

1 ויפקד וישימו עליהם שרי ואת אשר העם את דוד ויפקד  
 uiphqd dud ath eom ashr athu uishm oliem shri  
 and-he-is-mustering David » the-people who with-him and-he-is-placing over-them chiefs-of  
 מאות ושרי אלפים  
 alphim ushri mauth  
 thousands and-chiefs-of hundreds

<sup>1</sup> . And David numbered the people that [were] with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2 וישלח ויהשיב ביד והשלשית יואב ביד והשלשית וישלח  
 uishlch dud ath eom eshlshith bid iuab ueshlshith bid abishi  
 and-he-is-sending David » the-people the-third in-hand-of Joab and-the-third in-hand-of Abishai  
 אל המלך ויאמר והגתי אתי ביד והשלשית יואב אחי צרויה בן  
 bn tzruie achi iuab ueshlshth bid athi egthi uiamr emlk al  
 son-of Zeruah brother-of Joab and-the-third in-hand-of Ittai the-Gittite and-he-is-saying the-king to  
 עמכם אני גם אצא יצא העם  
 eom itza atza gm ani omkm  
 the-people to-go-forth I-shall-go-forth moreover I with-you

<sup>2</sup> And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3 וישמו לא ננוס נס אם כי תצא לא העם ויאמר  
 uiamr eom la thtza ki am ns nnus la ishimu  
 and-he-is-saying the-people not you-shall-go-forth that if to-flee we-shall-flee not they-shall-place  
 עשרה כמנו עתה כי לב אלינו ישימו לא חצינו ימתו ואם לב אלינו  
 alinu lb uam imthu chtzinu la ishimu alinu lb ki othe kmnu oshre  
 to-us heart and-if they-shall-die half-of-us not they-shall-place to-us heart that now as-we ten-of  
 לעזיר מעיר לנו תהיה כי טוב ועתה אלפים  
 alphim uothe tub ki theie lnu moir lozir  
 thousands and-now better that you-shall-be to-us from-city to-give-help

<sup>3</sup> But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now [thou art] worth ten thousand of us: therefore now [it is] better that thou succour us out of the city.

4 ויעמד ויאמר ויעמד אעשה בעיניכם ויטב אשר המלך אליהם ויאמר  
 uiamr aliem emlk ashr iitb boinikm aoshe uiomd  
 and-he-is-saying to-them the-king which he-is-being-good in-eyes-of-you I-shall-do and-he-is-standing  
 ולא אלפים ולא המלך יצאו העם וכל השער יד אל המלך  
 emlk al id eshor ukl eom itzau lmauth ulalphim  
 the-king to side-of the-gate and-all-of the-people they-are-going-forth to-hundreds and-to-thousands

<sup>4</sup> And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 ויצו וינער לי לאט לאמר ואת אבישי ואת יואב את המלך ויצו  
 uitzu emlk ath iuab uath abishi uath athi lamr lat li lnor  
 and-he-is-instructing the-king » Joab and » Abishai and » Ittai to-say gently for-me to-lad  
 דבר על השרים כל את המלך בצות שמעו העם וכל לאבשלום  
 labshlum ukl eom shmou btzuth emlk ath kl eshrim ol dbr  
 to-Absalom and-all-of the-people they-heard in-to-instruct the-king » all-of the-chiefs on matter-of  
 אבשלום  
 abshlum  
 Absalom

<sup>5</sup> And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, [Deal] gently for my sake with the young man, [even] with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

6 ויצא וימלחמה ותהי ישראל לקראת השרה העם ויצא  
 uitzu emlk ath iuab uath abishi uath athi lamr lat li lnor  
 and-he-is-going-forth the-people the-field to-meet Israel and-she-is-becoming the-battle  
 ביער אפרים  
 bior aphrim  
 in-wildwood-of Ephraim

<sup>6</sup> So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

7 וינגפו ויהי דוד עבדי לפני ישראל עם שם וינגפו  
 uingphu shm om ishral lphni obdi dud uthei shm  
 and-they-are-being-struck-down there people-of Israel before servants-of David and-she-was there  
 אלף עשרים ההוא ביום גדולה המגפה  
 emgphe gdule bium eeua oshrim alph  
 the-stroke great in-day the-that twenty thousand

<sup>7</sup> Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand [men].

8 ותהי הארץ כל פני על נפצית המלחמה שם ותהי  
 uthei eartz kl phni ol nphtzith emlkhme shm  
 and-she-is-becoming there the-battle being-scattered over surface-of all-of the-land

<sup>8</sup> For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that

day than the sword  
devoured.

ביום החרב אכלה מאשר בעם לאכל היער וירב  
bium echrb akle mashr bom lakl eior uirb  
in-day the-sword she-devoured from-which in-people the-wildwood and-he-is-being-much

ההוא

eeua  
the-that

<sup>9</sup> . And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that [was] under him went away.

9 הפרד על רכב ואבשלום דוד עבדי לפני אבשלום ויקרא  
ephrd ol rkb uabshlum dud obdi lphni abshlum uiqra  
the-mule riding on and-Absalom David servants-of to-presences-of Absalom and-he-is-meeting

ויבא ראשו ויחזק הגדולה האלה שובך תחת הפרד ויבא  
uiba ephrd thchth shubk eale egdule uichzq rashu  
and-he-is-coming the-mule under mesh-of the-terebinth the-great and-he-is-being-caught-fast head-of-him

אשר והפרד הארץ ובין השמים בין ויתן באלה  
ashr uephrd eartz ubin eshmim bin uithn bale  
which and-the-mule the-earth and-between the-heavens between and-he-is-being-given in-terebinth

עבר תחתיו

thchthiu obr  
under-him he-passed-on

<sup>10</sup> And a certain man saw [it], and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

10 אבשלום את ראיתי הנה ויאמר ליואב ויגד אחד איש וירא  
abshlm ath raithi ene uiamr liuab uigd aish achd uira  
Absalom I-saw » Behold ! and-he-is-saying to-Joab and-he-is-telling man one and-he-is-seeing

באלה תלוי

thlui bale  
hanging in-terebinth

<sup>11</sup> And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest [him], and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten [shekels] of silver, and a girdle.

11 לא ומדוע ראית והנה לו המגיד לאיש יואב ויאמר  
la umduo raith uene lu emgid laish iuab uiamr  
not and-for-what-reason you-saw and-behold ! to-him the-one-telling to-man Joab and-he-is-saying

אחת וחגרה כסף עשרה לך לתת ועלי ארצה שם הכיתו  
achth uchgre ksph oshre lk lthth uoli artze shm ekithu  
one silver and-girdle ten to-give to-you ten toward-earth there and-on-me and-smote-him

<sup>12</sup> And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand [shekels] of silver in mine hand, [yet] would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none [touch] the young man Absalom.

12 לא כסף אלף כפי על שקל אנכי ולא יואב אל האיש ויאמר  
la ksph alph kphi ol shql anki ula iuab al eaish uiamr  
not thousand silver on weighing on palms-of-me thousand the-man to Joab and-not I and-he-is-saying

ואת אתך המלך צוה באזנינו כי המלך בן אל ידי אשלח  
uath athk emlk tzue bazninu ki emlk bn al idi ashlich  
and the-king you and I-shall-stretch-forth hand-of-me to son-of the-king that in-ears-of-us he-instructed the-king

באבשלום בנער מי שמרו לאמר אתי ואת אבישי  
babshlum bnor mi shmru mi lamr athi uath abishi  
in-Absalom in-lad any in-lad to-say keep ! and Abishai and

<sup>13</sup> Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldst have set thyself against [me].

13 ואתה המלך מן יכחד לא דבר וכל שקר בנפשו עשיתי או  
uath emlk mn ikchd la dbr ukl shqr ukl bnphshu au oshithi  
and-you the-king and-you from he-is-being-suppressed matter not he-is-being-suppressed and-any-of matter not he-is-being-suppressed in-soul-of-him falsely and

תתיצב מנגד  
ththitzb mngd  
you-shall-stand-by aloof

<sup>14</sup> Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he [was] yet alive in the midst of the oak.

14 בכפו שבטים שלשה ויקח לפניך אחילה כן לא יואב ויאמר  
bkphu shbtim shlshe uiqch lphnik achile kn la iuab uiamr  
in-palm-of-him three clubs in-palm-of-him and-he-is-taking three clubs in-palm-of-him Joab not so I-shall-wait before-you and-he-is-taking

האלה בלב חי עורנו אבשלום בלב ויתקעם  
eale blb chi oudnu abshlum blb uithqom  
in-heart-of the-terebinth still-he alive in-heart-of Absalom and-he-pitched-them

<sup>15</sup> And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew

15 את ויכו יואב כלי נשאי נערים עשרה ויסבו  
ath uiku iuab kli nshai norim oshre uisbu  
» and-they-are-smiting Joab and-they-are-smiting ones-bearing-of implement-of ten lads ones-bearing-of implement-of ten lads and-they-are-surrounding

וימיתהו אבשלום

abshlum uimitheu

Absalom and-they-are-putting-to-death-him

him.

16 ויתקע בשפר יואב וישב העם מרדף אחרי כי ישראל  
uithqo iuab bshphr uishb eom mrdph achri ishral ki  
and-he-is-blowing Joab in-trumpet and-he-is-returning the-people from-to-pursue after Israel that

<sup>16</sup> And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

חשך העם את יואב

chshk iuab ath eom

he-kept-back Joab » the-people

17 ויקחו הגדול הפחת אל ביער אתו וישליכו אבשלום את ויקחו  
uiqchu ath abshlum uishliku athu bior al ephchth egdul  
and-they-are-taking » Absalom and-they-are-flinging him in-wildwood to the-pit the-great

<sup>17</sup> And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

ויצבו איש נסו ישראל וכל מאד גדול אבנים גל עליו ויצבו  
uitzbu oliu gl abnim gdul mad ukl ishral nsu aish  
and-they-are-setting-up over-him mound-of stones great very and-all-of Israel they-fled man

לאהל

laelu

to-tent-of-him

18 המלך בעמק אשר מצבת את בחיו לו ויצב לקח ואבשלם  
uabshlm lqch uitzb lu bchiu ath mtzbth ashtr bomq emlk  
and-Absalom he-took and-he-is-setting-up for-him in-life-of-him » monument which in-vale-of the-king

<sup>18</sup> Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which [is] in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

למצבת ויקרא שמי הזכיר בעבור בן לי אין אמר כי  
ki amr ain li bn bobur ezkir shmi uiqra lmtzbth  
that he-said there-is-no to-me son in-order-to to-remember name-of-me and-he-is-calling to-monument

הזה היום עד אבשלם יד לה ויקרא שמו על

ol shmu uiqra le id abshlm od eium eze

on name-of-him and-he-is-being-called to-her hand-of Absalom unto the-day the-this

19 כי המלך את ואבשרה נא ארוצה אמר צדוק בן ואחימעץ  
uachimotz bn tzduq amr arutze na uabshre ath emlk ki  
and-Ahimaaz son-of Zadok he-said I-shall-run please ! and-I-shall-bear-tidings » the-king that

<sup>19</sup> . Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.

שפטו יהוה מיד איביו וישפטו  
shphtu ieue mid aibiu  
he-judged-him Yahweh from-hand-of enemies-of-him

20 ביום ובשרת הזה היום אתה בשרה איש לא יואב לו ויאמר  
uiamr lu iuab la aish bshre athe eium eze ubshrth bium  
and-he-is-saying to-him Joab not man-of tidings you the-day the-this and-you-bear-tidings in-day

<sup>20</sup> And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

אחר והיום אחר מת המלך בן על כי תבשר לא הזה והיום אחר  
achr ueium eze la thbshr ki ol bn emlk mth  
another and-the-day the-this not you-shall-bear-tidings that on son-of the-king he-is-dead

21 ויאמר וישתחו ראיתה אשר למלך הגדלך לכושי יואב ויאמר  
uiamr iuab lkushi lk egd lmlk ashtr raithe uishthchu kushi  
and-he-is-saying Joab to-Cushite go ! tell ! to-king which you-saw and-he-is-bowing-down Cushite

<sup>21</sup> Then said Joab to Cushi, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cushi bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

וירץ ליואב

liuab uirtz

to-Joab and-he-is-running

22 ויהי יואב אל ויאמר צדוק בן אחימעץ עוד ויאמר  
uisph oud achimotz bn tzduq uiamr al iuab uiei  
and-he-is-adding further Ahimaaz son-of Zadok and-he-is-saying to Joab and-he-shall-become

<sup>22</sup> Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cushi. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?

אתה זה למה יואב ויאמר הכושי אחרי אני גם נא ארצה מה  
me artze na gm ani achri ekushi uiamr iuab lme ze athe  
what ? I-shall-run please ! moreover I after the-Cushite and-he-is-saying Joab why ? this you

מצאת בשורה אין ולכה בני רץ

rtz bni ulke ain bshure mtzath

running son-of-me and-for-you there-is-no tidings finding

- 23 ויהי וירא רץ אחימעץ לו וירא רץ ויאמר ארוץ מה ויהי  
 uiei me arutz uiamr lu rutz uirtz achimotz drk  
 and-he-shall-become what? I-shall-run and-he-is-saying to-him run! and-he-is-running Ahimaaz way-of
- הכבר ויעבר את הכושי את  
 ekkv uiobr ath ekushi  
 the-basin and-he-is-passing » the-Cushite
- 24 ורוד אל השער גג אל וילך השערים שני בין יושב ורוד  
 udud iushb bin shni eshorim uilk etzphe al gg eshor al  
 and-David sitting between two-of the-gates and-he-is-going the-one-watching to top-of the-gate to
- לברו רץ איש והנה וירא עיניו את וישא החומה  
 echume uisha ath oiniu uira uene aish rtz lbdu  
 the-wall and-he-is-lifting » eyes-of-him and-he-is-seeing and-behold! man running alone-him
- 25 ויקרא לבדו אם המלך ויאמר למלך ויגד הצפה ויקרא  
 uiqra etzphe uigd lmlk uiamr emlk am lbdu  
 and-he-is-calling the-one-watching and-he-is-telling to-king and-he-is-saying the-king if alone-him
- וקרב הלוך וילך בפיו בשורה  
 bshure bphiu uilk eluk uqrb  
 tidings in-mouth-of-him and-he-is-going to-go and-coming-near
- 26 וירא אל הצפה ויקרא רץ אחר איש וירא הצפה וירא  
 uira etzphe aishachr rtz uiqra etzphe al  
 and-he-is-seeing the-one-watching man another running and-he-is-calling the-one-watching to
- גם המלך ויאמר לבדו רץ איש הנה וישא השער  
 eshor uiamr ene aish rtz lbdu uiamr emlk gm  
 the-gatekeeper and-he-is-saying behold! man running alone-him and-he-is-saying the-king moreover
- זה מבשר זה  
 ze mbshr  
 this one-bearing-tidings
- 27 ויאמר בן אחימעץ כמרצת הראשון מרוצת את ראה אני הצפה ויאמר  
 uiamr etzphe ani rae ath mrutzth erashun kmrtzth achimotz bn  
 and-he-is-saying the-one-watching I seeing » running-of the-first running-of Ahimaaz son-of
- ויבוא טובה בשורה ואל זה טוב איש המלך ויאמר צדוק  
 tzduq uiamr emlk aish tub ze ual bshure tube ibua  
 Zadok and-he-is-saying the-king man good this and-to tidings good he-is-coming
- 28 ויקרא למלך וישתחו שלום המלך אל ויאמר אחימעץ ויקרא  
 uiqra achimotz uiamr al emlk shlum uishthchu lmlk  
 and-he-is-calling Ahimaaz and-he-is-saying to the-king peace and-he-is-bowing-down to-king
- סגר אשר אלהיך יהוה ברוך ויאמר ארצה לאפיו  
 laphiu artze uiamr bruk ieue aleik ashv sgr  
 to-nostrils-of-him toward-earth and-he-is-saying being-blessed Yahweh Elohim-of-you who he-surrendered
- המלך באדני ידם את נשאו אשר האנשים את  
 ath eanshim ashv nshau ath idm badni emlk  
 » the-mortals who they-lifted » hand-of-them in-lord-of-me the-king
- 29 ויאמר ההמון ראיתי אחימעץ ויאמר לאבשלום לנער שלום המלך ויאמר  
 uiamr emlk shlum lnor labshlum uiamr achimotz raithi eemun  
 and-he-is-saying the-king well to-lad to-Absalom and-he-is-saying Ahimaaz I-saw the-clamor
- מה ידעתי ולא עבדך ואת יואב המלך עבד את לשלח הגדול  
 egdul lshlich ath obd emlk iuab uath obdk ula idothi me  
 the-great to-send » servant-of the-king Joab and » servant-of-you and-not I-know what
- 30 ויאמר ויעמד ויסב כה התיצב סב המלך ויאמר  
 uiamr emlk sb ethitzb ke uisb uiomd  
 and-he-is-saying the-king turn-around! station-yourself! thus and-he-is-turning-around and-he-is-standing
- 31 ויהנה המלך אדני ויתבשר הכושי ויאמר בא הכושי והנה  
 uene ekushi ba uiamr ekushi ithbshr adni emlk  
 and-behold! the-Cushite coming and-he-is-saying the-Cushite he-shall-receive-tidings lord-of-me the-king

23 But howsoever, [said he], let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushi.

24 And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he [be] alone, [there is] tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.

26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold [another] man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

27 And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He [is] a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

28 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed [be] the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and [me] thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what [it was].

30 And the king said [unto him], Turn aside, [and] stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged

עליך הקמים כל מיד היום יהוה שפטך כי  
 ki shphtk ieue eium mid kl eqmim olik  
 that he-judged-you Yahweh the-day from-hand-of all-of the-ones-rising on-you

thee this day of all them  
 that rose up against thee.

32 ויאמר הכושי לאבשלום לנער השלום הכושי אל המלך ויאמר  
 uiamr ekushi labshlum lnor eshlum ekushi emlk al ekushi  
 and-he-is-saying the-king to the-Cushite well ? to-lad to-Absalom and-he-is-saying the-Cushite

<sup>32</sup> And the king said unto  
 Cushite, Is the young man  
 Absalom safe? And Cushite  
 answered, The enemies of  
 my lord the king, and all  
 that rise against thee to do  
 [thee] hurt, be as [that]  
 young man [is].

יהיו לרעה עליך קמו אשר וכל המלך אדני איבי כנער יהיו  
 ieiu lroe olik qmu ashru ukl emlk adni aibi knor ieiu  
 they-shall-become as-lad enemies-of lord-of-me the-king and-all who they-rise on-you for-evil

33 וירגז ויבך השער עלית על ויעל המלך וירגז  
 uirgz uibk eshor olith ol uiol emlk  
 and-he-is-being-disturbed the-king and-he-is-going-up on upper-chamber-of the-gate and-he-is-weeping

<sup>33</sup> And the king was much  
 moved, and went up to the  
 chamber over the gate, and  
 wept: and as he went, thus  
 he said, O my son Absalom,  
 my son, my son Absalom!  
 would God I had died for  
 thee, O Absalom, my son,  
 my son!

וכה ויתן מי אבשלום בני בני אבשלום בני בלכתו אמר וכה  
 uke ithn mi abshlum bni bni abshlum bni blkthu amr uke  
 and-thus he-said in-to-go-him son-of-me Absalom son-of-me son-of-me Absalom any ? he-shall-give

מותי בני אבשלום תחתיך אני מותי  
 muthi bni abshlum thchthik ani muthi  
 to-die-me I instead-of-you Absalom son-of-me son-of-me