

The Image of King David in the Babylonian Talmud

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II Samuel 11-12

(1) At the turn of the year, the season when kings go out [to battle], David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him, and they devastated Ammon and besieged Rabbah; David remained in Jerusalem. (2) Late one afternoon, David rose from his couch and strolled on the roof of the royal palace; and from the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, (3) and the king sent someone to make inquiries about the woman. He reported, “She is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam [and] wife of Uriah the Hittite.” (4) David sent messengers to fetch her; she came to him and he lay with her—she had just purified herself after her period—and she went back home. (5) The woman conceived, and she sent word to David, “I am pregnant.” (6) Thereupon David sent a message to Joab, “Send Uriah the Hittite to me”; and Joab sent Uriah to David. (7) When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab and the troops were faring and how the war was going. (8) Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and bathe your feet.” When Uriah left the royal palace, a present from the king followed him. (9) But Uriah slept at the entrance of the royal palace, along with the other officers of his lord, and did not go down to his house. (10) When David was told that Uriah had not gone down to his house, he said to Uriah, “You just came from a journey; why didn’t you go down to your

שמואל ב י"א-י"ב

(א) ויהי לתשובת השנה לעת | צאת המלכים וישלח דוד את-יואב ואת-עבדיו עמו ואת-כל-ישראל וישחתו את-בני עמון ויצרו על-רבה ודוד יושב בירושלם: (ב) ויהי | לעת הערב ויקם דוד מעל משכבו ויתהלך על-גג בית-המלך וירא אשה רחצת מעל הגג והאשה טובת מראה מאד: (ג) וישלח דוד וידרש לאשה ויאמר הלא זאת בת-נבע בת-אליעם אשת אוריה החתי: (ד) וישלח דוד מלכים ויקחה ותבוא אליו וישכב עמה והיא מתקדשת מטמאתה ותשב אל-ביתה: (ה) ותהר האשה ותשלח ותגד לדוד ותאמר הנה אנכי: (ו) וישלח דוד אל-יואב שלח אלי את-אוריה החתי וישלח יואב את-אוריה אל-דוד: (ז) ויבא אוריה אליו וישאל דוד לשלום יואב ולשלום העם ולשלום המלחמה: (ח) ויאמר דוד לאוריה גד לביתך ורחץ רגליך ויצא אוריה מבית המלך ותצא אחריו משאת המלך: (ט) וישכב אוריה פתח בית המלך את כל-עבדי אדגיו ולא ירד אל-ביתו: (י) ויגדו לדוד לאמר לא-ירד אוריה אל-ביתו ויאמר דוד אל-אוריה הלא מדרך אתה בא מדוע לא-ירדת אל-ביתך: (יא) ויאמר אוריה אל-דוד הארון וישאל ויהוה וישבים בסכות ואדני יואב ועבדי אדני

house?” (11) Uriah answered David, “The Ark and Israel and Judah are located at Succoth, and my master Joab and Your Majesty’s men are camped in the open; how can I go home and eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As you live, by your very life, I will not do this!” (12) David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will send you off.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. The next day, (13) David summoned him, and he ate and drank with him until he got him drunk; but in the evening, [Uriah] went out to sleep in the same place, with his lord’s officers; he did not go down to his home. (14) In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab, which he sent with Uriah. (15) He wrote in the letter as follows: “Place Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest; then fall back so that he may be killed.” (16) So when Joab was besieging the city, he stationed Uriah at the point where he knew that there were able warriors. (17) The men of the city sallied out and attacked Joab, and some of David’s officers among the troops fell; Uriah the Hittite was among those who died. (18) Joab sent a full report of the battle to David. (19) He instructed the messenger as follows: “When you finish reporting to the king all about the battle, (20) the king may get angry and say to you, ‘Why did you come so close to the city to attack it? Didn’t you know that they would shoot from the wall?’ (21) Who struck down Abimelech son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who dropped an upper millstone on him from the wall at Thebez, from which he died? Why did you come so close to the wall?’ Then say: ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite was among those killed.’” (22) The messenger set out; he came and told David all that Joab had sent him to say. (23) The messenger said to David, “First the men prevailed against us and sallied out against us into the open; then we drove them back up to the entrance to the gate. (24) But the archers

על־פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה חַזִּים וְאֲנִי אָבֹא אֶל־בֵּיתִי
לְאָכַל וּלְשָׁתוֹת וּלְשָׁכֵב עִם־אִשְׁתִּי חַיִּל וְתָו
נִפְשָׁה אִם־אֶעֱשֶׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: (יב)
וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־אוּרִיָּה שֵׁב בְּגֵה גַם־הַיּוֹם
וּמָחָר אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ וַיֵּשֶׁב אוּרִיָּה בִירוּשָׁלַם
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וּמִמָּחָרָת: (יג) וַיִּקְרָא־לּוֹ דָּוִד
וַיֹּאכַל לֶפְנָיו וַיִּשְׁתֶּה וַיִּשְׁכַּרְהוּ וַיֵּצֵא בָעָרֶב
לְשָׁכֵב בְּמִשְׁכָּבוֹ עִם־עַבְדֵי אֲדָנָיו וְאֶל־בֵּיתוֹ
לֹא יָרַד: (יד) וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּכְתֹּב דָּנָד סֵפֶר
אֶל־יוֹאָב וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּיַד אוּרִיָּה: (טו) וַיִּכְתֹּב
בְּסֵפֶר לֵאמֹר הִבּוּ אֶת־אוּרִיָּה אֶל־מוֹלֵךְ פְּנֵי
הַמַּלְחָמָה הַחֲזָקָה וְשַׁבְתֶּם מֵאַחֲרָיו וְנָגַה
וּמָת: (ס) (טז) וַיְהִי בַשָּׁמֹר יוֹאָב אֶל־הָעִיר
וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־אוּרִיָּה אֶל־הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָדַע כִּי
אֲנָשֵׁי־חַיִל נָשָׂם: (יז) וַיֵּצֵאוּ אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר
וַיִּלְחָמוּ אֶת־יוֹאָב וַיִּפֹּל מִן־הָעַם מַעַבְדֵי דָוִד
וַיָּמָת גַּם אוּרִיָּה הַחַתִּי: (יח) וַיִּשְׁלַח יוֹאָב
וַיִּגַּד לְדָוִד אֶת־כָּל־דַּבְּרֵי הַמַּלְחָמָה: (יט)
וַיֵּצֵאוּ אֶת־הַמַּלְאָךְ לֵאמֹר כָּכִלּוּתְךָ אֵת
כָּל־דַּבְּרֵי הַמַּלְחָמָה לְדָבָר אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ: (כ)
וַהֲיָה אִם־תַּעֲלֶה חֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאָמַר לְךָ
מִדּוּעַ נִגַּשְׁתָּם אֶל־הָעִיר לְהִלָּחֵם הַלּוֹא
יִדְעוּתָם אֵת אֲשֶׁר־יָרוּ מֵעַל הַחוֹמָה: (כא)
מִי־הִפָּה אֶת־אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ בְּוִירְכָשֶׁת
הַלּוֹא־אִשָּׁה הַשְּׁלִיכָה עָלָיו פֶּלֶח רֶכֶב מֵעַל
הַחוֹמָה וַיָּמָת בְּתַבְצִי לָמָּה נִגַּשְׁתָּם
אֶל־הַחוֹמָה וְאָמַרְתָּ גַם עַבְדְּךָ אוּרִיָּה הַחַתִּי
מָת: (כב) וַיִּלְךָ הַמַּלְאָךְ וַיָּבֵא וַיִּגַּד לְדָוִד אֵת
כָּל־אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח יוֹאָב: (כג) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמַּלְאָךְ
אֶל־דָּוִד כִּי־גִבְרוּ עָלֵינוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּצֵאוּ
אֲלֵינוּ הַשָּׂדֶה וְנִהְיָה עָלֵיהֶם עַד־פֶּתַח
הַשָּׁעַר: (כד) וַיִּרְאוּ [וַיִּרְוּ] הַמּוֹרָאִים
[הַמּוֹרָאִים] אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ מֵעַל הַחוֹמָה וַיָּמּוּתוּ
מַעַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְגַם עַבְדְּךָ אוּרִיָּה הַחַתִּי מָת:
(ס) (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־הַמַּלְאָךְ כִּה־תֹאמַר
אֶל־יוֹאָב אֶל־יָרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה
כִּי־כָזָה וְכָזָה תֹאכַל הַחֲרָב הַחֲזָק מִלְּחַמְתְּךָ
אֶל־הָעִיר וְהָרְסָה וְסִזְקָהּ: (כו) וַתִּשְׁמַע

shot at your men from the wall and some of Your Majesty's men fell; your servant Uriah the Hittite also fell.” (25) Whereupon David said to the messenger, “Give Joab this message: ‘Do not be distressed about the matter. The sword always takes its toll. Press your attack on the city and destroy it!’ Encourage him!” (26) When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she lamented over her husband. (27) After the period of mourning was over, David sent and had her brought into his palace; she became his wife and she bore him a son. But the LORD was displeased with what David had done, (1) and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said, “There were two men in the same city, one rich and one poor. (2) The rich man had very large flocks and herds, (3) but the poor man had only one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He tended it and it grew up together with him and his children: it used to share his morsel of bread, drink from his cup, and nestle in his bosom; it was like a daughter to him. (4) One day, a traveler came to the rich man, but he was loath to take anything from his own flocks or herds to prepare a meal for the guest who had come to him; so he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” (5) David flew into a rage against the man, and said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! (6) He shall pay for the lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.” (7) And Nathan said to David, “That man is you! Thus said the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘It was I who anointed you king over Israel and it was I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. (8) I gave you your master's house and possession of your master's wives; and I gave you the House of Israel and Judah; and if that were not enough, I would give you twice as much more. (9) Why then have you flouted the command of the LORD and done what displeases Him? You have put Uriah the

אִשָּׁת אֹרְיָה כִּי־מַת אֹרְיָה אִישָׁה וַתִּסְפֹּד
עַל־בְּעֻלָּהּ: (כו) וַיַּעֲבֹר הָאֲבָל וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד
וַיֵּאסְפָה אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַתַּהֲיֶילוּ לְאִשָּׁה וַתִּלְדַּל לּוֹ
בֶן וַיַּרְע הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה דָוִד בְּעֵינָי
יְהוָה: (פ) (א) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אֶת־נָתָן
אֶל־דָּוִד וַיָּבֵא אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לּוֹ שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים
הָיוּ בְּעִיר אַחַת אֶחָד עָשִׂיר וְאֶחָד רֹאשׁ: (ב)
לְעָשִׂיר הָיָה צֹאן וּבָקָר הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: (ג)
וְלָרֹשׁ אֵין־כֹּל כִּי אִם־כֹּבֶשֶׁת אַחַת קֹטְנָה
אֲשֶׁר קָנָה וַיִּסְתְּהָ וַתַּגְדֵּל עִמּוֹ וְעַם־בָּנָיו יַחְדָּו
מִפֶּתוֹ תֹאכַל וּמִפִּסּוֹ תִשְׁתֶּה וּבְחִיקוֹ תִשְׁכָּב
וַתַּהֲיֶילוּ לָוּ: (ד) וַיָּבֵא הַלֹּדֶף לְאִישׁ הָעָשִׂיר
וַיַּחְמַל לְקַחַת מִצֹּאֲנוֹ וּמִבְּקָרוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאֶרֶם
הַבָּא־לוֹ וַיִּלָּח אֶת־כֹּבֶשֶׁת הָאִישׁ הָרֹאשׁ
וַיַּעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֵלָיו: (ה) וַיִּסְרַעַף דָּוִד
בְּאִישׁ מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָתָן חֲיֵי־יְהוָה כִּי
בֶן־מָוֶת הָאִישׁ הָעָשָׂה זֹאת: (ו)
וְאֶת־הַכֹּבֶשֶׁת יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתַּיִם לְעֶקֶב אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־חָמַל:
(ז) וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד אַתָּה הָאִישׁ
כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי מִשְׁחַתֵּיךָ
לְמַלְךָ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנֹכִי הַצֹּלֵתִיךָ מִיַּד
שָׂאוֹל: (ח) וְאַתָּנָה לָּךְ אֶת־בַּיִת אֲדֹנֶיךָ
וְאֶת־נִשְׂי אֲדֹנֶיךָ בְּחִיקֶךָ וְאַתָּנָה לָּךְ אֶת־בַּיִת
יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּהוֹדֶה וְאִם־מְעֻט וְאִסְפָּה לָּךְ כֶּהֱנֶה
וּכְהִנָּה: (ט) מִדָּוַע בְּנִית | אֶת־דָּבָר יְהוָה
לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינוֹ [בְּעֵינֶיךָ] אֶת אֹרְיָה
הַחַתִּי הַכִּיתָ בְּחָרֶב וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ לְקַחַת לָּךְ
לְאִשָּׁה וְאִתּוֹ הִרְגַתָּ בְּחָרֶב בְּגֵי עֵמוֹן: (י)
וְעַתָּה לֹא־תִסּוּר חָרֶב מִבֵּיתְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם
עֶקֶב כִּי בְּזַמְנֵי וַתִּלָּח אֶת־אִשָּׁת אֹרְיָה
הַחַתִּי לְהִיּוֹת לָּךְ לְאִשָּׁה: (יא) (יב) כֹּה |
אָמַר יְהוָה הַגִּבִּי מְקִים עֲלֶיךָ רָעָה מִבֵּיתְךָ
וְלִקְחַתִּי אֶת־נִשְׂיֶיךָ לְעֵינֶיךָ וְנִמַּתִּי לְרַעֲיָה
וְשָׁכַב עִם־נִשְׂיֶיךָ לְעֵינֵי הַשָּׁמַשׁ הַזֹּאת: (יג)
כִּי אַתָּה עָשִׂיתָ בְּסִתְרָה וְאֲנִי אֶעֱשֶׂה
אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה גִּגְד כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּגְד
הַשָּׁמַשׁ: (יד) (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־נָתָן

Hittite to the sword; you took his wife and made her your wife and had him killed by the sword of the Ammonites. (10) Therefore the sword shall never depart from your House—because you spurned Me by taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite and making her your wife.’ (11) Thus said the LORD: ‘I will make a calamity rise against you from within your own house; I will take your wives and give them to another man before your very eyes and he shall sleep with your wives under this very sun. (12) You acted in secret, but I will make this happen in the sight of all Israel and in broad daylight.’” (13) David said to Nathan, “I stand guilty before the LORD!” And Nathan replied to David, “The LORD has remitted your sin; you shall not die. (14) However, since you have spurned the enemies of the LORD by this deed, even the child about to be born to you shall die.” (15) Nathan went home, and the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and it became critically ill. (16) David entreated God for the boy; David fasted, and he went in and spent the night lying on the ground. (17) The senior servants of his household tried to induce him to get up from the ground; but he refused, nor would he partake of food with them. (18) On the seventh day the child died. David’s servants were afraid to tell David that the child was dead; for they said, “We spoke to him when the child was alive and he wouldn’t listen to us; how can we tell him that the child is dead? He might do something terrible.” (19) When David saw his servants talking in whispers, David understood that the child was dead; David asked his servants, “Is the child dead?” “Yes,” they replied. (20) Thereupon David rose from the ground; he bathed and anointed himself, and he changed his clothes. He went into the House of the LORD and prostrated himself. Then he went home and asked for food, which they set before him, and he ate. (21) His

חטאתי ליהוה (ס) ויאמר נתן אל-דוד
גם-יהוה העביר חטאתך לא תמות: (יד)
אפס כיינאץ נאצת את-איבי יהוה בדבר
הנה גם הכן הילוד לה מות ימות: (טו)
וילך נתן אל-ביתו ויגף יהוה את-הילד
אשר ילדה אשת-אוריה לדוד ויאנש: (טז)
ויבקש דוד את-האלהים בעד הגער ויצם
דוד צום ויבא ולן ושקב ארצה: (יז) ויקמו
זקני ביתו עליו להקימו מן-הארץ ולא
אכה ולא-ברא אתם לחם: (יח) ויהי ביום
השביעי נמת הילד ויראו עבדי דוד להגיד
לו | כיימת הילד כי אמרו הנה בהיות
הילד חיי דברנו אליו ולא-שמע בקולנו
ואיך נאמר אליו מת הילד ועשה רעה:
(יט) וירא דוד כי עבדיו מתלחשים בכו
דוד כי מת הילד ויאמר דוד אל-עבדיו
המת הילד ויאמרו מת: (כ) ויקם דוד
מהארץ וירחץ ויטב ויסלף שמלתו
[שמתיו] ויבא בית-יהוה וישתחו ויבא
אל-ביתו וישאל וישימו לו לחם ויאכל:
(כא) ויאמרו עבדיו אליו מה-הדבר הנה
אשר עשית בעבור הילד חל צמת ותבך
וכאשר מת הילד קמת ותאכל לחם: (כב)
ויאמר בעוד הילד חיי צמתי ואכנה כי
אמרתי מי יודע יחנני [וחנני] יהוה ותי
הילד: (כג) ועתה | מת למה זה אני צם
האובל להשיבו עוד אני הלך אליו והוא
לא-ישוב אלי: (כד) וינתחם דוד את
בת-שבע אשתו ויבא אליה וישקב עמה
ותלד בן ויקרא [בתקרא] את-שמו שלמה
ויהוה אהבו: (כה) וישלח ביד נתן הנביא
ויקרא את-שמו ידוניה בעבור יהוה: (פו)
(כו) וילחם יואב ברבת בני עמון וילכד
את-עיר המלוכה: (כז) וישלח יואב
מלאכים אל-דוד ויאמר גלתמתי ברכה
גם-לכדתי את-עיר המים: (כח) ועתה אסר
את-ימך העם ותגה על-העיר ולכדה
פן-אלכד אני את-העיר ונקרא שמי עליה:

courtiers asked him, “Why have you acted in this manner? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but now that the child is dead, you rise and take food!” (22) He replied, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept because I thought: ‘Who knows? The LORD may have pity on me, and the child may live.’ (23) But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will never come back to me.” (24) David consoled his wife Bathsheba; he went to her and lay with her. She bore a son and she named him Solomon. The LORD favored him, (25) and He sent a message through the prophet Nathan; and he was named Jedidiah at the instance of the LORD. (26) Joab attacked Rabbah of Ammon and captured the royal city. (27) Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have attacked Rabbah and I have already captured the water city. (28) Now muster the rest of the troops and besiege the city and capture it; otherwise I will capture the city myself, and my name will be connected with it.” (29) David mustered all the troops and marched on Rabbah, and he attacked it and captured it. (30) The crown was taken from the head of their king and it was placed on David’s head—it weighed a talent of gold, and [on it] were precious stones. He also carried off a vast amount of booty from the city. (31) He led out the people who lived there and set them to work with saws, iron threshing boards, and iron axes, or assigned them to brickmaking; David did this to all the towns of Ammon. Then David and all the troops returned to Jerusalem.

I Samuel 20:24-42

(24) David hid in the field. The new moon came, and the king sat down to partake of the meal. (25) When the king took his usual place on the seat by the wall, Jonathan rose and Abner sat down at Saul’s side; but David’s place remained vacant. (26)

(כט) וַיֵּאָסֹף דָּוִד אֶת-כָּל-הָעָם וַיִּלְךָ רַבָּתָה וַיִּלְחָם בָּהּ וַיִּלְכְּדָהּ: (ל) וַיִּקַּח אֶת-עֵטְרֵת-מַלְכָּם מֵעַל רֹאשׁוֹ וּמִשְׁקָלָהּ כֶּפֶר זָהָב וְאֶבֶן יָקָרָה וַתְּהִי עַל-רֹאשׁ דָּוִד וַיִּשְׁלַל הָעֵיִר הַזֹּצִיא הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: (לא) וְאֶת-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-רָבָה הַזֹּצִיא וַיִּשָּׂם בְּמַגֵּרָה וּבְחֻרָצֵי הַבְּרִזָּל וּבְמַגְזֵרֹת הַבְּרִזָּל וְהַעֲבִיר אוֹתָם בַּמַּלְכוֹ [בַּמְלִיכוֹ] וְכֵן יַעֲשֶׂה לְכָל עָרֵי בְנֵי-עַמּוֹן וַיָּשָׁב דָּוִד וְכָל-הָעָם יְרוּשָׁלָּם: (פ)

שמואל א כ': כ"ד-מ"ב

(כד) וַיִּסְתַּר דָּוִד בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיְהִי הַחֹדֶשׁ וַיִּשָּׁב הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל- [אֶל-] הַלְחָם לְאָכֹל: (כה) וַיָּשָׁב הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל-מוֹשְׁבֹו כַּפְעָם | בְּפַעַם אֶל-מוֹשֵׁב הַחֵיִר וַיִּקָּם יְהוֹנָתָן וַיָּשָׁב אַבְנֵר מֵאַחַד שְׂאוּל

That day, however, Saul said nothing. “It’s accidental,” he thought. “He must be unclean and not yet cleansed.” (27) But on the day after the new moon, the second day, David’s place was vacant again. So Saul said to his son Jonathan, “Why didn’t the son of Jesse come to the meal yesterday or today?” (28) Jonathan answered Saul, “David begged leave of me to go to Bethlehem. (29) He said, ‘Please let me go, for we are going to have a family feast in our town and my brother has summoned me to it. Do me a favor, let me slip away to see my kinsmen.’ That is why he has not come to the king’s table.” (30) Saul flew into a rage against Jonathan. “You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!” he shouted. “I know that you side with the son of Jesse—to your shame, and to the shame of your mother’s nakedness! (31) For as long as the son of Jesse lives on earth, neither you nor your kingship will be secure. Now then, have him brought to me, for he is marked for death.” (32) But Jonathan spoke up and said to his father, “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” (33) At that, Saul threw his spear at him to strike him down; and Jonathan realized that his father was determined to do away with David. (34) Jonathan rose from the table in a rage. He ate no food on the second day of the new moon, because he was grieved about David, and because his father had humiliated him. (35) In the morning, Jonathan went out into the open for the meeting with David, accompanied by a young boy. (36) He said to the boy, “Run ahead and find the arrows that I shoot.” And as the boy ran, he shot the arrows past him. (37) When the boy came to the place where the arrows shot by Jonathan had fallen, Jonathan called out to the boy, “Hey, the arrows are beyond you!” (38) And Jonathan called after the boy, “Quick, hurry up. Don’t stop!” So Jonathan’s boy gathered the arrows and came back to his master.— (39) The boy suspected nothing;

וַיִּפְקֹד מְקוֹם דָּוִד: (כו) וְלֹא־דָבַר שְׂאוּל
מְאוּמָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כִּי אָמַר מְקַרְהָ הוּא
בַּלְּתֵי טְהוֹר הוּא כִּי־לֹא טְהוֹר: (כז) (ס)
וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרַת הַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי וַיִּפְקֹד מְקוֹם דָּוִד
(ס) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל אֶל־יְהוֹנָתָן בְּנֹו מִדּוֹעַ
לֹא־בָא בּוֹ־יֵשִׁי גַם־תְּמוּל גַּם־הַיּוֹם
אֶל־הַלְחָם: (כח) וַיַּעַן יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־שְׂאוּל
וַיִּשְׂאֵל נִשְׂאֵל דָּוִד מֵעַמֻּדֵי עַד־בַּיִת לְחָם:
(כט) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂלַחְנִי נָא כִּי זָבַח מִשְׁפָּחָה לְנֹו
בְּעִיר וְהוּא צְנוּה־לִי אַחִי וְעַתָּה אִם־מִצְּאָתִי
חֹן בְּעֵינַיִךְ אִמְלֹטָה נָא וְאֶרְאֶה אֶת־אָחִי
עַל־כֵּן לֹא־בָא אֶל־שְׁלַחַן הַמֶּלֶךְ: (ס) (ל)
וַיִּסְרֹ־אֶף שְׂאוּל בִּיהוֹנָתָן וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ
בְּו־נִצְנוֹת הַמַּרְדּוֹת הַלּוֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־בַחַר
אַתָּה לְבּוֹ־יֵשִׁי לְבִשְׁתָּךְ וּלְבִשְׁתַּ עֲרוֹת אִמִּי:
(לא) כִּי כָל־הַיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר בּוֹ־יֵשִׁי תִי
עַל־הַקְּאֻדָּמָה לֹא תִכּוֹן אַתָּה וּמִלְכוּתְךָ וְעַתָּה
שְׁלַח וְקַח אִתּוֹ אֵלָי כִּי בּוֹ־מָנֹת הוּא: (ס)
(לב) וַיַּעַן יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־שְׂאוּל אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵלָיו לָמָּה יוֹמַת מָה עָשָׂה: (לג) וַיִּטֹּל שְׂאוּל
אֶת־הַחֲנִית עָלָיו לְהַכּוֹתוֹ וַיִּדַע יְהוֹנָתָן
כִּי־כָלָה הִיא מֵעַם אָבִיו לְהַמִּית אֶת־דָּוִד:
(ס) (לד) וַיִּקָּם יְהוֹנָתָן מֵעַם הַשְׁלַחַן
בְּחַר־יָאֶף וְלֹא־אָכַל בַּיּוֹם־הַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי
לְחָם כִּי נִעְצַב אֶל־דָּוִד כִּי הִכְלִמוֹ אָבִיו: (ס)
(לה) וַיְהִי בַּפֶּקֶד וַיִּצְאָ יְהוֹנָתָן הַשְּׂנֵדָה לְמוֹעֵד
דָּוִד וַנִּעַר קָטָן עִמּוֹ: (לו) וַיֹּאמֶר לְנַעֲרוֹ רֵץ
מִצָּא נָא אֶת־הַחֲצִיִּים אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מוֹרֵה
הַנִּעַר רֵץ וְהוּא־יָרָה הַחֲצִי לְהַעֲבֹרוֹ: (לז)
וַיָּבֵא הַנִּעַר עַד־מְקוֹם הַחֲצִי אֲשֶׁר יָרָה
יְהוֹנָתָן וַיִּקְרָא יְהוֹנָתָן אַחֲרָי הַנִּעַר וַיֹּאמֶר
הַלּוֹא הַחֲצִי מִמֶּנִּי וְהִלָּאָה: (לח) וַיִּקְרָא
יְהוֹנָתָן אַחֲרָי הַנִּעַר מִהַרְגָה חוֹשֶׁה אֶל־תַּעֲמֹד
וַיִּלְקָט גַּעַר יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־הַחֲצִי [הַחֲצִיִּים]
וַיָּבֵא אֶל־אֲדֹנָיו: (לט) וְהַנִּעַר לֹא־יָדַע
מְאוּמָה אֶף יְהוֹנָתָן וְדוֹד יָדַעוּ אֶת־הַדָּבָר:
(מ) וַיִּתֵּן יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־כָּלָיו אֶל־הַנִּעַר
אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֵךְ הִבֵּיָה קַעֲרִי: (מא)

only Jonathan and David knew the arrangement.— (40) Jonathan handed the gear to his boy and told him, “Take these back to the town.” (41) When the boy got there, David emerged from his concealment at the Negeb. He flung himself face down on the ground and bowed low three times. They kissed each other and wept together; David wept the longer. (42) Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace! For we two have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD: ‘May the LORD be [witness] between you and me, and between your offspring and mine, forever!’”

I Samuel 21

(1) David then went his way, and Jonathan returned to the town. (2) David went to the priest Ahimelech at Nob. Ahimelech came out in alarm to meet David, and he said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” (3) David answered the priest Ahimelech, “The king has ordered me on a mission, and he said to me, ‘No one must know anything about the mission on which I am sending you and for which I have given you orders.’ So I have directed [my] young men to such and such a place. (4) Now then, what have you got on hand? Any loaves of bread? Let me have them—or whatever is available.” (5) The priest answered David, “I have no ordinary bread on hand; there is only consecrated bread—provided the young men have kept away from women.” (6) In reply to the priest, David said, “I assure you that women have been kept from us, as always. Whenever I went on a mission, even if the journey was a common one, the vessels of the young men were consecrated; all the more then may consecrated food be put into their vessels today.” (7) So the priest gave him consecrated bread, because there was none there except the bread of display, which had been removed from the presence of the LORD, to be replaced by warm bread

הנער בֹּאֹ וְדוֹד קָם מֵאֶצֶל הַנָּגֶב וַיִּפֹּל לְאַפָּיו
 אַרְצָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים וַיִּשְׁקוּ | אִישׁ
 אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ וַיִּכְפוּ אִישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ עַד־דָּוֶד
 הַגָּדִיל: (מב) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹנָתָן לְדָוִד לֵךְ
 לְשָׁלוֹם אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁפָּעְנוּ שְׁנֵינוּ אֲנִיחָנוּ בְּשֵׁם
 יְהוָה לְאָמֵר יְהוָה יְהִינָה | בֵּינֵי וּבֵינֶךָ וּבֵין
 זַרְעֵי וּבֵין זַרְעֵךָ עַד־עוֹלָם: (פ)

שמואל א כ"א

(א) וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיְהוֹנָתָן בָּא הָעִיר: (ב) וַיָּבֹא
 דָּוִד לְנֹבָה אֶל־אַחִימֶלֶךְ הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּחַרְד אַחִימֶלֶךְ
 לַקְרָאת דָּוִד וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַדּוּעַ אַתָּה לְבַדָּךָ
 וְאִישׁ אֵין אִתְּךָ: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְאַחִימֶלֶךְ
 הַכֹּהֵן הַמֶּלֶךְ צִנְנֵי דְבַר וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי אִישׁ
 אֶל־יָדַע מְאוּמָה אֶת־הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי
 שֹׁלְחֶךָ וְאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתְךָ וְאֶת־הַנְּעָרִים יוֹדְעֵתִי
 אֶל־מְקוֹם פְּלִי אֶלְמוּנֵי: (ד) וְעַתָּה מַה־יֵּשֶׁ
 בְּיָדְךָ מִמִּשְׁה־לֶּחֶם תִּנְּהוּ בְּיָדֵי אוֹ
 הַנְּמָצָא: (ה) וַיַּעַן הַכֹּהֵן אֶת־דָּוִד וַיֹּאמֶר
 אִין־לֶחֶם חֵל אֶל־תַּחַת יָדֵי כִּי־אִם־לֶחֶם
 קֹדֶשׁ יֵשׁ אִם־נִשְׁמְרוּ הַנְּעָרִים אֶךָ מֵאִשָּׁה:
 (ו) וַיַּעַן דָּוִד אֶת־הַכֹּהֵן וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כִּי
 אִם־אִשָּׁה עֲצָרָה־לָנוּ כַּתְּמוּל שְׁלֹשָׁם בְּצִאתִי
 וַיְהִיו כְּלֵי־הַנְּעָרִים קֹדֶשׁ וְהוּא גִרְדָּךָ חֵל וְאֶךָ
 כִּי הַיּוֹם יִקְדָּשׁ בְּכָלִי: (ז) וַיִּתְּנוּ־לוֹ הַכֹּהֵן
 קֹדֶשׁ כִּי לֹא־הָיָה שֵׁם לֶחֶם כִּי־אִם־לֶחֶם
 הַפָּנִים הַמְּוֹסְרִים מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה לְשׁוֹם לֶחֶם
 חֵם בָּיּוֹם הַלְקָחוּ: (ח) וְשֵׁם אִישׁ מֵעֵבְדֵי
 שָׂאוּל בָּיּוֹם הַהוּא נִעְצָר לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וּשְׁמוֹ
 דָּאָג הָאֵלֶּמֶי אֲבִיר הָרַעִים אֲשֶׁר לְשָׂאוּל:
 (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְאַחִימֶלֶךְ וְאֵין יֵשֶׁ־פֶּה
 תַּחַת־יָדְךָ תִּנְּהוּ אוֹ־חֶרֶב כִּי גַם־חֶרֶב־כִּי

as soon as it was taken away.— (8) Now one of Saul’s officials was there that day, detained before the LORD; his name was Doeg the Edomite, Saul’s chief herdsman. (9) David said to Ahimelech, “Haven’t you got a spear or sword on hand? I didn’t take my sword or any of my weapons with me, because the king’s mission was urgent.” (10) The priest said, “There is the sword of Goliath the Philistine whom you slew in the valley of Elah; it is over there, wrapped in a cloth, behind the ephod. If you want to take that one, take it, for there is none here but that one.” David replied, “There is none like it; give it to me.” (11) That day David continued on his flight from Saul and he came to King Achish of Gath. (12) The courtiers of Achish said to him, “Why, that’s David, king of the land! That’s the one of whom they sing as they dance: Saul has slain his thousands; David, his tens of thousands.” (13) These words worried David and he became very much afraid of King Achish of Gath. (14) So he concealed his good sense from them; he feigned madness for their benefit. He scratched marks on the doors of the gate and let his saliva run down his beard. (15) And Achish said to his courtiers, “You see the man is raving; why bring him to me? (16) Do I lack madmen that you have brought this fellow to rave for me? Should this fellow enter my house?”

I Samuel 22:6-23

(6) When Saul heard that David and the men with him had been located—Saul was then in Gibeah, sitting under the tamarisk tree on the height, spear in hand, with all his courtiers in attendance upon him— (7) Saul said to the courtiers standing about him, “Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give fields and vineyards to every one of you? And will he make all of you captains of thousands or captains of hundreds? (8) Is that why all of you have conspired against me? For no one informs

וגם־פְּלִי לֹא־לָקַחְתִּי בְיָדִי כִּי־הָיָה
דְּבַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ נְחֹזֵץ: (ס) (י) וַיֹּאמֶר הַכֹּהֵן
חָרָב גְּלִית הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֲשֶׁר־הִכִּיתָ | בְּעֶמֶק
הָאֵלֶּה הִנֵּה־הִיא לוֹטָה בַשְּׂמֵלָה אַחֲרַי
הָאֵפוֹד אִם־אֵתָה תִּקַּח־לְךָ קֶחַ כִּי אֵין
אֲתָרַת זולָתָה בַּיָּהּ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֵין כְּמוֹהָ
תִּגְנֶה לִּי: (יא) נִיקָם דָּוִד וַיִּבְרַח בַּיּוֹם־הַהוּא
מִפְּנֵי שָׂאוֹל וַיָּבֵא אֶל־אֲכִישׁ מֶלֶךְ גַּת: (יב)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ עֲבָדַי אֲכִישׁ אֵלָיו הֲלוֹא־גַּת דָּוִד
מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ הֲלוֹא לְזֶה יַעֲנֶה בְּמַחְלוֹת לֵאמֹר
הֲכֵה שָׂאוֹל בְּאֵלָפוֹ [בְּאַלְפָּיו] וְדָוִד בַּרְבַּבְתּוֹ
[בְּרַבְכְּתָיו]: (יג) וַיִּשָּׂם דָּוִד אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה בְּלִבּוֹ וַיָּרָא מְאֹד מִפְּנֵי אֲכִישׁ
מֶלֶךְ־גַּת: (יד) וַיִּשְׁגֹּו אֶת־טַעַמוֹ בְּעֵינָיו
וַיִּתְהַלֵּל בְּיָדָם וַיִּתּוּ [וַיִּתְיוּ] עַל־דַּלְתוֹת
הַשַּׁעַר וַיִּוָּרֵד רִירוֹ אֶל־זַקְנוֹ: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲכִישׁ אֶל־עֲבָדָיו הִנֵּה תִרְאוּ אִישׁ מִשְׁתַּגֵּעַ
לְמָה תִּבְיֵאוּ אֹתוֹ אֵלָי: (טז) חֲסַר מִשְׁגָּעִים
אֲנִי כִּי־הִבַּאתֶם אֶת־זֶה לְהַשְׁמִיטָה עָלַי הֲזֶה
יָבוֹא אֶל־בֵּיתִי: (ס)

שמואל א כ"ב:וי-כ"ג

(ו) וַיִּשְׁמַע שָׂאוֹל כִּי נֹדַע דָּוִד וְאֲנָשִׁים
אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וְשָׂאוֹל יוֹשֵׁב בְּגִבְעָה
תַּחַת־הָאֲשֵׁל בְּרָמָה וַחֲנִיתוֹ בְּיָדוֹ וְכָל־עֲבָדָיו
נֹצְצִים עָלָיו: (ז) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוֹל לְעֲבָדָיו
הַנּוֹצְצִים עָלָיו שְׂמַעוּ־נָא בְּנֵי יִמִּינִי
גַם־לְכַלְכֶּם יִתְּנוּ כּוֹנֵי־שָׂדוֹת וְכַרְמִים
לְכַלְכֶּם יְשִׁים שְׂרָי אֶלְפִים וְשְׂרָי מְאוֹת: (ח)
כִּי קִשְׂרַתֶּם פְּלַכְסֶם עָלַי וְאִין־גְּלָה אֶת־אָזְנִי
בְּכַרְת־בְּנֵי עַם־כּוֹנֵי־שָׂי וְאִין־חָלָה מִכֶּם עָלַי

me when my own son makes a pact with the son of Jesse; no one is concerned for me and no one informs me when my own son has set my servant in ambush against me, as is now the case.” (9) Doeg the Edomite, who was standing among the courtiers of Saul, spoke up: “I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob. (10) He inquired of the LORD on his behalf and gave him provisions; he also gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.” (11) Thereupon the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and for all the priests belonging to his father’s house at Nob. They all came to the king, (12) and Saul said, “Listen to me, son of Ahitub.” “Yes, my lord,” he replied. (13) And Saul said to him, “Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me? You gave him food and a sword, and inquired of God for him—that he may rise in ambush against me, as is now the case.” (14) Ahimelech replied to the king, “But who is there among all your courtiers as trusted as David, son-in-law of Your Majesty and obedient to your bidding, and esteemed in your household? (15) This is the first time that I inquired of God for him; I have done no wrong. Let not Your Majesty find fault with his servant [or] with any of my father’s house; for your servant knew nothing whatever about all this.” (16) But the king said, “You shall die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house.” (17) And the king commanded the guards standing by, “Turn about and kill the priests of the LORD, for they are in league with David; they knew he was running away and they did not inform me.” But the king’s servants would not raise a hand to strike down the priests of the LORD. (18) Thereupon the king said to Doeg, “You, Doeg, go and strike down the priests.” And Doeg the Edomite went and struck down the priests himself; that day, he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. (19) He put Nob, the town of the priests, to the sword: men and women,

וּגְלָה אֶת־אֲזָנָי כִּי הָקִים בְּנֵי אֶת־עַבְדֵי עָלַי
 לְאָרֶב כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה: (ט) וַיַּעַן דּוֹאֵג הָאֲדֹמִי
 וְהוּא נֹאֵב עַל־עַבְדֵי־שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר רְאִיתִי
 אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֵלֵי אֶל־אֲחִימֵלֵךְ
 בְּנוֹ־אֲחִיטוֹב: (י) וַיִּשְׁאַל־לוֹ בַּיהוָה וַיְצִיֵהוּ גִמְלוֹ
 לוֹ וְאֵת תְּרַב גְּלִית הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי גִמְלוֹ לוֹ: (יא)
 וַיִּשְׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ לְקַרְאֵ אֶת־אֲחִימֵלֵךְ
 בְּנוֹ־אֲחִיטוֹב הַכֹּהֵן וְאֵת כָּל־בְּיַת אָבִיו
 הַכֹּהֲנִים אֲשֶׁר בְּגֹב וַיָּבֵאוּ כָּל־הַמֶּלֶךְ:
 (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל שְׂמַע־נָא בְּנוֹ־אֲחִיטוֹב
 וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּגִי אֲדֹנָי: (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלוֹ [אֱלֹהִי]
 שָׁאוּל לָמָּה קִשַׁרְתֶּם עָלַי אַתְּהָ וּבְנוֹ־יִשְׂרָאֵל
 בְּתַתְּהוּ לוֹ לַחֵם וְתָרַב וְשָׁאוּל לוֹ בְּאֵלֵהֶם
 לְקוֹם אֲלֵי לְאָרֶב כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה: (יד) וַיַּעַן
 אֲחִימֵלֵךְ אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר וּמִי בְּכָל־עַבְדֵיךָ
 כְּדָוִד נֹאֵמוֹ וְחַתְּנוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְסָר אֶל־מִשְׁמַעְתְּךָ
 וַנִּכְבַּד בְּבֵיתְךָ: (טו) הַיּוֹם הַחֲלַתִּי
 לְשָׁאוּל־[לְשָׁאֵל] לוֹ בְּאֵלֵהֶם חֲלִילָה לִּי
 אֶל־יִשְׁעֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּעַבְדְּךָ דָּבָר בְּכָל־בְּיַת אָבִי
 כִּי לֹא־יָדַע עַבְדְּךָ בְּכָל־זֹאת דְּבַר קִטּוֹן אִוֹ
 גְּדוֹל: (טז) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מוֹת תָּמוּת
 אֲחִימֵלֵךְ אַתְּהָ וְכָל־בְּיַת אָבִיךָ: (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר
 הַמֶּלֶךְ לְרָצִים הַנֹּצְצִים עָלָיו סָבוּ וְהִמִּיתוּ
 כַּהֲנֵי יְהוָה כִּי גַם־יָדַם עַם־דָּוִד וְכִי יָדַעוּ
 כִּי־בִרְחָם הוּא וְלֹא גָלוּ אֶת־אָזְנוֹ [אֲזָנָי]
 וְלֹא־אָבְּוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ לְשַׁלֵּם אֶת־יָדָם לַפְּגַע
 בְּכַהֲנֵי יְהוָה: (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְדוּיג
 [לְדוּאֵג] סֹב אַתְּהָ וּפְגַע בְּכַהֲנֵים וַיֹּסֵב דוּיג
 [דּוּאֵג] הָאֲדֹמִי וַיִּפְגַע־הוּא בְּכַהֲנֵים וַיָּמַת
 כַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׂמַנְיִם וְחַמְשָׁה אִישׁ נִשְׂא אֶפְרוֹד
 בָּד: (יט) וְאֵת גֹּב עִיר־הַכֹּהֲנִים הִכָּה
 לְפִי־תָרַב מֵאִישׁ וְעַד־אִשָּׁה מֵעוֹלָל
 וְעַד־יוֹנֵק וְשׂוֹר וְחִמּוֹר וְשָׂה לְפִי־תָרַב: (כ)
 וַיִּמְלֹט בְּנוֹ־אֲחִיטוֹב לְאֲחִימֵלֵךְ בְּנוֹ־אֲחִיטוֹב וְשָׂמוּ
 אֲבִיתָר וַיִּכְרַח אַחֲרָי דָּוִד: (כא) וַיִּגַּד אֲבִיתָר
 לְדָוִד כִּי הִרְגָה שָׁאוּל אֶת כַּהֲנֵי יְהוָה: (כב)
 וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְאֲבִיתָר יָדְעָתִי כַּיּוֹם הַהוּא
 כִּי־שָׂם דוּיג [דּוּאֵג] הָאֲדֹמִי כִּי־הִגִּיד יָגִיד

children and infants, oxen, asses, and sheep—[all] to the sword. (20) But one son of Ahimelech son of Ahitub escaped—his name was Abiathar—and he fled to David. (21) When Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD, (22) David said to Abiathar, “I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would tell Saul. I am to blame for all the deaths in your father’s house. (23) Stay with me; do not be afraid; for whoever seeks your life must seek my life also. It will be my care to guard you.”

II Samuel 21:1-14

(1) There was a famine during the reign of David, year after year for three years. David inquired of the LORD, and the LORD replied, “It is because of the bloodguilt of Saul and [his] house, for he put some Gibeonites to death.” (2) The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them.—Now the Gibeonites were not of Israelite stock, but a remnant of the Amorites, to whom the Israelites had given an oath; and Saul had tried to wipe them out in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.— (3) David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make expiation, so that you may bless the LORD’s own people?” (4) The Gibeonites answered him, “We have no claim for silver or gold against Saul and his household; and we have no claim on the life of any other man in Israel.” And [David] responded, “Whatever you say I will do for you.” (5) Thereupon they said to the king, “The man who massacred us and planned to exterminate us, so that we should not survive in all the territory of Israel— (6) let seven of his male issue be handed over to us, and we will impale them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD.” And the king replied, “I will do so.” (7) The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul, because of the oath before the LORD

לְשָׂאוֹל אֶנְכִי סִבְתִּי בְּכָל־נַפְשׁ בֵּית אָבִי:
(כג) שָׂבָה אֶתִּי אֶל־תִּירָא כִּי אֲשֶׁר־יִבְקֹשׁ
אֶת־נַפְשִׁי יִבְקֹשׁ אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ כִּי־מִשְׁמֶרֶת
אֶתָּה עִמָּדִי:

שמואל ב כ"א:א'-י"ד

(א) וַיְהִי רָעַב בְּיָמַי דָּוִד שָׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים שָׁנָה
אַחֲרַי שָׁנָה וַיִּבְקֹשׁ דָּוִד אֶת־פְּנֵי יְהוָה (ס)
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־שָׂאוֹל וְאֶל־בֵּית הַדְּמִים
עַל־אֲשֶׁר־הִמִּית אֶת־הַגְּבֻעִים: (ב) וַיִּקְרָא
הַמֶּלֶךְ לַגְּבֻעִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם וְהַגְּבֻעִים
לֹא מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵמָּה כִּי אִם־מִיַּתֵּר הָאֲמֹרִי
וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נִשְׁבְּעוּ לָהֶם וַיִּבְקֹשׁ שָׂאוֹל
לְהַכֹּתָם בְּקִנְאָתוֹ לְבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהוּדָה: (ג)
וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־הַגְּבֻעִים מָה אַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם
וּבְמָה אֶכְפֹּר וּבְרַכּוּ אֶת־נַחֲלַת יְהוָה: (ד)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַגְּבֻעִים אִין־לִי [לָנוּ] כֶּסֶף
וְזָהָב עִם־שָׂאוֹל וְעִם־בֵּיתוֹ וְאִין־לָנוּ אִישׁ
לְהִמִּית כִּי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר מָה־אַתֶּם אֹמְרִים
אַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם: (ה) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ
אֲשֶׁר כָּלָנוּ וְאֲשֶׁר דָּמָה־לָנוּ נִשְׁמָדְנוּ
מִהַתִּיצָב בְּכָל־גְּבֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ו) יִנְתֹּן־[יָתוֹן־]
לָנוּ שְׁבַעַת אַנְשִׁים מִבְּנֵי וְהוֹקְעֵנוּם לַיהוָה
בַּגְּבַעַת שָׂאוֹל בְּתִיר יְהוָה (ס) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲנִי אֶתָּן: (ז) וַיַּחַמֵּל הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל־מְפִי־בִשֵּׁת
בֶּן־יְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן־שָׂאוֹל עַל־שְׁבַעַת יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר
בְּיָנְתָם בֵּין דָּוִד וּבֵין יְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן־שָׂאוֹל: (ח)
וַיִּקַּח הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שְׁנֵי בְנֵי רָצָפָה בַת־אִיָּה
אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְשָׂאוֹל אֶת־אַרְמָנִי
וְאֶת־מְפֹכֶשֶׁת וְאֶת־חַמְשֵׁת בְּנֵי מִיכָל
בַת־שָׂאוֹל אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְעַדְרִיאֵל בֶּן־בְּרוּזַי

between the two, between David and Jonathan son of Saul. (8) Instead, the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons that Rizpah daughter of Aiah bore to Saul, and the five sons that Merab daughter of Saul bore to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite, (9) and he handed them over to the Gibeonites. They impaled them on the mountain before the LORD; all seven of them perished at the same time. They were put to death in the first days of the harvest, the beginning of the barley harvest. (10) Then Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it on a rock for herself, and she stayed there from the beginning of the harvest until rain from the sky fell on the bodies; she did not let the birds of the sky settle on them by day or the wild beasts [approach] by night. (11) David was told what Saul's concubine Rizpah daughter of Aiah had done. (12) And David went and took the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh-gilead, who had made off with them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hung them up on the day the Philistines killed Saul at Gilboa. (13) He brought up the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan from there; and he gathered the bones of those who had been impaled. (14) And they buried the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan in Zela, in the territory of Benjamin, in the tomb of his father Kish. And when all that the king had commanded was done, God responded to the plea of the land thereafter.

II Samuel 21:15-22

(15) Again war broke out between the Philistines and Israel, and David and the men with him went down and fought the Philistines; David grew weary, (16) and Ishbi-benob tried to kill David.—He was a descendant of the Raphah; his bronze spear weighed three hundred shekels and he wore new armor.— (17) But Abishai

הַמְחַלְתִּי: (ט) וַיִּתְּנֵם בְּיַד הַגִּבְעוֹנִים וַיִּקְיְעֵם
בְּהָר לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּפְּלוּ שְׁבַעֵתַיִם [שְׁבַעֵתָם]
יָחַד וְהֵם [וְהַמָּה] הִמָּתוּ בַיַּמִּי קָצִיר
בְּרֵאשֵׁינִים תַּחֲלַת [בְּתַחֲלַת] קָצִיר שְׁעָרִים:
(י) וַתִּקַּח רִצְפָּה בַת־אִיָּה אֶת־הַשָּׂק וַתִּטְהַר
לָהּ אֶל־הַצּוּר מִתַּחֲלַת קָצִיר עַד נִתְדַּמִּים
עָלֵיהֶם מִוַּשְׁמָיִם וְלֹא־נִתְנָה עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
לָנוּס עָלֵיהֶם יוֹמָם וְאֶת־תֵּיבַת הַשָּׂדֶה לְיִלָּה:
(יא) וַיִּגַּד לְדָוִד אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה רִצְפָּה
בַת־אִיָּה פֶלְגֵשׁ שְׂאוּל: (יב) וַיֵּלֶךְ דָּוִד וַיִּקָּח
אֶת־עֲצָמוֹת שְׂאוּל וְאֶת־עֲצָמוֹת יְהוֹנָתָן בְּנוֹ
מֵאֵת בַּעֲלֵי יָבִישׁ גִּלְגָּד אֲשֶׁר גָּנְבוּ אֹתָם
מִרְחֹב בֵּית־שָׁן אֲשֶׁר תְּלוּם [תְּלָאוּם] שָׁם
הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים [שְׁמָה] [פְּלִשְׁתִּים] בְּיוֹם הַכּוֹת
פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֶת־שְׂאוּל בַּגִּלְבָּע: (יג) וַיַּעַל מִשָּׁם
אֶת־עֲצָמוֹת שְׂאוּל וְאֶת־עֲצָמוֹת יְהוֹנָתָן בְּנוֹ
וַיֹּאסְפוּ אֶת־עֲצָמוֹת הַמּוֹקְעִים: (יד) וַיִּקְבְּרוּ
אֶת־עֲצָמוֹת־שְׂאוּל וַיְהוֹנְתוּ־בְנוֹ בְּאֶרֶץ
בְּנֵימִן בְּצִלְעַ בְּקִבְרֵ קִישׁ אֲבִיו וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כָל
אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעֲתֵר אֱלֹהִים לְאַרְצָ
אֲחֵרֵי־כּוֹ: (פ)

שמואל ב כ"א:ט"ו-כ"ב

(טו) וַתִּהְיֶ־עוֹד מִלְחָמָה לְפִלְשְׁתִּים
אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּרֶד דָּוִד וַעֲבָדָיו עִמּוֹ וַיִּלְחָמוּ
אֶת־פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיַּעַף דָּוִד: (טז) וַיִּשְׁבוּ
[וַיִּשְׁבִּי] בְּבֹב אֲשֶׁר | בִּילִידֵי הַרְפָּה וּמִשְׁקַל
קִינּוֹ שָׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת מִשְׁקָל נְחֹשֶׁת וְהוּא חָגוּר
חֲדָשָׁה וַיֹּאמֶר לְהַכּוֹת אֶת־דָּוִד: (יז)

son of Zeruah came to his aid; he attacked the Philistine and killed him. It was then that David's men declared to him on oath, "You shall not go with us into battle any more, lest you extinguish the lamp of Israel!" (18) After this, fighting broke out again with the Philistines, at Gob; that was when Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, a descendant of the Raphah. (19) Again there was fighting with the Philistines at Gob; and Elhanan son of Jaareoregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, whose spear had a shaft like a weaver's bar. (20) Once again there was fighting, at Gath. There was a giant of a man, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all; he too was descended from the Raphah. (21) When he taunted Israel, Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shimei, killed him. (22) Those four were descended from the Raphah in Gath, and they fell by the hands of David and his men.

II Samuel 24

(1) The anger of the LORD again flared up against Israel; and He incited David against them, saying, "Go and number Israel and Judah." (2) The king said to Joab, -his army commander, "Make the rounds of all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take a census of the people, so that I may know the size of the population." (3) Joab answered the king, "May the LORD your God increase the number of the people a hundredfold, while your own eyes see it! But why should my lord king want this?" (4) However, the king's command to Joab and to the officers of the army remained firm; and Joab and the officers of the army set out, at the instance of the king, to take a census of the people of Israel. (5) They crossed the Jordan and encamped at Aroer, on the right side of the town, which is in the middle of the wadi of Gad, and [went on] to Jazer. (6) They continued to Gilead and

וַיַּעְזְרוּ לוֹ אַבְיָשָׁי בֶן-צִרוּיָהּ בִּיָּד
 אֶת-הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּמִּיתֵהוּ אַזְּ נִשְׁבְּעוּ אַנְשֵׁי-דָוִד
 לֹא לֵאמֹר לֹא-תֵצֵא עִיֹד אֶתְּנֵנוּ לְמִלְחָמָה וְלֹא
 תִכְבֶּה אֶת-נֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל: (פ) (יח) וַיְהִי
 אַחֲרֵי-כֵן וַתְּהִי-עִיֹד הַמִּלְחָמָה בְּגֹב
 עִם-פְּלִשְׁתִּים אַזְּ הִכָּה סִבְכַי הַחֻשְׁתִּי
 אֶת-סָפְסָף אֲשֶׁר בִּילְגַי הַרְפָּה: (פ) (ט)
 וַתְּהִי-עִיֹד הַמִּלְחָמָה בְּגֹב עִם-פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּבֶן
 אֶלְחָנָן בֶּן-יִעָרִי אֲרָגִים בַּיִת הַלְחָמִי אֵת
 גְּלִית הַגִּתִּי וַיַּעַז חֲנִיתוֹ כַּמְּגֹר אֲרָגִים: (ס)
 (כ) וַתְּהִי-עִיֹד מִלְחָמָה בְּגַת וַיְהִי אִישׁ
 מַדּוּן [מַדּוּן] וְאַצְבָּעַת יָדָיו וְאַצְבָּעַת רַגְלָיו
 שֵׁשׁ וְשֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרִים וְאַרְבַּע מִסְפָּר וְגַם-הוּא
 יָלַד לְהַרְפָּה: (כא) וַיַּחַרֵף אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּפְּהוּ
 יְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-שִׁמְעִי [שְׁמֵעָה] אֶתִּי דָוִד: (כב)
 אֶת-אַרְבַּעַת אֵלֶּה יָלְדוּ לְהַרְפָּה בְּגַת וַיִּפְּלוּ
 בְּיַד-דָּוִד וּבְיַד עֶבְדָּיו: (פ)

שמואל ב כ"ד

(א) וַיִּסַּף אֶת-יְהוָה לַחַרּוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּסַּף
 אֶת-דָּוִד בְּהֵם לֵאמֹר לָךְ מִנָּה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל
 וְאֶת-יְהוּדָה: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-יֹאבָב וְ
 שָׂרֵי-הַחַיִל אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ שְׁשֹׁט־נָא בְכָל-שִׁבְטֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל מִדָּן וְעַד-בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וּפְקֹדוּ
 אֶת-הָעָם וַיַּדְעֵתִי אֵת מִסְפַּר הָעָם: (ג) (ד)
 וַיֹּאמֶר יֹאבָב אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּסֶף יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
 אֶל-הָעָם כָּהֵם וְכַהֵם מֵאַה פְּעָמִים וַעֲיִנִּי
 אֲדַגֵּי-הַמֶּלֶךְ רְאוֹת וְאֲדַגֵּי הַמֶּלֶךְ לָמָּה תִפְּץ
 בַּדְּבָר הַזֶּה: (ד) וַיַּחְזֵק דְּבַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-יֹאבָב
 וְעַל שָׂרֵי הַחַיִל וַיֵּצֵא יֹאבָב וְשָׂרֵי הַחַיִל לִפְנֵי
 הַמֶּלֶךְ לִפְקֹד אֶת-הָעָם אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ה)
 וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיַּחֲנוּ בְעָרוֹעַר יַמִּין
 הָעֵיר אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ-הַגַּמְלָה הַגָּד וְאֶל-יַעְזָר: (ו)
 וַיָּבֹאוּ הַגְּלָעָדָה וְאֶל-אַרְצַת תַּחְתִּים חֲדָשִׁי
 וַיָּבֹאוּ דְגָה לְעֵן וְסָבִיב אֶל-צִידוֹן: (ז) וַיָּבֹאוּ
 מִבְּצֻר-צֹר וְכָל-עָרֵי הַחֲתִי וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי וַיֵּצְאוּ

to the region of Tahtim-hodshi, and they came to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon. (7) They went onto the fortress of Tyre and all the towns of the Hivites and Canaanites, and finished at Beer-sheba in southern Judah. (8) They traversed the whole country, and then they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. (9) Joab reported to the king the number of the people that had been recorded: in Israel there were 800,000 soldiers ready to draw the sword, and the men of Judah numbered 500,000. (10) But afterward David reproached himself for having numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, “I have sinned grievously in what I have done. Please, O LORD, remit the guilt of Your servant, for I have acted foolishly.” (11) When David rose in the morning, the word of the LORD had come to the prophet Gad, David’s seer: (12) “Go and tell David, ‘Thus said the LORD: I hold three things over you; choose one of them, and I will bring it upon you.’” (13) Gad came to David and told him; he asked, “Shall a seven-year famine come upon you in the land, or shall you be in flight from your adversaries for three months while they pursue you, or shall there be three days of pestilence in your land? Now consider carefully what reply I shall take back to Him who sent me.” (14) David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for His compassion is great; and let me not fall into the hands of men.” (15) The LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from morning until the set time; and 70,000 of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba. (16) But when the angel extended his hand against Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD renounced further punishment and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “Enough! Stay your hand!” The angel of the LORD was then by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (17) When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said

אֶל־גִּבְיָהּ יְהוּדָה בְּאֶרֶץ שֹׁבַע: (ח) וַיֵּשְׁטוּ
בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ וַיָּבֹאוּ מִקְצֵה תְּשֻׁעָה חֲדָשִׁים
וְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם: (ט) וַיִּתְּנוּ יוֹאָב
אֶת־מִסְפַּר מִפְקְדֵי־הָעָם אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ וַתְּהִי
יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף אִישׁ־חֵיל שְׁלֹף
חֶרֶב וְאִישׁ יְהוּדָה חֲמִשׁ־מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף אִישׁ:
(י) וַיָּבֵד לִב־דָּוִד אֹתוֹ אַחֲרֵי־כֵן סִפֵּר
אֶת־הָעָם (י) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־יְהוָה חַטָּאתִי
מֵאֵל אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי וְעַתָּה יְהוָה הַעֲבֵר־נָא
אֶת־עֲוֹנוֹ עֲבֹדְךָ כִּי נִסְפַּלְתִּי מֵאֵד: (יא) נִקְּמָם
דָּוִד בַּבֶּקֶר (פ) וַדְּבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֶל־גָּד
הַנְּבִיא חֲנֹנִי דָּוִד לֵאמֹר: (יב) הֲלוֹךְ וּדְבַרְתָּ
אֶל־דָּוִד כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה שְׁלֹשׁ אֲנֹכִי נוֹטֵל
עֲלֶיךָ בְּחַט־לֶךְ אַחַת־מֵהֶם וְאֶעֱשֶׂה־לְךָ: (יג)
וַיָּבֹא־גָד אֶל־דָּוִד וַיִּגְדֵּלֵו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּה־נִבְּאוּ
לְךָ שְׁבַע שָׁנִים אֶלֶף יוֹם אֶל־שְׁלֹשָׁה
חֲדָשִׁים גִּסְרָה לְפָנֶיךָ וְהוּא רֹדְפְךָ
וְאִם־תִּהְיֶה שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים דְּבָרְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ עַמֶּיךָ
בְּעַוְבָה וְרָאָה מִה־אֲשִׁיב שְׁלֹחֵי דְבָרְךָ: (יד) (ט)
וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־גָּד צֵר־לִי מֵאֵד נִפְלֶה־נָא
בְּיַד־יְהוָה כִּי־רַבִּים רַחֲמוֹ [רַחֲמֵינוּ]
וּבְיַד־אֲדָמָה אֶל־אֲפֻלָּה: (טו) וַיִּתְּנוּ יְהוָה דְּבָרְךָ
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל מִהַבֶּקֶר וְעַד־עֵת מוֹעֵד וַיָּמַת
מִזֶּה־הָעָם מִדָּוִד וְעַד־בְּאֶרֶץ שֹׁבַע שְׁבַע יָמִים אֶלֶף
אִישׁ: (טז) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְדוֹ הַמַּלְאָךְ אֶל־יְרוּשָׁלַם
לְשַׁחֲתָהּ וַיִּגְתָּם יְהוָה אֶל־הַרְעָה וַיֹּאמֶר
לְמַלְאָךְ הַמְשַׁחֲתִית בְּעַם רַב עַתָּה הִרְרָה יָגֵד
וּמַלְאָךְ יְהוָה הָיָה עִם־גִּרְוֵן הָאוֹרֶנָה
[הָאֲרֹנָה] הַיְבֵסִי: (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד
אֶל־יְהוָה בְּרַחֲמוֹתֶיךָ אֶת־הַמַּלְאָךְ אֶל־הַמַּכָּה
בְּעָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי חַטָּאתִי וְאֲנֹכִי
הַעֲוִיתִי וְאֵלֶּה הַצָּאן מִיָּמָה עֲשׂוּ תְּהִי גֵּר יְדוֹ
כִּי וּבְבִית אָבִי: (יח) וַיָּבֹא־גָד אֶל־דָּוִד
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ עֲלֵה הַקָּמָה לִיְהוָה
מִזֶּכֶם בְּגִרְוֵן אֲרֹנִי [אֲרֹנָה] הַיְבֵסִי: (יט)
וַיַּעַל דָּוִד כְּדְבַר־גָּד כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה: (כ)
וַיִּשְׁקֶף אֲרֹנָה וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת־עַבְדָּיו
עֹבְרִים עָלָיו וַיִּצָּא אֲרֹנָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַמֶּלֶךְ

to the LORD, “I alone am guilty, I alone have done wrong; but these poor sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand fall upon me and my father’s house!” (18) Gad came to David the same day and said to him, “Go and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” (19) David went up, following Gad’s instructions, as the LORD had commanded. (20) Araunah looked out and saw the king and his courtiers approaching him. So Araunah went out and bowed low to the king, with his face to the ground. (21) And Araunah asked, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” David replied, “To buy the threshing floor from you, that I may build an altar to the LORD and that the plague against the people may be checked.” (22) And Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take it and offer up whatever he sees fit. Here are oxen for a burnt offering, and the threshing boards and the gear of the oxen for wood. (23) All this, O king, Araunah gives to Your Majesty. And may the LORD your God,” Araunah added, “respond to you with favor!” (24) But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I will buy them from you at a price. I cannot sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that have cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. (25) And David built there an altar to the LORD and sacrificed burnt offerings and offerings of well-being. The LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague against Israel was checked.

Sanhedrin 95a

The Gemara asks: **What** is the meaning of the phrase: **“This very day shall he halt at Nov”** (Isaiah 10:32)? **Rav Huna says: That** was the final **day** that **remained from** the punishment that the Jewish people received from **the sin of Nov** (see I Samuel, chapter 22). **The astrologers said to Sennacherib: If you go and**

אָפּוּ אָרְצָה: (כא) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרֻנָּה מִדּוֹעַ בָּא
אֲדֹנָי־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־עַבְדּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לִקְנוֹת
מִעֲמֶךָ אֶת־הַגֶּרֶן לִבְנוֹת מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה
וּתְעַצֵּר הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל הָעָם: (כב) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲרֻנָּה אֶל־דָּוִד יִקַּח וַיַּעַל אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב
בְּעֵינָיו [בְּעֵינָיו] רָאָה הַבְּקָר לְעֹלָה וְהַמְרֻגִים
וּכְלֵי הַבְּקָר לְעֹצִים: (כג) הַכֹּל נָתַן אֲרֻנָּה
הַמֶּלֶךְ לַמֶּלֶךְ (ס) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרֻנָּה אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יִרְצֶךָ: (כד) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֶל־אֲרֻנָּה לֹא כִי־קָנֹו אֶקְנֶה מֵאוֹתָךְ בְּמַחֲוֵר
וְלֹא אֶעֱלֶה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי עֹלֹת חַגִּים וַיִּקֶּן
דָּוִד אֶת־הַגֶּרֶן וְאֶת־הַבְּקָר בְּכֶסֶף שְׁקָלִים
חֲמִשִּׁים: (כה) וַיִּבֶן שָׁם דָּוִד מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה
וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת וַיִּשְׁלַמִּים וַיַּעֲתֵר יְהוָה לְאַרְצָ
וּתְעַצֵּר הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

סנהדרין צ"ה א

מאי (ישעיהו י, לב) עוד היום בנוב לעמוד
אמר רב הונא אותו היום נשתייר מעונה
של נוב אמרי ליה כלדאי אי אזלת האינדא
יכלת לה ואי לא לא יכלת לה אורחא
דבעא לסגויי בעשרה יומא סגא בחד יומא
כי מטו לירושלם שדי ליה ביסתרקי עד

conquer them **now, you will overcome** the Jewish people; **and if not, you will not overcome** the Jewish people. The Gemara relates: **He walked** and traversed **in one day a road upon which one must walk for ten days** in order to traverse it. **When they arrived in Jerusalem they cast mats [bistarkei] for Sennacherib and piled them high until he ascended and sat above the wall, to the extent that he was able to see the entire city of Jerusalem. When he saw it, it seemed small in his eyes and he said: Is this the city of Jerusalem for which I have disrupted all my camps and for which I have conquered all these countries? Is it smaller and weaker than all the cities of the nations that I have conquered with my might? He went up and shook his head** in contempt, and dismissively **waved his hand at the Temple Mount that is in Zion and at the courtyard that is in Jerusalem.** His officers **said to him: Let us attack now** and begin the conquest of Jerusalem. Sennacherib **said to them: You are weary. Tomorrow, each and every one of you will bring me a piece of a stone from the wall equivalent in size to the seal [gulmo harag] of a letter, and this will suffice to breach the wall and vanquish the city.** The verse recounts that **immediately: “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when men arose in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses”** (II Kings 19:35). **Rav Pappa says that this is in accordance with the adage that people say: When quarrel lies and is delayed overnight, the quarrel is nullified.** Since Jerusalem was not conquered that day, the decree was voided. § Apropos the massacre of Nov, the Gemara relates: **“And Ishbibenob, who was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of brass; and he was girded with**

דסליק ויתייב מעילוי שורה עד דחזיוה לכולה ירושלם כי חזייה איזוטר בעיניה אמר הלא דא היא קרתא דירושלם דעלה ארגישית כל משיריתי ועלה כבשית כל מדינתא הלא היא זעירא וחלשא מכל כרכי עממיא דכבשית בתקוף ידי עלה וקם ומניד ברישיה מוביל ומייתי בידיה על טור בית מקדשא דבציון ועל עזרתא דבירושלם אמרי נישדי ביה ידא האינדא אמר להו תמהיתו למחר אייתי לי כל חד וחד מינייכו גולמו הרג מיניה מיד (מלכים ב יט, לה) ויהי בלילה ההוא ויצא מלאך ה' ויך במחנה אשור מאה ושמונים וחמשה אלף וישכימו בבקר והנה כלם פגרים מתים אמר רב פפא היינו דאמרי אינשי בת דינא בטל דינא (שמואל ב כא, טז) וישבי בנוב אשר בילידי הרפה ומשקל קינו שלש מאות משקל נחשת והוא חגור חדשה ויאמר להכות את דוד מאי וישבי בנוב אמר רב יהודה אמר רב איש שבא על עסקי נוב א"ל הקב"ה לדוד עד מתי יהיה עון זה טמון בידך על ידך נהרגה נוב עיר הכהנים ועל ידך נטרד דואג האדומי ועל ידך נהרגו שאול ושלשת בניו רצונך יכלו זרעך או תמסר ביד אויב אמר לפניו רבוננו של עולם מוטב אמסר ביד אויב ולא יכלה זרעי יומא חד נפק לשכור בזאי אתא שטן ואדמי ליה כטביא פתק ביה גירא ולא מטייה משכיה עד דאמטייה לארץ פלשתים כדחזייה ישבי בנוב אמר היינו האי דקטליה לגלית אחי כפתיה קמטיה אותביה ושדייה תותי בי בדייא אתעביד ליה ניסא מכא ליה ארעא מתותיה היינו דכתיב (תהלים יח, לז) תרחיב צעדי תחת ולא מעדו קרסולי ההוא יומא אפניא דמעלי שבתא הוה אבישי בן צרויה הוה קא חייף רישיה בד' גרבי דמיא חזינהו

new armor and planned to slay David” (II Samuel 21:16). The Gemara asks: **What is the meaning of Ishbibenob? Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: This is a man [ish] who came to punish David over matters of Nov. The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to David: Until when will this sin be concealed in your hand without punishment? Through your actions the inhabitants of Nov, the city of priests, were massacred, and through your actions, Doeg the Edomite was banished from the World-to-Come, and through your actions Saul and his three sons were killed.** God said to David: Your arrival in Nov and your misleading Ahimelech the priest generated the chain of events, and therefore you must be punished. You may choose the punishment. **Is it your desire that your descendants will cease to exist or that you will be handed to the enemy?** David said before Him: **Master of the Universe, it is preferable that I will be handed to the enemy and my descendants will not cease to exist. One day David went to hunt with a falcon [liskor bazzai]. Satan came and appeared to him as a deer. He shot an arrow at the deer, and the arrow did not reach it. Satan led David to follow the deer until he reached the land of the Philistines. When Ishbibenob saw David he said: This is that person who killed Goliath, my brother. He bound him, doubled him over, and placed him on the ground, and then he cast him under the beam of an olive press to crush him. A miracle was performed for him, and the earth opened beneath him so he was not crushed by the beam. That is the meaning of that which is written: “You have enlarged my steps beneath me, that my feet did not slip”** (Psalms 18:37). The Gemara relates: **That day at dusk on Shabbat eve, Abishai ben Zeruah shampooed his hair with four jugs of water in preparation for Shabbat. He saw**

כתמי דמא איכא דאמרי אתא יונה איטריף קמיה אמר כנסת ישראל ליונה אימתילא שנאמר (תהלים סח, יד) כנפי יונה נחפה בכסף שמע מינה דוד מלכא דישראל בצערא שרי אתא לביתיה ולא אשכחיה אמר תנן אין רוכבין על סוסו ואין יושבין על כסאו ואין משתמשין בשרביטו בשעת הסכנה מאי אתא שאיל בי מדרשא אמרו ליה בשעת הסכנה שפיר דמי רכביה לפרדיה וקם ואזל קפצה ליה ארעא בהדי דקא מסגי חזייה לערפה אמיה דהוות נוולא כי חזיתיה פסקתה לפילכה שדתיה עילויה סברא למקטליה אמרה ליה עלם אייתי לי פלך פתקיה בריש מוחה וקטלה כד חזייה ישבי בנוב אמר השתא הוו בי תרין וקטלין לי פתקיה לדוד לעילא ודך ליה לרומחיה אמר ניפול עלה ונקטל אמר אבישי שם אוקמיה לדוד בין שמיא לארעא ונימא ליה איהו אין חבוש מוציא עצמו מבית האסורין א"ל מאי בעית הכא א"ל הכי אמר לי קודשא בריך הוא והכי אהדרי ליה א"ל אפיך צלותיך בר ברך קירא ליזבון ואת לא תצטער א"ל אי הכי סייע בהדן היינו דכתיב (שמואל ב כא, יז) ויעזור לו אבישי בן צרויה אמר רב יהודה אמר רב שעזרו בתפלה אמר אבישי שם ואחתייה הוה קא רדיף בתרייהו כי מטא קובי אמרי קום ביה כי מטא בי תרי אמרי בתרי גוריין קטלוה לאריא אמרי ליה זיל אשתכח לערפה אימך בקיברא כי אדכרו ליה שמא דאימיה כחש חיליה וקטליה היינו דכתיב (שמואל ב כא, יז) אז נשבעו אנשי דוד לו לאמר לא תצא עוד אתנו למלחמה ולא תכבה את נר ישראל ת"ר שלשה קפצה להם הארץ אליעזר עבד אברהם ויעקב אבינו ואבישי בן צרויה אבישי בן צרויה הא דאמרן אליעזר עבד אברהם דכתיב (בראשית כד, מב) ואבוא

four bloodstains. There are those who say: A dove came and fluttered its wings before him. Abishai said: The congregation of Israel is likened to a dove, as it is stated: “You shall shine as the wings of a dove covered with silver and her pinions with yellow gold” (Psalms 68:14); conclude from it that David, king of Israel, is in a state of distress. He came to David’s house and did not find him. Abishai said that we learned in a mishna (22a): One may not ride on the king’s horse, and one may not sit on his throne, and one may not use his scepter. In a period of danger, what is the halakha? He came and asked in the study hall what the ruling is in that situation. They said to him: In a period of danger one may well do so. He mounted the king’s mule and arose and went to the land of the Philistines. The land miraculously contracted for him and he arrived quickly. As he was progressing he saw Orpah, Ishbibenob’s mother, who was spinning thread with a spindle. When she saw him, she removed her spindle and threw it at him, intending to kill him. After failing to do so, she said to Abishai: Young man, bring me my spindle. He threw the spindle and struck her at the top of her brain and killed her. When Ishbibenob saw him, he said: Now they are two, David and Abishai, and they will kill me. He threw David up in the air, and stuck his spear into the ground. He said: Let David fall upon it and die. Abishai recited a sacred name of God and suspended David between heaven and earth so that he would not fall. The Gemara asks: And let David himself recite the name of God and save himself. Why did he need Abishai? The Gemara answers: A prisoner does not release himself from a prison but requires someone else to release him. Similarly, one in danger is incapable of rescuing himself. Abishai said to David: What do you seek here and why did you

היום אל העין למימרא דהווא יומא נפק יעקב אבינו דכתיב (בראשית כח, י) ויצא יעקב מבאר שבע וילך חרנה וכתוב ויפגע במקום וילן שם כי בא השמש כי מטא לחרן אמר אפשר עברתי על מקום שהתפללו בו אבותי ואני לא התפללתי בו בעי למיהדר כיון דהרהר בדעתיה למיהדר קפצה ליה ארעא מיד ויפגע במקום דבר אחר אין פגיעה אלא תפלה שנאמר (ירמיהו ז, טז) ואתה אל תתפלל בעד העם הזה ואל תשא בעדם רנה ותפלה ואל תפגע בי וילן שם כי בא השמש בתר דצלי בעי למיהדר אמר הקב"ה צדיק זה בא לבית מלוני יפטר בלא לינה מיד בא השמש והיינו דכתיב ויזרח לו השמש וכי לו בלבד זרחה והלא לכל העולם כולו זרחה אלא א"ר יצחק שמש שבא בעבורו זרחה בעבורו ומגלן דכלה זרעיה דדוד דכתי' (מלכים ב יא, א) ועתליה אם אחזיהו ראתה כי מת בנה ותקם ותאבד את כל זרע הממלכה והא אשתייר ליה יואש התם נמי אשתייר אביתר דכתיב (שמואל א כב, כ) וימלט בן אחד לאחימלך בן אחיטוב וישמו אביתר אמר רב יהודה אמר רב אלמלא (לא) נשתייר אביתר לאחימלך בן אחיטוב לא נשתייר מזרעו של דוד שריד ופליט

fall into Ishbibenob's hands? David **said to him: This is what the Holy One, Blessed be He, said to me, and this is what I responded to Him;** the time to submit to my enemy has arrived. Abishai **said to him: Reverse your prayer** and pray that your descendants will cease to exist rather than that you will be handed to the enemy, in accordance with the adage that people say: **Let your son's son** be a poor peddler and **sell wax, and you will not suffer.** Do not limit your expenses to leave an inheritance for your descendants. David **said to him: If so, help me. That is the meaning of that which is written: "And Abishai, son of Zeruiah, came to his aid,** and smote the Philistine and killed him" (II Samuel 21:17). **Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: This means that he came to his aid in prayer. Abishai recited** another sacred **name** of God **and caused** David to **land** safely after being suspended between heaven and earth, and they fled. Ishbibenob **pursued them,** intending to kill them. **When they reached** the place named **Kuvi they said:** The name of the place is an abbreviation for the phrase meaning: **Stand** and battle **against him [kum beih].** **When they reached** a place called **Bei Terei,** David and Abishai **said: With two [bitrei] cubs they killed the lion,** meaning they expected to be successful. **They said to Ishbibenob: Go find Orpah, your mother, in the grave. When they mentioned his mother's name to him** and told him she died, **his strength diminished, and they killed him.** The Gemara notes: **It is after this that it is written: "Then David's men took an oath to him saying: You shall not go with us to war anymore and you will not douse the lamp of Israel"** (II Samuel 21:17). § **The Sages taught** in a *baraita* with regard to land contracting to shorten a journey: **For three individuals the land contracted,** and each one miraculously reached his destination quickly: **Eliezer, servant of Abraham,**

and Jacob our forefather, and Abishai, son of Zeruiah. The Gemara elaborates: The case of **Abishai, son of Zeruiah,** is **that which we said.** The case of **Eliezer, servant of Abraham,** is **as it is written: “And I came that day to the well”** (Genesis 24:42). His intention was **to say** to the members of Rebecca’s family **that on that day he left** Canaan and on the same day he arrived, to underscore the miraculous nature of his undertaking on behalf of Abraham. The case of **Jacob our forefather** is **as it is written: “And Jacob departed from Beersheba and went to Haran”** (Genesis 28:10), **and it is written** thereafter, ostensibly after he arrived in Haran: **“And he encountered [vayyifga] the place, and he slept there, for the sun had set”** (Genesis 28:11). This means that **when Jacob arrived at Haran, he said: Is it possible that I bypassed a place where my forefathers prayed and I did not pray there? He sought to return** to Beit El. **Once he contemplated in his mind to return, the land contracted for him, and immediately: “And he encountered the place,”** indicating that he arrived there unexpectedly, sooner than he would have arrived without a miracle. **Alternatively, encounter means nothing other than prayer, as it is stated: “And you, do not pray on behalf of this nation, and do not raise on their behalf song and prayer, and do not encounter [tifga] Me, for I do not hear you”** (Jeremiah 7:16). It is written: **“And he slept there because the sun had set”** (Genesis 28:11). **After Jacob prayed and he sought to return** to his travels, **the Holy One, Blessed be He, said: This righteous man came to My inn. Will I allow him to take leave without sleeping here? Immediately the sun set,** not at the proper time, **and that is** the meaning of that **which is written** with regard to Jacob: **“And the sun shone for him when he passed Penuel”** (Genesis 32:32). The Gemara asks: **And did the sun shine only for him? But didn’t the sun**

shine for the entire world? Rather, Rabbi Yitzhak says: The sun that set not at the proper time exclusively for him shone not at the proper time exclusively for him in order to rectify the disparity created by the premature sunset. Apropos David's prayer that his descendants cease, the Gemara asks: And from where do we derive that David's descendants ceased to exist? It is derived from a verse, as it is stated: "And Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, and she arose and destroyed all the royal descendants" (II Kings 11:1). The Gemara asks: But didn't Joash remain alive, and therefore, not all of David's descendants ceased to exist? The Gemara answers: There too, in the massacre in Nov, Abiathar, one of the priests, remained alive, as it is written: "And one of the sons of Ahimelech, son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped" (I Samuel 22:20). Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: Were it not for the fact that Abiathar remained alive for Ahimelech, son of Ahitub, there would have been no remnant or refugee remaining from the descendants of David.

Yevamot 78b

§ Rav Ḥana bar Adda said: As for the Gibeonites, it was King David who decreed that they may not enter into the congregation, as it is stated: "And the king called the Gibeonites and said to them. Now the Gibeonites are not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites" (II Samuel 21:2). This verse indicates that it was David who ruled that they are not part of the Jewish people and that they are barred from the congregation even though they converted. The Gemara asks: **What is the reason** that David decreed that they may not enter into the congregation? In order to answer this question, the Gemara recounts all the relevant background events. **As it is**

יבמות ע"ח ב

אמר רב חנא בר אדא נתינים דוד גזר עליהם שנאמר (שמואל ב כא, ב) ויקרא המלך לגבעונים ויאמר אליהם והגבעונים לא מבני ישראל המה וגו' מאי טעמא גזר עלייהו דכתיב (שמואל ב כא, א) ויהי רעב בימי דוד שלש שנים שנה אחר שנה שנה ראשונה אמר להם שמא עובדי עבודת כוכבים יש בכם דכתיב (דברים יא, טז) ועבדתם אלהים אחרים והשתחיתם להם ועצר את השמים ולא יהיה מטר וגו' בדקו ולא מצאו שניה אמר להם שמא עוברי עבירה יש בכם דכתיב (ירמיהו ג, ג) וימנעו רביבים ומלקוש לא

written: “**And there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year**” (II Samuel 21:1). In the **first year** David **said to** the Jewish people: **Perhaps there are idol worshippers among you**, this being a sin that can lead to drought, **as it is written:** “Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside, **and serve other gods, and worship them**; and the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, **and He shut up the heaven, so that there shall be no rain**, and the ground shall not yield her fruit” (Deuteronomy 11:16–17). **They examined** the matter **but did not find** sinners of this kind. In the **second year** of the drought David **said to them:** **Perhaps there are transgressors in sexual matters among you**, as this too can lead to drought, **as it is written:** “**Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain; yet you had a harlot’s forehead**, you refused to be ashamed” (Jeremiah 3:3), which indicates that licentious behavior can lead to a cessation of rainfall. Again **they examined** the matter, **but did not find** sinners of this kind either. In the **third year he said to them:** **Perhaps there are among you those who pledge money to charity in public, but do not actually give** any charity. **As it is written:** “**As vapors and wind without rain, so is he that boasts himself of a false gift**” (Proverbs 25:14), teaching that one who falsely boasts of making a gift prevents the rain from falling. Once again **they examined** the matter, **but could not find** such sinners. Having unsuccessfully searched the Jewish people for sins that cause drought, David **said:** **The matter depends on nothing other than myself. Immediately** it is stated: “**And David sought the presence of the Lord**” (II Samuel 21:1). The Gemara asks: **What is this?** How did David seek God? **Reish Lakish said:** **He inquired through the Urim VeTummim**, the stones embedded in the High Priest’s

היה ומצח אשה זונה היה לך וגו' בדקו ולא מצאו שלישיית אמר להם שמא פוסקי צדקה ברבים יש בכם ואין נותנין דכתיב (משלי כה, יד) נשיאים ורוח וגשם אין איש מתהלל במתת שקר בדקו ולא מצאו אמר אין הדבר תלוי אלא בי מיד ויבקש דוד את פני ה' מאי היא אמר ריש לקיש ששאל באורים ותומים מאי משמע א"ר אלעזר אתיא פני פני כתיב הכא ויבקש דוד את פני ה' וכתוב התם (במדבר כז, כא) ושאל לו במשפט האורים לפני ה' ויאמר ה' אל שאול ואל בית הדמים על אשר המית הגבעונים אל שאול שלא נספד כהלכה ואל בית הדמים על אשר המית הגבעונים וכי היכן מצינו בשאול שהמית הגבעונים אלא מתוך שהרג נוב עיר הכהנים שהיו מספיקין להם מים ומזון מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו הרגן קא תבע אל שאול שלא נספד כהלכה וקא תבע על אשר המית הגבעונים אין דאמר ריש לקיש מאי דכתיב (צפניה ב, ג) בקשו את ה' כל ענוי ארץ אשר משפטו פעלו באשר משפטו שם פעלו אמר דוד שאול נפקו להו תריסר ירחי שתא ולא דרכיה למספדיה נתינים ניקרינהו ונפייסינהו (שמואל ב כא, ב) ויקרא המלך לגבעונים ויאמר אליהם מה אעשה לכם ובמה אכפר וברכו את נחלת ה' ויאמרו לו הגבעונים אין לנו כסף וזהב עם שאול ועם ביתו ואין לנו איש וגו' יותן לנו שבעה אנשים מבניו והוקענום לה' וגו' מיפייס ולא פייסינהו אמר שלשה סימנים יש באומה זו הרחמנים והביישנין וגומלי חסדים רחמנים דכתיב (דברים יג, יח) ונתן לך רחמים ורחמך והרבך ביישנין דכתיב (שמות כ, כ) בעבור תהיה יראתו על פניכם גומלי חסדים דכתיב (בראשית יח, ט) למען אשר יצוה את בניו ואת ביתו

breastplate, which served as a means of communicating with God. The Gemara asks: **From where may it be inferred** that David's seeking was by way of the *Urim VeTummim*? **Rabbi Elazar said:** This is **derived** by way of a verbal analogy between the word “**presence**” used here and the word “**presence**” used elsewhere. **It is written here: “And David sought the presence of the Lord,” and it is written there: “And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim in the presence of the Lord”** (Numbers 27:21). Consequently, the “presence of the Lord” sought by David must have involved the *Urim VeTummim*. The verse continues: **“And the Lord said: It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he put to death the Gibeonites”** (II Samuel 21:1). The Gemara explains: **“For Saul”** means that the Jewish people were punished **because he was not eulogized properly. “And for his bloody house”** is **“because he put to death the Gibeonites.”** The Gemara is puzzled by this explanation: **Now, where do we find that Saul put to death the Gibeonites?** The Gemara clarifies: **Rather, because he killed the people of Nob, the city of priests, who would provide the Gibeonites with water and food in exchange for their services, the verse ascribes to him as if he himself had killed them.** The Gemara questions this understanding: On one hand, God **demands retribution because Saul was not eulogized properly, while** on the other hand, **He demands retribution because Saul himself put to death the Gibeonites.** The Gemara answers: **Yes, this is how it should be. As Reish Lakish said: What is the meaning of that which is written: “Seek the Lord, all the humble of the earth, that have executed [pa’alu] His justice”** (Zephaniah 2:3)? **Where mention is made of the justice to be carried out against a person, his good deeds [pa’alo] should be mentioned there**

וגו' כל שיש בו שלשה סימנים הללו ראוי להדבק באומה זו (שמואל ב כא, ח) ויקח המלך את שני בני רצפה בת איה אשר ילדה לשאול את ארמוני ואת מפיבושת ואת חמשת בני מיכל בת שאול אשר ילדה לעדריאל בן ברזילי המחולתי מאי שנא הני אמר רב הונא העבירום לפני ארון כל שארון קולטו למיתה כל שאין ארון קולטו לחיים מתיב רב חנא בר קטינא (שמואל ב כא, ז) ויחמול המלך על מפיבושת בן יהונתן בן שאול שלא העבירו וכי משוא פנים יש בדבר אלא שהעבירו וקלטו ובקש עליו רחמים ופלטו ואכתי משוא פנים יש בדבר אלא שבקש רחמים שלא יקלטנו הארון והא כתיב (דברים כד, טז) לא יומתו אבות על בנים וגו' אמר רבי חייא בר אבא אמר רבי יוחנן מוטב שתעקר אות אחת מן התורה ואל יתחלל שם שמים בפרהסיא (שמואל ב כא, י) ותקח רצפה בת איה את השק ותטהו לה אל הצור מתחלת קציר עד נתך מים עליהם מן השמים ולא נתנה עוף השמים לנוח עליהם יומם וחית השדה לילה והא כתיב (דברים כא, כג) לא תלין נבלתו על העץ אמר רבי יוחנן משום רבי שמעון בן יהוצדק מוטב שתעקר אות אחת מן התורה ויתקדש שם שמים בפרהסיא שהיו עוברים ושבים אומרים מה טיבן של אלו הללו בני מלכים הם ומה עשו פשוט ידיהם בגרים גרורים אמרו אין לך אומה שראויה להדבק בה כזו ומה בני מלכים כך בני הדיוטות על אחת כמה וכמה ומה גרים גרורים כך ישראל על אחת כמה וכמה

as well. **David said:** With regard to the eulogy for **Saul, there have already passed the twelve months of the year** of mourning, i.e., several years have elapsed since the twelve-month mourning period for Saul, **and it is not the proper way to eulogize** after such a long time. As for the **Gibeonites, let us call them and appease them.** Consequently, the verse states: **“And the king called the Gibeonites and said to them...What shall I do for you, and with what shall I make atonement that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord? And the Gibeonites said to him: It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel...Let seven men of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them up to the Lord...”** (II Samuel 21:1–6). He tried to **appease them** in other ways, **but they would not be appeased.**

David said: There are three distinguishing marks of this nation, the Jewish people. They are **merciful, they are shamefaced, and they perform acts of kindness.**

They are **merciful, as it is written: “And He will give you mercy, and have mercy upon you and multiply you”** (Deuteronomy 13:18); not only will God have mercy upon you, but He will bestow the attribute of mercy upon you.

They are **shamefaced, as it is written: “And that His fear shall be upon your faces”** (Exodus 20:17), and the fear that is on one’s face is his shame.

They perform acts of kindness, as it is written: “For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of the Lord, to practice righteousness and justice” (Genesis 18:19), i.e., to perform acts of kindness.

Whoever has these three distinguishing marks is fit to cleave to this nation.

Those who lack these qualities, however, are unfit to be part of the Jewish people.

When David saw the cruelty of the Gibeonites, he decreed that they may never enter into the congregation of Israel. The Gemara continues with its understanding of the incident: **“And the king took the two sons of Rizpah, daughter of Aiah, whom she bore unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth, and the five sons of Michal, daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite”** (II Samuel 21:8). The Gemara asks: **What is different** about **these** sons that David chose them from among all the descendants of Saul? **Rav Huna said: He passed** all of Saul’s descendants **before the Ark** of the Covenant. **Whoever was held back by the Ark**, so that he could not move on, was condemned **to death; whoever was not held back by the Ark** was set apart **for life**. **Rav Hana bar Ketina raised an objection:** The verse states: **“And the king had pity on Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, son of Saul**, because of the Lord’s oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan, son of Saul” (II Samuel 21:7). If the seven men were condemned by the Ark, how did the king’s pity affect their sentence? The Gemara answers: It means **that he did not pass** Mephibosheth before the Ark at all, so that he would not be in danger of being held back at all. The Gemara questions this behavior: May **favoritism** be shown **in this matter?** Once the decision was placed in the hand of Heaven, how could David have intervened in matters of life and death and not pass Mephibosheth before the Ark? **Rather**, what happened was **that** David **passed** Mephibosheth before the Ark **and** the Ark **held him back, but** David immediately **asked for mercy on his behalf, and** the Ark **released him**. The Gemara asks: **But** the difficulty **still** remains: May **favoritism** be shown **in this matter?** Once the Ark condemned Mephibosheth to death, how could David

have intervened so that another would have to die in his place? **Rather**, David **asked for mercy** on his behalf, **that the Ark should not hold him back** and performed no other action. The Gemara raises a difficulty with regard to the story as related by the Bible: **But isn't it written: "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children; neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers"** (Deuteronomy 24:16)? As Saul's sons had not sinned, why were they put to death? **Rabbi Ḥiyya bar Abba said that Rabbi Yoḥanan said:** It is **better that one letter and one mitzva be uprooted from the Torah** in this manner and thereby the **name of Heaven not be desecrated in public [parhesya]**. The killing of the Gibeonites by the Jewish people constituted a desecration of God's name. In order to repair the damage, David acquiesced to the Gibeonites' demands, even though they contradicted Torah law. The Gemara continues with its analysis of the incident. The verse states: **"And Rizpah, daughter of Aiah, took sackcloth and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water was poured upon them from heaven; and she allowed neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night"** (II Samuel 21:10). The Gemara raises a difficulty: How could they have left Saul's executed sons unburied all that time? **Isn't it written: "His body shall not remain all night upon the tree; but you shall surely bury him the same day"** (Deuteronomy 21:23)? **Rabbi Yoḥanan said in the name of Rabbi Shimon ben Yehotzadak:** It is **better that one letter be uprooted from the Torah and thereby the name of Heaven be sanctified in public**. How so? **As the gentile passersby would say: What is the nature of these people who have been left hanging here for so long? They were told that these are sons of kings. And what did they do to**

deserve such a fate? **They had laid their hands upon** and caused harm to **calculating converts** who had converted for personal gain and were never permitted to enter into the congregation. Those passersby **said: There is no nation as worthy of cleaving to it as this one. If the sons of kings** who harmed converts are treated **in this manner, all the more so would the sons of ordinary people [hedyotot]** be. **And if calculating converts** are related to **in this way, all the more so** would this apply to members of **the Jewish people** themselves.

Sanhedrin 21a

Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: David had four hundred children in his army, **and all of them were sons of beautiful women** taken captive from their gentile homes during war (see Deuteronomy 21:10–14). **And they grew their hair in a gentile hairstyle, and they all sat in carriages [bikronot] of gold. And they walked at the head of the troops, and they were the strong-arm enforcers of the house of David,** on whose loyalty David's monarchy relied. **And Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: David's daughter Tamar was the daughter of a beautiful woman** taken captive in war and was born before her mother converted. Therefore, Tamar was not considered the daughter of David according to *halakha*. The proof of this is in what she said to Amnon, son of David, **as it is stated: "Now, therefore, speak, please, to the king, for he will not withhold me from you"** (II Samuel 13:13). **And if it enters your mind** to say that **she was the daughter of a woman David married, would David have permitted Amnon's sister to him** as a wife? **Rather, learn from this verse that she was the daughter of a beautiful woman** who converted after Tamar was born, so halakhically Tamar was not a daughter of David.

סנהדרין כ"א א

אמר רב יהודה אמר רב ארבע מאות ילדים היו לו לדוד וכולן בני יפת תואר היו ומגדלי בלוריות היו וכולן יושבין בקרונות של זהב ומהלכין בראשי גייסות היו והם היו בעלי אגרופין של בית דוד ואמר רב יהודה אמר רב תמר בת יפת תואר היתה שנאמר (שמואל ב יג, יג) ועתה דבר נא (על) המלך כי לא ימנעני ממך ואי ס"ד בת נישואין הואי אחתיה מי הוה שריא ליה אלא שמע מינה בת יפת תואר היתה



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