

# ***The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 38***

## ***King David & Jerusalem & the conclusion of Sefer Shmuel***

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

### **Introduction - Discussion**

**Is Jerusalem a 'holy city' and therefore it needs a Temple  
or**

**The Jewish people need a site for a Temple,  
Therefore, when Jerusalem was chosen – it became 'holy'.**

**Compare to Hashem's choice of Am Yisrael**

**What came first, a special People**

**Or - a special [Divine] need [for a People]**

### **Review - what we have identified in the final unit**

#### **GAD [in Shmuel bet]**

**Chapters 21-> 24 – The earlier years of David's united monarchy -  
- the subtopics within this unit**

chapter 21 – The revenge of the Givonim on the house of Shaul  
plus a few short stories re: David's war with the Plishtim

chapter 22 – "shirat David"  
– The Psalm/ Song David sang after his military victories

chapter 23 - the 'heroes' of David's army [and their rank]

chapter 24 - David 'mistakenly' commissions a census of the nation  
followed by the severe Divine punishment –  
then David repents / and buys the field of Aravna the  
Jeubsite - [on the very site that later becomes the  
Temple mount]

this event doesn't seem to be the last event in David's life,  
yet it was chosen to close the book,

In this week's class – we try to understand why.

But first, a famous Midrash relating to last week's shiur

## איכה רבה ד':ט"ו

(טו) אַרְבַּעַה מְלָכִים הָיוּ, מֵה שֶׁתַּבַּע זֶה לֹא תַבַּע זֶה, וְאֵלּוּ:

הָיוּ: דָּוִד, וְאַסָּא, וְיְהוֹשָׁפָט, וְחִזְקִיָּהוּ.

דָּוִד אָמַר (תהלים י"ח:ל"ח):

אַרְדּוּף אוֹיְבֵי וְאַשְׁיֵגֶם וְגו',

- אָמַר לוֹ הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֲנִי עוֹשֶׂה כֵן,
- הִדָּא הוּא דְכָתִיב (שמואל א ל':י"ז): וַיִּכֶם דָּוִד מִהַנְּשָׁף וְעַד הָעָרֶב לְמַחֲרָתָם...

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עָמַד אַסָּא וְאָמַר, אֵין בִּי כַח לְהַרְגַּ לָהֶם, אֲלֹא אֲנִי רוֹדֵף אוֹתָם וְאֶתָּה עוֹשֶׂה.

- אָמַר לוֹ אֲנִי עוֹשֶׂה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (דברי הימים ב י"ד:י"ב): וַיִּרְדָּפֶם אַסָּא וְגו' כִּי נִשְׁבְּרוּ לִפְנֵי ה' וְלִפְנֵי מַחְנֵהוּ וַיִּשְׂאוּ שָׁלַל הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד,
- לִפְנֵי אַסָּא אֵין כְּתִיב כָּאֵן אֲלֹא לִפְנֵי ה' וְלִפְנֵי מַחְנֵהוּ.

עָמַד יְהוֹשָׁפָט וְאָמַר, אֲנִי אֵין בִּי כַח לֹא לְהַרְגַּ וְלֹא לְרָדֵף, אֲלֹא אֲנִי אוֹמֵר שִׁירָה וְאֶתָּה עוֹשֶׂה,

- אָמַר לוֹ הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֲנִי עוֹשֶׂה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (דברי הימים ב כ':כ"ב): וּבָעֵת הַחֲלוּ בְרָנָה וַתְּהַלֶּה וְגו'.

עָמַד חִזְקִיָּהוּ וְאָמַר, אֲנִי אֵין בִּי כַח לֹא לְהַרְגַּ וְלֹא לְרָדֵף וְלֹא לֹמֵר שִׁירָה, אֲלֹא אֲנִי יֵשֵׁן עַל מִטְתִּי וְאֶתָּה עוֹשֶׂה,

- אָמַר לוֹ הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֲנִי עוֹשֶׂה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (מלכים ב י"ט:ל"ה): וַיְהִי בַלְיִלָה הַהוּא וַיֵּצֵא מִלְּאָךְ ה' וַיִּף בְּמַחְנֵה אֲשׁוּר וְגו'.

Now we begin our study with Chapter 24 – the end of Shmuel bet

**א וַיִּסַּף, אֶף-יְהוָה, לַחֲרוֹת, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּסֹּף אֶת-דָּוִד בָּהֶם לְאֹמֶר, לֵךְ מִנָּה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-יְהוּדָה.**

1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and He moved David against them, saying: 'Go, number Israel and Judah.'

**ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-יֹאבָב שֶׁר-הַחֲיִל אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, שׁוּט-נָא בְּכָל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִדָּן וְעַד-בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע, וַיִּקְדְּדוּ, אֶת-הָעָם; וַיִּדְעֵתִי, אֶת מִסְפַּר הָעָם.**

2 And the king said to Joab the captain of the host that was with him: 'Go now to and fro through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the sum of the people.' {S}

**ג וַיֹּאמֶר יֹאבָב אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיֹּסֶף יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶל-הָעָם כַּהֶם וְכֵהֶם מֵאָה פַעַמִּים, וְעֵינֵי אֲדֹנָי-הַמֶּלֶךְ, רְאוֹת; וְאֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, לָמָּה חָפֵץ בַּדְּבַר הַזֶּה.**

3 And Joab said unto the king: 'Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they may be, a hundredfold, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it; but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?'

**ד וַיַּחֲזֹק דְּבַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-יֹאבָב, וְעַל שָׂרֵי הַחֲיִל; וַיֵּצֵא יֹאבָב וְשָׂרֵי הַחֲיִל, לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, לִפְקֹד אֶת-הָעָם, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל.**

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

**ה וַיַּעֲבְרוּ, אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן; וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעָרוֹעַר, יְמִין הָעֵיר אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ-הַנַּחַל הַגָּד--וְאֶל-יַעֲזָר.**

5 And they passed over the Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that is in the middle of the valley of Gad, and unto Jazer;

**ו וַיָּבֹאוּ, הַגְּלַעַדָּה, וְאֶל-אֶרֶץ תַּחְתִּים, חֲדָשִׁי; וַיָּבֹאוּ דָנָה יַעַן, וְסָבִיב אֶל-צִידוֹן.**

6 then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi; and they came to Dan-jaan, and round about to Zidon,

**ז וַיָּבֹאוּ, מִבְּצֹר-צֹר, וְכָל-עָרֵי הַחֲוִי, וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי; וַיֵּצְאוּ אֶל-נֶגֶב יְהוּדָה, בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע.**

7 and came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites; and they went out to the south of Judah, at Beer-sheba.

**ח וַיֵּשְׁטוּ, בְּכָל-הָאָרֶץ; וַיָּבֹאוּ מִקְצֵה תְּשֻׁעָה חֲדָשִׁים, וְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם--יְרוּשָׁלַם.**

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

**ט וַיִּתֵּן יֹאבָב אֶת-מִסְפַּר מִפְּקֹד-הָעָם, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַתְּהִי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת אֶלְפֵי אִישׁ-חֵיַל, שְׁלֹף חֶרֶב, וְאִישׁ יְהוּדָה, חֲמִשׁ-מֵאוֹת אֶלְפֵי אִישׁ.**

9 And Joab gave up the sum of the numbering of the people unto the king; and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

**י וַיֵּד לֵב-דָּוִד אֹתוֹ, אַחֲרֵי-כֵן סָפַר אֶת-הָעָם; {פ}**

10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. {P}

**וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-יְהוָה, חָטָאתִי מְאֹד אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי, וְעַתָּה יְהוָה הֶעֱבֵר-נָא אֶת-עֵוֹן עַבְדְּךָ, כִּי נִסְפַלְתִּי מְאֹד.**

And David said unto the LORD: 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, O LORD, put away, I beseech Thee, the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.'

**יא וַיָּקָם דָּוִד, בַּבֹּקֶר; {פ}**

11 And when David rose up in the morning, {P}

**וַדְּבַר-יְהוָה, הָיָה אֶל-גָּד הַנְּבִיא, חִזָּה דָּוִד, לְאֹמֶר.**

the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying:

**יב** הַלֹּדֶזַ וְדַבַּרְתָּ אֶל-דָּוִד, כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה--שְׁלֵשׁ, אֲנֹכִי נוֹטֵל עָלֶיךָ: בְּחַר-לְךָ אַחַת-מֵהֶם, וְאֶעֱשֶׂה-לְךָ.

12 'Go and speak unto David: Thus saith the LORD: I lay upon thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.'

**יג** וַיָּבֵא גָד אֶל-דָּוִד, וַיִּגַּד-לוֹ; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲתֵבוֹא לְךָ שְׁבַע-שָׁנִים רָעַב בְּאֶרֶץְךָ אִם-שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים נֹסֶף לִפְנֵי-צָרֶיךָ וְהוּא רֹדְפֶךָ, וְאִם-הֵיוֹת שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים דָּבָר בְּאֶרֶץְךָ--עֲתָה דַע וּרְאֵה, מָה-אֲשִׁיב שְׁלַחִי דָבָר. {ס}

13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him: 'Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thy foes while they pursue thee? or shall there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise thee, and consider what answer I shall return to Him that sent Me.' {S}

**יד** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-גָּד, צַר-לִי מְאֹד; נַפְלֵה-נָא בְּיַד-יְהוָה כִּי-רַבִּים רַחֲמוֹ, וּבְיַד-אָדָם אֶל-אֶפְלָה.

14 And David said unto Gad: 'I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for His mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man.'

**טו** וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה דָּבָר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, מִהַבֹּקֶר וְעַד-עֵת מוֹעֵד; וַיָּמָת מִן-הָעָם, מִדָּן וְעַד-בְּיַר שֶׁבַע, שִׁבְעַיִם אֲלָף, אִישׁ.

15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed; and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.

**טז** וַיִּשְׁלַח יְדוֹ הַמַּלְאָךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם, לְשַׁחֲתָהּ, וַיִּנָּחֵם יְהוָה אֶל-הָרָעָה, וַיֹּאמֶר לַמַּלְאָךְ הַמְשַׁחִית בָּעָם רַב עֲתָה הֲרֹף יָדְךָ; וַיִּמְלֹאךְ יְהוָה הִיָּה, עִם-גֵּרֹן הָאוֹרֵנָה (הָאֲרוֹנָה) הַיְבֻסִי. {ס}

16 And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented Him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people: 'It is enough; now stay thy hand.' And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. {S}

## Pay attention to chronology

**יז** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-יְהוָה בְּרֹאתוֹ אֶת-הַמַּלְאָךְ הַמַּכֵּה בָּעָם, וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי חַטָּאתִי וְאֲנֹכִי הַעֲוִיתִי, וְאֵלֶּה הַצֹּאן, מָה עָשׂוּ: תְּהִי נָא יָדְךָ בִּי, וּבְבַיִת אָבִי. {פ}

17 And David spoke unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said: 'Lo, I have sinned, and I have done iniquitously; but these sheep, what have they done? let Thy hand, I pray Thee, be against me, and against my father's house.' {P}

**יח** וַיָּבֵא גָד אֶל-דָּוִד, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, עֲלֵה הָקֵם לִיהוָה מִזְבֵּחַ, בְּגֵרֹן, אֲרֹנִיָה (אֲרוֹנָה) הַיְבֻסִי.

18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him: 'Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.'

**יט** וַיַּעַל דָּוִד כְּדַבַּר-גָּד, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה.

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

**כ** וַיִּשְׁקֹף אֲרוֹנָה, וַיִּרְא אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת-עַבְדָּיו, עֹבְרִים, עָלָיו; וַיֵּצֵא אֲרוֹנָה, וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ אַפְּיוֹ אֲרָצָה.

20 And Araunah looked forth, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him; and Araunah went out, and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

**כא** וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרוֹנָה, מִדּוּעַ בָּא אֲדֹנָי-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-עַבְדּוֹ; וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְקִנּוֹת מַעֲמֹף אֶת-הַגֵּרֹן, לְבָנוֹת מִזְבֵּחַ לִיהוָה, וְתַעֲצֵר הַמַּגָּפָה, מֵעַל הָעָם.

21 And Araunah said: 'Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant?' And David said: 'To buy the threshing-floor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.'

**כב** וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרוֹנָה אֶל-דָּוִד, יִקַּח וַיַּעַל אֲדֹנָי

22 And Araunah said unto David: 'Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him; behold the oxen

הַמִּלָּךְ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיו ; רָאָה הַבָּקָר לְעֹלָה,  
וְהַמִּרְגָּיִם וְכֹלֵי הַבָּקָר לְעֹצִים.

for the burnt-offering, and the threshing-instruments and the furniture of the oxen for the wood.'

**כג** הַכֹּל, נָתַן אֲרוֹנָה הַמִּלָּךְ--לְמִלָּךְ; {ס}  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרוֹנָה אֶל-הַמִּלָּךְ, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יִרְצֶךָ.

23 All this did Araunah the king give unto the king. {S} And Araunah said unto the king: 'The LORD thy God accept thee.'

**כד** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמִּלָּךְ אֶל-אֲרוֹנָה, לֹא כִּי-קִנּוּ אֶקְנֶה  
מֵאוֹתֶיךָ בְּמַחִיר, וְלֹא אֶעֱלֶה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי, עֹלוֹת  
חֲנָם; וַיִּקֶן דָּוִד אֶת-הַגֶּרֶן וְאֶת-הַבָּקָר, בְּכֶסֶף  
שְׁקָלִים חֲמִשִּׁים.

24 And the king said unto Araunah: 'Nay; but I will verily buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the LORD my God which cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

**כה** וַיִּבֶן שָׁם דָּוִד מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיַּעַל עֹלוֹת  
וְשִׁלְמִים; וַיַּעֲתֶר יְהוָה לְאָרֶץ, וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמַּגָּפָה  
מֵעַל יִשְׂרָאֵל. {ש}

25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel. {P}

Let's see parallel in Divrei ha'Yamim

**א** וַיַּעֲמֵד שָׁטָן, עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּסָּת, אֶת-דָּוִד,  
לְמַנּוֹת, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

**ב** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-יֹאבָב, וְאֶל-שָׂרֵי הָעָם, לִכְנוּ סִפְרוּ  
אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִבְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וְעַד-דָּן; וְהִבִּיאוּ אֵלַי,  
וַאֲדַעַה אֶת-מִסְפָּרָם.

2 And David said to Joab and to the princes of the people: 'Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring me word, that I may know the sum of them.'

**ג** וַיֹּאמֶר יֹאבָב, יוֹסֵף יְהוָה עַל-עַמּוֹ כְּהֵם מֵאָה  
פְּעָמִים--הֲלֹא אֲדַנִּי הַמִּלָּךְ, כָּלָם לֹאדַנִּי לְעַבְדִּים;  
לָמָּה יִבְקֹשׁ זֹאת אֲדַנִּי, לָמָּה יִהְיֶה לְאַשְׁמָה  
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל.

3 And Joab said: 'The LORD make His people a hundred times so many more as they are; but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of guilt unto Israel?'

**ד** וַדַּבֵּר-הַמִּלָּךְ, חֲזֹק עַל-יֹאבָב; וַיֵּצֵא יֹאבָב, וַיִּתְּהַלֵּךְ  
בְּכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיָּבֵא, יְרוּשָׁלַם.

4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

**ה** וַיִּתֵּן יֹאבָב אֶת-מִסְפַּר מִפְקַד-הָעָם, אֶל-דָּוִד;  
וַיְהִי כָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶלְפֵי אֶלְפִים וּמֵאָה אֶלְפֵי אִישׁ,  
שְׁלֹף חֶרֶב, וַיְהוּדָה, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת וְשִׁבְעִים אֶלְפֵי  
אִישׁ שְׁלֹף חֶרֶב.

5 And Joab gave up the sum of the numbering of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and a hundred thousand men that drew sword; and Judah was four hundred three-score and ten thousand men that drew sword.

Compare above 800/500

**ו** וְלֵוִי, וּבִנְיָמִן, לֹא פָקַד, בְּתוֹכָם; כִּי-נִתְעַב דַּבְרֵ-  
הַמִּלָּךְ, אֶת-יֹאבָב.

6 But Levi and Benjamin he did not number among them; for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

**ז** וַיִּרַע בְּעֵינָי הָאֱלֹהִים, עַל-הַדַּבָּר הַזֶּה; וַיִּזַּךְ, אֶת-  
יִשְׂרָאֵל. {ס}

7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He smote Israel. {S}

**ח וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים, חַטָּאתִי מְאֹד, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה; וְעַתָּה, הֶעֱבַר-נָא אֶת-עֲוֹן עַבְדְּךָ, כִּי נִסְכַּלְתִּי, מְאֹד. {פ}**

8 And David said unto God: 'I have sinned greatly, in that I have done this thing; but now, put away, I beseech Thee, the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.' {P}

**ט וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-גָּד, חִזָּה דָּוִד לֵאמֹר.**

9 And the LORD spoke unto Gad, David's seer, saying:

**י לֵךְ וְדַבֵּר אֶל-דָּוִד לֵאמֹר, כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, שְׁלוֹשׁ, אֲנִי נֹטֶה עֲלֶיךָ: בְּחַר-לְךָ אַחַת מֵהֲנֵה, וְאֶעֱשֶׂה-לְךָ.**

10 'Go and speak unto David, saying: Thus saith the LORD: I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.'

**יא וַיָּבֵא גָד, אֶל-דָּוִד; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה, קַבֵּל-לְךָ.**

11 So Gad came to David, and said unto him: 'Thus saith the LORD: Take which thou wilt:

**יב אִם-שְׁלוֹשׁ שָׁנִים רָעַב, וְאִם-שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים נִסְפָּה מִפְּנֵי-צָרִיךָ וְחָרַב אוֹיְבֶיךָ לְמִשְׁגָּת, וְאִם-שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים חָרַב יְהוָה וְדַבֵּר בְּאֶרֶץ, וּמִלְאָךְ יְהוָה מִשְׁחִית בְּכָל-גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְעַתָּה רְאֵה, מִה-אֲשִׁיב אֶת-שְׁלַחִי דְבָר. {ס}**

12 either three years of famine; or three months to be swept away before thy foes, while the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even pestilence in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the borders of Israel. Now therefore consider what answer I shall return to Him that sent me.' {S}

**יג וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-גָּד, צַר-לִי מְאֹד; אֶפְלֶה-נָּא בְּיַד-יְהוָה, כִּי-רַבִּים רַחֲמָיו מְאֹד, וּבְיַד-אָדָם, אֶל-אֶפֶל.**

13 And David said unto Gad: 'I am in a great strait; let me fall now into the hand of the LORD, for very great are His mercies; and let me not fall into the hand of man.'

**יד וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה דְּבָר, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּפֹּל, מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, שִׁבְעִים אָלֶף, אִישׁ.**

14 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel; and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

**טו וַיִּשְׁלַח הָאֱלֹהִים מַלְאָךְ לִירוּשָׁלַם, לְהַשְׁחִיתָהּ, וַיַּחְשְׁחִית רְאֵה יְהוָה וַיִּנָּחֵם עַל-הָרָעָה, וַיֹּאמֶר לְמַלְאָךְ הַמַּשְׁחִית רַב עֲתָה הֶרְף יָדְךָ; וּמִלְאָךְ יְהוָה עֲמִד, עִם-גֵּרוֹן אֲרֹנָן הַיְבוּסִי. {ס}**

15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it; and as he was about to destroy, the LORD beheld, and He repented Him of the evil, and said to the destroying angel: 'It is enough; now stay thy hand.' And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite. {S}

Note the parshia break/ chronology?

**טז וַיִּשָּׂא דָּוִד אֶת-עֵינָיו, וַיִּרְא אֶת-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה עֲמִד בֵּין הָאֶרֶץ וּבֵין הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְחָרְבוּ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ, נְטוּיָה עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם; וַיִּפֹּל דָּוִד וְהַזְּקֵנִים מִכִּסֵּי בִשְׁקִים, עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם.**

16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD standing between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

**יז וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים הֲלֹא אֲנִי אָמַרְתִּי לְמַנּוֹת בָּעַם, וְאֲנִי-הוּא אֲשֶׁר-חַטָּאתִי וְהָרַע הָרַעוֹתִי, וְאֵלֶּה הַצָּאן, מִה עָשׂוּ; יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי, תְהִי נָּא יָדְךָ בִּי וּבְבֵית אָבִי, וּבְעַמֶּךָ, לֹא לְמַגִּפָּה. {ס}**

17 And David said unto God: 'Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done very wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? let Thy hand, I pray Thee, O LORD my God, be against me, and against my father's house; but not against Thy people, that they should be plagued.' {S}

**יח וּמִלְאָךְ יְהוָה אָמַר אֶל-גָּד, לֵאמֹר לְדָוִד: כִּי יַעֲלֶה דָּוִד, לְהַקִּים מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, בְּגֵרוֹן, אֲרֹנָן הַיְבוּסִי.**

18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

**יט** וַיַּעַל דָּוִד בְּדַבַּר-גָּד, אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה.

19 And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the LORD.

**כ** וַיָּשָׁב אֲרֹנָן, וַיִּרְא אֶת-הַמְּלֶאֶךְ, וְאַרְבַּעַת בָּנָיו עִמּוֹ, מִתְחַבְּאִים; וְאַרְנָן, דָּש חֲטִיִּם.

20 And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons that were with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.

**כא** וַיָּבֵא דָוִד, עַד-אֲרֹנָן; וַיִּבֶט אֲרֹנָן, וַיִּרְא אֶת-דָּוִד, וַיֵּצֵא מִן-הַגֶּרֶן, וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְדָוִד אַפַּיִם אֶרְצָה.

21 And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshing-floor, and bowed down to David with his face to the ground.

**כב** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אֲרֹנָן, תִּנְהַלְתֵּנִי מְקוֹם הַגֶּרֶן, וְאַבְנֶה-בּוֹ מִזְבֵּחַ, לַיהוָה; בְּכֶסֶף מְלֵא תִּנְהוּ לִי, וְתֵעָצֵר הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל הָעָם.

22 Then David said to Ornan: 'Give me the place of this threshing-floor, that I may build thereon an altar unto the LORD; for the full price shalt thou give it me; that the plague may be stayed from the people.'

**כג** וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרֹנָן אֶל-דָּוִד קַח-לָךְ, וַיַּעַשׂ אֲדָנִי הַמְּלֶאֶךְ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיו; וְרֵאָה נְתַתִּי הַבֶּקֶר לְעֹלוֹת, וְהַמּוֹרְגִים לְעֵצִים וְהַחֲטִיִּם לַמִּנְחָה--הַכֹּל נְתַתִּי.

23 And Ornan said unto David: 'Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes; lo, I give thee the oxen for burnt-offerings, and the threshing-instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meal-offering; I give it all'

**כד** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמְּלֶאֶךְ דָּוִד, לְאֲרֹנָן, לֹא, כִּי-קָנָה אֶקְנֶה בְּכֶסֶף מְלֵא: כִּי לֹא-אֲשָׂא אֲשֶׁר-לָךְ, לַיהוָה, וְהַעֲלוֹת עוֹלָה, חִנָּם.

24 And king David said to Ornan: 'Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price; for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer a burnt-offering without cost.'

**כה** וַיִּתֵּן דָּוִד לְאֲרֹנָן, בַּמְּקוֹם, **שְׁקָלֵי זָהָב, מִשְׁקָל שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת.**

25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.

**כו** וַיִּבֶן שָׁם דָּוִד מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיַּעַל עֹלוֹת וּשְׁלָמִים; וַיִּקְרָא, אֶל-יְהוָה, וַיַּעֲנֵהוּ בְּאֵשׁ מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם, עַל מִזְבֵּחַ הָעֹלָה. {ס}

26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings, and called upon the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt-offering. {S}

**כז** וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לַמְּלֶאֶךְ, וַיָּשָׁב חֶרְבוֹ אֶל-נִדְנָה.

27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword back into the sheath thereof.

**כח** בָּעֵת הַהִיא--בְּרֵאוֹת דָּוִד כִּי-עָנָהוּ יְהוָה, בְּגֶרֶן אֲרֹנָן הַיְבוּסִי; וַיִּזְבַּח, שָׁם.

28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.

**כט** וּמִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה בַּמִּדְבָּר, וּמִזְבֵּחַ הָעוֹלָה--בָּעֵת הַהִיא: בַּבְּמָה, בְּגִבְעוֹן.

29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt-offering, were at that time in the high place at Gibeon.

**ל** וְלֹא-יָכַל דָּוִד לָלֶכֶת לִפְנֵיו, לְדַרְשׁ אֱלֹהִים: כִּי נִבְעַת--מִפְּנֵי, חֶרֶב מְלֶאֶךְ יְהוָה. {ס}

30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God; for he was terrified because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

**א** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד--**זֶה הוּא, בֵּית יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים;**

1 Then David said: 'This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt-offering for Israel.' {P}

**וְזֶה-מִזְבֵּחַ לְעֹלָה, לְיִשְׂרָאֵל.** {פ}

**ב** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד--**לְכַנּוֹס אֶת-הַגְּרִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיַּעֲמֵד חֲצָבִים, לְחִצּוֹב אַבְנֵי גְזִית, לְבִנוֹת, בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים.**

2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

