem:
because he said,
Today the house of Israel shall restore to me the kingdom of my father.

Then the king said to Ziba,
Look, all that *belongs* to Mephibosheth *is* yours.
And Ziba said,
I humbly ask you *that* I may find grace in your sight, my lord, O king.

And when king David came to Bahurim, from there a man of the family of the house of Saul came out, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera:
he came forth, and still cursed as he came.

And he cast 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.

And this is what Shimei said when he cursed,
Come out, come out, you bloody man, and you man of Belial {wickedness}:

The LORD {Jehovah} has returned upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned;
and the LORD {Jehovah} has delivered the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom:
and, see, you *are taken* in your mischief, because you *are* a bloody man.

Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king,
Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?
I ask you to let me go over, and take off his head.

And the king said,
What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah?
so let him curse, because the LORD {Jehovah} has said to him,
Curse David.
Who shall then say,

Why have you done so?

And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants,
See, my son, who came forth of my body, seeks my life:
how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it*?
let him alone, and let him curse;
because the LORD {Jehovah} has sent him.

It may be that the LORD {Jehovah} will look on my affliction, and that the LORD {Jehovah} will repay me good for his cursing this day.

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 cast dust.

And the king, and all the people who *were* with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

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

And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom,
God save the king, God save the king.

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

And Hushai said to Absalom,
No;
but whom the LORD {Jehovah}, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his I will be, and with him I will I stay.

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 I will be in your presence.

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

And Ahithophel said to Absalom,
Go in to your father's concubines, which he has left to keep the house;
and all Israel shall hear that you are despised by your father:
then the hands of all who *are* with you shall be strong.

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.

And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counseled in those days, *was* as if a man had

inquired at the oracle of God:
so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Second Samuel Chapter 17

Furthermore Ahithophel said to Absalom,
Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

And I will come upon him while he *is* weary 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:

And I will bring back all the people to you:
the man whom you seek *is* as if all returned:
so all the people shall be in peace.

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

Then Absalom said,
Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he has to say.

And when Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying,
Ahithophel has spoken after this manner:
shall we do *according to what* his says?
if not;
you tell us.

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

Because,
Hushai said,
you know your father and his men, that they *are* mighty men, and they *are* angry in their minds, as a bear robbed of her cubs in the field:
and your father *is* a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

Surely, he is hidden now in some pit, or in some *other* place:
and it will come to pass, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say,
There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.

And also he who *is* valiant, whose heart *is* as the heart of a lion, will completely melt:
because all Israel knows that your father *is* a mighty man, and *those who are* with him *are* valiant men.

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

So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him

as the dew falls on the ground:
and of him and of all the men who *are* with him there shall not be left so much as one.

Furthermore, if he gets into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there.

And Absalom and all the men of Israel said,
The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.
Because the LORD {Jehovah} had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD {Jehovah} might bring evil upon Absalom.

Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests,
This is what Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel;
and this is what I have counseled.

Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying,
Do not lodge 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.

Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel;
so that they might not be seen to come into the city:
and a slave girl went and told them;
and they went and told king David.

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

And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn on it;
and the thing was not known.

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 have gone over the brook of water.
And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

And it came to pass, after they had 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:
because this is what Ahithophel has counseled against you.

Then David arose, and all the people who *were* with him, and they passed over the Jordan River:
by the morning light there lacked not one of them who had not gone over the Jordan River.

And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* donkey, and

arose, and went to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hung himself, and died, and was buried in the tomb of his father.

Then David came to Mahanaim.

And Absalom passed over the Jordan River, he and all the men of Israel with him.

And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army in the place of Joab:

this Amasa *was* a man's son, whose name *was* Ithra an Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruihah Joab's mother.

So Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

And it came to pass, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

Brought beds, and bowls, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and roasted *corn*, and beans, and lentiles

{peas},

and roasted grain,

And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cow cheese, for David, and for the people who *were* with him, to eat:

because they said,

The people *are* hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

Second Samuel Chapter 18

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

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 Zeruiah, 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.

But the people answered,
You shall not go forth:
because 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 protect us out of the city.

And the king said to them,
What seems best to you I will do.
And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

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

So the people went out into the field against Israel:
and the battle was in the wooded area of Ephraim;

Where the people of Israel were killed before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*.

Because the battle was scattered there over the face of all the country:
and the wooded area devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

And Absalom met the servants of David.
And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth;
and the mule that *was* under him went away.

And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said,
I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.

And Joab said to the man who told him,
And, you saw *him*, and why did you not strike him there to the ground?
and I would have given you ten *shekels* of silver {about four ounces or one hundred fourteen grams}, and a belt.

And the man said to Joab,
Though I should receive a thousand *shekels* of silver
{about twenty-five pounds; eleven point four kilograms}
in my hand, *yet* I would not put forth my hand against the king's son:
because in our hearing the king charged you and Abishai and Ittai, saying,
Beware that no one *touches* the young man Absalom.

Otherwise I should have brought falsehood against my own life:
because there is no matter hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself
against *me*.

Then Joab said,
I may not waste time with you.
And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he
was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded and struck Absalom, and killed him.

And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel:
because Joab held the people back.

And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the woods, and laid a very great heap
of stones upon him:
and all Israel fled everyone to his tent.

Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the
king's valley:
because 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 place.

Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said,
Let me now run, and bring the king news, how that the LORD {Jehovah} has avenged him of
his enemies.

And Joab said to him,
You shall not carry news today, but you shall carry news another day:
but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead.

Then Joab said to Cush, *Go*
Go tell the king what you have seen.
And Cush bowed himself to Joab, and ran.

Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said yet again to Joab,
But I ask you to now let me, also run after Cush.
And Joab said,
Why will you run, my son, since you have no news ready?

However,
he said,
let me run.
And he said to him,
Run.
Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and out ran Cush.

And David sat between the two gates:
and the watchman went up to the roof opposite the gate towards the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and a man was running alone.

And the watchman cried, and told the king.
And the king said,
If he *is* alone, *there is* news in his mouth.
And he came on, and drew near.

And the watchman saw another man running:
and the watchman called to the porter
{gate keeper},
and said,
Look *another* man is running alone.
And the king said,
He also brings news.

And the watchman said,
I believe 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.

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 is the LORD {Jehovah} your God,
Who has delivered up the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

And the king said,
Is the young man Absalom safe?
And Ahimaaz answered,
When Joab sent the king's servant, and *myself your* servant, I saw a great uproar, but I did not know what *it was*.

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

And, Cush came;
and Cush said,
News, my lord the king:

because the LORD {Jehovah} has avenged you this day of all those who rose up against you.

And the king asked Cush,

Is the young man Absalom safe?

And Cush answered,

The enemies of my lord the king, and let all who rise against you to do harm to you, be as *that* young man *is*.

And the king was greatly moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept:
and as he went, he said,

O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!

I wish to God I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Second Samuel Chapter 19

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

And the victory that day was *turned* into mourning for all the people:
because the people heard that day how the king was grieved for his son.

And the people that day quietly entered into the city, as people who are ashamed sneak away when they flee in battle.

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

And Joab came into the house to the king, and said,
Today you have shamed the faces of all your servants, who today 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;

In that you love your enemies, and hate your friends.
Because you have declared today, that you regard neither princes nor servants:
because today I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died today, then it would have pleased you well.

Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably to your servants:
because I swear by the LORD {Jehovah}, if you do not go forth, there will be no one who will stay with you tonight:
and that will be worse to you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.

Then the king arose, and sat in the gate.
And they told to all the people, saying,
Look, the king sits in the gate.
And all the people came before the king:
because Israel had fled every man to his tent.

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

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

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?
Since the speech of all Israel has come to the king, *even* to his house.

You *are* my brothers, you *are* my bones and my flesh:
why then are you the last to bring back the king?

And say to Amasa,
Are you not of my bone, and of my flesh?
God do so to me, and more also, if you are not captain of the army before me continually in
the place of Joab.

And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as *the heart of* one man;
so that they sent *this word* to the king, Return, and all your servants.

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

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

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 River before the king.

And there went over a ferry 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 River;

And said to the king,
Do not let my lord impute sin to me, neither remember that which your servant did perversely
the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

Because your servant knows that I have sinned:
therefore, today I have come as the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord
the king.

But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said,
Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's {Jehovah's} anointed?

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

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

And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his
feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the
day he came *again* in peace.

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

And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me:
because {I} your servant said,
I will saddle me a donkey, that I may ride on it, and go to the king;
because your servant *is* lame.

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

Because all *of* my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king:
yet you set your servant among those who ate at your own table.
Therefore what right do I have to cry any more to the king?

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

And Mephibosheth said to the king,
Yes, let him take all, since my lord the king has come again in peace to his own house.

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

Now Barzillai was a very old man, *even* eighty years old:
and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim;
because he *was* a very great man.

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

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

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 yet a burden to my lord the king?

Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan River with the king:
and why should the king repay me with such a reward?

I ask you,
Let your servant return again, that I may die in my own city, *and be buried* by the grave of my father and of my mother.

But see your servant Chimham;
let him go over with my lord the king;
and do to him what shall seem good to you.

And the king answered,
Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good to you:
and whatever you shall require of me, *that* I will do for you.

And all the people went over the Jordan River.
And when the king had come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him;
and he returned to his own place.

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

And, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king,
Why have our brothers then the men of Judah stolen you away, and have brought the king,
and his household, and all David's men with him, over the Jordan River?

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 for this matter?
have we eaten at all of the king's *cost*?
or has he given us any gift?

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, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king?
And the words of the men of Judah were more fierce than the words of the men of Israel.

Second Samuel Chapter 20

And there happened to be there a man of Belial
{wickedness},
whose name *was* Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite:
and he blew a trumpet, and said,
We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse:
every man to his tents, O Israel.

So every man of Israel went up from after David, *and* followed Sheba the son of Bichri:
but the men of Judah clung to their king, from the Jordan River even to Jerusalem.

And David came to his house
{palace}
at Jerusalem;
and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the house
{palace},
and put them in their own room, and fed them, but did not go in to them.
So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.

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

So Amasa went to assemble *the men of* Judah:
but he waited longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

And David said to Abishai,
Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than Absalom *did*:
take your lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he enter fenced cities, and escape us.

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

When they *were* at the great stone which *is* in Gibeon, Amasa went before them.
And Joab's clothes that he had put on was tied to him, and upon it a belt *with* a sword
fastened upon his waist in its sheath;
and as he went forth it fell out.

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

But Amasa did not notice the sword that *was* in Joab's hand:
so he struck him with it in the fifth *rib*, 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.

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

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 out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

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

And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.

And they came and besieged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench:
and all the people who *were* with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

Then a wise woman cried out of the city,
I ask you, Listen, listen, to Joab, Come near here, that I may speak with you.

And when he had come near to her, the woman said,

Are you Joab?
And he answered,
I am he.
Then she said to him,
Listen to the words of your handmaid.
And he answered,
I am listening.

Then she spoke, saying,
In old times they would speak, saying,
They shall surely ask *counsel* at Abel:
and so they ended *the matter*.

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 {Jehovah}?

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

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, *even* against David:
only deliver him, and I will depart from the city.
And the woman said to Joab,
Look, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.

Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom.
And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast *it* out to Joab.
And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent.
And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

Now Joab *was* over all the host
{army}
of Israel:
and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:

And Adoram *was* over the tribute:
and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder:

And Sheva *was* scribe:
and Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests:

And Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler close to David.

Second Samuel Chapter 21

Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year;
and David inquired of the LORD {Jehovah}.

And the LORD {Jehovah} answered,

It is because of Saul, and because his bloody house, because he killed the Gibeonites.

And the king called the Gibeonites, and said to them;

(now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites;
and the children of Israel had sworn to them:

but Saul sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.)

Therefore David said to the Gibeonites,

What shall I do for you?

and with what shall I make the atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD {Jehovah}?

And the Gibeonites said to him,

We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house;
neither for us shall you kill any man in Israel.

And he said,

Whatever you shall say, *that* I will do for you.

And they answered the king,

The man who consumed us, and who devised against us *that* we should be destroyed from
remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,

Let seven men of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them up to the LORD {Jehovah} in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD {Jehovah} chose.

And the king said,

I will give *them*.

But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's {Jehovah's} oath that *was* between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

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 Barzillai the Meholathite:

And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hung them in the hill before the LORD {Jehovah}:

and *all* seven fell together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest

{Nisan [March/April]}.

And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the

beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and did not allow either the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

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

And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, who had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hung them, when the Philistines had killed Saul in Gilboa:

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

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

Furthermore the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David grew faint.

And Ishbibenob, who *was* of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear *weighed* three hundred *shekels* of brass in weight {about seven point four pounds; three point three kilograms}, he having strapped on a new *sword*, thought to have killed David.

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

And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who *was* of the sons of the giant.

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

And there was yet a 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 number; and he also was born to the giant.

And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David killed him.

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

Second Samuel Chapter 22

And David spoke to the LORD {Jehovah} the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD {Jehovah} had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

And he said,
The LORD {Jehovah} is my rock, and my
fortress, and my deliverer;

The God of my rock;
in Him I will trust:
He is my shield, and the King of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge,
my Savior;
You save me from violence.

I will call on the LORD {Jehovah}, *Who* is worthy to be praised:
so I shall be saved from my enemies.

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

The sorrows of hell encircled me all around;
the snares of death came upon me;

In my distress I called upon the LORD {Jehovah}, and cried to my God:
and He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry *entered* into His ears.

Then the earth shook and trembled;
the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because He was angry.

There went up a smoke out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured:
coals were kindled by it.

He bowed the heavens also, and came down;
and darkness *was* under His feet.

And He rode upon a cherub, and flew:
and He was seen upon the wings of the wind.

And He made darkness pavilions all around Him, dark waters, *and* thick clouds of the
skies.

Through the brightness before Him were coals of fire kindled.

The LORD {Jehovah} thundered from heaven, and the most High spoke.

And He sent out arrows, and scattered them;
lightning, and destroyed them.

And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were revealed, at the rebuking of the LORD {Jehovah}, at the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

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

He delivered me from my strong enemy, *and* from those who hated me:
because they were too strong for me.

They confronted me in the day of my calamity:
but the LORD {Jehovah} was my stay.

He brought me forth also into a large place:
He delivered me, because He delighted in me.

The LORD {Jehovah} rewarded me according to my righteousness:
according to the cleanness of my hands He has repaid me.

Because I have kept the ways of the LORD {Jehovah}, and have not wickedly
departed from my God.

Because all His judgments *were* before me:
and *as for* His laws, I did not depart from them.

I was also upright before Him, and have kept myself from my sin.

Therefore the LORD {Jehovah} has repaid me according to my righteousness;
according to my cleanness in His eye sight.

With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful, *and* with the upright
man You will show Yourself upright.

With the pure You will show Yourself pure;
and with the perverse You will show Yourself distasteful.

And the afflicted people You will save:
but Your eyes *are* upon the proud, *that* You may bring *them* down.

Because You *are* my lamp, O LORD {Jehovah}:
and the LORD {Jehovah} will lighten my darkness.

Because by You I have run through a troop:
by my God I have leaped over a wall.

As for God, His way *is* perfect;
the word of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* tried:
He *is* a shield to all those who trust in Him.

Because who *is* God, except the LORD {Jehovah}?

and who *is* a rock, except our God?

God *is* my strength *and* power:
and He makes my way perfect.

He makes my feet like *feet of a deer*:
and sets me upon my high places.

He teaches my hands to war;
so that a bow of steel is broken by my arms.

You have also given to me the shield of Your salvation:
and Your gentleness has made me great.

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

I have pursued my enemies, and destroyed them;
and I did not return until I had consumed them.

And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise:
yes, they have fallen under my feet.

Because You have clothed me with strength for battle:
those who rose up against me You have subdued under me.

You have also given me the necks of my enemies, that I might destroy those who
hate me.

They looked, but *there was* no one to save {them};
even to the LORD {Jehovah}, but He did not answer them.

Then I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I stamped them as the mire {mud}
of the street, *and* scattered them abroad.

You also have delivered me from the strife of my people, You have kept me *to*
be head of the nations: a people *whom* I did not know shall serve me.

Strangers shall submit themselves to me:
as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient to me.

Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

The LORD {Jehovah} lives;
and blessed *is* my Rock;
and exalted *is* the God of the Rock of my salvation.

It *is* God Who avenges me, and Who brings down the people under me,

And Who brings me forth from my enemies:
You also have lifted me up on high above those who rose up against me:
You have delivered me from the violent man.

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD {Jehovah}, among the nations, and
I will sing praises to Your Name.

He is the tower of salvation for His king:
and shows mercy to His anointed, to David, and to his descendants forever.

Second Samuel Chapter 23

Now 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 psalmist of Israel, said,

The Spirit of the LORD {Jehovah} spoke by me, and His word *was* in my tongue.

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

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

Although my house *is* not so with God;
yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure:
because *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although He does not make *it* grow.

But *the sons* of Belial
{wickedness}, all of them, *shall be* as thorns thrown away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

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

These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had:
The Tachmonite who sat in the seat, chief among the captains;
the same *was* Adino the Eznite:
he lifted up his spear against eight hundred, whom he killed at one time.

And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines *who* were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel had gone away:

He arose, and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword:
and the LORD {Jehovah} brought a great victory that day;
and the people returned after him only to spoil.

And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite.
And the Philistines were gathered together into an army, where there was a piece of ground full of lentiles
{like peas}:
and the people fled from the Philistines.

But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and killed the Philistines:
and the LORD {Jehovah} brought a great victory.

And three of the thirty chiefs went down, and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam:
and the troop of the Philistines camped in the valley of Rephaim.

And David *was* then in a stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem.

And David longed, and said,
Oh that one would give me a drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!

And the three mighty men broke through the host {army} of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, 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.

And he said,
Far be it from me, O LORD {Jehovah}, that I should do this:
is not this the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?
therefore he would not drink it.
These things these three mighty men did.

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

Was he not most honorable of three?
therefore he was their captain:
however he did not attain to the *first* three.

And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he killed two lion like men of Moab:
he went down also and killed a lion in the midst of a pit in the time of snow:

And he killed an Egyptian, a handsome man:
and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand;
but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

These *things* Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had the name among three mighty men.

He was more honorable than the thirty, but he did not attain to the *first* three.
And David set him over his guard.

Asahel the brother of Joab *was* one of the thirty;
Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

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

Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

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

Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

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

Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruijah,

Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,

Uriah the Hittite:
thirty-seven in all.

Second Samuel Chapter 24

And again the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was kindled against Israel, and He moved David against them to say,
Go, number Israel and Judah.

Because the king said to Joab the captain of the army, who *was* with him,
Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number the people,
that I may know the number of the people.

And Joab said to the king,
May the LORD {Jehovah} your God now add to the people, however so many they are, one
hundred fold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see *it*:
but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?

Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the army.
And Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king, to number the
people of Israel.

And they passed over the Jordan River, and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the city that
lies in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer:

Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi;
and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon,

And came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites:
and they went out to the south of Judah, *even* to Beersheba.

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

And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people to the king:
and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword;
and the men of Judah *were* five hundred thousand men.

And David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people.
And David said to the LORD {Jehovah}, I have sinned greatly in what I have done:
I beg You, O LORD {Jehovah}, take away the sin of Your servant;
because I have done very foolishly.

Because when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD {Jehovah} came to the
prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

Go and say to David,
This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says,
I offer you three choices;
choose one of them, that I may *do it* to you.

So Gad came to David, and told him, and said to 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 that there be three days' pestilence in your land?
now advise, and see what answer I shall return to Him Who sent me.

And David said to Gad,
I am in a great strait:
let us fall now into the hand of the LORD {Jehovah};
because His mercies *are* great:
and do not let me fall into the hand of man.

So the LORD {Jehovah} sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed:
and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD {Jehovah} 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 {Jehovah} was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite.

And David spoke to the LORD {Jehovah} when he saw the angel who struck the people, and said,
Look, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly:
but these sheep, what have they done?
I ask You, let Your hand, be against me, and against my father's house.

And Gad came that day to David, and said to him,
Go up, build an altar to the LORD {Jehovah} in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD {Jehovah} commanded.

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

And Araunah said,
Why has my lord the king come to his servant?
And David said,
To buy your threshing floor, to build an altar to the LORD {Jehovah}, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

And Araunah said to David,
Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seems* good to him:
see, *here are* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and *other* instruments of the oxen for wood.

All these *things* Araunah did, *as a king*, give to the king.
And Araunah said to the king,

May the LORD {Jehovah} your God accept you.

And the king said to Araunah,

No;

but I will surely buy *it* from you at a price:

neither will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD {Jehovah} my God of that which costs me nothing.

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver {about twenty ounces; five hundred seventy grams}.

And David built there an altar to the LORD {Jehovah}, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

So the LORD {Jehovah} was called upon for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.