

**The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 33**  
**Avshalom's rebellion - All the good reasons for 'baseless hatred'**

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

**Introduction**

This week we return to the unit for chapters 9 thru 20, to discuss not only the story of Avshalom's rebellion, but how it relates to a wider and unfortunate topic of "sinat chinam" which has plagued the Jewish People from the time of our 'conception', and how it may relate to the very nature of "bechira" - i.e. 'being chosen by God' for a higher purpose.

**I. Review of the topics within the unit – and their connection**

- 9 – David does “chessed” with M’fivoshet -son of Yonatan ben Shaul
- 10 – A diplomatic incident in Rabbat Amon that leads to massive war with Amon
- 11 – David’s sin with Bat Sheva
- 12- Natan the Prophet challenges David’s behavior - [famous “mashal”]  
The baby dies, David marries Bat Sheva - and Shlomo is born
- 13 Amon & Tamar story [after that, Avshalom kills Amnon
- 14 Yoav’s employs a woman from Tekoa to convince David to bring back Avshalom
- 15 - Avshalom’s rebellion
- 16 – David flees Jerusalem while making key decisions
- 17 The two advisors to Avshalom – Achitofel & Chushai – and background to civil war
- 18 – The war against Avshalom’s army & Avshalom’s death
- 19 - David’s return to Jerusalem & his political decisions
- 20 The rebellion for Sheva ben Bichri from the tribe of Binyamin

**II. Avshalom's rebellion -Chapter 15**

- א** וַיְהִי, מֵאַחֲרֵי כֵן, וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ אֲבִשָׁלוֹם, מְרֻכָבָה וְסָסִים; וְחֻמָּשִׁים אִישׁ, רֹצִים לִפְנָיו.
- ב** וַיִּהְיֶה אֲבִשָׁלוֹם, וְעָמַד, עַל-יַד דָּרֶךְ הַשָּׁעַר; וַיְהִי כָּל-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יָהִיָה-לוֹ-רִיב לְבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמִשְׁפָּט, וַיִּקְרָא אֲבִשָׁלוֹם אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵי-מִזֶּה עִיר אַתָּה, וַיֹּאמֶר, מֵאַחַד שְׁבֵטֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדְּךָ.
- ג** וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲבִשָׁלוֹם, רְאֵה דְבָרֶיךָ טוֹבִים וְנֹכַחִים; וְשָׁמַע אִין-לְךָ, מֵאֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ.
- ד** וַיֹּאמֶר, אֲבִשָׁלוֹם, מִי-יִשְׁמְנֵי שֹׁפֵט, בְּאַרְץ; וְעָלִי, יְבוֹא כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יָהִיָה-לוֹ-רִיב וּמִשְׁפָּט--וְהִצַּדִּקְתִּיו.
- ה** וַיְהִי, בְּקָרֵב אִישׁ, לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת, לוֹ; וְשָׁלַח אֶת-יָדוֹ וְהִחְזִיק לוֹ, וְנָשַׁק לוֹ.
- 1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.
- 2 And Absalom used to rise up early, and stand beside the way of the gate; and it was so, that when any man had a suit which should come to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said: 'Of what city art thou?' And he said: 'Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.'
- 3 And Absalom said unto him: 'See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.'
- 4 Absalom said moreover: 'Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!'
- 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to prostrate himself before him, he put forth his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him.

ו וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְשָׁלוֹם כַּדְבָר הַזֶּה, לְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר-יָבֵאוּ  
לְמִשְׁפָּט, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ;

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

וַיִּגְנֹב, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, אֶת-לֵב, אַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל. {פ}

ז וַיְהִי, מִקֵּץ אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה; וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְשָׁלוֹם, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ,  
אֲלֶכָה נָא וְאֶשְׁלֵם אֶת-נְדָרַי אֲשֶׁר-נָדַרְתִּי לַיהוָה, בְּחֶבְרוֹן.

7 And it came to pass at the end of forty years, that Absalom said unto the king: 'I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

ח כִּי-נִדְרַר נְדָר עֲבַדְךָ, בְּשִׁבְתִּי בְּגֶשׁוּר בְּאֲרָם לֵאמֹר: אִם-  
יָשִׁיב (יָשׁוּב) יִשְׁיַבְנֵי יְהוָה יְרוּשָׁלַם, וְעֲבַדְתִּי אֶת-יְהוָה.

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Aram, saying: 'If the LORD shall indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.'

ט וַיֹּאמֶר-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, לֵךְ בְּשָׁלוֹם; וַיָּקָם, וַיֵּלֶךְ חֶבְרוֹנָה.

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

י וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְשָׁלוֹם מְרַגְלִים, בְּכָל-שְׁבִטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר:  
כְּשִׁמְעֶכֶם, אֶת-קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר,

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying: 'As soon as ye hear the sound of the horn, then ye shall say: Absalom is king in Hebron.'

וְאָמַרְתֶּם, מֶלֶךְ אַבְשָׁלוֹם בְּחֶבְרוֹן.

יא וְאֶת-אַבְשָׁלוֹם, הִלְכוּ מֵאֲתָיִם אִישׁ מִירוּשָׁלַם,  
קִרְיָאִים, וְהִלְכִים לְתַמָּם; וְלֹא יָדְעוּ, כָּל-דְּבָר.

11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were invited, and went in their simplicity; and they knew not any thing.

יב וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְשָׁלוֹם אֶת-אַחִיתֹפֶל הַגִּילֹנִי יוֹעַץ דָּוִד,  
מֵעִירוֹ מְגֵלָה, בְּזָבָחוֹ, אֶת-הַזְּבָחִים; וַיְהִי הַקְּשֶׁר אִמָּץ,  
וְהָעָם הוֹלֵךְ וְרַב אֶת-אַבְשָׁלוֹם.

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

יג וַיָּבֵא, הַמַּגִּיד, אֶל-דָּוִד, לֵאמֹר:

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

הֲיֵה לֵב-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אַחֲרֵי אַבְשָׁלוֹם.

יד וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְכָל-עֲבָדָיו אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ בִירוּשָׁלַם, קוּמוּ  
וְנַבְרָחָה--כִּי לֹא-תִהְיֶה-לָנוּ פְּלִיטָה, מִפְּנֵי אַבְשָׁלוֹם; מִהָרוּ  
לָלֶכֶת, פֶּן-יַמְהַר וְהִשָּׁגְנוּ וְהִדִּיחַ עָלֵינוּ אֶת-הַרְעָה,

14 And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem: 'Arise, and let us flee; for else none of us shall escape from Absalom; make speed to depart, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.'

וְהָפָה הָעִיר, לְפִי-חֶרֶב.

טו וַיֹּאמְרוּ עֲבָדֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ:

15 And the king's servants said unto the king: 'Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall choose.'

כָּכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִבְחַר אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, הִנֵּה עֹבְדֶיךָ.

טז וַיֵּצֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-בֵּיתוֹ, בְּרַגְלָיו; וַיַּעֲזֹב הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת  
עֶשֶׂר נָשִׁים פְּלִגְשִׁים--לְשֹׁמֵר הַבַּיִת.

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

יז וַיֵּצֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-הָעָם, בְּרַגְלָיו; וַיַּעֲמְדוּ, בַּיַּת הַמֶּרְחָק.

17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him; and they tarried in Bethmerhak.

יח וְכָל-עֲבָדָיו עֹבְרִים עַל-גִּדּוֹ, וְכָל-הַכְּרֵתִי וְכָל-הַפְּלֵתִי; וְכָל-  
הַגִּתִּים שֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ בְּרַגְלָו מִגַּת, עֹבְרִים, עַל-פְּנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

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

כב וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אִתַּי, לֵךְ וְעֵבֵר; וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶתִּי הַגִּתִּי, וְכָל-  
אֲנָשָׁיו, וְכָל-הַטָּף, אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ.

22 And David said to Ittai: 'Go and pass over.' And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.

כג וְכָל-הָאָרֶץ, בּוֹכִים קוֹל גָּדוֹל, וְכָל-הָעָם, עֹבְרִים; וְהַמֶּלֶךְ,  
עֵבֵר בְּנַחַל קִדְרוֹן, וְכָל-הָעָם עֹבְרִים, עַל-פְּנֵי-דָרְךָ אֶת-הַמַּדְבָּר.

23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, as all the people passed over; and as the king passed over the brook Kidron,

all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

**כד** וְהִנֵּה גַם-צְדוֹק וְכָל-הַלְוִיִּים אִתּוֹ, נֹשְׂאִים אֶת-אֲרוֹן  
**בְּרִית הָאֱלֹהִים, וַיֵּצְקוּ אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים, וַיַּעַל אַבְיָתָר-**  
**עַד-תַּם כָּל-הָעָם, לָעָבוֹר מִן-הָעִיר. {ס}**

24 And, lo, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God; and they set down the ark of God--but Abiathar went up--until all the people had done passing out of the city. {S}

**כה** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְצְדוֹק, הֲשֵׁב אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים  
**הָעִיר: אִם-אֶמְצָא חַן, בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה--וְהִשְׁבֵּנִי, וְהִרְאֵנִי**  
**אֶתוֹ וְאֶת-נֹוֹהוּ.**

25 And the king said unto Zadok: 'Carry back the ark of God into the city; if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back, and show me both it, and His habitation;

**כו** וְאִם כֹּה יֹאמֶר, לֹא חִפְצָתִי בָּךְ: הֲנִנִי--יַעֲשֵׂה-לִּי,  
**כַּאֲשֶׁר טוֹב בְּעֵינָיו. {ס}**

26 but if He say thus: I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let Him do to me as seemeth good unto Him.' {S}

**כז** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-צְדוֹק הַכֹּהֵן, הֲרוּאָה אֶתְּהָ,  
**שָׁבָה הָעִיר בְּשָׁלוֹם; וְאַחִימַעַץ בֶּנְדָם וַיהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-אַבְיָתָר,**  
**שְׁנֵי בְנֵיכֶם--אֶתְכֶם.**

27 The king said also unto Zadok the priest: 'Seest thou? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

**כח** רְאוּ אֲנֹכִי מִתְמַהֵמָה, בַּעֲבֻרוֹת (בְּעָרְבוֹת) הַמִּדְבָּר-  
**עַד בּוֹא דָבָר מֵעַמְכֶם, לְהַגִּיד לִּי.**

28 See, I will tarry in the plains of the wilderness, until there come word from you to announce unto me.'

**כט** וַיִּשָּׁב צְדוֹק וְאַבְיָתָר אֶת-אֲרוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים, יְרוּשָׁלַם;  
**וַיֵּשְׁבוּ, שָׁם.**

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

**ל** וַדָּוִד עָלָה בְּמַעְלָה הַיְזִיתִים עָלָה וּבֹכָה, וְרָאשׁ לוֹ חֲפוּי,  
**וְהוּא, הִלְךָ יְחָף; וְכָל-הָעָם אַשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, חֲפוּ אִישׁ רֹאשׁוֹ,**  
**וַעֲלוּ עָלָה, וּבְכָה.**

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

**לא** וַדָּוִד הִגִּיד לְאֹמֶר, אַחִיתֹפֶל בְּקִשְׁרִים עִם-אַבְשָׁלוֹם;  
**וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד, סִכְל-נָא אֶת-עֲצַת אַחִיתֹפֶל יְהוָה.**

31 And one told David, saying: 'Ahitophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.' And David said: 'O LORD, I pray Thee, turn the counsel of Ahitophel into foolishness.'

**לב** וַיְהִי דָוִד בָּא עַד-הָרֹאשׁ, אֲשֶׁר-יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה שָׁם לְאֱלֹהִים; וְהִנֵּה  
**לְקָרְאָתוֹ, חוּשֵׁי הָאָרְכִי, קְרוּעַ כְּתֻנָּתוֹ, וְאַדְמָה עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ.**

32 And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the ascent, where God was wont to be worshipped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head.

**לג** וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, דָּוִד: אִם עָבַרְתָּ אִתִּי, וְהִיתָ עָלַי לְמַשָּׂא.

33 And David said unto him: 'If thou passest on with me, then thou wilt be a burden unto Me;

**לד** וְאִם-הָעִיר תָּשׁוּב, וְאַמְרַתָּ לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם עֲבַדְךָ אֲנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
**אֶהְיֶה--עֲבַד אֲבִיךָ וְאֲנִי מֵאָז, וְעַתָּה וְאֲנִי עֲבַדְךָ;  
וְהִפְרַתָּה לִּי, אֶת עֲצַת אַחִיתֹפֶל.**

34 but if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom: I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant in time past, so will I now be thy servant; then wilt thou defeat for me the counsel of Ahitophel.

**לה** וְהָלֹא עִמָּךְ שָׁם, צְדוֹק וְאַבְיָתָר הַכֹּהֲנִים; וְהִיָּה, כָּל-הַדָּבָר  
**אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמַע מִבֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ--תִּגִּיד, לְצְדוֹק וּלְאַבְיָתָר הַכֹּהֲנִים.**

35 And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

**לו** הִנֵּה-שָׁם עִמָּם, שְׁנֵי בְנֵיהֶם--אַחִימַעַץ לְצְדוֹק, וַיהוֹנָתָן  
**לְאַבְיָתָר; וְשִׁלַּחְתֶּם בְּיָדָם אֵלַי, כָּל-דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמָעוּ.**

36 Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye shall hear.'

### III. The 'moral dilemmas' - & the roots of hatred Chapter 16

ה וּבָא הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד, עַד-בַּחֲוִירִים; וְהִנֵּה מִשָּׁם  
אִישׁ יוֹצֵא מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית-שָׁאוּל, וְשָׁמוֹ שְׁמֵעִי  
בֶן-גֵּרָא, יֹצֵא יָצוּא, וּמְקַלֵּל.

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

ו וַיִּסְקֵל בְּאֲבָנִים אֶת-דָּוִד, וְאֶת-כָּל-עַבְדָּיו  
הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד; וְכָל-הָעָם, וְכָל-הַגִּבֹּרִים, מִיְמִינוֹ,  
וּמִשְׁמָאלוֹ.

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

ז וְכֵן-אָמַר שְׁמֵעִי, בְּקַלְלוֹ; יָצָא יָצָא אִישׁ  
הַדָּמִים, וְאִישׁ הַבְּלִיעֵל.

7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed: 'Begone, begone, thou man of blood, and base fellow;

ח הַשֵּׁיב עָלֶיךָ יְהוָה כָּל דָּמֵי בֵית-שָׁאוּל, אֲשֶׁר  
מָלַכְתָּ תַּחְתָּנוּ, וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה אֶת-הַמְּלוּכָה, בְּיַד  
אֲבִשָׁלוֹם בֶּן-דָּוִד; וְהִנֵּה, בִּרְעֵתְךָ, כִּי אִישׁ דָּמִים,  
אַתָּה.

8 the LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou art taken in thine own mischief, because thou art a man of blood.'

ט וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִישַׁי בֶּן-צְרוּיָה, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, לָמָּה  
יְקַלֵּל הַכֶּלֶב הַמֵּת הַזֶּה, אֶת-אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ;  
אֲעִבְרָה-נָא, וְאֶסִּירָה אֶת-רֹאשׁוֹ. {ס}

9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king: 'Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.' {S}

י וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, מַה-לִּי וְלָכֶם בְּנֵי צְרוּיָה; כִּי  
(כֹּה) יְקַלֵּל, וְכִי (כִּי) יְהוָה אָמַר לוֹ קַלֵּל אֶת-  
דָּוִד, וּמִי יֹאמֶר, מִדּוֹעַ עֲשִׂיתָה כֵּן. {ס}

10 And the king said: 'What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him: Curse David; who then shall say: Wherefore hast thou done so?' {S}

יא וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אֲבִישַׁי וְאֶל-כָּל-עַבְדָּיו,  
הִנֵּה בְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר-יָצָא מִמֶּעִי מִבִּקֵּשׁ אֶת-נַפְשִׁי;  
וְאִם כִּי-עָתָה בֶּן-הַיְמִינִי,  
הִנְחוּ לוֹ וַיְקַלֵּל--כִּי אָמַר-לוֹ, יְהוָה.

11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants: 'Behold, my son, who came forth of my body, seeketh my life; how much more this Benjamite now? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

יב אִולי יִרְאֶה יְהוָה, בְּעוֹנִי (בְּעֵינַי); וְהִשִּׁיב  
יְהוָה לִי טוֹבָה, תַּחַת קַלְלָתוֹ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine eye, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing of me this day.'

**Note how King David is trying to avoid civil war**

## Chapter 17 - A family of 'generals'

**כד** וְדָוִד, בָּא מַחְנִימָה; וְאַבְשָׁלָם, עָבַר אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן--הוּא, וְכָל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ. **24** When David was come to Mahanaim, Absalom passed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

**כה** וְאֶת-עַמָּשָׂא, שָׂם אַבְשָׁלָם תַּחַת יוֹאָב-עַל-הַצָּבָא; וְעַמָּשָׂא בֶן-אִישׁ, וְשֵׁמוֹ יִתְרָא הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי, אֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֶל-אַבִּיגַיִל בֵּת-נָחָשׁ, אַחֻות צְרוּיָה אִם יוֹאָב. **25** And Absalom had set Amasa over the host instead of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man, whose name was Ithra the Jesraelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruah Joab's mother.

**כו** וַיַּחַן יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַבְשָׁלָם, אַרְצָה הַגִּלְעָד.

## Chapter 18

**ה** וַיִּצַו הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-יוֹאָב וְאֶת-אַבִּישַׁי וְאֶת-אִתַּי, לֵאמֹר, לֹא-טֹב לִי, לְנַעַר לְאַבְשָׁלָם; וְכָל-הָעָם שָׁמְעוּ, בְּצֹאת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים--עַל-דְּבַר אַבְשָׁלָם. **5** And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying: 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

**ו** וַיֵּצֵא הָעָם הַשָּׂדֶה, לְקִרְאת יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַתְּהִי הַמִּלְחָמָה, בְּיַעַר אֶפְרַיִם. **6** So the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was in the forest of Ephraim.

**ז** וַיִּנְגְּפוּ שָׂם עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפָנָי עַבְדֵי דָוִד; וַתְּהִי-שָׂם הַמִּגְפָּה גְדוֹלָה, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא--עֶשְׂרִים אֲלָף. **7** And the people of Israel were smitten there before the servants of David, and there was a great slaughter there that day of twenty thousand men.

**ח** וַתְּהִי-שָׂם הַמִּלְחָמָה נִפְצוֹת (נִפְּצוֹת), עַל-פָּנָי כָּל-הָאָרֶץ; וַיָּרַב הַיַּעַר לְאָכַל בָּעָם, מֵאֲשֶׁר אָכְלָה הַחֶרֶב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא. **8** For the battle was there spread over the face of all the country; and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

**ט** וַיִּקְרָא, אַבְשָׁלָם, לְפָנָי, עַבְדֵי דָוִד; וְאַבְשָׁלָם רָכַב עַל-הַפָּרָד, וַיָּבֵא הַפָּרָד תַּחַת שׁוֹבֵדֵי הָאֵלֶּה הַגְּדוֹלָה וַיַּחְזֹק רֹאשׁוֹ בָּאֵלֶּה וַיִּתֵּן בֵּין הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ, וַהֲפָרַד אֲשֶׁר-תַּחְתָּיו, עָבַר. **9** And Absalom chanced to meet the servants of David. And Absalom was riding upon his mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth, and his head caught hold of the terebinth, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went on.

**י** וַיִּרְא אִישׁ אֶחָד, וַיַּגִּד לְיוֹאָב; וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה רָאִיתִי אֶת-אַבְשָׁלָם, תְּלוּי, בָּאֵלֶּה. **10** And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said: 'Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth.'

**יא** וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב, לְאִישׁ הַמַּגִּיד לוֹ, וְהִנֵּה רָאִיתָ, וּמָדוּעַ לֹא-הִפִּיתוּ שָׂם אֶרְצָה; וְעָלִי, לְתֵת לָךְ עֶשְׂרֵה כֶּסֶף, וְחַגְרָה, אַחַת. **11** And Joab said unto the man that told him: 'And, behold, thou sawest it, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have had to give thee ten pieces of silver, and a girdle.'

**יב** וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב, לֹא-כֵן אֲחִילָה לְפָנָיךְ; וַיִּקַּח שְׁלֹשָׁה שִׁבְטִים בְּכַפּוֹ, וַיִּתְקַעֵם בְּלֵב אַבְשָׁלָם--עוֹדֵנוּ חַי, בְּלֵב הָאֵלֶּה. **12** Then said Joab: 'I may not tarry thus with thee.' And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the terebinth.

**יג** וַיִּסְבּוּ עֶשְׂרֵה נְעָרִים, נֹשְׂאֵי כְלֵי יוֹאָב; וַיַּכּוּ אֶת-אַבְשָׁלָם, וַיָּמָתוּהוּ. **13** And ten young men that bore Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

**יד** וַיִּתְקַע יוֹאָב, בַּשֹּׁפָר, וַיָּשָׁב הָעָם, מִרְדֹּף אַחֲרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: כִּי-חָשַׁד יוֹאָב, אֶת-הָעָם. **14** And Joab blew the horn, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel; for Joab held back the people.

## Chapter 19 - David tries to re-unite the nation/ no revenge

- א** וַיִּרְגַז הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיַּעַל עַל-עֲלִית הַשַּׁעַר--וַיִּבֶד; וְכֹה אָמַר בְּלִכְתּוֹ, בְּנֵי אַבְשָׁלוֹם בְּנֵי בְנֵי אַבְשָׁלוֹם, מִי-יִתֵּן מוֹתִי אֲנִי תַחַתֶּיךָ, אַבְשָׁלוֹם בְּנֵי בְנֵי. **1** And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, thus he said: 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!'
- ב** וַיִּגַּד, לְיוֹאָב: הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ בֹּכֶה וַיִּתְאַבֵּל, עַל-אַבְשָׁלוֹם. **2** And it was told Joab: 'Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.'
- ג** וַתְּהִי הַתְּשׁוּעָה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא, לְאַבְל--לְכָל-הָעָם: כִּי-שָׁמַע הָעָם, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר, נַעֲצַב הַמֶּלֶךְ, עַל-בְּנוֹ. **3** And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people; for the people heard say that day: 'The king grieveth for his son.'
- ד** וַיִּתְגַּנְּב הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, לָבוֹא הָעִיר: כַּאֲשֶׁר יִתְגַּנְּב, הָעָם הַנִּכְלָמִים--בְּנוֹסָם, בַּמִּלְחָמָה. **4** And the people got them by stealth that day into the city, as people that are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.
- ה** וְהַמֶּלֶךְ לָאֵט אֶת-פָּנָיו, וַיִּזְעַק הַמֶּלֶךְ קוֹל גָּדוֹל: בְּנֵי, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, אַבְשָׁלוֹם, בְּנֵי בְנֵי. {ס} **5** And the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice: 'O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!' {S}
- ו** וַיָּבֹא יוֹאָב אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, הַבֵּית; וַיֹּאמֶר הַבִּשְׁתָּ הַיּוֹם אֶת-פָּנָי כָּל-עַבְדֶּיךָ, הַמְּמַלְטִים אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ הַיּוֹם, וְאֵת נַפְשׁ בְּנֶיךָ וּבְנֹתֶיךָ, וְנַפְשׁ נְשֵׁיךָ וְנַפְשׁ פְּלִגְשָׁיךָ. **6** And Joab came into the house to the king, and said: 'Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, who this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;
- ז** לְאַהֲבָה, אֶת-שֹׂנְאֶיךָ, וְלִשְׂנֹא, אֶת-אֹהֲבֶיךָ: כִּי הִגַּדְתָּ הַיּוֹם, כִּי אֵין לְךָ שָׂרִים וְעַבְדִּים--כִּי יִדְעֵתִי הַיּוֹם כִּי לֹא (לוֹא) אַבְשָׁלוֹם חַי וְכִלְנוּ הַיּוֹם מֵתִים, כִּי-אִז יִשָּׂר בְּעֵינֶיךָ. **7** in that thou lovest them that hate thee, and hatest them that love thee. For thou hast declared this day, that princes and servants are nought unto thee; for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.
- ח** וְעַתָּה קוּם צֵא, וְדַבֵּר עַל-לֵב עַבְדֶּיךָ: {ס} כִּי בִיהוֹה נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי כִּי-אֵינְךָ יוֹצֵא, אִם-יָלִין אִישׁ אֶתְךָ הַלַּיְלָה, וְרָעָה לְךָ זֹאת מִכָּל-הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר-בָּאָה עָלֶיךָ, מִנְעַרְיָךְ עַד-עַתָּה. {ס} **8** Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak to the heart of thy servants; {S} for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry a man with thee this night; and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that hath befallen thee from thy youth until now.' {S}
- ט** וַיִּקָּם הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּשַּׁעַר; וּלְכָל-הָעָם הִגִּידוּ לֵאמֹר, הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹשֵׁב בַּשַּׁעַר, וַיָּבֹא כָל-הָעָם לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל נָס אִישׁ לְאֹהֲלָיו. {ס} **9** Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying: 'Behold, the king doth sit in the gate'; and all the people came before the king. Now Israel had fled every man to his tent. {S}
- י** וַיְהִי כָל-הָעָם נִדּוּן, בְּכָל-שְׁבֵטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר: הַמֶּלֶךְ הֲצִילָנוּ מִכַּף אֹיְבֵינוּ, וְהוּא מִלְטָנוּ מִכַּף פְּלִשְׁתִּים, וְעַתָּה בָּרַח מִן-הָאָרֶץ, מֵעַל אַבְשָׁלוֹם. **10** And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying: 'The king delivered us out of the hand of our enemies, and he saved us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land from Absalom.'
- יא** וְאַבְשָׁלוֹם אֲשֶׁר מָשַׁחְנוּ עָלֵינוּ, מֵת בַּמִּלְחָמָה; וְעַתָּה, לָמָּה אַתֶּם מְחַרְשִׁים--לְהָשִׁיב אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס} **11** And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now, therefore, why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?' {S}

**יב** וְהַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד, שָׁלַח אֶל-צְדוֹק וְאֶל-אַבְיָתָר הַכֹּהֲנִים לֵאמֹר, דַּבְּרוּ אֵל-זִקְנֵי יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר, לָמָּה תִהְיוּ אַחֲרָנִים לְהָשִׁיב אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ; וּדְבַר, כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ.

12 And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying: 'Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying: Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house?--For the speech of all Israel was come to the king, to bring him to his house.--'

**יג** אַחֲרֵיכֶם, עֲצָמִי וּבִשְׂרֵי אֲתָם; וְלָמָּה תִהְיוּ אַחֲרָנִים, לְהָשִׁיב אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ.

13 Ye are my brethren, ye are my bone and my flesh; wherefore then should ye be the last to bring back the king?

**יד** וְלַעֲמָשָׂא, תִּמְרוּ, הֲלוֹא עֲצָמִי וּבִשְׂרֵי, אֲתָהּ; כֹּה יַעֲשֶׂה-לִּי אֱלֹהִים, וְכֹה יוֹסִיף, אִם-לֹא שׂוֹר-צָבָא תִהְיֶה לְפָנַי כָּל-הַיָּמִים, תַּחַת יוֹאָב.

14 And say ye to Amasa: Art thou not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.'

**טו** וַיֵּט אֶת-לִבָּב כָּל-אִישׁ-יְהוּדָה, פָּאִישׁ אֶחָד; וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, שׁוֹב אֲתָהּ, וְכָל-עַבְדֶּיךָ.

15 And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent unto the king: 'Return thou, and all thy servants.'

**טז** וַיָּשֹׁב הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיָּבֵא עַד-הַיַּרְדֵּן; וַיְהוּדָה בָּא הַגִּלְגָּלָה, לִלְכֹת לִקְרֹאת הַמֶּלֶךְ, לְהַעֲבִיר אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן.

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

**יז** וַיִּמְהַר, שְׁמַעִי בֶן-גֵּרָא בֶן-הַיְמִינִי, אֲשֶׁר, מִבְּחֹרִים; וַיֵּרֶד עִם-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה, לִקְרֹאת הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד.

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

**יח** וְאֶלְפָּי אִישׁ עַמּוֹ, מִבְּנֵימֵן, וְצִיבָא נֶעַר בֵּית שָׁאוּל, וְחַמֶּשֶׁת עָשָׂר בָּנָיו וְעֶשְׂרִים עַבְדָּיו אִתּוֹ; וַצִּלְחוּ הַיַּרְדֵּן, לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ.

18 And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him. And they rushed into the Jordan before the king.

**יט** וְעַבְרָה הָעֶבְרָה, לַעֲבִיר אֶת-בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְלַעֲשׂוֹת הַטּוֹב, בְּעֵינָיו; וְשְׁמַעִי בֶן-גֵּרָא, נָפַל לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, בְּעָבְרוֹ, בַּיַּרְדֵּן.

19 And the ferryboat passed to and fro to bring over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, when he would go over the Jordan.

**כ** וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-יַחֲשָׁב-לִי אֲדֹנָי עוֹן, וְאֶל-תִּזְכֹּר אֶת אֲשֶׁר הֵעֵנָה עֲבָדְךָ, בַּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יָצָא אֲדֹנָי-הַמֶּלֶךְ מִירוּשָׁלַם--לְשׁוֹם הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-לְבוֹ.

20 And he said unto the king: 'Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did iniquitously the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.'

**כא** כִּי יָדַע עַבְדְּךָ, כִּי אֲנִי חָטָאתִי; וְהִנֵּה-בָאתִי הַיּוֹם, רִאשׁוֹן לְכָל-בֵּית יוֹסֵף, לָרֶדֶת, לִקְרֹאת אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

21 For thy servant doth know that I have sinned; therefore, behold, I am come this day the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.' {S}

**כב** וַיַּעַן אַבִּישַׁי בֶּן-צְרוּיָהּ, וַיֹּאמֶר, הֲתַחַת זֹאת, לֹא יוֹמַת שְׁמַעִי: כִּי קָלַל, אֶת-מְשִׁיחַ יְהוָה. {ס}

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

**כג** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד, מֶה-לִּי וְלָכֶם בְּנֵי צְרוּיָהּ--כִּי-תִהְיוּ-לִי הַיּוֹם, לְשָׂטָן; הַיּוֹם, יוֹמַת אִישׁ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל--כִּי הֲלוֹא יָדַעְתִּי, כִּי הַיּוֹם אָנִי-מֶלֶךְ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

23 And David said: 'What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?'

**כד** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-שְׁמַעִי, לֹא תָמוּת, וַיִּשָּׁבַע לוֹ,

24 And the king said unto Shimei: 'Thou

הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

shalt not die.' And the king swore unto him. {S}

**כה** וּמִפְּבוֹשֶׁת, בֶּן-שָׁאִיל, יָרַד, לִקְרַאת הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְלֹא-  
עָשָׂה רִגְלָיו וְלֹא-עָשָׂה שְׁפָמוֹ, וְאֶת-בְּגָדָיו לֹא כָּבַס, לְמַן-  
הַיּוֹם לָכֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ, עַד-הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר-בָּא בְּשָׁלוֹם.

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

**כו** וַיְהִי כִּי-בָּא יְרוּשָׁלַם, לִקְרַאת הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ  
הַמֶּלֶךְ, לָמָּה לֹא-הֲלַכְתָּ עִמִּי מִפִּיבֹשֶׁת.

26 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him: 'Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?'

**כז** וַיֹּאמֶר, אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ עַבְדִּי רַמְנִי: כִּי-אָמַר עַבְדְּךָ  
אֲחַבְּשָׁה-לִּי הַחֲמֹר וְאֶרְכַּב עָלָיָהּ, וְאֵלַךְ אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ--כִּי  
פֶּסַח, עַבְדְּךָ.

27 And he answered: 'My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for thy servant said: I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go with the king; because thy servant is lame.'

**כח** וַיְרַגֵּל בְּעַבְדְּךָ, אֶל-אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְאֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
כַּמְּלֵאךָ הָאֱלֹהִים, וַעֲשֵׂה הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיִךְ.

28 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God; do therefore what is good in thine eyes.

**כט** כִּי לֹא הָיָה כָּל-בֵּית אָבִי, כִּי אִם-אֲנָשֵׁי-מֹות לְאֲדֹנָי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַתָּשֶׂת אֶת-עַבְדְּךָ, בְּאֹכְלֵי שֻׁלְחָנְךָ; וַיְמַה-יֵשׁ-לִּי  
עוֹד צְדָקָה, וְלֹזֶעַק עוֹד אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ. {פ}

29 For all my father's house were deserving of death at the hand of my lord the king; yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet? or why should I cry any more unto the king?' {P}

**ל** וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, לָמָּה תִּדְבָר עוֹד דְּבָרֶיךָ; אָמַרְתִּי--  
אֶתָּה וְצִיבָא, תַּחֲלֹקוּ אֶת-הַשָּׂדֶה.

30 And the king said unto him: 'Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I say: Thou and Ziba divide the land.'

**לא** וַיֹּאמֶר מִפִּיבֹשֶׁת אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, גַּם אֶת-הַכֹּל יִקַּח:  
אֲחֵרֵי אֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, בְּשָׁלוֹם--אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ. {ס}

31 And Mephibosheth said unto the king: 'Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come in peace unto his own house.' {S}

### Background to the next conflict

**מב** וְהִנֵּה כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּאִים אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ מִדּוֹעַ גְּבוּדָה אֲחִינוּ אִישׁ יְהוּדָה, וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אֶת-  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת-בֵּיתוֹ אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן, וְכָל-אֲנָשֵׁי דָוִד, עִמּוֹ. {ס}

42 And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king: 'Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and brought the king, and his household, over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?' {S}

**מג** וַיַּעַן כָּל-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה עַל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי-קָרוֹב  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלָי, וְלָמָּה זֶה חָרָה לָךְ, עַל-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה: הֲאֶכּוֹל  
אֲכַלְנוּ מִן-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אִם-נִשְׂאתָ נֶשֶׂא לָנוּ. {ס}

43 And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel: 'Because the king is near of kin to us; wherefore then are ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's cost? or hath any gift been given us?' {S}

**מד** וַיַּעַן אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר, עֲשֵׂר-  
יָדוֹת לִי בַּמֶּלֶךְ וְגַם-בְּדָוִד אָנִי מִמֶּדָּה, וַיִּמְדוּעַ הִקְלַתִּנִּי,  
וְלֹא-הָיָה דְבָרִי רִאשׁוֹן לִי לְהַשִּׁיב אֶת-מַלְכִּי; וַיִּקַּשׁ  
דְּבַר-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה, מִדְּבַר אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל. {ס}

44 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said: 'We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye; why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king?' And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. {S}

### Chapter 20 - Another civil war / Sheva ben Bichri

**א** וְשָׁם נִקְרָא אִישׁ בְּלִיעֵל, בְּלִיעֵל, וְשֵׁמוֹ שֶׁבַע <sup>1</sup> Now there happened to be there a base fellow, whose name was Sheba, the son of



בֶּן-בִּיחִי -- אִישׁ יְמִינִי ;  
**וַיִּתְקַע בַּשֹּׁפָר, וַיֹּאמֶר אֵין-לָנוּ חֵלֶק בְּדָוִד וְלֹא  
 נַחֲלָה-לָנוּ בְּבֶן-יִשָּׁי -- אִישׁ לְאַהֲלֵיוֹ, יִשְׂרָאֵל.**

Bichri, a Benjamite; and he blew the horn, and said: 'We have no portion in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel.'

**ב** וַיַּעַל כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, מֵאַחֲרֵי דָוִד, אַחֲרֵי שֶׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחִי ; וְאִישׁ יְהוּדָה דָּבְקוֹ בְּמִלְכָם, מִן-הַיַּרְדֵּן וְעַד-יְרוּשָׁלַם.

2 So all the men of Israel went up from following David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah did cleave unto their king, from the Jordan even to Jerusalem.

**ד** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-עַמְשָׂא, הֲזַעֲק-לִי אֶת-אִישׁ-יְהוּדָה שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים ; וְאַתָּה, פֹּה עֹמֵד.

4 Then said the king to Amasa: 'Call me the men of Judah together within three days, and be thou here present.'

**ה** וַיֵּלֶךְ עַמְשָׂא, לְהֲזַעֲק אֶת-יְהוּדָה; וַיִּיחַר (וַיִּוָּחַר), מִן-הַמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר יָעָדוּ. {ס}

5 So Amasa went to call the men of Judah together; but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him. {S}

**ו** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד, אֶל-אַבִּישָׁי, עֲתָה יֵרַע לָנוּ שֶׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחִי, מִן-אַבְשָׁלוֹם ; אַתָּה קַח אֶת-עַבְדֵי אֲדָנֶיךָ, וְרַדְף אַחֲרָיו--פֶּן-מָצָא לוֹ עָרִים בְּצָרוֹת, וְהִצִּיל עַיְנָנוּ.

6 And David said to Abishai: 'Now will Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom; take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fortified cities, and escape out of our sight.'

**ז** וַיֵּצְאוּ אַחֲרָיו אַנְשֵׁי יוֹאָב, וְהַכֶּרֶתִי וְהַפִּלְתִּי וְכָל-הַגִּבּוֹרִים ; וַיֵּצְאוּ, מִירוּשָׁלַם, לְרַדְף, אַחֲרֵי שֶׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחִי.

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

**ח** הֵם, עִם-הָאָבֶן הַגָּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר בְּגִבְעוֹן, וַעַמְשָׂא, בָּא לִפְנֵיהֶם ; וַיּוֹאֵב חֲגוּר מְדוּ לְבָשׁוּ, וְעָלוּ חֲגוּר חֲרָב מְצַמְדָּת עַל-מִתְנָיו בְּתַעֲרָה, וְהוּא יָצָא, וַתִּפֹּל. {ס}

8 When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. And Joab was girded with his apparel of war that he had put on, and thereon was a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out. {S}

**ט** וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב לְעַמְשָׂא, הַשְּׁלוֹם אַתָּה אַחִי ; וַתַּחֲזֵ זֶד-יָמִין יוֹאָב, בְּזִקֵּן עַמְשָׂא--לְנִשֵּׁק-לוֹ.

9 And Joab said to Amasa: 'Is it well with thee, my brother?' And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

**י** וַעַמְשָׂא לֹא-נִשְׁמַר בְּחָרָב אֲשֶׁר בְּיַד-יוֹאָב, וַיַּכְהוּ בָּהּ אֶל-הַחֲמֹשׁ וַיִּשְׁפֹּךְ מֵעֵיו אֶרְצָה וְלֹא-שָׁנָה לוֹ--וַיָּמָת ; וַיּוֹאֵב, וְאַבִּישָׁי אַחִיו, רָדְפוּ, אַחֲרֵי שֶׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחִי.

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

## The 'lady' who saves the day (and the nation)

**טז** וַתִּקְרָא אִשָּׁה חַכְמָה, מִן-הָעִיר ; שָׁמְעוּ שָׁמְעוּ, אֲמָרוּ-נָא אֶל-יוֹאָב, קָרֵב עַד-הִנֵּה, וְאִדְבָּרָה אֵלֶיךָ.

16 Then cried a wise woman out of the city: 'Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab: Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.'

**יז** וַיִּקְרַב אֵלֶיהָ, וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הֲאֵתָהּ יוֹאָב וַיֹּאמֶר אָנִי; וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ, שְׁמַע דְּבַרִי אֲמַתְךָ, וַיֹּאמֶר, שְׁמַע אֲנֹכִי.

**17** And he came near unto her; and the woman said: 'Art thou Joab?' And he answered: 'I am.' Then she said unto him: 'Hear the words of thy handmaid.' And he answered: 'I do hear.'

**יח** וַתֹּאמֶר, לֵאמֹר: דְּבַר יִדְבְּרוּ בְּרֵאשֵׁנָה לֵאמֹר, שָׂאוּל יִשְׁאַלֵנוּ בְּאַבֵּל וְכֵן הִתְמוּ.

**18** Then she spoke, saying: 'They were wont to speak in old time, saying: They shall surely ask counsel at Abel; and so they ended the matter.'

**יט** אֲנֹכִי, שְׁלָמִי אֶמוּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; אֵתָהּ מִבִּקֵּשׁ, לְהַמִּית עִיר וְאִם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל--לָמָּה תִּבְלַע, נַחֲלַת יְהוָה. {פ}

**19** We are of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel; seekest thou to destroy a city and a mother in Israel? why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?' {P}

**כ** וַיַּעַן יוֹאָב, וַיֹּאמֶר: חָלִילָה חָלִילָה לִּי, אִם-אֲבַלְע וְאִם-אֲשַׁחִית.

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

**כא** לֹא-כֵן הִדְבֵּר, כִּי אִישׁ מִהַר אֶפְרַיִם שָׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחְרִי שְׁמוֹ נָשָׂא יָדוֹ בַּמֶּלֶךְ בְּדוֹד--תָּנוּ-אֹתוֹ לְבַדּוֹ, וְאַלְכָּה מֵעַל הָעִיר; וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-יוֹאָב, הִנֵּה רֹאשׁוֹ מִשְׁלָךְ אֵלֶיךָ בְּעַד הַחוֹמָה.

**21** The matter is not so; but a man of the hill-country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David; deliver him only, and I will depart from the city.' And the woman said unto Joab: 'Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.'

**כב** וַתָּבוֹא הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם בְּחַכְמָתָהּ, וַיִּכְרְתוּ אֶת-רֹאשׁ שָׁבַע בֶּן-בִּיחְרִי וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֶל-יוֹאָב, וַיִּתְקַע בַּשֹּׁפָר, וַיִּפְּצוּ מֵעַל-הָעִיר אִישׁ לְאֹהֲלָיו; וַיּוֹאָב שָׁב יְרוּשָׁלַם, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}

**22** Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. And he blew the horn, and they were dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king. {S}

**כג** וַיּוֹאָב, אֶל כָּל-הַצָּבָא יִשְׂרָאֵל; וּבְנֵינָה, בֶן-יְהוֹיָדָע, עַל-הַכְּרִי (הַכְּרֵתִי), וְעַל-הַפִּלְתִּי.

**23** Now Joab was over all the host of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites;

**כד** וְאַדְרָם, עַל-הַמָּס; וַיְהוֹשָׁפָט בֶּן-אַחִילוּד, הַמְזַכֵּיר.

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

**כה** וְשֵׁיבָ (וְשֵׁוֹא), סֹפֵר; וְצָדוֹק וְאַבְיָתָר, כֹּהֲנִים.

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

**כו** וְגַם, עִירָא הַיִּירִיתִי, הָיָה כֹהֵן, לְדָוִד. {ס}

**26** and Ira also the Jairite was chief minister unto David. {S}