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אֶת-

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-עַבְדָל מִלְּחָמָה וַיִּמְוֹתָו מִעַבְדָי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְגַם עַבְדָה אֹורִיה הַחַטָּאת: ²⁵וַיֹּאמֶר דָוד אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ בֶּן-
תְּאָמֵר אֶל-יְוָאֵל אֶל-יְרָע בְּעִינֵךְ אַתְּ
הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה פִּירְכָנָה וְכַזָּה תִּאְכַל הַחֲרָב
הַחֹק מִלְחָמָתָךְ אֶל-הָעִיר וְהַרְסָה
וְסִזְקָחוּ:

²⁶וַיַּתְשַׁמֵּעַ אֲשֶׁת אֹורִיה בִּימָת אֹורִיה
אִישָׁה וְתִסְפֵּד עַל-בָּעֵל: ²⁷וַיַּעֲבֹר הַאֲבָל
וַיִּשְׁלַח דָוד וַיִּאֲסֹפֵה אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַתָּהִילוּ
לְאִשָּׁה וַתָּלֹד לוֹ בָן

ל ב יְהֹוָה: פ וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהֹוָה אֶת-
נָתָן אֶל-דָוד וַיָּבֹא אֶל-יוֹי וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁנִי
אָנָשִׁים הֵיו בָּעִיר אַחֲת אָחָר עַשְׂרֵנָה וְאַחֲר
רַאשׁוֹ: ²לְעַשְׂרֵנָה הִיא צָאן וּבְקָרְבָּה
מִאָז: ³וַיָּרֶשׁ אַיִן-בֶּל כִּי אִם-כְּבָשָׁה אַחֲת
קְטָנָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה וַיְתִּיחָה וַתַּגְלִיל עַפּוֹ
וְסִמְכָנָיו יִחְדְּנוּ מִפְתָּח תָּאֵל וּמִכְלָוּ
תְּשַׁתְּחָה וּבְחִיקָוּ תְשַׁבֵּב וַתָּהִילוּ בְּבַת:
וַיָּבֹא הַלְּגָה לְאִישׁ הַעֲשִׂיר וַיִּחְמַל לְקַחַת
מִצְאָנוּ וּמִבְקָרוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאַרְחַת הַבָּאֵל
וַיָּקַח אֶת-כְּבָשָׁת הָאִישׁ הַחָאשׁ * וַיַּעֲשֵׂה
לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֶל-יוֹי:

⁵וַיִּחְרַר-אָפָּה דָוד בְּאִישׁ מִאָז וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-
נָתָן חִי-יְהֹוָה כִּי בְּגַמְּוֹת הָאִישׁ הַעֲשָׂה
זֹאת: ⁶וְאֶת-כְּבָשָׁה יִשְׁלַם אֶרְבָּעָתִים
עַקְבָּא אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל
אֲשֶׁר לְאִדְחָמָל: ⁷וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל-דָוד
אַתָּה הָאִישׁ פֶּה-אָמַר יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִי יִשְׁרָאֵל
אֲנָכִי מְשֻׁחָתִיךְ לְמַלְלָעַל-יְהָוָה אֱלֹהִי יִשְׁרָאֵל
חַצְלָתִיךְ מִינְדָּשָׁא: ⁸וְאַתָּה לְאַתְּ
בֵּית אֲדֹנָיו וְאֶת-נְשָׁי אֲדֹנָיו בְּחִילָךְ
וְאַתָּה לְאַת-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִזְקָה וְאָמַר

נ. 1. יִתְרָא'

נ. 4. יִתְרָא'

^{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^b on 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.

^{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.

מִלְעָד וְאַסְפָּה לְקַרְבָּה וְכַהֲפָה: ⁹מִדְעָע
בְּיוֹת אֶת-דִּבְרֵי יְהוָה לְעֹשֹׂת הַרְעָב עַל-עַמִּים
בְּעִינֵי אֹורַיה הַחֲתֵל הַקִּיט בְּחַרְב
אֶת-אֲשָׁתוֹ לְקַחְתָּה לְקַרְבָּה לְאָשָׁה וְאָתוֹ
הַגְּתָה בְּחַרְבֵּי בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן: ¹⁰וְעַתָּה לֹא-
חַסֵּר חַרְבֵּי מִבְּיתְךָ עַד-עוֹלָם עַקְבָּב כִּי
מַתְנִי וְתַלְחַח אֶת-אֲשָׁתָּךְ אֹורַיה הַחֲתֵל
לְהַיּוֹת לְךָ לְאָשָׁה: ס ¹¹בָּהּ אָמַר
הַהָּנָנִי מַלְיָם עַלְיָק רַעַת מִבְּיַרְך
לְקַחְתִּי אֶת-גַּשְׂיָל לְעַיְנִיר גַּתְתִּי לְרַעַעַך
תַּכְּבֵל עַמְּנַשְ׀ׂיךְ לְעַיְנִי הַשְׁמֵשׁ הַזֹּאת:
כִּי אַתָּה עֲשִׂית בְּשָׁתָר וְאָנִי אָשָׁה
אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה נֶגֶד בְּלִי-שָׂרָאֵל וְגַגְד
לְשָׁמֶשׁ: ס

בְּנֵי-אָמַר דָּוד אֶל-גַּתְנִי חֲטָאתִי לְיְהוָה ס
וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל-דָּוד גַּם-יְהוָה הַעֲבִיר
חֲטָאתְךָ לֹא תָמֹת: ¹⁴אָפָס כִּינְגָּז
אֶצְעָק אֶת-אַיִבִּי יְהוָה בְּקַבְרֵהָ גַּם הַבָּן
הַלְוֹד לֹא מָوت יְמֹות: ¹⁵וַיָּלֹךְ נָתָן אֶל-בֵּיתָו וַיַּגְּטֵת יְהוָה אֶת-הַלְוֹד
אֲשֶׁר יָלַד אֶשְׁתִּי-אֹורַיה לְדָרָר וַיַּאֲנַשׁ:
וַיַּבְקַשׁ דָּוד אֶת-יְהָאָלָהִים בְּעֵד הַפְּעַר
וַיַּעַם דָּוד יוֹם וּבָאָה וְלֹן וּשְׁכָב אֶרְצָה:
וַיַּוְלַּךְמוּ זָקְנֵי בֵּיתָו עַלְיוֹ לְהַקִּימֹ מִן-
הָאָרֶץ וְלֹא אָבָה וְלֹא-אָבָרָא אֶתְמָם לְחַם:
וַיַּהַי בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי וַיִּמְתַּחַת הַלְּדָר וַיַּרְא
עֲבָדִי דָּוד לְהַגִּיד לוֹ בִּימַת הַלְּדָר בַּיּוֹם
אֶמְרָלָה הַגָּה בְּהִיּוֹת הַלְּדָר חֵי דְבָרָנוּ אֶלְיוֹ
לְאַשְׁמָע בְּקַוְלָנוּ וְאֵיךְ נָאָמַר אֶלְיוֹ מֵת
הַלְּדָר וְעַשְׂתָה רַעַת: ¹⁹וַיַּרְא דָּוד בַּיּוֹם עֲבָדִי
תַּחַלְחָשִׁים וַיַּבְנֵן דָּרָר בַּיּוֹם הַלְּדָר וַיָּאָמַר:
וְאָדָל עֲבָדִי הַמַּת הַלְּדָר וַיָּאָמַר מֵת: