

left from following Avner.

|20| Then Avner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am.

|21| And Avner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the ne'arim, and capture thee his armor. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

|22| And Avner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me; why should I strike thee to the ground? How then should I hold up my face to Yoav achicha?

|23| Howbeit he refused to turn aside; therefore Avner with the butt end of the khanit struck him under the fifth rib, that the khanit came out his back; and he fell down there, and died in the same place; and it came to pass, that as many as came to the makom where Asahel fell down and died, stopped.

|24| Yoav also and Avishai pursued after Avner; and the shemesh went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that lieth before Giach by the derech midbar Giveon.

|25| And the Bnei Binyamin gathered themselves together after Avner, and became aguddah echat (one unit), and stood on the top of one hill.

|26| Then Avner called to Yoav, and said, Shall the cherev devour lanetzach (forever)? Knowest thou not that it will be marah in the latter end? Ad mosai shall it be then, until thou bid the people return from pursuing their brethren?

|27| And Yoav said, As HaElohim liveth, if thou hadst not spoken, HaAm would have continued every one following his brother, not stopping until haboker.

|28| So Yoav blew a

shofar, and kol haAm stood still, and pursued after Yisroel no more, neither fought they any more.

|29| And Avner and his anashim marched kol halailah through the Aravah, and passed over Yarden, and went through all Bitron, and they came to Machanayim.

|30| And Yoav returned from following Avner; and when he had gathered kol HaAm together, there lacked of Dovid's avadim nineteen ish and Asahel.

|31| But the avadim of Dovid had struck down of Binyamin, and of anshei Avner, so that three hundred and threescore ish died.

|32| And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the kever of aviv, which was in Beit-Lechem. And Yoav and his men marched kol halailah, and they came to Chevron at dawn.

**3** Now there was long milchamah between the Bais Sha'ul and the Bais Dovid; but Dovid grew stronger and stronger, and the Bais Sha'ul grew weaker and weaker.

|2| And unto Dovid were banim born in Chevron; and his bechor was Amnon, of Achinoam the Yizre'elit;

|3| And his second, Kile'av, of Avigal eshet Naval the Carmeli; and the third, Avshalom ben Maachah bat Talmai Melech Geshur;

|4| And the fourth, Adoniyah Ben Chaggit; and the fifth, Shephatyah Ben Avital;

|5| And the sixth, Yitre'am, by Eglah eshet Dovid. These were born to Dovid in Chevron.

|6| And it came to pass, while there was milchamah between the Bais Sha'ul and the Bais Dovid, that Avner was strengthening his grip on the Bais Sha'ul.

|7| And Sha'ul had a pilegesh (concubine), whose shem was Ritzpah Bat Ayah; and he [Ishboshet] said to Avner, why hast thou gone in unto pilegesh avi?

|8| Then was Avner very angry at the devarim of Ishboshet, and said, Am I Yehudah's rosh kelev? Today do I show chesed unto the Bais Sha'ul avicha, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the yad Dovid, and then thou chargest me today with an avon concerning this isha?

|9| So do Elohim to Avner, and more also! As Hashem hath sworn to Dovid, even so I do for him [Dovid];

|10| To transfer the Mamlachah from the Bais Sha'ul, and to set up the Kisse Dovid over Yisroel and over Yehudah, from Dan even to Beer-Sheva.

|11| And he could not answer Avner a davar again, because he feared him.

|12| And Avner sent malachim to Dovid on his behalf, saying, Whose is the erez? Saying also, Cut thy brit with me, and, hinei, my yad shall be with thee, to bring about kol Yisroel unto thee.

|13| And he [Dovid] said Tov; I will make a brit with thee; but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Bat Sha'ul, when thou comest to see my face.

|14| And Dovid sent malachim to Ishboshet Ben Sha'ul, saying, Deliver ishti Michal, which I took in erusin to me for a hundred arlot (foreskins) of the Pelishtim (Philistines).

|15| And Ishboshet sent, and took her from her ish, even from Phaltiel Ben Layish.

|16| And her ish went with her going along