

entrance to the gate. ²⁴But the archers shot at your men from the wall and some of Your Majesty's men fell; your servant Uriah the Hittite also fell." ²⁵Whereupon David said to the messenger, "Give Joab this message: 'Do not be distressed about the matter. The sword ^dalways takes its toll. ^dPress your attack on the city and destroy it!' Encourage him!"

²⁶When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she lamented over her husband. ²⁷After the period of mourning was over, David sent and had her brought into his palace; she became his wife and she bore him a son.

12 But the LORD was displeased with what David had done, ¹and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said, "There were two men in the same city, one rich and one poor. ²The rich man had very large flocks and herds, ³but the poor man had only one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He tended it and it grew up together with him and his children: it used to share his morsel of bread, drink from his cup, and nestle in his bosom; it was like a daughter to him. ⁴One day, a traveler came to the rich man, but he was loath to take anything from his own flocks or herds to prepare a meal for the guest who had come to him; so he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

⁵David flew into a rage against the man, and said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶He shall pay for the lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and showed no pity." ⁷And Nathan said to David, "That man is you! Thus said the LORD, the God of Israel: 'It was I who anointed you king over Israel and it was I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave you your master's house and possession of your master's wives; and I gave you the House of Israel and Judah;

אֶל-עֶבְדְּךָ מֵעַל הַחוֹמָה וַיִּמּוּתוּ מֵעֶבְדְּךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְגַם עֶבְדְּךָ אֲוִיָּה הַחֲתִי מָתָּה: ²⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-הַפֹּלֶאֶן כֹּה-תֹאמַר אֶל-יֹאבָב אֶל-יָרֵעַ בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה פִּי-כֹזֵה וְכֹזֵה תֹאכַל הַחֶרֶב הַחֹזֶק מִלְחַמָּתָךְ אֶל-הָעִיר וְהָרָסָהּ וְחִזְקָהּ:

²⁶ וַתִּשְׁמַע אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲוִיָּה כִּי-מָתָה אֲוִיָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתִּסְפֹּד עַל-בְּעָלָהּ: ²⁷ וַיַּעֲבֹר הָאֵלֶּל וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד וַיֹּאסְפֶהָ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַתְּהִי-לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד לוֹ בֶּן

יב וַיָּרַע הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה דָּוִד בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה: ¹ וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אֶת-נָתָן אֶל-דָּוִד וַיָּבֵא אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים הָיוּ בְּעִיר אַחַת אֶחָד עֹשִׂיר וְאֶחָד רָאשִׁי: ² לַעֹשִׂיר הָיָה צֹאן וּבָקָר הֶרְבֵּה מְאֹד: ³ וְלָרִשׁ אֵין-כֹּל כִּי-אִם-כֶּבֶשֶׂה אֶחָת קִטְנָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה וַיְחַיֶּה וַתִּגְדֵּל עִמּוֹ וְעִם-בָּנָיו יִחָדוּ מִפִּתּוֹ תֹאכֵל וּמִכֶּסֶׁו תִּשְׁתֶּה וּבְחִיקוֹ תִשְׁכָּב וַתְּהִי-לוֹ כְּבֵת: ⁴ וַיָּבֵא הָלֶךְ לְאִישׁ הָעֹשִׂיר וַיְחַמֵּל לִקְחַת מִצֹּאֲנוֹ וּמִמִּבְקָרוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאֹרֶחַ הַבָּא-לוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-כֶּבֶשֶׂת הָאִישׁ הָרִאשִׁי וַיַּעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֵלָיו:

⁵ וַיַּחֲרֹאֶף דָּוִד בְּאִישׁ מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָתָן חַי-יְהוָה כִּי בְּנִמְנוֹת הָאִישׁ הָעֹשֶׂה זֹאת: ⁶ וְאֶת-הַכֶּבֶשֶׂה יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתָּיִם עֶקֶב אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא-חָמַל: ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל-דָּוִד אַתָּה הָאִישׁ כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי מִשְׁחִיתִיךָ לְמַלְךְ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנֹכִי הַצֹּלֶתִיךָ מִיַּד שָׂאוֹל: ⁸ וְאַתָּנָה לָךְ אֶת-בֵּית אֲדֹנֶיךָ וְאֶת-נָשָׁי אֲדֹנֶיךָ בְּחִיקֶךָ וְאַתָּנָה לָךְ אֶת-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיְהוּדָה וְאִם-

v. 1. יתיר א'

v. 4. יתיר א'

d-d Lit. "consumes the like and the like."

and if that were not enough, I would give you twice as much more. ⁹Why then have you flouted the command of the LORD and done what displeases Him? You have put Uriah the Hittite to the sword; you took his wife and made her your wife and had him killed by the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Therefore the sword shall never depart from your House—because you spurned Me by taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite and making her your wife.’ ¹¹Thus said the LORD: ‘I will make a calamity rise against you from within your own house; I will take your wives and give them to another man before your very eyes and he shall sleep with your wives under this very sun. ¹²You acted in secret, but I will make this happen in the sight of all Israel and in broad daylight.’”

¹³David said to Nathan, “I stand guilty before the LORD!” And Nathan replied to David, “The LORD has remitted your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴However, since you have spurned ^athe enemies of ^athe LORD by this deed, even the child about to be born to you shall die.”

¹⁵Nathan went home, and the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and it became critically ill. ¹⁶David entreated God for the boy; David fasted, and he went in and spent the night lying ^bon the ground. ¹⁷The senior servants of his household tried to induce him to get up from the ground; but he refused, nor would he partake of food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. David’s servants were afraid to tell David that the child was dead; for they said, “We spoke to him when the child was alive and he wouldn’t listen to us; how can we tell him that the child is dead? He might do something terrible.” ¹⁹When David saw his servants talking in whispers, David understood that the child was dead; David asked his servants, “Is the child dead?” “Yes,” they replied.

מֵעַט וְאַסְפָּדָה לָךְ כְּהִנֵּה וְכִהְנֶה: ⁹ מִדּוּעַ בָּרִיתָ אֶת־דָּבָר יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי בְּעֵינֵי אֶת אֹרִיָּה הַחִתִּי הַפִּיתָ בַּחֶרֶב וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ לָקַחְתָּ לָּךְ לְאִשָּׁה וְאֶתוֹ הִרְגָתָ בַּחֶרֶב בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן: ¹⁰ וְעַתָּה לֹא־תִסּוּר חֶרֶב מִבֵּיתְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם עַקֵּב כִּי בִחְמִי וְתִקַּח אֶת־אִשְׁתֹּךְ אֹרִיָּה הַחִתִּי לְהוֹת לָּךְ לְאִשָּׁה: ¹¹ כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה הִנְנִי מִקִּים עָלֶיךָ רָעָה מִבֵּיתְךָ וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶת־נְשִׁיךָ לְעֵינֶיךָ וְנָתַתִּי לְרַעֲיָה וְשָׁכַב עִם־נְשִׁיךָ לְעֵינֵי הַשָּׁמֶשׁ הַזֹּאת: ¹² כִּי אַתָּה עָשִׂיתָ בִּסְתֵר וְאֲנִי אַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה נֶגֶד כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנֶגֶד הַשָּׁמַיִם: ¹³

וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־נָתָן חַטָּאתִי לַיהוָה ¹⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד גַּם־יְהוָה הָעֶבֶר חָטָאתָ לֹא תָמוּת: ¹⁵ אָפֶס כִּי־נֶאֱמַר נָאֲצַת אֶת־אִיבִי יְהוָה בַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה גַּם הַבֶּן הַיָּלֹד לָּךְ מוֹת יָמוּת: ¹⁶

וַיֵּלֶךְ נָתָן אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּגַּף יְהוָה אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה אִשְׁת־אֹרִיָּה לְדָוִד וַיִּאֲנָשׁ: ¹⁷ וַיִּבְקֶשׁ דָּוִד אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים בַּעַד הַנֶּעַר וַיָּצֵם דָּוִד צוֹם וּבָא וְלֵן וְשָׁכַב אַרְצָה: ¹⁸ וַיִּקְמוּ זִקְנֵי בֵיתוֹ עָלָיו לְהַקִּימוֹ מִן־הָאָרֶץ וְלֹא אָבָה וְלֹא־בָרָא אֹתָם לֶחֶם: ¹⁹ וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיָּמָת הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּרְאוּ עֲבָדֵי דָוִד לְהַגִּיד לוֹ אֶת־כִּי־יָמָת הַיֶּלֶד כִּי אָמְרוּ הִנֵּה בְהִיּוֹת הַיֶּלֶד חַי וְחַיִּים אֵלָיו וְלֹא־שָׁמַע בְּקוֹלָנוּ וַאֲיֵה נֹאמְרָנוּ אֵלָיו מֵת הַיֶּלֶד וְעָשָׂה רָעָה: ²⁰ וַיִּרְא דָּוִד כִּי עֲבָדָיו מֵת־לִחְשִׁים וַיִּבֶן דָּוִד כִּי מֵת הַיֶּלֶד וַיֹּאמֶר וְהָאֵל־עֲבָדָיו הֵמָּה הַיֶּלֶד וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵת:

a-a The phrase is intended to avoid saying “spurned the LORD”; cf. note d-d at 1 Sam. 25.22.

b Some Septuagint mss. and 4QSam^a add “in sackcloth”; cf. 1 Kings 21.27.