

¹وَكَانَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ أَنَّ أَبْسَالُومَ اتَّخَذَ مَرْكَبَةً وَخَيْلًا وَخَمْسِينَ رَجُلًا يَخْرُونَ قُدَّامَهُ.² وَكَانَ أَبْسَالُومُ يُيَكِّزُ وَيَقِفُ بِجَانِبِ طَرِيقِ الْبَابِ، وَكُلُّ صَاحِبٍ دَعَاوَى أَتَى إِلَى الْمَلِكِ لِأَجْلِ الْحُكْمِ كَانَ أَبْسَالُومُ يَدْعُوهُ إِلَيْهِ وَيَقُولُ، مِنْ أَيَّةِ مَدِينَةٍ أَنْتَ. فَيَقُولُ، مِنْ أَحَدِ أَصْبَاطِ إِسْرَائِيلَ عَبْدُكَ.³ فَيَقُولُ أَبْسَالُومُ لَهُ، انْظُرْ. أُمُورُكَ صَالِحَةٌ وَمُسْتَقِيمَةٌ، وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَ مَنْ يَسْمَعُ لَكَ مِنْ قِبَلِ الْمَلِكِ.⁴ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ أَبْسَالُومُ، مَنْ يَجْعَلُنِي قَاصِيًا فِي الْأَرْضِ قِيَّائِي إِلَيَّ كُلِّ إِنْسَانٍ لَهُ حُصُومَةٌ وَدَعَاوَى قَانُصِفَةً.⁵ وَكَانَ إِذَا تَقَدَّمَ أَحَدٌ لِيَسْجُدَ لَهُ يَمُدُّ يَدَهُ وَيُمْسِكُهُ وَيُقْبَلُهُ.⁶ وَكَانَ أَبْسَالُومُ يَفْعَلُ مِثْلَ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ لِجَمِيعِ إِسْرَائِيلَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَأْتُونَ لِأَجْلِ الْحُكْمِ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ، فَاسْتَرْقَ أَبْسَالُومُ قُلُوبَ رِجَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ.⁷ وَفِي نِهَآيَةِ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ أَبْسَالُومُ لِلْمَلِكِ، دَعْنِي فَأَذْهَبَ وَأُوفِي تَذْرِي الَّذِي تَذَرُهُ لِلرَّبِّ فِي خَبْرُونَ،⁸ لِأَنَّ عَيْدَكَ تَذَرُ تَذَرًا عِنْدَ سُكَّاتِي فِي جَشُورَ فِي أَرَامَ قَائِلًا، إِنَّ أَرْجَعَنِي الرَّبُّ إِلَى أَوْشَلِيمَ قِيَّائِي أَغْنِدُ الرَّبِّ.⁹ فَقَالَ لَهُ الْمَلِكُ، أَذْهَبْ بِسَلَامٍ. فَقَامَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى خَبْرُونَ.¹⁰ وَأَرْسَلَ أَبْسَالُومُ جَوَاسِيسَ فِي جَمِيعِ أَصْبَاطِ إِسْرَائِيلَ قَائِلًا، إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ صَوْتَ الْبُوقِ فَقُولُوا، قَدْ مَلَكَ أَبْسَالُومُ فِي خَبْرُونَ.¹¹ وَأَنْطَلَقَ مَعَ أَبْسَالُومَ مِثْلًا رَجُلٌ مِنْ أَوْشَلِيمَ قَدْ دُعُوا وَذَهَبُوا بِبَسَاطَةٍ، وَلَمْ يَكُونُوا يَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا.¹² وَأَرْسَلَ أَبْسَالُومُ إِلَى أَخِيثُوفِلَ الْجِيلُونِيِّ مُشِيرَ دَاوُدَ مِنْ مَدِينَتِهِ جِيلُوهَ إِذْ كَانَ يَدْبُجُ دَبَاجَ. وَكَانَتْ الْفِتْنَةُ سَدِيدَةً وَكَانَ الشَّعْبُ لَا يَرَالُ يَتَرَاذُ مَعَ أَبْسَالُومَ.¹³ فَاتَى مُخَبِّرٌ إِلَى دَاوُدَ قَائِلًا، إِنَّ قُلُوبَ رِجَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ صَارَتْ وَرَاءَ أَبْسَالُومَ.¹⁴ فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ لِجَمِيعِ عِبِيدِهِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ فِي أَوْشَلِيمَ، قُومُوا إِنَّا تَهْرُبُ، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَنَا نَجَاهُ مِنْ وَجْهِ أَبْسَالُومَ. أَسْرِعُوا لِلدَّهَابِ لِيَلَّا يُبَادِرَ وَبُذِرْنَا وَيُنْزَلَ بَنَا السَّيِّئِ وَيَضْرِبَ الْمَدِينَةَ بِحَدِّ السَّيِّئِ.¹⁵ فَقَالَ عَبِيدُ الْمَلِكِ لِلْمَلِكِ، خَسِبَ كُلُّ مَا يَخْتَارُهُ سَيِّدَتَا الْمَلِكِ تَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ.¹⁶ فَخَرَجَ الْمَلِكُ وَجَمِيعُ بَنِيهِ وَرَأَاهُ. وَتَرَكَ الْمَلِكُ عَشْرَ نِسَاءٍ سَرَارِيٍّ لِيَحْفَظَ الْبَيْتَ.¹⁷ وَخَرَجَ الْمَلِكُ وَكُلُّ الشَّعْبِ فِي أَثَرِهِ وَوَقَفُوا عِنْدَ الْبَيْتِ الْبَعِيدِ.¹⁸ وَجَمِيعُ عَبِيدِهِ كَانُوا يَغْبُرُونَ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مَعَ جَمِيعِ الْجَلَادِينَ وَالسَّعَاةِ وَجَمِيعِ الْجَنِيِّينَ، سِتُّ مِائَةٍ رَجُلٍ أَتَوْا وَرَأَاهُ مِنْ جَبْتٍ، وَكَانُوا يَغْبُرُونَ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ الْمَلِكِ.¹⁹ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِأَتَائِي الْجَنِيِّ، لِمَاذَا تَذْهَبُ أَنْتَ أَيْضًا مَعَنَا. إِرْجِعْ وَأَقِمْ مَعَ الْمَلِكِ لِأَنَّكَ عَرِيبٌ وَمَنْفِيٌّ

¹And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.² And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.³ And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.⁴ Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!⁵ And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.⁶ And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.⁷ And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.⁸ For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.⁹ And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.¹⁰ But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.¹¹ And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went

أَيْضاً مِنْ وَطَنِكَ.²⁰ أَمْسِئاً جِئْتَ وَالْيَوْمَ أُتِيهِكَ بِالذَّهَابِ مَعَنَا وَأَنَا أَنْطَلِقُ إِلَى حَيْثُ أَنْطَلِقُ. إِرْجِعْ وَرْجِعْ إِخْوَتَكَ. الرَّحْمَةُ وَالْحَقُّ مَعَكَ.²¹ فَأَجَابَ إِيَّائِي الْمَلِكُ، حَيْثُ هُوَ الرَّبُّ وَحَيْثُ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكُ، إِنَّهُ حَيْثَمَا كَانَ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكُ إِنْ كَانَ لِلْمَوْتِ أَوْ لِلْحَيَاةِ فَهَنَّاكَ يَكُونُ عَبْدُكَ أَيْضاً.²² فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ لِإِيَّائِي، اذْهَبْ وَاعْبُرْ. فَعَبَّرَ إِيَّائِي الْجَبَّتِيُّ وَجَمِيعُ رِجَالِهِ وَجَمِيعُ الْأَطْفَالِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ.²³ وَكَانَتْ جَمِيعُ الْأَرْضِ تَبْكِي بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ وَجَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ يَعْزُرُونَ. وَعَبَّرَ الْمَلِكُ فِي وَادِي قَدْرُونَ وَعَبَّرَ جَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ نَحْوَ طَرِيقِ الْبَرِّيَّةِ.²⁴ وَإِذَا بِصَادُوقَ أَيْضاً وَجَمِيعُ الْلَّوِيِّينَ مَعَهُ يَحْمِلُونَ تَابُوتَ عَهْدِ اللَّهِ. فَوَضَعُوا تَابُوتَ اللَّهِ، وَصَعِدَ أَيْتَانَارُ حَتَّى انْتَهَى جَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ مِنَ الْعُجُورِ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ.²⁵ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِمُصَادُوقَ، إِرْجِعْ تَابُوتَ اللَّهِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ، فَإِنْ وَجَدْتُ نِعْمَةً فِي عَيْنَيِ الرَّبِّ فَإِنَّهُ يَرْجِعُنِي وَبُرَيْنِي إِبَاهُ وَصَسْكَتَهُ.²⁶ وَإِنْ قَالَ، إِيَّائِي لَمْ أَسْرَ بِكَ، فَهَيِّنْهُ. فَلْيَفْعَلْ بِي حَسَبَمَا يَحْسُنُ فِي عَيْنَيْهِ.²⁷ ثُمَّ قَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِمُصَادُوقَ الْكَاهِنِ، أَنْتَ رَأَيْتَ. فَارْجِعْ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ بِسَلَامٍ أَنْتَ وَأَجْمَعُضُ ابْنُكَ وَبُوتَانَانُ بْنُ أَيْتَانَارَ. ابْتَكَمَا كِلَاهُمَا مَعَكُمْ.²⁸ انْطَرُوا. أَنِّي أَتَوَاتِي فِي شَهْوَلِ الْبَرِّيَّةِ حَتَّى تَأْتِيَنِي كَلِمَةٌ مِنْكُمْ لِتُخْبِرَنِي.²⁹ فَارْجِعْ صَادُوقَ وَأَيْتَانَارُ تَابُوتَ اللَّهِ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَأَقَامَا هُنَاكَ.³⁰ وَأَمَّا دَاوُدُ فَصَعِدَ فِي مَصْعَدِ جَبَلِ الرِّثْيُونِ. كَانَ يَصْعَدُ بِأَكِيَا وَرَأْسُهُ مُعْطَلٍ وَيَمْشِي خَافِئاً، وَجَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ عَطَلُوا كُلَّ وَاجِدِ رَأْسِهِ، وَكَانُوا يَصْعَدُونَ وَهُمْ يَبْكُونَ.³¹ وَأَخِيرَ دَاوُدُ إِنْ أَخْبُوتَقَلَ بَيْنَ الْفَانِينِ مَعَ أَبْسَالُومَ، فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ، حَمَقُ يَا رَبُّ مَسُورَةٌ أَخْبُوتَقَلَ.³² وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ دَاوُدُ إِلَى الْقِمَّةِ حَيْثُ سَجَدَ لِلَّهِ، إِذَا بِخُوشَايَ الْأُرْكِيِّ قَدْ لَفِيَهُ مُمَرَّقَ النَّوْبِ وَالْتَرَابُ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ.³³ فَقَالَ لَهُ دَاوُدُ، إِذَا عَبَّرْتَ مَعِي تَكُونُ عَلَيَّ جَمَلاً.³⁴ وَلَكِنْ إِذَا رَجَعْتَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ وَقُلْتَ لِأَبْسَالُومَ، أَنَا أَكُونُ عَبْدُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ. أَنَا عَبْدُ أَبِيكَ مُنْذُ زَمَانٍ وَالْآنَ أَنَا عَبْدُكَ. فَإِنَّكَ تُبْطِلُ لِي مَسُورَةَ أَخْبُوتَقَلَ.³⁵ أَلَيْسَ مَعَكَ هُنَاكَ صَادُوقُ وَأَيْتَانَارُ الْكَاهِنَانِ. فَكُلُّ مَا تَسْمَعُهُ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ فَأَخْبِرْ بِهِ صَادُوقَ وَأَيْتَانَارَ الْكَاهِنَيْنِ.³⁶ هُوَذَا هُنَاكَ مَعَهُمَا ابْنَاهُمَا أَجْمَعُضُ لِمُصَادُوقَ وَبُوتَانَانُ لَأَيْتَانَارَ. فَتُرْسِلُونَ عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمَا إِلَيَّ كُلَّ كَلِمَةٍ تَسْمَعُونَهَا.³⁷ فَأَتَى خُوشَايَ صَاحِبُ دَاوُدَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَبْسَالُومَ يَدْخُلُ أُورُشَلِيمَ.

in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.¹² And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.¹³ And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.¹⁴ And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.¹⁵ And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.¹⁶ And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.¹⁷ And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.¹⁸ And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.¹⁹ Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile.²⁰ Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee.²¹ And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth,

surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.²² And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.²³ And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.²⁴ And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.²⁵ And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation:²⁶ But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.²⁷ The king said also unto Zadok the priest, Art not thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.²⁸ See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.²⁹ Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.³⁰ And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.³¹ And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with

Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.³² And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:³³ Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:³⁴ But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.³⁵ And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.³⁶ Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear.³⁷ So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.