

abide with HaMelech; for thou art a nokhri (foreigner), and also an exile.

[20] Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee wander about with us? Seeing I go to where I may, shuv (return thou), and take back thy brethren; chesed and emes be with thee.

[21] And Ittai answered HaMelech, and said, As Hashem liveth, and as adoni HaMelech liveth, surely in what makom adoni HaMelech shall be, whether in mavet or chayyim, even there also will thy eved be [*Ruth 1:17*].

[22] And Dovid said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gitti passed over, and all his anashim, and all the little ones that were with him.

[23] And kol ha'arezt wept with a kol gadol (loud voice), and kol haAm crossed over; HaMelech also himself crossed over the brook Kidron, and kol haAm crossed over, toward the derech of the midbar.

[24] And hinei Tzadok also, and all the Levi'im were with him, bearing the Aron Brit HaElohim; and they set down the Aron HaElohim; and Evyatar (Abiathar) went up, until kol haAm had done passing out of the Ir.

[25] And HaMelech said unto Tzadok, Carry back the Aron HaElohim into the Ir; if I shall find chen (grace) in the eyes of Hashem, He will bring me again, and show me both Him, and His habitation;

[26] But if He thus say, I have no delight in thee; hinei, here am I, let Him do to me as seemeth tov unto Him.

[27] HaMelech said also unto Tzadok HaKohen, Art not thou the Ro'eh (seer)? Return into the Ir in shalom, and your two banim with you, Achima'atz binecha, and

Yonatan Ben Evyatar (Abiathar).

[28] See, I will tarry in the fords of the wilderness, until there come davar from you to inform me.

[29] Tzadok therefore and Evyatar (Abiathar) carried the Aron HaElohim back to Yerushalayim; and they tarried there.

[30] And Dovid went up by the ascent of Ma'aleh HaZeitim (Mount of Olives), and wept as he went up, and had his rosh covered, and he went barefoot; and kol haAm with him covered every ish his rosh, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

[31] And one told Dovid, saying, Achitophel is among the conspirators with Avshalom. And Dovid said, Hashem, turn now the etza (counsel) of Achitophel into foolishness.

[32] And it came to pass, that when Dovid was come to the top of the mount, where he worshiped Elohim, hinei, Chushai the Arki came to meet him with his kesones torn, and adamah upon his rosh;

[33] Unto whom Dovid said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a massa (burden) unto me;

[34] But if thou return to the Ir, and say unto Avshalom, I will be thy eved, O melech; as I have been eved avicha hitherto, so will I now also be thy eved; then mayest thou for me bring to nought the etza (counsel) of Achitophel.

[35] And hast thou not there with thee Tzadok and Evyatar (Abiathar) the kohanim? Therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the Bais HaMelech, thou shalt tell it to Tzadok and Evyatar (Abiathar) the kohanim.

[36] Hinei, they have there with them their two banim, Achima'atz son of Tzadok, and Yonatan of Evyatar; by them ye shall send unto me everything that ye can hear. [37] So Chushai the re'eh Dovid came into the Ir, and Avshalom came into Yerushalayim.

16 And when Dovid was a little past the top of the hill, hinei, Tziva the na'ar of Mephistoshet met him, with a couple of chamorim saddled, and upon them 200 lechem, and 100 bunches of tzimmukim, and 100 kayitz, and a skin of yayin.

[2] And HaMelech said unto Tziva, What meanest thou by these? And Tziva said, The chamorim are for the Bais HaMelech to ride on; and the lechem and kayitz for the ne'arim to eat; and the yayin, that such as be faint in the midbar may drink.

[3] And HaMelech said, And where is the ben adoneicha [*i.e., Saul grandson Mephistoshet*]? And Tziva said unto HaMelech, Hinei, he abideth at Yerushalayim; for he said, Today shall Bais Yisroel restore to me the mamlechut avi.

[4] Then said HaMelech to Tziva, Hinei, thine are all that pertained unto Mephistoshet. Tziva said, I humbly prostrate myself. May I find chen in thy sight, adoni, O Melech.

[5] When Dovid HaMelech came to Bachurim, hinei, from there came out an ish of the mishpakhat Bais Sha'ul; shmo Shimei Ben Cera; and he, cursing continuously, came.

[6] And he cast avanim (stones) at Dovid, and at all the avadim of Dovid HaMelech; and at kol haAm and at all the Gibborim that were on