

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 וַיִּשְׁלְמוּ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲבְדוּם
וַיֵּרְאוּ אֲרָם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ עוֹד אֶת־בְּנֵי
עַמּוֹן :

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. ²Late 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, ³and the king sent someone to make inquiries about the woman. He reported, "She is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam [and] wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴David 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. ⁵The woman conceived, and she sent word to David, "I am pregnant." ⁶Thereupon David sent a message to Joab, "Send Uriah the Hittite to me"; and Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab and the troops were faring and how the war was going. ⁸Then 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. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰When 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?" ¹¹Uriah 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

י וַיְהִי לְתַשׁוּבַת הַשָּׁנָה לַעֲת
צֵאת הַמְּלָאכִים* וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶת־
יֹאבָב וְאֶת־עַבְדָּיו עִמּוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיִּשְׁחָתוּ אֶת־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וַיִּצְרוּ עַל־רַבָּה
וְדָוִד יוֹשֵׁב בִּירוּשָׁלַם: ² וַיְהִי לַעֲת
הָעֶרֶב וַיָּקָם דָּוִד מֵעַל מִשְׁכְּבוֹ וַיֵּתֶחֱלֶה
עַל־גֹּג בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֵּרָא אִשָּׁה רַחֲצָת
מֵעַל הַגֹּג וְהָאִשָּׁה טוֹבַת מְרָאָה מְאֹד:
³ וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד וַיְדַרֵּשׁ לָאִשָּׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא־
זֹאת בֶּת־שֶׁבַע בֶּת־אֱלִיעָם אִשְׁתִּי אֲוִרְיָה
הַחֲתִי: ⁴ וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד מַלְאָכִים וַיִּקְחֶהָ
וַתָּבוֹא אֵלָיו וַיִּשְׁכַּב עִמָּהּ וְהִיא מִתְקַדְּשֶׁת
מִשְׁמַאֲתָהּ וַתִּשָּׁב אֶל־בֵּיתָהּ: ⁵ וַתַּהַר
הָאִשָּׁה וַתִּשְׁלַח וַתַּגֵּד לְדָוִד וַתֹּאמֶר הִרָה
אֲנִכִּי: ⁶ וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶל־יֹאבָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי
אֶת־אֲוִרְיָה הַחֲתִי וַיִּשְׁלַח יֹאבָב אֶת־
אֲוִרְיָה אֶל־דָּוִד:

⁷ וַיָּבֹא אֲוִרְיָה אֵלָיו וַיִּשְׁאַל דָּוִד לְשָׁלוֹם
יֹאבָב וְלְשָׁלוֹם הָעָם וְלְשָׁלוֹם הַמִּלְחָמָה:
⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד לְאֲוִרְיָה רַד לְבֵיתְךָ וּרְחֹץ
רַגְלֶיךָ וַיֵּצֵא אֲוִרְיָה מִבֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וַתֵּצֵא
אֲחֵרָיו מִשָּׂאת הַמֶּלֶךְ: ⁹ וַיִּשְׁכַּב אֲוִרְיָה
פֶּתַח בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת כָּל־עַבְדֵי אֲדָנָיו
וְלֹא יָרַד אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ: ¹⁰ וַיִּגְדוּ לְדָוִד לֵאמֹר
לֹא־יָרַד אֲוִרְיָה אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד
אֶל־אֲוִרְיָה הֲלוֹא מְדַרְךָ אֵתָּה בָּא מִדּוֹעַ
לֹא־יָרַדְתָּ אֶל־בֵּיתְךָ: ¹¹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲוִרְיָה
אֶל־דָּוִד הָאָרוֹן וְיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיהוָה יֹשְׁבִים
בְּסֻכּוֹת וְאֲדָנִי יֹאבָב וְעַבְדֵי אֲדָנִי עַל־פְּנֵי
הַשָּׂדֶה חֲנִים וְאֲנִי אָבוֹא אֶל־בֵּיתִי לֶאֱכֹל
וּלְשִׁתּוֹת וּלְשִׁכַּב עִם־אִשְׁתִּי חֵיף* וְחִי

v. 1. יתיר א', ומנוקד לפי נוסחים מקובלים

v. 11. חסר י'

with my wife? ^aAs you live, by your very life, ^aI will not do this!" ¹²David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will send you off." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. The next day, ¹³David 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.

¹⁴In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab, which he sent with Uriah. ¹⁵He 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." ¹⁶So when Joab was besieging the city, he stationed Uriah at the point where he knew that there were able warriors. ¹⁷The 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.

¹⁸Joab sent a full report of the battle to David. ¹⁹He instructed the messenger as follows: "When you finish reporting to the king all about the battle, ²⁰the 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?' ²¹Who struck down Abimelech son of Jerubbesheth? ^bWas 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.'"

²²The messenger set out; he came and told David all that Joab had sent him to say. ²³The 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

נִפְשָׁךְ אִם-אֶעֱשֶׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אוּרִיָּה שֶׁבַּ בֹּזֶה גַם-הַיּוֹם וּמָחָר אֶשְׁלַחְךָ וַיֵּשֶׁב אוּרִיָּה בִירוּשָׁלַם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וּבַמָּחָרָת: וַיִּקְרָא-לּוֹ דָּוִד וַיֹּאכֵל לִפְנָיו וַיִּשְׂתַּי וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ וַיֵּצֵא בַעֲרֵב לִשְׁכַּב בְּמִשְׁכְּבוֹ עַם-עֲבָדֵי אֲדָנָיו וְאֶל-בֵּיתוֹ לֹא יָרָד:

וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּכְתֹּב דָּוִד סֵפֶר אֶל-יוֹאָב וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּיַד אוּרִיָּה: ¹⁵וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר לֵאמֹר הִבֵּנוּ אֶת-אוּרִיָּה אֶל-מוֹל' פְּנֵי הַמִּלְחָמָה הַחֲזָקָה וְשִׁבְתֶּם מֵאַחֲרָיו וְנִכְּה וּמָת: ¹⁶ס וַיְהִי בִשְׁמוֹר יוֹאָב אֶל-הָעִיר וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-אוּרִיָּה אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָדַע כִּי אֲנָשִׁי-חֵיל שָׁם: ¹⁷וַיֵּצֵאוּ אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר וַיִּלָּחֲמוּ אֶת-יוֹאָב וַיִּפֹּל מִן-הָעָם מֵעֲבָדֵי דָוִד וַיָּמָת גַּם אוּרִיָּה הַחֲתִי:

¹⁸וַיִּשְׁלַח יוֹאָב וַיִּגֵּד לְדָוִד אֶת-כָּל-דִּבְרֵי הַמִּלְחָמָה: ¹⁹וַיֵּצֵא אֶת-הַמִּלְחָמָה לֵאמֹר כְּכֹלֹתְךָ אֶת כָּל-דִּבְרֵי הַמִּלְחָמָה לְדָבָר אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ: ²⁰וַיְהִי אִם-תִּעֲלֶה חֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַאֲמַר לְךָ מִדּוּעַ נִגְשְׁתָּם אֶל-הָעִיר לְהִלָּחֵם הֲלוֹא יָדַעְתָּם אֶת אֲשֶׁר-יָרוּ מֵעַל הַחוֹמָה: ²¹מִי-הִפֶּה אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בֶּן-יִרְבֵּשֶׁת הַלֹּא-אִשָּׁה הִשְׁלִיכָה עָלָיו פֶּלֶח וְכָב מֵעַל הַחוֹמָה וַיָּמָת בְּתֹבֶץ לְמָה נִגְשְׁתָּם אֶל-הַחוֹמָה וַאֲמַרְתָּ גַם עֲבָדֶיךָ אוּרִיָּה הַחֲתִי מָת:

²²וַיֵּלֶךְ הַמִּלְחָמָה וַיָּבֵא וַיִּגֵּד לְדָוִד אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח יוֹאָב: ²³וַיֹּאמֶר הַמִּלְחָמָה אֶל-דָּוִד כִּי-גִבְרִי עָלִינוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּצֵאוּ אֲלֵינוּ הַשָּׂדֶה וַנִּהְיֶה עֲלֵיהֶם עַד-פֶּתַח הַשָּׁעַר: ²⁴וַיִּרְאוּ וַיָּרוּ הַמוֹרָאִים הַמוֹרִים

^{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 being lives."

^b The earlier form is Jerubbaal (another name for Gideon), Judg. 7.1; on -bosheth/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.

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-עֶבְרֹךְ מַעַל הַחוֹמָה וַיִּמּוּתוּ מֵעֶבְרֹךְ הַמַּלָּךְ וְגַם עֶבְרֹךְ אֲוִרְיָה הַחֲתִי מָתָּה: ²⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-הַפֹּלְאָה כֹה-תֹאמַר אֶל-יֹאבָב אֶל-יָרֵעַ בְּעִינֶיךָ אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה פִּי-כֹזֶה וְכֹזֶה תֹאכַל הַחֶרֶב הַחֹזֶק מִלְחָמָתָךְ אֶל-הָעִיר וְהָרָסָהּ וְחִזְקָהּ:

²⁶ וַתִּשְׁמַע אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲוִרְיָה כִּי-מָתָה אִישָׁהּ וַתִּסְפֹּד עַל-בְּעָלָהּ: ²⁷ וַיַּעֲבֹר הָאֵלֶּל וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד וַיֹּאסְפֶהָ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַתְּהִי-לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד לּוֹ 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 רָאשׁ: ² לַעֹשִׂיר הָיָה צֹאן וּבָקָר הִרְבֵּה מְאֹד: ³ וְלָרֶשׁ אֵין-כֹּל כִּי-אִם-כֶּבֶשֶׂה אֶחָת קִטְנָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה וַיְחַיֶּה וַתִּגְדֵּל עִמּוֹ וְעַם-בָּנָיו יִחָדוּ מִפֶּתוֹ תֹאכֵל וּמִכֶּסֶׁוֹ תִשְׁתֶּה וּבְחִיקוֹ תִשְׁכָּב וַתְּהִי-לוֹ כְּבֵת: ⁴ וַיָּבֵא הָלֶךְ לְאִישׁ הָעֹשִׂיר וַיְחַמְלֵה לְקַחַת מִצֵּאָנוֹ וּמִמִּבְקָרוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאֹרֶחַ הַבָּא-לוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-כֶּבֶשֶׂת הָאִישׁ הָרֶשֶׁת * וַיַּעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ הַבָּא אֵלָיו:

⁵ וַיַּחֲרֹאף דָּוִד בְּאִישׁ מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָתָן חַי-יְהוָה כִּי בְּנִמְנוֹת הָאִישׁ הָעֹשֶׂה זֹאת: ⁶ וְאֶת-הַכֶּבֶשֶׂה יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתָּים עֹקֵב 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 וַיְהוּדָה וְאִם-

v. 1. יתיר א'

v. 4. יתיר א'

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