

Books of Samuel I and II – I Chapter 16 and -II Chapter 24

Murder of Unnamed Amalekite

1 31,1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. **1 31,2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul. **1 31,3** And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was in great anguish by reason of the archers. **1 31,4** Then said Saul to his armour-bearer: 'Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and make a mock of me.' But his armour-bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took his sword, and fell upon it. **1 31,5** And when his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell upon his sword, and died with him. **1 31,6** So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men, that same day together. **1 31,7** And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were beyond the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them. {P}

1 31,8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. **1 31,9** And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry the tidings unto the house of their idols, and to the people. **1 31,10** And they put his armour in the house of the Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. **1 31,11** And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard concerning him that which the Philistines had done to Saul, **1 31,12** all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan; and they came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. **1 31,13** And they took their bones, and buried them under the tamarisk-tree in Jabesh, and fasted seven days. {P}

2 1,1 And it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag; **2 1,2** it came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his

head; and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and prostrated himself.

2 1,3 And David said unto him: 'From whence comest thou?' And he said unto him: 'Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.' **2 1,4** And David said unto him: 'How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me.' And he answered: 'The people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.' **2 1,5** And David said unto the young man that told him: 'How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?' **2 1,6** And the young man that told him said: 'As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and the horsemen pressed hard upon him. **2 1,7** And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered: Here am I. **2 1,8** And he said unto me: Who art thou? And I answered him: I am an Amalekite. **2 1,9** And he said unto me: Stand, I pray thee, beside me, and slay me, for the agony hath taken hold of me; because my life is just yet in me. **2 1,10** So I stood beside him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen; and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.' **2 1,11** Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him. **2 1,12** And they wailed, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword. {P}

2 1,13 And David said unto the young man that told him: 'Whence art thou?' And he answered: 'I am the son of an Amalekite stranger.' **2 1,14** And David said unto him: 'How wast thou not afraid to put forth thy hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?' **2 1,15** And David called one of the young men, and said: 'Go near, and fall upon him.' And he smote him that he died. **2 1,16** And David said unto him: 'Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying: I have slain the LORD'S anointed.' {P}

Murder of Baanah and Rechab

2 3,6 And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner showed himself strong in the house of Saul. **2 3,7** Now Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and [Ish-bosheth] said to Abner: 'Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?' **2 3,8** Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said: 'Am I a dog's head that belongeth to Judah? This day do I show kindness unto

the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, and yet thou chargest me this day with a fault concerning this woman. {S} **2 3,9** God do so to Abner, and more also, if, as the LORD hath sworn to David, I do not even so to him; **2 3,10** to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba.' **2 3,11** And he could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him. {S} **2 3,12** And Abner sent messengers to David straightway, saying: 'Whose is the land?' saying also: 'Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring over all Israel unto thee.' **2 3,13** And he said: 'Well; I will make a league with thee; but one thing I require of thee, that is, thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.' {S} **2 3,14** And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying: 'Deliver me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to me for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.' **2 3,15** And Ish-bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Paltiel the son of Laish. **2 3,16** And her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him: 'Go, return'; and he returned. **2 3,17** And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying: 'In times past ye sought for David to be king over you; **2 3,18** now then do it; for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying: By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.' **2 3,19** And Abner also spoke in the ears of Benjamin; and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and to the whole house of Benjamin. **2 3,20** So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast. **2 3,21** And Abner said unto David: 'I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thy soul desireth.' And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace. **2 3,22** And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from a foray, and brought in a great spoil with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace. **2 3,23** When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying: 'Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.' **2 3,24** Then Joab came to the king, and said: 'What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone? **2 3,25** Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.'

2 3,26 And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from Bor-sirah; but David knew it not. **2 3,27** And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there in the groin, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. **2 3,28** And afterward when David heard it, he said: 'I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner; **2 3,29** let it fall upon the head of Joab, and upon all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth by the sword, or that lacketh bread.' **2 3,30** So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle. {S} **2 3,31** And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him: 'Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and wail before Abner.' And king David followed the bier. **2 3,32** And they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. {S} **2 3,33** And the king lamented for Abner, and said: Should Abner die as a churl dieth? **2 3,34** Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters; as a man falleth before the children of iniquity, so didst thou fall. And all the people wept again over him. **2 3,35** And all the people came to cause David to eat bread while it was yet day; but David swore, saying: 'God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or aught else, till the sun be down.' **2 3,36** And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them; whatsoever the king did, pleased all the people. **2 3,37** So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner. {S} **2 3,38** And the king said unto his servants: 'Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? **2 3,39** And I am this day weak, and just anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruah are too hard for me; the LORD reward the evildoer according to his wickedness.' {P}

2 4,1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands became feeble, and all the Israelites were affrighted. **2 4,2** And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin; for Beeroth also is reckoned to Benjamin; **2 4,3** and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have been sojourners there until this day. {S} **2 4,4** Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled; and it came to

pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. **2 4,5** And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ish-bosheth, as he took his rest at noon. **2 4,6** And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him in the groin; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. **2 4,7** Now when they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bed-chamber, they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and went by the way of the Arabah all night. **2 4,8** And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king: 'Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, who sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.' **2 4,9** And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them: 'As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, **2 4,10** when one told me, saying: Behold, Saul is dead, and he was in his own eyes as though he brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, instead of giving a reward for his tidings. **2 4,11** How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed, shall I not now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?' **2 4,12** And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth, and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron. {P}

Conspiracy to Commit Murder (Murder?) of Uriah the Hittite

2 11,1 And it came to pass, at the return of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. {S} **2 11,2** And it came to pass at eventide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. **2 11,3** And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said: 'Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' **2 11,4** And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness; and she returned unto her house. **2 11,5** And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said: 'I am with child.' **2 11,6** And David sent to Joab[, saying]: 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. **2 11,7** And when Uriah was come unto him, David asked of him how

Joab did, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered. **2 11,8** And David said to Uriah: 'Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet.' And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of food from the king. **2 11,9** But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. **2 11,10** And when they had told David, saying: 'Uriah went not down unto his house', David said unto Uriah: 'Art thou not come from a journey? wherefore didst thou not go down unto thy house?' **2 11,11** And Uriah said unto David: 'The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in booths; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open field; shall I then go into my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.' **2 11,12** And David said to Uriah: 'Tarry here to-day also, and to-morrow I will let thee depart.' So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. **2 11,13** And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk; and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. **2 11,14** And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **2 11,15** And he wrote in the letter, saying: 'Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.' {S} **2 11,16** And it came to pass, when Joab kept watch upon the city, that he assigned Uriah unto the place where he knew that valiant men were. **2 11,17** And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab; and there fell some of the people, even of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. **2 11,18** Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; **2 11,19** and he charged the messenger, saying: 'When thou hast made an end of telling all the things concerning the war unto the king, **2 11,20** it shall be that, if the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee: Wherefore went ye so nigh unto the city to fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? **2 11,21** who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast an upper millstone upon him from the wall, that he died at Thebez? why went ye so nigh the wall? then shalt thou say: Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' **2 11,22** So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him for. **2 11,23** And the messenger said unto David: 'The men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entrance of the gate. **2 11,24** And the shooters shot at thy servants from off the wall; and some of the king's servants are dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' {S} **2 11,25** Then David said unto the messenger: 'Thus shalt thou say unto Joab: Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth in one manner or another; make

thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it; and encourage thou him.' **2 11,26** And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband. **2 11,27** And when the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. {P}

2 12,1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him: 'There were two men in one city: the one rich, and the other poor. **2 12,2** The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds; **2 12,3** but the poor man had nothing save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and reared; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own morsel, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. **2 12,4** And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him, but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.' **2 12,5** And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan: 'As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this deserveth to die; **2 12,6** and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.' {S} **2 12,7** And Nathan said to David: 'Thou art the man. {S} Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; **2 12,8** and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that were too little, then would I add unto thee so much more. **2 12,9** Wherefore hast thou despised the word of the LORD, to do that which is evil in My sight? Uriah the Hittite thou hast smitten with the sword, and his wife thou hast taken to be thy wife, and him thou hast slain with the sword of the children of Ammon. **2 12,10** Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from thy house; because thou hast despised Me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. {S} **2 12,11** Thus saith the LORD: Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. **2 12,12** For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.' {S} **2 12,13** And David said unto Nathan: 'I have sinned against the LORD.' {S} And Nathan said unto David: 'The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. **2 12,14** Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast greatly blasphemed the enemies of the LORD, the child also that is born

unto thee shall surely die.' **2 12,15** And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore unto David, and it was very sick. **2 12,16** David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and as often as he went in, he lay all night upon the earth. **2 12,17** And the elders of his house arose, and stood beside him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. **2 12,18** And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said: 'Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke unto him, and he hearkened not unto our voice; how then shall we tell him that the child is dead, so that he do himself some harm?' **2 12,19** But when David saw that his servants whispered together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said unto his servants: 'Is the child dead?' And they said: 'He is dead.' **2 12,20** Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel; and he came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped; then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. **2 12,21** Then said his servants unto him: 'What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.' **2 12,22** And he said: 'While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said: Who knoweth whether the LORD will not be gracious to me, that the child may live? **2 12,23** But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.' **2 12,24** And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him; **2 12,25** and He sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and he called his name Jedidiah, for the LORD'S sake. {P}

Background: Conspiracy to Murder Shimei the Son of Gera

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out thence a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out, and kept on cursing as he came. **2 16,6** And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David; and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. **2 16,7** And thus said Shimei when he cursed: 'Begone, begone, thou man of blood, and base fellow; **2 16,8** the LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou art

taken in thine own mischief, because thou art a man of blood.' **2 16,9** Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king: 'Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.' **{S} 2 16,10** And the king said: 'What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him: Curse David; who then shall say: Wherefore hast thou done so?' **{S} 2 16,11** And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants: 'Behold, my son, who came forth of my body, seeketh my life; how much more this Benjamite now? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. **2 16,12** It may be that the LORD will look on mine eye, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing of me this day.' **2 16,13** So David and his men went by the way; **{S}** and Shimei went along on the hill-side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust. **{P}**

2 19,17 And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, who was of Bahurim, made haste and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. **2 19,18** And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him. And they rushed into the Jordan before the king. **2 19,19** And the ferryboat passed to and fro to bring over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, when he would go over the Jordan. **2 19,20** And he said unto the king: 'Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did iniquitously the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. **2 19,21** For thy servant doth know that I have sinned; therefore, behold, I am come this day the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.' **{S} 2 19,22** But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said: 'Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?' **{S} 2 19,23** And David said: 'What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?' **2 19,24** And the king said unto Shimei: 'Thou shalt not die.' And the king swore unto him. **{S} 2 19,25**

Murder (?) of the 70,000

And David said unto the LORD: 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, O LORD, put away, I beseech Thee, the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.' **2 24,11** And when David rose up in the morning, {P}the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying: **2 24,12** 'Go and speak unto David: Thus saith the LORD: I lay upon thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.' **2 24,13** So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him: 'Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thy foes while they pursue thee? or shall there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise thee, and consider what answer I shall return to Him that sent Me.' {S} **2 24,14** And David said unto Gad: 'I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for His mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man.' **2 24,15** So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed; and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men. **2 24,16** And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented Him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people: 'It is enough; now stay thy hand.' And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. {S} **2 24,17** And David spoke unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said: 'Lo, I have sinned, and I have done iniquitously; but these sheep, what have they done? let Thy hand, I pray Thee, be against me, and against my father's house.' {P}

2 24,18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him: 'Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' **2 24,19** And David went up according to the saying of Gad, as the LORD commanded. **2 24,20** And Araunah looked forth, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him; and Araunah went out, and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. **2 24,21** And Araunah said: 'Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant?' And David said: 'To buy the threshing-floor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.' **2 24,22** And Araunah said unto David: 'Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him; behold the oxen for the burnt-offering, and the threshing-instruments and the furniture of the oxen for the wood.' **2 24,23** All this did Araunah the king give unto the king. {S} And Araunah said unto the king: 'The LORD thy God accept thee.' **2 24,24** And the king said unto Araunah: 'Nay; but I will verily buy

it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the LORD my God which cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. **2 24,25** And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel. {P}

The First Book of Kings 1:1-2:12

Conspiracy to Murder Joab and Shimei

1 2,1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying: **1 2,2** I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; **1 2,3** and keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to that which is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself; **1 2,4** that the LORD may establish His word which He spoke concerning me, saying: If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee, said He, a man on the throne of Israel. **1 2,5** Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did unto me, even what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. **1 2,6** Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace. **1 2,7** But show kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table; for so they drew nigh unto me when I fled from Absalom thy brother. **1 2,8** And, behold, there is with thee Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, of Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim; but he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying: I will not put thee to death with the sword. **1 2,9** Now therefore hold him not guiltless, for thou art a wise man; and thou wilt know what thou oughtest to do unto him, and thou shalt bring his hoar head down to the grave with blood.' **1 2,10** And David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. {P}