

1 REIGNS

CHAPTER 1

There was a man of Ramah Zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, a son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, in Nazib Ephraim: ²and he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the second Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no child. ³And the man went up out of his city from day to day, out of Ramah, to worship and sacrifice unto the Lord God of Sabaoth in Shiloh: and there Eli and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas were the priests of the Lord. ⁴And the day came, and Elkanah sacrificed and gave to Peninnah his wife, and to her children, portions. ⁵And unto Hannah he gave one portion, because she had no child; only Elkanah loved Hannah more than the other; but the Lord had shut up her womb. ⁶For the Lord gave her no child in her affliction, and according to the sadness of her affliction: and she was sad because of this, that the Lord shut up her womb, and gave not her a child. ⁷So did she year after year, when she went up to the house of the Lord: and she was downcast, and wept, and did not eat. ⁸And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Hannah; and she said unto him, Here am I, my lord: and he said unto her, What aileth thee that thou weepest? and why eatest thou not? and why doth thy heart smite thee? am I not better to thee than ten children? ⁹And Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and stood before the Lord: and Eli the priest was upon a seat by the doorposts of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰And she was sore grieved in soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. ¹¹And she vowed a vow unto the Lord, saying, O Lord God of Sabaoth, if Thou wilt indeed look on the humiliation of Thine handmaid, and remember me, and give unto Thine handmaid a man child, then will I put him before Thee unto the day of his death; and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and there shall no razor come upon his head. ¹²And it came to pass, while she was long praying before the Lord, that Eli the priest marked her mouth. ¹³And she spake in her heart, and her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: and Eli counted her a drunken woman. ¹⁴And Eli's servant said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee, and go out from the presence of the Lord. ¹⁵And Hannah said, Nay, my lord, I live in an hard day, and have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, and I pour out my soul unto the Lord. ¹⁶Count not thine handmaid for a pestilent woman: for out of the abundance of my meditation have I continued my prayer until now. ¹⁷And Eli answered and said, Go in peace: the Lord God of Israel grant thee all thy petition that thou hast asked of him. ¹⁸And she said, Thine handmaid hath found favour in thine eyes: and the woman went her way, and entered into her lodging, and did eat and drink with her husband, and her countenance was no more sad. ¹⁹And they rise up in the morning early, and worship the Lord, and go their way: and Elkanah went into his house at

Ramah, and knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her, and she conceived. ²⁰And it came to pass, when the time was come, that she brought forth a son, and called his name Samuel, and said, Because I asked him of the Lord God of Sabaoth.

²¹And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer in Shiloh the yearly sacrifice, and his vows, and all the tithes of his land. ²²But Hannah went not up with him; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child goeth up, when I have weaned him; and he shall be presented before the Lord, and abide there continually. ²³And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do that which is good in thine eyes; abide still until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish that which cometh out of thy mouth. And the woman tarried, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. ²⁴And she went up with him unto Shiloh, with a calf of three years, and loaves, and an ephah of fine flour, and a bottle of wine: and she entered into the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child with them. ²⁵And they brought him before the Lord; and his father slew his offering, which he offered from year to year unto the Lord, and brought the child near, and slew the calf: and Hannah the mother of the child brought him to Eli. ²⁶And she said, I pray thee, my lord, as thy soul liveth, I am the woman that stood in thy presence with thee, while praying unto the Lord. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸And I do lend him to the Lord all his days that he liveth, a loan unto the Lord. And she said,

CHAPTER 2

My heart is established in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in my God: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; I have rejoiced in Thy salvation. ²For there is none holy as the Lord; for there is none that is righteous as our God, and there is none holy beside Thee. ³Boast not, and utter not high things; let not high words come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and a God that prepareth His own ways. ⁴The bow of the mighty is become weak, and the weak have girded themselves with strength. ⁵They that were full of bread are brought low, and the hungry have forsaken the land: for the barren hath borne seven, and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. ⁶The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: He bringeth down to Hades, and bringeth up. ⁷The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: He bringeth low, and lifteth up. ⁸He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the needy from the dunghill, to seat him with the princes of the people, and to make them inherit the throne of glory, ⁹granting his petition unto him that prayeth: and He blesseth the years of the righteous; for by strength can no man prevail. ¹⁰The Lord shall weaken his adversary; the Lord is holy. Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast in his own strength, and let not the rich man boast in his riches: but let him that boasteth boast in this: to understand and know the Lord, and to execute judgment and justice in the midst of the earth. The Lord is gone up into the heavens, and hath

thundered: He shall judge the ends of the earth, and shall give strength unto our kings, and exalt the horn of His anointed. And she left him there before the Lord, ¹¹and departed to Ramah: and the child did minister in the presence of the Lord before Eli the priest.

¹²And the sons of Eli were evil sons, not knowing the Lord. ¹³And the priest's claim from every one of the people that sacrificed *was, that* the servant of the Lord came when the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand. ¹⁴And he struck it into the great cauldron, or brasen vessel, or pot; and whatsoever came up with the fleshhook, the priest took for himself: so they did unto all Israel that came to sacrifice unto the Lord in Shiloh. ¹⁵And before the fat was burnt for a sweet savour, the servant of the Lord would come, and say unto the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; and I will by no means take of the sodden flesh out of the cauldron. ¹⁶And if the man that sacrificed said, First let the fat be burned, as it is fitting, and take for thee of all things which thy soul desireth; then he would say, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. ¹⁷So the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for they set at nought the offering of the Lord. ¹⁸And Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girt with a linen ephod. ¹⁹And his mother made him a little doublet, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up in company with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, saying, The Lord recompense thee seed of this woman for the loan which thou hast lent to the Lord: and the man returned to his place. ²¹And the Lord visited Hannah, and she bare yet three sons, and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

²²And Eli was very old; and he heard what his sons did unto the sons of Israel. ²³And he said unto them, Why do ye according to this thing, which I hear from the mouth of all the people of the Lord? ²⁴Nay, my sons; for the report which I hear is not good: do not so, for the reports which I hear are not good, so that the people serve not God. ²⁵If one man sin against another, then shall they pray for him unto the Lord: but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him? But they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord would by all means destroy them. ²⁶And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and with men. ²⁷And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, I plainly revealed Myself unto the house of thy father, when they were servants in Egypt to the house of Pharaoh. ²⁸And I did choose the house of thy father out of all the tribes of Israel to minister unto Me in the priest's office, to go up unto mine altar, and to burn incense, and to wear an ephod. And I gave unto the house of thy father all the offerings by fire of the sons of Israel for meat. ²⁹And wherefore hast thou looked upon Mine incense offering and My meat offering with a shameless eye, and hast honoured thy sons above Me, that they should bless themselves with the firstfruits of every sacrifice of Israel before Me? ³⁰Wherefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel; I said, Thy house and the house of thy fathers shall walk before Me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from Me; for only them that honour Me will I honour, and he

that setteth Me at nought shall be despised. ³¹Behold, the days come when I will cut off thy seed, and the seed of thy father's house. ³²And thou shalt not have an old man in My house for ever. ³³And if I cut off not a man of thine from Mine altar, it shall be that his eyes may fail, and his soul may perish: and every one that remaineth in thine house shall fall by the sword of men. ³⁴And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, upon Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. ³⁵And I will raise Me up a faithful priest, that shall do all that is in Mine heart and in My soul: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before Mine Anointed for ever. ³⁶And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in thine house, shall come to do obeisance before him for a little piece of silver, saying, Put me into one of thy priest's offices, to eat bread.

CHAPTER 3

And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli the priest: and the word of the Lord was precious in those days, and there was no open vision. ²And it came to pass at that time, that Eli did sleep, and his eyes began to wax dim, and could not see. ³And the lamp of God *went out* ere it was trimmed, and Samuel slept in the temple, where the ark of God was. ⁴And the Lord called, Samuel, Samuel; and he said, Behold, here am I. ⁵And he ran to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called thee not; return, sleep; and he returned, and slept. ⁶And the Lord called yet again, Samuel, Samuel: and he went to Eli the second time, and said, Behold, here am I, for thou didst call me. And he said, I called thee not; return, sleep. ⁷And it was before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of God was revealed unto him. ⁸And the Lord called Samuel again the third time: and he arose, and went to Eli, and said, Behold, here am I; for thou didst call me: and Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. ⁹And he said, Return, child, sleep; and it shall be, if He call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth. And Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the Lord came, and stood, and called him as before: and Samuel said, Speak; for Thy servant heareth. ¹¹And the Lord said unto Samuel, Behold, I do perform My words in Israel; whosoever heareth them, his ears shall tingle. ¹²In that day I will raise up against Eli all things which I have spoken against his house: I will begin, I will also make an end. ¹³And I have told him that I will be avenged upon his house for ever for the iniquities of his sons, and he admonished them not. ¹⁴And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with incense nor sacrifice for ever. ¹⁵And Samuel lay until the morning, and rose up early in the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord; and Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. ¹⁶And Eli said unto Samuel, Samuel, my son; and he said, Behold, here am I. ¹⁷And he said, What was the word that was spoken unto thee? I pray thee, hide it not from me: God do these things to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the words that were spoken

unto thee in thine ears. ¹⁸And Samuel told all the words, and hid them not from him. And Eli said, He is the Lord; He shall do what is good in His sight. ¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and there did none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was faithful as a prophet unto the Lord. ²¹And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel; and Samuel was believed unto all Israel to be a prophet unto the Lord, from one end of the land unto the other: and Eli was very old; and his sons advanced, and their way was evil before the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered themselves together against Israel to war; and Israel went out to meet them, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. ²And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel; and the battle was turned against them: and the men of Israel fell before the Philistines, and there were smitten in the battle in the field four thousand men. ³And the people came into the camp, and the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the Lord caused us to fall to day before the Philistines? let us fetch the ark of our God out of Shiloh, and let it go out from the midst of us; and it shall save us out of the hand of our enemies. ⁴And the people sent to Shiloh, and they take from thence the ark of the Lord, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and both the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were with the ark. ⁵And it came to pass, when the ark of the Lord came into the camp, that all Israel cried out with a great shout, and the earth rang again. ⁶And the Philistines heard the cry, and the Philistines said, What is this great cry in the camp of the Hebrews?: and they understood that the ark of the Lord was come into the camp. ⁷And the Philistines were afraid, and said, These are the gods that are come unto them in the camp. ⁸Woe unto us, O Lord! deliver us this day; for there hath not been such a thing heretofore: woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods? these are the gods that smote Egypt with every plague, and in the wilderness. ⁹Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have served us: but be ye men, and fight with them. ¹⁰And they fought with them: and the men of Israel fell; and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; and there fell of Israel thirty thousand fighting men. ¹¹And the ark of God was taken, and both the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹²And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh that same day; and his clothes were rent, and earth was upon his head. ¹³And he came, and, lo, Eli was upon the seat by the gate watching along the way: for his heart was sore alarmed for the ark of God. And the man came into the city to bring tidings; and the city cried out. ¹⁴And Eli heard the sound of the cry, and said, What is the voice of this cry? and the man hasted,

and went in, and reported to Eli. ¹⁵Now Eli was ninety years old, and his eyes were fixed, and he saw not. ¹⁶And Eli said unto them that stood round about him, What is the voice of this sound? And the man hasted, and came unto Eli, and said unto him, I am he that is come out of the camp, and I fled to day out of the battle. And Eli said, What is there fallen out, my son? ¹⁷And the young man answered and said, The men of Israel fled from before the face of the Philistines, and there was a great slaughter among the people, and both thy sons are dead, and the ark of God is taken. ¹⁸And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward near the gate, and his back was broken, and he died; for he was an old man, and heavy: and he had judged Israel twenty years.

¹⁹And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to bring forth: and she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead; and she wept, and was delivered; for her pains came upon her. ²⁰And in her time she was at the point of death; and the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast borne a son: but she answered not, neither did her heart regard it. ²¹And she called the child Woe, Ichabod, because of the ark of God, and because of her father in law and her husband. ²²And they said, The glory of Israel is departed: forasmuch as the ark of God is taken.

CHAPTER 5

And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Eben-ezer unto Ashdod. ²And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. ³And they of Ashdod rose early, and entered into the house of Dagon, and looked; and, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face before the ark of the Lord: and they lifted up Dagon, and set him in his place. And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and He plagued them, and smote them in their buttocks, Ashdod and her coasts. ⁴And it came to pass, when they arose early in the morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off each before the threshold, and both the wrists of his hands were fallen upon the floor of the porch; only the stump of Dagon was left. ⁵Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor every one that entereth into the house of Dagon, tread on the threshold of the house of Dagon unto this day; for they tread over. ⁶And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon Ashdod, and He brought evil upon them; and it burst out upon them into the ships, and mice sprang up in the midst of their country, and there was a great confusion of death in the city. ⁷And the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, and said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for His hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our God. ⁸They send therefore, and gather the lords of the Philistines unto them, and say, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they of Gath say, Let the ark of God come over unto us: and the ark of the God of Israel came

unto Gath. ⁹And it was so, after that it went about to Gath, that the hand of the Lord cometh upon the city, a very great confusion; and He smote the men of the city, both small and great, and smote them in their secret parts, and the men of Gath made them images of secret parts. ¹⁰And they send away the ark of God to Askelon; and it came to pass, when the ark of God went into Askelon, that the men of Askelon cried out, Why have ye brought back the ark of God to us, to slay us and our people. ¹¹And they send and gather together the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it abide in his own place; and let it not slay us and our people. ¹²For there was a very great confusion in all the city, when the ark of the God of Israel entered there; and they that lived and died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

CHAPTER 6

And the ark was in the country of the Philistines seven months, and their land brought forth swarms of mice. ²And the Philistines call for their priests, and their prophets, and their enchanters, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? teach us wherewith we shall send it to his place. ³And they said, If ye send away the ark of the covenant of the Lord God of Israel, in no wise send it empty; but when you give it back, return for it an offering for the plague: and then ye shall be healed, and it shall make an atonement for you: shall not His hand be thus stayed from off you? ⁴And they say, What is the offering for the plague which we shall return to Him?, and they said, ⁵Five golden emerods, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines,: for the plague was on you, and on your lords, and on the people; and golden mice, the likeness of the mice that destroy your land; and ye shall give glory unto the Lord, that He may lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. ⁶Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as Egypt and Pharaoh hardened their heart? Was it not so when He mocked them, that they did let the people go, and they departed? ⁷Now therefore take wood, and make a new cart, and take two kine, that have calved for the first time, without their calves: and yoke the kine to the cart, and lead away their calves home from behind them. ⁸And ye shall take the ark, and put it upon the cart, and restore to it the things of gold for the trespass offering in a coffer by the side thereof; and ye shall let it go, and send it away, and ye shall depart. ⁹And ye shall see, if it goeth the way of the coasts along by Bethshemesh, He hath brought upon us this great affliction: and if not, then we shall know that His hand hath not touched us, but this was a chance that happened to us. ¹⁰And the Philistines did so; and took two kine that had calved for the first time, and yoked them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. ¹¹And they set the ark of the Lord, and the coffer, and the golden mice, on the cart. ¹²And the kine went straight on the way to the way of Bethshemesh; they went along one track, and laboured, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them

unto the borders of Beth-shemesh. ¹³And they of Beth-shemesh were reaping the wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to meet it. ¹⁴And the cart entered into the field of Osee, which was in Beth-shemesh, and they set it there by a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine for an whole burnt offering unto the Lord. ¹⁵And the Levites brought up the ark of the Lord, and the coffer with it, and the things of gold upon it, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered whole burnt offerings and meat offerings in that day unto the Lord. ¹⁶And the five lords of the Philistines saw, and returned to Askelon the same day. ¹⁷And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines gave as a trespass offering unto the Lord; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one; ¹⁸and the golden mice according to all the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, from the fenced city to the village of the Perizzite, even unto the great stone, whereon they put the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that was in the field of Osea the Beth-shemite.

¹⁹And the sons of Jechonias were not pleased with the men of Beth-shemesh, because they saw the ark of the Lord; and the Lord smote among them fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people mourned, because the Lord had afflicted the people with a very great plague. ²⁰And the men of Beth-shemesh said, Who shall be able to pass before this holy Lord God? and to whom shall the ark of the Lord go up from us? ²¹And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the Lord; go ye down, and fetch it home to you.

CHAPTER 7

And the men of Kirjath-jearim come, and bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord: and they bring it into the house of Abinadab in the hill; and they sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

²And it came to pass, from the time that the ark was in Kirjath-jearim, that the days were multiplied, and *the time* was twenty years: and all the house of Israel looked after the Lord. ³And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your heart, then take away the strange gods from among you, and the groves, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. ⁴And the sons of Israel did take away Baalim and the groves of Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only. ⁵And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord. ⁶And they were gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out upon the ground before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said, We have sinned before the Lord. And Samuel judged the sons of Israel in Mizpeh. ⁷And the Philistines heard that all the sons of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, and the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel: and the sons of Israel

heard, and they were afraid before the Philistines. ⁸And the sons of Israel said unto Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord thy God for us, and He shall save us out of the hand of the Philistines. ⁹And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for an whole burnt offering with all the people unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him. ¹⁰And Samuel offered up the whole burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: and the Lord thundered with a mighty sound in that day upon the Philistines; and they were confounded and overthrown before Israel. ¹¹And the men of Israel went forth out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them to the parts under Beth-car. ¹²And Samuel took a stone, and set it up between Mizpeh and the old city, and called the name of it Ebenezer, stone of the helper; and he said, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. ¹³So the Lord humbled the Philistines, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. ¹⁴And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored; and they restored them to Israel, from Askelon even to Azob; and the coast of Israel did they take out of the hand of the Philistines: and there was peace between Israel and the Amorite. ¹⁵And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶And he went year by year, and went round about Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all these consecrated places. ¹⁷And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

CHAPTER 8

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. ²And these are the names of his sons; Joel the firstborn, and the name of the second, Abiah, *they were* judges in Beer-sheba. ³And his sons walked not in his way; but they turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgments. ⁴And the men of Israel gather themselves together, and come to Samuel unto Ramah; ⁵and they said unto him, Behold, thou art grown old, and thy sons walk not in thy way: and now set over us a king to judge us, as also the other nations. ⁶But the thing was evil in the eyes of Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us: and Samuel prayed unto the Lord. ⁷And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in whatsoever they shall say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me from reigning over them. ⁸According to all their works which they have done unto Me, since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, even as they have forsaken Me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. ⁹Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit thou shalt protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. ¹⁰And Samuel told every word of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king. ¹¹And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and put them in his chariots, and among his chariots, and running

before his chariots, ¹²and make him of them captains of hundreds, and captains of thousands; and to reap his harvest, and to gather his vintage, and to prepare his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. ¹³And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. ¹⁴And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your good oliveyards, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give it to his eunuchs, and to his servants. ¹⁶And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your good herds, and your asses, and will take the tenth of them for his works. ¹⁷And he will take the tenth of your flocks: and ye shall be his servants. ¹⁸And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not hear you in those days, because ye have chosen you a king. ¹⁹Nevertheless the people would not hearken unto Samuel; and they said unto him, Nay, but there shall be a king over us. ²⁰And we also shall be like all the nations; and our king shall judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. ²¹And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Let each man depart unto his city.

CHAPTER 9

Now there was a man of the sons of Benjamin, and his name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Jared, the son of Bechorah, the son of Aphia, the son of a Benjamite, a man of power. ²And this man had a son, and his name was Saul, of great stature, a goodly man: and there was not among the sons of Israel a goodlier than he: from his shoulders and upward he was high above all the people. ³And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost; and Kish said to Saul his son, Take one of the servants with thee, and arise, and go and seek the asses. ⁴And they passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: and they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and they passed through the land of Jamin, but they found them not. ⁵And when they were come to Zuph, then Saul said to his servant that was with with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave the asses, and take thought for us. ⁶And the lad said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and the man is of high reputation; all that he shall speak shall come surely to pass: now then let us go, that he may shew us the way whereon we have set out. ⁷And Saul said to his servant that was with him, Behold, then, we will go; but what shall we bring the man of God? for the loaves are spent out of our vessels, and we have nothing more that is ours to bring to the man of God. ⁸And the lad answered Saul again, and said, Behold, there is found in my hand a fourth part of a shekel of silver; and thou shalt give it to the man of God, and he shall tell us our way. ⁹Now beforetime in Israel every one **when** going to enquire of God said, Come, and let us go to the seer: for the people beforetime

called the prophet, the seer. ¹⁰Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, and let us go: and they went unto the city where the man of God was. ¹¹As they went up the ascent to the city, they find young maidens come out to draw water, and they say unto them, Is the seer here? ¹²And the virgins answered them, and they say unto them, He is; behold, he is before you: now he cometh to the city, because of the day: for to day there is a sacrifice for the people in Bamah. ¹³As soon as ye be come into the city, so shall ye find him in the city, before he go up unto Bamah to eat: for the people will not eat until he come in, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterward the guests eat. Now therefore, get ye up; for ye shall find him because of the day. ¹⁴And they go up into the city: and as they entered the city, behold, Samuel came out to meet them, for to go up to Bamah. ¹⁵And the Lord uncovered the ear of Samuel the day before Saul came unto him, saying, ¹⁶To morrow at this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be ruler over My people Israel, and he shall save My people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon the humiliation of My people, because their cry is come unto Me. ¹⁷And Samuel looked upon Saul, and the Lord answered him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of, This one shall rule over My people. ¹⁸And Saul drew near to Samuel in the midst of the city, and said, Tell me now, which is the seer's house? ¹⁹And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am he: go up before me unto Bamah, and eat with me to day; and in the morning I will send thee away, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. ²⁰And concerning thine asses that have been lost these three days, care not for them; for they are found. And unto whom is the excellency of Israel? is it not to thee, and to thy father's house? ²¹And Saul answered and said, Am I not the son of a Benjamite, the least tribe of the people of Israel, and of the least family of all the tribe of Benjamin? And wherefore hast thou spoken unto me according to this word? ²²And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them to the inn, and set them there a place among the chief of them that were called, about threescore and ten men. ²³And Samuel said unto the cook, Give me the portion which I gave thee, which I told thee to set by thee. ²⁴Now the cook had boiled the shoulder, and he set it before Saul; and Samuel said unto Saul, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for it is set for thee for a testimony above the others; take of it: and Saul ate with Samuel on that day. ²⁵And he went down from Bamah into the city; and they prepared a **bed** for Saul upon the roof, and he lay down. ²⁶And it came to pass when the morning dawned, that Samuel called Saul upon the roof, saying, Rise up, and I will send thee away. And Saul arose, and he and Samuel went out. ²⁷And as they were going down to a part of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Speak to the lad, and let him pass on before us; and stand thou as to day, and hearken unto the word of God.

CHAPTER 10

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord anointed thee for a ruler over His people, over Israel? And thou shalt rule among the people of the Lord, and thou shalt save them out of the hand of their enemies: and this shall be the sign to thee that the Lord hath anointed thee for a ruler over His inheritance. ²When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's buryingplace on the mount of Benjamin, rejoicing greatly; and they will say unto thee, The asses which ye went to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath given up the matter of the asses, and is anxious for you, saying, What shall I do for my son? ³And thou shalt depart from thence, and go beyond there unto the oak of Tabor, and there shalt thou find three men going up to God to Bethel; one carrying three kids, and another carrying three vessels of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine. ⁴And they shall ask thee how thou doest, and shall give thee two presents of bread; and thou shalt receive them of their hand. ⁵And after that thou shalt go to the hill of God, where is the encampment of the Philistines; there is Nazib the Philistine: and it shall come to pass, when ye have entered the city, that thou shalt meet a band of prophets coming down from the Bamah; and before them will be a lute, and a drum, and a pipe, and a harp; and they shall prophesy. ⁶And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. ⁷And it shall be, when these signs come upon thee, then do thou whatsoever thine hand shall find, because God is with thee. ⁸And thou shalt go down in front of Gilgal, and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer an whole burnt offering, and peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee; and I will shew thee what thou shalt do. ⁹And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all these signs came to pass that day. ¹⁰And he cometh thither to the hill, and, behold, a band of prophets over against him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. ¹¹And all that knew him beforetime came, and saw; and, behold, he was among the prophets: and the people said every one to his neighbour, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? is Saul also among the prophets? ¹²And one of them answered and said, And who is his father? and therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets? ¹³And he made an end of prophesying, and cometh to the hill. ¹⁴And his kinsman said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? and they said, To seek the asses; and we saw that they were lost, and went in to Samuel. ¹⁵And his kinsman said unto Saul, Tell me, I pray thee, What said Samuel unto thee? ¹⁶And Saul said unto his kinsman, He verily told me that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, he told him not.

¹⁷And Samuel called all the people together before the Lord to Mizpeh. ¹⁸And he said unto the sons of Israel, Thus hath the Lord God of Israel spoken, saying, I brought up the sons of Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and from all the kingdoms that

afflicted you. ¹⁹And ye have this day rejected God, Who is Himself your deliverer out of all your evils and afflictions; and ye have said, Nay, but thou shalt set a king over us: and now stand before the Lord according to your tribes, and according to your families. ²⁰And Samuel brought near all the tribes of Israel, and the tribe of Israel is taken by lot. ²¹And he bringeth near the tribe of Benjamin by families, and the family of Matri is taken by lot; and they bring near the family of Matri, man by man, and Saul the son of Kish is taken; and he sought him, but he was not found. ²²And Samuel asked of the Lord yet further, Doth the man come hither?: and the Lord said, Behold, he is hid among the stuff. ²³And he ran and fetched him thence, and set him the midst of the people; and he was higher than all of the people by his shoulders and upward. ²⁴And Samuel said to all the people, Have ye seen whom the Lord hath chosen to himself, that there is none like him among you all? And all the people took notice, and said, Let the king live! ²⁵And Samuel told the people the manner of the king, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord: and Samuel sent away all the people, and each went to his place. ²⁶And Saul departed to his house to Gibeah; and there were with Saul mighty men, whose hearts God had touched. ²⁷But evil men said, Who is this man that shall save us? and they despised him, and brought him no presents.

CHAPTER 11

And it came to pass, about a month after this, that Nahash the Ammonite went up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. ²And Nabash the Ammonite said unto them, On these conditions will I make a covenant with you, that I put out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon Israel. ³And the men of Jabesh say unto him, Give us seven days, and we will send messengers into all the coasts of Israel: if there be none to deliver us, we will come out to you. ⁴And the messengers came to Gibeah unto Saul, and speak the words in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵And, behold, Saul came after the early morning out of the field; and Saul said, Why doth the people weep? and they tell him the words of the men of Jabesh. ⁶And the Spirit of the Lord did leap upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was kindled greatly against them. ⁷And he took two kine, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them into all the coasts of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall they do unto his oxen. And an ecstasy fell upon the people of Israel, and they came out to battle as one man. ⁸And he numbereth them at Bezek in Bamah, every man of Israel six hundred thousand, and the men of Judah seventy thousand. ⁹And he said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabesh, To morrow, when the sun be hot, ye shall have deliverance. And the messengers came to the city, and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. ¹⁰And the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash the Ammonite, To morrow we will come out unto

you, and ye shall do with us what seemeth good in your sight. ¹¹And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they go into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and they smote the children of Ammon until the day was hot: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, and there were not two among them left together. ¹²And the people said unto Samuel, Who hath said that Saul shall not reign over us? Give up the men, and we will put them to death. ¹³And Saul said, There shall not a man die this day: for to day the Lord hath wrought deliverance in Israel. ¹⁴And Samuel spake unto the people, saying, Let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. ¹⁵And all the people went to Gilgal; and there Samuel anointed Saul to be king before the Lord in Gilgal: and Samuel and all Israel rejoiced greatly.

CHAPTER 12

And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all things that ye said unto me, and have set a king over you. ²And now, behold, the king goeth before you; and I am waxen old, and shall rest; and, behold, my sons are among you; and behold, I have gone about before you from my youth unto this day. ³Behold, here I am: answer against me before the Lord, and before His anointed: whose calf have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom of you have I oppressed? or with whom have I been violent? or of whose hand have I taken a bribe, even to a sandal? Bear witness against me, and I will make restitution to you. ⁴And they said unto Samuel, Thou hast not injured us, nor oppressed us, nor hast thou afflicted us; neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand. ⁵And Samuel said unto the people, The Lord is witness among you, and His anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found aught in my hand: and they said, He is witness. ⁶And Samuel spake unto the people, saying, The Lord that appointed Moses and Aaron is witness, that brought our fathers up out of Egypt. ⁷And now stand still, and I will judge you before the Lord; and I will reason with you all the righteousness of the Lord, of the things which He wrought among you and your fathers. ⁸When Jacob and his sons went into Egypt, and Egypt humbled them, then our fathers cried unto the Lord, and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron; and they brought our fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. ⁹And they forgot the Lord their God, and He sold them into the hands of Sisera, captain of the host of Jabin king of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the kings of Moab; and he fought with them. ¹⁰And they cried unto the Lord, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord, and have served Baalim and the groves; and now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve Thee. ¹¹And He sent Jerubbaal, and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered us out of the hand of our enemies round about; and ye dwelt in security. ¹²And ye saw that Nahash king of the children of Ammon came against you, and ye said, Nay; none but a king shall reign over us; whereas

the Lord our God is our king. ¹³And now behold the king whom ye have chosen; and, behold, the Lord hath set a king over you. ¹⁴If ye will fear the Lord, and serve Him, and hearken unto His voice, and not withstand the mouth of the Lord, and ye and your king that reigneth over you follow the Lord, *well*. ¹⁵But if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the Lord, and withstand the mouth of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be upon you and upon your king. ¹⁶And now stand still, and see this great thing, which the Lord will do before your eyes. ¹⁷Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call upon the Lord, and He shall send thunder and rain; and know ye and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the Lord, in having asked you a king. ¹⁸And Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunders and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel. ¹⁹And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, and let us not die: for we have added unto all our sins this iniquity, in asking us a king. ²⁰And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness; only turn not from following the Lord, and serve the Lord with all your heart. ²¹And turn ye not aside after the gods that are nought, which will do nought, and will not deliver you; for they are nought. ²²For the Lord will not cast off His people for His great name's sake: because the Lord graciously took you unto Himself for a people. ²³And far be it from me to sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will serve the Lord, and shew you the good and the right way. ²⁴Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth and with all your heart: for ye see what great things He hath done with you. ²⁵But if ye continue to do evil, then ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

CHAPTER 13

²And Saul chooseth him three thousand men of the men of Israel; and there were with Saul two thousand that were in Michmash, and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. ³And Jonathan smote Nasib the Philistine that dwelt in the hill, and the Philistines hear of it; and Saul soundeth the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, The servants have rejected *us*. ⁴And all Israel heard say, Saul hath smitten Nasib the Philistine: now Israel had been put to shame before the Philistines; and the sons of Israel went up after Saul in Gilgal. ⁵And the Philistines gather themselves together to war with Israel; and then come up against Israel thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is by the sea shore for multitude: and they come up, and pitch in Michmash, over against Beth-aven southward. ⁶And the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, that they could not draw nigh to battle; and the people hid themselves in caves, and in sheepfolds, and in rocks, and in ditches, and in pits. ⁷And they that went over went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead: and Saul was yet in Gilgal, and all the people that followed after him were amazed.

⁸And he tarried seven days for a testimony, as Samuel had told him: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and his people were scattered from him. ⁹And Saul said, Bring hither, that I may offer whole burnt offerings and peace offerings: and he offered the whole burnt offering. ¹⁰And it came to pass, when he had made an end of offering the whole burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, *and* to bless him. ¹¹And Samuel said, What hast thou done?; and Saul said, Because I saw how the people were scattered from me, and that thou wast not present as thou purposedst according to the testimony of the days, and that the Philistines were gathered together to Michmash: ¹²then said I, Now will the Philistines come down to me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the face of the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered the whole burnt offering. ¹³And Samuel said unto Saul, Thou hast done foolishly; for thou hast not kept my commandment, which the Lord commanded thee: for now the Lord would have confirmed thy kingdom over Israel for ever. ¹⁴But now thy kingdom shall not stand to thee; and the Lord shall seek Him a man after His own heart, and the Lord shall appoint him to be a ruler over His people, because thou hast not kept all that the Lord commanded thee. ¹⁵And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal, and the remnant of the people went after Saul, to meet him after the men of war, when they were come out of Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men. ¹⁶And Saul and Jonathan his son, and the people that were found with him, halted in Gibeah of Benjamin, and they wept; and the Philistines encamped in Michmash. ¹⁷And men came forth to destroy out of the land of the Philistines in three companies; one company turning by the way of Ophrah toward the land of Shual, ¹⁸and another company turning the way of Beth-horon, and another company turning by the way of Gibeah, that turneth aside to Ai of Zeboim. ¹⁹And there was no smith found in all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them sword or spear. ²⁰And all Israel went down to the land of the Philistines, to forge every man his reaping hook, and his tool; and every man his axe, and his sickle. ²¹And it was near the time of vintage: and their tools were valued at three shekels for a ploughshare, and there was the same rate for the axe and the sickle. ²²And it came to pass in the days of the war of Michmash, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of all the people that were with Saul and Jonathan, but with Saul and Jonathan his son was there found. ²³And there went out some from the camp of the Philistines to the place beyond Michmash.

CHAPTER 14

And a day came, and Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to Messab of the Philistines, that is on the other side yonder: but he told not his father. ²And Saul sat on the top of the hill under the pomegranate tree which is in Migron:

and there were with him about six hundred men. ³And Ahijah the son of Achitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, was the priest of God in Shiloh, wearing an ephod: and the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. ⁴And in the midst of the passage, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' encampment, there was a sharp rock on this side, and a sharp rock on the other side: the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. ⁵The one way was situate northward to one coming from Michmash, and the other way was southward to one coming from Gibeah. ⁶And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, let us go over to Messab of these uncircumcised, if peradventure the Lord my do some thing for us: for the Lord is not straitened to save by many or by few. ⁷And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that thine heart inclineth to; behold, I am with thee: as is thine heart, so is my heart also. ⁸And Jonathan said, Behold, we do pass over unto the men, and we will come down suddenly unto them. ⁹If they say thus unto us, Stand aloof there until we send you word; then we will stand still by ourselves, and will not go up unto them. ¹⁰But if they say thus to us, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the Lord hath delivered them into our hands: this shall be a sign unto us. ¹¹And both of them went into Messab of the Philistines; and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of their caves where they had hid themselves. ¹²And the men of Messab answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing; and Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me, for the Lord hath delivered them into our hands: this shall be a sign to us. ¹³And Jonathan went up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer with him: and they looked upon the face of Jonathan, and he smote them, and his armourbearer smote after him. ¹⁴And the first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was twenty men, with darts, and with slings, and with pebbles of the field. ¹⁵And there was dismay in the camp, and in the field; and all the people of Messab, and the spoilers, were amazed: they also would not act, and the land was terrorstricken, and there was dismay from the Lord. ¹⁶And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the army was thrown into confusion on every side. ¹⁷And Saul said unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone out from you: and they numbered themselves, and, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not found. ¹⁸And Saul unto Ahiah, Bring the ephod: for he wore the ephod that day before Israel. ¹⁹And it came to pass, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise that was in the camp of the Philistines went on to increase greatly: and Saul said unto the priest, Put thine hands together. ²⁰And Saul and all the people that were with him, went up; and they come to the battle, and, behold, every man's sword was against his neighbour, a very great confusion. ²¹And the servants that had been with the Philistines yesterday and the day before, which had gone up into the army, even they turned themselves also to be with Israel, which were with Saul and Jonathan. ²²And all them of Israel which were hid in mount Ephraim heard also that the Philistines fled; and they also gather themselves after them to battle. ²³And the Lord delivered

Israel that day; and the war passed through Beth-aven; and all the people that were with Saul were about ten thousand men.

And the war was dispersed unto every city in mount Ephraim. ²⁴And Saul was ignorant with great ignorance that day; and he layeth a curse upon the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth bread before the evening; so will I avenge myself upon mine enemies: and none of the people tasted bread, though all the land was dining. ²⁵And Jaal was a wood that abounded in swarms of bees upon the face of the ground. ²⁶And the people went into the place of the bees, and, behold, they continued speaking; and, behold, there was none that put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath of the Lord. ²⁷And Jonathan heard not when his father adjured the people: and he put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and dipped it in the honeycomb, and returned his hand to his mouth; and his eyes recovered their sight. ²⁸Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth food this day. And the people were very faint; ²⁹and Jonathan knew it, and said, My father hath destroyed the land: see how mine eyes have received sight, now that I have tasted a little of this honey. ³⁰Surely if the people had eaten freely to day of the spoils of their enemies which they found, the slaughter had been much greater among the Philistines. ³¹And he smote some of the Philistines that day in Michmash: and the people were very faint. ³²And the people turned to the spoil; and the people took flocks, and herds, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat *them* with the blood. ³³And it was told Saul, saying, The people have sinned against the Lord, in eating with the blood: and Saul said, Roll a great stone out of Gethem unto me hither. ³⁴And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and tell them to bring hither every one his calf, and every one his sheep: and let them lay it upon this stone, and sin not against the Lord in eating with the blood: and the people brought each one that which was in his hand, and slew them there. ³⁵And Saul built there an altar unto the Lord: the same was the first altar that Saul built unto the Lord. ³⁶And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines this night, and spoil among them until the day break, and let us not leave a man among them. And they said, Do all that is good in thy sight: and the priest said, Let us draw near hither unto God. ³⁷And Saul enquired of God, If I go down after the Philistines, wilt Thou deliver them into the hands of Israel? And He answered him not in that day. ³⁸And Saul said, Bring hither all the chiefs of Israel: and know and see by whom this sin hath been committed this day. ³⁹For as the Lord liveth, which hath saved Israel, if He should give answer against Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. And there was not a man out of all the people that answered him. ⁴⁰And he said unto all the men of Israel, Ye shall be under subjection; and I and Jonathan my son shall be under subjection: and the people said unto Saul, Do that which is good in thy sight. ⁴¹And Saul said, O Lord God of Israel, wherefore hast Thou not answered Thy servant this day? is the iniquity in me, or in Jonathan my son? O Lord God of Israel, give *clear* manifestations: and if the lot should declare this, give, I pray Thee, unto Thy people Israel, give, I pray, holiness. And

Jonathan and Saul are taken *by lot*, and the people escaped. ⁴²And Saul said, Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son: whomsoever the Lord shall cause to be taken by lot, let him die: and the people said unto Saul, This thing is not to be done: and Saul prevailed against the people, and they cast lots between him and Jonathan his son; and Jonathan is taken by lot. ⁴³And Saul said unto Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done: and Jonathan told him, and said, I did indeed taste a little honey with the end of my staff, and lo, I am to die. ⁴⁴And Saul said unto him, God do so to me, and more also: thou shalt surely die to day. ⁴⁵And the people said unto Saul, Shall he put to death this day that hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? As the Lord liveth, there shall not one of the hairs of his head fall to the ground: for the people of God have wrought successfully this day. And the people prayed for Jonathan in that day; and he died not. ⁴⁶And Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines departed to their own place.

⁴⁷And Saul received the kingdom, by lot he inheriteth the office over Israel; and he fought against his enemies round about, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against the children of Edom, and against Beth-aeor, and against the king of Zobah, and against the Philistines: whithersoever he turned himself, he had the victory. ⁴⁸And he wrought valiantly, and smote Amalek, and rescued Israel out of the hand of them that trod on him. ⁴⁹And the sons of Saul were Jonathan and Ishui, and Melchishua: and these were the names of his two daughters; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the second Michal. ⁵⁰And the name of his wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of the host was Abner, the son of Ner, the son of Saul's kinsman. ⁵¹And Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner, the father of Abner, was the son of Jamin, the son of Abiel. ⁵²And the war was hard against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong man, and any valiant man, he took them unto him.

CHAPTER 15

Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the Lord. ²Thus said the Lord of Sabaoth, Now will I take vengeance for that which Amalek did unto Israel, when he met him in the way, as he came up out of Egypt. ³And now go; and thou shalt smite Amalek and Jerim, and all that he hath; and thou shalt not save anything of him alive, but shalt utterly destroy him: and thou shalt devote him and all that is his unto destruction, and shalt spare nothing that belongeth to him; and thou shalt slay from man and unto woman, and from infant unto suckling, and from calf unto sheep, and from camel unto ass. ⁴And Saul summoned the people, and numbereth them in Gilgal, four hundred thousand of ranks, and Judah thirty thousand of ranks. ⁵And Saul came to the cities of Amalek, and laid wait in the brook. ⁶And Saul said unto the Kenite, Go, and get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I

put thee with them: for thou didst deal mercifully with the sons of Israel when they went up out of Egypt. ⁷And Saul smote Amalek from Havilah to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸And he took Agag the king of Amalek alive, and slew all the people and Jerim with the edge of the sword. ⁹And Saul and all the people saved Agag alive, and the good of the flocks, and of the herds, and of the fruits, of the vineyards, and of all the good things, and would not destroy them: but every thing that was worthless and refuse they destroyed.

¹⁰And the word of the Lord came unto Samuel, saying, ¹¹It repenteth me that I have made Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not kept My word. And Samuel was grieved, and he cried unto the Lord all night. ¹²And Samuel rose early, and went to meet Israel in the morning; and it was told Saul, saying, Samuel is come to Carmel, and he hath raised him up help: and he turned his chariot, and came down to Gilgal unto Saul; and, behold, he was offering up an whole burnt offering unto the Lord, the chief of the spoils which he brought out of Amalek. ¹³And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed all that the Lord said. ¹⁴And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then the voice of this flock in mine ears, and the sound of the oxen which I hear? ¹⁵And Saul said, I have brought them out of Amalek, that which the people preserved, even the best of the sheep, and of the cattle, that it might be sacrificed unto the Lord thy God; and the rest have I utterly destroyed. ¹⁶And Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night; and he said unto him, Say on. ¹⁷And Samuel said unto Saul, Art thou not a little in His eyes, though a leader of one of the tribes of Israel? and yet the Lord anointed thee to be king over Israel. ¹⁸And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, Go, and utterly destroy: thou shalt slay the sinners against Me, even the Amalekites; and thou shalt war against them until thou have consumed them. ¹⁹And wherefore didst thou not hearken to the voice of the Lord, but didst haste to fasten upon the spoils, and didst that which was evil in the sight of the Lord? ²⁰And Saul said unto Samuel, Because I hearkened unto the voice of the people: yet I went the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have destroyed Amalek. ²¹But the people took of the spoils the best flocks and herds out of that which was destroyed, to sacrifice before the Lord our God in Galgal. ²²And Samuel said, Doth the Lord take pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in hearing the words of the Lord? behold, to obey is better than a good sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ²³For sin is as divination; idols bring on pain and grief. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord also shall reject thee from being king over Israel. ²⁴and Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned, in that I have transgressed the word of the Lord, and thy direction; because I feared the people, and hearkened unto their voice. ²⁵And now, I pray thee, remove my sin, and turn back with me; and I will worship the Lord thy God. ²⁶And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not turn back with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord will reject thee from being king over Israel. ²⁷And Samuel turned his face to go away, and Saul laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and rent it. ²⁸And Samuel said

unto him, The Lord hath rent thy kingdom from Israel out of thine hand this day, and will give it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. ²⁹And Israel shall be divided to two: and God will not turn nor repent; for he is not as a man to repent. ³⁰And Saul said, I have sinned: yet honour me, I pray thee, before the elders of Israel, and before my people; and turn back with me, and I will worship the Lord thy God. ³¹So Samuel turned back after Saul; and he worshipped the Lord. ³²And Samuel said, Bring me Agag the king of Amalek: and Agag came unto him trembling; and Agag said, Is death thus bitter? ³³And Samuel said unto Agag, As thy sword hath bereaved women of their children, so shall thy mother be made childless among women: and Samuel slew Agag before the Lord in Galgal. ³⁴And Samuel departed to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house at Gibaah. ³⁵And Samuel saw not Saul again until the day of his death: for Samuel mourned after Saul; and the Lord repented that He had made Saul king over Israel.

CHAPTER 16

And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and come, and I will send thee to Jesse, to Bethlehem: for I have seen Me a king among his sons. ²And Samuel said, How can I go? seeing that Saul will hear it, and kill me; and the Lord said, Take an heifer of the oxen in thine hand; and thou shalt say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord. ³And thou shalt call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make known to thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint him whom I shall mention to thee. ⁴And Samuel did all that the Lord told him, and came to Bethlehem: and the elders of the city were amazed at meeting him, and said, Is thy coming for peace, thou seer? ⁵And he said, Peace: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and rejoice with me this day: and he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. ⁶And it came to pass, when they were come, that he saw Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. ⁷But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, nor on his stature; because I have rejected him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. ⁸And Jesse called Abinadab, and he passed before Samuel: and he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this. ⁹And Jesse caused Shammah to pass by: and he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this. ¹⁰And Jesse caused his seven sons to pass before Samuel: and Samuel said, The Lord hath not chosen these. ¹¹And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are there no more sons? and Jesse said, There is yet a little one; behold, he keepeth the flock. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we may not sit down before he cometh. ¹²And he sent, and fetched him; and he was ruddy, with comeliness of eyes, and goodly in the sight of the Lord. ¹³And Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward: and Samuel rose up, and departed to Armathaim.

¹⁴And the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord choked him. ¹⁵And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from the Lord choketh thee. ¹⁶Let now thy servants speak before thee, and let them seek out for our lord a man cunning to play upon the harp: and it shall come to pass, when an evil spirit cometh upon thee, and he shall play upon his harp, that thou shalt be well, and he shall refresh thee. ¹⁷And Saul said unto his servants, Look now for me a cunning player, and bring him to me. ¹⁸And one of his servants answered and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, and he hath understanding in playing on the harp; and the man is prudent, and a warrior, and wise in speech; and the man is comely, and the Lord is with him. ¹⁹And Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, saying, Send me David thy son, which is with thy flock. ²⁰And Jesse took an homer of bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid of the goats, and sent them by the hand of David his son unto Saul. ²¹And David went in to Saul, and stood before him; and he loved him greatly, and he became his armourbearer. ²²And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found grace in my sight. ²³And it came to pass, when the evil spirit was upon Saul, that David took his harp, and played with his hand; and Saul was refreshed, and the evil spirit departed from him.

CHAPTER 17

And the Philistines gather together their armies to battle, and gather together to Shochoh of Judah, and pitch between Shochoh and Azekah Ephes-dammin. ²And Saul and the men of Israel gather together, and pitch in the valley, and set the battle in array over against the Philistines. ³And the Philistines stand on the mountain on the one side, and Israel standeth on the mountain on the other side; and the valley was between them. ⁴And there went out a mighty man out of the army of the Philistines, Goliath by name, out of Gath: his height was four cubits and a span. ⁵And he had an helmet upon his head, and wore a breastplate of mail; and the weight of his breastplate was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. ⁶And greaves of brass were upon his head, and a target of brass between his shoulders. ⁷And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head was six hundred shekels of iron: and his armourbearer went before him. ⁸And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array against us? Am I not a Philistine, and ye Hebrews of Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. ⁹And if he be able to fight against me, and to smite me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail, and smite him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. ¹⁰And the Philistine said, Behold, I have defied the armies of Israel this very day; give me a man, and we will fight together. ¹¹And Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, and they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

³²And David said unto Saul, Let not, I pray thee, the heart of my lord be downcast within him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. ³³And Saul said unto David, Thou shalt not in any wise be able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a mere youth, and he a man of war from his youth. ³⁴And David said unto Saul, Thy servant tended his father's flock; and when there came a lion, and a she bear, and took a sheep out of the flock, ³⁵then I went our after him, and smote him, and drew it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, then I caught hold of his throat, and smote him, and slew him. ³⁶Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear: and the uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them: shall I not go and smite him, and remove this day a reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised one, which hath defied the army of the living God? ³⁷The Lord that hath delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine. And Saul said, Go; and the Lord shall be with thee. ³⁸And Saul clothed David with a coat of armour, and he put his helmet of brass upon his head. ³⁹And he girt David with his sword over his coat: and he laboured, walking *with them* once and again: and David said unto Saul, I shall not be able to go with these, for I have not proved them; so they remove them from him. ⁴⁰And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in the shepherd's scrip which he had for his store, and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. ⁴²And Goliath saw David, and despised him; for he was a lad, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. ⁴³And the Philistine said unto David, Am I as a dog, that thou comest against me with a staff and stones? And David said, Nay, but worse than a dog. And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴And the Philistine said unto David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. ⁴⁵And David said unto the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord God of Sabaoth of the army of Israel, whom thou hast defied ⁴⁶this day. And this day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will slay thee, and take thine head from off thee, and give thy limbs and the limbs of the army of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth: and all the earth shall know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷And all this assembly shall know that the Lord delivereth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and the Lord will deliver thee into our hands. ⁴⁸And the Philistine arose, and went to meet David. ⁴⁹And David stretched out his hand to his scrip, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, and the stone penetrated through the helmet into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. ⁵¹And David ran, and stood upon him, and took his sword, and slew him, and cut off his head; and the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled. ⁵²And the men of Israel and Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued them unto the entry to Gath, and unto the gate of Askalon; and the men that were slain of the Philistines fell in the way of the gates, both to Gath, and to Ekron. ⁵³And the men of Israel returned from chasing the

Philistines, and they trod down their camp. ⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

**¹²Now David was the son of the man of Ephratha: he was from Bethlehem Judah, and his name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. ¹³And the three elder sons of Jesse went, and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second Abinadab, and the third Shammah. ¹⁴And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. ¹⁵But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep in Bethlehem. ¹⁶And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. ¹⁷And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; ¹⁸and carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. ¹⁹Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of the oak, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. ²¹For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. ²²And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. ²³And as he talked with them, behold, there came up a man, the champion, Goliath by name out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. ²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. ²⁵And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. ²⁶And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? ²⁷And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. ²⁸And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab was angry with David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the wickedness of thine heart; for thou art come down to see the battle. ²⁹And David said, What have I now done? is there not a cause? ³⁰And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. ³¹And the words were heard which David spake, and they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.*

**41And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.*

**50So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.*

**55And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistines, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. 56And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is. 57And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistines, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? and David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite”.*

CHAPTER 18

⁶And there came out women in dances to meet David out of all the cities of Israel, with timbrels, and with rejoicing, and with cymbals. ⁷And the women began, and said, Saul has smitten in his thousands, and David in his ten thousands. ⁸And it seemed evil in the sight of Saul; and he said, They have given unto David ten thousands, and to me they have given but thousands: and what more can he have but the kingdom? ¹²And Saul was afraid before the face of David. ¹³And he removed him from him, and made him captain of a thousand for himself; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴And David was prudent in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. ¹⁵And Saul saw that he was very wise, and he was afraid before his face. ¹⁶And all Israel and Judah loved David, because he came in and went out before the face of the people.

²⁰And Michal Saul's daughter loved David; and it was told Saul, and the thing was pleasing in his eyes. ²¹And Saul said, I shall give her to him, and she shall be a stumblingblock to him. Now the hand of the Philistines was against Saul. ²²And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David **privily**, saying, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee; and be thou the king's son in law. ²³And the king's servants spake these words in the ears of David; and David, said, Is it a light thing in your eyes to be a king's son in law, seeing I am an humble man, and not esteemed? ²⁴And the servants of Saul told him according to these words, which David spake. ²⁵And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth no gift, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. Now Saul thought to cast him into the hands of the Philistines. ²⁶And Saul's servants tell David these words; and David was pleased well to be the king's son in law. ²⁷And David arose, and went, he and his men, and smote among the Philistines an hundred men; and he brought their foreskins, and he becometh the king's son in law, and Saul giveth him

Michal his daughter to wife. ²⁸And Saul saw that the Lord was with David, and that all Israel loved him; ²⁹and he was yet the more afraid of David.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ²And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more to his father's house. ³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. ⁵And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was **pleasing in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.*

***⁹And Saul eyed David from that day and onward. ¹⁰And it came to pass on the morrow, that an evil spirit from God fell upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of his house: and David played on the harp with his hand, according to his daily custom: and Saul's javelin was in his hand. ¹¹And Saul took his javelin, and said, I will smite David even to the wall. But David avoided out of his presence twice.*

****¹⁷And Saul said unto David, Behold my elder daughter Merob, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou a mighty man to me, and fight the Lord's wars. And Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but the hand of the Philistines shall be upon him. ¹⁸And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is the life of my family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? ¹⁹But it came to pass at the time when Merob Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Israel the Meholathite to wife.*

CHAPTER 19

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. ²And Jonathan Saul's son **delighted much** in David; and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul seeketh to kill thee; therefore take heed to thyself to morrow morning, and hide thyself, and abide in secret. ³And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and I will see what it might be, and I will tell thee. ⁴And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against thy servant David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and his works are very good. ⁵And he did put his life in his hand, and smote the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great deliverance; and all Israel saw, and rejoiced: wherefore then dost thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? ⁶And Saul hearkened unto to

the voice of Jonathan; and Saul sware, saying, As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain. ⁷And Jonathan called David, and shewed him all these things; and Jonathan brought David in to Saul, and he was in his presence, as yesterday and the third day before. ⁸And there continued war against Saul; and David grew strong, and fought with the Philistines, and smote them with a very great blow; and they fled from before him.

⁹And an evil spirit from God was upon Saul, and he rested in his house, and a javelin was in his hand: and David played on the harp with his hands. ¹⁰And Saul sought to strike the javelin into David; and David **withdrew** out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall; and David fled, and escaped. ¹¹And it came to pass in that night, that Saul sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, to slay him in the morning; and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life this night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. ¹²So Michal letteth David down by the window; and he went forth, and fled, and escaped. ¹³And Michal took the images, and laid them in the bed; and she put a goat's liver by his head, and covered them with a cloke. ¹⁴And Saul sent messengers to take David, and they say that he is sick. ¹⁵And he sendeth to David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. ¹⁶And the messengers come, and, behold, there were images in the bed, and the goat's liver at his head. ¹⁷And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me, and suffered mine enemy to depart; and he is escaped? And Michal said unto Saul, He said, Let me go; and if not, I will kill thee.

¹⁸So David fled, and escaped, and cometh to Samuel to Ramah, and telleth him all that Saul hath done to him; and Samuel and David went, and dwelt in Naioth in Ramah. ¹⁹And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is in Naioth in Ramah. ²⁰And Saul sent messengers to take David: and they saw the company of the prophets, and Samuel stood as appointed over them; and the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they prophesy. ²¹And it was told Saul; and he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise; and Saul sent again a third company of messengers, and they prophesied likewise. ²²And Saul was exceeding angry, and went also to Armathaim; and cometh unto the well of the threshing floor that is in Sechu; and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? and they said, Behold, in Naioth in Ramah. ²³And he went thence to Naioth in Ramah; and there came the Spirit of God upon him also, and he went, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴And he stripped off his clothes, and prophesied before them, and lay down naked all that day and all that night: wherefore they said, Is Saul also among the prophets?

CHAPTER 20

And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and cometh before Jonathan, and said, What have I done, and what is mine iniquity, and wherein have I sinned before thy father, that he seeketh my life? ²And Jonathan said unto him, Far be it from thee; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will not do

anything either great or small, and not uncover mine ear; and why should my father hide this thing from me? this is not so. ³And David answered Jonathan, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes, and he hath said, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he refuse his consent: but as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, as I said, between me and death is filled up. ⁴And Jonathan said unto David, What doth thy soul desire, and what shall I do for thee? ⁵And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I shall by no means sit down to eat; but thou shalt let me go, and I will hide in the field until even. ⁶And if thy father in any wise enquire for me, then shalt thou say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city; for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family. ⁷If he say thus, *It is well*, then there is peace for thy servant: but if he answer thee harshly, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him. ⁸And thou shalt deal mercifully with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the Lord with thee: and if there be iniquity in thy servant, slay me thyself; and why shouldest thou thus bring me to thy father? ⁹And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I know certainly that evil is determined by my father to come upon thee, and it be not against thy cities, I will tell thee. ¹⁰And David said unto Jonathan, Who can tell me if thy father answer roughly? ¹¹And Jonathan said unto David, Go, and abide in the field. And they went out both of them into the field. ¹²And Jonathan said unto David, The Lord God of Israel knoweth that I will sound my father, as I have opportunity, three several times; and, behold, if good be determined concerning David, and I send thee not unto the field, ¹³God do so and more also to Jonathan: as I shall also report the evil unto thee, and make it known to thee, and I will let thee go; and thou shalt depart in peace, and the Lord shall be with thee, as he was with my father. ¹⁴And if indeed, I continue to live, then shalt thou deal mercifully with me; and if indeed I die, ¹⁵thou shalt not withdraw thy mercy from my house for ever: and if thou doest not, when the Lord cutteth off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth, and it happen that the name of Jonathan be discovered by the house of David; then let the Lord seek out the enemies of David. ¹⁷And Jonathan sware yet again unto David, because he loved the soul of him that loved him. ¹⁸And Jonathan said, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be enquired for, because thy seat will be observed as empty. ¹⁹And thou shalt stay three days, and watch an opportunity, and shalt come to thy place where thou mayest hide thyself in the day of thy business; and thou shalt wait by that *ergab*. ²⁰And I will shoot three arrows, and aim them at the mark. ²¹And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find me out the arrow. ²²If I expressly say unto the lad, The arrow is here, and on this die of thee, take it; then come, for it is well with thee, and there is no reason for fear, as the Lord liveth: but if I say thus unto the young man, The arrow is on that side of thee, and beyond; go, for the Lord hath sent thee away. ²³And as touching the word which thou and I have spoken, behold, the Lord is witness between me and thee for ever.

²⁴So David hideth himself in the field: and the new moon cometh, and the king cometh to the table to eat. ²⁵And he sat upon his seat as at other times, even upon his seat by the wall, and he went on before Jonathan; and Abner sat on one side of Saul, and David's place was empty. ²⁶And Saul spake not any thing that day: for he said, It seemeth to have fallen out that he is not clean, because he hath not purified himself. ²⁷And it came to pass on the morrow, on the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore hath not the son of Jesse attended both yesterday and to day at the table? ²⁸And Jonathan answered Saul, and said unto him, David asked leave of me to go unto Bethlehem his city: ²⁹and he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for we have a family sacrifice in the city; and my brethren, they have sent for me: and now, if I have found grace in thine eyes, I will even go over, and see my brethren: therefore he is not present at the king's table. ³⁰And Saul was exceeding wroth with Jonathan, and said unto him, Thou son of treacherous damsels! for know I not that thou art confederate with the son of Jesse to thine own shame, and unto the shame of thy mother's nakedness? ³¹For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thy kingdom shall not be established: now send and take the young man, for he shall surely die. ³²And Jonathan answered Saul, Wherefore is he to die? what hath he done? ³³And Saul lifted up his javelin against Jonathan to slay him: so Jonathan knew that this evil was determined of his father to slay David. ³⁴And Jonathan gat him up from the table in great anger, and did eat no bread the second day of the month: for he grieved bitterly for David, because his father had determined against him.

³⁵And morning came, and Jonathan went out into the field as he appointed for a signal to David, and a little lad with him. ³⁶And he said unto the lad, Run, find out me the arrows which I shoot: and the boy ran, and Jonathan shot an arrow, and sent it beyond him. ³⁷And the boy was come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot; and Jonathan cried after the lad, The arrow is on that side of thee, and beyond thee. ³⁸And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make all speed, and stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and brought the arrows to his master. ³⁹And the lad knew not any thing, only Jonathan and David. ⁴⁰And Jonathan gave his weapons unto the lad, and said unto his lad, Go, enter into the city. ⁴¹And when the lad was gone in, then David arose from the ergab, and fell on his face, and did obeisance unto him three times: and they kissed each other, and wept for each other, for a great while. ⁴²And Jonathan said unto David, Go in peace; and as we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord shall be witness between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever.

CHAPTER 21

And David arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city. ²And David cometh to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech was amazed at

the meeting of him, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? ³And David said unto the priest, The king hath commanded me a business this day, and hath said unto me, Let no man know the business whereabout I send thee, and concerning the which I have commanded thee: and I have testified unto my servants in the place that is called the Faithfulness of God, Phalanni Alomni. And now, if there be under thine hands five loaves, give into mine hand what is found. And the priest answered David, and said, There are no common loaves under mine hand, for I have none but hallowed loaves: if the young men have kept themselves at least from a woman, then shall they eat. ⁵And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Yea, we have kept ourselves from women **since yesterday and the day before**: when I came forth for my journey all the young men were purified: but this journey is profane; wherefore it shall be sanctified this day because of my weapons. ⁶So Ahimelech the priest gave him the loaves of the presence: for there were no loaves there but only the loaves of the presence, that are taken from the presence of the Lord, to set on hot bread in the day wherein he took them away. ⁷And one of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord; and his name was Doeg the Syrian, and he tended the asses of Saul. ⁸And David said unto Ahimelech, See if there be here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons in mine hand, because the king's word was in haste. ⁹And the priest said, Behold the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou smotest in the valley of Elah; and it is wrapped in a cloth: if thou wilt take it, take it for thyself, for there is no other save it here. And David said, Behold, there is none like it; give it me. ¹⁰And he gave it him; and David arose, and fled that day from the presence of Saul.

And David came to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did not the dancing women begin the song to him, saying, Saul hath smitten his thousands, and David his ten thousands? ¹²And David laid up the words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish king of Gath. ¹³And he changed his appearance before them, and feigned himself a false character in that day, and drummed upon the doors of the gate, and his spittle ran down upon his beard. ¹⁴And Achish said unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore have ye brought him in to me? ¹⁵Am I in need of mad men, that ye have brought him in to me to play the mad man? He shall not come into the house.

CHAPTER 22

And David departed thence, and escaped; and he cometh to the cave of Adullam: and his brethren hear, and his father's house, and they go down thither to him. ²And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was troubled in soul, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a leader over them: and there were with him about four

hundred men. ³And David departed thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, be with thee, till I know what God will do to me. ⁴And he appealed to the person of the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him continually, while David was in the hold. ⁵And Gad the prophet said unto David, Abide not in the hold; go, and thou shalt enter into the land of Judah. So David went, and came and dwelt in the city of Hareth.

⁶And Saul heard that David was discovered, and his men with him: now Saul dwelt in the hill under the field that is in Ramah; and his spear was in his hand, and all his servants stood near him. ⁷And Saul said unto his servants that stood by him, Hear now, ye sons of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse indeed give all of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of hundreds, and captains of thousands; ⁸that all of you conspire against me, and there is none that uncovereth mine ear, seeing my son hath made a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me for an enemy, as this day? ⁹Then answered Doeg the Syrian, which was set over the asses of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub the priest. ¹⁰And he enquired of God for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. ¹¹Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, and all his father's sons, the priests that were in Nob; and they came all of them unto the king. ¹²And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he said, Lo, I am here; speak now, my lord. ¹³And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, that thou shouldest give him bread, and a sword, and shouldest enquire of God for him, to raise him up against me as an enemy, as at this day? ¹⁴And he answered the king, and said, And who is there so faithful among thy servants as David; and he is the king's son in law, and doer of all thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? ¹⁵Did I then begin this day to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king bring a charge against his servant, and against all the house of my father, for thy servant knew not in all this matter any thing, great or small. ¹⁶And king Saul said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. ¹⁷And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Draw nigh, and slay the priests of the Lord; because their hand is with David, and because they knew that he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to fall upon the priests of the Lord. ¹⁸And the king said unto Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests; and Doeg the Syrian turned, and slew the priests of the Lord in that day, three hundred and five men, all wearing an ephod. ¹⁹And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both man and woman, infant and suckling, and calf, and ox, and sheep. ²⁰And one son of Ahimelech escapeth; and his name was Abiathar; and he fled after David. ²¹And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain all the Lord's priests. ²²And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, that Doeg the Syrian would surely tell Saul: I am guilty of the death of thy father's house. ²³Abide thou with me, fear not; for

wheresoever I shall seek a place of safety for my life, I will also seek a place for thy life, for with me thou art in safeguard.

CHAPTER 23

And it was told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines make war in Keilah, and they rob and trample the threshingfloors. ²And David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? and the Lord said, Go; and thou shalt smite these Philistines, and save Keilah. ³And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: and how shall it be if we go to Keilah? shall we go after the spoils of the Philistines? ⁴And David enquired of the Lord yet again; and the Lord answered him, and said unto him, Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hands. ⁵So David and his men with him went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines; and they fled from before him, and carried off their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter: and David rescued the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David, that he went down with David to Keilah, having an ephod in his hands. ⁷And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah; and Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hands; for he is shut in, having entered into a city that hath gates and bars. ⁸And Saul charged all the people to lay siege unto David and his men. ⁹And David knew that Saul openly spake of mischief against him; and David said to Abiathar the priest, Bring the ephod of the Lord. ¹⁰And David said, O Lord God of Israel, Thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come against Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹Will the place be shut up? and now will Saul come down, as Thy servant hath heard? O Lord God of Israel, tell Thy servant. And the Lord said, It will be shut up. ¹³And David arose, and the men with him, in number about four hundred, and they went forth out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go: and it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to come.

¹⁴And David abode in Masherem in the wilderness, in the narrow passes; and abode in the wilderness in mount Ziph, in the dry country. And Saul sought him continually, but the Lord delivered him not into his hands. ¹⁵And David perceived that Saul went out to seek David; and David was in the dry mountain in the New Ziph. ¹⁶And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David in New, and strengthened his hands in the Lord. ¹⁷And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be second unto thee; and that Saul my father knoweth. ¹⁸So they both made a covenant before the Lord; and David abode in New Ziph, and Jonathan went to his house.

¹⁹Then came up the Ziphites out of the dry country unto Saul to the hill, saying, Behold, is not David hid with us in Massarah, in the narrows in New in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the right side of Jerusalem? ²⁰And

now according to all the king's desire to come down, let him come down to us: they have shut him up into the hands of the king. ²¹And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the Lord, for ye have been grieved for my sake. ²²Go, I pray you, and make preparation yet, and notice his place where his foot shall be, quickly, in that place ye spake of, lest by any means he deal subtilly. ²³Take notice then, and learn, and I will go with you; and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah. ²⁴And the Ziphites arose, and went before Saul; and David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, westward, to the right of Jeshimon. ²⁵Saul also and his men went to seek him, and they brought word to David; and he went down to the rock that was in the wilderness of Maon; and Saul heard, and pursued after David to the wilderness of Maon. ²⁶And Saul and his men go on one side of the mountain, and David and his men are on the other side of the mountain: and David hid himself to get away from Saul; and Saul and his men encamped against David and his men to take them. ²⁷And there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come hither; for the Philistines have invaded the land. ²⁸Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went to meet the Philistines: therefore that place was called the Divided Rock.

¹²Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hands of Saul? And the Lord said, They will deliver thee up.

CHAPTER 24

And David rose up from thence, and dwelt in the narrow places of Engedi. ²And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from pursuing the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. ³And he took three thousand men chosen out of all Israel with him, and went to seek David and his men before Zadaim. ⁴And he came to the flocks of sheep that were by the way, and there was a cave there; and Saul went in to make preparation; and David and his men sat in the inner part of the cave. ⁵And the men of David said unto him, Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said unto thee that he would deliver thine enemy into thy hands; and thou shalt do to him as it is good in thy sight. So David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's garment privily. ⁶And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off the skirt of his garment. ⁷And David said unto his men, The Lord forbid it me that I should do this thing unto my lord, the Lord's anointed, to lift mine hand against him: for he is the anointed of the Lord. ⁸So David persuaded his men by his words, and suffered them not to rise and slay Saul; and Saul rose up, and went his way. ⁹David also arose, and went after him out of the cave: and David cried after Saul, saying, My lord, O king! and Saul looked behind him, and David stooped with his face

to the earth, and did obeisance to him. ¹⁰And David said unto Saul, Wherefore hearest thou the people's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy life? ¹¹Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord hath delivered thee into mine hands in the cave; and I said I would not slay thee, but spared thee, and said, I will not lift up mine hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed. ¹²And see, the skirt of thy mantle is in mine hand: I cut off the skirt, and did not slay thee: know then, and see to day, there is neither evil nor ungodliness in mine hand, nor rebellion; yet thou bindest my soul to take it. ¹³The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord requite thee on thyself; but mine hand shall not be upon thee. ¹⁴As saith the old proverb, Transgression shall come out of the wicked, but mine hand shall not be upon thee. ¹⁵And now after whom dost thou come out, O king of Israel? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, and after a flea? ¹⁶The Lord be judge and umpire between me and thee; the Lord look upon and judge my cause, and rescue me out of thine hand. ¹⁷And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, *my* son David? and Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. ¹⁸And Saul said unto David, Thou art more righteous than I, for thou hast rewarded me good, but I have rewarded thee evil. ¹⁹And thou hast shewed me this day what good thou hast done me; how the Lord shut me up into thine hands, and thou killedst me not. ²⁰And if any one find his enemy in distress, and send him forth in a good way, then the Lord will reward him good, as thou hast done this day. ²¹And now, behold, I know that thou shalt surely reign, and the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. ²²Now then swear unto me by the Lord, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, that thou wilt not blot out my name out of my father's house. ²³So David sware unto Saul: and Saul departed to his place, and David and his men gat them up to the strong hold of Massarah.

CHAPTER 25

And Samuel died; and all Israel gather together and bewail him, and bury him in his house in Ramah: and David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Maon. ²And there was a man in Maon, and his flocks were in Carmel; and *he was* a very great man, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand she goats: and it happened when he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³And the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife was Abigail: and his wife was of good understanding, and very beautiful in person: but the man was **churlish** and evil in his doings; and the man was like a dog. ⁴And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal the Carmelite did shear his sheep. ⁵And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and ask him in my name the things that are for peace. ⁶And thus shall ye say, Thou and thine house seasonably prosper, and all thine be in peace. ⁷And now, behold, I have heard that thy shepherds that were with us in the wilderness are shearing for

thee, and we hindered them not; neither did we demand aught of them, all the while they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask thy servants, and they will shew thee. Let then thy servants find grace in thine eyes, for we are come in a good day: give, we pray thee, whatsoever thine hand may find, unto thy son David. ⁹So the servants come, and speak these words to Nabal, according to all these words in the name of David. ¹⁰And Nabal sprang up, and answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be abundance of servants now a days that depart every man from his master. ¹¹And shall I take my bread, and my wine, and my beasts that I have killed for them that shear my sheep, and shall I give them to men, of whom I know not whence they are? ¹²So David's servants turned their way, and returned, and told David according to all these words. ¹³And David said, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they went up after David, about four hundred men; and two hundred abode with the stuff. ¹⁴And one of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our lord; but he turned away from them. ¹⁵And the men were very good to us; they hindered us not, neither did they demand of us any thing all the days that we were with them. ¹⁶And when we were in the field, they were as a wall round about us both by night and day, all the days we were with them feeding the flock. ¹⁷And now consider and see what thou wilt do; for mischief is determined against our lord, and against his household; and he is a pestilent son, and a man cannot speak to him. ¹⁸And Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two vessels of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five ephahs of fine flour, and one homer of dried grapes, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. ¹⁹And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you: but she told not her husband Nabal. ²⁰And it was so, when she had mounted on her ass, and went down by the covert of the mount, behold, David and his men came down to meet her; and she met them. ²¹And David had said, Mayhap I have kept all his substance in the wilderness that he should wrong me; and we ordered not the taking of aught of all that pertained unto him: yet hath he requited me evil for good. ²²So and more also do God unto David, if I leave of all that pertain to Nabal one that pisseth against the wall. ²³And Abigail saw David, and she hastened, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and did obeisance unto him, bowing herself to the ground, ²⁴even unto his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, let the injustice be: let thy servant, I pray thee, speak in thine ears, and hear the words of thine handmaid. ²⁵Let not my lord, I pray thee, take to heart this pestilent man; for according to his name, even so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I thine handmaid saw not the servants of my lord, whom thou didst send. ²⁶And now, my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withholden thee from coming against innocent blood, and from executing vengeance for thyself with thine own hand; now therefore let thine enemies, and they that seek evil against my lord, become as Nabal. ²⁷And now accept this blessing, which thy servant hath brought unto my lord; and thou shalt give it unto the servants that wait upon my lord. ²⁸I pray thee, remove the trespass of thy

servant: for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house; because the Lord fighteth the battles of my lord, and there shall no evil ever be found in thee. ²⁹And if a man rise up to persecute thee, and to seek thy soul, yet the soul of my lord shall be bound up in the bundle of life with the Lord God; and the soul of thine enemies shalt thou whirl out, as in the middle of a sling. ³⁰And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have wrought to my lord all the things He hath spoken concerning thee, and shall appoint thee to be ruler over Israel; ³¹then this shall not be an abomination and offence unto my lord, to have shed innocent blood, and for my lord to have avenged himself: and so may the Lord do good unto my lord, and thou shalt remember thine handmaid to do her good. ³²And David said unto Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this very day to meet me: ³³and blessed be thy conduct, and blessed be thou, which hast hindered me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself. ³⁴And surely as the God of Israel liveth, which hath hindered me this day from hurting thee, if thou hadst not hastened and come to meet me, then had I said, **Shall there be left unto Nabal till the morning light one that pisseth against the wall?** ³⁵And David received of her hand all that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have **chosen** thy countenance. ³⁶And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, and he was very drunken; and she told him nothing, great or small, until the morning light. ³⁷And it came to pass in the morning, when Nabal was **sobered** from his wine, that his wife told him these words, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. ³⁸And it came to pass, after about ten days, that the Lord smote Nabal, and he died. ³⁹And David heard it, and said, Blessed be the Lord, that hath judged the cause of my reproach at the hand of Nabal, and hath delivered His servant from the hand of evil; and the Lord hath returned the **wickedness** of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. ⁴⁰So the servants of David came to Abigail to Carmel, and they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. ⁴¹And she arose, and **bowed** herself with her face to the earth, and said, Behold, thy servant is for an handmaid to wash the feet of thy servants. ⁴²And Abigail arose, and mounted upon the ass; and five damsels followed her; and she went after the servants of David, and became his wife. ⁴³David also took Ahinoam of Jezrael; they were also both of them his wives. ⁴⁴And Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

CHAPTER 26

And the Ziphites came out of the dry country unto Saul to the hill, saying, Behold, David hideth himself with us in the hill of Hachilah, **which is** over against **the face of** Jeshimon. ²And Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, and with him went three thousand chosen men of Israel,

to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. ³And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah before Jeshimon, by the way; and David abode in the wilderness: and David saw that Saul cometh after him in the wilderness. ⁴And David sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come prepared out of Keila. ⁵And David arose secretly, and goeth into the place where Saul slept; and there was Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul slept in a covered chariot, and the people pitched round about him. ⁶Then answered David and spake unto Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go in with thee. ⁷So David and Abishai go in to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping in the covered chariot, and his spear stuck in the ground by his head; and Abner and his people slept round about him. ⁸Then said Abishai unto David, The Lord hath shut up thine enemy into thine hands this day: and now will I smite him with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him again. ⁹And David said unto Abishai, Bring him not down: for who shall bring his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? ¹⁰And David said, As the Lord liveth, if the Lord smite him not; or his day come, and he die; or he shall descend into battle, and be added *unto his fathers*. ¹¹The Lord forbid that I should bring mine hand against the Lord's anointed: and now, I pray thee, take thou now the spear from by his head, and the cruse of water, and let us go. ¹²So David took the spear and the cruse of water from by his head; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor know it, neither awaked, for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the Lord was fallen upon them. ¹³Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; and there was a great space between them. ¹⁴And David called to the people, and spake unto Abner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that callest me? ¹⁵And David said unto Abner, Art thou not a man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then dost thou not keep thy lord the king? for there went one of the people in to destroy thy lord the king. ¹⁶And this thing is not good that thou hast done. As the Lord liveth, ye are sons of death that keep your king, the Lord's anointed: and now behold, I pray you, where are the king's spear, and the cruse of water that are at his head? ¹⁷And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, son David? And David said, It is thy servant, O lord king. ¹⁸And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for wherein have I sinned? and what unrighteousness hath been found in me? ¹⁹And now let my lord the king hear the word of his servant. If God stir thee up against me, let Him accept the savour of thine offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed be they before the Lord; for they have driven me out this day, that I be not established in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, Go, serve other gods. ²⁰And now let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the Lord; for the king of Israel is come out to seek my life, as the night hawk pursueth *his prey* in the mountains. ²¹And Saul said, I have sinned: return, my son David, for I will not do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: and I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. ²²And David answered and

said, Behold the king's spear: let one of the servants come over and receive it. ²³And the Lord shall render to each according to his righteousness and his truth, as the Lord delivered thee into my hand to day, and I would not bring mine hand against the Lord's anointed. ²⁴And, behold, as thy life hath been magnified this day in mine eyes, so let my life be magnified before the Lord; and let him protect me, and deliver me out of all tribulation. ²⁵And Saul said unto David, Blessed be thou, my son; and thou shalt do great things, and surely shalt thou prevail". And David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

CHAPTER 27

And David said in his heart, I shall now be added one day into the hands of Saul: and there is **no good thing** for me **except** that I escape into the land of the Philistines, and Saul cease from seeking me within every coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. ²And David arose, and the six hundred men that were with him, and he went unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath. ³And David dwelt with Achish, he and his men, each one with his household, and David and both his wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. ⁴And it was told Saul that David **was** fled to Gath; and he sought no more after him. ⁵And David said unto Achish, If thy servant have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me, I pray thee, a place in one of the cities of the country, and I will dwell there; for why doth thy servant dwell in a royal city with thee? ⁶And he gave him Ziklag in that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the king of Judah unto this day. ⁷And the number of days that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was four months. ⁸And David and his men went up, and made an attack on all the Geshurites, and the Amalekites: and, behold, the land was inhabited, even the land from Gelamp-shur, from the fortified *cities*, even unto the land of Egypt. ⁹And he smote the land, and saved neither man nor woman alive; and they took flocks, and herds, and asses, and camels, and apparel, and returned and came to Achish. ¹⁰And Achish said unto David, Against whom have ye made an attack to day? And David said unto Achish, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of Jesmega, and on the south of the Kenite. ¹¹And I have saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring them to Gath, saying, Lest they bring word to Gath against us, saying, These things doeth David. And this was his manner all the days that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines. ¹²So David **was fully trusted by** Achish, which said, He hath surely made himself utterly to be ashamed among his people in Israel; and he shall be my servant for ever.

CHAPTER 28

And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered **together** in their camps, to go **forth for war** with Israel: and Achish said unto David,

Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out to battle with me, thou and thy men. ²And David said unto Achish, Thus now shalt thou know what thy servant shall do. And Achish said unto David, Therefore will I make thee chief of my guard for ever.

³And Samuel died, and all Israel lamented for him; and they bury him in his city, in Ramathaim. And Saul had put away those that had in them divining spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. ⁴And the Philistines gather themselves together, and come and pitch in Shunem: and Saul gathereth all the men of Israel: and they pitch in Gilboa. ⁵And Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, and was afraid, and his heart was sore dismayed. ⁶And Saul inquired of the Lord; and the Lord answered him neither by dreams, nor by manifestations, nor by prophets. ⁷Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath in her a divining spirit; and I will go to her, and enquire of her: and his servants said unto him, Behold, there is a woman that hath in her a divining spirit at En-dor. ⁸And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment; and he goeth, and two men with him, and they come to the woman by night: and he said unto her, I pray thee, divine unto me by the divining spirit within thee, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. ⁹And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou surely knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that had in them divining spirits, and the wizards out of the land: and wherefore dost thou spread a snare for my life, to destroy it? ¹⁰And Saul swore to her, and said, As the Lord liveth, there shall no injustice come upon thee for this thing. ¹¹And the woman said, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? and he said, Bring me up Samuel. ¹²And the woman saw Samuel, and cried out with a loud voice: and the woman said unto Saul, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. ¹³And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: tell me whom thou hast seen. And the woman said unto him, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. ¹⁴And he said unto her, What didst thou perceive? and she said unto him, A man upright cometh up out of the earth; and he is covered with a double mantle. And Saul knew that this was Samuel; and he stooped with his face to the ground, and did obeisance to him. ¹⁵And Samuel said, Why hast thou troubled me, that I should come up? And Saul said, I am sore distressed; and the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and hearkeneth to me no more, neither by the hand of prophets, nor by dreams: and now have I called thee to tell me what I shall do. ¹⁶And Samuel said, Wherefore dost thou ask me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and taken part with thy neighbour? ¹⁷And the Lord hath done to thee, as the Lord spake by me: for the Lord will rend the kingdom out of thine hand, and will give it to thy neighbour David, ¹⁸because thou hearkenedst not to the voice of the Lord, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek: therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. ¹⁹And the Lord shall deliver Israel with thee into the hands of the Philistines; and to morrow thou, and thy sons with thee, shall fall: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hands of the Philistines. ²⁰And Saul hastened, and fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no more any strength in him; for he had eaten no

bread all that day, nor all that night. ²¹And the woman went in to Saul, and saw that he was sore distressed, and said unto him, Behold now, thine handmaid hath hearkened unto thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have obeyed the words which thou spakest unto me. ²²And now, I pray thee, hearken thou unto the voice of thine handmaid, and I will set a morsel of bread before thee: and eat, and there will be strength in thee, for thou wilt be going thy way. ²³But he would not eat; so his servants and the woman constrained him; and he hearkened unto their voice, and rose up from the earth, and sat upon a bench. ²⁴And the woman had an heifer in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened cakes. ²⁵And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat, and rose up, and went away that night.

CHAPTER 29

And the Philistines gather together all their armies to Aphek, and Israel pitched in En-dor, which is in Jezreel. ²And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands, and David and his men passed on in the rearward with Achish. ³And the lords of the Philistines said, Who are these that pass by? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, Is not this David the servant of Saul king of Israel? He hath been with us some time, even this second year, and I have found no fault in him from the day that he joined himself unto me even unto this day. ⁴And the captains of the Philistines were displeased with him; and they say unto him, Send this fellow away, and let him go again to his place where thou didst set him; and let him not come down with us to the war, and let him not be a traitor in the camp: and wherewith will he be reconciled unto his master? will it not be at the heads of these men? ⁵Is not this David whom they celebrated in dances, saying, Saul hath smitten his thousands, and David his ten thousands? ⁶And Achish called David, and said unto him, As the Lord liveth, thou art right and approved in mine eyes, and so is thy going out and thy coming in with me in the army; and I have not found evil to charge against thee from the day that thou camest unto me unto this day: nevertheless thou art not approved in the eyes of the lords. ⁷Now then, return, and go in peace: thus shalt thou do no evil in the sight of the lords of the Philistines. ⁸And David said unto Achish, What have I done unto thee? and what hast thou found in thy servant from the day I was before thee unto this day, that I should not come and make war against the enemies of my lord the king? ⁹And Achish answered David, I know that thou art good in my sight: notwithstanding the lords of the Philistines say, He shall not come with us to the war. ¹⁰Now then, rise up early in the morning, thou and thy lord's servants that are come with thee, and go unto the place where I appointed you; and entertain no evil thought in thine heart, for thou art good in my sight: and rise up early for your journey when it is light, and depart. ¹¹So David rose up early, he and his men, to

depart, and guard the land of the Philistines: and the Philistines went up to fight against Israel.

CHAPTER 30

And it came to pass, when David and his men were entered into Ziklag on the third day, that Amalek had made an invasion upon the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire. ²And as to the women, and all things that were therein, great and small, they slew neither man nor woman, but carried them away captives, and went on their way. ³And David and his men came into the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were carried captive. ⁴And David and his men lifted up their voice and wept, until there was no more power within them to weep. ⁵And both of David's wives were carried captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. ⁶And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, each for his sons and for his daughters: but David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. ⁷And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, Bring near the ephod. ⁸And David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? and He said unto him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and shalt surely rescue. ⁹So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him; and they come unto the brook Besor, and they that were in reserve stayed. ¹⁰And he pursued them with four hundred men: and there abode two hundred men, which tarried on the other side of the brook Besor. ¹¹And they find an Egyptian in the field, and take him, and bring him to David; and they gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water. ¹²And they give him a piece of a cake of figs; and he did eat, and his spirit was restored in him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. ¹³And David said unto him, To whom belongest thou? and whence art thou? and the young man the Egyptian said, I am the servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I was taken sick. ¹⁴And we made an invasion on the south of the Cherethite, and on the parts of Judah, and on the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. ¹⁵And David said unto him, Wilt thou bring me down to this company? and he said, Swear now unto me by God, that thou wilt not kill me, and that thou wilt not deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down upon this company. ¹⁶So he brought him down thither, and, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the face of the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoils that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. ¹⁷And David came upon them, and smote them from the morning even unto the evening, and on the next day: and there escaped not one of them, save four hundred young men, which were mounted on camels, and fled. ¹⁸And David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken: and he rescued both his wives. ¹⁹And there was

nothing lacking to them of great or small, either of the spoils, or the sons or daughters, or any thing that they had taken of theirs: and David recovered all. ²⁰And he took all the flocks, and the herds, and led them away before the spoils: and it was said of these spoils, These are David's spoils. ²¹And David cometh to the two hundred men, which were left behind that they should not follow after David; and he had made them to remain by the brook of Besor: and they came forth to meet David, and to meet his people with him: and David drew near to the people, and they asked him how he did. ²²Then answered every ill disposed and bad man that went with David, and said, Because they did not pursue together with us, we will not give them of the spoils that we have recovered; only let each one lead away with him his wife and his children, and let them return. ²³And David said, Ye shall not do so, after the Lord hath delivered the enemy unto us, and guarded us: and the Lord hath delivered the company that came against us into our hands. ²⁴And who will hearken unto these your words? for they are not lesser than us; for according to the portion of him that went down to the battle, so shall his portion be that abideth with the stuff: they shall part alike. ²⁵And it was so from that day forward, that it became an ordinance and a custom in Israel unto this day.

²⁶And David came to Ziklag, and sent of the spoils unto the elders of Judah, and unto his friends, saying, Behold, of the spoils of the enemies of the Lord; ²⁷to them which were in Beth-shur, and to them which were in Ramah of the south, and to them which were in Jattir; ²⁸and to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Amadi, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa, ²⁹and to them which were in Gath, and to them which were in Kinan, and to them which were in Saphek, and to them which were in Thimath, and to them which were in Carmel, and to them which were in the cities of Jerahmeel, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenite; ³⁰and to them which were in Jerimouth, and to them which were in Beersheba, and to them which were in Noo; ³¹and to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places which David and his men passed through.

CHAPTER 31

Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines; and they fall down wounded in the mount of Gilboa. ²And the Philistines pressed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines smite Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. ³And the battle prevaieth against Saul, and the shooters of arrows, even the archers, find him; and he was wounded under the ribs. ⁴And Saul said unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and pierce me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and pierce me through, and mock me. But his armourbearer would not, for he was sore afraid: so Saul took his sword, and fell upon it. ⁵And his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, and he fell

likewise himself upon his sword, and died with him. ⁶So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, in that day together. ⁷And the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were beyond Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead: and they forsake their cities, and flee; and the Philistines come and dwell in them. ⁸And it came to pass on the morrow, that the Philistines come to strip the dead, and they find Saul and his three sons fallen in the mountains of Gilboa. ⁹And they turned him, and stripped off his armour, and sent it into the land of the Philistines, publishing abroad the glad tidings to their idols, and unto their people. ¹⁰And they set up his armour in the temple of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body on the wall of Beth-shan. ¹¹And the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines did to Saul. ¹²And they rose up, even every man of might, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the body of Jonathan his son from the walls of Beth-shan: and they bring them to Jabesh, and burn them there. ¹³And they take their bones, and bury them in the field that is in Jabesh, and fast seven days.