**The Book of 2 Samuel**

**2 Samuel Chapter 1**

David Hears of Saul’s Death

1It was after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, David stayed in Ziklag for two days. 2And on the third day, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David he fell to the ground and paid homage. 3And David said to him, “Where have you come from?”

He said to him, “I have escaped out of the camp of Israel.”

4Then David said to him, “How did things go? Now tell me!”

And he answered, “The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people fell and are dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.”

5David said to the young man who told him, “How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?”

6The young man, the one telling him, said, “I happened, yes, happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear; and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were closing in on him. 7When he turned around, he saw me and called to me, and I answered, ‘Here I am.’ 8And he said to me, ‘Who are you?’ And I said to him, ‘I am an Amalekite.’ 9Then he said to me, ‘Please stand beside me and kill me, for dizziness has seized me though my life is still in me.’ 10So I stood beside him and killed him because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. Then I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.”

11Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and likewise did all the men who were with him. 12And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of Yahweh and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13And David said to the young man who told him, “Where are you from?”

He answered, “I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite.”

14Then David said to him, “How were you not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy Yahweh’s anointed?” 15And David called one of the young men and said, “Go near *and* attack him!” And he struck him so that he died. 16And David said to him, “Your blood be on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, ‘I have killed Yahweh’s anointed.’”

David’s Lament for Saul and Jonathan

17And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son 18and he commanded to teach the sons of Judah *the song of* the bow, behold, it is written in the book of Jashar:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 19 | “Your splendor, O Israel, is slain on your heights!  How the mighty have fallen! |
| 20 | Do not tell it in Gath.  Do not proclaim it on the streets of Ashkelon,  lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,  lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult. |
| 21 | O mountains of Gilboa,  let there be no dew nor rain on you, nor fields of offerings;  For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,  the shield of Saul, no longer anointed with oil. |
| 22 | From the blood of the slain,  from the fat of the mighty,  Jonathan’s bow did not turn back.  Saul’s sword did not return empty. |
| 23 | Saul and Jonathan—those beloved and delightful—  in their lives and in their death they were not parted.  They were swifter than eagles;  they were stronger than lions. |
| 24 | O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,  who clothed you in scarlet *and* with other luxuries,  who put ornaments of gold on your clothing. |
| 25 | How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!  Jonathan, slain on your heights! |
| 26 | I am distraught over you, my brother Jonathan.  You have been very delightful to me.  Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women. |
| 27 | How the mighty have fallen,  and the weapons of war perished!” |

**2 Samuel Chapter 2**

David Anointed King Over Judah

1It was after this that David inquired of Yahweh, saying, “Should I go up into one of the cities of Judah?”

And Yahweh said to him, “Go up!”

And David said, “Where should I go up?”

And he said, “To Hebron.”

2So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 3And David brought up his men who were with him, each man with his household, and they lived in the cities of Hebron. 4And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the House of Judah. And they told David, saying, “It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul.”

5So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, “Blessed are you of Yahweh, in that you have shown covenant faithfulness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him. 6Now may Yahweh show covenant faithfulness and truth to you. And I also will do good to you, because you have done this thing. 7So now let your hands be strong and be valiant, for your lord Saul is dead, and also the House of Judah has anointed me king over them.”

Ishbosheth Made King of Israel

8But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul’s army, had taken Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over *the Jordan* to Mahanaim 9and made him king over Gilead, and over the Asshurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, was 40 years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the House of Judah followed David. 11And the length of time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

The Battle of Gibeon

12Now Abner the son of Ner and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon, and they sat down, these by the pool on this side, and those by the pool on the other side.

14And Abner said to Joab, “Let the young men arise and play before us!”

And Joab said, “Let them arise!”

15Then they arose and went over by number: 12 for Benjamin and for Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and 12 of the servants of David. 16And each one of them seized his opponent by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his opponent’s side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim; it is in Gibeon.

17And the battle was very fierce that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were defeated before the servants of David. 18Now the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab and Abishai and Asahel, and Asahel was as swift of foot as one of the gazelles in the field. 19And Asahel pursued after Abner, and as he went he did not turn to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. 20Then Abner turned around and said, “Is that you, Asahel?”

And he answered, “*It is* I.”

21And Abner said to him, “Turn aside to your right hand or to your left and seize one of the young men and take his spoil for yourself!” But Asahel would not turn aside from going after him. 22And Abner said again to Asahel, “Turn aside from going after me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?”

23But he refused to turn aside. So Abner struck him in the belly with the back end of the spear so that the spear came out behind him. And he fell down there and died where he was. And it came to pass that as many as came to the place where Asahel had fallen down and died, stood still. 24But Joab and Abishai pursued after Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah that lies before Giah on the road to the wilderness of Gibeon.

25And the sons of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one band, and they stood on the top of a hill. 26Then Abner called to Joab and said, “Must the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitterness? How long will it be then, before you tell the people to turn back from pursuing their brothers?”

27Then Joab said, “As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning.” 28So Joab blew the shofar and all the people stood still and no longer pursued after Israel and no longer continued the battle. 29And Abner and his men went through the Arabah all that night, and they crossed over the Jordan *River* and walked all morning and came to Mahanaim.

30And Joab returned from going after Abner. And when he had gathered all the people, there were missing from David’s servants 19 men and Asahel. 31But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin, of Abner’s men, 360 men who died. 32And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was in Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men went all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.

**2 Samuel Chapter 3**

Civil War

1And the war between the house of Saul and the house of David was long-lasting, and David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew steadily weaker.

2Now sons were born to David in Hebron:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | his firstborn was Amnon,  of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; |
| 3 | 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; |
| 4 | and the fourth, Adonijah,  the son of Haggith;  and the fifth, Shephatiah,  the son of Abital; |
| 5 | and the sixth, Ithream,  of Eglah, David’s wife. |

These were born to David in Hebron.

Abner Goes Over to David

6During the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. 7Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and Ish-bosheth said to Abner, “Why did you go into my father’s concubine?”

8Then Abner became very angry because of the words of Ish-bosheth, and he said, “Am I a dog’s head that belongs to Judah? Today I show loyalty to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David; and yet you charge me this day with a fault concerning this woman! 9May God do so to Abner, and more also—for as Yahweh has promised to David, so I will do for him, 10to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beer-sheba.” 11And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he was afraid of him.

12And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, “Whose is the land?” Also saying, “Cut a covenant with me, and behold, my hand will be with you to bring all Israel around to you!”

13And he said, “Good, I will cut a covenant with you. But *there is* one thing I require of you, which is, you will not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul’s daughter, when you come to see my face.”

14Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, saying, “Give me my wife Michal, to whom I betrothed to myself for 100 foreskins of the Philistines.”

15So Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish. 16But her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, “Go! Return!” And he returned.

17Now Abner conferred with the elders of Israel,[[1]](#footnote-22317) saying, “Even yesterday, even before, you were seeking for David to be king over you. 18Now then do it. For Yahweh has spoken concerning 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.’”

19And Abner also spoke in the ears of Benjamin. Then Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that was good in the eyes of Israel and in the eyes of the whole house of Benjamin. 20So Abner came to David to Hebron, and 20 men were with him. David made a banquet for Abner and the men who were with him.

21And Abner said to David, “I will now arise and go, and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, and they will cut a covenant with you and you will reign over all that your soul desires.” So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

Joab Murders Abner

22Just then the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought in a large amount of plundered goods with them. But Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. 23When Joab and all the army who was with him had come, it was told to Joab, saying, “Abner the son of Ner came to the king, but he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace.”

24Then Joab came to the king and said, “What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away and he is gone, yes, gone? 25You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in and to know all that you are doing.”

26When Joab came out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern at Sirah, but David did not know *it*. 27And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the inner part of the gate to speak with him privately, and struck him there in the abdomen, and he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother.

28And afterward when David heard it, he said, “I and my kingdom are guiltless before Yahweh forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner. 29May it fall on the head of Joab and on all his father’s house! Let the house of Joab never be without one who has a *bodily* discharge, or who is a leper, or who holds a spindle, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread.” 30So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

David Mourns Abner

31And David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, “Tear your clothes and clothe yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn in front of Abner.” And King David walked behind the bier.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 33 | The king lamented for Abner and said,  “Should Abner have died as a godless fool dies? |
| 34 | Your hands were not bound,  and your feet were not put into fetters.  As a man falls before sons of iniquity, so you fell.” |

And all the people continued to weep over him.

35Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was still day, but David swore, saying, “God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down.” 36And all the people took notice of it and it was good in their eyes, just as all the king did was good in the eyes of all the people. 37So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been *the will* of the king to kill Abner the son of Ner.

38And the king said to his servants, “Do you not know that a leader and a great *man* has fallen this day in Israel? 39And today I am weak, though anointed king, and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too hard for me. May Yahweh repay the evildoer according to his wickedness.”

**2 Samuel Chapter 4**

Ishbosheth Murdered

1When Saul’s son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands became feeble and all Israel was troubled. 2Saul’s son had two men who were commanders of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the children of Benjamin, for Beeroth is also reckoned to Benjamin, 3even though the *original* Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been resident aliens there until this day.

4(Now Jonathan, Saul’s son, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news came from Jezreel about Saul and Jonathan, and his nurse lifted him up and fled. But it happened that as she hurried to flee that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth).

5Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day arrived at the house of Ish-bosheth as he took his rest at noon. 6And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat and they struck him in the belly. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7Now they had come into the house while he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, and they struck him and killed him and beheaded him and took his head and traveled on the Arabah road all night. 8And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, “Look! The head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life! Yahweh has granted vengeance to my lord the king this day against Saul and against his seed.”

9And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, “As Yahweh lives who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, 10when someone told me, ‘Behold, Saul is dead,’ and in his own eyes he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag. That was the ‘good news’ I gave to him. 11How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed. So now should I not require his blood of your hand and purge you from the land?”

12So David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and their feet and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.

**2 Samuel Chapter 5**

David Becomes King Over Israel

1Then all the tribes of Israel came to David to Hebron and spoke, saying, “Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. Yahweh said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel and you will be ruler over Israel.’”

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

4David was 30 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 40 years. 5In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah.

David Conquers Jerusalem

6And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, “You will not come in here! Even the blind and the lame could turn you away,” saying, “David will not *be able to* come in here.”

7Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, which is the City of David. 8And David said on that day, “Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach the lame and the blind, who are hated by David’s soul, through the water shaft.” Therefore they say, “The blind and the lame will not come into the house.”

9David lived in the stronghold and called it the City of David. And David built up all around from the supporting terrace even to the house. 10And David grew greater and greater, for Yahweh, the God of Armies, was with him. 11And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees and carpenters and masons, and they built David a house. 12And David knew that Yahweh had established him as king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

13And David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem after he had come from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14These are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, 15and Ibhar, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, 16and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphelet.

David Defeats the Philistines

17When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. 18Now the Philistines had come and spread themselves out in the Valley of Rephaim.

19So David inquired of Yahweh, saying, “Should I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?”

And Yahweh said to David, “Go up, for I will give, yes, give the Philistines into your hand.”

20So David came to Baal-perazim, and David struck them there, and he said, “Yahweh has broken out against my enemies before me like the breaking out of water.” So he called the name of that place Baal-perazim. 21And they abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

22And the Philistines came up again and spread themselves out in the Valley of Rephaim. 23And when David inquired of Yahweh, he said, “Do not go *directly* up. Circle around behind them and come against them in front of the balsam trees. 24And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go quickly, for then Yahweh has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.”

25And David did so, just as Yahweh commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba all the way to Gezer.

**2 Samuel Chapter 6**

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

1David again gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, 30,000. 2And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God that is called by the Name, the name of Yahweh of Armies who sits *enthroned* *between* the cherubim. 3They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart, 4and they brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was on the hill with the ark of God *on it*, and Ahio went before the ark. 5Now David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before Yahweh with many branches of fir trees, and with harps and lyres and with tambourines and with sistrums and with cymbals.

Uzzah and the Ark

6And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached for the ark of God and took hold of it because the oxen let *it* slip. 7Then the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his error, and he died there by the ark of God. 8And David became angry because Yahweh had broken out, a breaking out against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9And David was afraid of Yahweh that day and he said, “How can the ark of Yahweh come to me?” 10So David did not take the ark of Yahweh with him into the city of David, but David carried it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11And the ark of Yahweh stayed at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, and Yahweh blessed Obed-edom and all his house.

12And it was told to King David, saying, “Yahweh has blessed the house of Obed-edom and everything he has because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with rejoicing. 13And so it was that when those who carried the ark of Yahweh had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened calf. 14And David danced before Yahweh with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. 15When David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of Yahweh with shouting and with the sound of the shofar,

David and Michal

16and as the ark of Yahweh was coming into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out from the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before Yahweh, and she despised him in her heart.

17They brought the ark of Yahweh and set it in its place in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it, and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before Yahweh. 18When David had made an end of offering the burnt offering and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of Yahweh of Armies. 19And he distributed to all the people, to the whole multitude of Israel, to both men and women, one loaf of bread, one portion of dates, and one portion of raisins. So all the people departed, each one to his house.

20Then David returned to bless his household, but Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How honorable was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today before the eyes of the slave girls of his servants like one of the rabble shamelessly uncovers himself!”

21And David said to Michal, “It was before Yahweh, who chose me over your father and over all his house to appoint me ruler over the people of Yahweh, over Israel. So I will celebrate before Yahweh. 22And I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be lowly in my own sight. And with the slave girls of whom you have spoken, with them I will be honored.” 23And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

**2 Samuel Chapter 7**

Yahweh’s Covenant with David

1Now when the king sat in his house and Yahweh had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I live in a house of cedar, but the ark of God sits inside curtains.”

3Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for Yahweh is with you.”

4But that same night the word of Yahweh came to Nathan, saying, 5“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “Will you build me a house for me to dwell in? 6For I have not lived in a house since the day that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt to this day, but have been moving around in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7In all places in which I have walked about with all the children of Israel, did I *ever* speak a word to any of the tribe leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

8“So now you are to tell my servant David: ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies says: I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. 9I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make you a great name like the name of the great ones who are on the earth. 10I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, and they will live in their own place and not be disturbed any more, nor will the sons of wickedness afflict them any more, as at the beginning, 11from the day that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.’

“Moreover, Yahweh tells you that Yahweh will make you a house. 12‘When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you who will proceed out of your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14I will be his father and he will be my son, whom, if he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men and with blows *from* the sons of men, 15but my covenant faithfulness will not depart from him as *when* I took it from Saul whom I removed from before you. 16Your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before me.[[2]](#footnote-31231) Your throne will be established forever.’”

17In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with this whole vision, so did Nathan speak to David.

David’s Prayer of Thanksgiving

18Then David the king went and sat in the presence of Yahweh. And he said, “Who am I, O Lord Yahweh, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far? 19This was yet a small thing in your eyes, Lord Yahweh, but you have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come. And this is instruction for all humankind, O Lord Yahweh! 20And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord Yahweh. 21For the sake of your word and in accord with your own heart, you have worked all this greatness to make it known to your servant.

22“Therefore you are great, O Yahweh God. For there is none like you, nor is there any God other than you, just as we have always heard with our ears. 23And who is like your people, like Israel, one nation on the earth whom God went forth to redeem for himself as a people and to make himself a name, and to do great things for you and awesome things for your land, *driving out* the nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself out of Egypt? 24You established for yourself your people Israel to be a people to you forever, and you, O Yahweh, became their God.

25“Now, O Yahweh God, the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as you have spoken. 26Let your name be magnified forever, *by the* saying, ‘Yahweh of Armies is God over Israel, and the house of your servant David will be established before you.’ 27For you, O Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, have revealed to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’[[3]](#footnote-16642) Therefore your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to you. 28Now, O Lord Yahweh, you are God, and your words are truth, and you have promised these good things to your servant. 29So now let it please you to bless the house of your servant so that it will continue forever before you, for you, Lord Yahweh, have spoken it. Let the house of your servant be blessed forever with your blessing.”

**2 Samuel Chapter 8**

David’s Victories

1It was after this that David struck down the Philistines and subdued them, and David took the bridle of the mother-city out of the hand of the Philistines. 2He struck down Moab and measured them with a rope, making them lie down on the ground, and he measured two rope-lengths to put to death, and one full rope-length to keep alive. The Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

3Then David struck down Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he was going to restore his control along the *Euphrates* River. 4David took from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 footmen, and David hamstrung all the chariot horses but reserved *enough* of them for 100 chariots.

5When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down of Syria 22,000 men. 6Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And Yahweh saved David wherever he went.

7And David took the shields of gold that were upon the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. 8And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a very large amount of bronze.

9When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had struck down the whole army of Hadadezer, 10then Toi sent Joram his son to king David, to greet him and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and struck him down, for Hadadezer had *fought* wars with Toi. Joram brought with him items of silver and items of gold and items of bronze; 11King David also dedicated these to Yahweh with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations that he subdued; 12from Edom[[4]](#footnote-15772) and from Moab and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines and from Amalek and from the spoil of Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13David made a name *for himself* when he returned from striking down the Edomites in the Valley of Salt, even 18,000 men. 14He put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And Yahweh saved David wherever he went.

David’s Officials

15David reigned over all Israel, and David executed justice and righteousness to all his people.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 16 | Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army  and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, |
| 17 | and Zadok the son of Ahitub  and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests,  and Seraiah was scribe |
| 18 | and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada  was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites,  and David’s sons were head administrators. |

**2 Samuel Chapter 9**

David's Kindness to Mephibosheth

1And David said, “Is there anyone who is still left from the house of Saul, that I may show him covenant loyalty for Jonathan’s sake?” 2Now there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?”

And he said, “*I am* your servant.”

3Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the covenant loyalty of God to him?”

Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both his feet.”

4And the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Behold, he is in Lo-debar, in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel.” 5Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

6Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth.”

He answered, “Behold, *I am* your servant!”

7And David said to him, “Do not be afraid, for I will show, yes, show covenant loyalty to you for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you will eat bread at my table continually.”

8He bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should look on such a dead dog as I am?”

9Then the king called to Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your lord’s son. 10You are to till the land for him, you and your sons and your servants; and you are to bring in the harvest so that your lord’s son will have bread to eat, but Mephibosheth, your lord’s son, is to always eat bread at my table.” Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.

11Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do.”

So Mephibosheth ate at the king’s table[[5]](#footnote-28448) like one of the king’s sons. 12Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. All that lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. 13So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king’s table continually. And he was lame in both his feet.

**2 Samuel Chapter 10**

David Defeats the Ammonites

1Now it happened after this that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. 2Then David said, “I will show covenant loyalty to Hanun the son of Nahash just as his father showed covenant loyalty to me.”

So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. So David’s servants came into the land of the children of Ammon. 3But the officials of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, “Do you think that David is honoring your father in that he has sent comforters to you? Hasn’t David sent his servants to you to search the city, and to spy it out and to overthrow it?” 4So Hanun took David’s servants and shaved off half of their beards and cut off their clothes in the middle, *up* to their buttocks, and sent them away.

5When they told it to David, he sent *messengers* to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. The king said, “Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return.”

6When the children of Ammon saw that they had become a stench to David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 footmen, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob 12,000 men.

7And when David heard about it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. 8The children of Ammon came out and set up in battle formation at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country. 9Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him *both* in front and in the rear, he chose some of all the best men of Israel and set them in *battle* formation against the Syrians. 10The rest of the people he put into the hand of Abishai his brother, and he set them in *battle* formation against the children of Ammon.

11And he said, “If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you will save me, but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and save you. 12Be strong, and let’s be strong for our people and for the cities of our God, and Yahweh will do what is good in his eyes.”

13So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 14And when the sons of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, they fled before Abishai and entered into the city. Then Joab returned from the children of Ammon and came to Jerusalem.

15When the Syrians saw that they were defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. 16And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the river, and they came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer leading them.

17And when it was told to David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed over the Jordan and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in *battle* formation against David and fought with him. 18And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians 700 charioteers and 40,000 horsemen and struck down Shobach the commander of their army so that he died there. 19When all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated before Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to *try to* save the children of Ammon any more.

**2 Samuel Chapter 11**

David and Bathsheba

1And in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel, and they laid waste the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah, but David stayed at Jerusalem.

2One evening David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. 3So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

4Then David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him and he lay with her (now she had just purified herself from her uncleanness), and she returned to her house. 5And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David and said, “I am with child.”

6So David sent to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7When Uriah had come to him, David asked him how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. 8Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” Uriah departed out of the king’s house and a portion *of food* from the king was sent out after him. 9But Uriah lay at the entrance of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house.

10When they had told David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Haven’t you come from a journey? Why didn’t you go down to your house?”

11Then Uriah said to David, “The ark, Israel and Judah are staying in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open field. How can 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!”

12David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will send you *off*.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. And the next day, 13when David had called him, he ate and drank in his presence, and he made him drunk. He went out in the evening to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but did not go down to his house.

Uriah’s Death Arranged

14In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15And He wrote in the letter, saying,

“Put Uriah in front of the fiercest point of the battle and pull back from him, so that he will be struck down and die.”

16So as Joab kept watch over the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew that valiant men were. 17The men of the city went out and fought with Joab. Some of the people fell, some of the servants of David, and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18Then Joab sent and told David all the things about the battle. 19And he commanded the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling all the things about the battle to the king, 20if the king’s wrath arises and he asks you, ‘Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Didn’t a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?’ Then you are to say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”

22So the messenger went, and he came and told David all that Joab had sent him *to say*. 23The messenger said to David, “The men gained an advantage over us, and they came out against us in the field, but we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. 24But the shooters shot at your servants from off the wall, and some of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

25Then David said to the messenger, “Say this to Joab, ‘Do not let this thing be evil in your eyes, for the sword devours one as well as another. Make your battle stronger against the city and overthrow it.’ So you *are to* encourage him.”

26When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27When the *time of* mourning was past, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

**2 Samuel Chapter 12**

Nathan Rebukes David

1And Yahweh sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him,

“There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his meager food, drank from his cup and lay in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him. 4Now a traveler came to the rich man, and he refused to take from his flock and from his herd to prepare for the guest that had come to him, but took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

5Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As Yahweh lives, the man who has done this deserves to die! 6He must restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity!”

7Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘I myself anointed you king over Israel, and I myself delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8I gave you your lord’s house and your lord’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that would have been too little, I would have added to you many more such things. 9Why have you shown contempt for the word of Yahweh to do what is evil in my eyes? You have struck down 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. 10So now the sword will not depart from your house for years to come, because you have shown contempt for me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

11“This is what Yahweh says: ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives from before your eyes and give them to another, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’”

13Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against Yahweh.”

Nathan said to David, “Yahweh also has transferred your sin. You will not die. 14However, because by this deed you have shown contempt, yes, contempt for Yahweh, the child also who is born to you will die, yes, die.” 15Then Nathan departed to his house.

David's Child Dies

Yahweh struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and it was very sick. 16So David sought God on behalf of the child, and David fasted and would go in and lay all night on the ground. 17The elders of his house stood up around him to raise him up from the ground but he was unwilling, nor did he receive nourishment along with them.

18It came to pass on the seventh day that the child died. The servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How can we tell him the child is dead? He might do some harm!

19But when David saw that his servants were whispering, David understood that the child was dead, and David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?”

They said, “He is dead.”

20Then David arose from the ground and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothing, and he came into the house of Yahweh and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set bread before him and he ate.

21Then his servants said to him, “What is this that you have done? For the sake of the living child, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat bread.”

22He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows? Yahweh may be gracious to me and the child will live.’ 23But now he is dead. Why should I then fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

The Birth of Solomon

24And David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went to her and lay with her. And she bore a son and he called his name Solomon. And Yahweh loved him, 25and he sent *a message* by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah, for Yahweh’s sake.

The City of Rabbah Is Captured

26Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon and captured the royal city. 27And Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have fought against Rabbah, also I have captured the city of waters. 28So now gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and capture it, lest I capture the city and my name be called over it.” 29So David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah and fought against it and captured it. 30He took the crown of their king from off his head, and its weight was a talent of gold and *on it was* a precious stone, and it was set on David’s head. And he brought a great amount of spoil out of the city. 31He brought out the people who were in it and set them *to work* with saws and with iron picks and with axes of iron, and made them toil at the brick kiln, and he did this to all the cities of the children of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

**2 Samuel Chapter 13**

Amnon and Tamar

1It was after this Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David fell in love with her. 2Amnon was so tormented that he made himself sick because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin and in the eyes of Amnon it seemed impossible to do anything to her. 3But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah,[[6]](#footnote-10913) David’s brother, and Jonadab was a very shrewd man. 4He said to him, “O son of the king, why are you so depressed morning after morning? Will you not tell me?”

And Amnon said to him, “I love Tamar, my brother Absalom’s sister.”

5Jonadab said to him, “Lay down on your bed and pretend to be sick. When your father comes to see you, tell him, ‘Please let my sister Tamar come and nourish me with bread to eat and prepare the nourishing food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.’”

6So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, “Please let my sister Tamar come and make me a couple of heartcakes in my sight, that I may be nourished from her hand.”

7Then David sent *a message* home to Tamar, saying, “Please go to your brother Amnon’s house and prepare nourishing food for him.”

8So Tamar went to her brother Amnon’s house; and he was lying down. She took dough and kneaded it and made heartcakes in his sight, and cooked the heartcakes. 9She took the pan and set it out before him, but he refused to eat. Amnon said, “Have everyone leave me.” So everyone went out from him. 10And Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the nourishing food into the inner room, so that I may eat from your hand.” So Tamar took the cakes that she had made and brought them into the inner room to Amnon her brother. 11But when she had brought them close to him to eat, he grabbed her and said to her, “Come! Lie with me, my sister!”

12But she answered him, “No, my brother! Do not humiliate me! For such a thing should never be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! 13And I, where would I carry my shame? And as for you, you will be as one of the *godless* fools in Israel. So now, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.” 14But he would not listen to her voice, and being stronger than she, he humiliated her and lay with her.

15Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. Amnon said to her, “Get up! Go!”

16But she said to him, “*No*. Because this wrong…*is* more than the other that you did to me…sending me away!”

But he would not listen to her. 17Then he called his young man who served him and said, “Send this one outside, away from me, and bolt the door after her.” 18So his servant took her out and bolted the door after her. Now she was wearing an ornamented tunic, for with such cloaks the king’s daughters who were virgins were dressed. 19And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamental tunic that she had on. And she put her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

20And Absalom her brother said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? For now, my sister, be quiet. He is your brother. Do not take this thing to heart.” So Tamar stayed—but desolate—in her brother Absalom’s house.

21Now when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. 22And Absalom would not speak to Amnon either good or bad, for Absalom hated Amnon because he had humiliated his sister Tamar.

Absalom Murders Amnon

23Then after two full years, Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is in Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king’s sons. 24And Absalom came to the king and said, “Behold now, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant.”

25The king said to Absalom, “No, my son, let’s not all go lest we be burdensome to you.” He pressed him,[[7]](#footnote-20018) but he would not go, but blessed him.

26Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us.”

And the king said to him, “Why should he go with you?” 27But Absalom pressed him, and he let Amnon and all the king’s sons go with him. So Absalom made a banquet like a king’s banquet.[[8]](#footnote-28424)

28now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, “Mark now when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, and when I tell you, ‘Strike down Amnon,’ then kill him. Do not be afraid. Haven’t I myself commanded you? Be courageous and be sons of valor!” 29So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons arose and every man got up on his mule and fled.

30And while they were on the road a rumor came to David, saying, “Absalom has slain all the king’s sons, and there is not one of them left!” 31Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

32But Jonadab the son of David’s brother Shimeah, answered and said, “Do not let my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king’s sons, for only Amnon is dead; for from the mouth of Absalom this has been planned from the day that he humiliated his sister Tamar. 33So now do not let my lord the king take the thing to his heart, saying all the king’s sons are dead, for only Amnon is dead.”

Absalom Flees to Geshur

34But Absalom had fled. And the young man who was standing watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming on the road behind him on the side of the hill. 35So Jonadab said to the king, “Behold, the king’s sons are coming! It is as your servant said.” 36As soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king’s sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept. And also the king and all his servants wept bitterly.

37But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihur, king of Geshur. *David* mourned for his son every day. 38So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years; 39and King David’s spirit for going out against Absalom was spent, for he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead.

**2 Samuel Chapter 14**

Absalom Returns to Jerusalem

1Now Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king’s heart was toward Absalom. 2So Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her, “Please act like a mourner and put on mourning clothing and do not anoint yourself with oil, but be as a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead. 3Then go to the king and speak like this to him.” So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4So the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king. She fell on her face to the ground and paid homage, and said, “Save *me*, O king!”

5And the king said to her, “What is your trouble?”

She answered, “Truly, I am a widow and my husband is dead. 6Your servant had two sons and they scuffled together in the field and there was no one to part them, and the one struck down the other and killed him. 7Now, behold, the whole clan has risen against your servant, and they are saying, ‘Give up the man who struck down his brother, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed, and so we will eliminate the heir also!’ Thus they would quench my coal that is left and would leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth.”

8Then the king said to the woman, “Go to your house, and I myself will give a command concerning you.”

9Then the woman of Tekoa said to the king, “The guilt is on me and on my father’s house, O my lord the king, and the king and his throne are clear *of blame*.”

10And the king said, “If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not touch you anymore.”

11Then she said, “Please let the king invoke Yahweh your God that the avenger of blood will not increase the loss, lest they destroy my son.”

He said, “As Yahweh lives, not one hair of your son will fall to the ground.”

12Then the woman said, “Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.”

And he said, “Speak.”

13Then the woman said, “Why then have you thought such a thing against the people of God? For in speaking this word the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring back his banished one. 14For we will *all* die, yes, die, and are like water spilled on the ground that cannot be gathered up again. But God does not take away life, but thinks of ways so that the one who is banished not be banished from him.

15“Now I have come to speak this word to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. So your servant said *to herself*, ‘I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will act on the word of his servant.’ 16For the king will hear and deliver his servant out of the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together, away from the inheritance of God. 17Then your female servant said, ‘Please let the word of my lord the king bring rest; for like an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad. May Yahweh your God be with you.’”

18Then the king answered and said to the woman, “Do not hide anything from me that I ask you!”

And the woman said, “Let my lord the king now speak.”

19Then the king said, “Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?”

The woman answered, “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, for your servant Joab, he commanded me—he himself put all these words in the mouth of your servant. 20Your servant Joab did this thing in order to change the face of the situation. My lord is wise, like the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are on the earth.”

21So the king said to Joab, “Behold now, I will do this thing. So go. Bring back the young man Absalom.”

22Joab fell to the ground on his face, and paid homage and blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your eyes, my lord king, in that the king has done what his servant requested.”

23So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24The king said, “Let him return to his own house, but he is not to see my face!” So Absalom returned to his own house but did not see the king’s face.

25Now in all Israel there was none to be so highly praised for his beauty as Absalom; from the sole of his foot even to the crown *of his head* there was no blemish in him. 26When he shaved his head—for it was at the end of the year every year that he shaved it because it was heavy on him, so he shaved it—he weighed the hair of his head at 200 *shekel* weight,[[9]](#footnote-20541) according to the king’s *weighing* stone.

27To Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a woman of beautiful appearance. 28Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, but he did not see the king’s face. 29Then Absalom sent for Joab to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. So he sent again, a second time, but he would not come. 30Then he said to his servants, “Behold, Joab’s field is near mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire.” So Absalom’s servants set the field on fire.

31Then Joab arose and went to Absalom at his house, and said to him, “Why did your servants set my field on fire?”

32And Absalom answered Joab, “Behold, I sent to you, saying, Come here, so that I can send you to the king to say, ‘Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there.’ So now, let me see the king’s face; and if there is iniquity in me, let him put me to death.”

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

**2 Samuel Chapter 15**

Absalom's Conspiracy

1It was after this that Absalom prepared a chariot and horses for himself, and 50 men to run before him. 2And Absalom would rise up early and stand beside the road leading to the gate. And when anyone had a dispute to bring before the king for judgment, then Absalom would call to him and say, “What city are you from?” And he would say, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.” 3Then Absalom would say to him, “Behold, your claims are good and right, but there is no one *appointed* by the king to listen to you.” 4And Absalom would say, “Oh who would make me a judge in the land, so that everyone with a dispute or cause could come to me, and I would give him justice!” 5And it would be that when any man came near to prostrate himself before him, he stretched out his hand and took hold of him and kissed him. 6And Absalom did this to all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

7And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, “Please let me go and fulfill my vow that I have vowed to Yahweh in Hebron. 8For your servant vowed a vow while I stayed at Geshur in Syria, saying, ‘If Yahweh will bring, yes, bring me back again to Jerusalem, then I will serve Yahweh.’”

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

10But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “As soon as you hear the sound of the shofar, then you are to say, ‘Absalom reigns as king in Hebron!’”

11Now 200 men who were invited *guests* went with Absalom out of Jerusalem, and they went innocently and did not know anything. 12And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, from his city, from Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. Now the conspiracy was strong, and the people increased continually with Absalom.

David Flees Jerusalem

13A messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.”

14So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise and let’s flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtakes us quickly and brings down evil upon us and strikes the city with the mouth of the sword.”

15And the king’s servants said to the king, “Behold, your servants are *ready* to do whatever my lord the king chooses.” 16So the king went out, and all his household after him. The king left ten women who were concubines to take care of the house. 17So the king went out, and all the people after him, and they stopped at the Last House. 18All his servants passed by near him, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and *also* all the Gittites (600 men who came after him from Gath), passed by before the face of the king.

19Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why are you also going with us? Return and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place. 20You came only yesterday, so today should I make you go up and down with us, since I go wherever I can go? Return and have your brothers return, faithfulness and truth be with you.”

21But Ittai answered the king and said, “As Yahweh lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king is, whether for death or for life, indeed, there will your servant be!”

22So David said to Ittai, “Go and cross over.” So Ittai the Gittite crossed over, and all his men and all the little ones who were with him. 23And all the land wept with a loud voice as all the people crossed over and the king also himself crossed over the Brook Kidron and all the people crossed over toward the road of the wilderness.

24Behold, Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, were carrying the ark of the covenant of God, and they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar came up until all the people finished crossing out of the city. 25But the king said to Zadok, “Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the eyes of Yahweh, he will bring me back and show me it and his dwelling place. 26But if he says this, ‘I have no delight in you,’ behold, here I am, let him do to me as is good in his eyes.”

27And the king said to Zadok the priest, “Are you a seer? Return into the city in peace, Ahimaaz your son and Jonathan the son of Abiathar, both your sons with you. 28Behold, I will stay at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to tell me *something*.” 29So Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem, and they stayed there.

30And David went up by the Ascent of the *Mount of* Olives, weeping as he went up. And he had his head covered and went barefoot, and all the people who were with him—every one—covered his *own* head, and was going up, going up and weeping.

31And someone told David, saying, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.”

Then David said, “O Yahweh, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”

32And when David had come as far as the top where they worshiped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head. 33David said to him, “If you cross over with me, then you will be a burden to me, 34but if you return to the city and tell Absalom, ‘I will be your servant, O king. As I have been your father’s servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,’ then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me. 35Aren’t Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever things you hear out of the king’s house, you are to tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36Behold, Ahimaaz *son* of Zadok and Jonathan *son* of Abiathar are there with them; and by them you are to send to me everything that you all hear.” 37So Hushai, David’s friend, came into the city just as Absalom was coming into Jerusalem.

**2 Samuel Chapter 16**

Ziba Helps David

1When David had crossed a little beyond the summit, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him with a team of loaded-up donkeys, and on them *were* 200 *loaves of* bread and 100 clusters of raisins and 100 summer *fruits*, and a skin-bottle of wine. 2The king said to Ziba, “What do you mean by these?”

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 is for those who are weary in the wilderness to drink.”

3The king said, “Where is your lord’s son?”

And Ziba said to the king, “Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, ‘Today the house of Israel will restore to me the kingdom of my father.’”

4Then the king said to Ziba, “Behold, all that was Mephibosheth’s is *now* yours.”

Ziba said, “I bow down *before you*. Let me find favor in your eyes, my lord, O king.”

Shimei Curses David

5When King David came to Bahurim, behold, a man of the clan of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei the son of Gera came out. He came out, *continually* cursing as he came out. 6And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of king David and all the people and all the mighty men who were on his right hand and on his left. 7And Shimei said as he cursed, “Get out, get out you man of blood, you man of Belial! 8Yahweh has returned on you all the blood of the house of Saul in whose place you have reigned! Yahweh has given the kingship into the hand of Absalom your son! Behold, you are in your evil *situation* because you are a man of blood!”

9Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me cross over and take off his head.”

10The king said, “What do I have *in common* with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because Yahweh has said to him, ‘Curse David,’ then who can say, ‘Why are you doing this?’” 11Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “Look, my son, who came out of my body, seeks my life. How much more then this Benjamite? Leave him alone and let him curse, for Yahweh has told him to. 12It may be that Yahweh will look on my affliction and that Yahweh will repay me good in place of his cursing today.” 13So David and his men went on the road, and Shimei went along on the ridge of the hill close to him and cursed as he went, throwing stones close to him and casting dust. 14The king and all the people who were with him arrived weary. And he refreshed himself there.

Absalom Enters Jerusalem

15Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him. 16And when Hushai the Archite, David’s friend, had come to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, “May the king live! May the king live!”

17Absalom said to Hushai, “Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?”

The Advice of Hushai and Ahithophel

18Then Hushai said to Absalom, “No, but whomever Yahweh and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, I will be for him and I will stay with him. 19And additionally, whom should I serve, if not in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father’s presence, so I will in your presence.”

20Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give advice, both of you, as to what we should do.”

21Then Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines that he has left to take care of the house. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened.” 22So they spread a tent for Absalom on the roof *of the palace*, and Absalom went in to his father’s concubines before the eyes of all Israel.

23Now the advice of Ahithophel that he gave in those days was like inquiring of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel, both with David and with Absalom.

**2 Samuel Chapter 17**

The Advice of Hushai and Ahithophel

1And Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me now choose 12,000 men, and I will arise and pursue after David tonight. 2I will come on him while he is weary and exhausted and will make him afraid. All the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, 3and I will bring back all the people to you. The *death of* the man whom you seek will mean everyone will return, *then* all the people will be at peace.” 4And that word was right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

5Then Absalom said, “Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let’s hear what he too says.”

6When Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, “Ahithophel has spoken after this manner. Should we do what he says? If not, you speak up.”

7Then Hushai said to Absalom, “The advice that Ahithophel has given this time is not good.” 8And Hushai said, “You know your father and his men, that they are mighty men and their souls are bitter, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Your father is a man of war and will not spend the night with the people. 9Behold, he has now hidden himself in some pit or in some other place. And it will be that when he falls on them at the first *attack*, that whoever hears it will say, ‘There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom!’ 10Even he who is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, will melt, yes, melt *with fear*, because all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and those who are with him are valiant men. 11So I advise that all Israel be gathered together to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in your own person. 12So will we come on him in some place where he will be found, and we will land on him as the dew falls on the ground, and there will not be left to him, or to all the men who are with him, even one. 13And if he gathers himself into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the *river* valley until there is not one small stone found there.” 14Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel.” For Yahweh had commanded to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel in order that Yahweh might bring evil on Absalom.

David Informed of Absalom’s Plans

15Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, “Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel that way, and I have advised this way. 16So now send quickly and tell David, saying, ‘Do not spend this night at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means cross over, lest the king be swallowed up, and *also* all the people who are with him.’”

17Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying by En-rogel, and a female servant was to go to tell them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they could not be seen coming into the city. 18But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So they both went away quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down *in* there. 19The woman took and spread a covering over the top of the well and spread out grain on it so that nothing was noticeable.

20Absalom’s servants came to the woman to the house and they said, “Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?”

The woman said to them, “They have gone over the brook of water.” When they had searched but could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

21Then, after they had departed, they came up out of the well and went and told King David. And they said to David, “Arise and cross over the water quickly, for thus and so has Ahithophel advised against you.” 22Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed over the Jordan. By the morning light not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. 23When Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went home to his city and set his house in order and hanged himself. And he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

24And David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. 25Absalom set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah, Joab’s mother. 26Now Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead. 27And when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, 28brought beddings, basins, earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans, lentils, roasted grain, 29honey, butter, sheep, and cheese of the herd for David and for the people who were with him to eat, for they said, “The people are hungry and tired and thirsty in the wilderness.”

**2 Samuel Chapter 18**

The Death of Absalom

1David counted the people who were with him and set commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds over them. 2David sent out the people, a third under the hand of Joab, and a third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, and a third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. The king said to the people, “I will go out, yes, go out with you, even I myself.”

3But the people said, “You must not go out! For if we flee, yes flee, they will not care about us, nor if half of us die will they care about us. But you are worth 10,000 of us. So now it is better that you are ready to help us from *inside* the city.”

4And the king said to them, “I will do what seems best to you.” So the king stood beside the gate and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands. 5And 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 commanded all the commanders concerning Absalom.

6So the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was in the forest of Ephraim. 7The people of Israel were defeated there before the servants of David, and there was a great defeat there that day: 20,000 *men*. 8For the battle there spread out over the face of all the land, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule and the mule went under the tangled branches of the great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak and he was taken up between the sky and earth and the mule that was under him went on. 10A certain man saw it and told Joab and said, “Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.”

11Joab said to the man who told him, “Behold, you saw it, and why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten *pieces* of silver and a belt.”

12But the man said to Joab, “Though I should receive 1,000 *pieces* of silver in my hand, I still would not stretch out my hand against the king’s son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, ‘Take note of anyone who *would hurt* the young man Absalom.’ 13Otherwise, if I had acted treacherously against his life—and there is nothing hidden from the king—then you yourself would have set yourself against me.”

14Then Joab said, “I will not wait around like this with you.” And he took three arrows in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the heart of the oak. 15Then ten young men who were Joab’s armor-bearers surrounded and struck Absalom and put him to death.

16Joab blew the shofar and the people returned from pursuing after Israel, for Joab held back the people. 17And they took Absalom and threw him into the large pit in the forest, and raised over him a very large heap of stones. And all Israel fled, everyone to his tent.

18Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the standing-stone that is in the King’s Valley, for he said, “I have no son to preserve the memory of my name.” And he called the standing-stone after his own name and it is called Absalom’s monument to this day.

David Hears of Absalom's Death

19Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Let me now run and carry news to the king, that Yahweh has delivered him justly from the hand of his enemies.”

20Joab said to him, “You are not to be the one to proclaim the news this day, but you may proclaim news another day. But today you are not to proclaim the news because the king’s son is dead.” 21Then Joab said to the Cushite, “Go, tell the king what you have seen!” The Cushite bowed down to Joab and *then* ran.

22Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, “Come what may, please let me also run after the Cushite.”

But Joab said, “Why do you want to run, my son, since you have no news *that* will find *favor*?”

23“But come what may,” *he said,* “I want to run.”

So he said to him, “Run!” Then Ahimaaz ran by the Road of the Plain and outran the Cushite.

24Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went to the roof of the gate to the wall and lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, a man running alone. 25The watchman cried out and told the king.

And the king said, “If he is alone, there is news in his mouth.” And he came closer and closer. 26The watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, “Behold, a man running alone!”

The king said, “He also is bringing news.”

27The watchman said, “I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.”

The king said, “He is a good man and comes with good news.”

28Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, “All is well.” He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Blessed is Yahweh your God who has given over the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king!”

29Then the king said, “Is it well with the young man, with Absalom?”

Ahimaaz answered, “I saw a great commotion when Joab sent off the king’s servant, *me* your servant, but I did not know what it was.”

30The king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

David Mourns for Absalom

31Then behold, the Cushite came. And the Cushite said, “News for my lord the king! For Yahweh has justly delivered you this day from all those who rose up against you.”

32The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man, with Absalom?”

The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you to do you harm be as that young man is.”

33The king was deeply moved and went up to the room over the gate and wept. As he went, he said, “O my son Absalom! O my son, my son Absalom! Oh that I had died instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!”

**2 Samuel Chapter 19**

Joab Rebukes David

1And it was told to Joab, “Behold, the king is weeping, and mourns for Absalom.” 2So the victory that day became mourning for all the people, because the people heard it said that day, “The king is in pain over his son.” 3So the people stole into the city that day as people who are ashamed steal in *to the city* when they flee in battle. 4The king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, “My son Absalom, Absalom, my son, my son!”

5Joab came into the house to the king and said, “Today you have shamed the faces of all your servants who this day have saved your life and the lives of your sons and of your daughters and the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, 6in that you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have declared this day that officials and servants are nothing to you. For today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died this day, then it would have been good in your eyes.

7“So now get up! Go out and speak to comfort your servants, for I swear by Yahweh, if you do not go out, not a man will stay with you this night and that would be worse for you than all the evil that has happened to you from your youth until now.”

8Then the king got up and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” And all the people came before the king.

David Returns to Jerusalem

Now Israel had fled, every man to his tent. 9All the people were arguing with one another throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “The king delivered us out of the hand of our enemies and he rescued us out of the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom, 10while Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. So now, why are you silent about bringing the king back?”

11King David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, “Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, ‘Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house? (For the words of all Israel had come to the king to return him to his house). 12You are my brothers! You are my bone and my flesh! Why then are you the last to bring back the king?’ 13And say to Amasa, ‘Aren’t you my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.’”

14And he turned the hearts of all the men of Judah, as one man, so that they sent to the king, *saying,* “Return, you and all your servants.” 15So the king returned and came to the Jordan. Judah came to Gilgal to go to meet the king, to bring the king across the Jordan.

David Pardons His Enemies

16And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite who was of Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17There were 1,000 men of Benjamin with him. And Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, and his 15 sons and his 20 servants with him, had rushed down to the Jordan before the king. 18And they crossed the fords to bring the king’s household across and to do what was good in his eyes.

And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king as he was crossing over the Jordan. 19He said to the king, “Do not let my lord impute sin to me, or remember what your servant sinfully did the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. 20For your servant knows that I have sinned. So, behold, I have come this day the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.”

21But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, “Should Shimei not be put to death for this, because he cursed Yahweh’s anointed one?”

22But David said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that this day you should be an adversary to me? Should there any man be put to death this day in Israel? For do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?” 23And the king said to Shimei, “You will not die.” The king swore an oath to him.

24Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and he had not cared for his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes from the day the king departed until the day he came *back* in peace. 25And when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, “Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?”

26He answered, “My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, I should saddle a donkey for myself so that I can ride on it and go with the king, because your servant is lame. 27And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is as an angel of God. So do what is good in your eyes. 28For all my father’s house were but men *deserving* of death before my lord the king, yet you set your servant among those who ate at your own table. So what right do I still have to cry out any more to the king?”

29The king said to him, “Why say more words? I have decided: you and Ziba divide the land.”

30Mephibosheth said to the king, “Let him take it all, since my lord the king has come in peace to his house.”

31Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went over the Jordan with the king to send him off at the Jordan. 32Now Barzillai was a very old man, 80 years old, and he had provided for the king while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

33The king said to Barzillai, “Cross over with me and I will provide for you *while you are* with me in Jerusalem.”

34But Barzillai said to the king, “How many *more* are the days of the years of my life, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35Today I am 80 years old. Can I discern between good and bad? Or can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Or can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? 36Your servant will just go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? 37Now let your servant return so that I may die in my own city beside the burial place of my father and my mother. But behold, your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king and do to him what is good in your eyes.”

38The king answered, “Chimham will cross over with me, and I will do for him what is good in your eyes. Whatever you choose, I will do that for you.” 39So all the people crossed over the Jordan, and the king crossed over. Then the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

40So the king crossed over to Gilgal, and Chimham went over with him. All the people of Judah brought the king across, and also half the people of Israel. 41Behold, all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, “Why have our brothers, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king and his household across the Jordan, and all of David’s men with him?”

42All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is a close relative to me. Why then are you angry about this matter? Have we eaten, yes, eaten of the king’s *food*? Or has any been carried, yes carried off to us?”

43The men of Israel answered the men of Judah and said, “I have ten shares in the king, and I have also more claim to David than you. Why then did you treat me with contempt? Was I not the first to speak of bringing back my king?” But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

**2 Samuel Chapter 20**

Sheba Rebels Against David

1There had come there a man of Belial whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite, and he blew the shofar and said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “We have no portion in David,  and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.  Every man to his tents, O Israel!” |

2So all the men of Israel went up from following David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri, but the men of Judah stayed by their king, from the Jordan all the way to Jerusalem.

3And David came to his house in Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to take care of the house, and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were kept in confinement until the day of their death, living in widowhood.

4Then the king said to Amasa, “Call the men of Judah together for me within three days, and be present here yourself.” 5So Amasa went to call the men of Judah together, but he took longer than the set time that had been appointed for him. 6So David said to Abishai, “Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom did. Take your lord’s servants and pursue after him, lest he gets fortified cities for himself and escapes out of our sight.”

7So Joab’s men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites and all the mighty men went out after him. They went out of Jerusalem to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri. 8When they were at the great rock that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Joab was clothed in his apparel of war that he had put on, and on it was a sash with a sword fastened on his waist in its sheath, and as he went out it fell out. 9And Joab said to Amasa, “Is it well with you, my brother?” And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. 10But Amasa was not on his guard against the sword that was in Joab’s hand. So he struck him with it in the abdomen and his intestines poured out onto the ground, and he did not strike him again, and he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

11And one of Joab’s young men stood over him and said, “He who favors Joab and he who is for David, let him follow Joab!” 12Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the middle of the highway. When the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway into the field and threw a garment over him—when he saw that everyone who came by him would stop. 13When he was pushed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

14He went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and to Beth-maacah; and all the Berites, they were gathered together and went after him also. 15They came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah, and they put up a siege ramp against the city, and it stood against the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab were wreaking destruction, to make the wall fall down. 16Then a wise woman cried out of the city, “Listen! Listen! Please say to Joab, ‘Come near here and let me speak with you.’”

17He came near to her; and the woman said, “Are you Joab?”

He answered, “I am.”

Then she said to him, “Listen to the words of your servant.”

He answered, “I am listening.”

18Then she spoke, saying, “They used to say, yes, say in former times, ‘Let them ask, yes ask *counsel* at Abel;’ and so they ended *the matter*. 19I am among 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 Yahweh?”

20Joab answered, “Far be it, far be it from me that I should swallow up or destroy. 21That is not how it is. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has lifted up his hand against the king, against David. Give up him only, and I will go from the city.”

So the woman said to Joab, “Behold, his head will be thrown to you over the wall.” 22Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. They cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it to Joab. He blew the shofar and they dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

David’s Officials

23Now Joab was over all the army of Israel, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites; 24and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; 25and Sheva was scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar were priests, 26and also Ira the Jairite was head administrator to David.

**2 Samuel Chapter 21**

David Avenges the Gibeonites

1Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of Yahweh. Yahweh said, “It is because of Saul and because of the House of Bloodguilt, because he put to death the Gibeonites.”

2So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but were of the remnant of the Amorites, and the children of Israel had sworn an oath to them, but Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah. 3and David said to the Gibeonites, “What can I do for you? And in what way can I make atonement, so that you will bless the inheritance of Yahweh?”

4The Gibeonites said to him, “It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house, nor is it for us to put any man to death in Israel.”

And he said, “Whatever you say, I will do that for you.”

5So they said to the king, “The man who destroyed us and who intended for us to be wiped out from remaining in any of the territory of Israel, 6let seven men of his sons be given to us, and we will impale them in the presence of Yahweh in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of Yahweh.”

And the king said, “I will give them.”

7But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the oath of Yahweh that was between them; between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. 8But 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 Merab the daughter of Saul whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. 9And he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites and they impaled them on the mountain in the presence of Yahweh, and all seven of them fell together. They were put to death at the time of the barley harvest, in the first days, at the beginning of barley harvest.

The Burial of Saul’s Family

10And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on a rock from the beginning of harvest until water was poured on them from heaven. She did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day or the animals of the field by night.

11And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Saul’s concubine, had done. 12So David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shean where the Philistines had hung them up on the day that the Philistines killed Saul on *Mount* Gilboa, 13and he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son, and they gathered the bones of those *men* who had been impaled. 14Then they buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the land of Benjamin, at Zela in the tomb of Kish his father. And when they had done all that the king had commanded them, then God allowed Himself to be entreated for the land.

War with the Philistines

15There was war again between the Philistines and Israel. And David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines. And David grew faint, 16and Ishbi-benob, who was one of the descendants of Rapha, whose spear weighed 300 shekels of bronze,[[10]](#footnote-26939) he being armed with a new *sword*, intended to kill David. 17But Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him and struck down the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore an oath to him, saying, “You must not go out with us to battle any more, so that you do not extinguish the lamp of Israel.”

18And after this there was war with the Philistines again, *this time* at Gob, and Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph who was a descendant of Rapha.

19There was war again with the Philistines at Gob; and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite’s *brother*, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam.

20There was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great size who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, 24 in number, and he also was a descendant of Rapha. 21When he mocked Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David’s brother, struck him down.

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

**2 Samuel Chapter 22**

David's Song of Deliverance

1And David spoke to Yahweh the words of this song in the day that Yahweh delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul, 2and he said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Yahweh is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine; |
| 3 | God, my rock, I will take refuge in him;  my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  my high tower, and my refuge.  My savior, you save me from violence. |
| 4 | I will call on Yahweh who is worthy to be praised  and I will be saved from my enemies. |
| 5 | For the waves of death surrounded me.  The torrents of Belial made me afraid. |
| 6 | The cords of Sheol were around me.  The snares of death lay ahead of me. |
| 7 | In my distress I called on Yahweh,  I called to my God.  He heard my voice out of his Temple.  My cry *came* into his ears. |
| 8 | Then the earth shook and trembled.  The foundations of heaven quaked  and were shaken because he was angry. |
| 9 | Smoke arose from his nostrils.  Fire out of his mouth devoured.  Burning coals flamed forth from him. |
| 10 | He spread *apart* the heavens and came down.  A thick cloud was under his feet. |
| 11 | He rode on a cherub and flew.  And he glided swiftly[[11]](#footnote-19346) on the wings of the wind. |
| 12 | He made the darkness around him his canopies,  the gathering of waters, the thick clouds of the skies. |
| 13 | From the brightness before him  burned forth coals of fire. |
| 14 | Yahweh thundered from the heavens.  The Most High gave forth his voice. |
| 15 | He sent out arrows and scattered them;  lightning, and confused them. |
| 16 | Then the sources of the sea appeared.  The foundations of the world were laid bare by the rebuke of Yahweh,  At the blast of the breath of his nostrils. |
| 17 | He stretched out *his hand* from on high and took me;  he drew me out of mighty waters. |
| 18 | He delivered me from my strong enemy;  from those who hate me,  from those who were mightier than I. |
| 19 | They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  but Yahweh was my support. |
| 20 | He brought me out into an open space.  He delivered me because he delighted in me. |
| 21 | Yahweh rewarded me  according to my righteousness.  He paid me back  according to the purity of my hands. |
| 22 | For I have kept the ways of Yahweh  and have not wickedly departed from my God. |
| 23 | For all his laws are before me.  And as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. |
| 24 | I was blameless toward him.  I kept myself from my iniquity. |
| 25 | So Yahweh has rewarded me according to my righteousness,  according to my purity in his eyes. |
| 26 | With the merciful[[12]](#footnote-30154)  you are merciful.  With the blameless man  you are blameless. |
| 27 | With the pure  you are pure.  With the crooked  you are shrewd. |
| 28 | You will save the afflicted people,  But your eyes are on the haughty,  that you will bring them down. |
| 29 | For you are my lamp, O Yahweh.  And Yahweh lightens my darkness. |
| 30 | For by you I can run against a troop.  By my God, I leap over a wall. |
| 31 | As for God, his way is perfect.  The word of Yahweh is tested.  He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him. |
| 32 | For who is God besides Yahweh?  Who is a rock besides our God? |
| 33 | God is my strong fortress.  He makes my way blameless. |
| 34 | He makes my feet like the does’ feet  and sets me on my high places. |
| 35 | He trains my hands for battle  so that my arms bend a bow of bronze. |
| 36 | You have given me the shield of your salvation.  And your gentleness has made me great. |
| 37 | You have enlarged my steps under me.  My feet have not slipped. |
| 38 | I will pursue my enemies and destroy them.  And I will not return until they are finished. |
| 39 | I will consume them and crush them  so that they cannot rise.  They will fall *dead* under my feet. |
| 40 | For you have armed me with strength for the battle.  You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. |
| 41 | You made my enemies turn their backs to me;  I destroyed those who hate me. |
| 42 | They cried out for help, but there was none to save;  to Yahweh, but he did not answer them. |
| 43 | Then I beat them as small as the dust of the earth.  I crushed them and stamped on them like the dirt of the streets. |
| 44 | You also have delivered me from the strife among my people.  You have guarded me as the head of nations.  A people whom I have not known will serve me. |
| 45 | Foreigners will submit themselves to me.  As soon as their ears hear, they will obey me. |
| 46 | Foreigners will lose courage  and will come trembling out of their strongholds. |
| 47 | Yahweh lives! Blessed be my rock!  Exalted be God, the rock of my salvation, |
| 48 | the God who executes vengeance for me,  who subdues peoples under me, |
| 49 | who brings me out from among my enemies.  You lift me up above those who rise up against me.  You deliver me from the violent person. |
| 50 | Therefore I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, among the nations,  and I will make music to your name. |
| 51 | He gives great salvation to his king  and shows covenant faithfulness to his anointed one,  to David and to his seed forevermore. |

**2 Samuel Chapter 23**

The Last Words of David

1Now these are the last words of David.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | David the son of Jesse says,  the man who was raised on high says,  the anointed one of the God of Jacob,  the sweet psalmist of Israel: |
| 2 | “The spirit of Yahweh spoke by me.  His word was on my tongue. |
| 3 | The God of Israel said;  the Rock of Israel spoke to me,  ‘One who rules over people righteously,  who rules in the fear of God, |
| 4 | is like the light of the morning when the sun rises,  a morning without clouds,  when through bright shining after a rain,  the tender vegetation springs out of the earth. |
| 5 | Is it not so with my house before God?  For he has made an everlasting covenant with me,  arranged and secured in all *its details*,  for it is all my salvation and all my desire.  Will he not make it grow? |
| 6 | But all the *sons of* Belial will be as thorns to be thrust away,  because they cannot be taken with the hand, |
| 7 | But the man who touches them must be armed with iron and the staff of a spear.  They will be burned, yes, burned with fire completely.” |

David’s Mighty Men

8These are the names of the mighty men whom David had:

Josheb-basshebeth, a Tahchemonite, head of the Three. He wielded his spear[[13]](#footnote-11452) against 800 slain at one time.

9After him was Eleazar the son of Dodai the son of an 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 withdrawn. 10He arose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand clung to the sword. And Yahweh worked a great victory that day, and the people returned, *following* after him only to take spoil.

11After him was Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite. The Philistines were gathered together into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines, 12but he took a stand in the middle of the plot and defended it, and struck down the Philistines; and Yahweh worked a great victory.

13And three of the 30 chief men went down and came to David at the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, and the troop of the Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 14Now David was then in the stronghold and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 15And David longed and said, “Oh that one would give me water to drink of the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!” 16The three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and carried it and brought it to David, but he would not drink it, but poured it out to Yahweh. 17He said, “Be it far from me, Yahweh, that I should do this! Is it not the blood of the men who went out *at the risk* of their lives?” So he would not drink it. The three mighty men did these things.

18Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was head of the three.[[14]](#footnote-12683) He lifted up his spear against 300 and killed them, and so he had a name among the three. 19Was he not honored among the three? So he was made their commander, even though he was not one of the three.

20Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel who had done mighty deeds, he struck down the two *sons* of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in the middle of a pit in time of snow. 21He struck down an Egyptian, an impressive-looking 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. 22Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did these things and had a name among the three mighty men. 23He was honored among the 30, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 24 | Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the 30; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, |
| 25 | Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite, |
| 26 | Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, |
| 27 | Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, |
| 28 | Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, |
| 29 | Heleb the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, |
| 30 | Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash; |
| 31 | Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, |
| 32 | Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,33Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Ararite, |
| 34 | Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maacathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, |
| 35 | Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, |
| 36 | Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, |
| 37 | Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armor-bearers to Joab the son of Zeruiah, |
| 38 | Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, |
| 39 | Uriah the Hittite: |

37 in all.

**2 Samuel Chapter 24**

David's Census

1Again the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go, count Israel and Judah.”

2The king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, “Now go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and count the people so that I can know the number of the people.”

3Joab said to the king, “Now may Yahweh your God add to the people 100 times, however many they are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?”

4But the king’s word prevailed over Joab and over the commanders of the army, so Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to number the people of Israel.

5They crossed over the Jordan and encamped in Aroer on the right side of the city that is in the middle of the valley of Gad, and to Jazer; 6then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi, and they came to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon, 7and 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 at Beer-sheba.

8So when they had gone throughout all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and 20 days. 9Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king, and there were in Israel 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000 men.

Yahweh's Judgment of David's Sin

10But David’s heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to Yahweh, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Yahweh, please remove the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly.”

11When David rose up in the morning, the word of Yahweh came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer, saying, 12“Go and speak to David, ‘This is what Yahweh says: I impose upon you three things. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.’”

13So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, “Do you want seven years of famine to come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or will there be three days’ plague in your land? Now consider and decide what answer I am to bring back to him who sent me.”

14David said to Gad, “I am in distress. Let us fall now into the hand of Yahweh, for his mercies are great. Let me not fall into the hand of man.”

15So Yahweh sent a plague on Israel from the morning to the appointed time, and there died of the people from Dan to Beer-sheba 70,000 men. 16When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, Yahweh changed his mind concerning the evil and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “It is enough! Now withdraw your hand.” Now the angel of Yahweh was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17David spoke to Yahweh when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, “Behold, I have sinned and I have done wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father’s house.”

David Builds an Altar

18Gad came to David that day and said to him, “Go up, build an altar to Yahweh on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” 19David went up according to the word of Gad, as Yahweh commanded. 20And Araunah looked out and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. Then Araunah went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

21Then Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

And David said, “To buy your threshing floor in order to build an altar to Yahweh, so that the plague may be removed from the people.”

22Then Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good in his eyes. Behold, the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sled and the gear of the oxen for the wood; 23all this, O king, does Araunah give to the king.” And Araunah said to the king, “May Yahweh your God accept you.”

24But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy, yes, buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to Yahweh my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 50 shekels of silver.[[15]](#footnote-16026) 25So David built an altar to Yahweh there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So Yahweh allowed himself to be entreated for the land, and the plague was removed from Israel.

1. Lit. “the word of Abner was with the elders of Israel” [↑](#footnote-ref-22317)
2. MT reads “before you” but some Heb. MSS read “me” as well as the LXX and Aramaic Peshitta [↑](#footnote-ref-31231)
3. A dynasty [↑](#footnote-ref-16642)
4. As per some Heb. MSS, LXX, Syraic [↑](#footnote-ref-15772)
5. Heb. text reads “my table” [↑](#footnote-ref-28448)
6. Called “Shammah” except in this chapter. [↑](#footnote-ref-10913)
7. As per the Qumran text [↑](#footnote-ref-20018)
8. Last sentence in LXX but not Masoretic text [↑](#footnote-ref-28424)
9. Roughly 5 pounds (2.26 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-20541)
10. Roughly 7.5 pounds (3.4 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-26939)
11. MT reads “was seen” but Ps. 18:10 preserves the original [↑](#footnote-ref-19346)
12. Or “faithful” [↑](#footnote-ref-30154)
13. As per some Heb. MSS and some LXX MSS. [↑](#footnote-ref-11452)
14. Some MSS read “thirty” [↑](#footnote-ref-12683)
15. Roughly 1.25 pounds (567 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-16026)