

1 AMAKHOSI

U-Adonija Uzibeka Ukuba yiNkosi

1 Kwathi inkosi uDavida esemdala kakhulu, wayengasafudumali elele loba bemembathisile kakhulu. ² Izinceku zakhe zathi kuye, “Kasidinge intombazana yokunakekela inkosi iyifudumeze. Izalala eceleni layo ukuze inkosi yethu ifudumale.”

³Ngakho balibhudula lonke elako-Israyeli bedinga intombi enhle baze bafumana u-Abhishagi, umShunami walethwa enkosini. ⁴Intombazana leyo yayinhle kakhulu; yayinakekela inkosi yayilondoloza, kodwa inkosi kayiyenzanga umfazi.

⁵Kwathi u-Adonija, unina owayenguHagithi, waziveza wathi, “Yimi engizakuba yinkosi.” Waselungisa izinqola lamabhiza kanye lamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu ukumandulela. ⁶(Uyise kazange amphazamise ngokumbuza ukuthi, “Ukwenzeleni konke lokhu?” Laye wayemuhle kakhulu, eselama u-Abhsalomi.)

⁷U-Adonija wacebisana loJowabi indodana kaZeruya lo-Abhiyatha umphristi, laba bamsekela. ⁸Kodwa uZadoki umphristi, loBheniya indodana kaJehoyada, loNathani umphrofethi, loShimeyi, loReyi kanye labalindi benkosi abamsekelanga u-Adonija.

⁹U-Adonija wasesenza umhlatshelo ngezimvu, ngezinkomo langamathole anonileyo eLitsheni laseZohelathi eduze le-Eni Rogeli. Wanxusa abafowabo, lamadodana enkosi lawo wonke amadoda akoJuda ayengawesikhosini, ¹⁰kodwa kamnxusanga uNathani umphrofethi loba uBhenaya loba

abalindi benkosi loba umfowabo uSolomoni.

¹¹Ngakho uNathani wabuza uBhathisheba, unina kaSolomoni wathi, “Awukezwa yini ukuthi u-Adonija, indodana kaHagithi, useyinkosi ezibeka inkosi yethu uDavida ingakakwazi lokho? ¹²Khathesi-ke, kahle ngikutshengise ukuthi ungazisindisa kanye lokuvikela impilo yendodana yakho uSolomoni. ¹³Ngena lapha okulenkosi uDavida khona ufike uthi kuyo, ‘Wena omkhulu nkosi yami, awufunganga na phambi kwami mina sichaka sakho ukuthi: “Ngoqotho sibili indodana yakho uSolomoni uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwakho, uzahlala esihlalweni sami”?’ Kungani pho u-Adonija esebe yinkosi?’ ¹⁴Uzakuthi usuphakathi ukhuluma layo inkosi, lami ngizangena ngifike ngigcwalisele lokho ozabe ukutshilo.”

¹⁵Ngalokho-ke uBhathisheba wayayibona inkosi eyayivele isiluphele isendlini yayo, lapho u-Abhishagi ongumShunami ayesonga khona inkosi. ¹⁶UBhathisheba wakhothama wazehlisa waguqa phambi kwenkosi. Inkosi yambuza yathi: “Kuyini okufunayo?”

¹⁷Wathi kuyo, “Nkosi yami, wena uqobo lwakho wafunga kimi inceku yakho ngoJehova uNkulunkulu wathi: ‘USolomoni indodana yakho uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwami, njalo uzahlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi.’ ¹⁸Kodwa khathesi u-Adonija usebe yinkosi, kodwa wena, mbusi nkosi yami awukwazi okwenzakalayo. ¹⁹Usenikele ngezinkomo ezinengi, amaguqa anonisiweyo, kanye lezimvu, njalo usenxuse wonke amadodana enkosi, u-Abhiyatha umphristi kanye loJowabi umlawuli webutho, kodwa kamnxusanga uSolomoni inceku yakho. ²⁰Mbusi wami, nkosi, abako-Israyeli bonke bakukhangele, badinga ukwazi ukuthi

ngubani ozahlala esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi ngemva kwakho.

²¹ Kungenzeka phela ukuthi inkosi yami ingavele iyephumula kuboyise, mina lendodana yami uSolomoni sizaphathwa njengezigangi.”

²² Kwathi elokhu esakhuluma lenkosi, kwafika uNathaniumphrofethi.

²³ Bayibikela inkosi bathi, “UNathaniumphrofethi ulapha.” Waya phambi kwenkosi wakhothama embele ubuso bakhe phansi.

²⁴ UNathani wabuza wathi, “Kambe, nkosi yami, nguwe na othe u-Adonija uzamele athathe ubukhosi bakho ungasekho wena, utshilo na ukuthi uzahlala esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi?”

²⁵ Lamuhla lokhu wehlile wayakwenza umhlatshelo wezinkomo ezinengi, amaguqa anonisiweyo, lezimvu. Unxuse wonke amadodana enkosi, abalawuli bamabutho enkosi kanye lo-Abhiyathaumphristi. Khona khathesi nje bayadla benatha kanye laye besitsho besithi, ‘Mpilonde nkosi Adonija!’ ²⁶ Kodwa mina inceku yakho, loZadokiumphristi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, kanye lenceku yakho uSolomoni kasinxusanga. ²⁷ Kambe kungaba yikuthi lokhu inkosi yami ikwenze ingatshelanga izinceku zayo ukuthi ngubani ozahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi benkosi yami ngemva kokuba inkosi ingasekho?”

UDavida Wethesa uSolomoni Ubukhosi

²⁸ Ngalokho iNkosi uDavida yathi, “Mbize, angene uBhathisheba.” Ngakho weza enkosini wema phambi kwayo.

²⁹ Inkosi yasifunga yathi: “Ngeqiniso lokuthi uJehova wami ngophilayo, lowo owangikhipha ezinhlophekweni zami zonke, ³⁰ ngempela khona lamuhla lokhu ngizagcwalisa lokho engafunga ngoJehova wami kuwe, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: uSolomoni indodana yakho uzakuba yinkosi ngemva kwami, njalo

uzahlala esihlalweni sami esikhundleni sami.”

³¹ Ngalokho uBhathisheba wakhothamisa ikhanda ekhangele phansi, kwathi eseguqe phambi kwenkosi, wathi. “Umbusi wami inkosi uDavida kaphile kuze kube nini lanini!”

³² INkosi uDavida yathi, “Ngibizela uZadokiumphristi, uNathaniumphrofethi kanye loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada.” Bathe sebephambi kwenkosi, ³³ yathi kubo: “Thathani izinceku zenkosi yenu lihambe lazo liyekhweza uSolomoni indodana yami phezu kwembongolo yami lehle laye liye eGihoni. ³⁴ Khonale uZadokiumphristi loNathaniumphrofethi kuzamele bamgcobe ubukhosi phezu kuka-Israyeli wonke. Livuthele icilongo limemeze lithi, ‘Kayiphile okulaphakade iNkosi uSolomoni!’ ³⁵ Lizakhwela laye, abuye azohlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi aze abuse esikhundleni sami. Sengimkhethile ukuthi abuse phezu kuka-Israyeli lakoJuda.”

³⁶ UBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada waphendula inkosi wathi, “Akube njalo! Kungathi uJehova, uNkulunkulu wombusi lenkosi yami, angakumisa kube njalo. ³⁷ Njengoba uJehova elondoloze umbusi wami oyinkosi, akube njalo lakuSolomoni ukuze enze ubukhosi bakhe bube ngaphezu kwalobo obenkosi yami iNkosi uDavida!”

³⁸ Ngakho uZadokiumphristi, loNathaniumphrofethi, loBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada lamaKhelethi lamaPhelethi behla bafika bakhweza uSolomoni embongolweni yeNkosi uDavida bamqhuba bamusa eGihoni. ³⁹ UZadokiumphristi wathatha uphondo lwamafutha ethenteni elingcwele wagcoba uSolomoni. Ngakho bahle bavuthela icilongo kwathi abantu bonke bahlaba umkhosi behaya besithi, “Mpilonde Nkosi Solomoni!” ⁴⁰ Bonke

bamlandela, bavuthela imihubhe bejabula kakhulu, kwaze kwanyikinyeka umhlaba.

⁴¹U-Adonija kanye lezethekeli ezazilaye zawuzwa lumkhosi njengoba bona basebeqedisa ukudla. UJowabi wathi esizwa icilongo wabuza wathi, “Utshoni umsindo wonke-lo edolobheni?”

⁴²Kwathi elokhu esakhuluma kwafika uJonathani indodana ka-Abhiyatha umphristi. U-Adonija wathi, “Ngena phakathi. Indoda eqakathekileyo njengawe kufanele ukuthi isiphathele izindaba ezimnandi.”

⁴³UJonathani waphendula wathi, “Akulalutho. Umbusi wethu iNkosi uDavida usegcobe uSolomoni ubukhosi.

⁴⁴Inkosi isimthumele kanye loZadoki umphristi, loNathani umphrofethi, loBheniya indodana kaJehoyada, lamaKherethi lamaPhelethi, njalo sebehle bamkhweza embongolweni yenkosi. ⁴⁵Njalo uZadoki umphristi loNathani umphrofethi sebehle bamgcobela ubukhosi eGihoni. Besuka lapho bahle bahaya bembuka, kanti ledolobho lonke lihlokoma ngenjabulo. Yiwo lo umkhosi eliwuzwayo. ⁴⁶Kunjalo nje uSolomoni usehle wahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi. ⁴⁷Phezu kwalokho izikhulu zesikhosini sezifikile ukuthi zizokwenzela iNkosi uDavida amhlophe zisithi, ‘Sengathi uNkulunkulu wakho angenza ibizo likaSolomoni lidume kulelako kuthi lesihlalo sakhe sobukhosi sibe lodumo ukwedlula esakho!’ Ngalokho inkosi yakhothama yakhonza isembhedeni wayo ⁴⁸yathi, “Udumo alube kuye uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ovumele ukuthi ngizibonele ngawami amehlo lowo ozathatha isihlalo sami sobukhosi lamuhla.”

⁴⁹Ngenxa yalokhu, izethekeli zika-Adonija zathi lothu zaphakama ngokwethuka zachitheka. ⁵⁰Kodwa u-Adonija, ngokwesaba uSolomoni, wahamba wayabamba izimpondo ze-alithare. ⁵¹USolomoni wasetshelwa ukuthi, “U-Adonija uyayesaba iNkosi uSolomoni ngakho usegagadlele izimpondo ze-alithare. Uthi yena, ‘iNkosi uSolomoni kayifunge kimi lamuhla ithi kayiyikubulala isichaka sayo ngenkamba.’ ”

⁵²USolomoni waphendula wathi, “Nxa angatshengisela ukuthi uyindoda uqobo lwayo akula nwele lolulodwa lwekhanda lakhe oluzawela emhlabathini; kodwa nxa ebanjwe yikona, uzakufa.” ⁵³Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni yathumela amadoda, ayamethula e-alithareni abuya laye. Ngalokho u-Adonija weza wafika wazehlisa wakhothama enkosini uSolomoni, yena uSolomoni wathi. “Hamba, yana emzini wakho.”

UDavida Ulaya uSolomoni

2 Kwathi isikhathi sokuthi uDavida afe sesisondele, walaya indodana yakhe uSolomoni.

²Wathi, “Sengiseduze ukuyiphetha indlela yemhlabeni. Ngakho qina, zitshengisele ubudoda bakho,

³unanzelele lokho okufunwa nguJehova uNkulunkulu: Hamba endleleni yakhe, ugcine imilayo leziqondiso zakhe, imithetho yakhe kanye lokuswelakalayo: Hamba ezindleleni zakhe, ugcine izimiso zakhe leziqondiso zakhe, imithetho yakhe lokulotshweyo ngokoMthetho kaMosi, ukuze uphumelele kukho konke okwenzayo kanye lalapha oya khona, ⁴ngalokho uJehova uzagcina isithembiso sakhe kimi: ‘Nxa isizukulwane sakho sizananzelelela izindlela zokuphila kwaso,

njalo sizahamba ngobuqotho phambi kwami ngezinhliziyi zaso lasemoyeni waso, awuyikwehluleka uswele indoda ezahlala esihlalweni sobukhosi ko-Israyeli.’

⁵ “Wena ngokwakho uyakwazi ukuthi uJowabi indodana kaZeruya wenzani kimi — ukuthi wenzani kubalawuli bamabutho ako-Israyeli, u-Abhineri indodana kaNeri lo-Amasa indodana kaJetheri. Wababulala, wachitha igazi ngesikhathi sokuthula kwangathi kusempini, ngalokho igazi langcolisa uzwezwe okhalweni lwakhe lenyathelo ezinyaweni zakhe. ⁶ Yenza lokho obona kufanele kuye, kodwa ikhanda lakhe elimpunga ungavumeli lingcwatshwe ngokuthula.

⁷ “Kodwa ube lomusa kumadodana kaBhazilayi weGileyadi babe ngabanye balabo abazakudla kanye lawe ethaleni lakho. Bona bema kanye lami nxa ngangibalekela umfowenu u-Abhsalomi.

⁸ “Njalo ukhumbule ukuthi, wena ulendodana kaGera uShimeyi ongowakoBhenjamini oweBhahurini owangithuka kabuhlungu mhla ngisiya kuMahanayimi. Wathi lapho ezongihlangabeza eJodani, ngafunga ngoJehova ngathi: ‘Angiyi kukubulala ngenkamba.’ ⁹ Kodwa loba kunjalo ungabonakana ukuthi umsulwa. Uyindoda elengqondo ekhaliphileyo, kumele ukwazi ozakwenza kuye. Yethula ikhanda lakhe elimpunga liye emagwabeni ligcwele igazi.”

¹⁰ Kwaba yikwedlula kukaDavida esesiya kuboyise abafayo wayangcwatshwa eMzini kaDavida.

¹¹ Wayesebuse okweminyaka engamatshumi amane ko-Israyeli – iminyaka eyisikhombisa eHebhroni kwathi engamatshumi amathathu lemithathu eJerusalema. ¹² Ngakho uSolomoni wahlala esihlalweni

sobukhosi sikayise uDavida, umbuso wakhe wagxila waqina.

Ukuzinziswa Kombuso kaSolomoni

¹³ Kwathi u-Adonija, indodana kaHagithi, waya kuBhathishebha, unina kaSolomoni. UBhathishebha wambuza wathi, “Kambe uza ngokuthula na?”

Yena waphendula wathi, “Ye, ngokuthula.” ¹⁴ Waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Kukhona engifisa ukukutsho kuwe.” Wathi, “Ungatsho lokho oza ngakho.”

¹⁵ “Njengoba usazi ukuthi ubukhosi bebungobami. U-Israyeli ubekhangele ukuthi yimi inkosi yabo. Kodwa izinto seziguqukile, ubukhosi sebuthethwe ngumfowethu, ngoba yena ubuphiwe yinkosi. ¹⁶ Pho khathesi ngilesicelo engiza ngaso kuwe. Ungabokwala.”

Waphendula wathi, “Khuluma isikhalazo sakho.”

¹⁷ Yena waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Ngoxolo, ngicelela inkosi uSolomoni – ngiyazi ngeke ale kuwe – ngicela anginike u-Abhishagi umShunami ukuze abe ngumfazi wami.”

¹⁸ UBhathisheba waphendula wathi, “Yebo kambe, ngizakukhulumela ngikubike enkosini.”

¹⁹ Kwathi uBhathisheba esiyakhulumela u-Adonija enkosini uSolomoni, inkosi yaphakama yamhlangabeza yamkhotshama yasihlala esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi. Yathi kabalethele unina isihlalo sesikhosini, unina wasehlala esandleni sayo sokudla.

²⁰ Unina wathi, “Ungabokwala, ngilesicelo esincane engizasethula kuwe.” Inkosi yaphendula yathi, “Cela mama, angiyikukuncitsha, angikwaleli.”

²¹ Unina wasesithi, “Yekela u-Abhishagi umShunami abe ngumfazi womfowenu u-Adonija.”

²² INkosi uSolomoni ephendula unina wathi, “Kungani ucelela u-Adonija u-Abhishagi umShunami? Kuyafanana lokuthi umcelela ubukhosi – kanti njalo, yena ngokwakhe umnewethu umdala kulami – yebo yena, kanye laku-Abhiyatha umphristi loJowabi indodana kaZeruya!”

²³ Ngakho inkosi uSolomoni yasifunga ngoJehova yathi: “Kungani uNkulunkulu angangijezisa mina, loba kabuhlungu kanganani, nxa u-Adonija engasahlawulanga ngokufela lesisicelo esinje! ²⁴ Khathesi-ke, ngeqiniso likaJehova ophilayo – yena kanye ongibeke wangizinzisa esihlalweni sobukhosi bukababa uDavida wangidalela indlu yesikhosini njengokuthembisa kwakhe – u-Adonija uzabulawa lamhlanje!” ²⁵ Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni yakhipha ilizwi yathuma uBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, lakanye wamlehla phansi u-Adonija kwahle kwaba yikufa kwakhe.

²⁶ Ku-Abhiyatha umphristi iNkosi yathi, “Buyela emasimini akho e-Anathothi. Kufanele ufe kodwa angiyikukubulala khathesi, ngoba wathwala ibhokisi lesivumelwano soPhezukonke uJehova phambi kukababa uDavida waba kanye lobaba esebunzimeni.” ²⁷ Ngakho uSolomoni wasusa u-Abhiyatha esihlalweni sobuphristi bukaJehova, kwagcwaliseka lelo lizwi likaJehova alikhipha eShilo ekhuluma ngendlu ka-Eli.

²⁸ UJowabi ekuzweni lelilizwi, njengoba yena wayekade ebambene lo-Adonija engazange enze lokho lo-Abhsalomi, wabalekela ethenteni likaJehova wafika wadumela impondo ze-alithare. ²⁹ Inkosi uSolomoni yatshelwa ukuthi uJowabi ubalekele ethenteni likaJehova lapha afike wazisondeza e-alithareni. Ngalokho uSolomoni wathi kuBhenaya indodana

kaJehoyada, “Hamba uyemtshaya umbhuqe.”

³⁰ Lakanye uBhenaya wangena ethenteni likaJehova wathi kuJowabi, “Inkosi ithi, ‘Phuma phandle!’ ” Kodwa yena waphendula wathi, “Angiphumi, ngizafela khonapha.” UBhenaya wayabika enkosini wathi, “Yiyonale indlela angiphendule ngayo uJowabi.”

³¹ Ngalokho inkosi yathi kuBhenaya, “Yenza njengokutsho kwakhe. Umtshaye umbhuqe, uhle umngcwabe, ukuze ungigeze mina kanye lendlu kababa kulowomlandu wegazi elingelacala elachithwa nguJowabi. ³² UJehova uzamjezisa ngegazi alichathayo, ngoba wahlasela wabulala amadoda amabili ngenkemba ubaba inkosi uDavida engakwazi. Bobabili u-Abhina indodana kaNeri, umlawuli wamabutho ako-Israyeli, kanye lo-Amasa indodana kaJetheri, umlawuli wamabutho akoJuda – babengamadoda angcono beqotho kulaye. ³³ Kungani umlandu waleligazi labo ungahlala phezu kukaJowabi labenzalo yakhe kuze kube nini lanini. Kodwa inkosi uDavida lenzalo yakhe, lendlu yakhe lesihlalo sobukhosi sakhe, angathi ingehlelwa yikuthula okungapheliyo kukaJehova.”

³⁴ UBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada wakhwela wafika wamtshaya uJowabi wambulala wayangcwatshwa esiqintini sakhe enkangala. ³⁵ Inkosi yabeka uBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada ukuba abe ngumlawuli webutho esikhundleni sikaJowabi kwathi esikhundleni sika-Abhiyatha yabeka uZadoki umphristi.

³⁶ Ngakho inkosi yathi kayibizelwe uShimeli yasisithi kuye. “Zakhele indlu eJerusalema uhlale khonale, kodwa ungayi ndawo. ³⁷ Mhla uzake usuke uchaphe uye eziHotsheni zeKidroni, uhle wazi ngeqiniso ukuthi uzakufa, igazi lakho lizabizwa phezu kwakho.”

³⁸UShimeyi wayiphendula inkosi wathi, “Lokho okutshoyo kuqondile. Inceku yakho izakwenza njengoba inkosi yami itshilo.” Ngakho uShimeyi wahlala eJerusalema isikhathi eside.

³⁹Kodwa kwathi sekwedlule iminyaka emithathu, izigqili zikaShimeyi ezimbili zabalekela ku-Akhishi indodana kaMayakha, inkosi yeGathi, njalo uShimeyi watshelwa ukuthi, “Izigqili zakho ziseGathi.” ⁴⁰Ekuzwa lokhu, wethesa ubabhemi wakhe waya ku-Akhishi eGathi esiyadinga izigqili zakhe. Ngakho uShimeyi wabuya lazo izigqili zakhe evela eGathi.

⁴¹USolomoni esetsheliwe ukuthi uShimeyi wayesuke eJerusalema waya eGathi waze waphenduka, ⁴²inkosi yambiza uShimeyi yathi kuye, “Angizange ngikufungise ngoJehova njalo ngakuqonqonsela ukuthi, ‘Mhla uzake usuke uye kwenye indawo uhle wazi ukuthi ngempela uzakufa na?’ Ngalesosikhathi wathi kimi, ‘Okutshoyo kuqotho. Ngizalalela.’” ⁴³Pho kungani ungagcinanga isifungo sakho kuJehova ulalele isiqondiso engakunika sona?”

⁴⁴Inkosi njalo yathi kuShimeyi, “Uyakwazi enhliziyweni yakho konke ukona owakwenza kubaba uDavida. Khathesi uJehova uzakujezisa ngokona kwakho. ⁴⁵Kodwa iNkosi uSolomoni izabusiwa, isihlalo sobukhosi sikaDavida sizahlala siqinile ngokuzinza phambi kukaJehova kuze kube nini lanini.”

⁴⁶Ngakho yakhupha isiqondiso kuBhenaya indodana kaJehoyada, yena waphuma wafika wamnqonda uShimeyi wamhlala phansi wahle wambulala.

Ngalokho ubukhosi basebusezandleni zikaSolomoni ngokugcweleyo.

USolomoni Ucela Inhlakanipho

3 USolomoni waba lobudlelwano

loFaro inkosi yeGibhithe waze wathatha indodakazi yakhe. Wayingenisa edolobheni likaDavida inkosikazi yakhe esaqedisa umsebenzi wokwakha ithempeli likaJehova, lomduli ohonqolozele iJerusalema. ²Kodwa-ke, abantu babelokhu besanikelela ezindaweni eziqakathekileyo ngoba ithempeli lalilokhu lilindele ukwakhiwa lisakhelwa iBizo leNkosi. ³USolomoni watshengisela uthando lwakhe kuJehova ngokuhamba ngezindlela njengokulaya kukayise uDavida, ngaphandle nje kokuthi wanikela iminekelo watshisa impepho ezindaweni eziphakemeyo.

⁴Inkosi yaya eGibheyoni ukuyanikela iminikelo, ngoba kwakuyiyo indawo eqhamileyo kweziphakemeyo, kunjalonje uSolomoni wanikela ngemihlatshelo eyinkulungwane kulelo-alithare. ⁵Khonapho eGibheyoni uJehova waziveza kuSolomoni ebusuku emaphutsheni lapho uNkulunkulu athi, “Cela loba yini ofuna ukuba ngikunike yona.”

⁶USolomoni waphendula ngokuthi, “Utshengisele umusa omkhulu encekwini yakho, ubaba uDavida, ngenxa yokuthi wathembeka njalo elungile ngokuqonda enhliziyweni yakhe. Uqhubekele phambili ngomusa omkhulu kangaka wamnika indodana ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lamuhla lokhu.

⁷Khathesi, O Jehova Nkulunkulu wami, uyibekile inceku yakho yaba yinkosi esikhundleni sikababa uDavida. Kodwa ngivele ngingubani njengoba ngingumntwana ongakwaziyo ukuthwala enze umsebenzi awuphiweyo. ⁸Inceku yakho ilapha phakathi kwabantu bakho

obakhethileyo, abantu abaqakathekileyo, abanengi okungabalwayo noma ukulandisa ngenani labo. ⁹Phana inceku yakho inhliziyo elobubelo ukuze ibuse abantu bakho lokuthi yahlukanise phakathi kokuhle lokubi. Ngoba ngubani olamandla okubusa abantu bakho abaqakatheke kangaka?”

¹⁰UJehova wathokoziswa yilesisicelo sikaSolomoni. ¹¹Ngakho uNkulunkulu wathi kuye, “Njengoba ucele lokho kodwa ungacelanga impilo ende loba inotho, njalo awucelanga ukuthi ngabe izitha zakho ziyafa kodwa ucele inhliziyo elobubelo ekubuseni ngemfanelo, ¹²ngizakwenza lokho okucelileyo. Ngizakunika inhliziyo yenhlakanipho kanye lobubelo, kube yikuthi akukaze kube khona ofanana lawe, njalo kungelakuthi uzake abekhona. ¹³Phezu kwalokho, ngizakunika ongazange ukucele – kokubili inotho lokuhlonitshwa – kuze ekuphileni kwakho konke kungabi leyodwa inkosi ezalingana lawe. ¹⁴Kanti njalo nxa uzathatha inyathelo lami ulalele imilayo lemithetho yami njengalokhu okwenziwa nguyihlo uDavida, ngizakunika impilo ende.” ¹⁵Kunjalonje uSolomoni wasephaphama – wananzelela ukuthi kwakuliphupho. Wabuyela eJerusalema, wayakuma phambi kwebhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova wanikela ngomhlatshelo wokutshiswa. Wenzela izinceku zakhe zonke zasendlini idili.

Ukwahlulela Okulenhlanipho

¹⁶Kwaba khona abesifazane ababengaziphethe abeza enkosini bafika bema phambi kwayo. ¹⁷Omunye wabo wathi, “Nkosi yami, umama lo sihlala ndlunye. Ngikhululeke ngazuza umntwana laye ekhona. ¹⁸Kuthe ngosuku lwesithathu ngikhululekile laye umama lo wakhululeka wazuza umntwana.

Besiyithi sodwa sobabili, kungelamuntu endlini ngaphandle kwethu sobabili.

¹⁹“Ebusuku indodana yalumama ifile ngoba usuke walala phezu kwayo.

²⁰Ngenxa yalokho usuke wavuka ebusuku wangemuka indodana yami mina ncekukazi yakho ngilele ubuthongo. Uthethe umntanami wayamxhuma ebeleni lakhe wathatha owakhe umntwana ofileyo wamfaka kwelami ibele. ²¹Ekuseni ngithe ngivuka ukuba ngimunyise indodana yami – ngafumana ukuthi isifile! Kodwa ngithe ngiyayikhangelisisa sekusile ngananzelela ukuthi akusiyo indodana yami engayizalayo.”

²²Omunye owesifazana wathi, “Hayi! Indodana le ephilayo ngeyami, efileyo ngeyakho.”

Kodwa umama wokususa indaba waphikelela, “Hayi bo! Ofileyo ngowakho, ophilayo ngowami.” Kanjalo-ke baphikisana phambi kwenkosi.

²³Inkosi yathi, “Lo uthi, ‘Hayi bo! Indodana yami iyaphila kodwa eyakho ifile’ kanti belo loyana uthi ‘Hayi bo! Eyakho indodana yiyo efileyo kodwa eyami ngephilayo.’”

²⁴Inkosi yasisithi, “Lethani inkemba.” Lakanye inkosi bayiqhubela inkemba. ²⁵Inkosi yapha isiqondiso yathi, “Dabulani umntwana ophilayo phakathi laphakathi kuthi ingxenye liyiqhubele omunye umama kuthi lomunye laye limnike enye ingxenye.”

²⁶Umama owayelendodana ephilayo wakhulelwa lusizi ngendodana yakhe ngakho wathi enkosini, “Uxolo, ngiyacela nkosi yami, kungcono umqhubele umntwana ephila, umnike nkosi! Ungambulali umntwana.” Kodwa omunye umama wathi, “Kakho phakathi kwethu ofanele ukumzuza lumntwana, mqume iziqa ezimbili!”

²⁷ Inkosi yasiveza ukwahlulela kwayo: “Umntwana ophilayo mupheni umama wakuqala. Lingambulali umntwana, lo nguye unina uqobo.”

²⁸ Kwathi abako-Israyeli sebezwise bonke ukwahlulela kwenkosi, bayihlonipha kakhulu, ngoba babona ukuthi ukhulakanipha kwayo kokwahlulela ngemfanelo kuvela kuNkulunkulu.

*Iziphathamandla Labosibalukhulu
BakaSolomoni*

4 Ngakho uSolomoni wabusa lonke elako-Israyeli. ² Njalo ababeyizikhulu embusweni wakhe yilaba:

U-Azariya indodana kaZadoki – umphristi;

³ u-Elihorefu lo-Ahija, amadodana kaShisha ababengonobhala; uJehoshafathi indodana ka-Ahiludi – umlondolozisi wemibhalo;

⁴ uBhenaya indodana kaJohoyada – umlawuli omkhulu; uZadoki lo-Abhiyatha – bengabaphristi;

⁵ u-Azariya indodana kaNathani – ekhangele izikhulu zeziqinti; uZabhudi indodana kaNathani - engumphristi njalo engumcebisi osekhwapheni lenkosi;

⁶ u-Ahishari – umlawuli wasesigodlweni, u-Adonirami indodana ka-Abhida – ekhangele izichaka.

⁷ USolomoni wayelezinye njalo izikhulu zeziqinti ezilithumi lambili ezazikhangele ngokuqoqwa kokudla kwenkosi lomndlunkulu. Kwakusithi isikhulu ngasinye silethe okwaso okwenyanga eyodwa ngomnyaka.

⁸ Nanka amabizo alezozikhulu:

uBheni-Huri – ephethe isiqinti samaqaqa ezweni lika-Efrayimi;

⁹ uBheni-Dekheri – esiqintini seMakhazi, leShayalibhimu, leBhethishemeshi kanye le-Eloni Bethihanani;

¹⁰ uBheni-Hesedi – esiqintini se-Arubhothi (eSokhohi lakulo lonke ilizwe leHefari kungummango wakhe);

¹¹ uBheni-Abhinadabi - esiqintini seNaphothi Dori (yena wayethethe uThafathi indodakazi kaSolomoni.)

¹² UBhayana indodana ka-Ahiludi – esiqintini seThayanakhi leMegido, lasezindaweni zonke zeBhethi Shani phansi kweZarethani ngaphansi kweJezreli, kusuka eBhethi Shani kusiya e-Abheli Mehola kusuka lapho kuyengena ku-Abheli Mehola kuquma kuyengena kuJokhomimi;

¹³ uBheni-Gebha – eRamothe Gileyadi (imizana kaJayiri indodana kaManase eGileyadi kwakungokwakhe, kanye lesiqinti se-Agobhu eBhashani kuhlenganisa lamadolobho amakhulu angamatshumi ayisithupha alemiduli lamasango avalwa ngezivalo ezenziwe ngemigqala yensimbi yethusi);

¹⁴ u-Ahinadabi indodana ka-Ido – eMahanami; ¹⁵ u-Ahimazi – eNaftali (wayethethe uBhesamathi indodakazi kaSolomoni); ¹⁶ uBhana indodana kaHushayi – ko-Asheri lako-Alothi;

¹⁷ uJehoshafathi indodana koPharuya, ko-Isakari; ¹⁸ uShimeyi indodana ka-Ela – koBhenjamini; ¹⁹ uGebheri indodana ka-Uri – eGileyadi (elizweni likaSihoni inkosi yama-Amori kanye lelizwe lika-Ogi inkosi yeBhashani). Kwakunguye kuphela umbusi wesiqinti.

*Isabelo SikaSolomoni Sokudla
Kwensuku Zonke*

²⁰ Abantu bakoJuda labako-Israyeli babebanengi okwesihlabathi solwandle; babesidla, benatha njalo babejabula.

²¹ USolomoni wabusa kulo lonke

kusukela ezweni leMifula kusiya kwelamaFilisti, kuze kube semingceleni yeGibhithe. Wonke amazwe la ayethela njalo abuswa nguSolomoni okwempilo yakhe yonke.

²² Okwakufanele kudliwe esigodlweni sikaSolomoni nsuku zonke kwakubalisa ifulawa elicolekileyo elilingana amakhora angamatshumi amathathu lempuphu elingana amakhora angamatshumi ayisithupha, ²³ inkabi ezinonisiweyo ezilitshumi lenkomo ezingamatshumi amabili, ezivela emadlelweni, izimvu lezimbuzi ezilikhulu ngaphandle kwempala lemiziki lempunzi lengalukhuni ezinonisiweyo. ²⁴ Ngoba yena wabusa phezu kwemibuso entshonalanga koMfula, kusukela eTipisa kusiya eGaza, njalo kwakulokuthula kuzo zonke lezo zindawo. ²⁵ Ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaSolomoni kuze kufike ekufeni kwakhe elakoJuda lako-Israyeli, kusukela kuDani kusiya kuBhifiesheba, abantu babehlezi bevikelekile, kungolowo lalowo emthunzini wesihlahla sakhe sevini loba esomkhiwa.

²⁶ USolomoni wayesefumane indawo eziyinkulungwane zezinqola zempi, njalo wayelamabhiza azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili.

²⁷ Izikhulu zesiqinti, sinye ngasinye ngenyanga njengamalungiselelo, kwakumele zizophisane ukulethela iNkosi uSolomoni ukudla lemfanelo yakhe lababezokwethekelela esikhosini. Izikhulu lezi zazinanzelela kakhulu ukuthi akukho lokukodwa okusilelayo esikhosini. ²⁸ Izikhulu zaziletha njalo isabelo sazo sengqoloyi lotshani bamabhiza ezinqola zempi lamanye amabhiza.

Ukuhlakanipha kukaSolomoni

²⁹ UNkulunkulu wanika uSolomoni ukuhlakanipha lombono womzwangedwa, lengqondo ejulileyo ebanzi engelinganiswe okunjengetshebetshebe lokhumbi lolwandle. ³⁰ Ulwazi lukaSolomoni lwalujule ukwedlula olwezazi zonke zaseMpumalanga, njalo lujule ukwedlula ulwazi lonke lwaseGibhithe.

³¹ Wayehlakaniphe ukwedlula wonke amadoda, kubalwa kanye lo-Ethani umEzra – ehlananiphe ukwedlula uHemani, loKalikoli loDada, amadodana kaMaholi. Njalo udumo lwakhe lwazwakala ezizweni zonke ezazakhelene laye. ³² Wabumba izaga ezizinkulungwane ezintathu kanti njalo izingoma zakhe zaba yinkulungwane eyodwa lezinhlano. ³³ Wachasisa wahaya izihlahla, kusukela isihlahla somsedari waseLebhanoni lomhisophi okhula emidulini. Wafundisa njalo langezinyamazana lezinyoni, ezingahlali emanzini kodwa zingehluleki ukuphila khona lezinhlanzi. ³⁴ Amadoda ayequbuka evela emhlabeni wonke ukuthi azozizwela ukukhalipha kwengqondo kaSolomoni, wonke lamadoda amanye evela khonapho lamanye evela ezizweni, eza ukuzakuzwa lokhukuhlakanipha.

Amalungiselelo Okwakhiwa kweThempeli

5 Kwathi uHiramu inkosi yaseThire esizwa ukuthi uSolomoni ugcotshwe ukuba abe yinkosi athathe isihlalo sikayise, wathumela amanxusa akhe kuSolomoni njengoba wayevele ezwanana loDavida. ² Yena uSolomoni waphendula uHiramu wathi:

³“Wena uyakwazi ukuthi ngenxa yezimpi ebeziwiwa ubaba uDavida kenelisanga ukwakha ithempeli leBizo likaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe uJehova waze wamngobela izitha zakhe. ⁴Kodwa khathesi uJehova uNkulunkulu wami ungiphe ukuthula nxa zonke, ngakho akulasitha loba umonakalo.

⁵Ngizimisele, ngenxa yalokho, ukwakha ithempeli leBizo likaJehova uNkulunkulu wami, njengoba watshela ubaba uDavida wathi, ‘Indodana yakho engizayibeka esihlalweni sakho sobukhosi izakwakhela iBizo lami ithempeli.’

⁶“Khupha-ke iziqondiso zokuthi ngiganyulelwe izihlahla zomsedari waseLebhanoni. Amadoda avela kimi azasebenza kanye lawe, njalo amadoda avela kuwe ngizawaholisa leloholo ozalitsho wena. Uyakwazi ukuthi asilabo abawaziyo lowomsebenzi ngobuciko obungalingana lobamaSidoniya.”

⁷UHiram wathi esizwa ilizwi elivela kuSolomoni, wajabula kakhulu wathi, “Udumo kalube kuJehova lamuhla, ngoba unike uDavida indodana ehlakaniphileyo ezabusa lesisizwe esikhulu.”

⁸Ngakho uHiram wathumela ilizwi kuSolomoni wathi:

“Ngilitholile ilizwi ongithumele lona njalo ngizakwenza konke okuzakuzisa izigodo zesihlahla somsedari lesohlobo lwephayini. ⁹Amadoda ngapha ngakimi azagamula ahudule izigodo azifikise elwandle, ngibe sengizehlisa ngemikolo ngize ngiyezifikisa lapha ozakutsho khona. Kulapho engizazehlukanisa khona wena ube usuzithathela khonapho uhambe lazo. Wena uzagcwalisa isifiso sami ngokunginika isiqiniseko sokuthi uzanginika ukudla komdlunkulu wami ukuze ungawelwa yindlala.”

¹⁰Ngalindlela uHiram walethela uSolomoni izigodo zesihlahla somsedari kanye lesephayini ayezifuna, ¹¹kanti njalo yena uSolomoni wapha uHiram ingqoloyi elingana amakhora azinkukungwane ezingamatshumi amabili yomndlunkulu, phezu kwamafutha acengekileyo awedira angamatanka ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili iminyaka leminyaka. ¹²UJehova wapha uSolomoni ingqondo ekhaliphileyo njengokumethembisa kwakhe. Kwaba lokuthula ebudlelwaneni bukaHiram loSolomoni, kwathi bubili babo baba lesibopho sabo sokuhlalisana ngokuthula.

¹³INkosi uSolomoni yabutha izibhalwa zokusebenza elizweni lonke lako-Israyeli – ezazizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amathathu.

¹⁴Wayezithumela eLebhanoni lezizibhalwa ngezigaba zabantu abazinkulungwane ezilitshumi izopho ngezopho ngenyanga, kuyikuthi lezizibhalwa zazisebenza eLebhanoni inyanga yonke zibe seziphumula ekhaya okwezinyanga ezimbili.

U-Adoniram wathumela labo ababuthwa babayizibhalwa zomsebenzi. ¹⁵USolomoni wayelabantu bokuthwala abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa kanye lababebaza amatshe abazinkulungwane ezingamatshumi aficamunye ezintabeni, ¹⁶kanye lababekhangele abasebenzayo abangamakhulu amathathu lantathu lababebona ngokuqhubeka komsebenzi beqondisa izisebenzi. ¹⁷Ngeziqondiso zenkosi basusa izinkalakatha zamatshe amahle ukuze kube lamatshe amahle okwakhisa ngawo isisekelo sethempeli esilohlonzi. ¹⁸Izingcitshi zokubaza zikaSolomoni lezikaHiram

lamaGebhali babaza balungisa izigodo lamatshe kusakhiwa ithempeli.

USolomoni Wakha IThempeli

6 Ngomnyaka wamakhulu amane laficamibili abako-Israyeli baphuma eGibhithe, ngomnyaka wesine uSolomoni ebusa ko-Israyeli, ngenyanga kaZiri, iyinyanga yesibili, waqalisa ukwakha ithempeli likaJehova.

² Ithempeli uSolomoni alakhela uJehova lalizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi balo, lengalo ezingamatshumi amathathu ukuya phezulu. ³ Isigaba sekhulusi elingaphambi kwendlu enkulu yethempeli sengezelela ububanzi lokuqhela kwethempeli, ngezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili njalo sasiphutsha ukwedlula indlu enkulu kusiya phambi kwayo ngezingalo ezilitshumi. ⁴ Amawindi awenzayo ethempelini ayengamancinyane. ⁵ Emidulini yendlu enkulu yethempeli lasendlini engcwele ephakathi wakha esinye isimo, kulapho okwaba lezindlwana khona emaceleni. ⁶ Indawo ephansi kuzo zonke yayibanzi okwezingalo ezinhlanu, kuthi iguma laphakathi lalizingalo eziyisithupha kanti-ke iguma lesithathu lalingaba ngezi yisikhombisa. Wakha imithangala ngaphandle kwethempeli ukuze kungabi lalutho olwaluzafakwa phakathi kwemiduli yethempeli.

⁷ Ekwakheni ithempeli, kwasetshenziswa amatshe ayebazwe alolongwa lapho ayevela khona kuphela, ngakho kwakungezwakali sando, itshizela loba yiphi insimbi yokwakha ethempelini ngesikhathi kusakhiwa.

⁸ Umnyango weguma laphansi wawungezansi yethempeli; kulamakhwelo okuya kusigcawu

saphakathi kuthi kusuka lapho kwedlulele kusigcawu sesithathu. ⁹ Ngakho wakha ithempeli waliqeda, walifulela ngentungo lamapulanka ezigodo zomsedari. ¹⁰ Wasesakha izindlwana zalandelela imiduli yethempeli. Ubude bokuya phezulu kwendlwana ngayinye babuzingalo ezinhlanu, njalo zazibanjaniswe lemiduli yethempeli ngemijabo yezigodo zomsedari.

¹¹ Ilizwi likaJehova leza kuSolomoni lathi, ¹² “Okwalelithempeli olakhayo, nxa ulandela iziqondiso zami, lemilayo yami ugcine konke engikulaya ngakho ukulandele, ngawe ngizagcwalisa zonke izithembiso engazenza kuyihlo uDavida. ¹³ Ngizahlala phakathi kwabantu bako-Israyeli njalo angiyikubatshiya abantu bami bako-Israyeli.”

¹⁴ Ngakho uSolomoni wakha ithempeli waliqeda. ¹⁵ Wacecisa emidulini yangaphakathi ngamapulanka omsedari, wavala ececisa kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni, walungisa iphansi lethempeli ngamapulanka ezigodo zephayini. ¹⁶ Waquma wavala indawo ezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili emsamo wethempeli ngamapulanka omsedari kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni esakha isiphephelo sangaphakathi kwethempeli, iNdawo eNgcwele Ngcwele. ¹⁷ Indlu enkulu phambi kwaleyo yona yayizingalo ezingamatshumi amane ubude bayo. ¹⁸ Ngaphakathi kwethempeli kwakwakhiwe ngomsedari, ubazwe iziduku lamaluba aqhakazileyo. Konke kwakungumsedari, kungabonakali litshe lelilodwa.

¹⁹ Walungisa isiphephelo ngaphakathi kwethempeli ukubeka ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova khonapho. ²⁰ Isiphephelo sangaphakathi sasizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude, amatshumi amabili ububanzi njalo kungamatshumi amabili ukuya phezulu.

Wahuqa ingaphakathi ngegolide elicengekileyo, wasehuqa le-alithare lomsedari. ²¹USolomoni wahuqa ingaphakathi yethempeli ngegolide elicengekileyo, njalo wengezelela amaketane egolide aquma phambi kwesiphephelo sangaphakathi, sona esasihquwe ngegolide. ²²Ngakho wahuqa ingaphakathi yonke ngegolide. Wasehuqa njalo ngegolide i-alithare elalingelesiphephelo sangaphakathi.

²³Phakathi kwesiphephelo sangaphakathi wenza amakherubhi amabili ngesihlahla som-oliva, ubude bokuya phezulu ngalinye buzingalo ezilitshumi. ²⁴Uphiko olulodwa lwekherubhi lakuqala lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo, kanye lalolu olunye uphiko lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu – ingalo ezilitshumi kusukela ekucineni kophiko kusiya ekucineni kophiko. ²⁵Ikherubhi lesibili lalo lalizingalo ezilitshumi, womabili amakherubhi ayelingana njalo efanana isimo. ²⁶Ubude bokuya phezulu bekherubhi ngalinye babuzingalo ezilitshumi. ²⁷Amakherubhi wawafaka endlini ephakathi kwethempeli, amaphiko awo echayekile. Uphiko lwelinye ikherubhi lwathinta umduli wangapha kwathi uphiko lwelinye lalo lwathinta umduli ngale, kwathi phakathi laphakathi kwendlu amaphiko awo athintana. ²⁸Amakherubhi lawo wawahuqa ngegolide.

²⁹Emidulini indawana yonke ukubhoda ithempeli, ezindlini zangaphakathi lezangaphandle wabaza amakherubhi, amalala lamaluba aqhakazileyo. ³⁰Wahuqa njalo iphansi lezindlu zangaphandle lezangaphakathi kwethempeli ngegolide.

³¹Emnyango wesiphephelo sangaphakathi wenza izivalo zamapulanka om-oliva, imigubazi yakhona ilamacele amahlanu. ³²Kwathi ezivalweni zombili zom-oliva wabaza

amakherubhi, amalala lamaluba aqhakazekileyo, wahuqa amakherubhi lamalala ngegolide elikhandiweyo. ³³Ngokufananayo wenza imigubazi elamacele amane ngom-oliva emnyango wokungena endlini enkulu. ³⁴Wenza njalo izivalo zomphayini ezimbili, ngasinye singesigoqeka kabili. ³⁵Wabaza amakherubhi lamalala lamaluba aqhakazayo kuzo wasewahuqa ngegolide likhandwe lalingana phezu kokubaziweyo.

³⁶Wakhela njalo iguma langaphakathi imizila emithathu ngamatshe abaziweyo lowodwa owemijabo yomsedari.

³⁷Isisekelo sethempeli likaJehova samiswa ngomnyaka wesine ngenyanga kaZivi. ³⁸Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanye ngenyanga kaBhuli, inyanga yesificamibili, kwaba yikuphela kwethempeli lakhiwe njengokumiswa kwalo langeziqondiso zalo. Wayethethe iminyaka eyisikhombisa elakha.

USolomoni Wakha Isigodlo Sakhe

7 Kwathatha uSolomoni iminyaka elitshumi lantathu ukuqeda ukwakha isigodlo sakhe. ²Wakha Isigodlo seGusu leLebhanoni saba side okwezingalo ezilikhulu, lamatshumi amahlanu ububanzi lamatshumi amathathu ukuya phezulu, sakhelwe phezu kwezinsika zemisedari eziyimizila emine, kulamapulanka omsedari phezu kwayo. ³Sasifulelwe ngamapulanka omsedari ayephezu kwezinsika ezingamatshumi amane lanhlanu, ziyimizila emithathu, umzila ulezinsika ezilitshumi lanhlanu. ⁴Kwakulemizila emithathu yamawindi, ayeqondene. ⁵Yonke iminyango yayimiswe yaba magumbi mane; yayimiswe ngaphambili ngamithathu, ikhangelene.

⁶ Wasesakha lendlu yezinsika, ubude bayo buzingalo ezingatshumi amahlanu, ububanzi bayo bungezingamatshumi amathathu. Phambi kwayo kulekhulusi elilezinsika phambili, lophahla.

⁷ Wasesakha lendlu yesihlalo sobukhosi, iNkundla Yokwahlulela, lapho ayezathonisela khona amacala, wayendlala ngemisedari kusukela phansi kusiya ephahleni. ⁸ Indlu yakhe ayezahlala kuyo yayisegumeni elingemuva kwendlu yokuthonisela amacala, yayakhiwe ngokufananayo. USolomoni wakhela indodakazai kaFaro ayeyithethe, isigodlo esifanana lendlu yenkundla.

⁹ Zonke lezizakhiwo, kusukela ngaphandle kuze kuyefika egumeni elikhulu phakathi kanye lokusuka esisekelweni kusiya esihlothini, zazakhiwe ngamatshe aqakathekileyo ayebazwe ngesilinganiso esahiwe kuhle ngaphakathi langaphandle kwawo.

¹⁰ Izisekelo zakhiwa ngamatshe amakhulu aqinileyo, amanye ayezingalo ezilitshumi amanye njalo zificamibili.

¹¹ Ngaphezulu kwakulamatshe aqinileyo, ebazwe ngesilinganiso, kanye lemijabo yomsedari. ¹² Iguma elikhulu lalibiyelwe ngomduli wemithando emithathu yamatshe yelekene kanye lowomsedari obazwe kuhle, kanti kwakunjalo lasegumeni lethempeli likaJehova lekhulusini lakhona.

Imiceciso yeThempeli

¹³ INkosi uSolomoni yathumela eThire ukuba kulethwe uHuramu. ¹⁴ Unina wayengumfelokazi owesizwe sakoNafthali ezalwa yindoda eyayingeyeThire njalo eyayiyincitshi ekubazeni ithusi. UHuramu wayelobuciko lemimwe ekubazeni ithusi. Waya enkosini uSolomoni wafika wenza yonke imisebenzi ayeyiphiwe.

¹⁵ Wabumba izinsika ezimbili zethusi ezazinde okwezingalo ezifika mibili ukuya phezulu njalo ubundingilizi bazo zazizingalo ezilitshumi lambili ngomzila. ¹⁶ Wabumba njalo iziduku ezimbili zethusi ukuze zifakwe engqongeni yezinsika zona ezazizingalo ezinhlanu ukuya phezulu inye ngayinye. ¹⁷ Isixubexube samaketane ayephothene sacecisa iziduku ezaziphezu kwezinsika eziyisikhombisa esidukwini sinye ngasinye. ¹⁸ Wenza imizila emibili yomceciso wamaphomegranathi, igqagqele lesosixubexube ukucecisa iziduku phezu kwezinsika. Wenza okufanayo kusiduku ngasinye. ¹⁹ Iziduku ezaziphezu kwezinsika ekhulusini zazibunjwe okwemiduze, ziphakeme okwezingalo ezine. ²⁰ Phezu kweziduku ezinsikeni zombili, ngaphezu kwesigaba esiyingubhe phansi kwesixubexube, kungamaphomegranethi angamakhulu amabili emizileni nxa zonke. ²¹ Wakha lezozinsika ekhulusini lethempeli. Insika eseningizimu wayibiza ngokuthi nguJakhini kwathi esenyakatho wayithi nguBhowazi. ²² Iziduku ezaziphezulu zazibunjwe okwemiduze. Wapheleliswa kanjalo umsebenzi wezinsika.

²³ Wasesenza uLwandle ngensimbi encibilikisiweyo, luyisigombolozu, luyizingalo ezilitshumi ukusuka emphethweni kusiya emphethweni luphakeme okwezingalo ezinhlanu. Ukulinganisa leyondingilizi kwakuthatha intambo ezingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu ukuyizingelezela.

²⁴ Ngaphansi komphetho, kungamaqhagana agqagqeleyo – elitshumi engalweni eyodwa. Amaqhagana la ayebunjwe aba yimizila emibili ensimbiniye loLwandle.

²⁵ ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwezinkunzi ezilitshumi lambili, ezintathu zikhangele enyakatho, ezintathu zikhangele entshonalanga,

ezintathu zikhangele eningizimu kuthi
ezintathu zikhangele empumalanga.
ULwandle lwalugxile phezu kwazo,
imilenze yazo igobeke phakathi.

²⁶ Uhlonzi lwalulingana ububanzi
besandla, umphetho ufanana lomphetho
wenkomitsho, kufanana lokuqhakaza
kweluba. Lwalungena izikhelelo
ezizinkulungwane ezimbili.

²⁷ Wenza njalo amathala ethusi
alitshumi aphakamiskayo ubude bawo
buzingalo ezine, lobubanzi buzingalo
ezine, ukuphakama kuzingalo ezintathu
lilinye. ²⁸ Amathala ayenziwe
ngalindlela: Kwakulezisekelo eziya
phezulu emaceleni zinanyathiselwe.

²⁹ Kulezisekelo phakathi kwezinsika
eziya phezulu kubunjelwe izilwane,
izinkunzi lamakherubhi – kuthi
kulezonsika eziya phezulu kufanane
njalo. Ngaphezulu langaphansi
kwezilwane lezinkunzi kulezinkatha
ezikhandiweyo. ³⁰ Inqodlana nganye
ilamavili lama-ekseli ethusi, njalo
nganye ilomganu phezu kwezinsika
ziceciswe ngemithando ekhandelwe nxa
zonke. ³¹ Ngaphakathi kwenqodlana
yinye nganye kuvulekile
kuyisigombolozisi esitshona okwengalo
eyodwa. Isikhala lesi siyisigombolozisi
ngaphansi kwaso siyingalo elengxenywe.
Emlonyeni kukhona okwabazelwayo
kungumceciso. Okubaziweyo emaceleni
kulingana nxa zonke zone, kungayisiyo
indingilizi. ³² Amavili womane
engaphansi kwamapulanka, lama-ekseli
amavili eboshelwe enqodlaneni.

Ububanzi bendingilizi yevili ngalinye
bulungana ingalo eyodwa elengxenywe.

³³ Amavili akhona enziwe
njengawenqola yempi, ama-ekseli,
amarimu, lezipekisi lengoxo zakhona
zingezensimbi etshisiweyo.

³⁴ Inqodlana nganye yayilezibambo
ezine, esisodwa sisegumbini linye,
sigxile enqodlaneni. ³⁵ Phezu

kwenqodlana kulomthando
oyisizingelezi esitshona okwengxenywe
yengalo. Izisekelo lamapulanka
kuxhume phezu kwenqodlana.

³⁶ Wabazela khona amakherubhi,
izilwane kanye lezihlahla zamalala kuyo
yonke indawo ebonakalayo lomceciso
nxa zonke. ³⁷ Yiyo-ke le indlela ayenze
ngayo izinqodlana ezilitshumi.
Zazenziwe ngomkhando munye
zilingana ubukhulu zilesimo sinye.

³⁸ Wasebumba imiganu elitshumi
ngethusi, umunye uthatha izikhelelo
ezingamatshumi amane ububanzi bayo
buzingalo ezine, kusithi umganu
owodwa ubekwa phezu kwenqodlana
nganye yezilitshumi. ³⁹ Wasemisa
inqodlana ezinhlanu zazo ngeningizimu
yethempeli kwathi ezinhlanu zema
enyakatho. ULwandle walubeka
eningizimu, ejikweni laseningizimu
yempumalanga kwethempeli.

⁴⁰ Wabumba njalo imiganu lamafotsholo
lemiganu yesichelo.

Ngalokho uHuramu wawuphetha
umsebenzi ayewenzela iNkosi
uSolomoni ethempelini likaJehova:

⁴¹ Izinsika ezimbili;

iziduku ezimbili ezibunjwe okomganu
phezu kwezinsika;

izixubexube ezimbili ezicecise iziduku
ezimbili eziyingubhe eziphezu
kwezinsika;

⁴² amaphomegranethi angamakhulu
amane awezixubexube ezimbili
(isixubexube sisinye silemizila emibili
yamaphomegranethi, acecise iziduku
ezizingubhe eziphezu kwezinsika);

⁴³ izinqodlana ezilitshumi lemiganu yazo
elitshumi;

⁴⁴ uLwandle lezinkunzi ezilitshumi
lambili ngaphansi kwalo;

⁴⁵ izimbiza, amafotsholo lemiganu
yesichelo.

Zonke lezizinto ezenzelwa iNkosi uSolomoni nguHuramu ezenzela ithempeli likaJehova zazenziwe ngethusi elihanguliweyo. ⁴⁶ Inkosi yalungiselela ukuthi zonke zibunjwe ngesithombo somdaka emagcekeni aseJodani phakathi kwaseSukhothi laseZarethani.

⁴⁷ USolomoni wayekela konke lokhu kungalinganiswanga isisindo sakho, ngenxa yokuthi kwakukunengi kakhulu; ubunzima bensimbi yethusi bungazanga bulinganiswe.

⁴⁸ USolomoni wenza yonke imiceciso eyayisethempelini likaJehova:

i-alithare eliligolide;

itafula eliligolide lilesinkwa sobukhona bukaNkulunkulu;

⁴⁹ izinti zezibane zegolide elicengekileyo (ezinhlanu zazo ngakwesokudla njalo zinhlanu langakwesenxele, phambi kwesiphephelo esingaphakathi); okubalazwe ngamaluba, izibane kanye lezindlawu;

⁵⁰ imiganu yegolide elicengekileyo, izibane, imiganu yokuchelisa, izinditshi leyempepha;

kanye lezibambo zezivalo zingezegolide ezazenzelwe indlu engaphakathi, indawo eNgcwele

Ngcwele, kanti-ke kwakunjalo lezivalweni zendlu enkulu phakathi kwethempeli.

⁵¹ Kwathi usuphelile wonke umsebenzi owawenziwe yinkosi uSolomoni ekwakheni kwakhe ithempeli likaJehova, waletha lezompahla ezazinikelwe nguyise uDavida – isiliva legolide layo yonke imiceciso – konke lokhu wakufaka endlini yenotho ethempelini likaJehova.

Ibhokisi Lesivumelwano Lilethwa eThempelini

8 Ngakho iNkosi uSolomoni wamema abadala bako-Israyeli ukuthi beze kuye eJerusema, bonke abazinhloko zezizwana lezinduna zezimuli zako-Israyeli, ukuthi balethe ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova lisuka eZiyoni, uMuzi kaDavida. ² Amadoda wonke ako-Israyeli eza ndawonye enkosini uSolomoni ngesikhathi somkhosi ngenyanga ebizwa ngokuthi Ethaniami, inyanga yesikhombisa.

³ Kwathi bonke abadala bako-Israyeli sebefikile, abaphristi bathwala ibhokisi lesivumelwano, ⁴ njalo basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova kanye leThente lokuHlanganela layo yonke imiceciso engcwele iphakathi kwalo. Abaphristi labaLevi bakuthwala lokhu, ⁵ njalo iNkosi uSolomoni kanye labo bonke abako-Israyeli ababebuthene kuyo babephambi kwebhokisi lesivumelwano, benikela ngezimvu langezinkomo ababengeke bazazi inani lazo, bengeke bazibala.

⁶ Abaphristi basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova endaweni yalo kusiphephelo esingaphakathi kwethempeli, iNdawo eNgcwele Ngcwele, basebelifaka ngaphansi kwamaphiko amakherubhi.

⁷ Amakherubhi elula izimpiko zawo phezu kwendawo yebhokisi lesivumelwano njalo agubuzela ibhokisi lesivumelwano kanye lezibambo zokulithwala. ⁸ Izibambo lezi zazizinde zibonakala nxa useNdaweni eNgcwele phambi kwesiphephelo esingaphakathi, kodwa hatshi nxa ungaphandle kweNdawo eNgcwele; lezo zilokhu zimi njalo lalamuhla. ⁹ Kwakungelalutho ebhokisini lesivumelwano ngaphandle kwezibhebhedu ezimbili zamatshe uMosi ayezifake phakathi kwalo

eseHorebi lapho uJehova enza khona isivumelwano labako-Israyeli ngemva kokuphuma kwabo eGibhithe.

¹⁰ Kwathi abaphristi sebesukile eNdaweni eNgcwele, iyezi lagcwala lagubuzela ethempelini likaJehova.

¹¹ Abaphristi abenzanga inkonzo yabo ngenxa yeyezi, ngoba inkazimulo kaJehova yayigcwele ethempelini lakhe.

¹² Ngakho uSolomoni wathi, “UJehova utshilo ukuba uzahlala eyezini elimnyama; ¹³ ngempela sengikwakhele ithempeli elibukekayo, indawo ozahlala kiyo kuze kube nini lanini.”

¹⁴ Kwathi ibandla lonke lako-Israyeli lisemi khonapho, inkosi yaphenduka yalibusisa. ¹⁵ Ngakho yasisithi:

“Udumo kuye uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ngesandla sakhe ephelelise ukwenza lokho akuthembisa ngowakhe umlomo ethembisa ubaba uDavida. Ngoba wathi, ¹⁶ ‘Kusukela mhla ngikhupha abantu bami abako-Israyeli eGibhithe, bengingakaze ngikhethe idolobho loba kukusiphi isizwana sako-Israyeli ukuthi ngakhelwe ithempeli leBizo lami khona, kodwa ngimkhethele uDavida ukuthi abuse abantu bami bako-Israyeli.’

¹⁷ “Ubaba uDavida wayelakho enhliziyweni yakhe ukuthi akhe ithempeli leBizo likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁸ Kodwa uJehova wathi kubaba uDavida, ‘Ngenxa yokuthi kwakukhona enhliziyweni yakho ukuthi ungakhele ithempeli leBizo lami, wenza kuhle ukuthi ukugcine lokhu enhliziyweni yakho. ¹⁹ Lanxa kunjalo, kakusuwe ozalaxha lelothempeleli, kodwa lizakwaxhiwa yindodana yakho, eyinyama legazi lakho – yiyo ezakwaxha ithempeli leBizo lami.’

²⁰ “UJehova usigcinile isithembiso asenzayo: Sengithethe ubukhosi bukaDavida ubaba njalo khathesi sengisesihlalweni sobukhosi bako-Israyeli, njengokwethembisa kukaJehova, ngakho sengilakhile ithempeli leBizo likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ²¹ Ngilungisile indawo khonaphana eyebhokisi lesivumelwano, kulapho okulesivumelwano sikaJehova asenza labobaba ekubakhupheni kwakhe kwelamaGibhithe.”

Umthandazo KaSolomoni Wokunikela

²² Ngalokho uSolomoni wema e-alithareni likaJehova phambi kwebandla lonke lako-Israyeli, welula izandla zakhe waziphakamisela ezulwini ²³ wasesithi:

“O Jehova, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kakho uNkulunkulu onjengawe ezulwini phezulu loba emhlabeni ngaphansi – wena ogcina isithembiso sakho sothando lezinceku zakho, wena oqhubeka ngenhliziyo yonke endleleni yakho. ²⁴ Usigcinile isithembiso sakho encekwini yakho uDavida ongubaba; ngowakho umlomo uthembisile langesandla sakho ugqwalisile lokho – njengoba kunjalo lalamuhlanje.

²⁵ “Khathesi Jehova, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, gcinela inceku yakho uDavida ubaba lezozithembiso owazenzayo lapho wathi, ‘Awuyikwehluleka loba sekutheni ukuzuza indoda ezahlala esihlalweni sami sobukhosi ko-Israyeli, nxa amadodana akho ezananzelela ukuhamba phambi kwami njengalokhu okwenzileyo wena.’ ²⁶ Njalo khathesi, O Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, akuthi lelolizwi owathembisa ngalo inceku yakho uDavida ubaba ligqwaliseke.

²⁷“Kodwa uNkulunkulu uzahlala emhlabeni na? Amazulu, loba izulu eliphakemeyo, akungeke kukuvalele wena. Pho ithempeli leli engilakhileyo lingayini kuwe na! ²⁸Kodwa yamukela umthandazo wenceku yakho lesikhalazo sayo somusa, O Jehova Nkulunkulu wami. Zwana ukukhala lomthandazo owenziwa yinceku yakho phambi kwakho ngalolusuku. ²⁹Sengathi amehlo akho angahlala phezu kwalelithempeli ebusuku lemini, yonale indawo owathi wena, ‘IBizo lami lizakuba khonapha,’ ukuze uzwe umthandazo wenceku yakho ngale indawo. ³⁰Zwana isikhalazo senceku yakho lesabantu bakho bako-Israyeli nxa bethandaza bekhangele kule indawo. Zwana usezulwini okulikhaya lakho, njalo nxa usizwa, uthethelele.

³¹Nxa umuntu onele umakhelwane wakhe njalo kufanele ukuthi enze isifungo abesefika afunge isifungo phambi kwe-alithare lakho kulelithempeli, ³²zwana usezulwini wenze. Yahlulela phakathi kwezinceku zakho, umlahle olecala, wehlisele ekhanda lakhe lokho akwenzileyo. Tshono ukuthi ongonanga kalacala ukuze uveze ukuba msulwa kwakhe.

³³“Nxa abantu bakho abako-Israyeli behlulwe yisitha ngenxa yokona kwabo phambi kwakho, kuthi nxa sebephendukela ngakuwe bebiza igama lakho, bekhuleka njalo becela intethelelo kuwe kulelithempeli, ³⁴lapho-ke zwana usezulwini uthethelele izono zabantu bakho bako-Israyeli njalo ubabuyisele elizweni owalinika oyise.

³⁵“Nxa amazulu evaleka njalo kungaselazulu ngenxa yokuthi abantu bakho bonile phambi kwakho, njalo nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kule indawo bavume igama lakho batshiye izono zabo ngoba ubatshayile, ³⁶lapho-ke zwana usezulwini uthethelele izinceku zakho izono zazo, abantu bakho bako-

Israyeli. Bafundise indlela yokuphila eqondileyo, uthumele izulu elizweni owalinika abantu bakho ukuba libe yilifa labo.

³⁷“Nxa kufika indlala kumbe isifo elizweni, ukukhunta lengumane, isikhongwane lemihogoyi, loba behanqwa yizitha kwelinye lamadolobho abo, loba yincithakalo enganani loba ngumkhuhlane onjani ongeza, ³⁸kuthi-ke nxa loba ngubani wabo abako-Israyeli ekhuleka loba ekuncenga – bona ngamunye bevele bezazela izinhlupheko ezinhliziyweni zabo, kodwa bephakamisele izandla zabo kulelithempeli – ³⁹lapho-ke zwana usezulwini okulikhaya lakho. Thethelela njalo wenze, ngamunye yenza kuye okufanele kwenziwe, njengoba usazi inhliziyoyi yakhe (njengoba nguwe wedwa emhlabeni wonke owaziyo), ⁴⁰yikho bezakwesaba imihla yabo yonke yokuphila beselizweni owalinika obaba.

⁴¹“Oyisizwe ongasuye omunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli kodwa evela kude ngenxa yodumo lwebizo lakho – ⁴²ngoba abantu bazakuzwa ngelakho ibizo eliqakathekileyo lesandla sakho esilamandla lengalo yakho eyeluliweyo – nxa esiza akhuleke ekhangele kulelithempeli, ⁴³lapho-ke zwana usezulwini, indawo elikhaya lakho, wenze loba yini owezizweni ayicela kuwe, ukuze bonke abantu bomhlaba balazi ibizo lakho njalo bakwesabe, njengoba abantu bakho abako-Israyeli bekwenza, baze bazi ukuthi indlu le engiyakhileyo ithwele iBizo lakho.

⁴⁴“Abantu bakho nxa besiya empini ukuya kulwa lezitha zabo, nxa ubathuma wena, njalo kuthi nxa bekhuleka kuJehova bekhangele edolobheni olikhethileyo wena kanye lethempelini engalakhela iBizo lakho, ⁴⁵lapho-ke zwana usezulwini umthandazo wabo

lokuncenga kwabo, ubaphathise kulokho.

⁴⁶“Nxa bonile phambi kwakho – ngoba kakho ongoniyo – ubathukuthelele ubanikele ezitheni zabo, bathunjwe babe yizigqili zezizwe emazweni azo, kude laseduzane; ⁴⁷kuthi lapho beguquka ezinhliziyweni zabo emazweni abayabe beyizithunjwa kuwo, baphenduke bakuncenge besemazweni abanqobi bathi, ‘Sonile, sesenze impambaniso, sibe buthakathaka sona,’ ⁴⁸njalo nxa bephendukela kuwe ngezinhliziyiyo zabo zonke langemiphefumulo yabo elizweni lezitha zabo ezabathumbayo, bakhuleke kuwe bekhangela elizweni owalinika oyise, lasedolobheni owalikhethayo lethempeli engilakhele iBizo lakho, ⁴⁹ngakho usezulwini, ikhaya lakho zwana imithandazo yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubenzele khona lokho. ⁵⁰Ubathethelele abantu bakho, abakonileyo wena, bathethelele kukho konke ukona kwabo kuwe, wenze izitha zabo zibe lomusa kubo, ⁵¹ngoba bangabantu bakho njalo bayilifa lakho, bona owabakhipha eGibhithe, esihogweni esivuthayo esincibilikisa insimbi.

⁵²“Sengathi amehlo akho angaba phezu kwenceku yakho ukukhala kwayo lokuncengela kwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli, sengathi ungalalela ukukhala kwabo bekhala kuwe. ⁵³Ngoba wabakhetha phakathi kwezizwe zonke zomhlaba ukuthi babe yilifa lakho, njengoba wakhuluma ngenceku yakho uMosi, lapho wena, O Jehova Wobukhosi, wakhipha obaba eGibhithe.”

⁵⁴Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile imithandazo le lezikhazazo kuJehova, waphakama wema phambi kwe-alithare likaJehova, lapho ayekade eguqe khona ephakamisele izandla zakhe ezulwini.

⁵⁵Waphakama wabusisa ibandla labako-Israyeli ngelizwi eliphezulu wathi:

⁵⁶“Udumo kalube kuJehova, yena oletehele abantu bako-Israyeli ukuphumula njengokwethembisa kwakhe. Akukho lokukodwa okungenzekanga kuzo zonke izithembiso ezinhle azenza ngenceku yakhe uMosi. ⁵⁷Sengathi uJehova uNkulunkulu wethu angaba lathi njengoba wayelabobaba; sengathi angaze asitshiya loba asidele. ⁵⁸Sengathi angaguqulela izinhliziyiyo zethu kuye, sihambe ezindleleni zakhe sigcine lemilayo yakhe, imithetho lezimiso azipha obaba. ⁵⁹Sengathi amazwi ami la, engikhuleka ngawo kuJehova, angaba seduze kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wethu emini lebusuku, ukuze aqinise izikhazazo zenceku yakhe lezikhazazo zabantu bakhe bako-Israyeli kusiya ngeziswelo zabo zemihla ngemihla, ⁶⁰ukuze abantu bonke bomhlaba bakwazi ukuthi uJehova unguNkulunkulu lokuthi kakho omunye. ⁶¹Kodwa izinhliziyiyo zenu azigcivale ukuzinikela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wethu, ukuphila ngezimiso zakhe lokulalela imilayo yakhe, njengakhathe.”

Ukunikelwa kweThempeli

⁶²Ngalokho inkosi labo bonke abako-Israyeli banikela imihlatshelo yabo phambi kukaJehova. ⁶³USolomoni wanikela ngomhlatshelo weminikelo yobudlelwano kuJehova; izinkomo ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lambili, izimvu lezimbuzi ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi amabili. Ngokunjalo inkosi labo bonke abako-Israyeli banikela ithempeli likaJehova.

⁶⁴Ngalelolanga inkosi yangewelisa iphakathi leguma phambi kwethempeli likaJehova, njalo kulapho eyanikela

khona ngomnikelo wokutshiswa,
umnikelo wamabele kanye lamafutha
eminikelo yobudlelwano ngoba i-alithare
lethusi elaliphambi kukaJehova
lalilincinyane kakhulu ukuthi
kutshiselwe kilo imihlatshelo
yokutshiswa, leminikelo yamabele
leminikelo yamafutha obudlelwano.

⁶⁵Ngakho uSolomoni wenza umkhosi
ngalesosikhathi ekanye lo-Israyeli
wonke – ibandla elikhulu, abantu
abavela eLebho Hamathi kusiya
eSihotsheni saseGibhithe.

Bawuthakazelela phambi kukaJehova
uNkulunkulu wethu okwezinsuku
eziyisikhombisa lezinye eziyisikhombisa
njalo zaba litshumi lane sezizonke.

⁶⁶Ngosuku olulandelayo inkosi
yabachitha. Bayibusisa inkosi basuka
baya emakhaya abo, belentokoza
bejabula ezinhliziyweni zabo ngakho
konke okuhle uJehova ayekwenzele
inceku yakhe uDavida kanye labantu
bakhe bako-Israyeli.

UJehova Ubonakala kuSolomoni

9 USolomoni eseqedile ukwakha

ithempeli likaJehova lesigodlo
sobukhosi, esenelisile konke ayezimisele
ukukwenza, ²uJehova wabonakala kuye
ngokwesibili, njengoba wayebonakele
kuye eGibheyoni. ³UJehova wathi kuye:

“Sengiwuzwile umthandazo
lesikhalazo okwenzileyo phambi kwami;
sengiligcobile lelithempeli olakhileyo
wena ngokufaka iBizo lami kulo
lanininini. Amehlo ami kanye lenhliziyo
yami kuzakuba phezu kwalo ngezikhathi
zonke.

⁴ “Wena, ungahamba phambi kwami
ngobuqotho benhliziyo langokuqonda
njengoba uyihlo uDavida akwenza,
wenze konke engikulaya ngakho ugcine

izimiso zami lemithetho yami,
⁵ngizaqinisa isihlalo sakho sobukhosi
phezu kuka-Israyeli kuze kube nininini,
njengoba ngathembisa uyihlo uDavida
lapho ngathi, ‘Awuyikwehluleka
ukuzuza indoda esihlalweni sobukhosi
ko-Israyeli.’

⁶“Kodwa nxa wena kanye lamadodana
akho lingifulathela lingacini imithetho
lezimiso zami engilinye khona
beselisuka liye kwabanye onkulunkulu
libakhonze, ⁷ngizamthathela u-Israyeli
umhlaba engangimnike wona
ngilikhallale leli ithempeli
esengilingcwelisile ngeBizo lami.

U-Israyeli uzadelelwa abe yinhlekisa
ebantwini bonke. ⁸Kanti njalo lanxa
lelithempeli lamuhla libukeka kangaka
bonke abedlula lapha bazakwenyanya
bahleke ulunya bathi, ‘Kanti kungani
uJehova enze into enje kulelilizwe
lakulelithempeli na?’ ⁹ Abantu
bazaphendula bathi, ‘Kungenxa yokuthi
sebedele uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo,
owakhipha oyise eGibhithe, ngoba
sebesuke banamathela kwabanye
onkulunkulu, babakhonza njalo
babasebenzela – yikho nje uJehova
esebehlisele incithakalo yonke le.’ ”

Ezinye Izenzo ZikaSolomoni

¹⁰Ekupheleni kweminyaka
engamatshumi amabili, lapho uSolomoni
akha khona lezizindlu ezimbili –

ithempeli likaJehova kanye lesigodlo
sobukhosi – ¹¹ iNkosi uSolomoni
wanikela amadolobho angamatshumi
amabili aweGalile kuHiram inkosi
yaseThire, ngoba uHiram wayemnike
zonke izigodo zesihlahla somsedari
lezephayini legolide ayekufuna.

¹²Kodwa uHiram wathi esesuka eThire
esiyabona amadolobho ayewaphiwe
nguSolomoni, kazange ajabule ngawo.

¹³ Wambuza wathi, “Ngamadolobho bani la onginike wona, mfowethu?” njalo wayewabiza ngokuthi yilizwe leKhabhuli, okulibizo alokhu ebizwa ngalo lalamuhla. ¹⁴ Kunjalo nje uHiramu wayethumele uSolomoni igolide elalingamathalenta alikhulu elilamatshumi amabili.

¹⁵ Nansi imbali yokubanjwa ngamandla kwabantu yiNkosi uSolomoni ukwakha ithempeli likaJehova, ukwakhiwa kwesigodlo sakhe, amagama omceco, lomduli weJerusalema kanye leHazori, iMegido kanye leGezeri.

¹⁶ (UFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe wayehlasele wathumba iGezeri. Wayeyithungele ngomlilo wayitshisa. Wayebulele amaKhenani ayehlala khona, yona wasekhunga ngayo indodakazi yakhe, umkaSolomoni.

¹⁷ USolomoni waseyakha kutsha iGezeri.) Wakha iBhethi Horoni esezansi, ¹⁸ leBhalathi, kanye leThadimori enkangala, phakathi kwelizwe lakhe, ¹⁹ kanye lamadolobho ayeyiziphala lemizi yezinqola zakhe zempi kanye lamabhiza akhe – konke nje ayefuna kwakhiwe eJerusalema, eLebhanoni lakulo lonke ilizwe ayelibusa.

²⁰ Kubo bonke abantu abasalayo bama-Amori, amaHithi, amaPherizi, amaHivi lamaJebusi (lababantu babengasibo ama-Israyeli) ²¹ okutsho ukuthi, izizukulwane zabo ezasalayo ama-Israyeli angazibulalanga aziqeda – laba uSolomoni wababamba isibhalo sokwenza umsebenzi wakhe wobugqili, njengoba kunjalo lalamuhla lokhu.

²² Kodwa uSolomoni kabenzanga izigqili abako-Israyeli; babengamadoda okumlwela, iziphathamandla zikahulumende, izikhulu zakhe, izinduna, kanye labalawuli bezinqola zakhe zempi labatshayeli bazo. ²³ Phezu kwalokho babeyizikhulu zokukhokhela

imisebenzi eqakathekileyo kaSolomoni – izikhulu ezingamakhulu amahlanu lamatshumi amahlanu ezazikhangela amadoda ayesenza umsebenzi.

²⁴ Ngemva kokufika kwendodakazi kaFaro esigodlweni eyayisakhelwe nguSolomoni isuka eMzini kaDavida, wakha njalo amagama omceco.

²⁵ Kathathu ngomnyaka uSolomoni wanikela umhlatshelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wobudlelwano e-alithareni ayelakhele uJehova, etshisa impepha phambi kukaJehova kanye lemihlatshelo. Ngalokho wagwalisa imilandu yezimiso zethempeli.

²⁶ INkosi uSolomoni wakha njalo imikhumbi e-Eziyoni Geberi, eseduzane le-Elathi ngase-Edomi, ekhunjini loLwandle oluBomvu. ²⁷ Kunjalo nje uHiramu wathumela abantu bakhe – abagwedli ababelwazi ulwandle – ukuba bayesebenza emikhunjini labakaSolomoni. ²⁸ Bagwedla baya e-Ofiri baphenduka legolide elilesisindo samathalenta angamakhulu amane lamatshumi amabili, baya lethula enkosini uSolomoni.

Indlovukazi yeSheba Yethekelela uSolomoni

10 INdlovukazi yaseShebha yathi isizwile ngodumo lukaSolomoni lokubambelela kwakhe ebizweni likaJehova, yaya kuye ukuba imlinge ngemibuzo enzima. ² Ekufikeni kwayo eJerusalema iqhuba udwende olukhulu – lamakamela ethwele iziyoliso, lezinqwabanqwaba zegolide, lamatshe aligugu – yeza kuSolomoni yakhuluma laye ngakho konke lokho okwakusengqondweni yayo. ³ USolomoni wayiphendula yonke leyomibuzo yayo; akuzange kube lalutho olwaba nzima enkosini ukuthi

iyichasisele ngalo. ⁴INdlovukazi yaseShebha isiyibonile yonke inhlakanipho kaSolomoni lesigodlo ayesakhile, ⁵ukudla okwakusetafuleni lakhe, ukuhlaliswa kwezikhulu zakhe, izinceku zakhe lezambatho zazo, abaphathi benkezo bakhe, lemihlatshelo yokutshiswa ayenzela uJehova ethempelini, yaphela amandla.

⁶Yathi enkosini, “Imibiko ebifika ezindlebeni zami elizweni lami ngengqubelaphambili langenhlakanipho yakho, iqotho. ⁷Kodwa angizange ngikukholwe lokho ngaze ngafika mina ngokwami njalo ngazibonela ngawami amehlo. Ngempela, bekukuncinyane kakhulu abangitshela ngakho. ⁸Yeka intokozo abalayo abantu bakho! Ziyathokoza iziphathamandla zakho, zona ezima phambi kwakho zizwe inhlakanipho yakho! ⁹Udumo kalube kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho, yena othokoze ngawe wakubeka esihlalweni sobukhosi bako-Israyeli. Ngenxa yothando olunaphakade lukaJehova ku-Israyeli, ukubekile waba yinkosi, ukuze ugcine ukwahlulela ngemfanelo lokulunga.”

¹⁰Yanika inkosi igolide elingamathalenta alikhulu lamatshumi amabili, lenqwabanqwaba zeziyoliso lamatshe aligugu. Akuzange kulethwe iziyoliso ezinengi kangako futhi njengalezo iNdlovukazi yaseShebha eyazipha iNkosi uSolomoni.

¹¹(Imikhumbi kaHiramu yaletsa igolide livela e-Ofiri; njalo yethula lemithwalo emikhulu yamapulanka amahle lamatshe aligugu. ¹²Inkosi yasebenzisa amapulanka amahle njengezinsika zethempeli likaJehova kanye lesigodlo sobukhosi, lokwenza imihubhe lemiqangala yabahlabeleli. Akuzange kubuye kube lamapulanka amahle amanengi kangako angeniswayo

elizweni loba abonwayo selokhu kwaba yilelolanga.)

¹³INkosi uSolomoni yanika iNdlovukazi yaseShebha yonke into eyayiyifisa leyayicelayo, ngaphandle kwalokho ayinika khona kuphuma esigodlweni. Yasisuka lodwendwe lwayo yabuyela elizweni lakibo.

Udumo lukaSolomoni

¹⁴Isisindo segolide elalizuzwa nguSolomoni minyaka yonke lalilingamathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha lamatshumi ayisithupha lesithupha, ¹⁵kungabalwa imithelo yabathengisayo labathenga bethengisa kanye leyayivela emakhosini wonke ama-Arabhu kanye lababusi belizwe.

¹⁶INkosi uSolomoni yenza amahawu amakhulu angamakhulu amabili ngegolide elikhandiweyo; lilinye lingelegugu lamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹⁷Wenza njalo amanye amahawu amancinyane angamakhulu amathathu ngegolide elikhandiweyo, lilinye lilegugu lokuthathu kwegolide. Inkosi yawafaka esigodlweni seHlathi laseLebhanoni.

¹⁸Inkosi yasisenza isihlalo sobukhosi esikhulu sisekelwa ngezimpondo zendlovu sihuqwe ngegolide elihle. ¹⁹Isihlalo sobukhosi sasilezinyathelo eziyisithupha, ngemva kwaso phezulu siyindingilizi, emaceleni aso womabili silezeyamelo zezingalo, yilesi silesilwane eceleni kwaso. ²⁰Izilwane ezilitshumi lambili zazimi ezinyathelweni eziyisithupha, kusithi esisodwa esinyathelweni ngasinye ngapha langapha emaceleni esinyathelo. Akukho okufanana lalokhu okwake kwenziwa lakuwuphi umbuso. ²¹Zonke inkezo zokunatha zenkosi uSolomoni zazingezegolide, lezimpahla zonke zendlini eSigodlweni seHlathi laseLebhanoni zazingezegolide

elicengekileyo. Akulalutho olwalwenziwe ngesiliva, ngoba isiliva sasithiwa silegugu elincinyane ezinsukwini zikaSolomoni. ²² Inkosi yayilemikhumbi yokuthengiselana eminengi eyayiselwandle iphathisana lekaHiramu. Yayiphenduka kanye ngemva kweminyaka emithathu ithwele igolide, isiliva kanye lezimpondo zendlovu lezindwangu lenkawu.

²³ Inkosi uSolomoni yayisedlula wonke amakhosi emhlabeni ngenotho langenhlakanipho. ²⁴ Umhlaba wonke wadinga wafisa ukuba ubonane loSolomoni ukuze lowo lalowo azizwele inhlakanipho ayiphiwa nguNkulunkulu wayifaka enhliziyweni yakhe.

²⁵ Iminyaka leminyaka, kwakusithi lowo omethekelelayo eze ethwele isipho –

kuyizinto ezenziwe ngegolide langesiliva, lezambatho, izikhali leziyoliso, amabhiza kanye lezimbongolo.

²⁶ USolomoni waqoqa izinqola zokulwa lamabhiza; wayelezinqola zokulwa eziyinkulungwane elamakhulu amane, amabhiza azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili ayewagcina emadolobheni awezinqola zempi amanye egcinwe kuye eJerusalema.

²⁷ Inkosi yenza isiliva sajayeleka njengamatshe eJerusalema lomsedari waba mnengi njengomkhiwa wesikhamore emawatheni ezintaba.

²⁸ Amabhiza kaSolomoni ngayevela eGibhithe laseKhuwe – abokuthengiselana besikhosini babewathenga eKhuwe. ²⁹ Bangenisa elizweni inqola yempi ivela eGibhithe ngamashekeli esiliva angamakhulu ayisithupha kanye lebhiza ngamashekeli alikhulu lamatshumi amahlanu. Babuya bawedlulisa bayawathengisela wonke amakhosi amaHithi kanye lawamaAramiya.

Abafazi bakaSolomoni

11 Inkosi uSolomoni yayibathanda kakhulu abafazi bezizweni kanye lendodakazi kaFaro – amaMowabi, ama-Amoni, ama-Edomi, amaSidoni lamaHithi. ² Babengabezizwe uJehova ayethe kwabako-Israyeli, “Lingathathani labo, ngoba bazaguqulela izinhliziyu zenu kubonkulunkulu babo.” Lanxa kunjalo, uSolomoni wabambeleva kubo ngothando. ³ Wayelabafazi abangamakhulu ayisikhombisa ababezalwa esikhosini labanye abafazi beceleni abangamakhulu amathathu; lakanye abafazi bakhe bamlahlekisa. ⁴ Ekuluphaleni kwakhe uSolomoni, abafazi bakhe baphambulela ukholo lwakhe kwabanye onkulunkulu, inhliziyo yakhe ayizange ilandele uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe ngokupheleleyo, akusabanga njengokwenhliziyo kaDavida uyise. ⁵ USolomoni walandela u-Ashitorethi unkulunkulu wamaSidoni, loMoleki unkulunkulu onengekayo wama-Amoni. ⁶ Ngalokho uSolomoni wona phambi kukaJehova; kazange alandele uJehova ngokupheleleyo, njengokwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida.

⁷ Eqaqeni olusempumalanga yeJerusalema, uSolomoni wakhela unkulunkulu onengekayo wamaMowabi uKhemoshi, loMoleki unkulunkulu onengekayo wama-Amoni indawo yomhlatshelo. ⁸ Wenza okufananayo kubo bonke abafazi bakhe bezizweni, batshisa impepha banikela ngemihlatshelo kubonkulunkulu babo.

⁹ UJehova wamthukethelela uSolomoni ngoba inhliziyo yakhe yayisimfulathele uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena ayezibonakalise kuye kabili. ¹⁰ Lanxa wayemlayile uSolomoni ukuba angalandeli abanye onkulunkulu, uSolomoni kazange awulandele umlayo

kaNkulunkulu. ¹¹ Ngakho uJehova wasesithi kuSolomoni. “Njengoba le kuyiyo injongo yakho njalo awugcinanga isivumelwano sami kanye lezimiso zami, lezo engakulaya ngazo, impela ngizawuhluthuna umbuso wakho kuwe ngiwunike omunye wabantu abangaphansi kwakho. ¹² Loba kunjalo, ngenxa kaDavida uyihlo, angiyikwenza lokho wena usaphila. Ngizawuhluthuna esandleni sendodana yakho. ¹³ Kanti njalo angiyikuhluthuna wonke umbuso kuyo, kodwa ngizayinika isizwana esisodwa ngenxa kaDavida inceku yami njalo langenxa yeJerusalema, yona esengiyikhethile.”

Izitha zikaSolomoni

¹⁴ Ngakho uJehova wasemvuselela isitha uSolomoni, uHadadi um-Edomi owesikhosini sama-Edomi. ¹⁵ Mandulo uDavida esalwa lama-Edomi, uJowabi umlawuli webutho, owayengcwaba abafileyo, wayetshaye wabhūqa wonke amadoda ama-Edomi. ¹⁶ UJowabi lawo wonke ama-Israyeli ahlala khonale okwezinyanga eziyisithupha, baze babhubhisa wonke amadoda e-Edomi. ¹⁷ Kodwa uHadadi, esesengumfanyana, wabalekela eGibhithe lezinye izikhulu zama-Edomi ezazisebenzele uyise. ¹⁸ Basuka eMidiyani baya ePharani. Bathe sebethatha amadoda ePharani behamba lawo, baya eGibhithe, kuFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe, yena owapha uHadadi indlu kanye lomhlaba waze wamnika kanye lokudla.

¹⁹ UHadadi wathandeka kakhulu kuFaro, waze wamendisela udadewabo womkakhe, udadewabo kaThaphenesi iNdlovukazi. ²⁰ Umnawakhe kaThaphenesi wamzalela indodana eyathiwa nguGembathi. UThaphenesi wayondlela esigodlweni, kulapho-ke uGembathi ahlala khona labantwana bakaFaro.

²¹ Kwathi uHadadi esezwile eseGibhithe ukuthi uDavida kasekho lokuthi uJowabi induna yempi sewafa, wathi kuFaro: “Ake ungivumele ukuba ngiye elizweni lakithi.”

²² UFaro wathi kuye, “Usweleni lapha okwenza ufune ukubuyela elizweni lakini na?” UHadadi waphendula wathi, “Akulalutho kodwa ngivumela ngihambe!”

²³ UNkulunkulu wamvuselela njalo uSolomoni esinye isitha, uRezoni indodana ka-Eliyada owayebalekile enkosini yakhe uHadadezeri inkosi yaseZobha. ²⁴ Waqoqa ixuku labahlamuki waba ngumkhokheli walo ngesikhathi uDavida echitha impi kaZobha; abahlamuki baya eDamaseko lapho abazinza khona bayiphatha leyondawo. ²⁵ URezoni waba yisitha sako-Israyeli kuso sonke isikhathi uSolomoni esaphila, wengezelela kuloluhlupho olwasungulwa nguHadadi. Ngakho uRezoni wabusa e-Aramu ehlezi ethobelene lo-Israyeli.

UJerobhowami Uhlamukela uSolomoni

²⁶ UJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi laye wahlamukela inkosi. Wayekade engesinye sezikhulu zikaSolomoni, engowesizwana sika-Efrayimi evela eZereda, unina owayethiwa nguZeruwa wayengumfelokazi.

²⁷ Le yimbali yokuhlumukela kwakhe inkosi: USolomoni wayakhe walungisa amagama ayizisekelo, njalo wagcwalisa evala isikhala esasisele emdulini wedolobho likayise uDavida.

²⁸ UJerobhowami wayeyindoda eyaziwayo, uSolomoni uthe ebona ukuthi wayelijaha elenza kuhle kanganani umsebenzi walo, wamenza induna yezisebenzi zonke endlini kaJosefa.

²⁹Ngalesosikhathi uJerobhowami waphuma eJerusalema, wahlangana lomphrofethi weShilo u-Ahija endleleni, egqoke isigqoko esitsha. Bahlangana bebodwa bobabili kuleyondawo, ³⁰kwathi u-Ahija wathatha isigqoko esitsha ayesigqokile wasidabula iziqa ezilitshumi lambili. ³¹Wasesithi kuJerobhowami, “Wena zithathele iziqa ezilitshumi kulezi, ngoba uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli uthi, ‘Khangela, ngizaqhekeza umbuso esandleni sikaSolomoni ngikunike izizwana ezilitshumi. ³²Kodwa ngenxa yenceku yami uDavida ledolobho leJerusalema, lona engilikhethileyo phakathi kwazo zonke izizwana zako-Israyeli, ngizamshiyela isizwana esisodwa. ³³Ngizakwenza lokhu ngoba bangifulathele bakhonza u-Ashithorethi unkulunkulukazi wamaSidoni, loKhemoshi unkulunkulu wamaMowabi, kanye loMoleki unkulunkulu wama-Amoni, njalo abahambanga ngezami izindlela, abenzanga ukulunga phambi kwami, abayigcinanga imilayo lemithetho yami njengalokhu okwenziwa nguDavida uyise kaSolomoni.

³⁴ ‘ “Kodwa angiyikususa umbuso wonke esandleni sikaSolomoni; ngizamenza ukuba abe ngumbusi okwempilo yakhe yonke ngenxa yenceku yami uDavida, yena engamkethayo njalo wayilandela imilayo yami wayigcina lemithetho yami. ³⁵Ngizathatha umbuso esandleni sendodana yakhe ngikunike izizwana ezilitshumi. ³⁶Ngizanika indodana yakhe isizwana esisodwa ukuze inceku yami uDavida ibe lesibane ngezikhathi zonke phambi kwami eJerusalema, umuzi engakhetha ukuthi ngiwubize ngelami iGama. ³⁷Kodwa-ke, wena ngokwakho, ngizakuthatha, njalo uzabusa phezu kwakho konke njengokufisa kwenhliziyo

yakho yonke; uzakuba ngumbusi walo lonke elako-Israyeli. ³⁸Nxa ungenza engikulaya ngakho uhambe ngezindlela zami wenze okuhle emehlweni ami okunjengokulalela imilayo yami lokulawulwa yimi, njengalokhu okwenziwa yinceku yami uDavida, ungenza njalo ngizakuba lawe. ³⁹Ngizabethula isithunzi abenzalo kaDavida ngenxa yalokhu, kodwa hatshi kuze kube nininini.’ ”

⁴⁰USolomoni wazama ukubulala uJerobhowami kodwa uJerobhowami wabalekela eGibhithe, enkosini uShishakhi, njalo wahlala khonale uSolomoni waze wafa.

Ukufa kukaSolomoni

⁴¹Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kukaSolomoni – konke akwenzayo lenhlakanipho yakhe ayitshengiselayo – kanti akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali kaSolomoni na? ⁴²USolomoni wabusa eJerusalema phezu kuka-Israyeli okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. ⁴³Kwaba yikho ukufa kwakhe eselandela oyise njalo wangcwatshwa edolobheni elingumuzi kaDavida uyise. URehobhowami indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi ngemva kwakhe.

U-Israyeli Uhlamukela uRehobhowami

12 URehobhowami waya eShekemu, njengoba abako-Israyeli bonke babeye khona ukuyambeka ukuba abe yinkosi. ²UJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi wakuzwa lokhu (elokhu eseGibhithe, lapho ayebalekele khona ebalekela inkosi uSolomoni) wabuya evela eGibhithe. ³Ngakho bakhupha ilizwi lokumema uJerobhowami; kwathi yena labo bonke abako-Israyeli baya kuRehobhowami bafika bathi kuye:

⁴“Uyihlo wasethesa ijogwe elinzima kakhulu, wena phungula lumthwalo olochuku lejogwe elinzima esaletheswa nguyihlo, yikho sizakukhonza.”

⁵URhobhowami waphendula wathi: “Sukani lapha okwezinsuku ezintathu beseliphenduka libuye kimi.” Ngakho abantu bahamba.

⁶INKosi uRhobhowami wabuza abadala besizwe ababehlale njalo basebenza loyise uSolomoni esaphila. Wababuza abadala wathi: “Lingangicebisa ukuthi ngibaphendule ngithini lababantu?”

⁷Baphendula bathi, “Nxa lamuhla ungazenza inceku yalababantu ubasebenzele ubaphe impendulo abavumelana layo, bazahlala beyizinceku zakho ngezikhathi zonke.”

⁸Kodwa uRhobhowami kazange amukele ukucebisa kwabadala wakhetha ukudinga ulwazi kwabayintanga yakhe ababekhule bonke kuyibo njalo abasebeyizinceku zakhe. ⁹Wababuza wathi, “Lingangicebisani? Singabapha mpendulo bani lababantu abathi, ‘Yethula ijogwe leli esaletheswa nguyihlo?’ ” ¹⁰Amajaha la ayekhule lawo amphendula athi, “Tshela lababantu abakubuzayo ukuthi, ‘Uyihlo wasethesa ijogwe elinzima, kodwa elethu lenze libe lula? – batshele uthi, ‘Umunwe wami omncane uqatha kulokhalo lukababa. ¹¹Ubaba walethesa ijogwe elinzima; mina ngizalenza libe nzima kulalokho. Ubaba walixathula ngezaswebhu; mina ngizalintinyela ngenkume.’ ”

¹²Ngemva kwensuku ezintathu uJerobhowami labo bonke abantu babuyela kuRhobhowami, njengalokho okwaktshiwo yinkosi ukuthi, “Phendukani lize kimi ngemva kwezinsuku ezintathu.” ¹³Inkosi yasiphendula abantu ngolaka. Yalahla izicebiso eyayiziphiwe ngabadala,

¹⁴yalandela ukucebisa kwabatsha, yathi, “Ubaba walethesa ijogwe elinzima, mina ngizalenza libe nzima okuphindiweyo. Ubaba walixathula ngemichilo, mina ngizalintinyela ngenkume.” ¹⁵Ngakho inkosi ayizange ibalalele abantu, ngoba lokhu okwakusenzakala ngokwakuvela kuJehova, ukugcwalisa ilizwi likaJehova elaphiwa uJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi ngo-Ahija umShiloni.

¹⁶Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli sebebonile ukuthi inkosi yalile ukubalalela, bayiphendula inkosi bathi:

“Silesabelo bani kuDavida,
yingxenyane bani endodaneni kaJese?
Emathenteni enu bako-Israyeli!
Gcina indlu yakho,
wena kaDavida!”

Ngakho abako-Israyeli babuyela emakhaya. ¹⁷Kodwa-ke abako-Israyeli ababehlala emadolobheni akoJuda, basala bebuswa nguRhobhowami.

¹⁸INKosi uRhobhowami yathuma u-Adoniram, owayephethe izibhalwa, kodwa bonke abako-Israyeli bamkhandana ngamatshe bambulala. Kodwa iNkosi uRhobhowami, yona yenelisa ukubaleka ngenqola yempi yaya eJerusalema. ¹⁹Ngalokho u-Israyeli wahlamukela indlu kaDavida kuze kube lamuhla.

²⁰Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli besizwa ukuthi uJerobhowami usebuyile bambizela enkundleni lapho abafika bambeka ukuba abe yinkosi yalo lonke elako-Israyeli. Isizwana sakoJuda saba yiso sodwa esasala sibuswa yindlu kaDavida.

²¹Kwathi uRhobhowami ekufikeni eJerusalema, wenelisa ukubutha abendlu kaJuda labesizwana sikaBhenjamini – wenelisa ukubutha ibutho lamadoda okulwa ayizi-180 000 – ukuze balwe

labendlu ka-Israyeli bahluthune kutsha ubukhosi bubuyele kuRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni.

²² Kodwa kwafika lelilizwi likaNkulunkulu kuShemiya umuntu kaNkulunkulu lathi: ²³ “Tshono kuRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni inkosi yakoJuda, kubo bonke abendlu kaJuda lekaBhenjamini, lakubo bonke abanye abantu uthi, ²⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova ukuthi: Lingahambi ukuyakulwa labafowenu, abako-Israyeli. Yanini emakhaya enu, munye ngamunye, ngoba lokhu okwenzakalayo kuvela kimi.’ ” Ngakho balilalela ilizwi likaJehova babuyela emakhaya abo, njengokulaywa kwabo nguJehova.

Amathole Egolide eBhetheli kanye lakoDani

²⁵ UJerobhowami wasevikela iShekemu elizweni lamaqaga elako-Efrayimi wahlala khonale. Esuka lapho waphuma wayakwaxha ePheniyeli.

²⁶ UJerobhowami wacabanga wathi, “Umbuso usuzabuyela endlini kaDavida. ²⁷ Nxa abantu laba bangayanikela imihlatshelo ethempelini likaJehova eJerusalema, bazaphinda baphe usekelo lwabo enkosini babuyele eNkosini uRehobhowami.”

²⁸ Ngemva kokudinga ukwelulekwa, inkosi yenza amathole egolide amabili. Yasisithi ebantwini, “Kunzima kakhulu kini ukuthi liye eJerusalema. Nampa onkulunkulu benu, O Israyeli, abalikhupha eGibhithe.” ²⁹ Wasemisa elinye eBhetheli, elinye njalo eDani.

³⁰ Lokhu kwaba yisono; abantu babesiya khonale eDani ukuyakhonza lelo elalikhonale.

³¹ UJerobhowami wakha amathempeli ezindaweni eziphakemeyo wasebeka abaphristi emihlotsheni yonke yabantu, lakulabo ababengasibo abaLevi.

³² Wamisa umkhosi ngosuku lwetshumi lanhlanu ngenyanga yetshumi lesificamibili, owawunjengomkhosi owasusenziwa koJuda, wanikela imihlatshelo e-alithareni. Lokhu wakwenza eBhetheli, enikela ematholeni ayewenzile. LeBhetheli wabeka abaphristi ezindaweni eziphezulu ayezenzile. ³³ Ngosuku lwetshumi lanhlanu lwenyanga yesificamibili, inyanga ayezikhethele yona, wanikela imihlatshelo e-alithareni ayelakhile eBhetheli. Ngakho wamisa umkhosi kwabako-Israyeli waya e-alithareni ukuyanikela imihlatshelo.

Umuntu kaNkulunkulu Ovela koJuda

13 UJerobhowami esemi e-alithareni ukuze atshise impepha, kwafika umuntu kaNkulunkulu eBetheli evela koJuda elilizwi likaJehova, ² walethula e-alithareni lelilizwi likaJehova elithi: “Wena alithare! Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova ukuthi, ‘Kuzazalwa indodana endlini kaDavida, egama layo linguJosiya. Izakwenza umhlatshelo phezu kwakho ngabaphristi bezindawo eziphakemeyo okwakhathesi abenza iminikelo khona lapha, lamathambo abantu azatshiselwa phezu kwakho.’ ” ³ Ngalonalolosuku umuntu kaNkulunkulu wenza isibonakaliso esithi: “Lesi yisiboniso esivela kuJehova: I-alithare lizadatshulwa phakathi lomlotha ophezu kwalo uzachithwa.”

⁴ Inkosi uJerobhowami isizwile isikhalo sendoda evela kuNkulunkulu nge-alithare leBetheli yelulela isandla sayo e-alithareni, yathi, “Mbambeni!” Kodwa isandla leso ayeselulile soma wehluleka ukusifinyeza. ⁵ Kwathi i-alithare lalo ladatshulwa phakathi umlotha walo walahlwa,

njengokwesibonakaliso esasethulwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngelizwi likaJehova.

⁶ Inkosi yathi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, “Ake ungincengele kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho, ungikhulekele, ukuba isandla sami sisiliswe sibuyele esimeni saso.” Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasemncengela kuJehova, lesandla sikaJerobhowami sasiliswa saba njengakuqala.

⁷ Wasesithi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu: “Ake siye ekhaya ukuba udle, ngizakunika umvuzo.”

⁸ Kodwa umuntu kaNkulunkulu wayiphendula inkosi wathi, “Loba ungaze unginike ingxenye yenothe yakho, kangihambi lawe; kangiyikudla ukudla, njalo angiyikunatha amanzi kulindawo; ⁹ ngoba ngilaywe ngelizwi likaJehova ukuthi: ‘Ungabokudla ukudla, unganathi amanzi njalo ungaphenduki ngendlela oze ngayo.’ ”

¹⁰ Ngakho wabuyela ngenye indlela, kasabuyelanga ngendlela ayeze ngayo eBetheli.

¹¹ Kwakulomprofethi omdala owayehlala eBetheli, okweza kuye amadodana akhe amtshela ngokwakwenziwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngalolosuku. Amadodana atshela uyise lokuthi indoda leyo yayitheni enkosini. ¹² Uyise wasebuza amadodana ukuthi: “Pho angabe uhambe ngayiphi indlela?” Amadodana atshengisa uyise indlela eyathathwa ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu owavela koJuda. ¹³ Wasesithi kumadodana akhe, “Lungisani ubabhemi lingifakele isihlalo phezu kwakhe.” Kwathi sebemlungisele wagada ubabhemi ¹⁴ walandela umuntu kaNkulunkulu, wamfumana ehlezi ngaphansi kwesihlahla som-okhi wambuza wathi, “Nguwe umuntu kaNkulunkulu na ovela koJuda?” Indoda yathi,

“Yebo yimi.”

¹⁵ Ngakho umphrofethi wasesithi kuye, “Woza siye ekhaya uzokudla.”

¹⁶ Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi, “Angingeke ngiphenduke ukuthi ngibuyele lawe emuva, njalo angingeke ngidle ukudla loba nginathe amanzi lawe kule indawo. ¹⁷ Ilizwi likaJehova lifike kimi lathi, ‘Ungadli ukudla kwalapha, unganathi lamanzi akhona njalo ungabobuyela ngendlela oze ngayo.’ ”

¹⁸ Umphrofethi omdala wamphendula wathi, “Lami ngingumphrofethi njengawe. Ingelosi yeza kimi ngelizwi likaJehova yathi: ‘Ubomletha umbuyisele emuva endlini yakho ukuze ayethola ukudla anathe lamanzi.’ ” (Kodwa wayeqamba amanga.) ¹⁹ Ngakho umuntu kaNkulunkulu wabuyela laye wafika wadla ukudla wanatha lamanzi endlini yakhe.

²⁰ Besahlezi endaweni yokudlela, ilizwi likaJehova lafika kuye umprofethi omdala owayemphendule wabuyela laye emuva. ²¹ Wakhuluma kulowomuntu kaNkulunkulu owayevela koJuda wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: ‘Usuphikise ilizwi likaJehova awusagcinanga imilayo kaJehova uNkulunkulu wakho akulaya ngayo. ²² Uphenduke endleleni wafika wadla ukudla wanatha lamanzi lapho utshelwe ukuthi ungaze wadla ukudla kumbe unathe amanzi akhona. Ngenxa yalokho isidumbu sakho asisayikungwatshwa emangwabeni abokhokho bakho.’ ”

²³ Kwathi umuntu kaNkulunkulu eseqedile ukudla lokunatha, umphrofethi owayemphendule endleleni wambuyisela emuva wafaka isihlalo sakhe phezu kukababhemi wamkhweza. ²⁴ Uthe esengene indlela yakhe, kwavela isilwane endleleni sambulala, isidumbu sakhe sasala phansi emgwaqweni, kwathi ubabhemi wema ngapha kwesidumbu lesilwane sime ngale

kwaso. ²⁵ Abantu ababesedlula lapho babona isidumbu siwele khonapho emgwaqweni, isilwane simi eceleni phansi kwesidumbu, bedlulela edolobheni bayabikelaumphrofethi omdala lapho ayehlala khona.

²⁶ Kwathiumphrofethi owayemphendule endleleni ehambeni lwakhe ekuzwa lokhu, wathi, “Ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu odelele ilizwi likaJehova. UJehova umnikele esilwaneni, esimphoqoze sambulala, njengoba ilizwi likaJehova belimxwayisile.”

²⁷ Umphrofethi wathi emadodaneni akhe, “Ngilungiselani ubabhemi limethese isihlalo.” Akwenza lokho amadodana, ²⁸ wasesuka esiya khonale lapho afumana khona isidumbu endleleni, ngapha kumi isilwane ngale kungubabhemi emaceleni aso. Isilwane asizange sisithinte isidumbu kanti njalo sasivele singazange simthinte lobabhemi. ²⁹ Ngakhoumphrofethi wathatha isidumbu somuntu kaNkulunkulu, wasikhweza kubabhemi, wasithwalela edolobheni lakhe lapho afika amlilela khona njalo wamngcwaba khona. ³⁰ Wasebeka isidumbu engcwabeni lakhe, wamlilela wathi, “Maye, umfowethu!”

³¹ Ngemva kokumngcwaba, wathi kumadodana akhe, “Ekufeni kwami, lingingwabe engcwabeni lona leli okungcwatshwe khona umuntu kaNkulunkulu; libekelele amathambo ami ndawonye lamathambo akhe.

³² Ngoba ilizwi alimemezelayo ngelizwi likaJehova phezu kwe-alithare eBhetheli laphezu kwazo zonke indawana zomhlathshelo eziphakemeyo emadolobheni aseSamariya lizagcwaliseka.”

³³ Langemva kwalokhu, uJerobhowami kazange aguqule izindlela zakhe zokona, waqhubeka ekhetha abaphristi bendawo

eziphakemeyo edobha nje ingqe ngubani ebantwini. Kwakusithi loba ngubani ofuna ukuba ngumphristi wayemgcobela indawo eziphezulu. ³⁴ Lesi kwakuyisono sendlu kaJerobhowami esakhokhelela ekuweni lasekudilikeni kwayo kayaze yaba khona emhlabeni.

Isiphrofetho sika-Ahija Esibi ngoJerobhowami

14 Ngalesosikhathi u-Abhija

indodana kaJerobhowami wagula, ² uJerobhowami wathi kumkakhe, “Hamba, uzifihle ngesinye isimo, ukuze kungabikhona ozakunanzelela ukuthi ungumkaJerobhowami. Ube ususiya eShilo.

U-Ahijaumphrofethi ukhonale – yena loyana owangitshela ukuthi ngizakuba yinkosi yabantu laba. ³ Uthathe izinkwa ezilitshumi, amakhekhe athile kanye legabha loluju, ube ususiya kuye. Uzakutshela okumele kwenzakale emntwaneni.” ⁴ Ngakho umkaJerobhowami wenza lokho ayekutshilo wasesiya endlini ka-Ahija eShilo. U-Ahija wayengasaboni, eseyisiphofu ngenxa yokuluphala. ⁵ Kodwa uJehova wayetshela u-Ahija ukuthi, “UmkaJerobhowami uyeza uzokubuza ngendodana yakhe, iyagula, njalo uzamnika impendulo le lale ngalokhu lalokhuyana. Ekufikeni kwakhe uzakwenza kungathi kayisuye ezifihla.”

⁶ Kwathi u-Ahija esizwa izisinde zakhe phandle wahle wema emnyango, wathi, “Ngena, Nkosikazi kaJerobhowami, kanti ngokwani ukuzenzisa? Ngithunywe kuwe ngilombiko omubi. ⁷ Hamba, uyetshela uJerobhowami ukuthi lokhu yikho okutshiwo nguJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: “Ngakondla wakhula phakathi

kwabantu ngakwenza umkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli. ⁸Ngaxebula umbuso endlini kaDavida ngawunika wena, kodwa awuzange wenze njengenceku yami uDavida, yena owagcina imilayo yami njalo wangilandela ngayo yonke inhliziyo yakhe, esenza konke okuhle phambi kwami. ⁹Wonile okudlula bonke abakwandulelayo. Usuzidalele abanye onkulunkulu, izithombe ezikhandwe ngensimbi, ungithukuthelisile ngazonda njalo ungifulathele.

¹⁰“Ngenxa yalokho ngizakwehlisela incithakalo endlini kaJerobhowami. Ngizabhuhisa bonke abangamadoda okucina ekuzalweni kwabakaJerobhowami ko-Israyeli – loba yisigqili loba okhululekileyo. Ngizayitshisa indlu kaJerobhowami kungathi ngibase ithubwe, ize iphele du. ¹¹Izinja zizabadla bonke abakaJerobhowami abafele edolobheni, lezinyoni zemkhathini zizazitika ngalabo abafela emaphandleni. UJehova usekhulumile!”

¹²“Wena, buyela ekhaya. Uzakuthi ubeka unyawo lwakho edolobheni umfana ahle afe. ¹³U-Israyeli uzalila amngcwabe. Nguye yedwa kwabakaJerobhowami ozangcwatshwa, ngoba nguye yedwa endlini kaJerobhowami, uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli amfumene enze ukulunga.

¹⁴“UJehova uzazivusela owakhe umbusi ozakuba yinkosi phezu kuka-Israyeli ozachitha abantwana bakaJerobhowami. Lamuhla yilona lolosuku! Ini? Ye khona manje.

¹⁵UJehova uzamtshaya u-Israyeli, kungathi ngumhlanga uzunguzeka emanzini. Uzamqophuna u-Israyeli elizweni lakhe elihle alinika okhokho bakhe abachithe ngaphetsheya komfula, ngoba uJehova bamvuse ulaka ngokwenza izithombe zika-Ashera.

¹⁶Njalo uzamlahla u-Israyeli ngenxa yezono zikaJerobhowami azenzileyo wakhokhelela lo-Israyeli ukuzenza.”

¹⁷UmkaJerobhowami wasuka lapho waqonda eThiriza. Wathi enyathela egumeni, indodana yafa. ¹⁸Bayingcwaba njalo, u-Israyeli wonke wayililela njengoba uJehova wayetshilo ngenceku yakhe umphrofethi u-Ahija.

¹⁹Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJerobhowami, izimpi lokuthi wabusa njani, kulotshiwe egwaleni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ²⁰Wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili wasesiyaphumula labokhokho bakhe ekufeni. Indodana yakhe uNadabi wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi.

URehobhowami iNkosi yakoJuda

²¹URehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni waba yinkosi wabusa koJuda. Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye eqalisa ukubusa, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa eJerusalema idolobho elakhethwa nguJehova phakathi kwezizwana zonke zako-Israyeli ukubeka iBizo lakhe. Unina wayenguNahama; engowase-Amoni.

²²AbakoJuda bona phambi kukaJehova. Ngokona lokhu bavusa ubukhwele bolaka lwakhe ukwedlula okwakwenziwe ngoyise. ²³Bazakhela njalo indawo eziphakemeyo zeminikelo, amatshe azilayo lezinsika zika-Ashera ezintabeni zonke langaphansi kwemithunzi yezihlahla eziyizithingithingi. ²⁴Kwakukhona lapho amadoda alala lamanye amadoda ezindaweni zemihlatshelo phakathi kwelizwe; abantu ababesenza wonke amanyala ezizwe uNkulunkulu ayezixotshile phansi kwabako-Israyeli.

²⁵Ngomnyaka wesihlanu kaRehobhowami, uShishaki inkosi

yaseGibhithe wahlasela iJerusema.

²⁶Wabutha yonke inotho yethempeli likaJehova kanye lenotho yesigodlo sobukhosi. Wahuquluza konke kanye lamahawu enziwe ngegolide ayekhandwe nguSolomoni. ²⁷Ngakho iNkosi uRehobhowami yakhanda amahawu ethusi ukwenanisa lawo yawabela abakhokheli babalindimasango besigodlweni.

²⁸Kwakusithi nxa inkosi isiya ethempelini likaJehova, abalindi babewathwala amahawu lawo, baphinde bawabuyisele endlini yabalindi.

²⁹Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kukaRehobhowami, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwaleni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda?

³⁰Kwahlala kulempi phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowami.

³¹UREhobhowami walala walandela oyise wangcwatsha labo eMzini kaDavida. Unina wayenguNahama, engum-Amoni. U-Abhija indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi waba yinkosi.

U-Abhija iNkosi yakoJuda

15 Ngomnyaka wetshumi lafica mibili wokubusa kukaJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi, u-Abhija waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ²njalo wabusa eJerusema okweminyaka emithathu. Ibizo likanina lalinguMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhshalomi. ³Wenza zonke izono ezazisenziwa nguyise, inhliziyi yakhe yayingekho ekukhonzeni uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, inganjengenhliziyi kaDavida ukhokho wakhe. ⁴Kungenani, ngenxa kaDavida uJehova uNkulunkulu wamnika isibane eJerusema ngokuveza indodana eyayizathatha isihlalo sakhe langokuqinisa iJerusema. ⁵UDavida wayekwenzile konke okufaneleyo

emehlweni kaJehova njalo kehlulekanga ukugcina imilayo kaJehova kuzo zonke izinsuku zokuphila kwakhe – ngaphandle kwendaba ka-Uriya umHithi.

⁶Kwaba lempi phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowami ngaso sonke isikhathi sokuphila kuka-Abhija. ⁷Okunye okumayelana lombuso ka-Abhija, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda? Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Abhija loJerobhowami. ⁸U-Abhija waphumula laboyise wangcwatshwa emzini kaDavida. U-Asa indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi bukayise.

U-Asa iNkosi yakoJuda

⁹Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili okubusa kukaJerobhowami inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Asa waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ¹⁰wabusa eJerusema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane lowodwa. Ibizo likagogo wakhe lalingu- Mahakha indodakazi ka-Abhshalomi.

¹¹U-Asa wenza okubukekayo phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguDavida uyise.

¹²Waxotsha abesilisa ababewula ngokwenzana abafazi wadiliza zonke izithombe ezazakhiwe ngoyise. ¹³Waze waxotsha kanye logogo wakhe uMahakha wamsusa esihlalweni sokuba yindlovukazi yomndlunkulu, ngoba wayebumbe isithombe esilahlazo sika-Ashera. U-Asa wasidilizela phansi lesisithombe wayasitshisela eSigodini saseKhidroni. ¹⁴Noma engadilizanga izindawo eziphakemeyo, inhliziyi ka-Asa yayinamathele kuJehova impilo yakhe yonke. ¹⁵Waletha ethempelini likaJehova isiliva legolide lonke uyise kanye laye ababe kunikele lezinye impahla.

¹⁶ Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Asa loBhahasha inkosi yako-Israyeli ekubuseni kwabo bonke. ¹⁷ UBhahasha inkosi yako-Israyeli waqophana loJuda wasehonqolozela umuzi weRama ukuvimbela loba ngubani owayezama ukuphuma loba ukungena elizweni lika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda.

¹⁸ U-Asa wasethatha isiliva sonke legolide elalisele eziphaleni zokuligugu ethempelini likaJehova lokwakusesigodlweni sakhe. Wakubeka ezandleni zezikhulu zakhe wazithumela kuBheni-Hadadi indodana kaThabhrimoni, oyindodana kaHeziyoni, inkosi yase-Aramu, owayebusa eDamaseko. ¹⁹ “Akube khona ubudlelwano phakathi kwami lawe,” watsho, eqhubeka wathi, “njengoba kwakunjalo phakathi kukayihlo lobaba. Khangela ngikuthumela izipho zesiliva legolide. Wena quma ubudlelwano bakho loBhahasha inkosi yako-Israyeli yikho ezaphuma elizweni lami.”

²⁰ UBheni-Hadadi wavumelana lenkosi u-Asa wasethumela abalawuli bamabutho akhe ukuyahlasela amadolobho ako-Israyeli. Wanqoba ele-Ijoni, eleDani, ele-Abheli Bhethi Mahakha lalo lonke elaseKhinerethi kanye lelaseNafthali. ²¹ UBhahasha wathi ekuzwa lokho, wema ukwakha iRama wasehlelela eThiriza. ²² INkosi u-Asa yaquma ukuthi kulo lonke elakoJuda – kungasali muntu. Basebethutha eRama bethwala amatshe lamapulanka ayekade esetshenziswa nguBhahasha kuleyondawo. Ngalokho inkosi u-Asa yakha iGeba kwelakoBhenjamini, leMizipha.

²³ Konke okumayelana lombuso ka-Asa, lalokho anqoba kikho, lamadolobho wonke ayewakhile, akulotshwanga na egwaleni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda? Kodwa-ke, ekuluphaleni kwakhe, waba

lomkhuhlane ezinyaweni zakhe.

²⁴ Ngakho u-Asa waya ekuphumuleni wangcwatshwa laboyise emzini kayise uDavida. Kwathi indodana yakhe uJehoshafathi wathatha isihlalo sakhe sobukhosi.

UNadabi iNkosi yako-Israyeli

²⁵ UNadabi indodana kaJerobhowami waba yinkosi yabako-Israyeli ngomnyaka wesibili ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, njalo wabusa abako-Israyeli okweminyaka emibili. ²⁶ Wona wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, wahamba ngendlela kayise lasezonweni zakhe, lezo ezazibangele ukuthi u-Israyeli angene kuzo adale isono.

²⁷ UBhahasha indodana ka-Ahija owendlu ka-Isakhari waceba ukumbulala. Wambulala eGibhethoni elinye lamadolobho amaFilisti, ngesikhathi uNadabi labo bonke abako-Israyeli belihanqile. ²⁸ UBhahasha wambulala uNadabi ngomnyaka wesithathu wombuso ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda wasehlala esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi.

²⁹ Waqalisa ukubusa wahle wambulala bonke abendlu ka-Jerobhowami. Kazange atshiyele uJerobhowami loyedwa kodwa wabhubhisa bonke elandela ilizwi likaJehova eleza lenceku yakhe u-Ahija umShilo – ³⁰ ngenxa yezono zikaJerobhowami ayezenzile njalo enguye owabangela ukuthi u-Israyeli one, ngoba wathukuthelisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

³¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kukaNadabi, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga na egwaleni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? ³² Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Asa loBhahasha inkosi yako-Israyeli ngesikhathi sonke sokubusa kwabo.

UBhahasha iNkosi yako-Israyeli

³³Ngomnyaka wesithathu ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, uBhahasha indodana ka-Ahija waba yinkosi yalo lonke elako-Israyeli laseThiriza, njalo wabusa iminyaka engamatshumi amabili lane.

³⁴Wona phambi kukaJehova, wahamba ngendlela kaJerobhowami lezono zakhe, lezo abangela u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze.

16 Ilizwi likaJehova leza kuJehu indodana kaHanani lisongela uBhahasha lisithi: ²“Ngakususa othulini ngakwenza umkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli, kodwa wasuka wahamba ngezindlela zikaJerobhowami njalo wabangela abantu bami bako-Israyeli ukuthi bone bangithukuthelise ngezono zabo.

³Ngakho sekufanele ngichithe uBhahasha labendlu yakhe, njalo indlu yakho ngizakwenza ifanane leka-Jerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi.

⁴Bazadliwa yizinja abangabakaBhahasha abazafela edolobheni, kanti izinyoni zasemoyeni zizakudla labo abazafela emmangweni.”

⁵Okunye okumayelana lombuso kaBhahasha, akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe, akulotshwanga yini egwaleni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli?

⁶UBhahasha waphumula laboyise wembelwa eThiriza. Kwathi u-Ela indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi yabusa.

⁷Njalo ilizwi lafika livela kuJehova ngoJehu indodana kaHanani lisiya kuBhahasha labendlu yakhe, ngoba kulezono ezinengi ayezenzile emehlweni kaJehova, wamthukuthelisa ngezinto abazenzayo, waze wafanana labendlu ka-Jerobhowami – kanye lokuthi wayichitha.

U-Ela iNkosi yako-Israyeli

⁸Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesithupha wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, u-Ela indodana kaBhahasha waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli njalo wabusa eThiriza okweminyaka emibili.

⁹UZimiri, esinye sezikhulu zakhe, owayelawula ingxenye yezinqola zempi, waceba ukumbulala. U-Ela wayeseThiriza ngalesosikhathi, esidla edakwa endlini ka-Ariza, indoda eyayiphethe isigodlo saseThiriza.

¹⁰UZimiri wangena, wantshaya wambulala. Kwakungumnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda. Wasethatha isikhundla sakhe sobukhosi waba yinkosi.

¹¹Uthe eqalisa ukubusa eshlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, wabulala bonke abendlu kaBhahasha. Katshiyanga ndoda noma kuyisihlobo loba kungumngane.

¹²Ngakho uZimiri wabhubhisa bonke abendlu kaBhahasha, kwaba njengokwatshiwo nguJehova owasongela uBhahasha ngomprofethi uJehu – ¹³ngenxa yazo zonke izono azenzayo uBhahasha lendodana yakhe u-Ela; benza lo-Israyeli wona kwaze kwaqubula uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli wazonda ngenxa yezithombe zabo zeze.

¹⁴Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Ela, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini encwadini yembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli?

UZimiri iNkosi yako-Israyeli

¹⁵Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, uZimiri wabusa eThiriza okwensuku eziyisikhombisa. Ibutho lalisenkambeni yaseGibhethoni, idolobho lamaFilisti. ¹⁶Abako-Israyeli bathi sebezile ukuthi uZimiri wakha

icebo lokubulala inkosi lakanye wayibulala, babeka u-Omiri, umlawuli webutho wahle waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli mhlalokho enkambeni.

¹⁷U-Omiri labo bonke abako-Israyeli bahlehla basuka eGibhethoni bayavimbizela iThiriza. ¹⁸UZimiri uthe ebona ukuthi idolobho laselithethwe, waya endaweni evikelekileyo wathungela isigodlo sesikhosini ngomlilo lapho ayekhona. Ngakho wafa, ¹⁹ngexa yezono ayezidalile, esenza okubi phambi kukaJehova njalo kwakungaselamuntu ohamba ngendlela zikaJerobhowami lasezonweni ayengene kuzo lalezo ayebangela u-Israyeli ukuba azenze.

²⁰Ezinye izehlakalo zokubusa kukaZimiri, lomvukela ayewenzile, akulotshwanga na ogwaleni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli?

U-Omiri iNkosi yako-Israyeli

²¹Kwaba khona ukudabukana phakathi kwabantu bako-Israyeli, abanye babesekela uThibhini indodana kaGinathi ukuthi abe yinkosi, abanye besekela u-Omiri. ²²Kodwa-ke kwaba sobala ukuthi abalandeli baka-Omiri bayabakhulela abakaThibhini indodana kaGinathi. Ngakho uThibhini wafa u-Omiri waba yinkosi. ²³Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lanye ka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, u-Omiri waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lambili, eyisithupha yayo eseThiriza. ²⁴Wathenga uqaqa lwaseSamariya kuShemeri ngamathalenta amabili esiliva njalo wakha idolobho phezu koqaqa lolo walibiza ngokuthi Samariya, elubiza ngoShemeri, owayekade engumnikazi walo.

²⁵Kodwa u-Omiri wona waba lezono phambi kukaJehova, njalo yena wona okwedlula bonke abamandulelayo.

²⁶Wahamba ngazo zonke izindlela zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi kanye lasezonweni zakhe, abangela ukuthi u-Israyeli azenze, ngalokho baqubula uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, wazonda ngenxa yezithombe zabo eziyize.

²⁷Okwembali yokubusa kuka-Omiri, akwenzayo kanye layephumelele kukho, akulotshwanga na ogwaleni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli? ²⁸U-Omiri waphumula kuboyise wembelwa eSamariya. Kwathi u-Ahabi indodana yakhe wabusa ngemva kwakhe.

U-Ahabi Uba yiNkosi yako-Israyeli

²⁹Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lafica mibili wokubusa kuka-Asa inkosi yakoJuda, u-Ahabi indodana ka-Omiri waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, njalo wabusa eSamariya kwabako-Israyeli okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili. ³⁰U-Ahabi indodana ka-Omiri waba lezono ezingaphezu kwalabo abamandulelayo phambi kukaJehova.

³¹Kwathi lanxa ebona kungasilutho ukungena eubini bukaJerobhowami indodana kaNebhathi, wathatha uJezebeli indodakazi ka-Ethabhalali inkosi yamaSidoni, waseqalisa ukukhonza lokusebenzela uBhali.

³²Wakhela uBhali i-alithare ethempelini likaBhali ayelakhe eSamariya. ³³U-Ahabi wenzela u-Ashera insika njalo kunengi akwenzayo okwathukuthelisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, okwedlula wonke amakhosi ako-Israyeli amandulelayo.

³⁴Ngezinsuku zika-Ahabi uHiyeli waseBhetheli wakha kutsha iJerikho. Ukubekwa kwezisekelo zayo kwathatha impilo yezibulo lakhe u-Abhiramu kwathi lasekumiseni amasango alo kwathatha impilo yecinathunjana lakhe uSegubi, kwagcwaliseka ilizwi

likaJehova ayelikhulume ngoJoshuwa indodana kaNuni.

U-Eliza Uphiwa Ukudla Ngamawabayi

17 U-Eliza umThishibi owayevela ngaseThishibi eGileyadi, wasesithi ku-Ahabi, “Njengoba uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, engimkhonzayo ephila, akuyikuba lamazolo njalo akuyikuba lezulu okweminyaka embalwa ezayo ngaphandle kokuba ngitsho.”

²Ngakho ilizwi likaJehova lafika ku-Eliza lisithi: ³“Suka lapho, khangela empumalanga uyecatsha eDongeni lwaseKherithi, empumalanga kweJodani. ⁴Uzanatha amanzi avela kulesosifula, njalo sengilungise amawabayi ukuthi azabe ekulethela ukudla khonapho.”

⁵Ngakho wenza lokho okwakutshiwo nguJehova. Waya eDongeni lwaseKherithi, empumalanga yeJodani, wafika wahlala khona. ⁶Amawabayi amlethela ukudla, isinkwa lenyama ekuseni kwathi lantambama kwaba yisinkwa lenyama, amanzi wayenatha awalesosifula.

Umfelokazi waseZarefathi

⁷Ngemva kwesikhathi amanzi atsha esifuleni ngoba kwakungelazulu elizweni. ⁸Ngakho kwabuye kwafika kuye ilizwi likaJehova lisithi: ⁹“Suka khathesi uye eZarefathi yeSidoni uyehlala khona. Sengilungisile khona ukuthi umfelokazi uzakulungisela abe ekupha ukudla.” ¹⁰Wasesiya eZarefathi. Uthe efika esangweni ledolobho, kwakukhona umfelokazi ebutha incwathi. Wazibika kuye njalo ecela wathi, “Ungangilethela amanzi ngenkezo kenginathe na?” ¹¹Uthe esayathatha amanzi, wambiza njalo wathi, “Ngcicela ungiiphathele locezu lwesinkwa.”

¹²Umfelokazi waphendula wathi, “Ngeqiniso lanjengoba uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho ephila, angilaso isinkwa – ngilengcosana nje yefulawa engcebethwini encane lamafutha angenganani ediweni. Ngidobha incwathi lezi nje ngiya lazo ngekhaya ukuze ngiyezigoqozela engingakudla mina lendodana yami, kube yikho esizakudla – anduba sife.”

¹³U-Eliza wathi kumfelokazi, “Ungesabi. Hamba uye ekhaya uyekwenza khonokho okutshoyo. Kodwa uqale ungiphekele iqebelengwana eliyisinkwa ngalokho olakho ube usuliletha lapha kimi, anduba uziphekele okwakho lendodana yakho. ¹⁴Ngoba lokhu yikho uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli akutshiloyo: ‘Impuphu esengcebethwini kayiyikuphela, lamafutha asediweni kawayikuphela, kuze kufike usuku uJehova azanisa ngalo izulu elizweni?’”

¹⁵Wasuka lapho wayakwenza njengalokho ayekutshilo u-Eliza. Ngakho kwahlala kulokudla kuka-Eliza lomfelokazi labendlu yakhe okwezinsuku zonke. ¹⁶Ngoba ifulawa elutshwana eyayisengcebethwini ayiphelanga, kanti njalo lamafutha agobhoza kokuphela kazaphela njengokutsho kukaJehova ku-Eliza.

¹⁷Ngemva kwesikhathshana indodana yomfelokazi owayengumninindlu yagula. Wakhula umkhuhlane ngamandla, yaze yema ukuphefumula. ¹⁸Umfelokazi wathi ku-Eliza, “Kanti kuyini ongizondela khona, wena muntu kaNkulunkulu? Kambe ungabe ulande ukuzangikhumbuza ngesono sami ukuze ubulale indodana yami na?”

¹⁹U-Eliza waphendula wathi, “Nginika indodana yakho.” Wayiphatha ngezandla indodana, wakhwela layo waya endlini ephozulu ayehlala kuyo, wayilalisa embhedeni wakhe. ²⁰Wasecela

ngamandla kuJehova esithi. “Yebo Jehova Nkulunkulu wami, wehlisele umonakalo lakulo umfelokazi engihlezi kuye na, ngokubangela ukufa kwendodana yakhe na?”²¹ Wasezelula ecambalala phezu komfana kathathu ecela kuJehova, esithi, “Wena Jehova Nkulunkulu wami, ake ubuyisele impilo yalumntwana!”

²²UJehova wakuzwa ukukhala kuka-Eliza lakanye impilo yomfana yabuyela, wavuka waphila. ²³U-Eliza wamphakamisa umntwana wamthwalela endlini ephansi. Wamqhubela unina wasesithi kunina, “Khangela ubone, indodana yakho iyaphila!”

²⁴Umfelokazi wasesithi ku-Eliza, “Khathesi sengisazi ukuthi ungumuntu kaNkulunkulu lokuthi ilizwi likaJehova elivela emlonyeni wakho liliqiniso.”

U-Eliza lo-Obhadiya

18 Ngemva kwesikhathi eside, ngomnyaka wesithathu, ilizwi likaJehova lezwakala ku-Eliza lisithi: “Hamba uyezibika ku-Ahabi, ngizanisa izulu elizweni.”² Lakanye u-Eliza wahamba wayazibika ku-Ahabi.

Ngalesosikhathi indlala yayinkulu kakhulu eSamariya,³ njalo u-Ahabi wayenxuse u-Obhadiya, owayengumlindi wesigodlo sakhe. (U-Obhadiya wayekholwa kakhulu kuJehova. ⁴Lapho uJezebeli wayebulala abaphrofethi bakaJehova, u-Obhadiya wayethethe abalikhulu wayabafihla ezimbalwini ezimbili, bengamatshumi amahlanu ebhalwini lunye, wabathumela ukudla lamanzi.)⁵ U-Ahabi wayethe ku-Obhadiya, “Ngena elizweni lonke emaxhaphozini lasezihotsheni. Mhlawumbe singafumana khona utshani bokupha amabhiza lezimbongolo zethu ukuze singabulali leyodwa

yezinyamazana zethu.”⁶ Ngakho behlukaniselana isigaba somhlaba ababezawuhlola. U-Ahabi wakhangela le kwathi lo-Obhadiya laye waya le.

⁷Kwathi u-Obhadiya ezihambela nje, wahlangabezwa ngu-Eliza. U-Obhadiya wamnanzelela, wakhothamela phansi emhlabathini, wasesithi, “Kambe nguwe sibili, nkosi yami Eliza?”

⁸U-Eliza waphendula wathi, “Yebo. Hamba uyetshele inkosi yakho ukuthi, ‘U-Eliza ulapha.’ ”

⁹U-Obhadiya wabuza wathi, “Ngoneni kanti okwenza unikele inceku yakho ezandleni zika-Ahabi ukuba ibulawe?”¹⁰ Ngeqiniso elinjengoba uJehova uNkulunkulu ephila, akukho sizwe loba umbuso lapho inkosi yami ingazange ithume izigijimi ukuba zikudinge khona. Kuthe laloba isizwe loba umbuso ulandula ukuba awukho khonale, ubenze bafunga ukuthi abangeke bakufumane.

¹¹Kodwa khathesi usungithuma ukuthi ngiye enkosini ngiyeyitshela ukuthi, ‘U-Eliza ulapha.’¹² Angikwazi ukuthi uMoya kaJehova uzakusa ngaphi mhla ngakutshiyayo. Nxa ngingayatshela u-Ahabi akudinge akuswele, uzangibulala. Kunjalo nje mina nceku yakho ngimkhonzile uJehova kusukela ebutsheni bami.¹³ Awukezwa yini, nkosi yami, engakwenzayo uJezebeli ebulala abaphrofethi bakaJehova na? Ngafihla abalikhulu ezimbalwini ezimbili, bengamatshumi amahlanu kolulodwa, ngabapha ukudla lamanzi.¹⁴ Pho khathesi usungithuma ukuba ngiye enkosini yami ngiyeyitshela ngithi, ‘U-Eliza ulapha.’ Kusobala ukuthi izangibulala!”

¹⁵U-Eliza wathi, “Njengoba uJehova uSomandla engimkhonzayo ekhona, ngizazinikela ngempela ku-Ahabi lamuhla.”

U-Eliza Entabeni iKhameli

¹⁶Ngakho u-Obhadiya wahlangabeza u-Ahabi wayamtshela, u-Ahabi wayahlangabeza u-Eliza. ¹⁷Uthe ebona u-Eliza, wathi kuye, “Nguwe wena, wena oluhlupho ko-Israyeli?”

¹⁸U-Eliza waphendula wathi, “Angibanganga hlupho ko-Israyeli. Kodwa nguwe labendlu kayihlo abalubangileyo. Selitshiye imilayo kaJehova lalandela oBhali. ¹⁹Mema abantu kulo lonke elako-Israyeli ngiyehlangana labo eNtabeni iKhameli. Njalo letha bonke abaphrofethi bakaBhali abangamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu labaka-Ashera abangamakhulu amane, abadlela etafuleni kaJezebeli.”

²⁰U-Ahabi wakhupha ilizwi kulo lonke elako-Israyeli wahlanganisa abaphrofethi labo eNtabeni iKhameli. ²¹U-Eliza wema phambi kwabantu wathi, “Lizathandabuza kuze kube nini ngeminakano emibili le na? Nxa uJehova enguNkulunkulu mlandeleni kodwa nxa uBhali enguNkulunkulu, mlandeleni.” Kodwa abantu abazange batsho lutho.

²²Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi kubo, “Yimi ngedwa umphrofethi kaJehova oseleyo kodwa uBhali ulabangamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu.

²³Sidingeleni izinkunzi ezimbili. Libanike bazikhethela abayifunayo bayihlabane bayiqume amaqatha bayifake phezu kwezinkuni kodwa bangabasi umlilo. Lami ngizahlinza eyinye yazo ngiyiqobaqobe ngiyifake phezu kwezinkuni kodwa angiyikubasa umlilo.

²⁴Libe selibiza igama likankulunkulu wenu mina ngizacela ebizweni likaJehova. Unkulunkulu ozaphendula ngomlilo – nguyeke uNkulunkulu.”

Ngakho abantu bonke bathi, “Lokho okutshoyo kulungile.”

²⁵U-Eliza wathi kubaphrofethi bakaBhali, “Khetani inkunzi eyodwa

njalo liqale lina ukuyilungiselela, njengoba lina libanengi kangaka. Memezani unkulunkulu wenu ngegama lakhe, kodwa lingalumathisi umlilo.”

²⁶Bayithatha inkunzi ababeyiphiwe bayilungisa. Basebebiza ibizo likaBhali kusukela ekuseni kwaze kwaba semini enkulu. Baklabalala besithi, “We Bhali, sabela bo!” Kodwa akubanga lampendulo; kakho owaphendulayo. Bagida bezingelezela i-alithare ababelakhile.

²⁷Kwathi emini enkulu u-Eliza waqalisa ukubahoza esithi, “Klabalalani ngamandla! Ngempela angithi ungunkulunkulu! Mhlawumbe ujule eminakanweni, engxenywe ubambekile, loba engxenywe uphakathi kohambo. Engxenywe ulele ngakho ufuna ukuvuswa.” ²⁸Ngakho baklabalala ngamandla baziklaya ngezingqamu langezinkemba, njengoba kwakungumkhuba wabo, kwaze kwajuluka igazi. ²⁹Yedlula imini enkulu, bona baqhubeka ngokuphithizela bephrofetha kwaze kwaba yisikhathi somhlatshelo wakusihlwa. Kodwa akubanga lalutho, akubanga lampendulo, kakho owazihlupha ngakho.

³⁰Ngakho u-Eliza wathi ebantwini, “Wozani ngapha engikhona.” Basondela kuye, yena walungilungisa i-alithare likaJehova elaselibhidlikile. ³¹U-Eliza wathatha amatshe alitshumi lambili, yilelo limele isizwana sosendo lukaJakhobe, yena owayemukele ilizwi likaJehova elathi kuye, “Uzabizwa ngokuthi ungu-Israyeli.” ³²Wakha i-alithare ngebizo likaJehova ngalawo-matshe, wagebha umgelo ozingelezela i-alithare okungangena kuwo igokoko lamabele. ³³Walungisa inkuni, wasika inyama yenkunzi wenza amaqatha, waseyibeka phezu kwenkuni. Wasesithi kubo, “Gwalisani imigqomo emine

emikhulu ngamanzi libe seliwathela phezu komhlatshelo laphezu kwenkuni.”

³⁴Wathi, “Kwenzeni futhi,” bakwenza lokho njalo. Wathi, “Kwenzeni okwesithathu,” lakanye bakwenza bephinda okwesithathu. ³⁵Amanzi agcwala aze agcwala lasemgelweni owawugombolozele i-alithare.

³⁶Kuthe ngesikhathi somhlatshelo, u-Eliza umphrofethi wasondela wakhuleka esithi, “O Jehova, Nkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, lo-Isaka lo-Israyeli, veza obala lamuhla ukuthi wena unguNkulunkulu ko-Israyeli kanye lokuthi mina ngiyinceku yakho, lokuthi zonke lezizinto ngizenza ngokulaya kwakho. ³⁷Akungiphendule O Jehova, akungiphendule ukuze lababantu bakwazi ukuthi wena Jehova, unguNkulunkulu, lokuthi njalo uguqula izinhliziyi zabo.”

³⁸Khonokho umlilo kaJehova wehla watshisa umhlatshelo, inkuni, amatshe lomhlabathi, kwaze kwatsha lamanzi ayesemgelweni.

³⁹Abantu bonke bekubona lokhu, bazilahla phansi bakhala bathi, “UJehova – nguye uNkulunkulu! UJehova – nguye uNkulunkulu!”

⁴⁰U-Eliza wasebalaya wathi, “Bambani abaphrofethi bakaBhali. Akungaphunyuki lamunye!” Bababamba, u-Eliza wathi kabasiwe eSigodini saseKhishoni, babulawelwa khona.

⁴¹Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi ku-Ahabi, “Hamba, udle unathe, ngoba kuzwakala umdumo wezulu elikhulu.” ⁴²Ngalokho u-Ahabi wasuka wayakudla njalo wanatha, kodwa u-Eliza wakhwela phezu kwentaba yaseKhameli, wagebisa ikhanda lakhe walifaka phakathi kwamadolo akhe.

⁴³Wathuma isisebenzi sakhe wathi: “Hamba uyephosa amehlo akho

olwandle.” Lakanye isisebenzi sahamba sayakhangelwa. Sathi, “Akulalutho laphaya.” U-Eliza watsho kwaze kwaba kasikhombisa esithi, “Buyela.”

⁴⁴Ngehlandla lesikhombisa isisebenzi sabika sathi, “Iyezana elincinyane ngangesandla somuntu likhanya liqubuka lisuka olwandle.” Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi, “Hamba uyetshele u-Ahabi uthi, ‘Bopha inqola yakho yempi usuke lapho ungakavalelwa lizulu.’ ”

⁴⁵Ngalesosikhathi, kwaba mnyama emkhathini ngamayezi, kwaqubuka umoya, kwana izulu elikhulu njalo u-Ahabi wasuka ngenqola waya eJezireli. ⁴⁶Amandla kaJehova ehlela ku-Eliza, njalo uthe ukuba akhwiwele isambatho sakhe ebhantini wagijima phambi kuka-Ahabi indlela yonke esiya eJezireli.

U-Eliza Ubalekela eHorebi

19 U-Ahabi wasetshela uJezebeli ngakho konke okwakwenziwe ngu-Eliza kanye lokuthi wababulala njani abaphrofethi ngenkamba. ²Ngalokho uJezebeli wathumela isithunywa ku-Eliza ukuthi siyekuthi, “Onkulunkulu kabangihlanekela ngokwengezelelweyo nxa ngingakubulalanga kuze kube kusasa, njengoba usubulele abaphrofethi.”

³U-Eliza wasesesaba, wasuka wabaleka, wayafika eBherisheba yakoJuda, wasetshiya khona inceku yakhe. ⁴Yena wahamba okwelanga elilodwa engena enkangala. Wafumana khona isihlahla, wahlala ngaphansi kwaso emthunzini, wakhulekela ukuthi ngabe uyafa wathi, “Kwanele, Jehova, susa ukuphila kwami ngoba angingcono kulabokhokho.” ⁵Wasecambalala elala ngaphansi kwesihlahla wajunywa

yibuthongo. Khonokho ingilosi yamthinta yathi kuye, “Vuka udle.”

⁶Wathalaza, lakanye wabona ngemakhanda nantiyana iqebelengwana lisatshisa emalahleni elaliphekwe kuwo, kanye lenkezo eyayilamanzi okunatha. Wadla njalo wanatha, waphinda walala.

⁷Ingilosi kaJehova yaphinda yabuya okwesibili yamthinta, yathi kuye, “Vuka udle, ngoba uhambo lude luzakukhulela.” ⁸Ngakho wavuka, wadla njalo wehlisa ngamanzi. Eseqiniswe yilokhokudla wahamba izinsuku ezingamatshumi amane lobusuku obungamatshumi amane waze wayafika eHorebi intaba kaNkulunkulu. ⁹Eselapho wangena ebhalwini walala.

UJehova Uzibonakalisa ku-Eliza

Ngakho ilizwi likaJehova lafika kuye lisithi, “Kanti wenzani khonapha, Eliza?”

¹⁰Yena waphendula wathi, “Bengikutshisekela kakhulu, wena Jehova, Nkulunkulu wamabandla, ngoba abantu bakoIsrayeli basephule isivumelwano sakho, badiliza ama-alithare akho, babulala abaphrofethi bakho ngenkamba; yimi ngedwa esengisele, kodwa bayangizingela badinga ukungibulala.”

¹¹UJehova wathi kuye, “Hamba uyekuma phezu kwentaba phambi kukaJehova ngoba uJehova uzadlula khona.”

Kwaba lomoya owawuvunguza ngamandla udabula izintaba uqhekeza lamatshe phambi kukaJehova, kodwa uJehova wayengekho kulesosiphepho. Kwedlula isiphepho kweza ukuzamazama komhlaba kodwa uJehova wayengekho kulokhokuzamazama.

¹²Kwedlula ukuzamazama komhlaba kwaqhamuka umlilo, kodwa uJehova wayengekho kulowomlilo. Ngemva komlilo kwezwakala ilizwi elipholileyo

linyenyeza. ¹³U-Eliza uthe elizwa, wadonsa isambatho sakhe wamboza ubuso bakhe wasuka wayakuma entubeni yobhalu. Khonokho ilizwi lathi kuye, “Wenzani khonapha, Eliza?”

¹⁴Yena wathi, “Ngibe ngitshisekela uJehova uNkulunkulu uSomandla. Abako-Israyeli sebesalile isivumelwano sakho, badiliza ama-alithare akho, babulala abaphrofethi bakho ngenkamba. Yimi ngedwa engiseleyo ngakho khathesi sebezama ukungibulala lami.”

¹⁵UJehova wathi kuye, “Buyela ngayonale indlela oze ngayo, uye enkangala yaseDamaseko. Ekufikeni kwakho khonale, ugcobe uHazayeli abe yinkosi yase-Aramu. ¹⁶Njalo, ugcobe loJehu indodana kaNimishi abe yinkosi yako-Israyeli, ubusugcoba u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi wase-Abeli-Mehola athathe isikhundla sakho sobuphrofethi. ¹⁷UJehu uzabulala bonke abazaphepha kuleyonkamba kaHazayeli, njalo u-Elisha uzabulala labo abazasila kuleyonkamba kaJehu. ¹⁸Kodwa ngizaphephisa abako-Israyeli abazinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa abangazange bakhothamele uBhali njalo abandebe zabo azizange zimange.

Ubizo luka-Elisha

¹⁹Ngakho u-Eliza wasuka lapho wafumana u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi. Wamfumana elima labanye ngenkabi emajogweni alitshumi lambili, yena etshayela ezejogwe letshumi lambili. U-Eliza wasondela kuye wamembesa ngesambatho sakhe. ²⁰U-Elisha watshiya izinkabi zakhe walandela u-Eliza. Wasesithi, “Ngivumela ngiyevalelisa ubaba lomama, ngibuye ngizehamba lawe.” U-Eliza wamphendula wathi, “Buyela, kanti ngenzeni kuwe?”

²¹Ngakho u-Elisha wehlukana laye wabuyela emuva. Wathatha izinkabi

zejogwe lakhe wazihlaba. Wabasa umlilo ngezinto lezo ayelima ngazo ukuze ose inyama yazo wayinika abantu bayidla. Waselandela u-Eliza waba yinceku yakhe.

UBheni-Hadadi Uhlasele iSamariya

20 UBheni-Hadadi inkosi yama-

Aramu waqoqa ibutho lakhe lonke. Wayephelekezela ngamakhosi angamatshumi amathathu lamabili ngezinqola zawo zempi lamabhiza, wasuka wayahanqa iSamariya wayihlasela. ²Wathuma izigijimi edolobheni ku-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, esithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguBheni-Hadadi: ³Isiliva legolide lakho ngokwami, abafazi benu abahle kakhulu labantwana ngabami.”

⁴Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, “Kunjalo nkosi mbusi wami. Mina lakho konke engilakho ngokwakho.”

⁵Izithunywa zaphenduka njalo zisithi, “UBheni-Hadadi uthi: ‘Ngathumela ngathi ngifuna isiliva legolide lakho, abafazi labantwabakho. ⁶Kodwa ngasolesi isikhathi kusasa ngizathumela izikhulu zami ukuzakhuthuza isigodlo sakho lezindlu zezikhulu zakho. Zizabutha yonke into eligugu kuwe zikuthathele.’ ”

⁷Inkosi yako-Israyeli yamema bonke abadala belizwe yathi kubo, “Ake libone lindoda edinga uhluho! Ithe isithi ifuna abafazi bami labantwabami, isiliva legolide lami, angizange ngale.”

⁸Abadala kanye labantu bonke bathi, “Ungalaleli njalo ungamniki lokho akufunayo.”

⁹Yasitshela izithunywa zikaBheni-Hadadi ukuthi, “Tshelani inkosi umbusi wami ukuthi, ‘Inceku yakho izagcwalisa isicelo sakuqala kodwa lesi hayi

ayenelisi.’ ” Zasuka izithunywa zabuyisela impendulo kuBheni-Hadadi.

¹⁰Ngakho uBheni-Hadadi wakhupha ilizwi njalo lisiya ku-Ahabi, wathi: “Kabangihlanekela onkulunkulu, loba kungaba lobunzima obunganani, nxa kuzasala ubhuqu olulingana ukufunjathwa ngamadoda wonke aseSamariya.

¹¹Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, “Mtsheleni lithi: ‘Lowo ohloma ngezempi angabokloloda njengongahlomanga.’ ”

¹²UBheni-Hadadi wemukela lelilizwi ezinathela lamanye amakhosi emathenteni awo, wahle walawula amabutho akhe esithi: “Hlomelani ukuhlasele.” Basebelungisela ukuhlasele idolobho.

U-Ahabi Unqoba uBheni-Hadadi

¹³Kusenjalo kweza umphrofethi ku-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli owafika wabika esithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: ‘Uyalibona na ibutho elikhulu kangaka? Ngizalinelela ezandleni zakho lamuhla nje, ukuze wazi ukuba nginguJehova.’ ”

¹⁴U-Ahabi wabuza wathi, “Kodwa ngubani ozakwenza lokhu?” Umphrofethi waphendula wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: ‘Lokhu kuzakwenziwa ngabalawuli bamabutho ezabelweni abayintanga yabatsha.’ ”

Yena wabuza njalo ukuthi, “Pho ngubani ozayiqalisa impi?” Umphrofethi waphendula wathi, “Nguwe.”

¹⁵Ngakho u-Ahabi wamema abalawuli bamabutho abentanga yabatsha ezabelweni, abangamakhulu amabili lamatshumi amathathu lambili. Waseqoqa labo bonke abanye abako-Israyeli abayizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa ndawonye. ¹⁶Basuka emini enkulu ngesikhathi uBheni-Hadadi

lamakhosi angamatshumi amathathu
lambili ayezomhlomulela belokhu
besazinathela bedakwa emathenteni abo.
¹⁷ Abalawuli bezabelweni bentanga
yabatsha basuka kuqala. UBheni-Hadadi
wayethumele izinhlozi, ezabika ukuthi,
“Kulamadoda ezayo evela eSamariya.”

¹⁸ Yena wathi, “Nxa esiza ngokuthula,
athumbeni ephila; nxa ezohlasela,
athumbeni ephila.”

¹⁹ Abalawuli bamabutho ezabelweni
abentanga yabatsha batshaya ubhobo
baphuma edolobheni belandelwa libutho
²⁰ njalo ngamunye wabo wabulala lowo
ayeqondene laye. Ebona lokhu, ama-
Aramu abaleka, ama-Israyeli axotshana
lawo. Kodwa uBheni-Hadadi inkosi
yama-Aramu wabaleka ngebhiza
lamanye amabutho ayesilwa
ngamabhiza. ²¹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli
yaqhubeka yakhulela abamabhiza kanye
labezinqola zempi yatshaya yabhuqa
ama-Aramu amanengi kakhulu.

²² Ngemva kwalokho,umphrofethi
waya enkosini yako-Israyeli wafika
wathi, “Hloma uphelele ubone ukuthi
ungenzani, ngoba entwasa inkosi yama-
Aramu iyeza izokuhlasela futhi.”

²³ Kusenjalo, izikhulu zenkosi yase-
Aramu zayicebisa zathi, “Onkulunkulu
babo ngonkulunkulu bezintabeni. Yikho
besikhulele. Kodwa singalwela
emagcekeni, ngempela sizabakhulela.
²⁴ Wena yenza kanje: Susa wonke
amakhosi ekulawuleni kwawo ufake
abanye abalawuli esikhundleni sawo.
²⁵ Njalo kumele uqoqe amanye amabutho
anjengala anqotshwayo – kulingane
amabhiza kanye lezinqola zempi – ukuze
silwele emagcekeni labako-Israyeli.
Ngalokho akulakuthandabuza ukuthi
sizabe silamandla kulabo.” Wavumelana
labo wenza njengokutsho kwabo.

²⁶ Ngesikhathi sentwasa uBheni-
Hadadi waqoqa ama-Aramu wasesiya

e-Afeki ukuze alwe lama-Israyeli.

²⁷ Ama-Israyeli ayeseqoqene, anikwa
lemiphako, asuka ayawahlangabeza.
Ama-Israyeli amisa maqondana lawo
kungathi yimihlanjana yezimbuzi
emibili, kanti ama-Aramu ayegcwele
indawana yonke.

²⁸ Umphrofethi kaNkulunkulu
wasesiya enkosini yako-Israyeli wafika
wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova:
‘Njengoba ama-Aramu esithi uJehova
ngukulunkulu wezintaba hatshi
unkulunkulu wezigodi, ngizanikela
wonke amabutho awo amanengi kangaka
ezandleni zakho, ukuze wazi ukuthi
mina nginguJehova.’ ”

²⁹ Bajamelana okwezinsuku
eziyisikhombisa, kwathi ngosuku
lwesikhombisa bahlaselana. Ama-
Israyeli abulala abayizinkulungwane
ezilikhulu phakathi kwamabutho ama-
Aramu ahamba ngezinyawo ngosuku
olulodwa. ³⁰ Amanye amabutho abalekela
edolobheni lase-Afeki, lapho adlikelwa
khona ngumduli owabulala
izinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili
lesikhombisa. Kwathi uBheni-Hadadi
wabalekela edolobheni lapho afika
wacatsha endlini ephakathi.

³¹ Izikhulu zakhe zathi kuye,
“Khangela, sesizwile ukuthi amakhosi
ako-Israyeli ngamakhosi alomusa.
Asihambeni enkosini yako-Israyeli
sembethe amasaka okhalweni njalo
sibophe amakhanda ngentambo.
Mhlawumbe izakuxolela ingakubulali.”

³² Basuka bethandele amasaka
ezinkalweni zabo, bebophe amakhanda
ngezintambo, baya enkosini yako-
Israyeli bafika bathi, “Inceku yakho
uBheni-Hadadi ithi, ‘Ngicela ungiyekele
ngiphile.’ ” Inkosi yathi “Ulokhu
esaphila? Ngumfowethu lowo.”

³³ Amadoda lawo abona lokhu
kukhomba ubuhle alithathela phezulu

lelizwi athi, “Ye, umfowenu uBheni-Hadadi!”

Inkosi yathi, “Hambani liyemthatha.” Lakanye uBheni-Hadadi uthe efika, u-Ahabi wathi kakhwele enqoleni yakhe yempi.

UBheni-Hadadi wazibika esithi,

³⁴“Ngizabuyisela wonke amadolobho athunjwa ngubaba kuyihlo. Ungazilungisela izindawo zokuthengiselana eDamaseko, njengoba ubaba laye wayelazo eSamariya.” U-Ahabi wathi, “Ngesivumelwano ngizakukhulula.” Wasesenza isivumelwano laye wamkhulula.

Umphrofethi Uqalekisa u-Ahabi

³⁵Ngelizwi likaJehova omunye wamadodana abaphrofethi wathi komunye, “Ake ungitshaye ngesikhali sakho,” kodwa wala.

³⁶Ngakho umphrofethi wasesithi, “Njengoba ungalalelanga ilizwi likaJehova, uzakuthi usuka kimi ubulawe yisilwane.” Ngemva kokusuka kwakhe, wafunyanwa yisilwane sambulala.

³⁷Umphrofethi wafumana enye njalo indoda wathi kuyo, “Ake ungitshaye.” Yamgwaza leyondoda yamlimaza.

³⁸Umphrofethi wasuka wayamelela inkosi endleleni. Wazifihla ubuso bakhe ngeqhiye. ³⁹Kuthe inkosi isedlula khonapho, umphrofethi wayimemeza esithi, “Inceku yakho ibe iphakathi kwempi etshisayo, kwathi omunye weza kimi lothunjiweyo wathi, ‘Linda lumuntu. Nxa angabaleka, uzamfela wena, loba uhlawule ngethalenta lesiliva.’” ⁴⁰Kuthe inceku yakho isaphathekile lapha lalaphaya, umuntu lowo wanyamalala.’ ”

Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi, “Leso yiso isigwebo sakho. Usuvele wasiqamba wena ngokwakho.”

⁴¹Umphrofethi waphanga wembula ubuso bakhe, inkosi yako-Israyeli yabona ukuthi ngomunye wabaphrofethi.

⁴²Wathi enkosini, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: ‘Usukhulule umuntu ebe ngithe kumele afe. Kutsho ukuthi usuzamfela wena, labantu bakho bazafela abantu bakhe.’ ”

⁴³Ngokuhlulukelwa langokuzonda, inkosi yako-Israyeli yasuka yabuyela esigodlweni sayo eSamariya.

Isivini sikaNabothi

Kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi esithile kwaba lesenzo esithile ngesivini sikaNabothi umJezereli. Isivini leso sasiseJezereli, phansi kwesigodlo sika-Ahabi inkosi yaseSamariya.

²U-Ahabi wathi kuNabothi, “Kahle mina ngilime imibhida yami esivini sakho, njengoba siphansi kwesigodlo sami. Mina ngizakunika isivini esingcono, loba nxa uthanda, ngizakunika intengo ofisa ukusithengisa ngayo.”

³Kodwa uNabothi wathi, “UJehova kangavumi ukuba ngikunike ilifa labobaba.” ⁴Ngalokho u-Ahabi wabuyela ekhaya esineme njalo ethukuthele ngoba uNabothi umJezereli wayethe, “Angizukunika ilifa labobaba.” U-Ahabi walala embhedeni esineme wala lokudla.

⁵Umkakhe uJezebeli wangena endlini wambuza wathi, “Kungani usineme kangaka? Kungani usala ukudla?”

⁶Yena wamphendula wathi, “Kungenxa yokuthi ngithe kuNabothi umJezereli, ‘Ngithengisela isivini sakho; loba nxa ufuna, ngikunike esinye isivini esikhundleni salesi.’” Kodwa ungiqhendule wathi ‘Angizukunika isivini sami.’ ”

⁷UJezebeli umka-Ahabi wathi, “Lokhu yikho okwenzayo njengenkosi

yako-Israyeli na? Vuka udle! Uchelese. Mina ngizakuzuzela isivini sikaNabothi umJezereli.”

⁸ UJezebeli wasebhala izincwadi ngebizo lika-Ahabi, wazidinda ngophawu luka-Ahabi, wazithumela kubadala lakuzo izikhulu ezazihlala loNabothi emzini wakibo. ⁹ Ezincwadini lezo waloba ukuthi: “Memezelani usuku lokuzila libe selibeka uNabothi esihlalweni esiqakathekileyo phakathi kwabantu. ¹⁰ Libe selihlalisa izigangi ezimbili maqondana laye lithi kazifakaze ngokuthi uthuke uNkulunkulu kanye lenkosi. Libe selimkhuphela phandle liyemkhanda ngamatshe limbulale.”

¹¹ Ngakho abadala lezikhulu ababehlala emzini kaNabothi benza lokho ababekuthunywe nguJezebeli ngezincwadi ayebalobele zona. ¹² Bamemezela isikhathi sokuzila bahlalisa uNabothi esihlalweni esiphakemeyo phambi kwabantu. ¹³ Kwasuka izigangi ezimbili zahlala phambi kwakhe zakhangelana laye zaqalisa ukwethesa uNabothi amacala, zisithi, “UNabothi uthuke uNkulunkulu kanye lenkosi.” Ngakho bamkhuphela ngaphandle komuzi bamkhanda ngamatshe bambulala. ¹⁴ Basebethumela ilizwi kuJezebeli besithi, “UNabothi ukhandwe ngamatshe njalo usefile.”

¹⁵ Masinyazana uJezebeli esezwe ukuthi uNabothi ukhandwe ngamatshe wabulawa, wathi ku-Ahabi, “Vuka uyethatha isivini sikaNabothi umJezereli sona lesiyana alileyo ukukuthengisela sona. Uvele kasekho, usefile.”

¹⁶ U-Ahabi uthe esizwa ukuthi uNabothi kasekho, wavuka wayathatha lesi sivini sikaNabothi.

¹⁷ Ilizwi likaJehova leza ku-Elija umThishibi lisithi: ¹⁸ Yehla uyehlangabeza u-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli obusa eSamariya. Usesivinini sikaNabothi, uye khona ukuze

azithathele lesosivini. ¹⁹ Ufike uthi kuye, Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: ‘Awubulalanga umuntu wathumba impahla yakhe na?’ Ubususithi kuyo, ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova; Khonapho lapho izinja ezikhothele khona igazi likaNabothi, kukhonapho kanye lapho izinja ezizakhothela khona elakho – ye, elakho kanye!’ ”

²⁰ U-Ahabi wathi ku-Elija, “Wo usungifumene, wena sitha sami!” U-Elija wamphendula wathi, “Yebo sengikufumene ngoba uzinikele ukwenza isono emehlweni kaJehova. ²¹ Ngizokwehlisela ukubhujiswa. Ngizabhubhisa izizukulwana zakho ngisuse sonke isilisa sokucina ku-Ahabi ko-Israyeli – loba yisigqili loba ngokhululekileyo. ²² Indlu yakho ngizayenza lokhu engakwenza ekaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi lekaBhahasha indodana ka-Ahija, ngoba ungithukuthelisile wabangela ukuthi u-Israyeli enze isono.’

²³ “Ngalokho uJehova uthi ngoJezebeli: ‘Izinja zizamdabudabula uJezebeli zimdlele emidulini yaseJezereli.’

²⁴ “Izinja zizakudla bonke abangabaka-Ahabi abafela edolobheni, izinyoni zezulu zizakudla labo abazafela emaphandleni.”

²⁵ (Akuzange kube lendoda eyayifanana lo-Ahabi yena owazinikela ukuthi adale isono phambi kukaJehova, ekhuthazwa ngumkakhe uJezebeli.

²⁶ Waziphatha butshapha kakhulu elandela izithombe, njengama-Amori wona ayesuswe nguJehova phambi kuka-Israyeli.)

²⁷ U-Ahabi wathi esizwa lawomazwi, wadabula izigqoko zakhe, wembatha amasaka wazila. Walala embethe amasaka wahamba ngokuthobeka.

²⁸ Ngemva kwalokho ilizwi likaJehova lathi ku-Elija umThishibi: ²⁹ “Ukubonile

na ukuthi u-Ahabi usezithobe kanganani phambi kwami? Ngenxa yokuzithoba kwakhe, angiyikumehlisela lokhu kubhujiswa esaphila, kodwa ngizakwehlisela endlini yakhe ezinsukwini zendodana yakhe.”

UMikhaya Uphrofetha Okubi ngo-Ahabi

22 Kwathatha iminyaka kungelampi

phakathi kwe-Aramu le-Israyeli.

² Kodwa ngomnyaka wesithathu uJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wayabonana lenkosi yako-Israyeli.

³ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yayike yakhuluma lezikhulu zayo isithi, “Alikwazi na ukuthi eleRamothe Gileyadi ngelethu kodwa asikenzi lutho ukuze silithathe ezandleni zenkosi yase-Aramu?”

⁴ Ngakho yasicela uJehoshafathi isithi, “Ungahamba lami na ukuze siyehlasela eRamothe Gileyadi?”

UJehoshafathi ephendula inkosi yako-Israyeli wathi, “Mina ngikanye lawe, abantu bami banjengabakho, amabhiza ami anjengawakho.” ⁵ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuye wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Qala ucele ukuqondiswa nguJehova.”

⁶ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yahlanganisa abaphrofethi – abangaba ngamakhulu amane – yasibabuza isithi, “Ngihambe ngiyehlasela iRamothe Gileyadi yini, loba ngiyekele na?” Abaphrofethi bathi, “Hamba ngoba uJehova uzayinikela esandleni senkosi.”

⁷ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, “Kanti lapha akulamphrofethi kaJehova esingambuza na?”

⁸ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Ukhona oyedwa esingabuza uJehova uNkulunkulu ngaye, kodwa ngiyamzonda ngoba kakaze aphrofethe okuhle ngami, uhlala ekhuluma okubi. Lowo nguMikhaya

indodana ka-Imla.” UJehoshafathi wathi, “Inkosi kayimelanga itsho njalo.”

⁹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibiza omunye wezikhulu zayo yathi kuye, “Phangisa ungilethele uMikhaya indodana ka-Imla.”

¹⁰ Amakhosi womabili, eyako-Israyeli leyakoJuda, egqoke ezesikhosini, ayehlezi ezihlalweni zawo zobukhosi esesizeni esangweni laseSamariya, kulabaphrofethi bonke bephrofetha.

¹¹ Ngakho uZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana owayenze izimpondo zensimbi wathi, “UJehova uthi: ‘Ngalezizimpondo uzagwaza ama-Aramu uwabhuhise.’ ”

¹² Labo bonke abaphrofethi batsho njalo, bathi: “Hamba uyenqoba iRamothe-Gileyadi, uJehova uzalinikela esandleni sakho.”

¹³ Isithunywa esasithunywe ukuyabiza uMikhaya sathi, “Njengoba wena unguwe wedwa abanye abaphrofethi befakaza ukuthi inkosi izanqoba kungcono lawe utsho njalo, ukhulume ngokuhle.”

¹⁴ Kodwa uMikhaya wathi, “Njengokutsho kukaJehova, mina ngizayitshela lokho engikuthunywe nguJehova.”

¹⁵ Ekufikeni kwakhe, inkosi yambuza yathi, “Mikhaya, sihambe siyehlasela iRamothe Gileyadi yini, loba ngiyekele na?” Yena waphendula wathi, “Hlasela njalo unqobe, ngoba uJehova uzalinikela ezandleni zakho nkosi.”

¹⁶ Inkosi yambuza yathi, “Kumele ngikufungise kangaki ukuze ungangikhohlisi kodwa ungitshela iqiniso ebizweni likaJehova?”

¹⁷ Ngakho uMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Ngabona u-Israyeli wonke ehlahakazekile ezintabeni njengezimvu ezingelamelusi, kulapho uJehova athi

‘Lababantu abalamkhomkheli. Yekela bonke babuyele emakhaya ngokuthula.’”

¹⁸Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Angikutshelanga yini ukuthi uvele kaphrofethi okuhle ngami, kodwa okubi kuphela?”

¹⁹UMikhaya waqhubekela phambili wathi, “Ngakho zwana ilizwi likaJehova elithi, “Ngabona uJehova ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lamabandla wonke asezulwini emi ngakwesokunene sakhe lakwesokhohlo sakhe. ²⁰Njalo uJehova wathi, ‘Ngubani ozahugela u-Ahabi ekuhlaseleni iRamothi Gileyadi ukuze ayefela khonale na?’

“Omunye waqamba lokhu, lomunye okwakhe. ²¹Ekucineni kwasekuvela umoya, wema phambi kukaJehova wathi, ‘Mina ngizamhuga.’

²²UJehova wabuza wathi, “‘Uzakwenza ngandlela bani?’

Umoya waphendula wathi, “‘Ngizahamba ngiyekuba ngumoya wamanga emilonyeni yabo bonke abaphrofethi bakhe. UJehova wathi, “‘ Uzaphumelela ukumhuga. Hamba uyekwenza.’

²³“Ngakho khathesi uJehova usefake umoya wenkohliso emilonyeni yabaphrofethi bakho bonke laba. UJehova usekumisele ukubhujiswa.”

²⁴Kusenjalo uZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana wasondela, wamwakala uMikhaya ebusweni. Wabuza wathi: “Umoya kaJehova wasuka njani kimi ungena kuwe na?”

²⁵UMikhaya waphendula wathi: “Uzazibonela mhla uzakuyacatsha endlini engaphakathi.”

²⁶Inkosi yako-Israyeli yalaya yathi: “Thathani uMikhaya limbuyisele ku-Amoni obusa idolobho lakoJowashi indodana yenkosi. ²⁷Liyekuthi, ‘Inkosi ithi: Valelani umuntu lo entolongweni

lingamniki lutho ngaphandle kwesinkwa lamanzi ngize ngiphenduke ngokuhle.’”

²⁸UMikhaya waqonqosela wathi: “Nxa uzaphenduka kuhle, uJehova uyabe kakhulumanga ngami.” Waqhubeka wathi, “Lani bantu lonke liwezwise amazwi ami!”

U-Ahabi Ubulawelwa eRamothi Gileyadi

²⁹Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda baya eRamothi Gileyadi. ³⁰Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi: “Mina ngizakuya ekulweni ngiziguqule isimo, kodwa wena gqoka ezakho ezobukhosi.” Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yaziguqula isimo yangena ekulweni.

³¹Inkosi yase-Aramu yayilaye abalawuli bayo bezinqola zokulwa abangamatshumi amathathu lambili yathi, “Lina lingalwi lamuntu, loba eyisikhulu loba engumuntukazana, ngaphandle kwenkosi yako-Israyeli.

³²Abalawuli bezinqola zokulwa bathe bebona uJehoshafathi, bahle bathi “Ngempela le yiyo kanye inkosi yako-Israyeli.” Abalawuli bezinqola zokulwa basebehlasela uJehoshafathi, yena wahlaba umkhosi, ³³baphanga babona ukuthi kwakungasiyo inkosi yako-Israyeli bamyekela.

³⁴Umuntu othile wakhokha umtshoko wakhe watshoka engaqondanga muntu umtshoko wayaciba inkosi yako-Israyeli emkenkeni wesihlangu sayo. Inkosi yasisithi kumtshayeli wenqola yokulwa: “Phendula inqola yakho ungisuse lapha. Sengilimele.” ³⁵Kwalwiwa impi kanzima ilanga lonke. Inkosi yayeyanyiswe enqoleni yayo yokulwa ikhangele ama-Aramu. Igazi lamanxeba ayo lagelezela phansi enqoleni yokulwa, kwathi ngalokho kuhlwa yafa. ³⁶Ekutshoneni kwelanga kwamenezelwa kuyo yonke

impi ukuthi: “Abantu bonke kababuyele emizini yakibo, bonke kababuyele lowo lalowo elizweni lakibo!”

³⁷Ngakho inkosi yafa yasiwa eSamariya, yangcwatshwa khona.

³⁸Inqola yokulwa bayigezisela esizibeni seSamariya (endaweni eyayigezela amawule), izinja zakhotha igazi layo, njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova.

³⁹Konke okunye ngempilo langokubusa kuka-Ahabi lakho konke akwenzayo, ukwakha isigodlo esasiceciswe ngezimpondo zezindlovu, lamadolobho ayevelwe okwenqaba, akulotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhozi ako-Israyeli? ⁴⁰U-Ahabi wangcwatshwa laboyise. Ubukhozi bakhe bathathwa yindodana yakhe u-Ahaziya.

UJehoshafathi iNkosi yakoJuda

⁴¹UJehoshafathi indodana ka-Asa waba yinkosi yakoJuda ngomnyaka wesine wokubusa kuka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli. ⁴²UJehoshafathi waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lemihlanu yokuzalwa, wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lemihlanu. Ibizo likanina kungu-Azubha indodakazi kaShilihi. ⁴³Kukho konke ayekwenza wayesenyathelweni likayise u-Asa njalo kazange aphambuke; wenza konke okuhle emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu. Kodwa izindawo eziphakemeyo zokukhonzela kazisuswanga, abantu babelokhu benikela imihlatshelo, betshisa impepha khonapho. ⁴⁴UJehoshafathi wahlalisana ngokuthula lenkosi yako-Israyeli.

⁴⁵Okwenzakala ekubuseni kukaJehoshafathi, ukuphumelela kwakhe kanye lokunqoba ezimpini, akulotshwanga na encwadini yembali yamakhozi akoJuda?

⁴⁶Waqeda insalela yamadoda ayehlobongana ayelokhu esasele lapho langemva kokubusa kukayise u-Asa.

⁴⁷Kwakungaselankosi e-Edomi, umsekeli nguye owayebusa.

⁴⁸UJehoshafathi wakha izikepe zokuthutha igolide e-Ofiri, kodwa azizanga zisebenze elwandle – zahle zahlikizeka zabhidlikela e-Eziyoni Gebheri. ⁴⁹Ngalesosikhathi u-Ahaziya indodana ka-Ahabi wathi kuJehoshafathi, “Yekela abantu bami bahambe labakho olwandle,” kodwa uJehoshafathi wala.

⁵⁰Ngakho uJehoshafathi waphumula laboyise wangcwatshwa kanye labo emzini kaDavida uyise. UJehoram indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

U-Ahaziya iNkosi yako-Israyeli

⁵¹U-Ahaziya indodana ka-Ahabi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya ngomnyaka wetshumi lesikhombisa wokubusa kukaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, yena-ke wabusa ko-Israyeli okweminyaka emibili. ⁵²Wona emehlweni kaJehova, ngoba wahamba enyathelweni likayise lelikanina walandela njalo izindlela zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, owabangela u-Israyeli ukuthi enze isono. ⁵³Wasebenzela uBhali njalo wamkhonza wathukuthelisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise.