

¹And Benhadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it.²And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad,³Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.⁴And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.⁵And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Benhadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;⁶Yet I will send my servants unto thee to morrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, that whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put it in their hand, and take it away.⁷Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.⁸And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Harken not unto him, nor consent.⁹Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Benhadad, Tell my lord the king, All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do: but this thing I may not do. And the messengers departed, and brought him word again.¹⁰And Benhadad sent unto him, and said, The gods do so unto me, and more

¹وَجَمَعَ بَنَهَادَدُ مَلِكُ أَرَامَ كُلَّ جُنُودِهِ، وَاثْنَيْنِ وَثَلَاثِينَ مَلِكًا مَعَهُ، وَخَيْلًا وَمَرْكَبَاتٍ وَصِيعَدَ وَخَاصِرَ السَّامِرَةِ وَخَارِبَهَا.²وَأَرْسَلَ رُسُلًا إِلَى أَحَابَ مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ وَقَالَ لَهُ، هَكَذَا يَقُولُ بَنَهَادَدُ،³لِي فِضَّتُكَ وَذَهَبُكَ، وَلِي نِسَاؤُكَ وَبَنُوكَ الْجِسَانُ.⁴فَأَجَابَ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ، حَسَبَ قَوْلِكَ يَا سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكُ، أَنَا وَجَمِيعُ مَا لِي لَكَ.⁵فَرَجَعَ الرُّسُلُ وَقَالُوا، هَكَذَا تَكَلَّمَ بَنَهَادَدُ، إِنِّي قَدْ أَرْسَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أَنْ فِضَّتَكَ وَذَهَبَكَ وَنِسَاءَكَ وَبَنِيكَ تُعْطِينِي إِيَّاهُمْ.⁶فَأَنِّي فِي تَحْوِ هَذَا الْوَقْتِ عَدَا أَرْسَلُ عِبِيدِي إِلَيْكَ فَيَقْبِضُونَ بَنِيكَ وَبَنَاتُكَ وَبَنُوتَ عِبِيدِكَ، وَكُلَّ مَا هُوَ شَهِيٍّ فِي عَيْنِكَ يَصْنَعُونَهُ فِي أَيْدِيهِمْ وَيَأْخُذُونَهُ.⁷قَدْ عَا مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ جَمِيعَ شُيُوخِ الْأَرْضِ وَقَالَ، اغْلَمُوا وَانْظُرُوا أَنْ هَذَا يَطْلُبُ الشَّرَّ، لِأَنَّهُ أَرْسَلَ إِلَيَّ يَطْلُبُ نِسَائِي وَبَنِيَّ وَفِضَّتِي وَذَهَبِي وَلَمْ أَمْنَعْهَا عَنْهُ.⁸فَقَالَ لَهُ كُلُّ الشُّيُوخِ وَكُلُّ الشَّعْبِ، لَا تَسْمَعْ لَهُ وَلَا تَقْبَلْ.⁹فَقَالَ لِرُسُلِ بَنَهَادَدَ، قُولُوا لِسَيِّدِي الْمَلِكِ إِنَّ كُلَّ مَا أَرْسَلْتَ فِيهِ إِلَى عَبْدِكَ أَوْ لَا أَفْعَلُهُ، وَأَمَّا هَذَا الْأَمْرُ فَلَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَفْعَلَهُ. فَرَجَعَ الرُّسُلُ وَرَدُّوا عَلَيْهِ الْجَوَابَ.¹⁰فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِ بَنَهَادَدُ وَقَالَ، هَكَذَا تَفْعَلُ بِي الْأَكْهَةُ وَهَكَذَا تَبْرِيذُنِي إِنْ كَانَ ثَرَابُ السَّامِرَةِ يَكْفِي قَبْضَاتٍ لِكُلِّ الشَّعْبِ الَّذِي يَتَّبِعُنِي.¹¹فَأَجَابَ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ، قُولُوا، لَا يَفْتَحِرَنَّ مَنْ يَسُدُّ كَمَنْ يَجَلُّ.¹²فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ وَهُوَ يَسْتَرْبُ مَعَ الْمُلُوكِ فِي الْخِيَامِ قَالَ لِعَبِيدِهِ، اضْطَفُّوا قَاصْطَفُّوا عَلَى الْمَدِينَةِ.¹³وَإِذَا بَنِيَّ تَقَدَّمَ إِلَى أَحَابَ مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَقَالَ، هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، هَلْ رَأَيْتَ كُلَّ هَذَا الْجُمْهُورِ الْعَظِيمِ. هَتَّنَا أَذْفَعُهُ لِيَدِكَ الْيَوْمَ فَتَعْلَمُ أَنِّي أَنَا الرَّبُّ.¹⁴فَقَالَ أَحَابُ، يَمَنْ. فَقَالَ، هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، يَغْلِمَانِ رُؤَسَاءُ الْمُقَاطَعَاتِ. فَقَالَ، مَنْ يَبْتَدِئُ بِالْحَرْبِ. فَقَالَ، أَنْتَ.¹⁵فَعَدَّ غِلْمَانُ رُؤَسَاءِ الْمُقَاطَعَاتِ قَبْلَعُوا مِئَتَيْنِ وَاثْنَيْنِ وَثَلَاثِينَ. وَعَدَّ بَعْدَهُمْ كُلُّ الشَّعْبِ، كُلُّ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، سَبْعَةَ آلَافٍ.¹⁶وَحَرَّجُوا عِنْدَ الظَّهْرِ وَبَنَهَادَدُ يَسْتَرْبُ وَيَسْكُرُ فِي الْخِيَامِ هُوَ وَالْمُلُوكُ الْإِثْنَانِ وَالثَّلَاثُونَ الَّذِينَ سَاعَدُوهُ.¹⁷فَخَرَجَ غِلْمَانُ رُؤَسَاءِ الْمُقَاطَعَاتِ أَوَّلًا. وَأَرْسَلَ بَنَهَادَدُ قَاصِبَرُوهُ، قَدْ حَرَّجَ رِجَالٌ مِنَ السَّامِرَةِ.¹⁸فَقَالَ، إِنْ كَانُوا قَدْ حَرَّجُوا لِلسَّلَامِ فَأَمْسِكُوهُمْ أَحْيَاءً، وَإِنْ كَانُوا قَدْ حَرَّجُوا لِلْقِتَالِ فَأَمْسِكُوهُمْ أَحْيَاءً.¹⁹فَخَرَجَ غِلْمَانُ رُؤَسَاءِ الْمُقَاطَعَاتِ هَؤُلَاءِ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ هُمْ وَالْجَيْشُ الَّذِي وَرَاءَهُمْ²⁰وَصَرَبَ

also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.¹¹ And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.¹² And it came to pass, when Benhadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set yourselves in array. And they set themselves in array against the city.¹³ And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.¹⁴ And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.¹⁵ Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.¹⁶ And they went out at noon. But Benhadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.¹⁷ And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Benhadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of Samaria.¹⁸ And he said, Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.¹⁹ So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed

كُلُّ رَجُلٍ رَجُلَهُ، فَهَرَبَ الْأَرَامِيُّونَ وَطَارَدَهُمْ إِسْرَائِيلُ، وَتَجَا بَنَهَادَدُ مَلِكَ أَرَامَ عَلَى قَرَسٍ مَعَ الْفُرْسَانِ.²¹ وَخَرَجَ مَلِكَ إِسْرَائِيلَ قَصْرَ الْخَيْلِ وَالْمَرْكَبَاتِ، وَصَرَبَ أَرَامَ صَرْبَةً عَظِيمَةً.²² فَتَقَدَّمَ السَّيِّئُ إِلَى مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَقَالَ لَهُ، اذْهَبْ تَسَدِّدْ، وَاعْلَمْ وَأَنْظُرْ مَا تَفْعَلُ. لِأَنَّهُ عِنْدَ تَمَامِ السَّنَةِ يَصْعَدُ عَلَيْكَ مَلِكُ أَرَامَ.²³ وَأَمَّا عَبِيدُ مَلِكِ أَرَامَ فَقَالُوا لَهُ، إِنَّ آلِهَتَهُمْ آلَهُةُ جِبَالٍ، لِذَلِكَ قُوُوا عَلَيْنَا. وَلَكِنْ إِذَا خَارْتَاهُمْ فِي السَّهْلِ فَإِنَّا نَقْوَى عَلَيْهِمْ.²⁴ وَافْعَلْ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ، اغْزِلِ الْمُلُوكَ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْ مَكَانِهِ، وَصَعْ فُؤَاداً مَكَاتَهُمْ.²⁵ وَأَخْصِ لِنَفْسِكَ جَيْشاً كَالْجَيْشِ الَّذِي سَقَطَ مِنْكَ قَرَساً يَفْرِسُ وَمَرْكَبَةً يَمْرُكِبُهُ، فَتُحَارِبَهُمْ فِي السَّهْلِ وَتَقْوَى عَلَيْهِمْ. فَسَمِعَ لِقَوْلِهِمْ وَفَعَلَ كَذَلِكَ.²⁶ وَعِنْدَ تَمَامِ السَّنَةِ عَدَّ بَنَهَادَدُ الْأَرَامِيِّينَ وَصَعِدَ إِلَى أَفِيقَ لِيُحَارِبَ إِسْرَائِيلَ.²⁷ وَأَخْصَى بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَتَرَوَّدُوا وَسَارُوا لِلِقَائِهِمْ. فَتَرَلَ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ مُقَابِلَهُمْ تَطِيرَ قَطِيعَيْنِ صَغِيرَيْنِ مِنَ الْبَعَرَى. وَأَمَّا الْأَرَامِيُّونَ فَمَلَأُوا الْأَرْضَ.²⁸ فَتَقَدَّمَ رَجُلُ اللَّهِ وَقَالَ لِمَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنَّ الْأَرَامِيِّينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ الرَّبَّ إِلَهُ جِبَالٍ وَلَيْسَ إِلَهُ أَوْدِيَةٍ، أَذْفَعُ كُلَّ هَذَا الْجُمْهُورِ الْعَظِيمِ لِيَدِكَ، فَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنِّي أَنَا الرَّبُّ.²⁹ فَتَرَلَ هَؤُلَاءِ مُقَابِلَ أَوْلِيكَ سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ السَّابِعِ اسْتَبَكَتِ الْحَرْبُ، فَصَرَبَ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْأَرَامِيِّينَ مِئَةَ أَلْفٍ رَجُلٍ فِي يَوْمٍ وَاحِدٍ.³⁰ وَهَرَبَ الْبَاقُونَ إِلَى أَفِيقَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ، وَسَقَطَ السُّورُ عَلَى السَّبْعَةِ وَالْعِشْرِينَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ الْبَاقِينَ. وَهَرَبَ بَنَهَادَدُ وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ مِنْ مَخْدَعٍ إِلَى مَخْدَعٍ.³¹ فَقَالَ لَهُ عَبِيدُهُ، إِنَّمَا قَدْ سَمِعْنَا أَنَّ مُلُوكَ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ هُمْ مُلُوكُ خَلِيمُونَ، فَلْتَصْغْ مُشُوحاً عَلَى أَحْقَانِنَا وَجِبَالاً عَلَى رُؤُوسِنَا وَتَخْرُجْ إِلَى مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ لَعَلَّهُ يُخَيِّي نَفْسَكَ.³² فَسَدُّوا مُشُوحاً عَلَى أَحْقَانِهِمْ وَجِبَالاً عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِمْ وَأَتَوْا إِلَى مَلِكِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَقَالُوا، يَقُولُ عَبْدُكَ بَنَهَادَدُ، لِيُخَيِّي نَفْسِي. فَقَالَ، أَهْوَ حَيٌّ بَعْدُ. هُوَ أَحْيٍ. فَتَقَاعَلَ الرِّجَالُ وَاسْرَعُوا وَلَجُّوا هَلْ هُوَ مِنْهُ. وَقَالُوا، أَخُوكَ بَنَهَادَدُ. فَقَالَ، اذْخُلُوا خُدُّهُ فَخَرَجَ إِلَيْهِ بَنَهَادَدُ فَاصْعَدَهُ إِلَى الْمَرْكَبَةِ.³⁴ وَقَالَ لَهُ، إِنِّي أُرِدُّ الْمُدْنَ الَّتِي أَخَذَهَا أَبِي مِنْ أَبِيكَ، وَتَجْعَلَ لِنَفْسِكَ أَسْوَاقاً فِي دِمَشْقٍ كَمَا جَعَلَ أَبِي فِي السَّامِرَةِ. فَقَالَ، وَأَنَا أَطْلُقُكَ بِهَذَا الْعَهْدِ. فَقَطَعَ لَهُ عَهْداً وَأَطْلَقَهُ.³⁵ وَإِنَّ رَجُلًا مِنْ بَنِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ، عَنْ أَمْرِ الرَّبِّ اصْرَبْنِي. فَأَبَى الرَّجُلُ أَنْ يَصْرِبَهُ.³⁶ فَقَالَ لَهُ، مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنَّكَ لَمْ تَسْمَعْ

them.²⁰ And they slew every one his man: and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them: and Benhadad the king of Syria escaped on an horse with the horsemen.²¹ And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter.²² And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee.²³ And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.²⁴ And do this thing, Take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put captains in their rooms.²⁵ And number thee an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot: and we will fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. And he hearkened unto their voice, and did so.²⁶ And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Benhadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel.²⁷ And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country.²⁸ And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into

لِقَوْلِ الرَّبِّ فَجِيئًا تَذْهَبُ مِنْ عِنْدِي يَقْتُلُكَ أَسَدٌ. وَلَمَّا ذَهَبَ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ لَفِيَهُ أَسَدٌ وَقَتْلُهُ.³⁷ ثُمَّ صَادَفَ رَجُلًا آخَرَ فَقَالَ، اضْرِبْنِي. فَصَرَبَهُ الرَّجُلُ صَرْبَةً فَجَرَحَهُ.³⁸ فَذَهَبَ النَّبِيُّ وَانْطَرَى الْمَلِكُ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ، وَتَكَرَّرَ بِعِصَابَةٍ عَلَى عَيْنَيْهِ.³⁹ وَلَمَّا عَبَرَ الْمَلِكُ تَادَى الْمَلِكُ، حَرَجَ عَبْدُكَ إِلَى وَسْطِ الْقِتَالِ، وَإِذَا بِرَجُلٍ مَالٍ وَأَتَى إِلَيَّ بِرَجُلٍ وَقَالَ، اخْطُطْ هَذَا الرَّجُلَ. وَإِنْ قُفِدَ تَكُونُ نَفْسُكَ بِدَلِّ نَفْسِهِ، أَوْ تَدْفَعُ وَرَثَةً مِنَ الْفِصَّةِ.⁴⁰ وَفِيمَا عَبْدُكَ مُسْتَعِلٌ هُنَا وَهُنَاكَ إِذَا هُوَ مَفْقُودٌ. فَقَالَ لَهُ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ، هَكَذَا حُكْمُكَ. أَنْتَ قَصَيْتَ.⁴¹ فَبَادَرَ وَرَفَعَ الْعِصَابَةَ عَنْ عَيْنَيْهِ فَعَرَفَهُ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ.⁴² فَقَالَ لَهُ، هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، لِأَنَّكَ أَفْلَكْتَ مِنْ يَدِكَ رَجُلًا قَدْ حَرَمْتُهُ، تَكُونُ نَفْسُكَ بِدَلِّ نَفْسِهِ، وَشَعْبُكَ بِدَلِّ شَعْبِهِ.⁴³ فَمَضَى مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُكْتَتِبًا مَعْمُومًا وَجَاءَ إِلَى السَّامِرَةِ.

thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.²⁹ And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day.³⁰ But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.³¹ And his servants said unto him, Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings: let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel: peradventure he will save thy life.³² So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Benhadad saith, I pray thee, let me live. And he said, Is he yet alive? he is my brother.³³ Now the men did diligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it : and they said, Thy brother Benhadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Benhadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.³⁴ And Benhadad said unto him, The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. Then said Ahab , I will send thee away with this covenant. So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.³⁵ And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man

refused to smite him.³⁶ Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.³⁷ Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him.³⁸ So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face.³⁹ And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.⁴⁰ And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it.⁴¹ And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets.⁴² And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.⁴³ And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.