

AB AHLULELI

Isahluko: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
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ISAHLUKO 1

Kwathi emva kokufa kukaJoshuwa abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bambuza uJehova, bathi: “Ngubani phakathi kwethu oyakusikhuphukelela kuwo amaKhanani kuqala ukulwa nawo na?”

² UJehova wathi: “Kuyakukhuphuka uJuda; bheka, ngilnikele izwe esandleni sakhe.”

³ UJuda wayesethi kuSimeyoni umfowabo: “Khuphuka nami, siye esabelweni sami, silwe namaKhanani, nami ngiye esabelweni sakho.” USimeyoni wayesehamba naye.

⁴ UJuda wakhuphuka; uJehova wanikela esandleni sabo amaKhanani namaPherizi, babulala kuwo abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi eBezeki.

⁵ EBezeki bafumana u-Adoni Bezeki, balwa naye, bawabulala amaKhanani namaPherizi.

⁶ Kepha u-Adoni Bezeki wabaleka; bamxosha, bambamba, bamnquma izithupha nawoqukula.

⁷ Wayesethi u-Adoni Bezeki: “Amakhosi angamashumi ayisikhombisa enqunyiwe izithupha nawoqukula acosha ukudla kwawo phansi kwetafula lami; njengalokho ngenzile, kanjalo uNkulunkulu uphindisele kimi.” Bamyisa eJerusalema, wafela khona.

⁸ Abantwana bakwaJuda balwa neJerusalema, balithatha, balichitha ngosiko lwenkemba, bathungela umuzi ngomlilo.

⁹ Ngasemuva behla abantwana bakwaJuda ukuba balwe namaKhanani ayakhe ezintabeni, nangaseningizimu, nasenzansi.

¹⁰ UJuda wayesehlasela amaKhanani ayakhe eHebroni igama leHebroni laliyiKiryati Araba kuqala babulala oSheshayi, no-Ahimani, noTalimayi.

¹¹ Wasuka lapho, waya kwabakhe eDebiri; igama leDebiri laliyiKiryati Seferi kuqala.

¹² UKalebi wathi: “Onqoba iKiryati Seferi, alithathe, yena ngiyakumnika u-Akisa indodakazi yami abe ngumkakhe.”

¹³ U-Otheniyeli indodana kaKenazi, umnawe kaKalebi, walithatha; wayesemnika u-Akisa indodakazi yakhe abe ngumkakhe.

¹⁴ Kwathi ekufikeni kwakhe wamnxusa ukuba acele insimu kuyise; wehla embongolweni yakhe; uKalebi wathi kuye: “Ukhala ngani?”

¹⁵ Wathi kuye: “Ngiphe isipho; lokhu unginike izwe laseningizimu ngiphe nemithombo yamanzi.” UKalebi wamupha imithombo yasenhla nemithombo yasenzansi.

¹⁶ Abantwana bomKheni umukhwe kaMose benyuka emzini wamasundu nabantwana bakwaJuda, baya ehlane lakwaJuda elingaseningizimu kwase-Aradi; baya bakha nabantu bakhona.

- ¹⁷ UJuda wahamba noSimeyoni umfowabo, bachitha amaKhanani ayakhe eSefati, baliqothula. Igama lomuzi laliyiHorma.
- ¹⁸ UJuda wathatha iGaza nomkhawulo walo, ne-Ashikeloni nomkhawulo walo, ne-Ekroni nomkhawulo walo.
- ¹⁹ UJehova wayenaye uJuda, waxosha abasezintabeni; wayengenakuxosha kodwa abakhe esigodini, lokhu bebenezinqola zensimbi.
- ²⁰ Bamnika uKalebi iHebroni, njengalokho ebekhulumile uMose; waxosha khona amadodana amathathu ka-Anaki.
- ²¹ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini abawaxoshanga amaJebusi ayakhe eJerusalema, kepha amaJebusi ahlala nabantwana bakwaBenjamini eJerusalema kuze kube namuhla.
- ²² Kwenyukela eBethela nabendlu kaJosefa; uJehova wayenabo.
- ²³ Abendlu kaJosefa bathuma bahlola iBethela; igama lomuzi laliyiLuze kuqala.
- ²⁴ Zase zibona izinhlobo umuntu ephuma emzini, zathi kuye: “Ake usikhombise intuba yokungena emzini, siyakukwenzela umusa.”
- ²⁵ Wazikhombisa intuba yokungena emzini, zawuchitha umuzi ngosiko lwenkamba; kepha zamvumela lowo muntu nomndeni wakhe ukuba bahambe.
- ²⁶ Lowo muntu wayesengena ezweni lamaHeti, wakha umuzi, waqamba igama lawo ngokuthi iLuze okuyigama lawo kuze kube namuhla.
- ²⁷ UManase akaxoshanga abaseBeti Sheyani nemizana yalo, nabaseThahanaki nemizana yalo, nabakhe eDori nemizana yalo, nabakhe eJibileyamu nemizana yalo, nabakhe eMegido nemizana yalo; amaKhanani aphumelela ukuhlala kulelo zwe.
- ²⁸ Kwathi u-Israyeli esenamandla, bawasebenzisa amaKhanani, kepha abawaxoshanga nokuwaxosha.
- ²⁹ Naye u-Efrayimi akaxoshanga amaKhanani ayakhe eGezeri; kepha amaKhanani ahlala phakathi kwabo eGezeri.
- ³⁰ UZebuloni akaxoshanga abakhe eKitroni, nabakhe eNahaloli; kepha amaKhanani ahlala phakathi kwabo, asetshenziswa.
- ³¹ U-Asheri akaxoshanga abakhe e-Ako, nabakhe eSidoni, nase-Ahlabi, nase-Akizibi, naseHelba, nase-Afiki, naseRehobe;
- ³² kepha ama-Asheri ahlala phakathi kwamaKhanani ayakhe kulelo zwe, ngokuba abawaxoshanga.
- ³³ UNafetali akaxoshanga abakhe eBeti Shemeshi nabakhe eBeti Anati, kepha wahlala phakathi kwamaKhanani ayakhe kulelo zwe; kodwa abakhe eBeti Shemeshi naseBeti Anati basetshenziswa yibo.
- ³⁴ Ama-Amori adudulela abantwana bakwaDani ezintabeni, ngokuba awabavumelanga ukwehlela esigodini.
- ³⁵ Kepha ama-Amori aphumelela ukuhlala entabeni yaseHeresi, nase-Ajaloni, naseShahalabimi; kodwa isandla sendlu kaJosefa sahlula, aze asetshenziswa.
- ³⁶ Umkhawulo wama-Amori wasukela ekwenyukeni kwe-Akarabimi naseSela, waya ngenhla njalo.

ISAHLUKO 2

Ingelosi kaJehova yakhuphuka eGiligali, yaya eBokimi. Yathi: “Nganikhuphula eGibithe, nginilethile ezweni engalifungela oyihlo; ngathi: ‘Angisoze ngaphula kuze kube phakade isivumelwano sami nani,

- ² kepha aniyikwenza sivumelwano nabakhe kuleli zwe; niyakudiliza ama-altare abo.' Kodwa anililalelanga izwi lami. Nenzeleni lokho na?
- ³ Ngalokho ngithi manje: Angiyikubaxosha phambi kwenu, kepha bayakuba sezinhlangothini zenu, onkulunkulu babo babe lugibe kini."
- ⁴ Kwathi ingelosi kaJehova isikhulumile lawo mazwi kubo bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, abantu badazuluka, bakhala.
- ⁵ Baqamba igama laleyo ndawo ngokuthi iBokimi, bahlabela uJehova khona.
- ⁶ UJoshuwa esemukisile abantu, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bahamba, yilowo nalowo waya efeni lakhe ukuba balidle izwe.
- ⁷ Abantu bamkhonza uJehova izinsuku zonke zikaJoshuwa nezinsuku zonke zamalunga asalayo emva kukaJoshuwa, ayebonile wonke umsebenzi omkhulu ayewenzele u-Israyeli.
- ⁸ UJoshuwa indodana kaNuni, inceku kaJehova, wafa eneminyaka eyikhulu neshumi.
- ⁹ Bammbela emkhawulweni wefa lakhe eThimnati Heresi ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi ngasenyakatho kwentaba yakwaGahashi.
- ¹⁰ Naso sonke leso sizukulwane sabuthelwa koyise; savela esinye isizukulwane emva kwaso esasingamazi uJehova nomsebenzi ayewenzele u-Israyeli.
- ¹¹ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, bakhonza oBali;
- ¹² bamshiya uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise owabakhipha ezweni laseGibithe, balandela abanye onkulunkulu, onkulunkulu babantu ababebazungeza, babakhothamela, bamcunula uJehova.
- ¹³ Bamshiya-ke uJehova, bakhonza oBali no-Ashitaroti.
- ¹⁴ Intukuthelo kaJehova yavuthela abakwa-Israyeli, wabanikela esandleni sabaphangi ababaphanga, wathengisa ngabo esandleni sezitha zabo nxazonke. Ababe besaba nakuma phambi kwezitha zabo.
- ¹⁵ Nomaphi lapho bephumela khona, isandla sikaJehova sasimelene nabo sibenzela okubi njengokukhuluma kukaJehova nanjengokufunga kukaJehova kubo; bantula kakhulu.
- ¹⁶ UJehova wavusa abahluleli ababasindisa esandleni sababaphangayo.
- ¹⁷ Nabahluleli ababalalelanga, ngokuba baya baphinga nabanye onkulunkulu, babakhothamela; baphambuka masinyane endleleni abahamba ngayo oyise, belalela imiyalo kaJehova; bona abenzanga njalo.
- ¹⁸ Lapho uJehova ebavusela abahluleli, uJehova wayenaye umahluleli, wabasindisa esandleni sezitha zabo izinsuku zonke zomahluleli, ngokuba uJehova waba nesihe ngokubulawa kwabo ngenxa yababacindezelayo nababakhathazayo.
- ¹⁹ Kepha kwathi ekufeni komahluleli babuyela emuva, bona kakhulu kunawoyise, ngokulandela abanye onkulunkulu ukuba babakhonze, babakhothamele; abayekanga izenzo zabo nendlela yabo yenkani.
- ²⁰ Intukuthelo kaJehova yavuthela u-Israyeli, wathi: "Ngokuba lesi sizwe seqile isivumelwano sami engabayala ngaso oyise, singalalelanga izwi lami,
- ²¹ angiyikuphinda ngixoshe phambi kwabo noyedwa walezo zizwe azishiyayo uJoshuwa ekufeni kwakhe,
- ²² ukuze ngivivinye ngazo u-Israyeli, uma beyakugcina indlela kaJehova ukuba bahambe ngayo njengalokho oyise bebeyigcina, noma qha."
- ²³ UJehova wayeseyeka lezo zizwe zingaxoshwa masinyane, futhi kazinikelanga esandleni sikaJoshuwa.

- L**ezi ziyizizwe aziyekile uJehova ukuze amvivinye ngazo u-Israyeli, bonke abakwa-Israyeli ababengazi mpi eKhanani,
- ² kuphela ukuba izizukulwane zabantwana bakwa-Israyeli zazi, zifundiswe impi, ikakhulu labo ababengayazi ngaphambili.
- ³ Amakhosi ayisihlanu amaFilisti, nawo onke amaKhanani, namaSidoni, namaHivi ahlala entabeni yaseLebanoni, kusukela entabeni yaseBali Hermoni kuze kube sekuyeni eHamati.
- ⁴ Zazingezokuba u-Israyeli avivinywe ngazo, kwazeke uma beyakulalela imiyalo kaJehova abayala ngayo oyise ngesandla sikaMose.
- ⁵ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bahlala phakathi kwamaKhanani, namaHetu, nama-Amori, namaPherizi, namaHivi, namaJebusi,
- ⁶ bathatha amadodakazi awo aba ngomkabo, banika amadodana awo amadodakazi abo, bakhonza onkulunkulu bawo.
- ⁷ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, bamkhohlwa uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo, bakhonza oBali no-Ashitaroti.
- ⁸ Ngelokho intukuthelo kaJehova yavuthela u-Israyeli, wathengisa ngabo esandleni sikaKushani Rishatayimi inkosi yase-Aramu Naharayimi; abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bamkhonza uKushani Rishatayimi iminyaka eyisishiyagalombili.
- ⁹ Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhala kuJehova; uJehova wabavusela abantwana bakwa-Israyeli umsindisi owabasindisa, u-Otheniyeli indodana kaKenazi, umnawe kaKalebi.
- ¹⁰ UMoya kaJehova wayephezu kwakhe, wahlulela u-Israyeli, waphuma impi, uJehova wanikela uKushani Rishatayimi inkosi yase-Aramu Naharayimi esandleni sakhe; isandla sakhe samahlula uKushani Rishatayimi.
- ¹¹ Izwe lase liba nokuthula iminyaka engamashumi amane. Wafa u-Otheniyeli indodana kaKenazi.
- ¹² Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuye benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova; uJehova wamnika u-Egiloni inkosi yakwaMowabi amandla phezu kuka-Israyeli, lokhu benze okubi emehlweni kaJehova.
- ¹³ Wazibuthela abantwana bakwa-Amoni nabakwa-Amaleki, waya wachitha u-Israyeli, badla umuzi wamasundu.
- ¹⁴ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bamkhonza u-Egiloni inkosi yakwaMowabi iminyaka eyishumi nesishiyagalombili.
- ¹⁵ Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhala kuJehova, uJehova wabavusela umsindisi, u-Ehudi indodana kaGera, umBenjamini, umuntu oyinxele; abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bathuma isipho ngaye ku-Egiloni inkosi yakwaMowabi.
- ¹⁶ U-Ehudi wazenzela inkemba ebukhali izinsiko zombili, ubude bayo buyingalo, wayibhinca phansi kwengubo yakhe ethangeni lokunene.
- ¹⁷ Wamnika u-Egiloni inkosi yakwaMowabi isipho, kepha u-Egiloni wayengumuntu okhuluphelelo kakhulu.
- ¹⁸ Kwathi eseqedile ukumnika isipho, wamukisa abantu ababesithwele isipho.
- ¹⁹ Kepha yena wabuya endaweni yezithombe ezibaziweyo engaseGiligali, wathi: “Nginendaba eyisifuba kuwe nkosi.” Wathi: “Thulani.” Base bephuma bonke ababemi ngakuye.
- ²⁰ U-Ehudi wasondela kuye; wayehlezi ekamelweni eliphezulu elipholileyo; wayesethi u-Ehudi: “Nginodaba oluvela kuNkulunkulu kuwe.” Wasukuma esihlalweni sakhe.

- ²¹ U-Ehudi wayeselula isandla sakhe sokhohlo, wabamba inkemba ethangeni lakhe lokunene, wamgwaza esiswini sakhe;
- ²² kwangena nesibambo emva kwenkemba, amanoni azungeza inkemba, ngokuba akayikhiphanga inkemba esiswini sakhe; yaphumela emuva.
- ²³ U-Ehudi wayesephumela ekamelweni eliphambili, wazivalela iminyango yekamelo eliphezulu, wayihluthulela.
- ²⁴ Nxa esephumile yena, kwafika izinceku zakhe; zabona, bheka, iminyango yekamelo eliphezulu yayihluthulelwe; zathi: “Mhlawumbe uyembesa ezinyawo zakhe ekamelweni lakhe elipholileyo.”
- ²⁵ Zalinda zaze zajabha; bheka, akayivulanga iminyango yekamelo eliphezulu; ngalokho zathatha ukhiye, zayivula; bheka, inkosi yazo yayiwele phansi ifile.
- ²⁶ U-Ehudi waphunyuka zisalinda, wadlula endaweni yezithombe ezibaziweyo, wabalekela eSeyiri.
- ²⁷ Kwathi esefikile, wabetha icilongo ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli behla naye ezintabeni, yena ephambi kwabo.
- ²⁸ Wathi kubo: “Ngilandeleni, ngokuba uJehova unikele izitha zenu abakwaMowabi esandleni senu!” Behla emva kwakhe, bavimba amazibuko aseJordani ababewela ngawo abakwaMowabi, abavumanga ukuba kuwele muntu.
- ²⁹ Babulala kwabakwaMowabi ngaleso sikhathi kungathi abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi abayizidlakela namajaha, akwaphunyuka muntu.
- ³⁰ UMowabi wathotshiswa kanjalo ngalolo suku phansi kwesandla sakwa-Israyeli. Izwe laba nokuthula iminyaka engamashumi ayisihiyagalombili.
- ³¹ Emva kwakhe kwafika uShamgari indodana ka-Anati owabulala kuwo amaFilisti abantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha ngocijo lwenkabi; naye wasindisa u-Israyeli.

ISAPHLUKO 4

- A**bantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuye benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, esefile u-Ehudi.
- ² UJehova wathengisa ngabo esandleni sikaJabini inkosi yaseKhanani, owabusa eHasori, onduna yempi yakhe yayinguSisera owahlala eHarosheti labezizwe.
- ³ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhala kuJehova, ngokuba wayenezinqola ezingamakhulu ayisishiyagalolunye zensimbi; wacindezela kakhulu abantwana bakwa-Israyeli iminyaka engamashumi amabili.
- ⁴ UDebora umprofethikazi, umkaLapidoti, wahlulela u-Israyeli ngaleso sikhathi.
- ⁵ Wayehlala phansi kwesundu likaDebora phakathi kweRama neBethle ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi; abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhuphukela kuye ukuba bahlulelwe.
- ⁶ Wathuma wabiza uBaraki indodana ka-Abinohama waseKedeshi Nafetali, wathi kuye: “UJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli akayalanga yini ngokuthi: ‘Hamba usondele entabeni yaseThabori, uye nabantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi babantwana bakwaNafetali nabantwana bakwaZebuloni, na?’ ”
- ⁷ Ngiyakusondeza kuwe emfudlaneni iKishoni uSisera induna yempi kaJabini, nezinqola zakhe, nesixuku sakhe, ngimnikele esandleni sakho.”
- ⁸ UBaraki wathi kuye: “Uma uhamba nami, ngiyakuhamba; kepha uma ungahambi nami, angiyikuhamba.”
- ⁹ Wathi kuye: “Impela ngiyakuhamba nawe, kodwa indlela oyakuhamba ngayo ayiyikuba ngeyodumo lwakho, ngokuba uJehova uyakumthengisa uSisera esandleni sowesifazane.”

Wayesesuka uDebora, wahamba noBaraki, baya eKedeshi.

¹⁰ UBaraki wabiza oZebuloni noNafetali ukuba beze eKedeshi; kwakhuphuka abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi ezinyathelweni zakhe; naye uDebora wakhuphuka naye.

¹¹ Kepha uHebere umKheni wayezahlukanisile namaKheni, abantwana bakwaHobabi umukhwe kaMose, wamisa itende lakhe kwaze kwaba se-okini laseShananimi eliseduze neKedeshi.

¹² Bamtshela uSisera ukuthi uBaraki indodana ka-Abinohama ukhuphukele entabeni yaseThabori.

¹³ USisera wayesebutha zonke izinqola zakhe, izinqola ezingamakhulu ayisishiyagalolunye zensimbi, nabantu bonke ababenaye, kusukela eHarosheti labezizwe kuze kube semfudlaneni iKishoni.

¹⁴ UDebora wathi kuBaraki: “Vuka, ngokuba yilolu suku uJehova anikele ngalo uSisera esandleni sakho; uJehova akaphumanga phambi kwakho na?” UBaraki wehla entabeni yaseThabori nabantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi emva kwakhe.

¹⁵ UJehova wamngquzula uSisera nazo zonke izinqola zakhe nempi yakhe yonke ngosiko lwenkemba phambi kukaBaraki; uSisera wehlika enqoleni yakhe, wabaleka ngezinyawo.

¹⁶ Kepha uBaraki waxosha izinqola nempi kwaze kwaba seHarosheti labezizwe; yonke impi kaSisera yawa ngosiko lwenkemba, akwasala muntu.

¹⁷ Kepha uSisera wabaleka ngezinyawo, wafika etendeni likaJayeli umkaHebere umKheni, ngokuba kwakukhona ukuthula phakathi kukaJabini inkosi yaseHasori nendlu kaHebere umKheni.

¹⁸ UJayeli waphuma ukumhlangabeza uSisera, wathi kuye: “Phambuka, nkosi yami; phambukela kimi, ungesabi.” Waphambukela kuye etendeni, wamembesa ingubo.

¹⁹ Wayesethi kuye: “Ake ungiphuzise ingcosana yamanzi, ngokuba ngomile.” Wavumbulula igabha lobisi, wamphuzisa, wamembesa.

²⁰ Wathi kuye: “Yima emnyango wetende; kuyakuthi nxa kufika umuntu abuze kuwe athi: ‘Kukhona muntu lapha na?’ uthi: ‘Qha.’ ”

²¹ UJayeli umkaHebere wayesethatha isikhonkwane setende, waphatha isando ngesandla, wanyonyobela kuye, wambethela esikhaleni sendlebe ngesikhonkwane, sagqobhoza, saphumela emhlabathini, ngokuba wayelele ubuthongo obukhulu ediniwe; wafa kanjalo.

²² Bheka, uBaraki esamxosha uSisera, uJayeli waphuma ukumhlangabeza, wathi kuye: “Woza, ngikubonise omfunayo.” Waya kuye; bheka, uSisera wayelele efile, isikhonkwane sisesikhaleni sendlebe yakhe.

²³ Ngalolo suku uNkulunkulu wamngoba uJabini inkosi yaseKhanani phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.

²⁴ Isandla sabantwana bakwa-Israyeli saqhubeka saba namandla njalo phezu kukaJabini inkosi yaseKhanani, baze bamqeda uJabini inkosi yaseKhanani.

ISAHLUKO 5

Base behlabelela oDebora noBaraki indodana ka-Abinohama ngalolo suku, bethi:

² “Ngokuba abaholi beholile kwa-Israyeli, ngokuba abantu bezinikela ngenhliziyo, bongani uJehova.

³ “Yizwani nina makhosi; bekani indlebe nina zikhulu; mina, yebo, mina ngiyakuhlabelela kuJehova, ngihubele kuJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

- ⁴ “Jehova, ekuphumeni kwakho eSeyiri, ekusukeni kwakho ezweni lakwa-Edomi umhlaba wamazama, namazulu aconsa, yebo, amafu aconsa amanzi.
- ⁵ Izintaba zathuthumela ebusweni bukaJehova, yebo, nalo iSinayi lelo, ebusweni bukaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.
- ⁶ “Ezinsukwini zikaShamgari indodana ka-Anati, ezinsukwini zikaJayeli imendo yayishiyiwe; ababeyakuhamba ngemendo bahamba ngemikhondo.
- ⁷ Abaholi baphela kwa-Israyeli, banqamuka, ngaze ngavuka mina Debora, ngavuka ngingunina kwa-Israyeli.
- ⁸ Bakhetha onkulunkulu abasha; lapho kwafika impi emasangweni; kwabonwa isihlangu noma umkhonto yini phakathi kwezinkulungwane ezingamashumi amane kwa-Israyeli na?
- ⁹ Inhliziyo yami ikubabusi bakwa-Israyeli abazinikelayo ngenhliziyo phakathi kwabantu; bongani uJehova.
- ¹⁰ “Nina enigibela izimbongolo ezimhlophe, nina enihlezi emacansini, nani enihamba ngendlela, kulandeni.
- ¹¹ Ekwahlukaniseni impango phakathi kwemiqengqe yamanzi balanda khona izezo ezilungileyo zikaJehova, ukulunga kokubusa kwakhe kwa-Israyeli; khona abantu bakaJehova behlela emasangweni.
- ¹² “ ‘Vuka, vuka, Debora! Vuka, vuka, uhube ihubo! Vuka, Baraki, uthumbe abathunjwa bakho, wena ndodana ka-Abinohama!’
- ¹³ “Khona wayenza insali ukuba ibuse abakhulu; abantu bakaJehova bangibeka ukuba ngibuse iziqhwaga.
- ¹⁴ Kwavela kwa-Efrayimi abampande yabo ikuma-Amaleki; emva kwakho nguBenjamini phakathi kwabantu bakho. KwaMakiri kwavela ababusi, kwaZebuloni abaphethe intonga yomholi.
- ¹⁵ Izikhulu zakwa-Isakare zazinaye uDebora; njengo-Isakare, kanjalo noBaraki; behlela ngokushesha esigodini ezinyathelweni zakhe. Ngaseminonjaneni yakwaRubeni kwakukhona ukululekana okukhulu kwenhliziyo.
- ¹⁶ Wahlalalani ezibayeni zezimvu ukuzwa ikhwelo lemihlambi na? Ngaseminonjaneni yakwaRubeni kwakukhona ukululekana okukhulu kwenhliziyo.
- ¹⁷ UGileyadi wahlala phesheya kweJordani; uDani walibalelani emikhunjini na? U-Asheri wahlala ngasogwini lolwandle, wasala ngasemathekweni akhe.
- ¹⁸ UZebuloni wayengabantu abazidela kwaze kwaba sekufeni, uNafetali kanjalo ezindaweni eziphakemeyo zezwe.
- ¹⁹ “Amakhosi afika alwa, alwa amakhosi aseKhanani eThahanaki ngasemanzini aseMegido; awathathanga nzuzo yamali.
- ²⁰ Kwaliwa ezulwini; izinkanyezi ezindleleni zazo zalwa noSisera.
- ²¹ Umfudlana iKishoni wabakhukhula, umfudlana wamandulo, umfudlana iKishoni. Awu, mphefumulo wami, nyathela ngamandla.
- ²² Khona zadubuza izinselo zamahhashi ngokugadula, ukugadula kwezinkweli zawo.
- ²³ ‘Qalekisani iMerozi,’ kwasho ingelosi kaJehova; ‘qalekisani nokuqalekisa abantu balo, ngokuba abezanga ukumsiza uJehova ukuba bamsize uJehova ukulwa neziqhwaga.’
- ²⁴ “Uyakubusiswa phezu kwabesifazane uJayeli umkaHebere umKheni, abusiswe phezu kwabesifazane basematendeni.
- ²⁵ Wacela amanzi, wamupha ubisi, wamlethela amangqanga ngesitsha samakhosi.
- ²⁶ Wafaka isandla sakhe esikhonkwaneni, esokunene sakhe esandweni sezisebenzi; ngesando wamshaya uSisera, wadebeza ikhanda lakhe, yebo, wamgqobhoza,

wambhoboza esikhaleni sendlebe.

27 Wakhothama ngasezinyaweni zakhe, wawa, walala; ngasezinyaweni zakhe wafola, wawa; lapho wakhothama khona, wawela khona efile.

28 “Wabheka efasiteleni, wamemeza, unina kaSisera wathi eheleni: ‘Inqola yakhe ilibalelani ukufika na? Zilibaziselwani izinyawo zezinqola zakhe na?’

29 Amakhosazana akhe ahlakaniphileyo amphendula, yebo, wazibuyisela yena uqobo impendulo ngokuthi:

30 ‘Angithi batholile babelana impango? Intombi, yebo, izintombi ezimbili endodeni ngayinye; kuSisera impango yezingubo ezinemibala, impango yezingubo ezinemibala ezifekethisiweyo; izingubo ezimbili ezinemibala ezifekethisiweyo zezintamo zaba yimpango.’

31 “Mazibhubhe kanjalo zonke izitha zakho, Jehova; kepha abamthandayo mababe njengelanga, lapho liphuma ngamandla alo.” Izwe selaba nokuthula iminyaka engamashumi amane.

ISAHLUKO 6

Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova; uJehova wabanikela esandleni sakwaMidiyani iminyaka eyisikhombisa.

2 Isandla sakwaMidiyani samahlula u-Israyeli; ngenxa yakwaMidiyani abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bazenzela imihume yasezintabeni, nemigede, nezinqaba.

3 Kwathi nxa abakwa-Israyeli sebelimile, abakwaMidiyani benyuka nama-Amaleki nabasempumalanga, bakhuphukela kubo,

4 bamisa mayelana nabo, bachitha izithelo zomhlaba kwaze kwaba seGaza, abashiyanga kudla kwa-Israyeli, nazimvu, nazinkomo, nazimbongolo.

5 Ngokuba benyuka nezinkomo zabo namatende abo, bafika njengesikhonyane ngobuningi; babengenakubalwa bona namakamela abo; bafika ezweni ukuba baliqede.

6 Abakwa-Israyeli baphela amandla ngenxa yakwaMidiyani; base bekhala abantwana bakwa-Israyeli kuJehova.

7 Kwathi lapho abantwana bakwa-Israyeli besakhala kuJehova ngenxa yakwaMidiyani,

8 uJehova wathuma umprofethi kubantwana bakwa-Israyeli, wathi kubo: “Usho kanje uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: ‘Ngakukhuphula eGibithe, ngakukhipha endlini yobugqila,

9 nganophula esandleni sabaseGibithe nasesandleni sabo bonke abanicindezelayo, ngabaxosha phambi kwenu, nganinika izwe labo,

10 ngathi kini: “NginguJehova uNkulunkulu wenu; aniyikwesaba onkulunkulu bama-Amori enihlala ezweni lawo,” kepha kanilalelanga izwi lami.’ ”

11 Kwafika ingelosi kaJehova, yahlala phansi kwe-oki lase-Ofira likaJowashi umAbiyezeri; indodana yakhe uGideyoni yayibhula ukolweni esikhamweni sewayini ukuba amthukusele abakwaMidiyani.

12 Ingelosi kaJehova yabonakala kuye, yathi kuye: “UJehova unawe wena qhawe elinamandla.”

13 UGideyoni wathi kuyo: “O nkosi yami, uma uJehova enathi, konke lokhu kusehlele ngani na? Ziphi izimangaliso zakhe abasitshela ngazo obaba, bathi: ‘UJehova akasikhuphulanga eGibithe na?’ Kepha manje uJehova usilahlile, wasinikela esandleni sakwaMidiyani.”

- 14** UJehova wambheka, wathi: “Hamba ngalawa mandla akho, umsindise u-Israyeli esandleni sakwaMidiyani; angikuthumanga na?”
- 15** Wathi kuye: “O Nkosi, ngiyakumsindisa u-Israyeli ngantoni na? Bheka, umndeni wami umpofu kwaManase, mina ngingomncinyane endlini kababa.”
- 16** UJehova wathi kuye: “Impela ngiyakuba nawe; uyakubabulala abakwaMidiyani kungathi bangumuntu munye.”
- 17** Wathi kuye: “Uma ngifumene umusa emehlweni akho, unginike isibonakaliso ukuthi nguwe okhuluma nami.
- 18** Ake ungamuki lapha, ngize ngibuyele kuwe, ngilethe isipho sami, ngisibeke phambi kwakho.” Wayesethi: “Ngiyakuhlala uze ubuye.”
- 19** UGideyoni wangena, walungisa izinyane lembuzi namaqebelengwane angenamvubelo e-efa lempuphu; wayibeka inyama eqomeni, wawuthela umhluzi ekhanzini, wakukhiphela kuye phansi kwe-oki, wakunikela.
- 20** Ingelosi kaNkulunkulu yathi kuye: “Thatha inyama namaqebelengwane angenamvubelo, ukubeke edwaleni leli, uwuthulule umhluzi.” Wenze njalo.
- 21** Ingelosi kaJehova yase yelula isihloko sentonga esesandleni sayo, yathinta inyama namaqebelengwane angenamvubelo; kwenyuka umlilo edwaleni, wadla waqeda inyama namaqebelengwane angenamvubelo; ingelosi kaJehova yayisimuka emehlweni akhe.
- 22** Wayesebona uGideyoni ukuthi iyingelosi kaJehova; uGideyoni wathi: “Maye, Nkosi Nkulunkulu! Ngokuba ngibonile ingelosi kaJehova ubuso nobuso.”
- 23** UJehova wathi kuye: “Ukuthula makube kuwe; ungesabi, awuyikufa.”
- 24** UGideyoni wamakhela uJehova i-altare khona, waliqamba igama lokuthi iJehova Shalomi; kuze kube namuhla lisekhona e-Ofira lama-Abiyezeri.
- 25** Kwathi ngalobo busuku uJehova wathi kuye: “Thatha iduna likayihlo nenye inkunzi eneminyaka eyisikhombisa, ubhidlize i-altare likaBali uyihlo analo, ugawule u-Ashera ongakulo,
- 26** umakhele uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho i-altare esiqongweni sale nqaba ngokuhlelekileyo, uyithathe inkunzi yesibili, unikele ngomnikelo wokushiswa ngezinkuni zika-Ashera ozakumgawula.”
- 27** UGideyoni wayesethatha amadoda ayishumi ezincekwini zakhe, wenza njengalokho uJehova ekhulumile kuye; kwathi lokhu ebesaba abendlu kayise nabantu bomuzi ukuba angakwenzi emini, wakwenza ebusuku.
- 28** Lapho abantu bomuzi bevuka ekuseni kakhulu, bheka, i-altare likaBali lase libhidliziwe, no-Ashera owayengakulo wayegawuliwe, nenkunzi yesibili yayinikelwe phezu kwe-altare elalakhiwe.
- 29** Bakhuluma omunye komunye, bathi: “Kwenziwe ngubani lokhu na?” Lapho becinga bebuza, bathi: “NguGideyoni indodana kaJowashi owenze lokhu.”
- 30** Base bethi abantu bomuzi kuJowashi: “Khipha indodana yakho ukuba ife, ngokuba ilibhidlizile i-altare likaBali nangokuba imgawulile u-Ashera owayengakulo.”
- 31** UJowashi wathi kubo bonke ababemi ngakuye: “Niyakumlwela uBali, nimsindise yena, na? Oyakumlwela uBali, makabulawe kusasa ekuseni; uma engunkulunkulu, makazilwele yena, lokhu kukhona olibhidlizile i-altare lakhe.”
- 32** Ngalokho ngalolo suku wambiza ngokuthi uJerubali, ethi: “UBali makalwe naye ngokuba elibhidlizile i-altare lakhe.”
- 33** Kwabuthana bonke abakwaMidiyani, nama-Amaleki, nabasempumalanga, bawela, bamisa esiGodini saseJizreyeli.
- 34** Kepha uMoya kaJehova wamamboza uGideyoni, wabetha icilongo, kwabuthana ama-

Abiyezeri, amlandela.

³⁵ Wathuma izithunywa kulo lonke lakwaManase, nabo babuthana, bamlandela; wathuma izithunywa ku-Asheri, nakuZebuloni, nakuNafetali, bakhuphuka ukuba babahlangabeze.

³⁶ UGideyoni wathi kuNkulunkulu: “Uma uzakusindisa u-Israyeli ngesandla sami, njengalokho ukhulumile,

³⁷ bheka, ngiyakubeka uboya obugundiweyo esibuyeni; uma kukhona amazolo eboyeni bodwa komile emhlabathini wonke, ngiyakwazi ukuthi uzakusindisa u-Israyeli ngesandla sami, njengalokho ukhulumile.”

³⁸ Kwaba njalo, ngokuba wavuka ekuseni ngangomuso, wabucindezela uboya, wakhama amazolo eboyeni, kwagcwala isitsha amanzi.

³⁹ UGideyoni wathi kuNkulunkulu: “Intukuthelo yakho mayingangivutheli, ngizakukhuluma kanye kuphela: Ake ngilinge kanye kuphela ngoboya; makube komile eboyeni bodwa, kube khona amazolo emhlabathini wonke.”

⁴⁰ Wenze njalo uNkulunkulu ngalobo busuku, ngokuba kwakomile eboyeni bodwa, kepha emhlabathini wonke kwakukhona amazolo.

ISAHLUKO 7

UJerubali onguGideyoni nabantu bonke ababenaye bavuka ekuseni, bamisa ngasemthonjeni waseHarodi; ikamu lakwaMidiyani lalingasenyakatho kwabo ngasegqumeni laseMore esigodini.

² UJehova wathi kuGideyoni: “Abantu abanawe baningi kakhulu ukuba nginikele abakwaMidiyani esandleni sabo, funa u-Israyeli aziqhenye ngakimi ngokuthi: ‘Isandla sami singisindisile.’

³ Ngalokho memeza ezindlebeni zabantu, uthi: ‘Owesabayo ethuthumela makabuye, amuke entabeni yakwaGileyadi!’ ” Kwabuya abantu abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nambili, kwasala abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi.

⁴ UJehova wathi kuGideyoni: “Abantu base baningi; behlisele ngasemanzini, ngikulingele bona khona; kuyakuthi lowo engizakusho ngaye kuwe ukuthi: ‘Lo uzakuhamba nawe,’ yena ahambe nawe; nalowo engizakusho ngaye kuwe ukuthi: ‘Lo akayikuhamba nawe,’ yena akayikuhamba.”

⁵ Wayesebehlisela abantu ngasemanzini; uJehova wathi kuGideyoni: “Bonke abaxhapha amanzi ngolimi lwabo njengokuxhapha kwenja babeke bodwa, kanjalo nabo bonke abaguqa ngamadolo ukuba baphuze.”

⁶ Umumo wabaxhaphayo bebeka isandla emlonyeni wawungamadoda angamakhulu amathathu, kepha bonke abanye abantu baguqa ngamadolo ukuba baphuze amanzi.

⁷ Wayesethi uJehova kuGideyoni: “Ngalawo madoda amakhulu amathathu axhaphayo ngizakunisindisa, ngibanikele abakwaMidiyani esandleni sakho; bonke abanye abantu mabahambe, yilowo nalowo aye endaweni yakhe.”

⁸ Abantu base bethatha umphako ngesandla sabo namacilongo abo; bonke abanye abakwa-Israyeli wabathuma, kwabayilowo nalowo etendeni lakhe, wagcina lawo madoda amakhulu amathathu; ikamu lakwaMidiyani laliphansi kwakhe esigodini.

⁹ Kwathi ngalobo busuku uJehova wathi kuye: “Vuka wehlele ekamu, ngokuba sengilnikele esandleni sakho.

¹⁰ Kepha uma wesaba ukwehla, yehla noPhura udibi lwakho, niye ekamu;

¹¹ uzakuzwa ukuthi bathini, andukuba kuqiniswe izandla zakho ukuba wehlele ekamu.” Khona wehla noPhura udibi lwakhe emaphethelweni abahlomileyo abasekamu.

- ¹² AbakwaMidiyani nama-Amaleki nabo bonke abasempumalanga bahlala esigodini njengesikhonyane ngobuningi; amakamela abo ayengenakubalwa, engangesihlabathi esisogwini lolwandle ngobuningi.
- ¹³ Lapho efika uGideyoni, bheka, umuntu wayelandisa umngane wakhe iphupho, wathi: “Ngaphupha iphupho; bheka, iqebelengwane lesinkwa sebhali lagingqikela ekamu lakwaMidiyani, lafika etendeni, lalishaya laze lawa, laligumbuqela, labhadalala.”
- ¹⁴ Umngane wakhe waphendula wathi: “Lokhu akulutho ngaphandle kwenkemba kaGideyoni indodana kaJowashi, umuntu wakwa-Israyeli; uNkulunkulu unikele esandleni sakhe uMidiyani nempi yonke.”
- ¹⁵ Kwathi uGideyoni ekuzwa ukulandwa kwephupho nokuchazwa kwalo, wakhuleka; wabuyela ekamu lakwa-Israyeli, wathi: “Vukani, ngokuba uJehova unikele esandleni senu impi yakwaMidiyani.”
- ¹⁶ Wahlukanisela amadoda angamakhulu amathathu izigaba ezintathu, wawanika, kwaba yileyo naleyo amacilongo ezandleni zawo, nezitsha ezingenalutho, nezimbaqa zisezitsheni.
- ¹⁷ Wathi kuwo: “Ngibukeni, nenze kanjalo; bhekani, nxa nifika emaphethelweni ekamu, kuyakuthi njengalokho kwenza mina, nenze nani.
- ¹⁸ Nxa ngibetha icilongo, mina nabo bonke abanami, bethani nani amacilongo nxazonke zekamu, nithi: ‘EkaJehova nekaGideyoni!’ ”
- ¹⁹ UGideyoni namadoda ayikhulu ayenaye base befika emaphethelweni ekamu ngasekuqaleni komlindo ophakathi, besand’ ukubeka abalindi; babetha amacilongo, baphohloza izitsha abaziphetheyo ngezandla.
- ²⁰ Izigaba zontathu zabetha amacilongo, zaphohloza izitsha, zaphatha izimbaqa ngezandla zokhohlo namacilongo ngezandla zokunene ukuba ziwabethe; zamemeza zathi: “Inkemba kaJehova nekaGideyoni!”
- ²¹ Onke amadoda ayemi, kwaba yileyo naleyo, ahaqa ikamu; bonke abasekamu bagijima bamemeza.
- ²² Abetha amacilongo angamakhulu amathathu, uJehova wabhekisa inkemba yalowo nalowo ngakumngane wakhe nakulo ikamu lonke; ikamu labaleka kwaze kwaba seBeti Shitha ngaseSerera, laze lafika emkhawulweni we-Abela Mehola ngaseThabati.
- ²³ Amadoda akwa-Israyeli ayebuthene evela kwaNafetali, nakwa-Asheri, nakulo lonke lakwaManase, abaxosha abakwaMidiyani.
- ²⁴ UGideyoni wayesethuma izithunywa ezintabeni zonke zakwa-Efrayimi, wathi: “Yehlani, nihlangabezane nabakwaMidiyani, nibavimbe emanzini kuze kube seBetha Bara naseJordani.” Onke amadoda akwa-Efrayimi ayesebuthana, abavimbela emanzini kwaze kwaba seBetha Bara naseJordani.
- ²⁵ Abamba izikhulu ezimbili zakwaMidiyani, o-Orebi noZebi, ambulala u-Orebi ngasedwaleni lika-Orebi, noZebi bambulala ngasesikhamweni sewayini sikaZebi, abaxosha abakwaMidiyani; aletha ikhanda lika-Orebi nelikaZebi kuGideyoni phesheya kweJordani.

ISAHLUKO 8

Abantu bakwa-Efrayimi bathi kuye: “Ukwenzeleni lokhu kithina ukuthi awusibizanga lapho uyakulwa nabakwaMidiyani na?” Bamkhankatha kakhulu.

² Wathi kubo: “Ngenzeni mina, uma kulinganiswa nokwenu na? Ukukhothoza kwabakwa-Efrayimi akukuhle yini kunokuvuna umvini kwama-Abiyezeri na?

- ³ UNkulunkulu unikele esandleni senu izikhulu zakwaMidiyani, o-Orebi noZebi; mina benginamandla okwenzani, uma kulinganiswa nokwenu, na?" Kwase kubohla ukuthukuthela kwabo ngaye, eseshilo lokho.
- ⁴ UGideyoni wafika eJordani, wawela, yena namadoda angamakhulu amathathu ayenaye, eyethile, esaxosha nokho.
- ⁵ Wayesethi kubantu baseSukoti: "Ake niphe abantu abangilandelayo izinkwa, ngokuba bayethile, ngisaxosha oZeba noSalimuna amakhosi akwaMidiyani."
- ⁶ Izikhulu zaseSukoti zathi: "Izandla zikaZeba noSalimuna sezisesandleni sakho ukuba siphe impi yakho isinkwa na?"
- ⁷ UGideyoni wathi: "Ngalokho nxa uJehova enikele oZeba noSalimuna esandleni sami, ngiyakuklebhula inyama yenu ngameva asehlane nangamazinyo ezinqola zokubhula."
- ⁸ Wenyuka lapho, waya ePhenuweli, wakhuluma kubo ngokunjalo; abantu basePhenuweli bamphendula njengabantu baseSukoti bebephendulile.
- ⁹ Wakhuluma nakubo abantu basePhenuweli, wathi: "Ekubuyeni kwami ngiphilile ngizakubhidliza lo mbhoshongo."
- ¹⁰ OZeba noSalimuna babeseKarkori, izimpi zabo zinabo kungathi abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nanhlanu, bonke ababesele empini yonke yabasempumalanga, ngokuba kwakuwile abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyikhulu namashumi amabili abahloma inkemba.
- ¹¹ UGideyoni wenyuka ngendlela yabahlala ematendeni ngasempumalanga kwaseNoba neJogibeha, wanqoba impi, impi yayithi ilondekile.
- ¹² OZeba noSalimuna babaleka, wabaxosha; wawabamba amakhosi omabili akwaMidiyani, oZeba noSalimuna, wachitha impi yonke.
- ¹³ UGideyoni indodana kaJowashi wabuya empini ngasekwenyukeni kweHeresi.
- ¹⁴ Wabamba insizwa yabantu baseSukoti, wabuza kuyo; yona yamlobela izikhulu zaseSukoti namalunga alo, abantu abangamashumi ayisikhombisa nesikhombisa.
- ¹⁵ Wayesefika kubantu baseSukoti, wathi: "Bhekani oZeba noSalimuna enangiswabulela ngabo, nathi: 'Izandla zikaZeba noSalimuna sezisesandleni sakho ukuba siphe amadoda akho ayethileyo isinkwa na?' "
- ¹⁶ Wayesebamba amalunga omuzi, nameva asehlane, namazinyo ezinqola zokubhula, wagalela ngawo abantu baseSukoti.
- ¹⁷ Wawubhidliza umbhoshongo wasePhenuweli, wabulala abantu bomuzi.
- ¹⁸ Wayesesho koZeba noSalimuna, ethi: "Babe njani labo bantu enababulala eThabori na?" Bathi: "Babe njengawe; yilowo nalowo wafana nabantwana benkosi."
- ¹⁹ Wathi: "Babe ngabafowethu, amadodana kamame. Kuphila kukaJehova, uma benibayekile baphila, bengingayikunibulala."
- ²⁰ Wayesethi kuJetheri izibulo lakhe: "Suka ubabulale." Kepha umfana kahoshanga inkemba yakhe, ngokuba wesaba lokhu engumfana.
- ²¹ Base bethi oZeba noSalimuna: "Suka wena, usihlasele, ngokuba njengendoda anjalo amandla ayo." Wayesesuka uGideyoni, wababulala oZeba noSalimuna, wathatha izimbedu ezinjengenyanga ezazisezintanyeni zamakamela abo.
- ²² Abantu bakwa-Israyeli bathi kuGideyoni: "Sibuse, wena nendodana yakho, nendodana yendodana yakho futhi, ngokuba usisindisile esandleni sakwaMidiyani."
- ²³ UGideyoni wathi kubo: "Angiyikunibusa, nendodana yami ayiyikunibusa; nguJehova oyakunibusa."
- ²⁴ UGideyoni wathi kubo: "Mangicele okuthile kini ukuba ninginike, kube yilowo nalowo

amacici empango yakhe.” Babenamacici egolide, lokhu bebengabakwa-Ishmayeli.

²⁵ Bathi: “Siyakukunika wona impela.” Beneka ingubo, baphonsa khona, kwaba yilowo nalowo amacici empango yakhe.

²⁶ Isisindo samacici egolide awacelayo sasingamashekeli ayinkulungwane namakhulu ayisikhombisa egolide, ngaphandle kwezimbedu ezinjengenyanga, neziqhaza, nezingubo ezibubende ezazembethwe ngamakhosi akwaMidiyani, nangaphandle kwamaketanga ayesezintanyeni zamakamela awo.

²⁷ UGideyoni wenza ingubo yamahlombe ngakho, wayibeka emzini wakhe e-Ofira; bonke abakwa-Israyeli baya baphinga nayo khona; yaba lugibe kuGideyoni nendlu yakhe.

²⁸ AbakwaMidiyani bathotshiswa kanjalo phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli, ababe besaphakamisa amakhanda abo. Izwe lathula iminyaka engamashumi amane ezinsukwini zikaGideyoni.

²⁹ UJerubali indodana kaJowashi waya wahlala endlini yakhe.

³⁰ UGideyoni wayenamadodana angamashumi ayisikhombisa aphuma okhalweni lwakhe, ngokuba wayenabafazi abaningi.

³¹ Isancinza sakhe esasiseShekemi naso samzalela indodana, sayiqamba igama lokuthi u-Abimeleki.

³² UGideyoni indodana kaJowashi wafa esemdala, wembelwa ethuneni likaJowashi uyise e-Ofira lama-Abiyezeri.

³³ Kwathi esefile uGideyoni, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuye baphinga nawoBali, bamenza uBali Beriti unkulunkulu wabo.

³⁴ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babengakhumbuli uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo owabophula esandleni sezitha zonke zabo nxazonke.

³⁵ Abenzanga umusa kuyo indlu kaJerubali onguGideyoni njengakho konke okuhle ayekwenzile ku-Israyeli.

ISAHLUKO 9

U-Abimeleki indodana kaJerubali waya kubafofawo bakanina, wakhuluma kubo nomndeni wonke wendlu kayise kanina, wathi:

² “Ake nikhulume ezindlebeni zabo bonke abantu baseShekemi, nithi: ‘Yikuphi okuhle kini ukuba onke amadodana kaJerubali angabantu abangamashumi ayisikhombisa anibuse nokuba nibuswe ngumuntu munye na?’ Khumbulani ukuthi mina ngiyithambo lenu nenyama yenu.”

³ Abafowabo bakanina base bekhuluma ngaye ezindlebeni zabo bonke abantu baseShekemi onke lawo mazwi; izinhliziyi zabo zathanda ukumlandela u-Abimeleki, ngokuba bathi: “Ungumfowethu.”

⁴ Bamnika amashekeli angamashumi ayisikhombisa esiliva endlini kaBali Beriti, u-Abimeleki aqasha ngawo izidenga namayiyane, bamlandela.

⁵ Waya endlini kayise e-Ofira, wabulala abafowabo, amadodana kaJerubali, abantu abangamashumi ayisikhombisa etsheni linye, kepha kwasala uJothamu indodana encinyane kaJerubali, ngokuba wacasha.

⁶ Bonke abantu baseShekemi bahlangana nabo bonke abaseBeti Milo, baya bambeka u-Abimeleki inkosi ngase-okini letshe lesikhumbuzo elaliseShekemi.

⁷ Lapho kubikwa lokho kuJothamu, waya wema esiqongweni sentaba yaseGerizimu, waphakamisa izwi lakhe, wamemeza, wathi kubo: “Ngilaleleni nina bantu baseShekemi ukuba uNkulunkulu anilalele nina.

- ⁸ Imithi yake yaya ukuzigcobela inkosi, yathi kuwo umnqumo: 'Yiba yinkosi yethu.'
- ⁹ "Kepha umnqumo wathi kuyo: 'Ngiyakuwayeka yini amafutha ami abadunyiswa ngawo onkulunkulu nabantu, ngiye ngintengantenge phezu kwemithi, na?'
- ¹⁰ "Imithi yayisithi kuwo umkhiwane: 'Woza wena, ube yinkosi yethu.'
- ¹¹ "Kepha umkhiwane wathi kuyo: 'Ngiyakubuyeka yini ubumnandi bami nezithelo zami ezinhle, ngiye ngintengantenge phezu kwemithi, na?'
- ¹² "Yayisithi imithi kuwo umvini: 'Woza wena, ube yinkosi yethu.'
- ¹³ "Umvini wathi kuyo: 'Ngiyakuliyeka yini iwayini lami elithokozisa onkulunkulu nabantu, ngiye ngintengantenge phezu kwemithi, na?'
- ¹⁴ "Yonke imithi yayisithi kuso isihlahla somkhaya: 'Woza wena, ube yinkosi yethu.'
- ¹⁵ "Isihlahla somkhaya sathi kuyo imithi: 'Uma ningigcoba impela ngibe yinkosi yenu, wozani niphephele emthunzini wami; uma kungenjalo, makuphume umlilo kuso isihlahla somkhaya, uqede imisedari yaseLebanoni.'
- ¹⁶ "Ngalokho uma nenzile ngeqiniso nangobuqotho lapho nimbeka u-Abimeleki inkosi, uma nimphathile kahle uJerubali nendlu yakhe, nenza kuye njengokufanele izandla zakhe
- ¹⁷ ngokuba ubaba wanilwela wazidela, wanophula esandleni sabakwaMidiyani;
- ¹⁸ kepha niyivukele namuhla indlu kababa, nibulele amadodana akhe, abantu abangamashumi ayisikhombisa etsheni linye, nimbekile u-Abimeleki indodana yesigqilakazi sakhe inkosi yabaseShekemi ngokuba engumfowenu;
- ¹⁹ uma nimphathile kahle uJerubali nendlu yakhe namuhla, thokozani ngo-Abimeleki, naye athokoze ngani;
- ²⁰ kepha uma kungenjalo, makuphume umlilo ku-Abimeleki, uqede abantu baseShekemi neBeti Milo, umlilo uphume nakubantu baseShekemi naseBeti Milo, umqede u-Abimeleki."
- ²¹ UJothamu wayesebaleka, weqa, waya eBeri, wahlala khona ngenxa ka-Abimeleki umfowabo.
- ²² U-Abimeleki wayeyisikhulu phezu kuka-Israyeli iminyaka emithathu.
- ²³ UNkulunkulu wathuma umoya omubi phakathi kuka-Abimeleki nabantu baseShekemi; abaseShekemi bambhumbuluza u-Abimeleki
- ²⁴ ukuba ubudlova obenziwe kuwo amadodana angamashumi ayisikhombisa kaJerubali bufike, negazi labo libekwe phezu kuka-Abimeleki umfowabo owababulala, naphezu kwabaseShekemi abaqinisa izandla zakhe ukuba abulale abafowabo.
- ²⁵ AbaseShekemi bambekela abaqamekeli eziqongweni zezintaba, baphanga bonke ababedlula kubo ngaleyo ndlela; kwabikwa ku-Abimeleki.
- ²⁶ Kwafika uGali indodana ka-Ebedi nabafowabo, waya eShekemi; abaseShekemi bamethemba.
- ²⁷ Baya endle, bavuna izivini zabo, banyathela imivini, bagubha umkhosi, bangena endlini kankulunkulu wabo, badla, baphuza, bamqalekisa u-Abimeleki.
- ²⁸ UGali indodana ka-Ebedi wathi: "Ngubani u-Abimeleki, ngubani uShekemi, ukuba simkhonze, na? Akasiyo indodana kaJerubali, noZebule yinduna yakhe na? Khonzani abantu bakaHamori uyise kaShekemi. Thina siyakumkhonzelani yena na?"
- ²⁹ Sengathi laba bantu nga besesandleni sami; bengiyakumsusa u-Abimeleki." Wathi ku-Abimeleki: "Yandisa impi yakho, uphume."
- ³⁰ Lapha uZebule umphathi womuzi ezwa amazwi kaGali indodana ka-Ebedi, kwavutha ulaka lwakhe.
- ³¹ Wathuma izithunywa ku-Abimeleki ngobuqili, wathi: "Bheka, uGali indodana ka-Ebedi nabafowabo bafikile eShekemi; bheka, bakuvusela umuzi."

- ³² Ngelokho vukani ebusuku, wena nabantu abanawe, niqamekele endle;
- ³³ kuyakuthi ekuseni lisaphuma ilanga, uvuke, uhlaslele umuzi; bheka, lapho yena nabantu abanye bephuma ukuba balwe nawe, wenze kubo njengokubona kwakho.”
- ³⁴ U-Abimeleki nabo bonke abantu ababenaye basuka ebusuku, baqamekela iShekemi ngezigaba ezine.
- ³⁵ UGali indodana ka-Ebedi waphuma, wema esikhaleni sesango lomuzi; u-Abimeleki wayeseqhamuka nabantu ababenaye ekuqamekeleni.
- ³⁶ Lapho uGali ebona abantu, wathi kuZebule: “Bheka, kwehla abantu eziqongweni zezintaba.” UZebule wathi kuye: “Uyabona amathunzi ezintaba kungathi ngabantu.”
- ³⁷ UGali wabuye wakhuluma, wathi: “Bheka, kwehla abantu eNkabeni yezwe, esinye isigaba sifika ngendlela ye-oki lokuhlola imihlola.”
- ³⁸ UZebule wayesethi kuye: “Uphi manje umlomo wakho ukuba uthi: ‘Ngubani u-Abimeleki ukuba simkhonze na?’ Akusibo labo bantu obadeleleyo na? Ake uphume manje, ulwe nabo.”
- ³⁹ UGali waphuma phambi kwabantu baseShekemi, walwa no-Abimeleki.
- ⁴⁰ U-Abimeleki wamxosha, wabaleka phambi kwakhe, kwawa abaningi bekhutshaziwe kwaze kwaba sesikhaleni sesango.
- ⁴¹ U-Abimeleki wahlala e-Aruma; uZebule wamxosha uGali nabafofawo ukuba bangahlali eShekemi.
- ⁴² Kwathi ngangomuso abantu baya endle, bamtshela u-Abimeleki.
- ⁴³ Wathatha abantu, wabahlukanisela izigaba ezintathu, waqamekela endle; wabheka, nampa abantu bephuma emzini; wabavukela, wababulala.
- ⁴⁴ U-Abimeleki nezigaba ezazinaye zadumela, zema esikhaleni sesango lomuzi; izigaba zombili zadumela bonke abasendle, zababulala.
- ⁴⁵ U-Abimeleki walwa nomuzi lonke lolo suku; wawuthatha umuzi, wabulala abantu ababekuyo, wawubhidliza umuzi, wahlwanyela usawoti kuwo.
- ⁴⁶ Lapho bezwa lokho bonke abasembhoshongweni waseShekemi, bangena enqabeni yendlu yase-Eli Beriti.
- ⁴⁷ Kwabikwa ku-Abimeleki ukuthi bonke abasembhoshongweni waseShekemi babehlangene ndawonye.
- ⁴⁸ U-Abimeleki wenyukela entabeni yaseSalimoni, yena nabantu bonke ababenaye; u-Abimeleki wathatha izembe ngesandla, wagawula igatsha emithini, walithatha, walibeka ehlombe, wathi kubantu ababenaye: “Lokho eningibone ngikwenza, sheshani nikwenze njengami.”
- ⁴⁹ Bonke abantu bagawula, kwaba yilowo nalowo igatsha lakhe kanjalo, bamlandela u-Abimeleki, bawabeka enqabeni, bayithungela inqaba ngomlilo phezu kwabo; bafa bonke abantu abasembhoshongweni waseShekemi, kungathi abayinkulungwane, abesilisa nabesifazane.
- ⁵⁰ U-Abimeleki wayeseya eThebesi, wamisa malungana neThebesi, walithatha.
- ⁵¹ Kepha phakathi komuzi wawukhona umbhoshongo oqinileyo; babalekela khona bonke abesilisa nabesifazane, nabo bonke abomuzi, bazivalela phakathi, benyukela ophahleni lombhoshongo.
- ⁵² U-Abimeleki wafika embhoshongweni, walwa nawo, wasondela emnyango wombhoshongo ukuba awushise ngomlilo.
- ⁵³ Owesifazane othile waphonsa imbokodwe ekhanda lika-Abimeleki, wachimiza ikhanda lakhe.

⁵⁴ Wayeseshesha ebiza udibi olwaluphethe izikhali zakhe, wathi kulo: “Hosha inkemba yakho, ungibulale ukuba abantu bangasho ngami ukuthi: ‘Wabulawa ngowesifazane.’ ” Udibi lwakhe lwase lumgwaza, wafa.

⁵⁵ Kwathi abantu bakwa-Israyeli bebonile ukuthi u-Abimeleki ufile, bamuka baya, kwaba yilowo nalowo endaweni yakhe.

⁵⁶ Kanjalo uNkulunkulu wabuyisela ububi buka-Abimeleki abebenzile kuyise ngokubulala abafowabo abangamashumi ayisikhombisa.

⁵⁷ UNkulunkulu wabuyisela bonke ububi babantu baseShekemi emakhanda abo, behlelwa yisiqalekiso sikaJothamu indodana kaJerubali.

ISAHLUKO 10

Emva kuka-Abimeleki kwavela uThola indodana kaPhuwa kaDodo, umuntu wakwa-Isakare, ukuba asindise u-Israyeli; wayehlala eShamiri ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi.

² Wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka engamashumi amabili nantathu, wafa, wembelwa eShamiri.

³ Emva kwakhe kwavela uJayire wakwaGileyadi, wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka engamashumi amabili nambili.

⁴ Wayenamadodana angamashumi amathathu agibela amathole ezimbongolo angamashumi amathathu; ayenemizi engamashumi amathathu ethiwa iHavoti Jayire kuze kube namuhla, esezweni lakwaGileyadi.

⁵ UJayire wafa, wembelwa eKhamoni.

⁶ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuye benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, babakhonza oBali, no-Ashitaroti, nawonkulunkulu base-Aramu, nawonkulunkulu baseSidoni, nawonkulunkulu bakwaMowabi, nawonkulunkulu babantwana bakwa-Amoni, nawonkulunkulu bamaFilisti, bamshiya uJehova, kabamkhonza.

⁷ Intukuthelo kaJehova yamvuthela u-Israyeli, wathengisa ngabo esandleni samaFilisti nasesandleni sabantwana bakwa-Amoni.

⁸ Bakhathaza, bacindezela abantwana bakwa-Israyeli ngalowo mnyaka; iminyaka eyishumi nesishiyagalombili babacindezela bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli ababengaphesheya kweJordani ezweni lama-Amori elikwaGileyadi.

⁹ Abantwana bakwa-Amoni bawela iJordani ukuba balwe noJuda noBenjamini nendlu yakwa-Efrayimi; u-Israyeli wantula kakhulu.

¹⁰ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhala kuJehova, bathi: “Sonile kuwe, ngokuba simshiyile uNkulunkulu wethu, sakhonza oBali.”

¹¹ UJehova wathi kubantwana bakwa-Israyeli: “Anginisindisanga yini kubo abaseGibithe, nakuwo ama-Amori, nakubo abantwana bakwa-Amoni, nakuwo amaFilisti, na?”

¹² Nacindezelwa ngamaSidoni, nama-Amaleki, namaMahoni, nakhala kimi, nganisindisa esandleni sawo.

¹³ Nokho ningishiyile, nakhonza abanye onkulunkulu; ngalokho angisayikunisindisa.

¹⁴ Hambani nikhale konkulunkulu enibakhethileyo; mabanisindise ngesikhathi sosizi lwenu.”

¹⁵ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bathi kuJehova: “Sonile; yenza kithi okuthandayo; kepha ake usophule kuphela namuhla.”

¹⁶ Base besusa onkulunkulu babezizwe phakathi kwabo, bamkhonza uJehova; umphefumulo wakhe wakhathazeka ngokuhlupheka kwabakwa-Israyeli.

¹⁷ Kwabuthwa abantwana bakwa-Amoni, bamisa kwaGileyadi. Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuthana, bamisa eMispa.

¹⁸ Abantu, izikhulu zakwaGileyadi, bathi omunye komunye: “Ngumuphi umuntu oyakuqala ukulwa nabantwana bakwa-Amoni na? Yena uyakuba yinhloko yabo bonke abakhe kwaGileyadi.”

ISAHLUKO 11

UJefta wakwaGileyadi wayeyiqhawe elinamandla; wayeyindodana yesifebe; uGileyadi wamzala uJefta.

² UmkaGileyadi wamzalela amadodana; esekhulile amadodana omkakhe amxosha uJefta, athi kuye: “Awuyikulidla ifa endlini kababa, ngokuba uyindodana yomunye owesifazane.”

³ UJefta wabalekela abafowabo, wahlala ezweni laseThobi; kwabuthana kuJefta amayiyane, aphuma naye.

⁴ Kwathi emva kwesikhashana abantwana bakwa-Amoni balwa no-Israyeli.

⁵ Bathi abantwana bakwa-Amoni belwa no-Israyeli, amalunga akwaGileyadi aya amlanda uJefta ezweni laseThobi.

⁶ Athi kuJefta: “Woza ube ngumholi wethu, silwe nabantwana bakwa-Amoni.”

⁷ UJefta wathi kumalunga akwaGileyadi: “Aningizondanga yini, nangixosha endlini kababa na? Nizelani kimi manje nisekuhluphekeni na?”

⁸ Amalunga akwaGileyadi athi kuJefta: “Sibuyele kuwe manje ngalokhu ukuba uhambe nathi, ulwe nabantwana bakwa-Amoni, ube yinhloko phezu kwabo bonke abakhe kwaGileyadi.”

⁹ Wayesethi uJefta kumalunga akwaGileyadi: “Uma ningibuyisa ukulwa nabantwana bakwa-Amoni, uJehova abanikele phambi kwami, ngiyakuba yinhloko yenu.”

¹⁰ Amalunga akwaGileyadi athi kuJefta: “UJehova makabe ngufakazi wethu; impela siyakwenza njengezwi lakho.”

¹¹ UJefta wayesehamba namalunga akwaGileyadi; abantu bamenza inhloko nomholi phezu kwabo; uJefta wakhuluma onke amazwi akhe phambi kukaJehova eMispa.

¹² UJefta wathuma izithunywa enkosini yabantwana bakwa-Amoni, wathi: “Unamsebenzi muni nami ukuba uze kimi ukulwa nezwe lakithi na?”

¹³ Inkosi yabantwana bakwa-Amoni yathi kuzo izithunywa zikaJefta: “Ngokuba u-Israyeli walithatha izwe lakithi ekukhuphukeni kwakhe eGibithe, kusukela e-Arinoni kuze kube seJaboki naseJordani, buyisani lawo mazwe ngokuthula.”

¹⁴ UJefta wabuye wathuma izithunywa enkosini yabantwana bakwa-Amoni,

¹⁵ wathi kuyo: “Usho kanje uJefta, uthi: U-Israyeli akathathanga izwe lakwaMowabi nezwe labantwana bakwa-Amoni.

¹⁶ Ngokuba ekukhuphukeni kwabo eGibithe, u-Israyeli ehamba ehlane waze wafika eLwandle Olubomvu, wafika naseKadeshi,

¹⁷ u-Israyeli wathuma izithunywa enkosini yakwa-Edomi, wathi: ‘Ake ngidabule izwe lakho,’ kepha inkosi yakwa-Edomi ayilalelanga; nasenkosini yakwaMowabi wathuma kanjalo; kepha ayivumanga; u-Israyeli wayesehlala eKadeshi.

¹⁸ “Wayesehamba ehlane, wazungeza izwe lakwa-Edomi nezwe lakwaMowabi, weza ngasempumalanga kwezwe lakwaMowabi, wamisa ngaphesheya kwe-Arinoni; kepha abangenanga emkhawulweni wakwaMowabi, ngokuba i-Arinoni lalingumkhawulo

wakwaMowabi. 11:18 Num. 21:13.

19 “U-Israyeli wayesethuma izithunywa kuSihoni inkosi yama-Amori, inkosi yaseHeshiboni; u-Israyeli wathi kuye: ‘Ake sidabule izwe lakho, siye endaweni yethu.’

20 Kodwa uSihoni akamethembanga u-Israyeli ukuba adabule emkhawulweni wakhe; kepha uSihoni wabutha bonke abantu bakhe, wamisa eJahasi, walwa no-Israyeli.

21 “UJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli wanikela uSihoni nabo bonke abantu bakhe esandleni sakwa-Israyeli, bababulala; u-Israyeli wadla izwe lonke lama-Amori, abantu balelo zwe.

22 Badla izwe lonke lama-Amori, kusukela e-Arinoni kuze kube seJakobi, kusukela ehlane kuze kube seJordani.

23 “Manje uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli uwaxoshile ama-Amori phambi kwabantu bakhe u-Israyeli; wena uyakulidla izwe na?

24 Awuyikudla lelo uKemoshi unkulunkulu wakho akunika lona ukuba ulidle na? Kanjalo bonke uJehova, uNkulunkulu wethu, abaxosha phambi kwethu, siyalidla elabo.

25 Pho, ungcono yini kunoBalaki indodana kaSipori, inkosi yakwaMowabi, na? Wake waphikisana no-Israyeli, wake walwa nabo na?

26 U-Israyeli esahlala eHeshiboni nasemizaneni yalo, nase-Aroweri nasemizaneni yalo, nasemizini yonke engaseceleni kwe-Arinoni iminyaka engamakhulu amathathu, anisaphucanga ngani yona ngaleso sikhathi na?

27 Mina angikonanga, kepha wena wenza okubi kimi ngokulwa nami; uJehova uMahluleli makahlulele namuhla phakathi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli nabantwana bakwa-Amoni.”

28 Kodwa inkosi yabantwana bakwa-Amoni ayilalelanga amazwi kaJefta awathuma kuyo.

29 Khona uMoya kaJehova wafika kuJefta, wadlula kwaGileyadi nakwaManase, wadlula naseMispa lakwaGileyadi; esuka eMispa lakwaGileyadi wadlulela kubantwana bakwa-Amoni.

30 UJefta wenza isithembiso kuJehova, wathi: “Uma uyakunikela impela abantwana bakwa-Amoni esandleni sami,

31 kuyakuthi noma yikuphi okuphuma eminyango yendlu yami ukungihlangabeza, laphe ngibuya ngokuthula kubantwana bakwa-Amoni, kube ngokukaJehova, nginikele ngakho kube ngumnikelo wokushiswa.”

32 UJefta wayesedlulela kubantwana bakwa-Amoni ukulwa nabo; uJehova wabanikela esandleni sakhe.

33 Wababulala kusukela e-Aroweri kuze kufike eMinit, imizi engamashumi amabili, nase-Abela Keramimi ngokuceka okukhulu kakhulu. Kanjalo abantwana bakwa-Amoni banqotshwa phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.

34 UJefta weza eMispa endlini yakhe; bheka, indodakazi yakhe yaphuma ukumhlangabeza, iza nezigubhu nokusina; yayingumntwana oyedwa; ngaphandle kwakhe wayengenandodana nandodakazi.

35 Kwathi laphe eyibona, waklebhula izingubo zakhe, wathi: “Hawu, mntanami, ungithobisile kakhulu, ungomunye wabangihluphayo, ngokuba ngivulile umlomo kuJehova, angisenakubuya.”

36 Wathi kuye: “Baba, uvulile umlomo wakho kuJehova; yenza kimi njengokuphumileyo emlonyeni wakho, lokhu uJehova ekuphindisele ezitheni zakho, abantwana bakwa-Amoni.”

37 Yathi kuyise: “Mangenzelwe lokhu: ngiyeke izinyanga ezimbili ukuba ngiye, ngehlele ezintabeni, ngililele ubuntombi bami, mina nabangane bami.”

38 Wathi: “Hamba.” Wayimukisa izinyanga ezimbili; yamuka yona nabangane bayo,

yalilela ubuntombi bayo ezintabeni.

³⁹ Kwathi ngasekupheleni kwezinyanga ezimbili, yabuyela kuyise owenza kuyo njengokwesithembiso sakhe asethembisileyo; ayiyazanga indoda.

⁴⁰ Kwaba yisimiso kwa-Israyeli ukuba amadodakazi akwa-Israyeli aye yonke iminyaka ukuyitusa indodakazi kaJefta wakwaGileyadi izinsuku ezine ngomnyaka.

ISAHLUKO 12

Amadoda akwa-Efrayimi abuthana, aya ngasenyakatho; athi kuJefta: “Uwelelani ukulwa nabantwana bakwa-Amoni, ungasibizanga ukuba sihambe nawe, na? Siyakushisa ngomlilo indlu yakho phezu kwakho.”

² UJefta wathi kubo: “Mina nabantu bami sasilwa kakhulu nabantwana bakwa-Amoni; nganibiza, aningisindisanga esandleni sabo.

³ Nxa sengibonile ukuthi aningisindisanga, ngabeka ukuphila kwami esandleni sami, ngadlulela kubantwana bakwa-Amoni, uJehova wabanikela esandleni sami; ngalokho nikhuphukeleni kimi namuhla ukulwa nami na?”

⁴ UJefta wayesebutha bonke abantu bakwaGileyadi, walwa no-Efrayimi; abantu bakwaGileyadi bamahlula u-Efrayimi, ngokuba bathi: “Ningababalekileyo bakwa-Efrayimi nina bakwaGileyadi phakathi kwabakwa-Efrayimi naphakathi kwabakwaManase.”

⁵ AbakwaGileyadi bavimba amazibuko aseJordani phambi kwabakwa-Efrayimi; kwathi lapho ababalekileyo bakwa-Efrayimi bethi: “Mangiwele,” abantu bakwaGileyadi bathi kuye: “Ungowakwa-Efrayimi na?” Uma ethi: “Cha,”

⁶ bathi kuye: “Shono uthi: ‘Shiboleti,’ ” abesethi: “Siboleti,” ngokuba engaqaphelanga ukuliphimisa kahle; base bembamba, bambulala ngasemazibukweni aseJordani; kwawa ngaleso sikhathi abakwa-Efrayimi abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amane nambili.

⁷ UJefta wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka eyisithupha. Wafa uJefta wakwaGileyadi, wambelwa komunye wemizi yakwaGileyadi.

⁸ Emva kwakhe u-Ibisani waseBetlehema wahlulela u-Israyeli.

⁹ Wayenamadodana angamashumi amathathu; amadodakazi angamashumi amathathu wawendisa, wathathela amadodana akhe izintombi ezingamashumi amathathu. Wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka eyisikhombisa.

¹⁰ U-Ibisani wafa, wembelwa eBetlehema.

¹¹ Emva kwakhe u-Eloni wakwaZebuloni wahlulela u-Israyeli; wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka eyishumi.

¹² U-Eloni wakwaZebuloni wafa, wembelwa e-Ajaloni ezweni lakwaZebuloni.

¹³ Emva kwakhe u-Abidoni indodana kaHileli wasePirathoni wahlulela u-Israyeli.

¹⁴ Wayenamadodana angamashumi amane namadodana amadodana akhe angamashumi amathathu agibela amathole ezimbongolo angamashumi ayisikhombisa; wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka eyisishiyagalombili.

¹⁵ U-Abidoni indodana kaHileli wasePirathoni wafa, wembelwa ePirathoni ezweni lakwa-Efrayimi ezintabeni zama-Amaleki.

ISAHLUKO 13

Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuye benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova; uJehova wabanikela esandleni samaFilisti iminyaka engamashumi amane.

² Kwakukhona umuntu othile waseSora womndeni wakwaDani ogama lakhe lalinguManowa; umkakhe wayeyinyumba engazali.

³ Ingelosi kaJehova yabonakala kowesifazane, yathi kuye: “Bheka-ke, uyinyumba, awuzali, kepha uyakukhulelwa, uzale indodana.

⁴ Ngalokho ake uxwaye ungaphuzi wayini naluphuzo olunamandla, ungadli lutho olungcolileyo,

⁵ ngokuba bheka, uyakukhulelwa, uzale indodana, impuco ayiyikuthinta ekhanda layo, ngokuba umntwana uyakuba ngumNaziri kaNkulunkulu kwasesizalweni; uyakuqala ukusindisa u-Israyeli esandleni samaFilisti.”

⁶ Owesifazane wayeseya ukubika endodeni yakhe, ethi: “Kufikile kimi umuntu kaNkulunkulu, isimo sakhe sasinjengesimo sengelosi kaNkulunkulu, sesabeka kakhulu; angimbuzanga ukuthi uvelaphi, naye akangitshelanga igama lakhe.

⁷ Kepha wathi kimi: ‘Bheka, uyakukhulelwa, uzale indodana; ngakho ungaphuzi wayini naluphuzo olunamandla, ungadli lutho olungcolileyo, ngokuba umntwana uyakuba ngumNaziri kaNkulunkulu kwasesizalweni kuze kube sosukwini lokufa kwakhe.’ ”

⁸ UManowa wayesemncenga uJehova, wathi: “O Nkosi, umuntu kaNkulunkulu owamthumayo ake abuyele kithi, asifundise ukuthi siyakwenzani kumntwana ozakuzalwa.”

⁹ UNkulunkulu walalela izwi likaManowa; ingelosi kaNkulunkulu yabuyela kowesifazane ehlezi endle; kepha uManowa indoda yakhe wayengenaye.

¹⁰ Owesifazane washesha, wagijima, wayitshela indoda yakhe, wathi kuyo: “Bheka, ubonakele kimi lowo muntu owafika kimi ngolunye usuku.”

¹¹ UManowa wasukuma wamlandela umkakhe, wafika kulowo muntu, wathi kuye: “Wena ungumuntu lowo owakhuluma kowesifazane na?” Wathi: “Nginguye.”

¹² Wayesethi uManowa: “Nxa esenzekile amazwi akho, iyakuba yini indlela yomntwana, kuyakwenziwani na?”

¹³ Ingelosi kaJehova yathi kuManowa: “Konke engakushoyo kowesifazane makakuxwaye.

¹⁴ Kangadli lutho oluvela ezithelweni zomvini, kangaphuzi wayini naluphuzo olunamandla, kangadli lutho olungcolileyo; konke engamyaleza ngakho kakugcine.”

¹⁵ UManowa wayesethi engelosini kaJehova: “Ake sikulibazise, sikulungisele izinyane lembuzi.”

¹⁶ Ingelosi kaJehova yathi kuManowa: “Noma ungilibazisa, angiyikudla ukudla kwakho; uma ulungisa umnikelo wokushiswa, uyakunikela ngawo kuJehova.” Ngokuba uManowa wayengazi ukuthi uyingelosi kaJehova.

¹⁷ UManowa wathi engelosini kaJehova: “Ngubani igama lakho ukuba, lapho esenzekile amazwi akho, sikudumise?”

¹⁸ Ingelosi kaJehova yathi kuye: “Ubuzelani igama lami, lokhu liyimfihlakalo, na?”

¹⁹ UManowa walithatha izinyane lembuzi kanye nomnikelo wempuphu, wanikela ngakho kuJehova edwaleni. Yase yenza okumangalisayo, uManowa nomkakhe bebukela.

²⁰ Kwathi ilangabi lisaphuma e-altare lenyukela ngasezulwini, ingelosi kaJehova yenyuka elangabini le-altare; uManowa nomkakhe babukela; bawa ngobuso emhlabathini.

²¹ Kepha ingelosi kaJehova ayiphindanga ukubonakala kuManowa nomkakhe. Khona uManowa waqonda ukuthi yingelosi kaJehova.

²² UManowa wathi kumkakhe: “Siyakufa nokufa, ngokuba simbonile uNkulunkulu.”

²³ Kepha umkakhe wathi kuye: “Uma uNkulunkulu ebethanda ukusibulala, nga

engamukelanga esandleni sethu umnikelo wokushiswa nomnikelo wempuphu, futhi nga engasibonisanga konke lokho, nga engasitshelanga izinto njengalezi.”

²⁴ Owesifazane wazala indodana, waqamba igama layo ngokuthi uSamsoni; umntwana wakhula, uJehova wambusisa.

²⁵ UMoya kaJehova waqala ukumqhuba eMahane Dani phakathi kweSora ne-Eshitawoli.

ISAHLUKO 14

USamsoni wehlela eThimna; wabona owesifazane eThimna wamadodakazi amaFilisti.

² Wakhuphuka, wabatshela uyise nonina, wathi: “Ngibonile owesifazane eThimna wamadodakazi amaFilisti; ngalokho ngithatheleni yena abe ngumkami.”

³ Uyise nonina base bethi kuye: “Akakho yini owesifazane phakathi kwamadodakazi abafowenu noma phakathi kwabo bonke abantu bami, ukuze uye kuthatha umfazi kumaFilisti angasokile, na?” USamsoni wathi kuyise: “Ngithathele yena, ngokuba uyathandeka kimi.”

⁴ Kepha uyise nonina babengazi ukuthi lokho kwavela kuJehova, ngokuba wayefuna ithuba lokulwa namaFilisti. Ngaleso sikhathi amaFilisti ayebusa phezu kuka-Israyeli.

⁵ USamsoni wayesehla noyise nonina, baya eThimna, bafika ezivinini zaseThimna; bheka, ibhongo lengonyama lamhlangabeza libhodla.

⁶ UMoya kaJehova wafika phezu kwakhe ngamandla, walidwengula kungathi udwengula izinyane lembuzi, engaphethe lutho esandleni sakhe: kepha akabatshelanga uyise nonina abekwenzile.

⁷ Wehla, wakhuluma nowesifazane; wathandeka kuSamsoni.

⁸ Emva kwesikhathi wabuya ukuba amthathe, waphambuka ukuyobona isidumbu sengonyama; bheka, kwakukhona iqulo lezinyosi esidumbini sengonyama kanye noju.

⁹ Wazitapa ngezandla zakhe, wahamba, wahamba edla, wafika kuyise nonina, wabapha, badla nabo; kepha akabatshelanga ukuthi wayetape izinyosi esidumbini sengonyama.

¹⁰ Uyise wehla, waya kulowo wesifazane, uSamsoni wenza idili khona, ngokuba zazenze njalo izinsizwa.

¹¹ Kwathi lapho bembona, baletha abayeni abangamashumi amathathu ukuba babe naye.

¹² USamsoni wathi kubo: “Ake ngininike imfumbe; uma ningitshela yona kahle ngezinsuku eziyisikhombisa zedili, niyiqandele, ngiyakunika amayembe angamashumi amathathu nezingubo zokuphendulela ezingamashumi amathathu;

¹³ kepha uma ningenakuyiqandela kimi, niyakunginika amayembe angamashumi amathathu nezingubo zokuphendulela ezingamashumi amathathu.” Bathi kuye: “Yisho imfumbe yakho ukuba siyizwe.”

¹⁴ Wayesethi kubo: “Kodlayo kwaphuma ukudla, konamandla kwavela okumnandi.” Babengenakuyiqandela imfumbe ngezinsuku ezintathu.

¹⁵ Kwathi ngosuku lwesikhombisa bathi kumkaSamsoni: “Yenza umyeni wakho ukuba asichasisele imfumbe, funa sikushise wena nendlu kayihlo ngomlilo; nisimemele ukuba nisidle na? Akunjalo na?”

¹⁶ UmkaSamsoni wakhala phambi kwakhe, wathi: “Uyangizonda kuphela, awungithandi; unikile abakithi imfumbe, awungitshelanga yona.” Wathi kuye: “Bheka, angibatshelanga ubaba nomame, ngiyakukutshela wena na?”

¹⁷ Wakhala phambi kwakhe izinsuku eziyisikhombisa, lisekhona idili labo; kwathi ngosuku lwesikhombisa wayesemtshela, ngokuba wamcindezela kakhulu; wayisho imfumbe

kwabakubo.

¹⁸ Abantu bomuzi bathi kuye ngosuku lwesikhombisa, lingakashoni ilanga: “Kuyini okumnandi kunezinyosi? Kuyini okunamandla kunengonyama na?” Wathi kubo: “Uma beningalimanga ngesithokazi sami, ngabe ningayiqandelanga imfumbe yami.”

¹⁹ UMoya kaJehova wafika kuye ngamandla, wehlela e-Ashikeloni, wabulala abantu abangamashumi amathathu kubo, wathatha isambatho sabo, wabanika abayiqandele imfumbe izingubo zokuphendulela. Intukuthelo yakhe yavutha, wenyukela endlini kayise.

²⁰ Kepha umkaSamsoni wanikwa kumngane wakhe owabe ngomunye wabayeni bakhe.

ISAPHLUKO 15

Kodwa kwathi emva kwesikhathi, ngesikhathi sokuvuna ukolweni, uSamsoni wahambela umkakhe enezinyane lembuzi; wathi: “Ngiyakungena kumkami ekamelweni.” Kepha uyise kavumanga ukuba angene.

² Uyise wathi: “Bengithi impela umalile nokumala; ngalokho ngamnika umngane wakho; udadewabo omelamayo kamuhle kunaye na? Ake umthathe esikhundleni sakhe.”

³ USamsoni wathi kubo: “Okwalesi sikhathi anginacala kumaFilisti, uma ngiwenzela okubi.”

⁴ USamsoni wahamba, wabamba izimpungushe ezingamakhulu amathathu, wathatha izikhuni, wazibhekisana ngemisila, wafaka isikhuni phakathi kwemisila ngamibili.

⁵ Wazithungela izikhuni ngomlilo, wazivumela ukuba zingene phakathi kwamabele amaFilisti engakavunwa, washisa amaqhinga nezinhlanga zamabele kanye nezivini neminqumo.

⁶ AmaFilisti ayesethi: “Ngubani okwenzile lokho na?” Bathi: “NguSamsoni, umkhwenyana wowaseThimna, ngokuba yena uthathe umkakhe, wamnika umngane wakhe.” AmaFilisti akhuphuka, amshisa yena noyise ngomlilo.

⁷ USamsoni wathi kubo: “Uma nenze njalo, impela ngiyakuphindisela kini, andukuba ngiyeke.”

⁸ Wababulala ithebe nethanga ngokubulala okukhulu; wehla, wahlala ofantwini lwedwala lase-Etamu.

⁹ AmaFilisti akhuphuka, amisa kwaJuda, ahlakazeka eLehi.

¹⁰ Abantu bakwaJuda bathi: “Nisikhuphukeleleni na?” Bathi: “Sikhuphukele ukuba simbophe uSamsoni, senze kuye njengalokho enze kithina.”

¹¹ Abantu abayizinkulungwane ezintathu bakwaJuda behlela ofantwini lwedwala lase-Etamu, bathi kuSamsoni: “Awukwazi yini ukuthi amaFilisti abusa phezu kwethu na? Kuyini, pho, lokho okwenzile kithina na?” Wathi kubo: “Njengalokho benza kimi, ngenze njalo kubo.”

¹² Base bethi kuye: “Sehlele ukuba sikubophe, ukuze sikunikele esandleni samaFilisti.” USamsoni wathi kubo: “Fungani kimi ukuthi nina aniyikungisukela.”

¹³ Basho kuye, bathi: “Qha, kepha siyakukubopha nokukubopha, sikunikele esandleni sawo, kodwa impela asiyikubulala.” Bambopha ngezintambo ezimbili ezintsha, bamkhuphulela edwaleni.

¹⁴ Laphe efika eLehi, amaFilisti amhlangabeza ekhamuluka; uMoya kaJehova wafika kuye ngamandla, izintambo ezazisezingalweni zakhe zaba njengefilakisi elishiswe ngomlilo, nezibopho zakhe zancibilika, zasuka ezandleni zakhe.

¹⁵ Wafumana umhlathi wembongolo osemusha, welula isandla sakhe, wawuthatha, wabulala ngawo abantu abayinkulungwane.

- ¹⁶ Wathi uSamsoni: “Ngomhlathi wembongolo ngibulele inqwaba, yebo, izinqwaba ezimbili, ngomhlathi wembongolo abantu abayinkulungwane.”
- ¹⁷ Kwathi eseqedile ukukhuluma, wawulahla umhlathi esandleni sakhe; leyo ndawo yathiwa iRamati Lehi.
- ¹⁸ Wayesomile kakhulu, wakhala kuJehova, wathi: “Wenzile lokhu kukhululeka okukhulu ngesandla senceku yakho; kepha manje sengiyakufa ukoma, ngiwele esandleni sabangasokile.”
- ¹⁹ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wadabula isigoxi esiseLehi, kwaphuma amanzi kuso; lapho esephuzile, umoya wakhe wabuya, wahlumeleleka; ngalokho igama laso labizwa ngokuthi i-Eni Hakore eliseLehi kuze kube namuhla.
- ²⁰ Wahlulela u-Israyeli ngezinsuku zamaFilisti iminyaka engamashumi amabili.

ISAPHLUKO 16

USamsoni waya eGaza; wabona lapho isifebe, wangena kuso.

- ² Kwathiwa kumaGaza: “USamsoni ufikile lapha.” Bamhaqa, bamqamekela ubusuku bonke esangweni lomuzi; bathula ubusuku bonke, bathi: “Makube sekukhanyeni kokusa; khona siyakumbulala.”
- ³ USamsoni walala kwaze kwaba phakathi kwamabili; wavuka phakathi kobusuku, wabamba izivalo zesango lomuzi nezinsika zombili, wazincothula kanye nomgoqo, wazibeka emahlombe akhe, wazikhuphulela esiqongweni sentaba ephambi kweHebroni.
- ⁴ Kwathi ngasemuva wathanda owesifazane esiGodini saseSoreki ogama lakhe lalinguDelila.
- ⁵ Amakhosi amaFilisti enyukela kuye, athi kuye: “Myenge, ubone ukuthi amandla akhe amakhulu aphi nokuthi singamahlula ngani ukuba simbophe, simnqobe; siyakukunika, kube yilowo nalowo, izinhlamvu eziyinkulungwane nekhulu zesiliva.”
- ⁶ UDelila wathi kuSamsoni: “Ake ungitshele ukuthi amandla akho amakhulu aphi nokuthi ungaboshwa ngani, unqotshwe.”
- ⁷ USamsoni wathi kuye: “Uma bengibopha ngezinsinga eziyisikhombisa ezimanzi ezingakomi, ngiyakuba buthakathaka, ngibe njengomunye umuntu.”
- ⁸ Amakhosi amaFilisti ayeseletha kuye izinsinga eziyisikhombisa ezimanzi ezingakomi, wambopha ngazo.
- ⁹ Wayenabaqamekeli behlezi ekamelweni eliphakathi. Wayesethi kuye: “AmaFilisti aphezu kwakho, Samsoni.” Wayesegqabula izinsinga njengentambo yefilakisi igqatshulwa, lapho izwa umlilo. Ngalokho amandla akhe awaziwanga.
- ¹⁰ Wayesethi uDelila kuSamsoni: “Bheka, udlale ngami, wangitshela amanga; ake ungitshele manje ukuthi ungaboshwa ngani.”
- ¹¹ Wathi kuye: “Uma bengibopha ngamagoda amasha okungasetshenziwanga ngawo, ngiyakuba buthakathaka, ngibe njengomunye umuntu.”
- ¹² UDelila wayesethatha amagoda amasha, wambopha ngawo, wathi kuye: “AmaFilisti aphezu kwakho, Samsoni.” Abaqamekeli babehlezi ekamelweni eliphakathi. Wawagqabula ezingalweni zakhe njengomucwana.
- ¹³ UDelila wayesethi kuSamsoni: “Kuze kube manje udlale ngami, wangitshela amanga; ngitshele ukuthi ungaboshwa ngani.” Wathi kuye: “Uma weluka amagoda ayisikhombisa ekhanda lami nezintambo zakho zokwelukwa.”
- ¹⁴ Wawabethela-ke ngesikhonkwane, wathi kuye: “AmaFilisti aphezu kwakho, Samsoni.”

Wavuka ebuthongweni, wasincothula isikhonkwane sokweluka nezintambo zokwelukwa.

15 Wayesethi kuye: “Ungasho kanjani ukuthi uyangithanda, nxa inhliziyo yakho ingenami na? Usudlale ngami kathathu, awungitshelanga ukuthi amandla akho aphi.”

16 Kwathi lapho emcindezela yonke imihla ngamazwi akhe, emgqugquza, wakhathazeka umphefumulo wakhe kwaze kwaba sekufeni.

17 Wamtshela inhliziyo yakhe yonke, wathi kuye: “Akuthintanga mpuco ekhanda lami, ngokuba bengingumNaziri kaNkulunkulu kwasesizalweni sikamame; uma ngiphuculwa, amandla ami ayakumuka kimi, ngiyakuba buthakathaka, ngibe njengomunye umuntu.”

18 UDelila wabona ukuthi wayemtshelile yonke inhliziyo yakhe; wathuma wawabiza amakhosi amaFilisti, wathi: “Yenyukani kalokhu, ngokuba ungitshelile yonke inhliziyo yakhe.” Ayesenyukela kuye amakhosi amaFilisti, aletha imali esandleni sawo.

19 Wamlalisa ubuthongo emathangeni akhe, wabiza umuntu, waphucula amagoda ayisikhombisa ekhanda lakhe; waqala ukumhlupha, amandla akhe amuka kuye.

20 Wathi: “AmaFilisti aphezu kwakho, Samsoni.” Wavuka ebuthongweni, wathi: “Ngiyakuphuma njengangezinye izikhathi, ngizithintithe.” Kepha wayengazi ukuthi uJehova wayemukile kuye.

21 AmaFilisti ambamba, awakhipha amehlo akhe; amehlisela eGaza, ambopha ngamaketanga; wasila etilongweni.

22 Nokho izinwele zekhanda lakhe zaqala ukuhluma futhi esephuculiwe.

23 Amakhosi amaFilisti abuthana ukuba ahlabele uDagoni unkulunkulu wawo umhlatshele omkhulu, athokoze, ngokuba athi: “Unkulunkulu wethu unikele uSamsoni isitha sethu esandleni sethu.”

24 Abantu bambona, bamtusa unkulunkulu wabo, ngokuba bathi: “Unkulunkulu wethu unikele esandleni sethu isitha sethu nomchithi wezwe lakithi obulele abaningi phakathi kwethu.”

25 Kwathi lapho izinhliziyi zabo sezasile, bathi: “Mbizeni uSamsoni ukuba asidlalele.” Bambiza uSamsoni esetilongweni, wadlala phambi kwabo, bambeka phakathi kwezinsika.

26 USamsoni wathi kumfana owayembambe ngesandla: “Ngivumele ukuphatha izinsika indlu emi ngazo ukuba ngencike kuzo.”

27 Indlu yayigcwele abesilisa nabesifazane; namakhosi onke amaFilisti ayelapho; ophahleni kwakukhona abantu kungathi abayizinkulungwane ezintathu, abesilisa nabesifazane, ababebukela ukudlala kukaSamsoni.

28 USamsoni wakhala kuJehova, wathi: “Nkosi Nkulunkulu, ake ungikhumbule, ungiquinise kube kanye kuphela, Nkulunkulu, ukuba ngiphindise kumaFilisti ngempindiselo ibenye ngenxa yamehlo ami omabili.”

29 USamsoni wayesebamba izinsika ezimbili eziphakathi eyayimi ngazo indlu, wencika kuzo, kwenye ngesandla sokunene, kwenye ngesokhohlo.

30 USamsoni wathi: “Mangife namaFilisti.” Wakhothama ngamandla akhe onke, indlu yawela phezu kwamakhosi naphezu kwabo bonke abantu ababe kuyo. Abafileyo ababulalayo ekufeni kwakhe babebaningi kunabo ababulalayo ekuhambeni kwakhe.

31 Base behla abafowabo nayo yonke indlu kayise, bamthatha, bamenyusa, bammabela phakathi kweSora ne-Eshitawoli ethuneni likaManowa uyise. Wamahlulela u-Israyeli iminyaka engamashumi amabili.

Kwakukhona umuntu wasezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi ogama lakhe lalinguMika.

² Yena wathi kunina: “Lezo zinhlamvu eziyinkulungwane nekhulu zesiliva ezathathwa kuwe, owaziqalekisa, wakhuluma ngazo ezindlebeni zami, bheka, leyo mali ikimi; ngayithatha.” Unina wathi: “Mayibusiwe nguJehova indodana yami.”

³ Wabuyisela kunina lezo zinhlamvu eziyinkulungwane nekhulu zesiliva; unina wathi: “Ngiyangcwelisa impela leli siliva kuJehova esandleni sami, libe ngelendodana yami ukuba kwenziwe isithombe esibaziweyo nesibunjiweyo; manje ngiyakulibuyisela kuwe.”

⁴ Kepha walibuyisela isiliva kunina, unina wathatha izinhlamvu ezingamakhulu amabili zesiliva, wazinika umkhandi wesiliva owenza ngazo isithombe esibaziweyo nesibunjiweyo; zase zihlala endlini kaMika.

⁵ Lowo muntu uMika wayenendlu enawonkulunkulu, wenza ingubo yamahlombe namatherafi, wahlukanisela enye indodana yakhe ibe ngumpristi wakhe.

⁶ Ngalezo zinsuku kwakungekho nkosi kwa-Israyeli; yilowo nalowo wenza okulungile emehlweni akhe.

⁷ Kwakukhona insizwa yaseBetlehema Juda yomndeni wakwaJuda eyayingumLevi; yayigogobele khona.

⁸ Lowo muntu wamuka emzini, iBetlehema Juda, ukuyobona lapho engathola khona indawo; ekuhambeni kwakhe wafika ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi endlini kaMika.

⁹ UMika wathi kuye: “Uvelaphi na?” Wathi kuye: “NgingumLevi waseBetlehema Juda; ngiyahamba ukubona lapho ngingathola khona indawo.”

¹⁰ UMika wayesethi kuye: “Hlala kimi, ube ngubaba nompristi wami, ngiyakukunika izinhlamvu eziyishumi zesiliva ngomnyaka, nesambatho, nokudla kwakho.” UmLevi wangena.

¹¹ UmLevi wavuma ukuhlala kulowo muntu; nensizwa yaba kuye njengendodana yakhe.

¹² UMika wayesahlukanisela umLevi, leyo nsizwa yaba ngumpristi wakhe, yahlala endlini kaMika.

¹³ Wayesethi uMika: “Manje sengiyazi ukuthi uJehova uyakungenzela okuhle, lokhu nginomLevi ongumpristi wami.”

ISAHLUKO 18

Ngalezo zinsuku kwakungekho nkosi kwa-Israyeli; ngalezo zinsuku isizwe sakwaDani sazifunela ifa lokuhlala, ngokuba kuze kube ngalolo suku babengabelwanga ifa phakathi kwezizwe zakwa-Israyeli.

² Abantwana bakwaDani bathuma abantu abayisihlanu bomndeni wabo, bephuma kuso sonke isizwe sabo, amaqhawe, beseSora nase-Eshitawoli, ukuba bahlale izwe, balicinge; bathi kubo: “Hambani, nilicinge izwe,” bafika ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi endlini kaMika, bahlala khona.

³ Lapha besengasendlini kaMika, balazi izwi lensizwa engumLevi, baphambukela khona, bathi kuye: “Walethwa ngubani lapha? Wenzani kule ndawo? Ufunani lapha?”

⁴ Wathi kubo: “UMika ungenzele ukuthi nokuthi; ungiqashile ngaba ngumpristi wakhe.”

⁵ Base bethi kuye: “Ake umbuze uNkulunkulu ukuze sazi uma indlela yethu esiyihambayo iyakuba nempumelelo.”

⁶ Umpristi wathi kubo: “Hambani nokuthula; indlela eniyihambayo iphambi kukaJehova.”

⁷ Base bemuka labo bantu abayisihlanu, bafika eLayishi, babona abantu abakulo ukuthi basahlala belondekile ngendlela yamaSidoni, benokuthula, bengenaluvalo, ngokuba

kwakungekho ezweni onamandla ukuba abajabhise ngalutho; babekude namaSidoni, bengenandaba nabanye abantu.

⁸ Babuye bafika kuba fowabo eSora nase-Eshitawoli; abafowabo bathi kubo: “Nithini na?”

⁹ Bathi: “Sukani, senyukele kubo, ngokuba silibonile izwe; bhekani, lihle kakhulu; niyathula yini? Ningenqeni ukuhamba, ningene ukuba nilidle izwe.

¹⁰ Nxa nihamba, niyakufika kubantu abalondekileyo, izwe libanzi, ngokuba uNkulunkulu ulinikele esandleni senu, indawo lapho kungekho khona ukuswela lutho olusemhlabeni.”

¹¹ Kwase kuphuma lapho kumndeni wakwaDani eSora nase-Eshitawoli abantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha bebhincile izikhali zokulwa.

¹² Benyuka, bamisa eKiryati Jeharimi kwaJuda; ngalokho bayibiza leyo ndawo ngokuthi iMahane Dani kuze kube namuhla; bheka, lingasemva kweKiryati Jeharimi.

¹³ Basuka khona, baya ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi, bafika endlini kaMika.

¹⁴ Abantu abayisihlanu ababeyile ukuhlola izwe laseLayishi base bephendula, bathi kuba fowabo: “Niyazi yini ukuthi kukhona kulezi zindlu ingubo yamahlombe, namatherafi, nesithombe esibaziweyo, nesithombe esibunjiweyo na? Ngalokho cabangani manje ukuthi niyakwenzani.”

¹⁵ Baphambuka khona, bafika endlini yensizwa yomLevi, endlini kaMika, bayibuza impilo.

¹⁶ Abantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha bebhince izikhali zokulwa abangabantwana bakwaDani bema ngasesikhaleni sesango.

¹⁷ Abantu abayisihlanu ababeyile ukuhlola izwe benyuka, bafika lapho, basithatha isithombe esibaziweyo, nengubo yamahlombe, namatherafi, nesithombe esibunjiweyo; umpri wema ngasesikhaleni sesango kanye nabantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha bebhince izikhali zokulwa.

¹⁸ Labo sebenzenile endlini kaMika basithatha isithombe esibaziweyo, nengubo yamahlombe, namatherafi, nesithombe esibunjiweyo; umpri wathi kubo: “Nenzani na?”

¹⁹ Bathi kuye: “Thula, ubeke isandla sakho emlonyeni wakho, uhambe nathi, ube ngubaba nompri wethu; kuhle yini ukuba ube ngumpri wendlu yomuntu munye kunokuba ube ngumpri wesizwe nomndeni kwa-Israyeli na?”

²⁰ Yayisithokoza inhliziyo yompri, wayithatha ingubo yamahlombe, namatherafi, nesithombe esibaziweyo, wangena phakathi kwabantu.

²¹ Baphenduka, bamuka, babeka izingane, nezinkomo, nempahla phambi kwabo.

²² Sebekude nendlu kaMika abantu abasezindlini eziseduze nendlu kaMika babuthana, babafika abantwana bakwaDani.

²³ Bamemeza kubantwana bakwaDani, baphenduka, bathi kuMika: “Yini ukuba ufike nesixuku na?”

²⁴ Wathi: “Nithathile onkulunkulu bami engabenzayo, nompri, namuka; ngisenani na? Nisholoni kimi ukuthi: ‘Yini na?’ ”

²⁵ Abantwana bakwaDani base bethi kuye: “Izwi lakho malingezwakali phakathi kwethu, funa abantu bathukuthele, banehlele, ulahlekelwe ngukuphila kwakho kanye nabendlu yakho.”

²⁶ Bahamba abantwana bakwaDani; uMika esebonile ukuthi banamandla kunaye, waphenduka, wabuyela endlini yakhe.

²⁷ Bathatha abekwenzile uMika nompri wakhe, bafika eLayishi kubantu abanokuthula belondekile, bababulala ngosiko lwenkemba; bashisa umuzi ngomlilo.

²⁸ Kwakungekho owophulayo, ngokuba wawukude neSidoni; babengenandaba nabanye abantu; wawusesigodini esingaseBeti Rehobe. Bawakha umuzi, bahlala kuwo.

²⁹ Baqamba igama lomuzi ngokuthi uDani ngegama likaDani uyise owazalelwa u-Israyeli; kepha igama lomuzi laliyiLayishi kuqala.

³⁰ Abantwana bakwaDani bazimisela isithombe esibaziweyo; uJonathani indodana kaGereshomu kaMose yena namadodana akhe babe ngabapristi besizwe sakwaDani kwaze kwaba ngosuku lokuthunjwa kwezwe.

³¹ Base bemisa isithombe esibaziweyo sikaMika abesenzile sonke isikhathi indlu kaNkulunkulu iseShilo.

ISAHLUKO 19

Kwathi ngalezo zinsuku kungekho inkosi kwa-Israyeli, kwakukhona umLevi othile owayegogobele ohlangothini olungasemuva kwezintaba zakwa-Efrayimi, owazithathela isancinza eBetlehema Juda.

² Isancinza sakhe samgilela ubufebe, sasuka kuye, saya endlini kayise eBetlehema Juda, sahlala khona isikhathi esiyizinyanga ezine.

³ Umyeni waso wasuka, wasilandela ukuba akhulume kuyo inhliziyo yaso, asibuyise, enenceku yakhe nezimbongolo ezimbili; samngenisa endlini kayise; lapho uyise wentombi embona, wathokoza ukuhlanguka naye.

⁴ Umukhwe wakhe, uyise wentombi, wambambezela, wahlala kuye izinsuku ezintathu; badla, baphuza, bahlala khona.

⁵ Kwathi ngosuku lwesine bavuka ekuseni kakhulu, wasuka ukuba ahambe; uyise wentombi wathi kumkhwenyana wakhe: “Hlumelela inhliziyo yakho ngocezu lwesinkwa, andukuba nihambe.”

⁶ Bahlala phansi, badla, baphuza bobabili kanyekanye; uyise wentombi wathi kuyo indoda: “Ake udele, ulale ubusuku, ithokoze inhliziyo yakho.”

⁷ Kepha lowo muntu wasukuma nokho ukuba ahambe; wayesemncengisisa umukhwe wakhe, wabuye walala khona.

⁸ Wavuka ekuseni kakhulu ngosuku lwesihlanu ukuba ahambe; uyise wentombi wathi: “Ake uhlumelele inhliziyo yakho, nihlale lize lithambame ilanga.” Badla-ke bobabili.

⁹ Lapho umuntu esesukuma ukuba ahambe, yena nesancinza sakhe nenceku yakhe, umukhwe wakhe, uyise wentombi, wathi kuye: “Bheka, ilanga seliyathambama, sekuzakuhlwa; ake uhlale ubusuku bonke; yebo, ilanga seliyakuphela; hlala lapha ukuba inhliziyo yakho ithokoze, nivuke kusasa ekuseni kakhulu, nihambe indlela yenu ukuba ufike etendeni lakho.”

¹⁰ Kepha akavumanga lowo muntu ukuhlala lobo busuku, kodwa wavuka wahamba, wafika malungana neJebusi eliyiJerusalema; kwakukhona naye izimbongolo ezimbili ziboshelwe izihlalo; nesancinza sakhe sasinaye.

¹¹ SebengaseJebusi, ilanga lase lidlulile kakhulu; inceku yathi enkosini yayo: “Ake uze, siphambukele kulo muzi wamaJebusi, sihlale kuwo.”

¹² Inkosi yayo yathi kuyo: “Asiyikuphambukela emzini wabafokazi ongesiwo owabantwana bakwa-Israyeli, kepha siyakudlulela eGibeya.”

¹³ Yayisithi encekwini: “Woza, sisondele kwenye yalezi zindawo; siyakulala eGibeya noma eRama.”

¹⁴ Base bethula bahamba; ilanga lashona bengaseGibeya elingelakwaBenjamini.

¹⁵ Baphambukela lapho ukuba bangene, balale eGibeya; wangena, wahlala phansi esigcawini somuzi; ngokuba kwakungekho muntu owabamukela endlini yakhe ukuba balale khona.

- ¹⁶ Bheka, kwafika ixhegu livela emsebenzini walo ensimini kusihlwa; lalingumuntu wasezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi, lagogobala eGibeya; kepha abantu baleyo ndawo babe ngabakwaBenjamini.
- ¹⁷ Waphakamisa amehlo akhe, wabona isihambi esigcawini somuzi; ixhegu lase lithi: “Uyangaphi na? Uvelaphi na?”
- ¹⁸ Wathi kulo: “Siyadlula sivela eBetlehema Juda, siya ohlangothini olungasemuva kwezintaba zakwa-Efrayimi; ngivela khona; ngaya eBetlehema Juda; sengiya endlini kaJehova, kepha akukho muntu ongamukela endlini yakhe.
- ¹⁹ Kukhona nokho utshani nefoliji lezimbongolo zethu; mina-ke nginesinkwa newayini, kanjalo nencekukazi yakho nensizwa enathi, izinceku zakho; akusweleke lutho.”
- ²⁰ Lase lithi ixhegu: “Ukuthula makube kuwe; kepha konke okuswelayo makube phezu kwami; kepha ungalali esigcawini.”
- ²¹ Lase limngenisa endlini yalo, lazinika izimbongolo ifoliji; bageza izinyawo zabo, badla, baphuza.
- ²² Besajabulisa izinhliziyi zabo, bheka, abantu bomuzi, abantu ababi, bahaqa indlu nxazonke, bangqongqotha emnyango; basho kumninindlu, ixhegu, bathi: “Khipha lowo muntu owangena endlini yakho ukuba simazi.”
- ²³ Ixhegu, umninindlu, laphumela kubo, lathi kubo: “Hhayi, bafowethu, ngiyanicela, ningenzi okubi okungako; lokhu lo muntu engenile endlini yami, ningenzi lobu buwula.
- ²⁴ Bhekani, nansi indodakazi yami, intombi, nesancinza sakhe; ngiyakubakhipha bona manje, nibone, nenze kubo njengokuthanda kwenu; kepha kulo muntu ningenzi ubuwula obunjalo.”
- ²⁵ Kepha abantu kabavumanga ukumlalela; khona lowo muntu wasibamba isancinza sakhe, wasikhiphela kubo; basazi, basona ubusuku bonke kwaze kwaba sekuseni; ekuthatheni kokusa basiyeka.
- ²⁶ Owesifazane wayesefika ngovivi lokusa, wawa ngasemnyango wendlu yomuntu, lapho yayikhona inkosi yakhe, kwaze kwakhanya.
- ²⁷ Inkosi yakhe yavuka ekuseni, yavula iminyango yendlu, yaphuma ukuba ihambe indlela yayo; bheka, owesifazane, isancinza sakhe, wayewile ngasemnyango wendlu, izandla zakhe ziphezu kombundu.
- ²⁸ Yathi kuye: “Vuka sihambe,” kepha akuphendulanga muntu. Yayisimbeka embongolweni yayo; wasuka lowo muntu, waya endaweni yakhe.
- ²⁹ Lapho esengenile endlini yakhe, wathatha umese, wabamba isancinza sakhe, wasihlahlela ithambo ngethambo, kwaba yizingqamu eziyishumi nambili, wasithuma emikhawulweni yonke yakwa-Israyeli.
- ³⁰ Kwathi bonke abakubonayo bathi: “Akuzange kwenziwe okunjalo, akuzange kubonwe kusukela osukwini abantwana bakwa-Israyeli abakhuphuka ngalo ezweni laseGibithe kuze kube namuhla; zindlani ngalokho, nilulekane, nikhulume.”

ISAHLUKO 20

Base bephuma bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, inhlango yahlango njengomuntu munye, kusukela kwaDani kwaze kwaba seBeri Sheba kanye nezwe lakwaGileyadi kuJehova eMiswa.

- ² Izinhloko zabantu bonke, izizwe zonke zakwa-Israyeli, zafika ebandleni labantu bakaNkulunkulu, abantu abayimigundatshani; abayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amane, abahlome inkemba.

- ³ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini bezwa ukuthi abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babenyukele eMiswa. Bathi abantwana bakwa-Israyeli: "Sitheleni ukuthi lobu bubi benziwa kanjani na?"
- ⁴ UmLevi, umyeni wowedesifazane owayebulewe, waphendula wathi: "Ngafika eGibeya lakwaBenjamini, mina nesancinza sami, ukulala khona.
- ⁵ Abantu baseGibeya bangivukela, bahaqa indlu nxazonke zami ebusuku; bacabanga ukungibulala mina, nesancinza sami basona; sesifile.
- ⁶ Ngase ngithatha isancinza sami, ngasihlahlela, ngasithuma ezweni lonke lefa lakwa-Israyeli, ngokuba babesebenzile ukona nobuwula kwa-Israyeli.
- ⁷ Bhekani nina bantwana bakwa-Israyeli, nina nonke; qondisani, niluleke lapha."
- ⁸ Bonke abantu bavuka njengomuntu munye, bathi: "Asiyikuya, sisho namunye etendeni lakhe; asiyikuphambukela sisho namunye endlini yakhe.
- ⁹ Kepha nakhu esiyakukwenza eGibeya: Siyakulihlasela ngenkatho,
- ¹⁰ sithathe abantu abayishumi ekhulwini kuzo zonke izizwe zakwa-Israyeli, nabayikhulu enkulungwaneni, nabayinkulungwane ezinkulungwaneni eziyishumi, ukuba balande ukudla kwabantu, nalapho sebefike eGibeya lakwaBenjamini benze ngokobuwula ababenzile kwa-Israyeli."
- ¹¹ Abantu bonke bakwa-Israyeli babehlanganyele umuzi, bebumbene kungathi ngumuntu munye.
- ¹² Izizwe zakwa-Israyeli zathuma abantu emindenini yonke yakwaBenjamini, zathi: "Ububi buni lobu obenziwe phakathi kwenu na?"
- ¹³ Ngalokho khiphani labo bantu, abantu ababi, abaseGibeya, ukuba sibabulale, sixoshe ububi kwa-Israyeli." Kepha uBenjamini kavumanga ukulalela izwi labafowabo, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli.
- ¹⁴ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini babuthana eGibeya, bevela emizini, ukuba baphume balwe nabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.
- ¹⁵ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini abavela emizini babalwa ngalolo suku baba ngamadoda ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nesithupha ahlome inkemba ngaphandle kwabakhileyo eGibeya ababalwa baba ngamakhulu ayisikhombisa, amadoda akhethiweyo.
- ¹⁶ Phakathi kwabo bonke labo bantu kwakukhona amadoda angamakhulu ayisikhombisa akhethiweyo angamanxele; onke ayekwazi ukuphonsa amatshe ngisho nasonweleni, engageji.
- ¹⁷ Abantu bakwa-Israyeli ngaphandle kukaBenjamini babalwa baba yizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amane, amadoda ahlome inkemba; bonke labo babe ngamadoda empi.
- ¹⁸ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bavuka, bakhuphukela eBethela, babuza kuNkulunkulu, bathi: "Ngubani oyakusikhuphukelela kuqala ukulwa nabantwana bakwaBenjamini na?" UJehova wathi: "NguJuda kuqala."
- ¹⁹ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bavuka ekuseni, bamisa malungana neGibeya.
- ²⁰ Abantu bakwa-Israyeli baphuma ukuba balwe noBenjamini; abantu bakwa-Israyeli bazihlelela ukulwa nabo eGibeya.
- ²¹ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini baphuma eGibeya, babulala kwabakwa-Israyeli ngalolo suku amadoda ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nambili.
- ²² Abantu, amadoda akwa-Israyeli, baziqinisa, babuye bahlela impi endaweni abazihlela kuyo ngosuku lokuqala.
- ²³ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhuphuka, bakhala phambi kukaNkulunkulu kwaze kwahlwa; babuza kuJehova, bathi: "Siyakuphinda sisondele ukulwa nabantwana

bakwaBenjamini umfowethu na?” UJehova wathi: “Yenyukelani kuye.”

²⁴ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli basondela kubantwana bakwaBenjamini ngosuku lwesibili.

²⁵ UBenjamini waphuma eGibeya ukuhlangabezana nabo ngosuku lwesibili, wabuye wabulala kubantwana bakwa-Israyeli amadoda ayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nesishiyagalombili; bonke labo babehlome inkemba.

²⁶ Base bekhuphuka bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, abantu bonke, bafika eBethete, bakhala, bahlala khona phambi kukaJehova, bazila ukudla ngalolo suku kwaze kwahlwa; banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa nangeminikelo yokuthula phambi kukaJehova.

²⁷ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babuza kuJehova ngokuba umphongolo wesivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu wawulapho ngalezo zinsuku;

²⁸ uFinehasi indodana ka-Eleyazare ka-Aroni wema phambi kwawo ngalezo zinsuku bathi: “Siyakuphinda siphume ukuba silwe nabantwana bakwaBenjamini umfowethu, nokuba siyeke na?” UJehova wathi: “Khuphukani, ngokuba kusasa ngiyakubanikela esandleni sakho.”

²⁹ U-Israyeli wabeka abaqamekeli kulo iGibeya nxazonke.

³⁰ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bakhuphuka ukulwa nabantwana bakwaBenjamini ngosuku lwesithathu, bazihlelela ukulwa neGibeya njengakwezinye izikhathi.

³¹ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini baphuma ukulwa nabantu, badonswa, baphuma emzini; baqala ukubulala nokuceka abantu njengakwezinye izikhathi emendweni, omunye okhuphukela eBethete, omunye oya eGibeya ensimini, kungathi amadoda angamashumi amathathu kwa-Israyeli.

³² Abantwana bakwaBenjamini bathi: “Babulewe phambi kwethu njengakuqala.” Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bathi: “Masibaleke, sibadonse, baphume emzini, baye emendweni.”

³³ Bonke abantu bakwa-Israyeli basuka endaweni yabo, bazihlele eBali Tamari; abaqamekeli bakwa-Israyeli bavumbuluka endaweni yabo eMare Geba.

³⁴ Kweza malungana neGibeya abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi abakhethiweyo kuye wonke u-Israyeli; ukulwa kwakunzima, kepha babengazi ukuthi ingozi isifikile kubo.

³⁵ UJehova wanqoba uBenjamini phambi kuka-Israyeli; abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babulala ngalolo suku kwaBenjamini abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nanhlanu nekhulu; bonke labo babehlome inkemba.

³⁶ Base bebona abantwana bakwaBenjamini ukuthi banqotshiwe; abantu bakwa-Israyeli bamdela uBenjamini lokhu bebebethemba abaqamekeli ababebabekile ngaseGibeya.

³⁷ Abaqamekeli bashesha badumela eGibeya; abaqamekeli basuka bachitha umuzi wonke ngosiko lwenkemba.

³⁸ Isiboniso esinqunyiweyo phakathi kwabantu bakwa-Israyeli nabaqamekeli sasiyilesi sokuba bathunqise umusi omkhulu wenyuke emzini.

³⁹ Abantu bakwa-Israyeli babuyela emuva empini; uBenjamini wayeseqalile ukubulala nokuceka kubantu bakwa-Israyeli kungathi abantu abangamashumi amathathu, ngokuba bathi: “Impela babulewe phambi kwethu njengasekulweni kwakuqala.”

⁴⁰ Kepha lapho sekuqale ukuthunqa insika yomusi emzini, abakwaBenjamini babheka emuva, nanko umuzi wonke uthunqela ngasezulwini.

⁴¹ Base bephenduka abantu bakwa-Israyeli, nabantu bakwaBenjamini bashaywa luvalo, ngokuba babona ukuthi behlelwe ngububi.

⁴² Ngalokho bafulathela phambi kwabantu bakwa-Israyeli, bahamba ngendlela yasehlane, kepha ukulwa kwabalandela; abaphuma emizini bababulala phakathi kwayo.

⁴³ Babahaqa abakwaBenjamini nxazonke, babaxosha, babanyathela phansi endaweni

yabo yokuphumula, baze bafika malungana neGibeya ngasempumalanga.

⁴⁴ Kwawa abantu bakwaBenjamini abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nesishiyagalombili; bonke labo babe ngamaqhawe.

⁴⁵ Baphenduka babalekela ehlane edwaleni lakwaRimoni; bakhothoza kubo emendweni abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyisihlanu, babaxosha kwaze kwabaseGideyomu, babulala kubo abantu abayizinkulungwane ezimbili.

⁴⁶ Bonke abawa ngalolo suku kwaBenjamini babe ngabantu abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nanhlanu abahlome inkemba; bonke labo babe ngamaqhawe.

⁴⁷ Kepha abantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha baphenduka, babalekela ehlane edwaleni lakwaRimoni, bahlala edwaleni lakwaRimoni izinyanga ezine.

⁴⁸ Abantu bakwa-Israyeli babuyela kubantwana bakwaBenjamini, bababulala ngosiko lwenkemba ababesaphila emzini, nezinkomo, yebo, konke okwafunyaniswayo; futhi yonke imizi abayifumanisayo bayithungela ngomlilo.

ISAHLUKO 21

Aabantu bakwa-Israyeli babefungile eMispa, bethi: “Akuyikubakho muntu oyakunika owakwaBenjamini indodakazi yakhe ibe ngumkakhe.”

² Abantu base befika eBethete, bahlala khona kwaze kwahlwa phambi kukaNkulunkulu, baphakamisa izwi labo, bakhala kakhulu.

³ Bathi: “Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, lokhu kwenzelweni kwa-Israyeli ukuba kusilale namuhla esinye isizwe sakwa-Israyeli na?”

⁴ Kwathi ngakusasa abantu bavuka ekuseni, bakha khona i-altare, banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa neminikelo yokuthula.

⁵ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bathi: “Yisiphi phakathi kwazo zonke izizwe zakwa-Israyeli esingakhuphukelanga ebandleni kuJehova na?” Ngokuba bebefungile isifungo esikhulu ngaye ongakhuphukeli kuJehova eMispa ukuthi wobulawa nokubulawa.

⁶ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bamhawukela uBenjamini umfowabo, bathi: “Kunqunyiwe namuhla esinye isizwe kwa-Israyeli.

⁷ Siyakwenze njani ukuba abaseleyo babe nabafazi, lokhu sifungile uJehova ukuthi asiya kubanika amadodakazi ethu abe ngomkabo, na?”

⁸ Bathi: “Yisiphi kuzo izizwe zakwa-Israyeli esingakhuphukelanga kuJehova eMispa na?” Bheka, akufikanga muntu ekamu ovela eJabeshi Gileyadi ukuya ebandleni.

⁹ Sebebalwa abantu; bheka, kwakungekho muntu kwabakhile eJabeshi Gileyadi lapho.

¹⁰ Inhlango yathuma khona abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nambili abangamaqhawe amakhulu, yabayala yathi: “Hambani nibabulale abakhe eJabeshi Gileyadi ngosiko lwenkemba kanye nabesifazane nezingane.

¹¹ Yilokhu eniyakukwenza: Niyakuchitha nokuchitha bonke abesilisa nabo bonke abesifazane abake balala nendoda.”

¹² Bafumana phakathi kwabakhileyo eJabeshi Gileyadi izintombi ezintsha ezingamakhulu amane ezingazanga ndoda ngokulala nayo; baziya ekamu eShilo elisezweni laseKhanani.

¹³ Yonke inhlango yathuma yakhuluma kubantwana bakwaBenjamini ababesedwaleni lakwaRimoni, yamemezela ukuthula kubo.

¹⁴ UBenjamini wabuya ngaleso sikhathi; babanika abesifazane ababebasindisile kwabesifazane baseJabeshi Gileyadi; kepha ababanelanga.

- ¹⁵ Abantu bamhawukela uBenjamini, ngokuba uJehova wayenze ukwahlukana ezizweni zakwa-Israyeli.
- ¹⁶ Amalunga enhlangano ayesethi: “Siyakwenze njani ukuba abaseleyo babe nabafazi, lokhu abesifazane bechithiwe kwaBenjamini, na?”
- ¹⁷ Athi: “Nga liba khona ifa labaphunyukileyo bakwaBenjamini, ukuze kungesulwa sizwe kwa-Israyeli.
- ¹⁸ Kepha asinakubanika nokho amadodakazi ethu abe ngomkabo, ngokuba abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babefungile bethi: ‘Makaqalekiswe onika owakwaBenjamini umfazi.’ ”
- ¹⁹ Athi: “Bheka, kukhona umkhosi kaJehova iminyaka ngeminyaka eShilo elingasenyakatho kwaseBethеле ngasempumalanga komendo okhuphuka eBethele uya eShekemi nangaseningizimu kwaseLebona.”
- ²⁰ Abayala abantwana bakwaBenjamini, athi: “Hambani niqamekele ezivinini,
- ²¹ nibone: bhekani, uma amadodakazi aseShilo ephuma ukusina lapho kusinwa khona, anophuma ezivinini, nizibambe, kube yilowo nalowo umkakhe kuwo amadodakazi aseShilo, niye ezweni lakwaBenjamini.
- ²² Kuyakuthi lapho oyise noma abanewabo befika ukuphikisana nathi, sithi kubo: ‘Sinikeni wona ngomusa, ngokuba asithathanga, kwaba yilowo nalowo umkakhe empini, futhi anibanikanga wona; khona ngabe nitholile icala.’ ”
- ²³ Abantwana bakwaBenjamini benze njalo, bazithathela abafazi njengenani labo kwabasinayo, ababaqhwagayo; bahamba, babuyela efeni labo, bakha imizi, bahlala kuyo.
- ²⁴ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bamuka khona ngaleso sikhathi, yilowo nalowo waya esizweni sakhe nasemndenini wakhe, baphuma lapho, yilowo nalowo waya efeni lakhe.
- ²⁵ Ngalezo zinsuku kwakungekho nkosi kwa-Israyeli; yilowo nalowo wenza okulungile emehlweni akhe.

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