

¹And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.²And 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 Zeruiah, 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.³But 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.⁴And 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.⁵And 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.⁶So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;⁷Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men.⁸For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.⁹And 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

¹وَأَحْصَى دَاوُدُ الشَّعْبَ الَّذِي مَعَهُ، وَجَعَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ رُؤَسَاءَ الْوَيْ وَرُؤَسَاءَ مِائَاتٍ.²وَأَرْسَلَ دَاوُدُ الشَّعْبَ ثُلَاثًا بِيَدِ يُوَابَ وَثُلَاثًا بِيَدِ أَبِيشَايَ ابْنِ صَرْوِيَةَ أَحِي يُوَابَ وَثُلَاثًا بِيَدِ إِيَّتَائِي الْجَتِّيِّ. وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِلشَّعْبِ، إِنِّي أَنَا أَيْضًا أَخْرُجُ مَعَكُمْ.³فَقَالَ الشَّعْبُ، لَا تَخْرُجْ، لِأَنَّا إِذَا هَرَبْنَا لَا يُبَالُونَ بِنَا، وَإِذَا مَاتَ نِصْفُنَا لَا يُبَالُونَ بِنَا. وَالْآنَ أَنْتَ كَعَشْرَةِ آلَافٍ مِئًا. وَالْآنَ الْأَصْلَحُ أَنْ تَكُونَ لَنَا نَجْدَةً مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ.⁴فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلِكُ، مَا يَحْسُنُ فِي أَعْيُنِكُمْ أَفْعَلُهُ. فَوَقَفَ الْمَلِكُ بِجَانِبِ الْبَابِ وَخَرَجَ جَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ مِائَاتٍ وَأُلُوفًا.⁵وَأَوْصَى الْمَلِكُ يُوَابَ وَأَبِيشَايَ وَإِيَّتَائِي، تَرَفَّقُوا لِي بِالْقَتْلِ أُنْشَالُومَ. وَسَمِعَ جَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ حِينَ أَوْصَى الْمَلِكُ جَمِيعَ الرُّؤَسَاءِ بِأُنْشَالُومَ. وَخَرَجَ الشَّعْبُ إِلَى الْحَقْلِ لِلِقَاءِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. وَكَانَ الْقِتَالُ فِي وَغْرِ أَفْرَايِمَ،⁷فَانْكَسَرَ هُنَاكَ شَعْبُ إِسْرَائِيلَ أَمَامَ عَيْدِ دَاوُدَ، وَكَانَتْ هُنَاكَ مَقْتَلَةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ. قُتِلَ عِشْرُونَ أَلْفًا.⁸وَكَانَ الْقِتَالُ هُنَاكَ مُنْشِرًا عَلَى وَجْهِ كُلِّ الْأَرْضِ، وَرَادَ الَّذِينَ أَكَلَهُمُ الْوُغْرُ مِنَ الشَّعْبِ عَلَى الَّذِينَ أَكَلَهُمُ السَّيْفُ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ.⁹وَصَادَفَ أُنْشَالُومَ عَيْدُ دَاوُدَ، وَكَانَ أُنْشَالُومَ رَاكِبًا عَلَى بَعْلٍ، فَدَخَلَ الْبَعْلُ تَحْتَ أَغْصَانِ الْبُطْمَةِ الْعَظِيمَةِ الْمُتَلَفَّةِ، فَتَعَلَّقَ رَأْسُهُ بِالْبُطْمَةِ وَغُلِقَ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، وَالْبَعْلُ الَّذِي تَحْتَهُ مَرَّ.¹⁰فَرَأَهُ رَجُلٌ وَأَخْبَرَ يُوَابَ، إِنِّي قَدْ رَأَيْتُ أُنْشَالُومَ مُعْلَقًا بِالْبُطْمَةِ.¹¹فَقَالَ يُوَابُ لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي أَخْبَرَهُ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ رَأَيْتَهُ، فَلِمَاذَا لَمْ تَضْرِبْهُ هُنَاكَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَعَلَيَّ أَنْ أُعْطِيَكَ عَشْرَةَ مِنَ الْفِصَّةِ وَمِنْطَقَةً.¹²فَقَالَ الرَّجُلُ لِيُوَابَ، فَلَوْ وَرَبٌّ فِي يَدِي أَلْفُ مِنَ الْفِصَّةِ لَمَا كُنْتُ أَمُدُّ يَدِي إِلَى ابْنِ الْمَلِكِ، لِأَنَّ الْمَلِكَ أَوْصَاكَ فِي آدَائِنَا أَنْتَ وَأَبِيشَايَ وَإِيَّتَائِي قَائِلًا، اخْتَرُوا أَبَا كَانٍ مِنْكُمْ عَلَى الْقَتْلِ أُنْشَالُومَ.¹³وَالَا فَكُنْتُ فَعَلْتُ بِنَفْسِي زُورًا، إِذْ لَا يَخْفَى عَنِ الْمَلِكِ شَيْءٌ، وَأَنْتَ كُنْتَ وَقَفْتَ ضِدِّي.¹⁴فَقَالَ يُوَابُ، إِنِّي لَا أَضِيرُ هَكَذَا أَمَامَكَ. فَأَخَذَ ثَلَاثَةَ سِهَامٍ بِيَدِهِ وَتَشَّهَى فِي قَلْبِ أُنْشَالُومَ وَهُوَ بَعْدُ حَيٌّ فِي قَلْبِ الْبُطْمَةِ،¹⁵وَأَخَاطَ بِهَا عَشْرَةَ غُلْمَانٍ حَامِلُو سِلَاحِ يُوَابَ وَضَرَبُوا أُنْشَالُومَ وَأَمَاتُوهُ.¹⁶وَضَرَبَ يُوَابُ بِالْبُوقِ فَرَجَعَ الشَّعْبُ عَنْ اتِّبَاعِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، لِأَنَّ يُوَابَ مَتَعَ الشَّعْبَ.¹⁷وَأَخَذُوا أُنْشَالُومَ وَطَرَحُوهُ فِي الْوُغْرِ فِي الْجُبِّ الْعَظِيمِ وَأَقَامُوا عَلَيْهِ رُجْمَةً عَظِيمَةً جَدًّا مِنَ الْجَزَارَةِ. وَهَرَبَ كُلُّ إِسْرَائِيلَ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى

heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.¹⁰ And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³ Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.¹⁶ And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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

حَيْمَتِهِ.¹⁸ وَكَانَ أَبْسَالُومُ قَدْ أَخَذَ وَأَقَامَ لِنَفْسِهِ وَهُوَ حَيٌّ التَّصَبُّ الَّذِي فِي وَادِي الْمَلِكِ، لِأَنَّهُ قَالَ، لَيْسَ لِي ابْنٌ لِأَجْلِ تَذْكِيرِ اسْمِي. وَدَعَا التَّصَبُّ بِاسْمِهِ، وَهُوَ يُدْعَى بَدَ أَبْسَالُومُ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ.¹⁹ وَقَالَ أَحِيَمَعَصُ بْنُ صَادُوقَ، دَعْنِي أَجْرُ قَاتِلِ ابْنِ الْمَلِكِ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ انْتَقَمَ لَهُ مِنْ أَعْدَائِهِ.²⁰ فَقَالَ لَهُ يُوآبُ، مَا أَنْتَ صَاحِبُ بَشَارَةٍ فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ. فِي يَوْمٍ آخَرَ تُبَشِّرُ، وَهَذَا الْيَوْمَ لَا تُبَشِّرُ مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنَّ ابْنَ الْمَلِكِ قَدْ مَاتَ.²¹ وَقَالَ يُوآبُ لِكُوشِي، اذْهَبْ وَأَخْبِرِ الْمَلِكَ بِمَا رَأَيْتَ. فَسَجَدَ كُوشِي لِيُوآبَ وَرَكَضَ.²² وَغَادَ أَيْضاً أَحِيَمَعَصُ بْنُ صَادُوقَ فَقَالَ لِيُوآبَ، مَهْمَا كَانَ فَدَعْنِي أَجْرُ أَنَا أَيْضاً وَرَاءَ كُوشِي. فَقَالَ يُوآبُ، لِمَاذَا تَجْرِي أَنْتَ يَا ابْنِي وَلَيْسَ لَكَ بَشَارَةٌ تُجَارَى.²³ قَالَ، مَهْمَا كَانَ أَجْرِي. فَقَالَ لَهُ، اجْرِ. فَجَرَى أَحِيَمَعَصُ فِي طَرِيقِ الْغُورِ وَسَبَقَ كُوشِي.²⁴ وَكَانَ دَاوُدُ جَالِساً بَيْنَ الْبَابَيْنِ، وَطَلَعَ الرَّقِيبُ إِلَى سَطْحِ الْبَابِ إِلَى السُّورِ وَرَفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ وَتَطَرَّ وَإِذَا يَرْجُلُ يَجْرِي وَخَذَهُ.²⁵ فَتَادَى الرَّقِيبُ وَأَخْبَرَ الْمَلِكَ. فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، إِنَّ كَانَ وَخَذَهُ فَبِي قِيمَةٍ بَشَارَةٌ. وَكَانَ يَسْعَى وَيَقْرُبُ.²⁶ ثُمَّ رَأَى الرَّقِيبُ رَجُلًا آخَرَ يَجْرِي، فَتَادَى الرَّقِيبُ التَّيَّابَ وَقَالَ، هَؤُلَاءِ رَجُلٌ يَجْرِي وَخَذَهُ. فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، وَهَذَا أَيْضاً مُبَشِّرُ.²⁷ وَقَالَ الرَّقِيبُ، إِنِّي أَرَى آرِي خَرِي الْأَوَّلَ كَجَرِي أَحِيَمَعَصُ بْنُ صَادُوقَ. فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، هَذَا رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ وَيَأْتِي بِبَشَارَةٍ صَالِحَةٍ.²⁸ فَتَادَى أَحِيَمَعَصُ وَقَالَ لِلْمَلِكِ، السَّلَامُ. وَسَجَدَ لِلْمَلِكِ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ. وَقَالَ، مُبَارَكُ الرَّبِّ إِلَهُكَ الَّذِي دَفَعَ الْقَوْمَ الَّذِينَ رَفَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَلَيَّ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكِ.²⁹ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، أَسْلَامٌ لِلْقَتْلِ أَبْسَالُومَ. فَقَالَ أَحِيَمَعَصُ، قَدْ رَأَيْتُ جُمُهوراً عَظِيماً عِنْدَ إِرسَالِ يُوآبَ عَبْدَ الْمَلِكِ وَعَبْدَكَ، وَلَمْ أَعْلَمْ مَاذَا.³⁰ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، ذُرْ وَفَقْ هَهُنَا. فَذَارَ وَوَقَفَ.³¹ وَإِذَا يَكُوشِي قَدْ أَتَى، وَقَالَ كُوشِي، لَيْبَشِّرُ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكُ لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ انْتَقَمَ لَكَ الْيَوْمَ مِنْ جَمِيعِ الْقَائِمِينَ عَلَيْكَ.³² فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِكُوشِي، أَسْلَامٌ لِلْقَتْلِ أَبْسَالُومَ. فَقَالَ كُوشِي، لَيْكُنْ كَالْقَتْلِ أَعْدَاءَ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكِ وَجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ قَامُوا عَلَيْكَ لِلبَشَرِ.³³ فَانْرَعْجَ الْمَلِكُ وَصَعِدَ إِلَى غُلْبَةِ الْبَابِ وَكَانَ يَبْكِي وَيَقُولُ وَهُوَ يَتَمَسَّسُ، يَا ابْنِي أَبْسَالُومُ، يَا ابْنِي يَا ابْنِي. أَبْسَالُومُ، يَا لَيْتَنِي مِتُّ عَوَضاً عَنْكَ. يَا أَبْسَالُومُ ابْنِي يَا ابْنِي.

this day, Absalom's place.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.²¹ Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.²² Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?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 Cush.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, Cush came; and Cush said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.³² And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.³³ 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!