

saw that they had been routed by Israel, they submitted to Israel and became their vassals. And the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites any more.

יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּשְׁלַמּוּ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲבְרוּם  
וַיַּרְאֻוּ אֶלָּם לְהֹשִׁיעַ עוֹד אֶת-בְּנֵי  
עַמּוֹ: פ

**11** At the turn of the year, the season when kings go out [to battle], David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him, and they devastated Ammon and besieged Rabbah; David remained in Jerusalem. **2** Late one afternoon, David rose from his couch and strolled on the roof of the royal palace; and from the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **3** and the king sent someone to make inquiries about the woman. He reported, "She is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam [and] wife of Uriah the Hittite." **4** David sent messengers to fetch her; she came to him and he lay with her—she had just purified herself after her period—and she went back home. **5** The woman conceived, and she sent word to David, "I am pregnant." **6** Thereupon David sent a message to Joab, "Send Uriah the Hittite to me"; and Joab sent Uriah to David.

**7** When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab and the troops were faring and how the war was going. **8** Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and bathe your feet." When Uriah left the royal palace, a present from the king followed him. **9** But Uriah slept at the entrance of the royal palace, along with the other officers of his lord, and did not go down to his house. **10** When David was told that Uriah had not gone down to his house, he said to Uriah, "You just came from a journey; why didn't you go down to your house?" **11** Uriah answered David, "The Ark and Israel and Judah are located at Succoth, and my master Joab and Your Majesty's men are camped in the open; how can I go home and eat and drink and sleep

צָאת הַמְּלָאכִים\* וַיַּשְׁלַח דָּוד אֶת-  
יְוָאֵב וְאֶת-עַבְדֵי עַמּוֹ וְאֶת-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וַיִּשְׁחַתּוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹ וַיַּצְאֻוּ עַל-רְבָה  
וְדָוד יוֹשֵׁב בֵּרְחוֹלָם: ס **2** וַיְהִי לְעֵת  
הַשְׁרֵב וְלִקְםָן לְדוֹד מַעַל מַשְׁכָּבָו וַיַּתְהַלֵּל  
עַל-גֶּג בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּרְא אִשָּׁה רַחֲצָת  
מַעַל הַגֶּג וְהָאִשָּׁה טוֹבַת מִרְאָה מָאָר:  
**3** וַיַּשְׁלַח דָּוד וַיַּדְרֵשׁ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הַלְוָא  
זֹאת בַּת-שְׁבָע בַּת-אֲלִיעָם אֲשֶׁת אֲוֹרֵיה  
הַחֲתִי: **4** וַיַּשְׁלַח דָּוד מַלְאָכִים וַיַּקְרַח  
וַתָּבוֹא אֲלֵיו וַיַּשְׁבַּב עַמָּה וַתִּיאָמֶר מִתְהַדֵּשְׁת  
מִטְמָאָתָה וַתִּשְׁבַּב אֶל-בַּיּוֹתָה: **5** וַתִּתְהַרְךְ  
הָאִשָּׁה וַתְּשַׁלֵּח וַתִּגְדַּר לְדוֹד וַתֹּאמֶר הָרָה  
אָנָכִי: **6** וַיַּשְׁלַח דָּוד אֶל-יְוָאֵב שָׁלַח אֲלֵי  
אֶת-אֲוֹרֵיה הַחֲתִי וַיַּשְׁלַח יְוָאֵב אֶת-  
אֲוֹרֵיה אֶל-דָּוד:

**7** וַיָּבֹא אֲוֹרֵיה אֲלֵיו וַיִּשְׁאַל דָּוד לְשָׁלוּם  
יְוָאֵב וַלְשָׁלוּם הָעַם וַלְשָׁלוּם הַמְלָכָה:  
**8** וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוד לְאֲוֹרֵיה גַּד לְבִיתְךָ וַרְתָּא  
רְגִלְךָ וַיַּצֵּא אֲוֹרֵיה מִבֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וַתִּצְא  
אֲחָרָיו מִשְׁאָת הַמֶּלֶךְ: **9** וַיַּשְׁבַּב אֲוֹרֵיה  
פִּתְחָה בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת בְּלָעֵבְנִי אֶתְנִי  
וְלֹא יָרַד אֶל-בַּיּוֹתָה: **10** וַיַּגְדוּ לְדוֹד לְאמֹר דָּוד  
לְאִינְרַד אֲוֹרֵיה אֶל-בַּיּוֹתָה וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוד  
אֶל-אֲוֹרֵיה הַלְוָא מִלְּךָל אַתָּה בְּאַמְרוֹעַ  
לְאִינְרַד אֶל-בַּיּוֹתָה: **11** וַיֹּאמֶר אֲוֹרֵיה  
אֶל-דָּוד הָאָרוֹן וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִוָּה יְשִׁיבָנִים  
בְּסֶפֶות וְאֶתְנִי יְוָאֵב וַעֲבָדִי אֶתְנִי עַל-פְּנֵי  
הַשְׁדָה חֲנִים וְאֶתְנִי אָבוֹא אֶל-בַּיּוֹתָה לְאֶכְלָל  
וַלְשָׁתוֹת וַלְשָׁבַב עַמְּאַשְׁתִּי חַלְקָה\* וְחַ

with my wife? <sup>a</sup>As you live, by your very life, <sup>a</sup>I will not do this!" <sup>12</sup>David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will send you off." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. The next day, <sup>13</sup>David summoned him, and he ate and drank with him until he got him drunk; but in the evening, [Uriah] went out to sleep in the same place, with his lord's officers; he did not go down to his home.

<sup>14</sup>In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab, which he sent with Uriah. <sup>15</sup>He wrote in the letter as follows: "Place Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest; then fall back so that he may be killed." <sup>16</sup>So when Joab was besieging the city, he stationed Uriah at the point where he knew that there were able warriors. <sup>17</sup>The men of the city sallied out and attacked Joab, and some of David's officers among the troops fell; Uriah the Hittite was among those who died.

<sup>18</sup>Joab sent a full report of the battle to David. <sup>19</sup>He instructed the messenger as follows: "When you finish reporting to the king all about the battle, <sup>20</sup>the king may get angry and say to you, 'Why did you come so close to the city to attack it? Didn't you know that they would shoot from the wall? <sup>21</sup>Who struck down Abimelech son of Jerubbesheth?<sup>b</sup> Was it not a woman who dropped an upper millstone on him from the wall at Thebez, from which he died? Why did you come so close to the wall?' Then say: 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite was among those killed.'"

<sup>22</sup>The messenger set out; he came and told David all that Joab had sent him to say. <sup>c</sup><sup>23</sup>The messenger said to David, "First the men prevailed against us and sallied out against us into the open; then we drove them back up to the

נֶשֶׁךְ אָסַמְּאָשָׁה אֶת-הָדָבָר הַזֶּה:  
 וְאָמַר דָּוד אֶל-אוֹרִיה שֵׁב בָּזָה גַּם-  
 הַיּוֹם וּמַחְרֵב אֲשֶׁלָּחָה וְשֵׁב אוֹרִיה:  
 בַּירוּשָׁלָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וּמַמְּחִירָה:  
 וַיַּקְרָא-לָו דָּוד וַיַּאֲכַל לְפָנָיו וַיְשַׁתֵּחַ  
 וַיַּכְרֹהוּ וַיַּצֵּא בָּעָרָב לְשַׁכֵּב בַּמִּשְׁבָּבוֹ  
 וְעַבְדֵי אַדְנָיו וְאֶל-בִּינוֹ לְאִירָד:  
 וַיַּהַי בַּבְּקָר וַיַּכְפֵּב דָּוד סִפְר אֶל-יְהָבָב  
 וְשָׁלַח בֵּין אוֹרִיה: <sup>15</sup>וַיַּכְתֵּב בְּסִפְר  
 לְאָמֹר הַכֹּי אֶת-אוֹרִיה אֶל-מָוֵל פָּנִי  
 הַמְּלָחָמָה הַחִזְקָה וְשַׁבְתָּם מַאֲחָרָיו וְנוֹבָה  
 מִתְּמִתָּה: <sup>16</sup>וַיַּהַי בְּשֻׁמְרוֹ יְהָבָב אֶל-הַעִיר  
 וַיַּתְּנֵן אֶת-אוֹרִיה אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָדַע  
 יְהָבָב אֶת-יְהִינֵּל שָׁם: <sup>17</sup>וַיַּצֵּא אֶנְשִׁי הַעִיר  
 וַיַּלְחַקְוּ אֶת-יְהָבָב וַיַּפְלֵל מִן-הַעַם מִעַבְדֵי  
 הוּד וְוִתְמַת גַּם אוֹרִיה הַחֲתִי:

וַיַּשְׁלַח יְהָבָב וַיַּעֲדֵךְ לְדָוד אֶת-כִּילְדָּבָר  
 הַמְּלָחָמָה: <sup>19</sup>וַיַּצְוָא אֶת-הַמְּלָאָךְ לְאָמֹר  
 כְּלֹתוֹךְ אַתְּ בְּלִדְבָּרִי הַמְּלָחָמָה לְדָבָר  
 אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>20</sup>וְהִי אֶסְמָתָלָה חֲמַת  
 הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאָמַר לְךָ מִזְרָע נְגַשְׁתָּם אֶל-הַעִיר  
 לְהַלְמָם הַלֹּזֶא יְדַעְתָּם אֶת אֲשֶׁר-יָרַיו מִעַל  
 הַחֲוֹמָה: <sup>21</sup>מִי-הַבָּהָא אֶת-אַבִּימְלָךְ בָּנֶה  
 רַבֵּשָׁת הַלֹּזֶא-אֲשָׁה הַשְּׁלֵיכָה עַל-יוֹפְלָח  
 וְכֹבֵב מִעַל הַחֲוֹמָה וְוִתְמַת בְּתַבֵּץ לְמַה  
 נְגַשְׁתָּם אֶל-הַחֲוֹמָה וְאָמְרָתָ גַּם עַבְדָּךְ  
 אוֹרִיה הַחֲתִי מִתְּ:

וְוָלֶךְ הַמְּלָאָךְ וַיַּבָּא וַיַּגְּדֵל לְדָוד אַתְּ  
 כָּל-אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַחְיוּ יְהָבָב: <sup>23</sup>וַיֹּאמֶר הַמְּלָאָךְ  
 אֶל-דָּוד כִּי-גָבָר עַל-יְהָבָב וַיַּצֵּא  
 אַלְעָנו הַשְּׁדָה וְנִזְהַיָּה עַל-יְהָבָב עַד-פְּתַח  
 הַשְּׁעָר: <sup>24</sup>וַיַּרְא וַיַּרְא הַמּוֹרָאִים הַמּוֹרָאִים

a-a Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields "As the LORD lives and as you live" (cf. 1 Sam. 20.3; 25.26; etc.). Lit. "as you live and as your lives."

b The earlier form is Jerubbbaal (another name for Gideon), Judg. 7.1; on -boseth/besheth for -baal, see note at 2 Sam. 4.4. For the event at Thebez described here, see Judg. 9.35 ff.

c Septuagint continues with a recapitulation of vv. 19-21.

מַעַט רַבִּית  
בְּעִינִי  
אֶצְתָּא-אַתְּ  
הַחֲגָת  
תְּסָרָר  
בְּוֹתָנִי  
לְהַנּוּת  
הַוָּה  
וְלַקְחָת  
וּשְׁכָב  
12 כִּי  
אֶת-הַדָּבָר  
הַשְׁמָרָה  
וְזַמְּרָה  
13 וְזַמְּרָה  
יְאָמֵר  
חַטָּאת-הַדָּבָר  
נְאָצָת  
הַיְלֹוד  
15 גַּלְעָל  
אֲשֶׁר ?  
וְבָקָר  
16 וְבָקָר  
וְצָמֵן  
וְזַמְּרָה  
17 וְזַמְּרָה  
הָאָרֶץ  
18 וְהָרִי  
עֲבָרִי  
אִמְרָרִי  
וְלָא-שָׁ  
הַיְלֹד  
מְתַחְלָה  
כָּךְ אַפִּי

entrance to the gate.<sup>24</sup> But the archers shot at your men from the wall and some of Your Majesty's men fell; your servant Uriah the Hittite also fell.<sup>25</sup> Whereupon David said to the messenger, "Give Joab this message: 'Do not be distressed about the matter. The sword <sup>d</sup>always takes its toll. <sup>d</sup>Press 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, <sup>1</sup>and 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. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had very large flocks and herds, <sup>3</sup>but 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. <sup>4</sup>One 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."

<sup>5</sup>David flew into a rage against the man, and said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! <sup>6</sup>He shall pay for the lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.” <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>8</sup>I gave you your master’s house and possession of your master’s wives; and I gave you the House of Israel and Judah.’”

אל-עֲבָדָל מִעַל הַחֹמָה וַיַּמְוֹתוּ מִעַבְדֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְגַם עֲבָדָה אֲוֹרִיה הַחַתִּי  
מִתְּהִלָּה: ס 25 תֹּאמֶר אֶל-יְוֹאָב אֶל-יְהוּנָדָה בְּעִנְיָנֵל אֲתָּה  
סְדָר הַזָּה בְּיִצְחָה וְכֵן תָּאכַל הַחֲרֵב  
סְדָקָה מִלְחָמָתֶךָ אֶל-הָעִיר וְהַרְסָה:

וְתַשְׁמַע אֲשֶׁת אָוָרְלָה פִּימַת אָוָרְלָה  
אִישָׁה וְתַסְפֵּד עַל־בָּעֵלה: <sup>27</sup> וַיַּעֲבֹר הָאָבֶל  
יִשְׁלַח ذָרָר וַיַּאֲסֹפֵה אֶל־בָּתוֹן וַתַּחַי־לָן  
לְאַשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד לוֹ בָּן

וירע הדבר אשר עשה דוד בעין  
יהוה: פ וישלח יהוה את-  
במן אל-דוד ויבא אליו ויאמר לו שמי-  
אנשימים היו בעיר אחת אחד עשר ואחד  
ראש\*: 2 לעשר היה צאן ובקר הרבה  
מما: 3 וילרש איז-בל ביאם-כברחה אחת  
קשתנה אשר קנה ויחיה ותגמל עמו  
ועם-כבריו יחו מפטו תאכל ומפטו  
תשתח ובחיקו תשכט ותהי-ילו בבח:  
4 ויבא הלה לאיש העשיר ויחמל לחתת  
מצאנו ומברך לעשות לאנוך הבאילו  
ויליח את-כברחת האיש הראש\* ויעשה  
לאיש הבא אליו:

וַיַּחֲרַת־אָף רֹוד בֶּאָישׁ מֵאָד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־  
גָּתָן חִיְּהוּהָ כִּי בְּנֵמֹות הָאִישׁ הַעֲשָׂה  
זֹאת:<sup>6</sup> וְאַתָּה־הַכְּבָשָׂה יִשְׁלָם אֶרְבָּעָתִים  
עַקְבָּךְ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל  
אֲשֶׁר לֹא־חִמֵּל:<sup>7</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוד  
אַתָּה הָאִישׁ פֶּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
אָנֹכִי מְשַׁחֲתֶיךָ לְמֶלֶךְ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָנֹכִי  
הַצְּלָתֵיךְ מִיד שָׁאוֹל:<sup>8</sup> וְאַתָּנָה לְךָ אֶת־  
בִּת אַדְנִיר וְאַת־בְּשִׁי אַדְנִיר בְּחִילָר  
אַתָּנָה לְךָ אֶת־בִּת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִהוָּה וְאַמִּ

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