

IMISEBENZI YABAPHOSTOLI

UJesu Ukhutshulelwa Ezulwini

1 Encwadini yami, mandulo kwale, Theyofilu, ngalandisa ngakho konke uJesu akwenzayo lakufundisayo ² kwaze kwafika usuku akhutshulwa ngalo waya ezulwini, esenike imilayezo ngoMoya Ongcwele kubaphostoli ayebakhethile. ³ Ngemuva kokuhlupheka kwakhe waziveza emadodeni la watshengisa iziqiniso ezinengi ukuthi wayephila. Wabonakala kubo okwesikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingamatshumi amane, ekhuluma ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁴ Ngesinye isikhathi, kwathi esidla labo wabanika umlayo lo, wathi; "Lingasuki eJerusalema, kodwa lilindele isipho lesu uBaba asithembisayo, elezwa ngikhuluma ngaso. ⁵ Loba uJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa ngemuva kwezinsuku ezilutshwana lina lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya Ongcwele." ⁶ Yikho kwathi sebehlangene ndawonye bambuza bathi, "Nkosi, khathesi usuzabuyisela umbuso ko-Israyeli na?" ⁷ Wathi kubo: "Kakusikho kwenu ukwazi izikhathi kumbe izinsuku uBaba azimisileyo ngokuthanda kwakhe. ⁸ Kodwa lina lizakwamukela amandla nxa uMoya Ongcwele esefikile phezu kwenu; njalo lizakuba ngofakazi bami eJerusalema, lakulo lonke eleJudiya laseSamariya, lasemikhawulweni yomhlaba." ⁹ Esekutshilo lokhu wakhutshulwa phambi kwamehlo abo, iyezi lamfihla ababe besambona. ¹⁰ Kwathi belokhu besakhangele ngawo wonke esibhakabhakeni

khonokho ehamba, masinyane kwema eduze kwabo amadoda amabili egqoke okumhlophe." ¹¹ Athi, "Madoda aseGalile, limeleni lapha lijolozele esibhakabhakeni na? Yena lo uJesu osethethwe kini wasiwa ezulwini uzabuya ngayonale indlela elimbone esiya ngayo ezulwini."

UMathiyasi Uyakhethwa Esikhundleni SikaJudasi

¹² Basebebuyela eJerusalema besuka eqaqeni oluthiwa yiNtaba yama-Oliva, ummango wohambo lwangeSabatha kusuka edolobheni. ¹³ Ekufikeni kwabo bakhuphukela endlini ephezulu lapho ababehlala khona. Ababelapho nguPhethro, loJohane, loJakhobe, lo-Andreya; uFiliphu loTomasi, loBhatholomewu loMathewu; uJakhobe indodana ka-Alifewu loSimoni umZilothi, loJudasi indodana kaJakhobe. ¹⁴ Bonke laba bahlangana kokuphela bekhuleka, bekanye labesifazana loMariya unina kaJesu kanye labafowabo bakaJesu.

¹⁵ Kuzona lezozinsuku uPhethro wasukuma phakathi kwamakholwa (ixuku elalingafika ikhulu elilamatshumi amabili) ¹⁶ wathi, "Bazalwane, uMbhalo kwakumele ugcaliseke, lokho okwakhulunywa nguMoya Ongcwele ekadeni ngomlomo kaDavida mayelana loJudasi owaba ngumkhokheli walabo ababopha uJesu – ¹⁷ wayengomunye wenani lethu waba lengxenyane kule inkonzo."

¹⁸ (Ngomvuzo awuzuzayo ngenxa yomona wakhe, uJudasi wathenga isiqinti; khonapho wawa ngekhandu, isidumbu sakhe sadubuka amathumbu akhe wonke aphihlika. ¹⁹ Bonke eJerusalema bezwa ngalokho, yikho babiza isiqinti lesu ngolimi lwabo bathi yi-Akheldama, okutsho iSiqinti seGazi.)

²⁰UPhethro wathi, "Ngokuba kulotshiwe encwadini yamaHubo ukuthi, " 'Sengathi indawo yakhe le ingafulathelwa; kakungabi lamuntu wokuhlala kuyo,'

njalo kuthiwa,

" 'Sengathi omunye angathatha isikhundla sakhe sobukhokheli.'

²¹Ngakho kuyasweleka ukukhetha omunye wamadoda ayekade elathi sonke isikhathi iNkosi uJesu yayiphakathi kwethu, ²²kusukela ekubhaphathizeni kukaJohane kuze kufike esikhathini lapho uJesu wathathwa kithi. Yikho omunye wabo laba kabe ngufakazi kanye lathi ngokuvuka kwakhe."

²³Ngakho basebemisa amadoda amabili: uJosefa owayethiwa nguBhasaba (esaziwa njalo ngokuthi nguJustu) loMathiyasi. ²⁴Basebekhuleka bathi, "Nkosi, uyayazi inhliziyo yalowo lalowo. Sitshengise ukuthi nguwuphi walaba ababili omkhetheleyo ²⁵ukuthatha lesisikhundla sobuphostoli, uJudasi asitshiyayo esiya lapho ayefanele khona." ²⁶Basebesenza inkatho, yadla uMathiyasi, wasesengezwa kubaphostoli abalitshumi lanye.

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2 Kwathi kufika usuku

lwePhentekhosti, babendawonye endaweni yinye. ²Masinyane kwabakhona umsindo unjengokuvunguza komoya wesiphepho usehla uvela ezulwini wagcwala indlu yonke ababehlezi kuyo. ³Babona okwakungathi ngamalangabi omlilo

asuka ehlukana ahlala kulowo lalowo wabo. ⁴Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya Ongcwele, basebeqalisa ukukhuluma ezinye izindimi njengokuphiwa kwabo amandla nguMoya.

⁵Ngalesosikhathi eJerusalema kwakuhlala abaJuda ababemesaba uNkulunkulu bevela kuyo yonke imibuso yomhlaba. ⁶Bathi ngokuzwa umsindo lo, kwabuthana ixuku labantu bemangele ngokuba ubani lobani wabezwa bekhuluma ngolimi lwakhe.

⁷Badideka babuza bathi, "Kanti amadoda wonke la akhulumayo kabasimaGalile na? ⁸Pho kungani omunye lomunye wethu ebezwa ngolimi lwakhe na? ⁹AmaPhathiya, lamaMede lama-Elami; izakhamizi zaseMesophothamiya, lezeJudiya, leKhaphadokhiya, loPhontusi le-Asiya, ¹⁰leFirigiya, lePhamfiliya, leGibhithe lezingxenyane zeLibhiya eduze leKhurene; izethekeli ezivela eRoma ¹¹(abaJuda lamakholwa aphendukele enkolweni yesiJuda); amaKhrethe lama-Arabhu – sibeza befakaza izimangaliso zikaNkulunkulu ngezindimi zethu!"

¹²Babedidekile bengelankani, babuzana bathi, "Kutshoni lokhu?"

¹³Kodwa abanye benza inhlekisa ngabo bathi, "Banathe iwayini bedlulisa."

UPhethro Ukhuluma Phakathi Kwexuku Labantu

¹⁴UPhethro wasesima labaLitshumi Lanye, waphakamisa ilizwi lakhe wakhuluma emphakathini wathi: "Bantu bakithi elingamaJuda, lani lonke eliseJerusalema, kahleni ngilicasisele lokhu; lalalani kuhle kulokhu engikutshoyo. ¹⁵Amadoda la kawadakwanga njengoba licabanga. Kuseselihora lesificamunye ekuseni!

¹⁶ Hatshi, lokhu yikho okwakhulunywa ngumphrofethi uJoweli ukuthi:

¹⁷ Ngezinsuku zokucina, uNkulunkulu uthi,
Ngizathululela uMoya wami kubo bonke abantu.
Amadodakazi enu azaphrofetha, izinsizwa zenu zizabona imibono, lamaxhegu enu azaphupha amaphupho.

¹⁸ Laphezu kwezinceku zami, ezesilisa lezesifazana ngizawuthulula uMoya wami kulezozinsuku, yikho bazaphrofetha.

¹⁹ Njalo ngizatshengisa izimanga ezulwini phezulu lezibonakaliso emhlabeni phansi, igazi lomlilo lezikhatha zentuthu.

²⁰ Ilanga lizaphendulwa umnyama lenyanga izakuba njengegazi kungakafiki usuku olukhulu lweNkosi, olukhazimulayo.

²¹ Kuzakuthi wonke obiza ibizo leNkosi asindiswe.'

²² "Bantu bako-Israyeli, zwanini lokhu: UJesu waseNazaretha wayeyindoda eyamiswa nguNkulunkulu kuni ngemimangaliso, langezinkinga lezibonakaliso uNkulunkulu azenzayo phakathi kwenu ngaye, njengoba lina ngokwenu lisazi. ²³ Umuntu lo wanikelwa kuni ngecebo likaNkulunkulu ayelimisile langolwazi lokuzayo; njalo lina, lincediswa ngabantu ababi, lambulala ngokumbethela esiphambanweni. ²⁴ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, wamephula ebuhlungwini bokufa, ngokuba

kwakungenzeki ukuthi ukufa kumcindezele. ²⁵ UDavida wathi ngaye:

'Ngayibona iNkosi kokuphela phambi kwami.

Ngenxa yokuthi ingakwesokunene kwami, angiyikunyikinywa.

²⁶ Ngakho inhliziyi yami iyathaba lolimi lwami luyathokoza; umzimba wami lawo uzahlala uthembile,

²⁷ Ngokuba kawuzukungiyekela ngiye engwabeni njalo kawuyikuyekela

Ongcwele wakho abone ukubola.

²⁸ Ungazisile izindlela zempilo; uzangigcwalisa ngentokozo phambi kwakho.'

²⁹ "Bazalwane, ngiyalitshela ngilesibindi ukuthi ukhokho uDavida wafa wambelwa, njalo ithuna lakhe likhona khonapha kuze kube lamuhla.

³⁰ Kodwa wayengumphrofethi, ekwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemthembisile ngesifungo ukuthi wayezabeka omunye wesizukulwane sakhe esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi. ³¹ Ngoba ebona okwakungaphambili, wakhuluma ngokuvuka kukaKhristu, ukuthi kazange atshiywe engwabeni, njalo umzimba wakhe kawukubonanga ukubola.

³² UNkulunkulu usemvusile uJesu lo waphila, thina sonke singofakazi balokho. ³³ Manje ngoba esekhuthulelwe ngakwesokunene sikaNkulunkulu, usamukele kuYise uMoya Ongcwele owathenjiswa wayo wasekuthulula lokho elikubonayo lelikuzwayo manje. ³⁴ Phela uDavida kakhuphukanga ukuya ezulwini, ikanti

wathi,

" INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

"Hlala ngakwesokunene kwami

³⁵ ngize ngenze izitha zakho zibe
yisinyathelo sezinyawo zakho."

³⁶ Ngakho-ke akuthi u-Israyeli wonke
aqiniseke ngalokhu: uNkulunkulu
usenze uJesu lo, elambethelayo, ukuba
yiNkosi loKhristu."

³⁷ Abantu bathi bekuzwa lokhu
batshayeka kakhulu ezinhliziyweni,
bathi kuPhethro labanye abaphostoli,
"Bazalwane, sizakwenzenjani na?"

³⁸ UPhethro waphendula wathi,
"Phendukani libhaphathizwe lonke,
ebizweni likaJesu Khristu ukuze
lithethelelwe izono zenu. Lani
lizakwamukela isipho soMoya
Ongcwele. ³⁹ Isithembiso ngesenu
labantwabenu njalo ngesabo bonke
abakude – esabo bonke iNkosi
uNkulunkulu wethu ezababiza."

⁴⁰ Wabaxwayisa langamanye amazwi
amanengi; njalo wabancenga wathi,
"Zisindiseni lina kulesi isizukulwane
esonakeleyo." ⁴¹ Labo abalemukelayo
ilizwi lakhe babhaphathizwa,
kwengezwa enanini labo mhlalokho
abangaba yizinkulungwane ezintathu.

Ubudlelwano Bamakholwa

⁴² Bayikhuthalela imfundiso
yabaphostoli kanye lobudlelwano,
lokuhlephula isinkwa lokukhuleka.

⁴³ Wonke umuntu wagcwala
ukuthithibala, njalo abaphostoli benza
izimanga lezibonakaliso ezinengi.

⁴⁴ Wonke amakholwa ayendawonye,
ehlanganyela kukho konke.

⁴⁵ Bathengisa izinto zabo lezimpahla
zabo banika loba ngubani oswelayo.

⁴⁶ Izinsuku zonke baqhubeka
behlangu emagumeni ethempeli, njalo
behlephula isinkwa emakhaya abo
besidla ndawonye ngezinhliziyo
ezimhlophe, eziqinisekileyo, ⁴⁷ bedumisa
uNkulunkulu njalo bethakazelelwa
ngabantu bonke. Njalo iNkosi yengeza
inani labo izinsuku zonke ngalabo abase
besindisiwe.

UPhethro Usilisa Isiceli Esigogekileyo

3 Ngelinye ilanga uPhethro loJohane
babesiya ethempelini ngesikhathi
sokukhuleka – ngehora lesithathu emini.
² Indoda eyayigogekile kwasekuzalweni
kwayo yayithwalwa isiwe esangweni
lethempeli elalibizwa ngokuthi iSango
Elihle, lapho yayibekwa khona izinsuku
zonke ukuthi icele kulabo ababengena
emagumeni ethempeli. ³ Yathi ibona
uPhethro loJohane bengena yabacela
imali. ⁴ UPhethro wayijolozela, wenza
njalo loJohane. UPhethro wasesithi,
"Sikhangele!" ⁵ Yikho indoda
yabakhangele, ithembe ukuthi izazuza
ulutho kubo.

⁶ UPhethro wasesithi, "Isiliva kumbe
igolide kangilakho, kodwa engilakho
ngikunika khona. Ebizweni likaJesu
Khristu waseNazaretha, sukuma
uhambe." ⁷ Wambamba ngesandla
sokudla wamsukumisa, kwathi
masinyane izinyawo lezinqagala zaqina.
⁸ Wathi lothu ngezinyawo zakhe wahle
wahamba. ⁹ Wasehamba labo
ethempelini, ezihambela, eseqa njalo
edumisa uNkulunkulu, ¹⁰ bamnanzelela
ukuthi nguye lowo owayehlala ecela
esangweni lethempeli elalithiwa iSango
Elihle, bamangala baphela amandla
ngalokho okwakwenzakele kuye.

UPhethro Ukhuluma Lababukeleyo

¹¹ Isiceli silokhu sithe sece kuboPhethro loJohane, bonke abantu bamangala beza kubo begijima endaweni eyayithiwa liKhulusi likaSolomoni.

¹² UPhethro wathi ekubona lokhu wathi kubo: "Bantu bako-Israyeli, lokhu kulimangaliselani na? Kungani lisijolozela kungathi ngawethu amandla loba ngokholo lwethu simenzile umuntu lo wahamba?" ¹³ UNkulunkulu ka-Abhrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu useyikhazimulisile inceku yakhe uJesu. Lamnikela ukuba abulawe, lamphika phambi kukaPhilathu, loba yena wayesemise ukumyekela ahambe.

¹⁴ Lamphika Ongcwele njalo Ongolungileyo, lacela ukuthi likhululelwe umbulali. ¹⁵ Lambulala umsunguli wokuphila, kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo. Singofakazi bakho lokhu.

¹⁶ Ngokukholwa ebizweni likaJesu, indoda le eliyibonayo, eliyaziyo yenziwe yaqina. Lilibizo likaJesu lokukholwa okuza ngaye okulethe lokhu kusila okupheleleyo kuyo njengoba lonke libona.

¹⁷ "Manje-ke bazalwane, ngiyazi ukuthi lakwenza ngokungazi, njengoba labakhokheli benu labo babengazi.

¹⁸ Kodwa yiyo indlela uNkulunkulu agcwalisa ngayo lokho ayekutshilo ngaphambili ngabo bonke abaphrofethi, esithi uKhristu wakhe wayezahlupheka.

¹⁹ Yikho, phendukani, libuyele kuNkulunkulu, ukuze izono zenu zesulwe, ukuze kufike izikhathi zokuhlambulula okuvela eNkosini,

²⁰ njalo ukuthi ithumele uKhristu omiselwe lina - yena uJesu. ²¹ Umele ahlale ezulwini kuze kufike isikhathi lapho uNkulunkulu azaqondisa konke ngaso, njengokuthembisa kwakhe kudala ngabaphrofethi bakhe abangcwele.

²² Ngoba uMosi wathi, "INKosi uNkulunkulu wenu uzalivusela umphrofethi onjengami phakathi kwabantu bakini; libokulalela konke alitshela khona. ²³ Loba ngubani ongayikumlalela alahlwe ngokupheleleyo ngabantu bakibo.'

²⁴ "Ngempela, bonke abaphrofethi kusukela kuSamuyeli kusiya phambili, bonke ngobunengi babo asebhakulumayo, babonisa ngazona lezi izinsuku. ²⁵ Lina liyizindlalifa zabo abaphrofethi njalo kanye lesivumelwano uNkulunkulu asenza labokhokho benu. Wathi ku-Abhrahama, 'Bonke abantu bomhlaba bazabusi ngesizukulwane sakho.' ²⁶ Kuthe uNkulunkulu eseyimisile inceku yakhe, wayithumela kuqala kini ukuba ilibusise ngokuphendula omunye lomunye wenu ezindleleni zenu zobubi."

UPhethro LoJohane Phambi

KweSanihedrini

4 Abaphristi lomlawuli wabalindi

bethempeli kanye labaSadusi beza kuboPhethro loJohane belokhu besakhuluma labantu. ² Bakhathazeka kakhulu ngokuba abaphostoli babefundisa abantu betshumayela ukuthi kuJesu kulokuvuka kwabafileyo.

³ Bababamba oPhethro loJohane, kwathi ngoba kwasekuntambama, babafaka entolongweni kwaze kwaba kusasa.

⁴ Kodwa abanengi abalizwayo ilizwi bakholwa, inani lamadoda lakhula okungaba yizinkulungwane ezinhlanu.

⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo ababusi, labadala, labafundisi bomthetho babuthana eJerusalema. ⁶ U-Anasi umphristi ophezulu wayekhona, kanye loKhayifasi, loJohane, lo-Alekizanda lamanye amadoda awendlu yomphristi ophezulu. ⁷ Bathi uPhethro loJohane kabalethe phambi kwabo base

bebathonisisa bathi: "Lokhu likwenze ngamandla bani kumbe ngaliphi ibizo na?"

⁸UPhethro egcwele uMoya Ongcwele wathi kubo: "Babusi labadala babantu!

⁹Uba sibekwa umlandu lamuhla ngesenzo somusa owenzelwe isigoga, besesibuzwa ukuthi usiliswe njani,

¹⁰yazini lokhu, lina kanye labo bonke abantu bako-Israyeli: Kungenxa yamandla kaJesu Khristu waseNazaretha elambethelayo kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo ayiwo enza indoda le ime phambi kwenu isilile ngokupheleleyo. ¹¹Yena uyilo

“ 'ilitshe lina abakhi elalilahlayo, khathezi eseliyinhloko yengosi.' ”

¹²Kakho omunye okulensindiso kuye; phela kalikho elinye ibizo ngaphansi kwezulu elaphiwa abantu ukuthi sisindiswe ngalo."

¹³Bathi ngokubona isibindi sikaPhethro loJohane njalo benanzelela ukuthi ngabantu makhaza ababengafundanga, batsha amathe, bakunanzelela ukuthi amadoda la ake aphila loJesu. ¹⁴Kodwa njengoba babeyibona indoda eyayisilisiwe imi khonapho labo, baswela ukuthi bangathini. ¹⁵Yikho kwathiwa kabasuke emphakathini weSanihedrini umphakathi wasala uhlanganisa amakhanda.

¹⁶Babuzana bathi, "Kambe senzeni ngamadoda la na? Bonke abahlala eJerusalema bayakwazi ukuthi benze ummangaliso obabazekayo, lathi singeke sikulandule lokho. ¹⁷Kodwa ukuze into le siyimise ukuthi ingasabalali iyephambili phakathi kwabantu kasibaqonqosele abantu laba ukuthi bangaphindi bakhulume lakubani ngaleli ibizo."

¹⁸Basebebabiza njalo basebebalaya ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma loba ukufundisa ngebizo likaJesu. ¹⁹Kodwa oPhethro loJohane baphendula bathi, "Kucazululeni lina ingabe kuqondile yini emehlweni kaNkulunkulu ukulalela lina kulokulalela uNkulunkulu. ²⁰Phela singeke sayekela ukukhuluma ngalokho esikubonileyo lesikuzwileyo."

²¹Sebebaqonqosele njalo babakhulula. Baswela ukuthi babezabajezisa njani, ngoba abantu bonke babemdumisa uNkulunkulu ngalokho okwakwenzakele. ²²Phela leyondoda eyasiliswa ngesimanga yayileminyaka engamatshumi amane ubudala.

Umkhuleko Wamakholwa

²³Ekukhululweni kwabo oPhethro loJohane babuyela exukwini labo bababikela konke okwakutshiwo kibo ngabaphristi abakhulu labadala.

²⁴Sebekuzwile lokhu baphakamisa amazwi abo bonke bakhuleka kuNkulunkulu. Bathi, "Nkosi ebusayo, wena wenza izulu, lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukulezi zindawo. ²⁵Wena wakhuluma ngoMoya Ongcwele ngomlomo wenceku yakho, ubaba uDavida wathi:

“ 'Kungani izizwe zixokozela na, labantu besakha amacebo ngeze? ”

²⁶Amakhosi omhlaba ayahloma ajame lababusi babuthane ndawonye ukumelana leNkosi bemelana njalo Laye Ogcotshiweyo.'

²⁷Ngempela uHerodi loPhontiyu Philathu bahlangana labeZizwe kanye labantu bako-Israyeli baceba ngenceku yakho engcwele, uJesu owamgcobayo. ²⁸Benza lokho okwakumiswe ngaphambili ngamandla akho layintando yakho ukuthi kwakuzakwenzakala.

²⁹Ngakho, Nkosi, zwana izisongo zabo uphe izinceku zakho amandla ukuthi zilikhulume ilizwi lakho ngesibindi esikhulu. ³⁰Yelula isandla sakho ukusilisa lokwenza immangaliso, lezinkinga ngebizo lenceku yakho engcwele uJesu."

³¹Sebekhulekile, indawo ababekuyo yazamazama. Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya Ongcwele balikhuluma ngesibindi ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

Amakholwa Ayahlanganyela Yonke Impahla Yawo

³²Wonke amakholwa ayenhliziyo nye, engqondo nye. Kakho owathi okwakhe ngokwakhe yedwa kodwa babelana konke ababelakho. ³³Abaphostoli baqhubeka ukufakaza ngamandla amakhulu ngokuvuka kukaJesu inkosi, bonke babusiseka kakhulu. ³⁴Kakho owayeswela phakathi kwabo. Kwakusithi izikhathi ngezikhathi labo ababe leziqinti loba izindlu bazithengise balethe imali yentengo ³⁵bayethule kubaphostoli yabelwe loba ngubani ngokuswela kwakhe.

³⁶UJosefa, umLevi waseKhuphro, abaphostoli ababembiza ngokuthi nguBhanaba (okutsho ukuthi, Ndodana yeNkuthazo), ³⁷wathengisa isivande esasingesakhe waletha imali wayethula kubaphostoli.

U-Ananiya LoSafira

5 Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya ilomkayo uSafira labo bathengisa isiqinti sabo. ²Wavumelana lomkakhe ukuthi afihle enye imali ibe ngeyabo, kwathi enye wayethula kubaphostoli.

³UPhethro wasesithi, "Ananiya, kwenzeka kanjani ukuthi uSathane usegabhele inhliziyi yakho usuze uqamba amanga kuMoya oNgcwele,

wazigcinela ingxenye yemali eliyizuzileyo ngesiqinti senu na? ⁴Kanti besingesisenu yini singakathengiswa? Njalo lapho sesithengisiwe, imali ibingaqondananga lani na? Kuyini okubangele ukuthi ukhumbule ukwenza into enje na? Kawuqambelanga muntu amanga lawo kodwa uwaqambebe uNkulunkulu."

⁵U-Ananiya wonela ukukuzwa lokhu watshayeka phansi wafa. Bonke abezwa ngalesisenzakalo bangenwa yikwesaba okukhulu.

⁶Kwasekungena amajaha agoqela isidumbu sakhe amthwalela phandle ayamngcwaba.

⁷Ngemuva kwamahora amathathu umkakhe laye wangena engazi okwasekwenzakele. ⁸UPhethro wambuza wathi, "Ake ungitshela, yiyo yini le intengo eliyizuzileyo wena lo-Ananiya eyesiqinti senu na?"

Wathi, "Yebo, yiyo intengo yaso."

⁹UPhethro wathi kuye, "Lenzeni ukuthi livumelane ukulinga uMoya weNkosi na? Lalela! Yizisinde zamadoda esezisemnyango asengcwabe umkakho, yikho bazakuthwala lawe."

¹⁰Khonokho wasakazeka phansi eduze kukaPhethro wafa. Asengena amajaha yena esefile amthwala aphuma laye aya mngcwaba malungana lomkakhe.

¹¹Ibandla lonke lafikelwa yikwesaba okukhulu kanye labo bonke abezwayo ngalezi izehlakalo.

Abaphostoli Basilisa Abanengi

¹²Abaphostoli benza imimangaliso eminengi lezinkinga ebantwini. Amakholwa wonke ayevame ukuhlangana ndawonye eKhulusini likaSolomoni. ¹³Kakho omunye owaqunga isibindi wayahlanganyela labo, lokuba basebezenzele ugazi ebantwini. ¹⁴Kungenani, amadoda

labafazi abanengi bakholwa eNkosini, bengezelela ubunengi babo. ¹⁵ Kwathi ngenxa yalokho abantu baletha abagulayo ezitaladini babalalisa emibhedeni lemacansini ukuze kuthi nje isithunzi kodwa sikaPhethro sisithe abanye babo lapho esedlula. ¹⁶ Amaxuku abantu abuthana eqhamuka emizini eyayiseduze kweJerusalema, beletha abagulayo babo lalabo ababehlukuluzwa yimimoya emibi, kwathi bonke basiliswa.

Abaphostoli Bayachukuluzwa

¹⁷ Kwasekusithi umphristi ophezulu kanye leqembu lakhe elalingelexuku labaSadusi bangenwa ngumhawu.

¹⁸ Bababopha abaphostoli babaphosela entolongweni yomuntu wonke. ¹⁹ Kodwa ebusuku ingilosi yeNkosi yavula iminyango yentolongo yabakhupha.

²⁰ Yathi, "Hambani liyokuma emagumeni ethempeli litshela abantu lonke ilizwi lempilo entsha."

²¹ Kwathi emadabukakusa bahle bangena emagumeni ethempeli, bafundisa abantu njengokutshelwa kwabo.

Ekufikeni komphristi ophezulu leqembu lakhe bahle babiza iSanihedrini – inkundla yonke yabadala bako-Israyeli – bathumela ilizwi entolongweni lokuthi kulethwe abaphostoli, ²² kodwa izithunywa zathi zifika entolongweni zafumana bengasekho. Yikho zasezibuyela zayabika zathi, ²³ "Sifumane intolongo ivaliwe kuhle labalindi bemi eminyango; kodwa kuthe sesiyivulile, kasibonanga muntu phakathi." ²⁴ Induna yabalindi bethempeli kanye labaphristi abakhulu bathi bekuzwa lokhu batsha amathe, bamangala ukuthi into le yayikhombani.

²⁵ Kwasekufika omunye umuntu wathi, "Zwanini! Amadoda elawaphosele ejele emi emagumeni ethempeli afundisa

abantu." ²⁶ Besizwa lokho induna yahle yasuka lamanxusa ayo bayabaletha abaphostoli. Kabasebenzisanga udlakela ngoba besesaba ukuthi abantu babengabakhanda ngamatshe.

²⁷ Sebeba lethile abaphostoli babamisa phambi kweSanihedrini ukuthi bathonisiswe ngumphristi ophezulu.

²⁸ Wathi, "Saliqonqosela ukuthi lingafundisi ngaleli ibizo. Kodwa seligcwalise iJerusalema ngemfundiso yenu njalo lizimisele ukuthesha umlandu ngegazi lomuntu lo."

²⁹ Uphethro labanye abaphostoli baphendula bathi, "Simele silale uNkulunkulu kulokulalela abantu!

³⁰ UNkulunkulu wabokhokho wamvusa uJesu kwabafuleyo – yena elalimbulele ngokumlengisa emthini. ³¹ UNkulunkulu wamphakamisela kwesokunene sakhe wabayiNkosana loMsindisi ukuze anike ukuphenduka lokuthethelelwa kwezono ku-Israyeli. ³² Thina singofakazi balezizinto, njengaye uMoya oNgcwele, uNkulunkulu amnike kulabo abamlalelayo."

³³ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathukuthela babila, bafuna ukuthi babulawe.

³⁴ Kodwa umFarisi owayethiwa nguGamaliyeli, engumfundisi womthetho, ehlonitshwa ngabantu bonke, wasukuma wema eSanihedrini wathi amadoda lawo kake amiswe phandle kancane. ³⁵ Wasesithi kubo, "Madoda ako-Israyeli, cabangani kuhle ngalokhu elifuna ukukwenza kula amadoda. ³⁶ Ngesikhathi esidlulileyo kwafika uThewuda ezitshaya umuntu oqakathekileyo, wahuga amadoda angaba ngamakhulu amane. Wabulawa, bonke abalandeli bakhe bahlakazeka, konke kwaphelela emoyeni. ³⁷ Ngemva kwakhe uJuda, umGalile laye wavela ngezinsuku zokubalwa kwabantu wakhokhela ixuku labantu ukuba lihlamuke. Laye wabulawa, labalandeli

bakhe bonke bahlakazeka. ³⁸Ngakho, mayelana lendaba le eyamanje ngixwayisa lokhu: Bayekeleni abantu laba! Wothani kabahambe! Ngoba nxa inhloso yabo kumbe umkhankaso wabo uvela ebantwini kuzafuba. ³⁹Kodwa nxa kuvela kuNkulunkulu kalisoze libe lamandla okubakhawulisa abantu laba; lizazifumana selisilwa loNkulunkulu."

⁴⁰Inkulumo yakhe bayamukela. Bababiza abaphostoli bangesiswa kwathiwa kabatshaywe. Basebeqonqoselwa ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma ngebizo likaJesu, basebekhululwa.

⁴¹Abaphostoli basuka eSanihedrini bethokoza ngokuba basebebonakalisile ukuthi babengalimela ihlazo lokulihluphekela iBizo. ⁴²Insuku ngensuku, emagumeni ethempeli, njalo behamba bengena indlu ngendlu, kabazange bakhawule ukufundisa lokutshumayela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

Ukukhethwa Kwaba Yisikhombisa

6 Ngalezozinsuku inani labafundi lisanda, amaJuda besiGiriki ababephakathi kwabo bakhonona kulabo ababekhuluma isi-Aramu ngokuba abafelokazi babo babengananzwa nxa kusabiwa ukudla ngezinsuku zonke. ²Yikho abaLitshumi Lambili bahlanganisa bonke abafundi ndawonye bathi, "Kuyabe kungalunganga kithi ukuthi siyekethise ukutshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu silibale ngokulungiselana ukudla. ³Bazalwane, khethani amadoda ayisikhombisa phakathi kwenu aziwayo ukuthi agcwele uMoya lokuhlakanipha. Umlandu lo sizawuqhubela bona ⁴thina siqinise ukukhuleka lokutshumayela ilizwi."

⁵Umbono lo walithabisa ixuku lonke. Bakhetha uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele ukukholwa loMoya oNgcwele; kanye loFiliphu, loPhrokhuru, loNikhano, loThimoni, loPhamena loNikhola wase-Antiyokhi, ikholwa lenkonzo yesiJuda. ⁶Amadoda la ethulwa kubaphostoli bakhuleka bababeka izandla.

⁷Ngakho ilizwi likaNkulunkulu lamemetheka. Inani labafundi eJerusalema landa ngokuphangisa, kwathi lenani elikhulu labaphristi layilandela inkolo.

UStefane Uyabotshwa

⁸Kwathi uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele umusa kaNkulunkulu, lamandla, yenza izimanga lemimangaliso phakathi kwabantu. ⁹Kwasekuvela umona usuka kumalunga eSinagogi yabaKhululiweyo (njengokubizwa kwakhona) – bengabaJuda baseKhureni le-Alekizandriya kanye lasemikhonweni yaseKhilikhiya le-Asiya. Abantu laba basuka basebephikisana loStefane, ¹⁰kodwa behluleka ukumelana lenhlakanipho yakhe kumbe uMoya ayekhuluma ngawo.

¹¹Basebefunza abanye abantu amazwi ngasese ukuthi bathi, "Simzwile uStefane ekhuluma amazwi ahlambaza uMosi kanye loNkulunkulu."

¹²Ngaleyondlela badungulula abantu labadala kanye labafundisi bomthetho. Bambopha uStefane bamletha phambi kweSanihedrini. ¹³Baveza ofakazi bamanga abafakaza bathi, "Indoda le kayikhawuli ukukhuluma kubi ngendawo engcwele langomthetho. ¹⁴Ngoba sesimuzwe esithi uJesu lo waseNazaretha uzayibhidliza indawo le njalo aguqule imikhubo uMosi asipha yona."

¹⁵ Bonke ababehlezi phakathi kweSanihedrini bamnanzelela uStefane babona ukuthi ubuso bakhe babufana lobuso bengilosi.

Inkulumo kaStefane eSanihedrini

7 Yikho umphristi ophezulu

wasembuza wathi, "Ukumangalelwa konke lokhu kuliqiniso na?"

² Kulokhu waphendula wathi: "Bafowethu labobaba ake lingilalele! UNkulunkulu wenkazimulo waziveza kubaba wethu u-Abrahama esahlala eMesophothamiya, engakahlali eHarani. ³ UNkulunkulu wathi, "Tshiya ilizwe lakini labantu bakini uye elizweni engizakutshengisa lona."

⁴ "Ngakho wasuka elizweni lamaKhalidiya wayahlala eHarani. Ngemva kokufa kukayise, uNkulunkulu wamletha kuleli ilizwe lapho eselihlala khona manje. ⁵ Kamuphanga lifa lapha loba nje isigcawana somhlabathi. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamthembisa ukuthi yena lezizukulwane zakhe ngemuva kwakhe babezalizuzwa ilizwe lelo libe ngelabo, loba nje ngalesosikhathi u-Abrahama wayengelamntwana. ⁶ UNkulunkulu wakhuluma laye kanje: 'Izizukulwane zakho zizakuba ngabezizweni elizweni elingayisilo labo, njalo bazagqilazwa, bahlukuluzwe okweminyaka engamakhulu amane. ⁷ Ngizasisijezisa lesosizwe esizabenza izigqili,' kusitsho uNkulunkulu, 'kuthi phambili bazaphuma kulelolizwe bangikhonze kuyonale indawo.' ⁸ Wasenika u-Abrahama isivumelwano sokusoka. U-Abrahama waba nguyise ka-Isaka, wamsoka ngemuva kwezinsuku ezificamibili ezelwe. Ngemuva kwalokho u-Isaka waba nguyise kaJakhobe, uJakhobe yena waba nguyise wabokhokho abalitshumi lambili.

⁹ "Ngenxa yokuthi okhokho baba lomhawu ngoJosefa, bamthengisela eGibhithe njengesigqili. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waye laye ¹⁰ wamophula kuzozonke izinhlu pho zakhe. Wanika uJosefa inhlakanipho wamenza wathandwa nguFaro, inkosi yaseGibhithe; yasimenza umbusi eGibhithe lakuso sonke isigodlo sakhe.

¹¹ "Kwathi indlala yalihlasela lonke elaseGibhithe leleKhenani, kwaba lobunzima obukhulu ngokuba okhokho bethu bakuswela ukudla. ¹² UJakhobe esezwile ukuthi amabele ayekhona eGibhithe wathuma okhokho bethu beqalisa ukuya khona. ¹³ Sebesiya okwesibili uJosefa wabatshela abanewabo ukuthi wayengubani, njalo uFaro waziswa ngabakibo kaJosefa. ¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho uJosefa wasebiza uyise uJakhobe ukuthi eze labendlu yakhe bonke, kungabantu abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu sebe bonke. ¹⁵ Yikho uJakhobe wasesehlela kweleGibhithe lapho afela khona yena kanye labokhokho bethu. ¹⁶ Izidumbu zabo zabuyiswa eShekemu zabekwa ethuneni elathengwa ngu-Abrahama kumadodana kaHamori eShekemu ngemali ethile.

¹⁷ "Kwathi isikhathi sesisondele esokuthi uNkulunkulu agcwalise isithembiso sakhe ku-Abrahama, inani labantu bakithi eGibhithe landa ngamandla. ¹⁸ Kwasekusithi enye inkosi eyayingazi lutho ngoJosefa yaba ngumbusi eGibhithe. ¹⁹ Yaba lesihluku ebantwini bakithi, yacindezela okhokho bethu ngokubabamba ngamandla ukuthi balahlele khatshana izinsane zabo ezisanda kuzalwa ukuthi zife.

²⁰ "Kulesosikhathi uMosi wazalwa, njalo engasumntwana makhaza. Okwezinyanga ezintathu wondliwa endlini kayise. ²¹ Kwathi esebekwe phandle indodakazi kaFaro yamthatha

yamkhulisa njengomntanayo. ²²UMosi wafundiswa kuyo yonke inhlakanipho yamaGibhithe, eligagu lokukhuluma lokwenza.

²³"Kwathi uMosi eseleminyaka engamatshumi amane ubudala, wathi usake ethekelele aba-Israyeli bakibo. ²⁴Wabona omunye wabo echukuluzwa ngumGibhithe, yikho wayamlamulela, wenanisa ngokubulala umGibhithe lowo. ²⁵UMosi wakhumbula ukuthi abantu bakibo babezakunanzelela ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemsebenzisa ukuthi abakhulule, kodwa kabakunanzelelanga. ²⁶Ngosuku olulandelayo uMosi wawela phezu kwaba-Israyeli ababili ababesilwa. Wazama ukubalamula ngokuthi, 'Madoda, lingabafowenu; kungani lidutshuzana kangaka na?'

²⁷"Kodwa leyondoda eyayimkhulela omunye yamfuqela eceleni uMosi yathi, 'Ngubani okubeke ukuba ngumbusi lomahluli phezu kwethu na?' ²⁸"Ufuna ukungibulala njengomGibhithe ombuleleyo izolo?' ²⁹UMosi wathi ekuzwa lokho wabalekela eMidiyani, lapho ahlala khona njengesizwe, wazala khona amadodana amabili.

³⁰"Sekwedlule iminyaka engamatshumi amane, ingilosi yavela kuMosi iselangabini lesixuku esibhebhayo enkangala eduze kweNtaba iSinayi. ³¹Wathi ekubona lokhu wamangala kakhulu ngalowombono. Wathi uyasondela ukuthi abonisise, wezwa ilizwi leNkosi lisithi: ³²'NginguNkulunkulu waboyihlo, uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe.' UMosi wathuthumela ngokwesaba wehluleka ukukhangela.

³³"Yikho iNkosi yasisithi kuye, 'Khumula amanyathela akho; indawo omi kuyo ingumhlathathi ongewe. ³⁴Ngempela sengikubonile ukukhahlamezeka kwabantu bami eGibhethe. Sengikuzwile ukububula

kwabo ngakho sengizile phansi lapha ukuzabakhulula. Manje-ke zwana, ngizakubuyisela eGibhithe.'

³⁵"Nguye kanye uMosi lo ababemalile ngamazwi athi, 'Ngubani owakwenza umbusi lomahluli na?' Wathunyelwa ukuba ngumbusi lomkhululi nguNkulunkulu yena ngokwakhe, ngengilosi eyabonakala kuye isesixukwini. ³⁶Wabakhokhela baphuma eGibhithe wenza izimanga lemimangaliso eGibhithe, oLwandle Olubomvu lokweminyaka engamatshumi amane enkangala. ³⁷Nguye lo uMosi owatshela aba-Israyeli wathi, 'UNkulunkulu uzalithumela umphrofethi onjengami ephuma ebantwini bakini.' ³⁸Wayekanye lebandla enkangala, elabokhokho bethu njalo elayo ingilosi eyakhuluma kuye eNtabeni yaseSinayi; njalo wemukela amazwi okuphila ukuthi awedlulisele kithi.

³⁹"Kodwa okhokho bethu bala ukumlalela. Kodwa bamala, kwathi ezinhliziyweni zabo babuyela eGibhithe. ⁴⁰Batshela u-Aroni bathi, 'Yenza onkulunkulu abazasikhokhela. UMosi lo owasikhupha eGibhithe asisakwazi ukuthi usedliwe yini!' ⁴¹Yiso lesosikhathi abenza ngaso isithombe esasilesimo sethole. Baletha imihlatshelo kulo, benza umkhosi wokuthakazelela lokho okwenziwa yizandla zabo. ⁴²Kodwa uNkulunkulu wabafulathela wabakhalala ukuba bakhonze izindilinga zomkhathi. Lokhu kuvumelana lalokho okulutshiweyo encwadini yabaphrofethi ukuthi:

“ ‘We Israyeli, langilethela na imihlatshelo

leminikelo

ngeminyaka engamatshumi amane enkangala?

⁴³Hatshi, lathwala isikhonzelo

sikaMoleki
lenkanyezi kankulunkulu wenu
uRefani,
izithombe elazenzayo ukuthi
lizikhonze.
Ngakho-ke ngizalixotshela
ekuthunjweni' ngale
kweBhabhiloni.

⁴⁴"Okhokho bethu babelalo ithala lobufakazi enkangala. Lalenziwe njengokuqondiswa kukaMosi nguNkulunkulu elandela isimo ayesibonile. ⁴⁵Sebelamukele ithala okhokho bethu bengaphansi kukaJoshuwa beza lalo ekuthumbeni kwabo. Lahlala elizweni kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaDavida, ⁴⁶owathandwa nguNkulunkulu, wacela ukuthi alungisele uNkulunkulu kaJakhobe indawo yokuhlala. ⁴⁷Kodwa kwaba nguSolomoni owamakhelayo leyondlu.

⁴⁸"Kodwa oPhezukonke kahlali ezindlini ezakhiwe ngabantu. Njengoba esitsho umphrofethi ukuthi:

⁴⁹" 'Izulu liyisihlalo sami sobukhosi, umhlaba uyisenabelo sami. Lizangakhela ndlu bani? kutsho iNkosi. Kumbe izaba ngaphi indawo yami yokuphumula na? ⁵⁰Izinto zonke lezi kazenziwanga yisandla sami na?'

⁵¹"Lina ziqholo zabantu, abanhliziyi zingasokanga lezindlebe zingakleklanga! Lifuze oyihlo: Lihlezi lijamelene loMoya oNgcwele! ⁵²Kambe kwake kwabakhona umphrofethi oyihlo abangazange bamchukuluze na? Baze bababulala labo abafanisa ngokuza koLungileyo. Khathesi selimnikele lambulala - ⁵³lina eseliwemukele

umthetho ngezingilosi kodwa kaliwulahlanga."

UStefane Ukhandwa Ngamatshe

⁵⁴Sebekuzwile lokhu bazonda bafuthelana bamgedlela amazinyo. ⁵⁵Kodwa uStefane egcwele uMoya oNgcwele wakhangelela ezulwini wabona inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu loJesu emi esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu. ⁵⁶wathi, "Khangelani, ngibona izulu livuliwe leNdodana yoMuntu imi esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu."

⁵⁷Besizwa lokhu bagcika izindlebe zabo, baklabalala, bamdumela ⁵⁸bamhudulela phandle kwedolobho bamkhanda ngamatshe. Ofakazi babeka izigqoko zabo phambi kwejaha elalithiwa nguSawuli.

⁵⁹Kwathi belokhu bemkhanda uStefane wakhuleka wathi, "Nkosi Jesu, yamukela umoya wami." ⁶⁰Wathi khubembe ngamadolo phansi wamemeza wathi, "Nkosi, ungababekeli umlandu ngalesisono." Kuthe esetsho lokho walala.

8 LoSawuli wayekhona ekuvumela ukubulawa kwakhe.

Ukuhlukuluzwa Lokuhlakazeka Kwebandla

Ngalelolanga kwaqalisa isiphithiphithi esibi sokuhlukuluzwa ibandla eJerusalema, kwathi bonke ngaphandle kwabaphostoli bahlakazeka kulolonke iJudiya leSamariya. ²Abantu abakholwa kuNkulunkulu bamngcwaba uStefane bamlilela kabuhlungu. ³Kodwa uSawuli waqalisa ukulichitha ibandla. Wahamba engena izindlu ngezindlu ephuthuma amadoda labafazi esiyabaphosela entolongweni.

UFiliphu EseSamariya

⁴ Labo ababehlakazekile balitshumayela ilizwi loba kungaphi abaya khona. ⁵ UFiliphu wehlela edolobheni elithile eSamariya watshumayela ngoKhristu khonale. ⁶ Kwathi izixuku zabantu zimuzwa uFiliphu njalo zibona imimangaliso ayeyenza bonke bakulalelisisa lokho ayekukhuluma. ⁷ Omoya ababi baphuma ebantwini abanengi beklabalala, njalo abanengi ababome imihlubulo labayizilima basiliswa. ⁸ Ngakho kwaba lentokozo enkulu kulelodobho.

USimoni Umenzi Wamasalamusi

⁹ Okwesikhathi esithile indoda eyayithiwa nguSimoni yayisenza amasalamusi edolobheni lelo yamangalisa bonke abantu baseSamariya. Wayezikhukhumeza ezitshaya umuntu omkhulu, ¹⁰ njalo bonke abantu, abaphezulu labaphansi bambuthanela bababaza bathi, "Indoda le ingamandla obunkulunkulu athiwa ngaMandla amakhulu." ¹¹ Bamlandela ngokuba wayebamangalisile okwesikhathi eside ngamasalamusi akhe. ¹² Kodwa kwathi sebekholwe uFiliphu etshumayela izindaba ezinhle ezombuso kaNkulunkulu kanye lebizo likaJesu Khristu, babhaphathizwa, abesilisa labesifazana. ¹³ USimoni laye ngokwakhe wakholwa wabhaphathizwa. Walandela uFiliphu ngaphi langaphi, wamangaliswa yiziboniso lemimangaliso ayibonayo.

¹⁴ Kwathi abaphostoli eJerusalema sebezwile ukuthi iSamariya yase ilamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, bathuma oPhethro loJohane kubo.

¹⁵ Sebefikile babathandazela ukuthi bemukele uMoya oNgcwele, ¹⁶ ngokuba uMoya oNgcwele wawulokhu ungakehleri lakubani kubo; babebhaphathizelwe ebizweni leNkosi uJesu kuphela. ¹⁷ Yikho uPhethro

loJohane bababeka izandla, base bewemukela uMoya oNgcwele.

¹⁸ Kwathi uSimoni ebona ukuthi uMoya wawuphiwa ngokubekwa izandla ngabaphostoli wabahuga ngemali ¹⁹ esithi, "Ngiphani lami lawomandla ukuze kuthi wonke lowo engimbeka izandla azuze uMoya oNgcwele."

²⁰ UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Sengathi imali yakho ingabhubha kanye lawe ngokuba ucabanga ukuthi ungasithenga isipho sikaNkulunkulu ngemali! ²¹ Kawulangxenye loba isabelo kule inkonzo, ngokuba inhliziyo yakho kayilunganga phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ²² Phenduka kulobububi uthandaze eNkosini. Mhlawumbe izakuthethelela ngokuthi ulomcabango onje enhliziyweni yakho. ²³ Ngokuba ngiyabona ukuthi ugcwalelene ngomona, ugqilazwe yisono."

²⁴ USimoni wasephendula wathi, "Ngikhulekelani eNkosini ukuze ngingehlelwa lutho lwalokho okutshiloyo."

²⁵ Kwathi sebefakazile njalo balitshumayela ilizwi leNkosi, uPhethro loJohane babuyela eJerusalema, bahamba betshumayela ivangeli emizini eminengi yaseSamariya.

UFiliphu LomTopiya

²⁶ Ingilosi yeNkosi yathi kuFiliphu, "Yehlela eningizimu emgwaqweni – umgwaqo wenkangala – osuka eJerusalema usiya eGaza." ²⁷ Yikho wasesuka, kwathi endleleni leyo wabethana lomTopiya ongumthenwa, eyisikhulu esiqakathekileyo esasiphethe ingcebo kaKhandasi, indlovukazi yamaTopiya. Indoda le yayikade iye eJerusalema ukuyakhonza, ²⁸ isisendleleni yokubuyela ekhaya ihlezi enqoleni yayo ibala incwadi ka-Isaya umphrofethi. ²⁹ UMoya watshela

uFiliphu wathi, "Hamba usondele enqoleni leyana walele eduze kwayo."

³⁰UFiliphu wasegijimela kuyo inqola wezwa indoda leyo ibala u-Isaya umphrofethi. UFiliphu wayibuza wathi, "Uyakuzwisisa yini lokho okubalayo?"

³¹Yathi, "Ngingakuzwisisa kanjani kungekho muntu ongichazelayo na? Yasinxusa uFiliphu ukuthi akhwele azohlala layo.

³²Indoda engumthenwa yayibala indima yombhalo ethi:

"Waqhutshwa njengemvu isiwa esilaheni,
njengezinyane lemvu elithula zwi phambi komgundi,
kanjalo kazange awuvule umlomo wakhe.

³³Ekugconweni kwakhe wancitshwa ukwahlulelwa okuqondileyo.
Ngubani ongakhuluma ngezizukulwane zakhe na?
Ngokuba ukuphila kwakhe kwasuswa emhlabeni."

³⁴Indoda engumthenwa yabuza uFiliphu yathi, "Ake ungitshela, bakithi, umphrofethi ukhuluma ngobani, yena ngokwakhe longabe ngomunye umuntu?" ³⁵UFiliphu waqalisa ngayona leyondima yoMbhala wayitshela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu.

³⁶Bathi belokhu behamba ngomgwaqo bafika lapho okwakulamanzi khona, indoda engumthenwa yathi, "Khangela, nanka amanzi. Kulani ukuthi ngihle ngibhaphathizwe na?"

³⁷(UFiliphu wathi, "Uma ukholwa ngenhliziyo yakho yonke ungabhaphathizwa." Isikhulu saphendula sathi, "Ngiyakholwa ukuthi uJesu Khristu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu."

³⁸Isikhulu sathi inqola kayimiswe. Yikho bobabili, uFiliphu lendoda engumthenwa baya emanzini uFiliphu wayibhaphathiza. ³⁹Bathi bephuma emanzini uMoya weNkosi wahle wamthatha uFiliphu, indoda engumthenwa ayabe isambona njalo, kodwa yaqhubeka ngendlela yayo ithokoza. ⁴⁰Kodwa uFiliphu wabonakala e-Azotha, walibhudula ilizwe etshumayela ivangeli kuyo yonke imizi waze wayafika eKhesariya.

Ukuphenduka KukaSawuli

9 Kusenjalo, uSawuli wayelokhu ekhahliza izisongo zokubulala abafundi beNkosi. Waya kuMphristi ophezulu ²wayacela izincwadi eziya emasinagogeni aseDamaseku, ukuze kuthi nxa engafumana khonale labo aba ngabeNdlela, abesilisa loba abesifazana, abalethe eJerusalema sebe yizibotshwa. ³Wathi esebanga eDamaseku ohanjeni lwakhe, masinyane kwaphazima ukukhanya inxa zonke kuye. ⁴Wawela phansi wezwa ilizwi lisithi kuye, "Sawuli, Sawuli, ungihlukumezelani na?"

⁵USawuli wabuza wathi, "Ungubani, Nkosi?"

Ilizwi lathi, "NginguJesu omhlukumezayo. ⁶Manje sukuma uye edolobheni lapho ozatshelwa khona omele ukwenze."

⁷Amadoda ayehamba loSawuli ema lapho esetshe amathe; balizwa ilizwi kodwa kababonanga muntu. ⁸USawuli wavuka phansi, kodwa wathi uvula amehlo akhe wayengasaboni lutho. Yikho bamhola ngesandla bangena laye eDamaseku. ⁹Wabayisiphofu okwezinsuku ezintathu, engadli njalo enganathi lutho.

¹⁰ EDamaseku kwakulomfundi owayethiwa ngu-Ananiya. INkosi yambiza ngombono yathi, "Ananiya!"

Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, Nkosi."

¹¹ INkosi yamtshela yathi, "Hamba uye endlini kaJuda eMgwaqweni oQondileyo, ubuze khona ngendoda yaseThasu ethiwa nguSawuli, ngoba iyakhuleka. ¹² Usebelombono wabona indoda ethiwa ngu-Ananiya ifika imbeka izandla ibuyisa ukubona kwakhe."

¹³ U-Ananiya waphendula wathi, "Nkosi sengiyizwile indumela yalumentu mayelana lochuku lonke alwenzayo kwabangwele bakho eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Uze lapha ngegunya aliphiwe ngabaphristi abakhulu ukuzabopha bonke ababiza igama lakho."

¹⁵ Kodwa iNkosi yathi ku-Ananiya, "Hamba! Indoda le iyisiphathelo sami engisikhethileyo ukuthwala ibizo lami phambi kwabeZizwe lamakhosi abo laphambi kwabantu bako-Israyeli. ¹⁶ Ngizamshengisa ukuthi uzahlupheka kanganani ngenxa yebizo lami."

¹⁷ U-Ananiya wasehamba esiya kuleyondlu wangena. Wabeka izandla zakhe phezu kukaSawuli wathi, "Mzalwane, Sawuli, iNkosi - uJesu, owabonakala kuwe endleleni usiza lapha ungithumile ukuze ukwazi ukubona njalo futhi ugcwaliswe ngoMoya oNgcwele." ¹⁸ Masinyane, kwakhithika emehlweni kaSawuli okwakungathi zinkwethu, wasebona njalo. Wasukuma wabhaphathizwa, ¹⁹ kwathi esedlile, wathola amandla.

USawuli EseDamaseku LaseJerusalema

USawuli wahlala izinsuku ezithile labafundi eDamaseku. ²⁰ Waseqalisa ukutshumayela emasinagogeni ukuthi uJesu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.

²¹ Bonke labo abamuzwayo bamangala

babuza bathi, "Kasuye yini umuntu lo owenza isigemegegeme eJerusalema kulabo abalibizayo lelibizo na? Njalo kezanga yini lapha ukuzabathatha beyizibotshwa abese kubaphristi abakhulu na?" ²² Kodwa uSawuli wasebenza ngamandla amakhulu wadidekisa abaJuda ababehlala eDamaseku ngokubonisa kamhlophe ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

²³ Sekudlule izinsuku ezinengi amaJuda akha icebo lokumbulala, ²⁴ kodwa uSawuli walizwa icebo labo. Emini lebusuku bamlindela emasinagogeni edolobho ukuze bambulale. ²⁵ Kodwa abalandeli bakhe bamthatha ebusuku bamehlisa ngesitsha esikheleni esasisemdulini.

²⁶ Wathi esefikile eJerusalema wazama ukuhlangana labafundi, kodwa bonke babemesaba, bengakholwa ukuthi ngempela wayesengumfundi. ²⁷ Kodwa uBhanaba wamthatha wamusa kubaphostoli. Wabatshele ngokuthi uSawuli wayibona njani iNkosi esendleleni esiya eDamaseku watshumayela njani ngesibindi ngebizo likaJesu. ²⁸ Yikho uSawuli wasehlala labo, wazihambela ekhululekile eJerusalema, ekhuluma ngesibindi ngebizo leNkosi. ²⁹ Wakhuluma njalo waphikisana labaJuda besiGiriki, kodwa bazama ukumbulala. ³⁰ Kwathi abazalwane bekuzwa lokhu, bambalekisola eKhesariya bafika bamedlulisela eThasu.

³¹ Ngalesosikhathi ibandla kulo lonke elaseJudiya leGalile leSamariya laba lesikhathi esihle sokuthula. Laqina; njalo ngokukhuthazwa nguMoya oNgcwele landa ngobunengi, lahlala liyesaba iNkosi.

U-Eniya LoDokhasi

³² Kwathi uPhethro ebhoda phakathi kwelizwe wayakwethekelela abangcwele

eLida. ³³Wafumana khonale indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Eniya, eyisigulani esome umhlubulo eshlezi elele okweminyaka eficamibili. ³⁴UPhethro wathi kuye, "Eniya, uJesu Khristu uyakusilisa. Vuka uthathe icansi lakho." Masinyane u-Eniya wasukuma. ³⁵Bonke labo ababehlala eLida laseSharoni bambona baphendukela eNkosini.

³⁶EJopha kwakulomfundi owayethiwa nguThabitha (nxa kuhunyutshwa kuthi uDokhasi), owayehlala esenza okuhle esiza abaswelayo.

³⁷Ngasonalesosikhathi wagula wafa, isidumbu sakhe sageziswa salaliswa endlini ephezulu. ³⁸ILida yayiseduze kweJopha; yikho abafundi sebezwile ukuthi uPhethro wayeseLida, bathuma amadoda amabili kuye bamncenga bathi, "Sicela ukuthi uze ngokuphangisa!"

³⁹UPhethro wahamba labo, wathi ekufikeni kwakhe wasiwa endlini leyo ephezulu. Bonke abafelokazi bema bemhanqile, bekhala, bemtshengisa izambatho lezinye izigqoko ezazithungwe nguDokhasi esaphila labo.

⁴⁰UPhethro wabakhupha bonke endlini; waseguqa ngamadolo wakhuleka. Wasephendukela kowesifazana wathi kuye, "Thabitha, vuka!" Owesifazana wasevula amehlo akhe, wathi ebona uPhethro wahlala.

⁴¹Wambamba ngesandla wamsukumisa. Wasebiza amakholwa labafelokazi wamethula kubo esephila. ⁴²Lokhu kwasuka kwaziwa kulo lonke iJopha, abantu abanengi bakholwa eNkosini.

⁴³UPhethro wahlala eJopha okwesikhathi ehlala lomkhuhli wezikhumba uSimoni.

UKhonestiya Unxusa UPhethro

10 EKhesariya kwakulendoda

eyayithiwa nguKhestiya, ingumlawuli webutho lekhulu elalithiwa liViyo lase-Ithaliya. ²Yena lendlu yakhe yonke babekhona, bemesaba uNkulunkulu; wayenika ngesihle labo abaswelayo njalo ekhuleka kuNkulunkulu kokuphela. ³Ngelinye ilanga kungaba lihora lesithathu emini waba lombono. Wabona kamhlophe ingilosi kaNkulunkulu, yeza kuye yathi, "Khestiya!"

⁴UKhestiya wayiqhuzulela amehlo esesaba. Wabuza wathi, "Kuyini, Nkosi?" Ingilosi yaphendula yathi, "Imithandazo yakho lezipho zakho kwabampofu sekufinyelele kuNkulunkulu kwaba yisikhumbuzo. ⁵Ngakho thuma amadoda eJopha ayobuya lendoda ethiwa nguSimoni ebizwa ngokuthi nguPhethro. ⁶Ihlala loSimoni ongumkhuhli wezikhumba olendlu okhunjini lolwandle."

⁷Ingilosi eyakhuluma laye isihambile, uKhestiya wabiza izinceku zakhe ezimbili kanye loyedwa owayengumncedisi webutho owayeyindoda ekhonzayo. ⁸Wabatshela konke okwakwenzakele wasebathuma eJopha.

Umbono KaPhethro

⁹Sekungaba phakathi laphakathi kwemini sebebanga edolobheni, uPhethro wakhwela ephahleni ukuyakhuleka. ¹⁰Wezwa eselambile esefuna ulutho lokudla, kwathi ukudla kusalungiswa wehlelwa yisiyezi-phupho. ¹¹Wabona izulu livulekile, kusehliselwa emhlabeni ulutho olwalunjengelembu elikhulukazi libanjwe ngamagumbi alo womane. ¹²Lalithwele yonke imihlobo yezinyamazana ezilezinyawo ezine,

kanye lezinanakazana zomhlaba lezinyoni zemoyeni. ¹³ Ilizwi laselimtshela lathi, "Vuka, Phethro. Bulala udle."

¹⁴ UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Hatshi, Nkosi! Kangikaze ngidle lutho olungahlanzekanga lolungcolileyo."

¹⁵ Laphinda ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili kuye lathi, "Akungabilalutho olubiza ngokuthi kaluhlanzekanga oseluhlanjululwe nguNkulunkulu."

¹⁶ Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, kwasekusithi masinyane ilembu labuyiselwa ezulwini.

¹⁷ Kwathi uPhethro esamangele ngokuthi umbono lowo wawusitshoni, amadoda ayethunywe nguKhoneliya ayibona indlu kaSimoni ema entubeni.

¹⁸ Akhuleka abuza ingabe uSimoni owayethiwa nguPhethro wayehlala khonapho yini.

¹⁹ Kwathi uPhethro elokhu esacabanga ngombono, uMoya wathi kuye, "Simoni, kulamadoda amathathu akudingayo.

²⁰ Ngakho phakama wehlele phansi. Ungathandabuzi ukuhamba labo, ngokuba ngibathumile."

²¹ UPhethro wehla wathi kulawo madoda, "Nginguye lowo elimdingayo. Lilandeni?"

²² Amadoda aphenhla athi, "Sivela kuKhoneliya umlawuli wekhulu lamabutho. Ungumuntu olungileyo owesaba uNkulunkulu, ohlonitshwa yibo bonke abesiJuda. Ingilosi engcwele imtshela ukuthi kakulethe endlini yakhe ukuze ezwe lokho ongabe uyakutsho."

²³ UPhethro wasewangenisa endlini amadoda lawo njengezethekeli zakhe.

UPhethro Endlini KaKhoneliya

Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhethro wasuka labo, kwathi labanye abazalwane abeJopha bahamba laye. ²⁴ Ngelanga elilandelayo wafika eKhesariya.

UKhoneliya wayesebalindele esebize izihlobo zakhe labangane abaseduze.

²⁵ Kuthe uPhethro engena uKhoneliya wamhlangabeza wazilahla phansi ezinyaweni zakhe ngenhlonipho.

²⁶ Kodwa uPhethro wamsukumisa. Wathi, "Sukuma, mina ngingumuntu nje."

²⁷ UPhethro wangena endlini elokhu ekhuluma laye wafumana ixuku labantu elikhulu. ²⁸ Wathi kubo: "Liyakwazi ukuthi kungaphandle komthetho wethu ukuthi umJuda ahlanyanele loweZizwe loba ukuthi amethekelele. Kodwa uNkulunkulu usengitshengisile ukuthi kangingakutsho ukuthi omunye umuntu kahlanzekanga loba ungcolile. ²⁹ Yikho kuthe lapho ngibizwa lapha, ngahle ngeza ngingazange ngibalise lokhu lalokhuyana. Sengibuza-ke manje, ungibizelani?"

³⁰ UKhoneliya waphendula wathi, "Ezinsukwini ezine ezedlulileyo ngangisendlini yami ngikhuleka ngalonaleli ihora, ngehora lesithathu emini. Masinyane indoda eyayigqoke ezikhazimulayo yema phambi kwami, ³¹ yathi, 'Khoneliya, uNkulunkulu usewuzwile umkhuleko wakho wakhumbula lezipho zakho kubayanga.

³² Hamba ubize uSimoni othiwa nguPhethro eJopha. Wethekele emzini kaSimoni umkhuhli wezikhumba, ohlala malungana lolwandle.' ³³ Yikho ngahle ngathuma abantu kuwe ngokuphangisa, kwaba kuhle ukuthi lawe uze. Manje sonke sesikhona lapha phambi kukaNkulunkulu ukuthi sizwe konke iNkosi ekuyale ukuthi usitshela khona."

³⁴ UPhethro waseqalisa ukukhuluma wathi: "Sengibona khathesi ukuthi uNkulunkulu kathandi abanye kulabanye abantu ³⁵ kodwa wamukela abantu benhlanga zonke abamesabayo, abenza okulungileyo. ³⁶ Yilo leli ilizwi uNkulunkulu alithumela kubantu bako-

Israyeli, elikhuluma ngezindaba ezinhle ezoxolo ngoJesu Khristu eyiNkosi yabo bonke. ³⁷Liyakwazi osekwenzakele kulo lonke elaseJudiya, kusukela eGalile ngemuva kobhaphathizo olwatshunyayelwa nguJohane – ³⁸ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamgcoba kanjani uJesu waseNazaretha ngoMoya oNgcwele langamandla, lokuthi wahamba izindawana zonke esenza ubuhle njalo esilisa bonke ababesemandleni omubi, ngokuba uNkulunkulu wayelaye.

³⁹"Singofakazi bakho konke akwenzayo elizweni labaJuda laseJerusalema. Bambulala ngokumlengisa emthini, ⁴⁰kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo ngosuku lwesithathu, wakwenza ukuthi abonwe. ⁴¹Kabonwanga ngabantu bonke, kodwa ngofakazi uNkulunkulu ayevele esebakhethile – yithi thina esadla sanatha laye ngemuva kokuvuka kwakhe kwabafileyo. ⁴²Wasilaya ukuba sitshumayele ebantwini bonke njalo sifakaze ukuthi unguye uNkulunkulu ambekayo ukuba ngumahluli wabaphilayo labafileyo. ⁴³Bonke abaphrofethi bafakaza ngaye ukuthi bonke abakholwa kuye baphiwa ukuthethelelwa kwezono ngebizo lakhe."

⁴⁴UPhethro elokhu esakhuluma amazwi la uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo bonke abalizwayo ilizwi.

⁴⁵AbaJuda, amakholwa asokiweyo ababeze loPhethro bamangaliswa yikuthi uMoya oNgcwele wawuthululelwe lakwabeZizwe. ⁴⁶Phela babezwa bekhuluma ngezindimi bedumisa uNkulunkulu.

U-Phethro wasesithi, ⁴⁷"Kambe ukhona yini umuntu ongalela abantu laba ukuba babhaphathizwe ngamanzi na? Sebemukele uMoya oNgcwele njengathi." ⁴⁸Wasesithi kababhaphathizwe ebizweni likaJesu Khristu. Yikho base becela uPhethro

ukuthi ahlale labo okwezinsukwana ezithile.

UPhethro Uyachaza Ngokwenza Kwakhe

11 Abaphostoli labazalwane kulo lonke elaseJudiya bezwa ukuthi abeZizwe labo base belamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ²Yikho kwathi uPhethro esebuyele eJerusalema, abaJuda, amakholwa asokileyo, bamsola ³bathi, "Wangena endlini yabantu abangasokanga wadla labo."

⁴UPhethro waqalisa ngokubendlalela konke wakucasisa njengokwenzakala kwakho: ⁵Wathi, "Ngangisedolobheni laseJopha ngikhuleka, ngehlelwa yisiyezi-phupho ngaba lombono. Ngabona ulutho lungathi lilembu elikhulu lisehliselwa phansi ngamagumbi alo womane livela ezulwini, lehlela phansi lapho engangikhona. ⁶Ngakhangelela phakathi kwalo ngabona izinyamazana zomhlaba zezinyawo ezine, izilo zeganga, izinanakazana lezinyoni zemoyeni. ⁷Ngasengisizwa ilizwi lingitshela lisithi, 'Phakama, Phethro. Bulala udle.'

⁸"Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Hatshi bo, Nkosi! Kowami umlomo kakukaze kungene ulutho olungahlanzekanga loba olungcolileyo.'

⁹"Ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili livela ezulwini lathi, 'Ungabokuthi ulutho kaluhlanzekanga nxa seluhlanjululwe nguNkulunkulu.' ¹⁰Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, konke kwase kubuyiselwa njalo ezulwini.

¹¹"Ngasonaleso sikhathi amadoda amathathu ayethunywe kimi evela eKhesariya afika endlini engangihlala kuyo. ¹²UMoya wangitshela ukuthi ngingathandabuzi ukuhamba labo. Laba

abazalwane abayisithupha labo bahamba lami sayangena endlini yendoda leyo.

¹³ Yasitshela ukuthi yabona ingilosi endlini yayo isithi, 'Biza uSimoni othiwa nguPhethro eJopha. ¹⁴ Uzakulethela ilizwi eliyilo elizakusindisa wena kanye lendlu yakho.'

¹⁵ "Kwathi ngiqalisa nje ukukhuluma, uMoya oNgcwele wehlela phezu kwabo njengoba wehlela kithi ekuqaleni.

¹⁶ Yikho ngase ngikhumbula okwatshiwo yiNkosi isithi, 'UJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa lina lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya oNgcwele.' ¹⁷ Ngakho uma uNkulunkulu wabanika sona lesosipho asinika sona lapho sakholwa eNkosini uJesu Khristu, ngangingubani mina engangingakhumbula ukumelana loNkulunkulu na?"

¹⁸ Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu, kababe besaba lansolo, badumisa uNkulunkulu, besithi, "Yebo kambe, uNkulunkulu usebanikile labo abeZizwe ukuphendukela ekuphileni."

Ibandla E-Antiyokhi

¹⁹ Kwathi labo ababehlakazekile ngenxa yokuhlukunyezwa okwakuphathelene loStefane bahamba baze bayafika eFenikhe, leKhuphro le-Antiyokhi betshumayela ilizwi kubaJuda kuphela. ²⁰ Kodwa abanye babo, amadoda ayevela eKhuphro laseKhurene, baya e-Antiyokhi batshumayela kumaGriki lawo, bebatshela ngezindaba ezinhle ngeNkosi uJesu. ²¹ INkosi yayibasekela, yikho abantu abanengi bakholwa baphendukela eNkosini.

²² Ibandla eliseJerusalema lakuzwa lokhu laselithumela uBhanaba e-Antiyokhi. ²³ Ekufikeni kwakhe wazibona izithelo zomusa kaNkulunkulu, wathokoza njalo wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi baqinisele

eNkosini ngezinhliziyi zabo zonke.

²⁴ Wayeyindoda elungileyo, egcwele uMoya oNgcwele lokukholwa. Abantu abanengi kakhulu balethwa enkosini.

²⁵ UBhanaba wasesiya eThasu ukuyadinga uSawuli. ²⁶ Esemfumene wahamba laye e-Antiyokhi. Yikho okomnyaka wonke uBhanaba loSawuli babehlangana lebandla befundisa abantu abanengi kakhulu. Abafundi baqalisa ukubizwa ngokuthi ngamaKhristu e-Antiyokhi.

²⁷ Ngasonalesi isikhathi abanye abaphrofethi bafika e-Antiyokhi bevela eJerusalema. ²⁸ Omunye wabo owayethiwa ngu-Agabhu wasukuma eholwa nguMoya wabonisa ukuthi kuzakuba lendlala embi eyayizabakhona kulolonke ilizwe lombuso wamaRoma. (Lokhu kwenzakala ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaKlawudiyu.) ²⁹ Abafundi bazimisela ukunika usizo kubazalwane ababehlala eJudiya, ngulowo enika ngokwamandla akhe. ³⁰ Bakwenza lokhu, bathumeza iziphosho zabo kubadala ngoBhanaba loSawuli.

Ummangaliso Wokuphuma KukaPhethro Entolongweni

12 Kungathi kwakuyisonalesi isikhathi lapho iNkosi uHerodi yabopha abanye ababe ngabebandla eqonde ukubahlukumeza. ² Wabulalisa uJakhobe umfowabo kaJohane ngenkamba. ³ Wathi ngokubona ukuthi lokho kwakuthabisa abaJuda wabopha njalo loPhethro. Lokho kwenzakala ngezinsuku zoMkhosi weSinkwa Esingelamvubelo. ⁴ Esembophile wamphosela entolongweni, wamnikela ukuba alindwe ngamaqula amane amabutho ngalinye lilamabutho amane. UHerodi wayefuna ukuthi ngemuva kwePhasika

amkhuphele obala athonisiswe phambi kwabantu.

⁵Ngakho uPhethro wagcinwa entolongweni, kodwa ibandla laphitsheka limkhulekela kuNkulunkulu.

⁶Ngobusuku obandulela ukuthonisiswa kukaPhethro nguHerodi, uPhethro wayelele ephahlwe ngamabutho amabili, ebotsiwe ngamaketane amabili, kumi abalindi entubeni. ⁷Masinyane ingilosi yeNkosi yavela, kwabakhona ukukhanya kulelokamela lentolongo. Yaphumputha uPhethro ohlangothini yamvusa, yathi, "Phangisa, vuka!" Amaketane akhithika ezingalweni zikaPhethro.

⁸Ingilosi yasisithi kuye, "Gqoka, ufake lamanyathelo akho." UPhethro wenzenjalo. Ingilosi yamtshela yathi, "Yembatha ijazi lakho ungilandele. ⁹UPhethro wayilandela ngaphandle kwentolongo, kodwa wayedidekile engakwazi ukuthi lokho ingilosi eyayikwenza kwakusenzakala ngempela; wayekhumbula ukuthi ubona umbono. ¹⁰Bedlula kubalindi, owokuqala lowesibili bafika esangweni lensimbi elaliphumela edolobheni. Lazivulekela baphuma. Kwathi sebehambe baphutsha umgwaqo wedolobho, ingilosi yaphanga yamtshiya.

¹¹Kwayikhona uPhethro eqaqabuka, wathi, "Khatesi sengisazi kungelakuthandabuza ukuthi iNkosi ithume ingilosi yayo yangihlenga ezibotshweni zikaHerodi lakukho konke obekufiswa ngabaJuda."

¹²Sekumkhanyela kuhle lokhu, waqonda endlini kaMariya unina kaJohane, owayethiwa njalo nguMakho, lapho abantu abanengi babebuthene khona bekhuleka. ¹³UPhethro waqoqoda entubeni yangaphandle, kwathi inceku eyintombazana eyayithiwa nguRoda yayabuza ukuthi ngubani owayesemnyango. ¹⁴Isilizwile ilizwi

likaPhethro yathaba yafa, yagijimela phakathi ingasawuvulanga, yabika yathi, "UPhethro usemnyango!"

¹⁵Bathi, "Uyahlanya wena." Kwathi ngoba wala elokhu ephikelela ukuthi liqiniso, bathi, "Kutsho ukuthi yingilosi yakhe."

¹⁶Kodwa uPhethro wala elokhu eqoqoda, bathi bevula umnyango bambona, bamangala kakhulu.

¹⁷UPhethro wabatshengisa ngesandla ukuthi bathule, wasebalandisela ukuthi iNkosi yamkhupha kanjani entolongweni. Wathi, "Libotshela uJakhobe labazalwane ngalokhu. Wasesuka waya kwenye indawo.

¹⁸Ekuseni kwaba lokunyakazela okukhulu phakathi kwabebutho. Babuza bathi, "Kambe ngabe uPhethro wenzenjani?" ¹⁹Kwathi uHerodi esemthungathe waze wabeka phansi, wasethonisisa abalindi wasesithi kababulawe.

Ukufa KukaHerodi

UHerodi wasuka eJudiya waya eKhesariya wayahlala khona okwesikhathi esithile. ²⁰Wayekade exabana labantu beThire labeSidoni; basebehlangu ndawonye bacela ukukhuluma laye. Sebezuzo ukusekelwa nguBhlastu inceku ethembekileyo enkosini, bacela ukuthula ngokuba ukudla kwabo babekuthola elizweni lenkosi.

²¹Mhla wosuku olumisiweyo uHerodi wagqoka ezobukhosi wahlala esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi wasekhuluma ebantwini. ²²Bamemeza bathi, "Leli yilizwi likankulunkulu, hatshi elomuntu. ²³Masinyane nje, ngenxa yokuthi uHerodi wayengamkhonzi uNkulunkulu, ingilosi yeNkosi yamtshaya yamhlala phansi wadliwa zimpethu wafa.

²⁴ Kodwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu laqhubeka likhula njalo lisanda.

²⁵ Kwathi uBhanaba loSawuli sebewuqedile umlandu wabo, babuyela besuka eJerusalema, bahamba loJohane, owayethiwa njalo nguMakho.

Ukuthunywa KukaBhanaba LoSawuli

13 Ebandleni elalise-Antiyokhi

kwakulabaphrofethi labafundisi: uBhanaba, loSimeyoni owayethiwa nguNigeri, loLusiya waseKhurene, loManayeni (owayekhuliswe loHerodi umbusi) kanye loSawuli. ² Kwathi beyikhonza iNkosi njalo bezilile uMoya oNgcwele wathi, "Ngahlukaniselani uBhanaba loSawuli baye emsebenzini engibabizele wona." ³ Yikho bathi sebezilile njalo sebekhulekile, bababeka izandla babakhupha.

Kuyiwa EKhuphro

⁴ Bonke bobabili baholwa nguMoya oNgcwele behlela eSelusiya lapho abawela khona ngomkhumbi baya eKhuphro. ⁵ Bathi sebefikile eSalami, balitshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu emasinagogeni abaJuda. UJohane wayelabo engumsizi wabo.

⁶ Basibhoda sonke isihlengi baze bafika ePhafo. Khonapho bafumana umJuda oyisanuse, njalo ongumphrofethi wamanga owayethiwa nguBha-Jesu, ⁷ owayeyinceku kasibalukhulu, uSegiwu Phawuli. Usibalukhulu lowo, indoda ekhaliphileyo, yathumela ukuthi kubizwe oBhanaba loSawuli ngokuba wayefuna ukuzwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ⁸ Kodwa u-Elima isanuse (phela yikho ibizo lakhe elikutshoyo) waphikisana labo wazama ukuphambukisa usibalukhulu ekukholweni. ⁹ Kwasekusithi uSawuli, owayethiwa njalo nguPhawuli, egcwele

uMoya oNgcwele wamjolozela u-Elima wathi, ¹⁰ "Wena ungumntwana kaSathane lesitha sakho konke okulungileyo! Ugcwele zonke izinhlobo zokudlelezela. Kawuyikufa wakhawula yini ukuhlinikeza izindlela eziqondileyo? ¹¹ Khathesi-ke isandla seNkosi sizakutshaya. Uzakuba yimpumpethe, awuzukubona ukukhanya kwelanga okwesikhathi esithile."

Masinyane wehlelwa yinkungu lomnyama, waphumputha, waswela umuntu wokumhola ngesandla. ¹² Kwathi usibalukhulu esekubonile lokho okwakwenzakele wakholwa, ngoba wamangaliswa yimfundiso ngeNkosi.

E-Antiyokhi YasePhisidiya

¹³ Besuka ePhafo uPhawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe bawela ngomkhumbi baya ePhega esePhamfiliya lapho uJohane abatshiya khona esebuyela eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Besuka ePhega baya e-Antiyokhi yasePhisidiya. NgeSabatha bangena esinagogeni bahlala phansi. ¹⁵ Sekubaliwe eMthethweni labaPhrofethi, ababusi besinagogi bedlulisela ilizwi kubo lisithi, "Bazalwane, uma lilelizwi lokukhuthaza abantu, khulumani."

¹⁶ UPhawuli wasukuma wamtshengisa ngesandla wathi: "Madoda ako-Israyeli kanye lani abeZizwe abakhonza uNkulunkulu, ngilalelani!

¹⁷ UNkulunkulu wabantu bako-Israyeli wakhetha okhokho bethu wenza abantu baphumelela ngesikhathi behlezi eGibhithe. Ngamandla amakhulu wabakhupha kulelolizwe ¹⁸ wababekezelela ekuhambeni kwabo okweminyaka engamatshumi amane besenkangala. ¹⁹ Wachitha izizwe eziyisikhombisa eKhenani wanika ilizwe lazo abantu bakhe laba yilifa labo. ²⁰ Konke lokho kwathatha iminyaka engama 450.

"Ngemuva kwalokhu uNkulunkulu wababekela abehluleli kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaSamuyeli umphrofethi.

²¹ Abantu basebecela inkosi, wabanika uSawuli indodana kaKhishi, owesizwana sikaBhenjamini, wabusa iminyaka engamatshumi amane. ²² Ngemuva kokuba esemsusile uSawuli, wabeka uDavida waba yinkosi. Wafakaza ngaye wathi: 'Sengifumane uDavida indodana kaJese, indoda ethandwa yinhliziyi yami; uzakwenza konke engifuna ukuba akwenze.' ²³ Esizukulwaneni sale indoda uNkulunkulu uselethe ko-Israyeli uMsindisi uJesu njengokuthembisa kwakhe. ²⁴ Mandulo kokufika kukaJesu, uJohane watshumayela ukuphenduka lokubhaphathizwa kubo bonke abantu bako-Israyeli. ²⁵ UJohane esewuphetha umsebenzi wakhe wathi; 'Licabanga ukuthi ngingubani na? Kangisuye lowo. Hatshi, kodwa uyeza ngemva kwami, omanyathelo akhe akungilingananga ukuthi ngiwathukulule.'

²⁶ "Bazalwane, bantwana baka-Abrahama lani beZizwe elimesabayo uNkulunkulu, lelilizwi lensindiso selithunyelwe kithi. ²⁷ Abantu baseJerusalema kanye lababusi babo kabamamukelanga uJesu, ikanti kwathi ngokumlahla bagcwalisa amazwi abaphrofethi afundwayo ngamaSabatha wonke. ²⁸ Lokuba bengazange bafumane ubufakazi obuqondileyo ukuthi agwetshelwe ukubulawa, bacela uPhilathu ukuthi abulawe. ²⁹ Bathi sebekwenzile konke lokho okwakulotshwe ngaye, bamethula emthini bamlalisa ethuneni. ³⁰ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, ³¹ Wabonwa okwezinsuku ezinengi yilabo abahamba laye besuka eGalile besiya eJerusalema. Manje yibo asebe ngofakazi kubantu bakithi.

³² "Silitshela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi: Lokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa

okhokho bethu ³³ usesigcwalisele khona, thina abantwababo, ngokumvusa uJesu kwabafuleyo. Njengalokhu kubhaliwe eHubeni lesibili ukuthi:

“ 'UyiNdodana yami;
lamuhla senginguYihlo.'

³⁴ Lokho ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, engasoze abole lanini, kucacisiwe kula amazwi:

“ 'Ngizakunika izibusiso ezingcwele eziqinisekileyo ezathenjiswa uDavida.'

³⁵ Kanjalo kulotshiwe kwenye indawo ukuthi:

“ 'Kawusoze uyeke oNgcwele wakho ezwe ukubola.'

³⁶ "Ngoba kwathi uDavida eseyifezile injongo kaNkulunkulu ngalesosikhathi aphila kuso; walala; wambelwa labokhokho bakhe, umzimba wakhe wabola. ³⁷ Kodwa lowo uNkulunkulu amvusayo kwabafuleyo kazange akuzwe ukubola.

³⁸ “Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, ngithanda ukuba lazi ukuthi ngoJesu ukuthethelelwa kwezono kuyatshunyayelwa kini. ³⁹ Ngaye bonke abakhulwayo sebhlanjululwe kukho konke abebe ngeke bahlanjululwe kukho ngomthetho kaMosi. ⁴⁰ Qaphelani ukuthi lokho okwakhulunywa ngaphrofethi kungenzakali kini, ukuthi:

⁴¹ “ ‘Khangelani, lina bachothozi,
mangalani libhubhe,
ngokuba ngizakwenza ulutho
ngezinsuku zenu

lokho elalingeke likukholwe loba
likutshelwa ngubani.'

⁴² Kwathi uPhawuli loBhanaba sebesuka esinagogeni abantu babanxusa ukuthi babuye bazokhuluma njalo ngalezizinto ngeSabatha elilandelayo.

⁴³ Abantu sebecithetekile abaJuda abanengi lamakholwa ayephendukele enkonzweni yesiJuda balandela uPhawuli loBhanaba, bona bakhuluma labo bebakhuthaza ukuthi baqhubeke bebambebele emuseni kaNkulunkulu.

⁴⁴ NgeSabatha elilandelayo phose lonke idolobho labuthana ukuzakuzwa ilizwi leNkosi. ⁴⁵ Kwathi abaJuda bebona amaxuku abantu, baba lomona bakhuluma behlinikeza lokho okwakutshiwo nguPhawuli.

⁴⁶ Yikho uPhawuli loBhanaba basebebaphendula ngesibindi bathi: "Besimele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu silikhulume kini kuqala. Kodwa njengoba lililahla ngoba lizibona lina lingakufanelanga ukuphila okungapheliyo, khathesi sesiphendukela kwabeZizwe. ⁴⁷ Phela nanku iNkosi esisiyale khona yathi:

“ ‘Sengilenze isibane sabeZizwe,
ukuthi lilethe insindiso
emikhawulweni yomhlaba.' ”

⁴⁸ Kwathi abeZizwe bekuzwa lokhu bathaba, balidumisa ilizwi leNkosi; kwathi bonke ababemiselwe ukuphila okungapheliyo bakholwa.

⁴⁹ Ilizwi leNkosi landa ummango wonke. ⁵⁰ Kodwa abaJuda bathela umoya omubi kwabesifazana abahlonitshwayo ababekholwa lamadoda ayengabakhokheli bedolobho. Bakhwezela ukuhlukuluzwa kwaboPhawuli loBhanaba, babaxotsha emmangweni wakibo. ⁵¹ Yikho

bathintitha uthuli ezinyaweni zabo bebakhalala baqonda e-Ikhoniyami. ⁵² Abafundi bacicima ngentokozo langoMoya oNgcwele.

E-Ikhoniyami

14 E-Ikhoniyami uPhawuli

loBhanaba baya esinagogeni yabaJuda njengenjayelo yabo. Khonapho bakhuluma kwezwele kwaze kwathi abaJuda abanengi labeZizwe bakholwa.

² Kodwa abaJuda ababengafuni ukukholwa badunga abeZizwe, babathela umoya omubi ngabazalwane.

³ UPhawuli loBhanaba bahlala isikhathi eside khona lapho bekhulumela iNkosi ngesibindi. INkosi yaqinisa ilizwi lomusa wayo ngokubapha amandla okwenza imimangaliso lezimanga.

⁴ Abantu bedolobho lelo badabukana phakathi; abanye bema lamaJuda, kwathi abanye basekela abaphostoli. ⁵ Abezizwe labaJuda ndawonye labakhokheli babo bakha icebo lokubahlukumeza lokubakhanda ngamatshe. ⁶ Kodwa balizwa icebo lelo basebebalekela emadolobheni aseLikhawoniya, eListra leDebhe lasemimangweni yakhona, ⁷ lapho abaqhubeka khona ukutshumayela izindaba ezinhle.

EListra LaseDebhe

⁸ EListra kwakulendoda eyayiyisigoga ikwazi ukuhlala kuphela, ilokhu yazalwayo ingakaze ihambe. ⁹ Yamlalela uPhawuli lapho wayekhuluma.

UPhawuli wayijolozela wabona ukuthi yayikhulwa ukuba ingasiliswa ¹⁰ wasememeza wathi, "Sukuma ngezinyawo zakho!" Ngalokho indoda yathi lothu yahle yahamba.

¹¹ Kwathi ixuku labantu selikubonile okwakwenziwe nguPhawuli lamemeza ngolimi lwesiLikhawoniya lathi,

"Onkulunkulu sebehlele kithi belesimo sabantu!" ¹² UBhanaba bambiza bathi nguZewusi, uPhawuli bathi nguHemesi ngokuba nguye owayekhokhela ekukhulumeni. ¹³ Umphristi kaZewusi owayelethempeli eduze ngaphandle kwedolobho waletha izinkunzi lemigaxo emasangweni edolobho ngokuba yena kanye lexuku labantu babefuna ukwenza imihlatshelo kubo.

¹⁴ Kodwa kwathi abaphostoli uBhanaba loPhawuli bekuzwa lokhu, badabula izigqoko zabo bazithela phakathi kwabantu bememeza besithi: ¹⁵ "Madoda, likwenzelani lokhu? Lathi singabantu njengani. Sililethela izindaba ezinhle, silitshela ukuthi litshiye izinto lezi ezingasulutho liye kuNkulunkulu ophilayo owenza izulu, lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukulezo zindawo. ¹⁶ Ngesikhathi esidlulileyo, waziyekela izizwe zonke zahamba ngezindlela zazo. ¹⁷ Ikanti kazange ayekele ukuzifakazela: Utshengisile umusa ngokulipha izulu laphezulu lamabele ngesikhathi sawo; ulipha ukudla okunengi njalo agcwalise izinhliziyu zenu ngentokozo." ¹⁸ Loba sebetsho lamazwi baba lobunzima ukuyekelisa abantu bonke ukuba benze umhlatshelo kubo.

¹⁹ Kwasekufika abaJuda bevela e-Antiyokhi lase-Ikhoniyami bafika baqubula abantu. UPhawuli bamkhanda ngamatshe bamhudulela ngaphandle kwedolobho, becabanga ukuthi wayesefile. ²⁰ Kodwa ngemuva kokuba abafundi sebembuthanele, waphaphama wabuyela edolobheni. Ngosuku olulandelayo yena loBhanaba basuka baya eDebhe.

Babuyela E-Antiyokhi EseSiriya

²¹ Bazitshumayela izindaba ezinhle kulelodelobho bazuza inani elikhulu labafundi. Yikho base bebuyela eListra,

le-Ikhoniyami le-Antiyokhi ²² beqinisa abafundi njalo bebakhuthaza ukuthi babambelele ekukholweni. Bathi, "Kufanele sedlule ezinhlungwini ezinengi ukuze singene embusweni kaNkulunkulu." ²³ UPhawuli loBhanaba babakhethela abadala kulelo lalalo ibandla, babanikela eNkosini ngomthandazo langokuzila ngoba bebeke ithemba labo kuyo iNkosi. ²⁴ Sebehambe bedlula ePhisidiya, bafika ePhamfiliya, ²⁵ kwathi sebetshumayele ilizwi ePhega base besiya e-Athaliya.

²⁶ Besuka e-Athaliya bawela ngomkhumbi babuyela e-Antiyokhi, lapho ababenikelwe khona emuseni kaNkulunkulu ukwenza umsebenzi lowo abasebewufezile. ²⁷ Ekufikeni kwabo khona, balihlanganisa ndawonye ibandla balibikela konke lokho uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo, lokuthi wayesevulele abeZizwe umnyango wokukholwa. ²⁸ Bahlala khona isikhathi eside labafundi.

Umhlangano Omkhulu EJerusalema

15 Amadoda athile eza e-Antiyokhi evela eJudiya afika afundisa abazalwane esithi: "Ngaphandle kokuthi lisokwe ngendlela yomkhuba eyafundiswa nguMosi lingeke lisindiswe." ² Lokhu kwenza uPhawuli loBhanaba baphikisana labo kakhulu. Yikho uPhawuli loBhanaba bakhethwa kanye lamanye amakholwa ukuthi baye eJerusalema ukuyabona abaphostoli labadala ngalolu udaba. ³ Ibandla labavalelisa. Bathi bedabula eFenikhiya leSamariya balandisa ngokuthi abeZizwe base bephendukile. Indaba le yathokozisa bonke abazalwane. ⁴ Bafika eJerusalema bemukelwa kuhle libandla langabaphostoli labadala, bababikela konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo.

⁵ Kwasekusithi abanye bamakholwa ababe ngabebandla labaFarisi bema bathi, "AbeZizwe bamele basokwe njalo batshelwe ukuthi balandele umthetho kaMosi."

⁶ Abaphostoli labadala bahlangana bakhuluma ngale indaba. ⁷ Ngemuva kokuphikisana okukhulu uPhethro wasukuma wakhuluma kubo wathi: "Bazalwane, liyakwazi ukuthi esikhathini esidlulileyo uNkulunkulu wangikhetha phakathi kwenu ukuthi abeZizwe bezwe kwezami izindebe ilizwi levangeli bakholwe.

⁸ UNkulunkulu owazi inhliziyu watshengisa ukuthi uyabemukela ngokubapha uMoya oNgcwele, njengalokhu akwenzayo kithi.

⁹ Kenzanga umahluko phakathi kwethu labo, ngokuba wahlanza izinhliziyu zabo ngokukholwa. ¹⁰ Pho-ke lizamelani ukulinga uNkulunkulu ngokwethesa abafundi ijogwe thina labokhokho bethu esehluleka ukulithwala? ¹¹ Hatshi! Sikholwa ukuthi sisindiswa ngomusa weNkosi uJesu, njengabo labo."

¹² Wonke umhlangano wathula zwi balalela uBhanaba loPhawuli belandisa ngemimangaliso lezimanga uNkulunkulu ayezenzile kwabeZizwe ngabo. ¹³ Bathi sebeqedile uJakhobe wakhuluma wathi: "Bazalwane, ake lingilalele. ¹⁴ USimoni usesilandisele ngokuthi ekuqaleni uNkulunkulu watshengisa njani ukunakekela kwakhe abeZizwe ngokukhetha phakathi kwabo abantu ukuba babe ngabakhe. ¹⁵ Amazwi abaphrofethi ayavumelana lalokhu, njengalokhu kulotshiwe kuthiwa:

¹⁶ "Ngemva kwalokhu ngizabuya ngakhe kutsha indlu kaDavida ewileyo.

Amanxiwa ayo ngizawavuselela, njalo ngizayimisa kutsha,

¹⁷ ukwenzela ukuthi lonke uluntu luyidinge iNkosi, kanye labeZizwe abaziwa ngebizo lami, kutsho iNkosi eyenzayo lezizinto, ¹⁸ ezivele zisaziwa kusukela ekadeni.'

¹⁹ "Yikho ngokubona kwami, kakumelanga sikwenze kube lukhuni kwabeZizwe asebephendukela kuNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Esikhundleni salokho kasibalobeleni sibatshele ukuthi kabaxwaye ukudla okungcoliswe yizithombe, lokuphinga, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lobubende. ²¹ Phela uMosi sekwatshunyayelwa ngaye kuwo wonke amadolobho kusukela kudaladala njalo kufundwa ngaye emasinagogeni amaSabatha wonke."

Incwadi Yomhlangano Omkhulu Kumakholwa Abezizwe

²² Abaphostoli labadala kanye lebandla lonke bamisa ukukhetha abanye babo babathume e-Antiyokhi loPhawuli loBhanaba. Bakhetha uJuda owayethiwa nguBhasaba, loSila, la engamadoda amabili ayengabakhokheli kubazalwane. ²³ Babaphathisa incwadi le:

"Abaphostoli labadala, abazalwane benu,

KwabeZizwe abakholwayo e-Antiyokhi, laseSiriya laseKhilikhiya:

Siyalibingelela.

²⁴ Sesizwile ukuthi bakhona abasuka kithi bengelamvumo yethu bafika balidunga, bekhathaza izingqondo zenu ngalokho ababekutsho. ²⁵ Ngakho sivumelene sonke ukukhetha amadoda

athile siwathumele kini labangane bethu abathandekayo, uBhanaba loPhawuli -²⁶amadoda adele izimpilo zawo ngenxa yebizo leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.²⁷Ngakho sithumela uJuda loSila ukugcwalisa ngomlomo lokhu esikulobayo.²⁸Kubonakele kufanele kuMoya oNgcwele lakithi ukuthi singalisindisi ngalutho bani ngaphandle kwezimiso ezilandelayo:²⁹Xwayani ukudla okunikelwe izithombe, ububende, inyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo kanye lokuphinga. Lizabe lenze kuhle uma lizixwaya lezizinto.

Salani kuhle."

³⁰Bawavalelisa amadoda bahamba baya e-Antiyokhi, lapho abafika bahlanganisa ibandla ndawonye bayethula incwadi.³¹Abantu bayibala bathokoza ngenxa yamazwi ayo aqinisayo.³²UJuda loSila, bona ngokwabo ababengabaphrofethi, bakhuluma okunengi ukukhuthaza lokuqinisa abazalwane.³³Sebehlale isikhathi esithile khonapho, abazalwane babavalelisa ngesibusiso sokuthula, sebebuyela kulabo ababathumayo.

(³⁴Kodwa uSila wakhetha ukusala khona.)³⁵Kodwa uPhawuli loBhanaba basala e-Antiyokhi, lapho bona kanye labanye abanengi bafundisa njalo batshumayela ilizwi leNkosi.

Ukungavumelani KukaPhawuli LoBhanaba

³⁶Sekungesinye isikhathi esiphambili uPhawuli wathi kuBhanaba, "Kasibuyele emuva siyobona abazalwane emadolobheni wonke esitshumayele khona ilizwi leNkosi siyebona ukuthi baqhuba njani."³⁷UBhanaba wayefuna ukuthi bahambe loJohane, owayethiwa nguMakho,³⁸kodwa uPhawuli wakubona kungafanele ukuhamba laye

ngoba wayeke wabafulathela besePhamfiliya kaze aqhubeka labo emsebenzini.³⁹Baphikisana kakubi baze bacina betshiyana. UBhanaba wamthatha uMakho bawelela eKhuphro,⁴⁰kodwa uPhawuli wakhetha ukuhamba loSila, basuka bebekwe ngabazalwane emuseni weNkosi.⁴¹Wahamba phakathi kweSiriya leKhilikhiya eqinisa amabandla.

UThimothi Usebenza LoPhawuli LoSila

16 Wafika eDebhe wedlulela eListra

lapho okwakuhlala khona umfundi owayethiwa nguThimothi, olonina owaye ngumJudakazi, elikholwa, kodwa uyise engumGiriki.²Abazalwane baseListra lase-Ikhoniyami babembuka.³UPhawuli wayefuna ukuhamba laye, yikho wasemsoka ngenxa yabaJuda bakuleyondawo ngoba bonke babekwazi ukuthi uyise waye ngumGiriki.⁴Ekuhambeni kwabo kulelo lalelo idolobho, babezethula izinqumo ezenziwa ngabaphostoli labadala eJerusalema ukuze abantu bazilandele.⁵Yikho amabandla aqiniswa ekukholweni abantu banda mihla yonke.

Umbono KaPhawuli Ngendoda YeMakhedoniya

⁶UPhawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe balibhoda lonke elommango waseFrigiya laseGalathiya, uMoya oNgcwele usumalele ukuthi atshumayele ilizwi elizweni lase-Asiya.⁷Bathi sebefike emngceleni waseMisiya, bazama ukungena eBhithiniya, kodwa uMoya kaJesu kawubavumelanga.⁸Ngakho bedlula eceleni kweMisiya behlela eThrowa.⁹Ebusuku uPhawuli wehlelwa ngumbono wendoda yaseMakhedoniya imi imncenga isithi, "Woza eMakhedoniya uzosisiza."

¹⁰UPhawuli esebone umbono lowo, sahle salungisa masinyane ukuthi siye eMakhedoniya, sibona ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayesibizile ukuba sitshumayele ivangeli kubo.

Ukuphenduka KukaLidiya EFiliphi

¹¹Sasuka eThrowa sawela ulwandle sandenda saqonda eSamathrake, kwathi ngakusasa sedlulela eNiyapholi.

¹²Sesisuka lapho saya eFiliphi, elaliyilona dolobho elikhulu lesiqinti seMakhedoniya eyayibuswa ngamaRoma. Sahlala lapho okwezinsuku ezinengi.

¹³NgeSabatha saphumela ngaphandle kwamasango omuzi saya emfuleni sifuna indawo yokukhuleka. Sahlala phansi saqalisa ukukhuluma labesifazana abase bebuthene khonapho. ¹⁴Omunye walabo ababelalele ngowesifazana okwakuthiwa nguLidiya, umthengisi welembu eliyibubende evela edolobheni laseThiyathira, engumkhonzi kaNkulunkulu. INkosi yayivula inhliziyo yakhe ukuba emukele ilizwi likaPhawuli. ¹⁵Kwathi yena kanye labendlu yakhe sebebhaphathiziwe, wasinxusela emzini wakhe. Wathi, "Nxa lingemukela njengekholwa eNkosini, wozani lizohlala endlini yami." Wasincenga savuma.

UPhawuli LoSila Entolongweni

¹⁶Ngelinye ilanga sathi sisiya endaweni yokukhuleka sahlanguana lentombazana eyayiyisigqili, ilomoya wokubonisa ikusasa. Yayizuzela abanini bayo imali enengi ngalokhokuhlhlula.

¹⁷Intombazana le yalandela uPhawuli lathi sonke imemeza isithi, "Amadoda la ayizinceku zikaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke, alitshela indlela yokusindiswa." ¹⁸Yakwenza lokhu okwezinsuku ezinengi. Ekucineni

uPhawuli kwamjinga lokho waphenduka wathi kuwo umoya, "Ngiyakulaya ngebizo likaJesu Khristu ukuthi uphume kuyo!" Umoya wahle waphuma kuyo khonapho.

¹⁹Abanikazi bentombazana bathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi ithemba labo lokuzuza imali lase linyamalele, bababamba oPhawuli loSila babadonsela enkundleni yokuthengisa ukuba bayoqondana leziphathamandla.

²⁰Babamisa phambi kwabomantshi bathi, "Amadoda la angamaJuda asebedunga idolobho lakithi ²¹ngokukhuthaza imikhubo engaphandle komthetho ukuthi thina amaRoma siyamukele kumbe siyilandele."

²²Ixuku layingenela indaba yokuhlasela uPhawuli loSila, yikho omantshi bathi kabakhululwe izigqoko batshaywe. ²³Sebebabhansile kabuhlungu babaphosela entolongweni kwathiwa umlindijele kabakhangele aqinisise. ²⁴Esezwe lowomlayo wabafuqela endlini yentolongo ephakathi wababopha izinyawo wazibophela ezinsikeni.

²⁵Sekungaba phakathi kwamabili ebusuku uPhawuli loSila bakhuleka bahlabela amahubo kuNkulunkulu, ezinye izibotshwa zibalalele.

²⁶Masinyane kwaba lokuzamazama komhlaba kwaze kwanyikinyeka izisekelo zentolongo. Izivalo zentolongo zathi gwabu zavuleka, amaketane ezibotshwa athukuluka. ²⁷Umlindijele waphaphama, wathi ngokubona iminyango yentolongo ivulekile wakhokha inkemba yakhe esefuna ukuzibulala ngoba ekhumbula ukuthi izibotshwa zasezibalekile. ²⁸Kodwa uPhawuli wamemeza wathi, "Ungazilimazi bo! Sikhona sonke!"

²⁹Umlindijele wathi kakulethwe izibane, wangena wazilahla phambi kukaPhawuli loSila eqhaqhazela.

³⁰ Wasebakhuphela phandle wababuza wathi, "Madoda, ngenzeni ukuze ngisindiswe na?"

³¹ Baphendula bathi, "Kholwa eNkosini uJesu, uzasindiswa - wena kanye lendlu yakho." ³² Base bemtshumayeza ilizwi leNkosi kanye labanye abendlu yakhe. ³³ Ngalelohora lebusuku umlindijele wabathatha wabagezisa imvimvinya zabo; kwasekusithi khonokho nje yena labendlu yakhe bahle babhaphathizwa. ³⁴ Umlindijele wabesa endlini yakhe wabapha ukudla. Indlu yakhe yonke yaba lokuthokoza ngokuba base bekhulwa kuNkulunkulu.

³⁵ Kwathi sekusile omantshi bathuma amanxusa abo kumlindijele lalo umlayo othi; "Bakhulule abantu labo."

³⁶ Umlindijele watshela uPhawuli wathi, "Omantshi sebethu wena loSila kalikhululwe. Selingahamba. Lihambe kuhle."

³⁷ Kodwa uPhawuli wathi emanxuseni: "Basibhaxuza phambi kwabantu singazange sithonisiswe thina singamaRoma agcweleyo, basiphosela entolongweni. Kanti manje sebefuna ukusikhupha ngasese na? Hatshi! kabeze bona ngokwabo bazosikhupha."

³⁸ Amanxusa akubika lokhu kubomantshi abathi ngokuzwa ukuthi uPhawuli loSila babe ngamaRoma agcweleyo bethuka. ³⁹ Beza ukuzabancenga, babakhupha entolongweni, babacela ukuthi basuke kulelodobho. ⁴⁰ UPhawuli loSila sebephumile entolongweni baya endlini kaLidiya lapho abahlangana khona labazalwane babaqinisa. Basebesuka behamba.

EThesalonika

17 Bathi sebedlule e-Amfipholi le-

Apholoniya, bafika eThesalonika lapho okwakulesinagogi yabaJuda khona.

² Njengenjayelo yakhe uPhawuli waya esinagogeni, kwathi ngezinsuku zamaSabatha amathathu wabonisana labo ngezeMibhalo, ³ echaza njalo eveza obala ukuthi uKhristu wayemele ahlupheke njalo avuke kwabafileyo. Wathi, "UJesu lo engitshumayela ngaye kini unguye uKhristu. ⁴ Abanye abaJuda bakukholwa lokho basebengena kuboPhawuli loSila, njengalokho okwenziwa linani elikhulu lamaGriki abesaba uNkulunkulu, kugoqela abanengi abesifazana abaqakathekileyo.

⁵ Kodwa abaJuda baba lomona; yikho base behuga izixhwali endaweni yokuthengisa, baba lixuku elithile basebevusa umsindo edolobheni. Baphuthumela endlini kaJasoni bedinga uPhawuli loSila befuna ukuba letha phambi kukazulu. ⁶ Kodwa kwathi sebaswele basebedonsela uJasoni labanye abazalwane abathile kubaphathi bedolobho bememeza besithi: "Amadoda la abekade edala uhlupho emhlabeni wonke manje aseze lapha, ⁷ uJasoni yena wawemukela endlini yakhe. Bonke bahlinikeza imithetho kaKhesari besithi kulenye inkosi ethiwa nguJesu." ⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu abantu labaphathi bedolobho badla ubhedu. ⁹ Kwasekuthiwa uJasoni labanye bakhe kabakhuphe isibambiso ngemali ethile, kwayikhona bekhululwa ukuthi bahambe.

EBheriya

¹⁰ Konela ukuthi kuhlwe abazalwane babasusa oPhawuli loSila babasa eBheriya. Ekufikeni kwabo khona baya esinagogeni yamaJuda. ¹¹ AmaBheriya

wona ayelesimilo esingcono kulaleso esamaThesalonika, ngoba balemukela ilizwi ngokuthakazelela bayihlola iMibhalo nsuku zonke ukuze babone ukuthi lokho uPhawuli ayekutsho kwakuliqiniso na. ¹² AbaJuda abanengi bakholwa, kanye labanengi besifazana bamaGiriki abaqakathekileyo lamadoda amanengi amaGiriki.

¹³ Kwathi abaJuda ababeseThesalonika sebezwire ukuthi uPhawuli wayesetshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu eBheriya, baya khona futhi, bathela abantu umoya omubi babadunga. ¹⁴ Abazalwane bahle bathumela uPhawuli ngasogwini lolwandle, kodwa uSila loThimothi basala eBheriya. ¹⁵ Amadoda lawo ayephelekezela uPhawuli amletha e-Athene asebuyela, lomlayezo wokuthi oSila loThimothi baboze bamlandele masinyane.

E-Athene

¹⁶ UPhawuli esabamelele e-Athene, wakhathazeka kakhulu ngokubona ukuthi idolobho lelo laligcwele izithombe. ¹⁷ Ngakho wabonisa labaJuda kanye lamaGiriki ababesababisa uNkulunkulu esinagogeni lasendaweni yokuthengisa zonke izinsuku lalabo ababekhonapho. ¹⁸ Ixuku lezinjulanggondo zama-Ephikhuri lamaStoyikhi baphikisana laye. Abanye babo babuza bathi, "Uwumani lolu luzama ukuthini kanti?" Abanye bathi, "Kungathi utshutshisa ngabonkulunkulu bezizweni." Bakutsho lokhu ngokuba uPhawuli wayetshumayela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu langokuvuka kwabafuleyo. ¹⁹ Basebehamba laye enkundleni ye-Ariyophagu, bafika bathi kuye, "Ake usitshale ukuthi imfundiso le entsha oyethulayo iyini. ²⁰ Uletha ezindlebeni zethu imibono engajayelekanga, yikho sifuna ukwazi

ukuthi itshoni." ²¹ (Wonke ama-Athene labezizwe ababehlala khona babechitha isikhathi sabo bengenzi lutho ngaphandle kokukhuluma lokulalela imibono emitsha.)

²² UPhawuli wasukuma enkundleni ye-Ariyophagu wathi, "Madoda ase-Athene! Ngiyabona ukuthi kukho konke lingabantu abakhonzayo. ²³ Ngoba ngithe ngihambahamba, ngabona izithombe zenu, ngaze ngafumana i-alithare elilombhalo othi: KUNKULUNKULU ONGAZIWAYO. Manje-ke lokho elikukhonza njengolutho olungaziwayo yikho engizakutshumayela kini.

²⁴ "UNkulunkulu owenza umhlaba lakho konke okukuwo uyiNkosi yezulu lomhlaba, njalo kahlali emathempelini akhiwe ngezandla. ²⁵ Njalo kancediswa yizandla zabantu, ingathi kukhona akuswelayo, ngokuba yena ngokwakhe upha bonke abantu impilo lomphfumulo lokunye konke.

²⁶ Ngomuntu oyedwa wenza zonke izizwe zabantu, ukuthi zakhe emhlabeni wonke; njalo wamisa izikhathi abazilungiselweyo lazo kanye izindawo abamele bahlale kuzo. ²⁷ UNkulunkulu wakwenza lokhu ukuze abantu bamdinge lokuthi mhlawumbe bamfinyelele bamfumane, loba nje uvele engakhathshana komunye lomunye wethu. ²⁸ 'Ngokuba siphila kuye, sihambe silalame.' Njengokutsho kwezinye izimbongi zakini ukuthi, 'Singabantwabakhe.'

²⁹ "Yikho-ke njengoba singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, masingacabangi ukuthi ubuNkulunkulu bunjengegolide, loba isiliva kumbe ilitshe - isifanekiso esibunjwe ngobungeitshi bomuntu. ³⁰ Ekadeni uNkulunkulu kakunakanga lokhu ukungazi, kodwa khathesi uselaya bonke abantu ezindaweni zonke ukuba baphenduke. ³¹ Ngoba uselumisile usuku lapho azakwehlulela khona umhlaba

ngokulunga ngomuntu ammisileyo. Usevezile ubufakazi balokhu kubo bonke abantu ngokumvusa kwabafileyo."

³² Bathi besizwa ngokuvuka kwabafileyo, abanye babo bamhoza, kodwa abanye bathi, "Sifuna ukuphinda sikuzwe ukhuluma ngale indaba njalo."
³³ Yikho uPhawuli wasesuka enkundleni.
³⁴ Abantu abathile baba ngabalandeli bakaPhawuli, bakholwa. Phakathi kwabo kwakuloDiyonisiyu owayelilunga le-Ariyophagu, njalo lowesifazana okwakuthiwa nguDamari kanye labanye abalinani elithile.

EKhorinte

18 Ngemuva kwalokho uPhawuli

wasuka e-Athene waya eKhorinte.
² Khonapho wahlangana lomJuda owayethiwa ngu-Akhwila, owasePhontu ngomdabuko, owayesanda kufika lapho evele e-Ithali lomkakhe uPhrisila ngoba uKlawudiya wayekhuphe isinqumo sokuthi amaJuda wonke kawaphume eRoma. UPhawuli wahamba wayababona, ³ kwathi ngoba engumenzi wamathente njengabo wasehlala labo wasebenza labo. ⁴ NgamaSabatha wonke wayesiya esinagogeni ebonisana lamaJuda lamaGiriki ezama ukuwaphendula.

⁵ Kwathi oSila loThimothi sebefikile bevela eMakhedoniya uPhawuli wasenikela isikhathi sakhe sonke ekutshumayeleni kuphela efakaza kubaJuda ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu.
⁶ Kodwa kwathi lapho abaJuda bemphikisa njalo bemchothoza, wathintitha izambatho zakhe phambi kwabo wathi, "Igazi lenu kalibe phezu kwamakhanda enu! Mina sengiwezile owami umlandu. Kusukela manje sengisiya kwabeZizwe."

⁷ UPhawuli wasesuka esinagogeni waya endlini eyayiseceleni, ekaThithiyu Justu, umkhonzi kaNkulunkulu.

⁸ UKhrispu, umphathi wesinagogi, kanye lendlu yakhe yonke bakholwa eNkosini; kwathi labanengi bamaKhorinte abamuzwayo bakholwa babhaphathizwa.

⁹ Ngobunye ubusuku iNkosi yakhuluma kuPhawuli ngombono yathi: "Ungesabi; qhubeka utshumayela. ungathuli.

¹⁰ Phela mina ngilawe, kakho ozakuhlasela akulimaze, ngokuba ngilabantu abanengi kuleli idolobho."

¹¹ Yikho uPhawuli wahlala khona okomnyaka olengxenye, ebafundisa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

¹² Kwathi uGaliyo engusibalukhulu wase-Akhaya, abaJuda bamanyana bamhlasela uPhawuli bamletha emthethwandaba ¹³ bammangalela bathi, "Indoda le idonsela abantu ekukhonzeni uNkulunkulu ngezindlela eziphambene lomthetho."

¹⁴ Kwathi uPhawuli esathi uyakhuluma, uGaliyo wathi kubaJuda, "Uba lina baJuda belibika ngokona okuthile loba icala lokuganga okubi, bekufanele ukuthi ngililalele. ¹⁵ Kodwa njengoba lithezana ngezinto zamazwi lamabizo langomthetho wenu - kulungiseni lina. Mina kangiyikuba ngumahluli wezinto ezinjalo."

¹⁶ Wasesithi kabaxotshwe enkantolo.

¹⁷ Bonke base bephendukela uSosithene, umphathi wesinagogi, bamtshaya phambi kwenkantolo. Kodwa uGaliyo kazange athi thiki lakancane.

UPhrisila Lo-Akhwila Lo-Apholo

¹⁸ UPhawuli waphinda wahlala njalo okwesikhathi esithile eKhorinte. Muva wasetshiya abazalwane wawelela eSiriya, ephelekezelwa nguPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Engakaweli, wagela izinwele

zakhe eKhenkreya ngenxa yesifungo ayesenzile. ¹⁹ Bafika e-Efesu lapho uPhawuli atshiya khona uPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Yena waya esinagogeni wayabonisana lamaJuda. ²⁰ Bamcela ukuthi ahlale okwesikhathi eside, wala. ²¹ Kodwa wathi esesuka wamthembisa wathi, "Ngizabuya, uma kuyintando kaNkulunkulu." Wasewela esuka e-Efesu.

²² Wakhuphukela eKhesariya wahamba wayabingelela ibandla wasehamba esehlala e-Antiyokhi. ²³ Eseke wahlala e-Antiyokhi uPhawuli wasuka lapho wabhoda indawo ngendawo kuwo wonke ummango waseGalathiya lowase, Frigiya eqinisa bonke abafundi.

²⁴ Kusenjalo, umJuda owayethiwa ngu-Apholo, owe-Alekizandriya ngomdabuko, weza e-Efesu. Wayeyindoda efundileyo, ilolwazi olukhulu ngeMibhalo. ²⁵ Yayifundisiwe ngendlela yeNkosi, ikhuluma ngomfutho njalo ifundisa okuqondileyo ngoJesu, isazi ngobhaphathizo lukaJohane kuphela. ²⁶ Yakhuluma ngesibindi esinagogeni. Kwathi oPhrisila lo-Akhwila beyizwa bayinxusa emzini wabo bayichazela ngokugcweleyo indlela kaNkulunkulu.

²⁷ U-Apholo wayefuna ukuya e-Akhaya, abazalwane base bemkhuthaza, babhalela abafundi khonale ukuthi bamamukele. Wathi efika khona waba luncedo olukhulu kulabo ababekholiwe beholwa ngumusa. ²⁸ Ngoba watshukana labaJuda ebaphikisa enkundleni, ebonisa obala eMibhalweni ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu.

UPhawuli e-Efesu

19 Kwathi u-Apholo eseKhorinte

uPhawuli wathatha indlela ehamba phakathi kwelizwe waze wayafika e-Efesu. Khonapho wafumana abafundi abathile ² wababuza wathi, "Lamamukela na uMoya oNgcwele ngesikhathi liqalisa ukukholwa?"

Baphendula bathi, "Hatshi, kasizwanga lokuzwa ukuthi kuloMoya oNgcwele."

³ Yikho uPhawuli wasebuza wathi, "Pho labhaphathizwa ngamkhuba bani?" Baphendula bathi, "Ngobhaphathizo lukaJohane."

⁴ UPhawuli wathi, "Ubhaphathizo lukaJohane lwalulubhaphathizo lokuphenduka. Watshele abantu ukuthi bakholwe kulowo owayezakuza ngemva kwakhe, esitsho ukuthi kuJesu."

⁵ Sebekuzwile lokhu babhaphathizelwa ebizweni leNkosi uJesu. ⁶ UPhawuli esebeke izandla zakhe phezu kwabo uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo, bakhuluma ngezindimi njalo baphrofetha.

⁷ Babe ngamadoda ayengaba litshumi lambili bebonke.

⁸ UPhawuli wangena esinagogeni wakhuluma ngesibindi khona okwezinyanga ezintathu, echaza okusuthisayo ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁹ Kodwa abanye babo baba yiziqholo; bala ukukholwa bakhuluma kubi obala ngeNdlela. UPhawuli wasebatshiya bodwa. Wathatha abafundi wasuka wayahlangana labo baxoxisana nsuku zonke esikolweni sikaThiranu. ¹⁰ Lokhu kwaqhubeka okweminyaka emibili kwazekwathi wonke amaJuda lamaGriki ayehlala kulesosifunda sase-Asiya alizwa ilizwi leNkosi.

¹¹ UNkulunkulu wenza imimangaliso engajayelekanga ngoPhawuli. ¹² Izifinyo

lamathawulo okwakuthintiswe yena kwakusiwa kwabagulayo bahle basile emikhuhlaneni yabo lemimoya emibi iphume kubo.

¹³ Abanye abaJuda ababebhoda bexotsha imimoya emibi bazama ukubiza ibizo leNkosi uJesu kulabo ababekhwelwe ngamadimoni. Babesithi, "Ngebizo likaJesu uPhawuli atshumayela ngaye, ngikulaya ukuthi uphume." ¹⁴ Ababesenza lokhu ngamadodana ayisikhombisa kaSkeva umphristi omkhulu wabaJuda, owayengumphristi omkhulu. ¹⁵ Umoya omubi waphendula wathi, "UJesu ngiyamazi, loPhawuli ngiyamazi, kodwa lina lingobani na?" ¹⁶ Kwasekusithi indoda eyayilomoya omubi yabeqela yabehlula bonke. Yabatshaya okuzwayo baze baphuma endlini bebaleka benqunu njalo besopha igazi.

¹⁷ Kwathi lokhu sekuzwakele kumaJuda lamaGriki ababehlala e-Efesu, bonke bethuka ngokwesaba, yikho ibizo leNkosi uJesu lahlonitshwa kakhulu.

¹⁸ Abanengi balabo abasebekholwa beza baphumela egcekeni bevuma iziphambeko zabo. ¹⁹ Abanengi ababehlalula baletha ndawonye izincwadi-mgoqwa zabo bazitshisa obala. Bathi sebehlolele izindleko zalezozincwadi-mgoqwa kwabonakala kungaba ngamadrakhima ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amahlanu. ²⁰ Ngaleyondlela ilizwi leNkosi landa kabanzi njalo lakhula laba lamandla.

²¹ Ngemuva kwakho konke lokhu sekwenzakele, uPhawuli wazimisela ukuya eJerusalema, ezadlula eMakhedoniya lase-Akhaya. Wathi, "Nxa sengike ngaya khona, kuzamele ngethekelele eRoma lakho." ²² Wathuma ababili abasizi bakhe eMakhedoniya, uThimothi lo-Erastu, yena esasele okwesikhatshana esifundeni sase-Asiya.

Isiyaluyalu E-Efesu

²³ Kusona lesi isikhathi kwaba lokudungeka okukhulu ngeNdlela.

²⁴ Umkhandi wesiliva owayethiwa nguDemetriyu owayesenza amathempelana amancane ngesiliva awokukhonzela u-Arithemisi, wayengenisa imali ezwayo kubakhandi. ²⁵ Wababiza ndawonye, kanye lezinye izisebenzi zemisebenzi efananayo wathi kubo: "Madoda, liyakwazi ukuthi sizuzo imali enengi ngomsebenzi lo.

²⁶ Liyabona njalo liyezwa ukuthi umuntu lo, uPhawuli usenze abantu abanengi bakholwa njalo uzabalahlekisa lapha e-Efesu njalo lakuso sonke isifunda sase-Asiya. Uthi yena onkulunkulu ababunjwe ngumuntu kabasibo onkulunkulu lakancinyane.

²⁷ Kulengozi-ke yokuthi kakukuba ngumsebenzi wethu kuphela ozalahlekelwa libizo lawo elihle, kodwa lethempeli likankulunkulukazi omkhulu, u-Arithemisi lizadunyazwa, laye unkulunkulukazi ngokwakhe, yena okhonzwa kusosonke isifunda sase-Asiya lasemhlabeni wonke, uzaphucwa ubukhosi bakhe."

²⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bafuthelana ngokuzonda, bahle bamemeza besithi: "Mkhulu u-Arithemisi wama-Efesu!"

²⁹ Masinyane nje idolobho lonke layaluzela. Abantu badumela uGayu lo-Aristakhu, ababe ngabaphelekezeli bakaPhawuli abaseMakhedoniya, babahudulela enkundleni yemidlalo bonke bayakuthi cwi khona. ³⁰ UPhawuli wayefuna ukuzithela emphakathini kodwa abafundi bamalela. ³¹ Labanye abaphathi besifunda, ababe ngabangane bakaPhawuli, labo bamthumela ilizwi bathi angaqali ayovela enkundleni yokudlalela.

³² Kwakungasaqondakali enkundleni: Abanye babeklabalala besitsho lokhu, abanye labo besitsho okunye. Abantu

abanengi babevele bengazi lokuthi konje babelandeni lapho. ³³ AbaJuda bafuqela u-Alekizanda phambili besithi kabakhulumele. Waphakamisa isandla ukubathulisa ukuze achasise kuhle indaba ebantwini. ³⁴ Kodwa bathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi wayengumJuda, bonke bahlaba umkhosi kanyekanye okwaphose kwathatha amahora amabili, besithi: "Mkhulu u-Arithemisi wama-Efesu!"

³⁵ Unobhala wedolobho walithulisa ixuku wathi: "Madoda ase-Efesu akusikho yini ukuthi umhlaba wonke uyakwazi ukuthi idolobho lase-Efesu yilo elingumlondolozu wethempeli lika-Arithemisi omkhulu, kanye lesifanekiso sakhe esehla sivela ezulwini?" ³⁶ Pho-ke njengoba lokhu kuyinto engaphikiswayo, thulani lingenzi izinto zamawala.

³⁷ Selilethe amadoda la lapha kodwa wona engagqezezanga emathempelini kumbe athuka unkulunkulukazi wethu. ³⁸ Yikho nxa uDemetriyu lalabo akhanda labo belensolo loba ngobani, imithethwandaba ivuliwe, njalo labehluleli bakhona. Bangaliphanyeka icala. ³⁹ Aluba kukhona njalo okunye elifuna ukukutsho, kakuyothoniswa ngomthetho enkundleni. ⁴⁰ Njengoba kunje nje sisengozini yokubekwa icala lokuvusa isiyaluyalu ngenxa yezenzakalo zalamuhla. Kungenzeka lokho sizakwehluleka ukuchaza imbangela yalesisiphithiphithi, ngoba ngempela kungekho sizatho." ⁴¹ Esekutshilo lokhu wayichitha inhlanganiso.

Udlula EMakhedoniya LaseGrisi

20 Kwathi umsindo usuphelile uPhawuli wabiza abafundi, wathi esebakhuthazile wabavalelisa waqonda eMakhedoniya. ² Wahamba wadabula

kulowommango, ekhuluma amazwi amanengi okukhuthaza abantu, wacina esefike eGrisi ³ lapho ahlala khona okwezinyanga ezintathu. AbaJuda bakha icebo ngaye eselungele ukuwela aye eSiriya yikho wasezimisela ukuthi abuyele ngendlela yaseMakhedoniya. ⁴ Wayephelekezelwa nguSophatha indodana kaPhirusi waseBheriya, lo-Aristakhu, loSekhundu waseThesalonika, loGayu waseDebhe, loThimothi laye, kwasekusiba nguThitshikhu loThrofimu abesifunda sase-Asiya. ⁵ Amadoda la asandulela ayasimelela eThrowa. ⁶ Kodwa sawela ulwandle sisuka eFiliphi ngemuva komkhosi weSinkwa Esingelamvubelo, kwathi ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinhlanu sahlangu labanye eThrowa lapho esahlala khona izinsuku eziyisikhombisa.

UYuthikhu Uvuswa Ekufeni EThrowa

⁷ Ngosuku lokuqala lweviki sahlangu ukhlephula isinkwa. UPhawuli watshumayela ebantwini, kwathi ngoba efuna ukusuka ngakusasa, wakhuluma kwaze kwaba phakathi kobusuku.

⁸ Endlini ephezulu lapho esasihlanganele khona kwakulezibane ezinengi.

⁹ Kwakulejaha elalithiwa nguYuthikhu lihlezi ewindini, labanjwa yibuthongo uPhawuli elokhu ekhuluma engaqedi. Lathi selibubhudla ubuthongo, lawela phansi lisuka esitezi sesithathu labuthwa selifile. ¹⁰ UPhawuli wehla, wazilahla phezu kwejaha lelo waligona wathi, "Lingethuki, liyaphila!" ¹¹ wasebuyela phezu esitezi wahlephula isinkwa wadla. Esekhulume kwaze kwasa, wasuka. ¹² Abantu balisa ekhaya ijaha liphila, bona baduduzeka kakhulu.

UPhawuli Uvalebisa Abadala Base-Efesu

¹³ Sahamba phambili saya emkhunjini sawelela e-Asosi lapho esasizathatha khona uPhawuli awele lathi. Lokhu wayekulungisile ngoba wayezahamba ngezinyawo esiya khonale. ¹⁴ Wathi ngokuhlangana lathi e-Asosi samngenisa saqonda eMithilene. ¹⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo sawela sisuka lapho sayafika eKhyosi. Kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo sachaphela eSamosi, ngosuku olulandelayo sayafika eMilethu. ¹⁶ Uphawuli wayezimisele ukuwela edlule eceleni kwe-Efesu engafuni ukuchitha isikhathi esifundeni sase-Asiya, ngoba wayejahile ukuyafika eJerusalema, uma kusenzeka kube ngosuku lwePhentekhosti.

¹⁷ EseMilethu uPhawuli wathumela ilizwi ebiza abadala bebandla. ¹⁸ Sebefikile wathi kubo: "Liyakwazi ukuthi ngaphila njani ngesikhathi sonke ngilani, kusukela ngosuku engafika ngalo esifundeni sase-Asiya. ¹⁹ Ngayikhonza iNkosi ngokuzithoba okukhulu langezinyembezi, loba ngangilingwa kabuhlungu ngamacebo abaJuda. ²⁰ Liyakwazi ukuthi kangizange ngithikaze ukutshumayela loba yikuphi obekungaba luncedo kini kodwa ngalifundisa obala njalo ngingena izindlu ngezindlu. ²¹ Ngimemezele kumaJuda lamaGriki ukuthi bamele baphendukele kuNkulunkulu ngokuphenduka, bakholwe eNkosini yethu uJesu.

²² "Okwamanje ngiqhutshwa nguMoya ukuthi ngiye eJerusalema, loba ngingazi ukuthi kuzakwenzakalani kimi khonale. ²³ Ngazi kuphela ukuthi kuwo wonke amadolobho uMoya oNgcwele ungixwayisa ukuthi ngizulelwa yintolongo lobunzima. ²⁴ Kungenani, eyami impilo ngiyibona ingasulutho kimi, uba kodwa lokhu ngingaliqeda

ibanga ngiwufeze lomsebenzi iNkosi uJesu engiphe wona – umsebenzi wokufakaza ivangeli lomusa kaNkulunkulu.

²⁵ "Khathesi ngiyazi ukuthi kakho kini engihambe ngitshumayela khona umbuso ozaphinda angibone futhi. ²⁶ Ngakho ngiyafakaza kini lamuhla ukuthi kangilacala ngegazi labantu bonke. ²⁷ Phela kangithikazanga ukutshumayela kini yonke intando kaNkulunkulu. ²⁸ Zilindenini lina kanye lawo wonke umhlambi uMoya oNgcwele olenze laba ngabaqapheli bawo. Wobani ngabelusi bebandla likaNkulunkulu, alithenga ngegazi lakhe. ²⁹ Ngiyazi ukuthi nxa sengisukile lapha, izimpisi eziphangayo zizakuza phakathi kwenu ziwungenele umhlambi. ³⁰ Laphakathi kwenu kuzavela abantu abazalihlanekela iqiniso ukuze babuyele kubo abanye abafundi. ³¹ Ngakho lihlale liqaphile! Khumbulani ukuthi okweminyaka emithathu kangizange ngiphumule ukuxwayisa omunye lomunye wenu ebusuku lemini ngezinyembezi.

³² "Khathesi ngilinkela kuNkulunkulu laselizwini lomusa wakhe elilamandla okulakha lokulipha ilifa phakathi kwalabo bonke abangwelisiweyo. ³³ Kangihawukelanga siliva samuntu, loba igolide kumbe izembatho. ³⁴ Lina ngokwenu liyakwazi ukuthi izandla zami lezi zapha zonke iziswelo zami leziswelo zabakhula bami. ³⁵ Kukho konke engakwenzayo ngalibonisa ukuthi ngalendlela yokusebenza nzima kumele sisize ababuthakathaka, sikhumbula amazwi eNkosi uJesu athi: 'Ukupha kubusisekile okudlula ukwamukela.' "

³⁶ Esekutshilo lokhu waguqa phansi kanye labo bonke wakhuleka. ³⁷ Bonke bakhala lapho babemgona njalo bemanga. ³⁸ Okwabadanisa kakhulu kwaba yilizwi lakhe lokuthi babe-

ngasayikuphinde babubone njalo ubuso bakhe. Yikho base bemphelekezela emkhunjini.

Ukuya EJerusalema

21 Sathi sesizehlukanise kubo

ngobuhlungu sawela elwandle saqonda nta eKhosi. Ngosuku olulandelayo saya eRodi, sasuka khona saya ePhathara.

²Safumana umkhumbi owawuchaphela eFenikhiya, sakhwela kuwo sawela.

³Sayithi tshazi iKhuphro sedlula ngeningizimu kwayo, yithi labayana siwelela eSiriya. Sakhuphukela eThire lapho umkhumbi wethu

wawuzakwethula khona umthwalo wawo. ⁴Safumana abafundi khona sahlala labo izinsuku eziyisikhombisa. Baholwa nguMoya ukuthi bamncenge uPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema.

⁵Kodwa isikhathi sethu sesifikile, sasuka saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu. Bonke abafundi lamakhosikazi abo kanye labantwana basiphelekezela basikhupha edolobheni, safika ogwini saguqa sakhuleka. ⁶Sesivalelisene sakhwela emkhunjini, bona babuyela emakhaya.

⁷Saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu sisuka eThire sayakhuphukela ePhetholemayi lapho sabingelela abazalwane sahlala labo usuku lonke. ⁸Sasuka ngelanga elilandelayo sayafika eKhesariya sayahlala endlini kaFiliphu umvangeli, engomunye wabayisiKhombisa.

⁹Wayelamadodakazi amane ayengendanga aye lesiphiwo sokuphrofetha.

¹⁰Sesibekhonapho okwezinsuku ezimbalwa kwafika umphrofethi okwakuthiwa ngu-Agabhu evela eJudiya. ¹¹Weza kithi wathatha ibhanti likaPhawuli wazibopha izandla zakhe lezinyawo ngalo, wathi, "UMoya oNgcwele uthi, 'Ngayonale indlela

abaJuda baseJerusalema bazabopha umninibhanti leli bese bemnikela kwabeZizwe.' "

¹²Sathi sikuzwa lokhu sonke labantu bakhonapho sancengana loPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema. ¹³UPhawuli wasephendula wathi, "Likhalelani lingidabula inhliziyo yami na?

Kangilungelanga ukubotshwa kuphela, kodwa lokufa eJerusalema ngifela ibizo leNkosi uJesu." ¹⁴Kwathi ngoba engancengeki sadela sathi,

"Mayenzeke intando yeNkosi."

¹⁵Ngemva kwalokhu, salungisa sasesisiya eJerusalema. ¹⁶Abafundi abathile abaseKhesariya basiphelekezela basisa emzini kaMnasoni lapho esasizahlala khona. wayeyindoda edabuka eKhuphro engomunye wabafundi bakuqala.

Ukufika KukaPhawuli EJerusalema

¹⁷Ekufikeni kwethu eJerusalema abazalwane basamukela ngokuthokoza. ¹⁸Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli lathi sonke sahamba ukuyabona uJakhobe, bonke abadala babekhona. ¹⁹UPhawuli wababingelela wabika ngokugcweleyo konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile kwabeZizwe ngokusebenza kwakhe.

²⁰Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu bamdumisa uNkulunkulu. Yikho basebesithi kuPhawuli: "Uyabona mzalwane ukuthi izinkulungwane ezinengi zabaJuda sezikholiwe njalo bonke bangabatshisekela umlayo.

²¹Sebetshelwe ukuthi wena ufundisa bonke abaJuda abahlala phakathi kwabeZizwe ukuthi bafulathele uMosi, ubatshela ukuthi bangasoki abantwababo lokuthi bangalandeli amasiko ethu. ²²Pho senzeni? Ngeqiniso bazakuzwa ukuthi usufikile, ²³ngakho yenza lokhu esikutshela khona. Kulamadoda amane phakathi kwethu asenze isifungo.

²⁴ Hamba lawo amadoda la ubambisane lawo emkhutsheni wokuzihlambulula, ubabhadalele izindleko zabo zakhona ukuze bagunde amakhanda abo. Ngakho umuntu wonke uzakwazi ukuthi akulaqiniso kule imibiko ngawe, kodwa babone ukuthi wena ngokwakho uphila ngokulalela umlayo. ²⁵ Abezizwe bona abakholwayo sesibalobele ngesinqumo sethu ukuthi kabaxwaye ukudla okunikelwe ezithombeni, bangadli ububende, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lokuphinga."

²⁶ Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli wawathatha lawomadoda wayazihlambulula kanye lawo. Wasesiya ethempelini ukuyakwazisa ngosuku lokuphela kwezinsuku zokuhlambulula lokuthi umnikelo walowo lalowo wabo wawuzakwenziwa nini.

UPhawuli Uyabotshwa

²⁷ Kwathi lezozinsuku eziyisikhombisa sezizaphela, abaJuda abathile abesifunda sase-Asiya babona uPhawuli ethempelini. Balidunga lonke ixuku bambamba uPhawuli ²⁸ behlaba umkhosi besithi, "Madoda ako-Israyeli; sibambiseni! Yiyo le indoda efundisa abantu bonke ezindaweni zonke okuphambene labantu bakithi lomlayo wakithi kanye lendawo le. Ngaphandle kwalokho usengenise amaGriki emagumeni ethempeli wangcolisa indawo le eNgcwele." ²⁹ (Mandulo babebone uThrofimu wase-Efesu edolobheni eloPhawuli base bekhumbula ukuthi uPhawuli wayeze laye emagumeni ethempeli.)

³⁰ Idolobho lonke laphithizela, abantu beza begijima beqhamuka inxa zonke. Bamdumela uPhawuli bamhudula bemsusa ethempelini, amasango alo ahle avalwa. ³¹ Bathi besazama ukumbulala, umbiko wafika kumlawuli wamabutho amaRoma ukuthi idolobho lonke lase

Jerusalema laseliyaluzela. ³² Khonokho nje wathatha abanye abaphathi kanye lamabutho wagijimela esiphithiphithini leso. Kwathi labo ababevusa uthuli bebona umlawuli lamabutho akhe bema ukutshaya uPhawuli.

³³ Umlawuli weza wafika wambopha wathi kathekelezwe ngamaketane amabili. Wasembuza ukuthi wayengubani lokuthi wayoneni.

³⁴ Abathile exukwini bamemeza lokhu, abanye bamemeza okunye, kwasekusithi ngoba umlawuli engalizwa iqiniso ngenxa yokuxokozela waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli kasiwe esikanisweni samabutho. ³⁵ Esefikile ezinyathelweni zokuqansela endlini isiyaluyalu sabantu saminyezela satshisa waze wathwalwa ngamabutho. ³⁶ Ixuku elalilandela laphikelela limemeza lisithi, "Msusele amanqe!"

UPhawuli Ukhuluma Lexuku Labantu

³⁷ Amabutho esathi amngenisa ngaphakathi uPhawuli, wacela kumlawuli wathi, "Ngingake ngibe lelizwi lawe na?"

Yena waphendula wathi, "Uyasikhuluma yini isiGriki?"

³⁸ Kawusuye yini umGibhithe owavusa umvukela ukhokhela izinkulungwane ezine zamaphekulazikhuni enkangala ngesinye isikhathi esidlulileyo?"

³⁹ UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "NgingumJuda waseThasu eKhilikhiya, isakhamuzi sedolobho eliqakathekileyo. Ngicela kengikhulume kulaba abantu."

⁴⁰ Esetholile imvumo kumlawuli uPhawuli wema ezinyathelweni wathulisa ixuku ngesandla. Kwathi bonke sebethule wakhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru wathi,

22 "Bazalwane labobaba, manje lalelani lizwe ukuzivikela kwami."

² Bathi bemuzwa ekhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru bathula zwi. UPhawuli wasesithi, ³ "Mina ngingumJuda owazalelwa eThasu eseKhilikhiya, kodwa ngakhuleka kulonaleli idolobho. Ngafunda ngaphansi kukaGamaliyeli ngafundiswa okugcweleyo ngomlayo wabokhokho, lami ngakhuthalela uNkulunkulu okunjengoba angabe ngubani kini lamuhla. ⁴ Ngabahlukuluza abalandeli bale iNdlela baze bafa, ngibopha abesilisa labesifazana ngibaphosela entolongweni, ⁵ into engafakazwa ngumphristi ophezulu kanye lenkundla. Ngaze ngathola izincwadi kubo zisiya kubazalwane babo eDamaseku, ngaya khona ngifuna ukubaletha labobantu beyizibotshwa eJerusalema ukuthi bazojeziswa.

⁶ "Kwathi sekungaba yimini enkulu sengisondele eDamaseku, kwathi phazi masinyane ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini kwangizingeleza. ⁷ Ngawela phansi ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, 'Sawuli! Sawuli! Ungihluphelani na?'

⁸ "Ngabuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi, na?'

"Waphendula wathi, 'NginguJesu waseNazaretha, omhluphayo.'

⁹ Ababengiphelekezela bakubona ukukhanya, kodwa kabalizwanga ilizwi lalowo owayekhuluma lami.

¹⁰ "Ngabuza ngathi, 'Ngimele ngenzeni, Nkosi?'

"Inkosi yathi, 'Vuka, uye eDamaseku. Khonale uzatshelwa konke osumiselwe ukuthi ukwenze.'

¹¹ Abaphelekezeli bami bangihola ngesandla bangisa eDamaseku ngoba inkazimulo yokukhanya yayingenze ngaba yisiphofu.

¹² "Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya yeza yazangibona. Yayingumlandeli otshisayo womlayo njalo ihlonitshwa kakhulu yibo bonke abaJuda ababehlala khona. ¹³ Wema eceleni kwami wathi, 'Mzalwane, Sawuli, bona njalo!' Ngasonalesosikhathi ngahle ngazuza amandla okumbona.

¹⁴ "Yikho wasesithi: 'UNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu usekukhethile ukuthi uyazi intando yakhe lokuthi umbone oLungileyo lokuthi uzwe amazwi aphuma emlonyeni wakhe. ¹⁵ Uzakuba ngufakazi wakhe ebantwini bonke ngalokho okubonileyo lokuzwileyo. ¹⁶ Pho usalindeleni? Sukuma, ubhaphathizwe, ugeze kusuke izono zakho, ubiza ibizo lakhe.'

¹⁷ "Ngithe sengibuyile eJerusalema ngikhuleka ethempelini, ngafikelwa yisiyezi-phupho ¹⁸ ngabona iNkosi ikhuluma isithi kimi, 'Phangisa! Suka masinyane eJerusalema ngokuba kabayikubamukela ubufakazi bakho ngami.'

¹⁹ "Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Nkosi, lababantu bayakwazi ukuthi nganginquma lamasinagogi ngibabopha njalo ngibatshaya labo abakholwa kuwe. ²⁰ Lalapho kwakuchithwa igazi lomufi wakho uStefane ngangimi khonapho ngivumelana labo njalo ngilinde izigqoko zalabo ababembulala.'

²¹ "INkosi yasisithi kimi, 'Hamba; ngizakuthumela kude kwabeZizwe.' "

UPhawuli UngumRoma

²² Abantu bamlalela uPhawuli sonke isikhathi, kodwa esetsho lokhu bavungama bamemeza bathi, "Kasuswe emhlabeni lo umuntu! Kamelanga aphile!"

²³ Bathi sebeklabalala, behlubula amajazi abo, njalo bephosa uthuli emoyeni, ²⁴ umlawuli wamabutho walaya ukuthi uPhawuli kangeniswe

esikanisweni samabutho. Wayala ukuthi kabuzisiswe ngokutshaywa ukuthi kungani abantu babemvukela kanje.

²⁵ Bathi sebemlalisa phansi ukuthi bambhaxuze, uPhawuli wathi kumphathi wekhulu owayemi khonapho, "Kusemthethweni yini ukuthi utshaye umuntu ongumRoma ongetheswanga cala na?"

²⁶ Umpathi wekhulu esekuzwile lokho wayabikela umlawuli wamabutho wathi, "Usuzathini manje. Indoda le ingumRoma."

²⁷ Umlawuli wamabutho waya kuPhawuli wambuza wathi,

"Ake ungitshela, kanti ungumRoma na?"

Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, nginguye."

²⁸ Umlawuli wamabutho wasesithi, "Mina ngakhupha ihlawulo elikhulu ukuzuza ilungelo lobuRoma."

UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Kodwa mina nginguye ngokuzalwa."

²⁹ Labo abasebelungele ukumbuzisisa bahle batshedela emuva masinyane. Umlawuli webutho ngokwakhe wethuka esenanzelela ukuthi wayebophe uPhawuli, umRoma, ngamaketane.

Phambi KweSanihedrini

³⁰ Ngosuku olulandelayo, njengoba umlawuli wamabutho wayefuna ukwazi isibili ukuthi kungani uPhawuli wayebekwa icala ngabaJuda, wamkhulula walaya abaphristi leSanihedrini yonke ukuthi bahlangane. Wasemletha uPhawuli wammisa phambi kwabo.

23 UPhawuli wawujolozela

umphakathi weSanihedrini wathi, "Bazalwane, sengiwugcwalisile umlandu

wami kuNkulunkulu ngikhululekile enhliziyweni kuze kube lamuhla."

² Umphristi ophezulu, u-Ananiya, kwamzondisa lokhu watshela labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli ukuthi bammuhluze umlomo. ³ UPhawuli wathi kuye, "UNkulunkulu uzakumukula, wena mduli oconjwe ngekalaga emhlophe! Lapha uhlalele ukungahlulela ngomthetho, ikanti wena ngokwakho uyaweqa umthetho ngokulaya ukuthi ngitshaywe!"

⁴ Labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli bathi, "Ulesibindi sokuthuka umphristi ophezulu kaNkulunkulu wena?"

⁵ UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Bazalwane, bengingazi ukuthi ungumphristi ophezulu; ngokuba kulotshiwe ukuthi: 'Ungakhulumi okubi ngombusi wabantu bakini.'

⁶ UPhawuli wayesazi ukuthi abanye babo babe ngabaSadusi, abanye bengabaFarisi wasememeza phakathi kweSanihedrini wathi, "Bazalwane, mina ngingumFarisi, indodana yomFarisi. Ngithoniselwa ukuthi ngilethemba ekuvukeni kwabafileyo."

⁷ Wathi ngokutsho lokhu kwavuka umsindo phakathi kwabaFarisi labaSadusi, umphakathi wasudabukana phakathi. ⁸ (AbaSadusi bathi kakulakuvuka ekufeni, lokuthi kakulazingilosi loba imimoya, kodwa abaFarisi bayakuvuma konke lokho ukuthi kukhona.)

⁹ Kwaba lokuxokozela okubi, kwathi abanye abafundisi bomlayo ababe ngabaFarisi basukuma bayidaza inkani. Bathi, "Kasiboni lutho olubi ngendoda le. Kungaze kwenzeka yini ukuthi umoya kumbe ingilosi ikhulumile kuye na?" ¹⁰ Yavutha inkani umlawuli webutho waze wesaba ukuthi uPhawuli wayezadatshudatshulwa yibo. Waselaya amabutho ukuthi ehle ayomsusa kubo

ngamandla amlethe esikanisweni samabutho.

¹¹Ngobusuku obulandelayo iNkosi yema eduze kukaPhawuli yathi, "Mana isibindi! Njengalokhu usufakaze ngami eJerusalema, kusamele njalo uyofakaza eRoma."

Icebo Lokubulala UPhawuli

¹²Ngokusa okulandelayo abaJuda bakha icebo bazibopha ngesifungo ukuthi kabazukudla kumbe banathe bengakambulali uPhawuli.

¹³Kwakungamadoda eqa amatshumi amane ayephathelene lalalocebo. ¹⁴Baya kubaphristi abakhulu labadala bathi, "Sesifunge ijoyi ukuthi kasiyikudla lutho size siqale sibulale uPhawuli. ¹⁵Yikho-ke lina leSanihedrini khalazani kumlawuli webutho ukuthi amlethe kini ngegwegwe lokuthi lifuna incazelo eqondileyo ngecala lakhe. Thina sesilungisile ukumbulala engakafiki lapha."

¹⁶Kodwa kwathi ukuba indodana kadadewabo kaPhawuli isilizwile lelicebo, yaya esikanisweni samabutho yayamtshela uPhawuli.

¹⁷UPhawuli wasebiza omunye umphathi wekhulu wathi, "Hamba lomfana lo kumlawuli wamabutho; kukhona afuna ukukutsho kuye."

¹⁸Ngakho wasemusa kumlawuli.

Umpathi wekhulu wathi, "Isibotshwa uPhawuli ungibizile wangicela ukuthi ngilethe umfana lo kuwe ngokuba kukhona afuna ukukutshela khona."

¹⁹Umlawuli wamthatha umfana wambamba ngesandla waya laye eceleni wambuza wathi, "Kuyini ofuna ukungitshela khona?"

²⁰Wathi; "AbaJuda sebevumelene ukuthi bacele wena ukuthi ulethe uPhawuli phambi kweSanihedrini kusasa ngegwegwe lokuthi bafuna incazelo

epheleleyo mayelana laye.

²¹Ungabavumeli ngokuba abeqa amatshumi amane babo bazamcathamela. Sebenze isifungo ukuthi bangadli njalo banganathi bengakabulali uPhawuli. Kunje nje sebelungile, sebelindele imvumo yakho ngesicelo sabo."

²²Umlawuli wathi kahambe umfana, wamqonqosela wathi, "Ungatsheli muntu ukuthi usungazisile ngalokhu."

UPhawuli Udluliselwa EKhasariya

²³Yikho wasebiza abaphathi bebutho ababili wabalaya wathi, "Lungisani ixuku lamabutho angamakhulu amabili, abakhweli bamabhiza abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa labangamakhulu amabili abahlome ngemikhonto ukuthi baye eKhasariya lamuhla ebusuku ngehora lesithathu. ²⁴Lilungisele loPhawuli amabhiza ukuze asiwe kuMbusi uFelikhe engalimalanga."

²⁵Wabhala incwadi kanje:

²⁶Klawudiya Lisiya,

Kumhlelezi, uMbusi uFelikhe:

Ngiyabingelela.

²⁷Indoda le yabanjwa ngabaJuda, okwathi sebezama ukuyibulala ngafika lamabutho ami sayilamulela ngoba ngasengizwile ukuthi ingumRoma.

²⁸Ngadinga ukwazi ukuthi babesithi yoneni, yikho ngayiletha phambi kweSanihedrini yabo. ²⁹Ngezwa ukuthi icala layo laliphathelene lomlayo wabo, kodwa kwasweleka icala elingafanela ukufa loba ukugwetshelwa entolongweni. ³⁰Ngithe sengilunywe indlebe ngecebo lokuyibulala ngahle ngayedlulisela kuwe. Ngiphinde ngatshela omayimangalela ukuthi

bazokwethula kuwe abammangalela ngakho.

³¹ Yikho amabutho azilandela lezoziyalezelo amthatha uPhawuli ebusuku ayamfikisa e-Antiphatri. ³² Ngosuku olulandelayo amabutho amtshiya leqembu labakhwele amabhiza ukuthi liqhubeke laye, bona babuyela esikanisweni sabo. ³³ Kwathi abamabhiza sebefikile eKhesariya bayethula incwadi kumbusi loPhawuli laye bamnikela kuye. ³⁴ Umbusi wayibala incwadi wambuza ukuthi wayedabuka kusiphi isifunda. Esezwile ukuthi waye ngoweKhilikhya, ³⁵ Wathi, "Icala lakho ngizalohlola nxa labo abakumangalelayo sebefikile lapha." Waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli agcinwe elindiwe esigodlweni sikaHerodi.

Icala Lithethwa NguFelikhe

24 Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinhlanu umphristi ophezulu u-Ananiya wehlela eKhesariya labadala abathile kanye lommeli owayethiwa nguThethula, bafika beneka ukummangalela kwabo uPhawuli kumbusi. ² UPhawuli esebiziwe uThethula walethula icala kuFelikhe wathi: "Mhleka! Ngaphansi kombuso wakho sesikholise isikhathi eside esokuthula, ikanti lombono wakho usulethe intuthuko kulesisizwe. ³ Yonkindawo, ngazozonk' izindlela, mhlekazi omuhle Felikhe, siyakwamukela konke lokhu ngokubonga okukhulu. ⁴ Kodwa ukuthi ngingakuchitheli isikhathi, ngiyakucela ukuthi uke usizwe kancinyane esikutshoyo.

⁵ "Indoda le siyifumane ukuthi iluhlupho, idunga abantu ukubhidliza phakathi kwabaJuda kuwo wonke umhlaba. Ingumholi welahlekiso

lamaNazarini ⁶ futhi yazama njalo ukungcolisa ithempeli; yikho sayibamba. (Sasifuna ukumahlulela ngokomlayo wethu. ⁷ Kodwa umlawuli uLisiya weza wazamthatha ngodlakela ezandleni zethu, ⁸ wathi abammangalelayo kabeze phambi kwakhe.) Ngokumhlola wena ngokwakho uzalibona iqiniso ngazo zonke lezi izinto esimmangalela ngazo."

⁹ AbaJuda labo bayingenela indaba beqinisa ukuthi lezizinto zaziliqiniso. ¹⁰ Kwathi umbusi esemphile ithuba lokuthi akhulume uPhawuli waphendula wathi: "Ngiyazi ukuthi usube ngumahluli walesisizwe okweminyaka eminengi; ngakho ngiyathokoza ukwethula ukuzilamulela kwami. ¹¹ Ungalithola iqiniso lokuthi kakudluli izinsuku ezilitshumi lambili ngiyile eJerusalema ukuyakhonza.

¹² Abangimangalelayo kabazange bangifumane ngiphikisana lomuntu ethempelini, loba ngitshotshozela amaxuku emasinagogeni kumbe ngaphi edolobheni. ¹³ Bangazake balethe ubufakazi kuwe balezizinto abangimangalela ngazo. ¹⁴ Kodwa ngiyavuma ukuthi ngikhonza uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu, njengomlandeli weNdlala abayibiza ngokuthi lilahlekiso. Ngiyakukholwa konke okuvumelana loMlayo lokubhaliweyo kubaPhrofethi, ¹⁵ njalo ngilalona lelothemba kuNkulunkulu alalo lamadoda, ukuthi kuzakuba lokuvuka kwabafuleyo, abalungileyo lababi. ¹⁶ Ngakho ngiyazama kokuphela ukuba isazela sami sihlale sihlanzekile phambi kukaNkulunkulu laphambi kwabantu.

¹⁷ "Ngemuva kweminyaka eminengi ngingekho, ngeza eJerusalema ukuletha izipho zabayanga ebantwini bakithi lokwethula iminikelo.

¹⁸ Ngangihlanzekile ngokomkhuba baze bangifumane ethempelini ngisenza

lokhu. Kwakungelaxuku labantu elalilami, kumbe ukuthi ngangiphazamisa ngokuthile. ¹⁹ Kodwa kukhona abaJuda abathile abavela esifundeni sase-Asiya, okufanele ukuthi ngabe bakhona lapha phambi kwakho, bangethese icala uma kukhona abakusolayo ngami. ²⁰ Kumbe bonalaba abakhona kabachaze ukuthi licala bani abalifumanayo kimi mhlazana ngimi eSanihedrini – ²¹ ngaphandle kwalokhu kodwa engakumemezayo ngimi phambi kwabo ukuthi: 'Kungenxa yendaba yokuvuka kwabafuleyo okwenza ngithonisiswe phambi kwenu lamuhla.' ”

²² Yikho uFelikhe, owayesazi kakhulu ngeNdlela walimisa icala. Wathi, "Kuzakuthi nxa uLisiya umlawuli angafika ngizaliquuma icala lenu."

²³ Walaya umphathi wekhulu ukuthi agcine uPhawuli elindiwe kodwa amvumele ukukhululeka okuthile kanye labangane bakhe ukuthi bamenzele lokho akuswelayo.

²⁴ Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinengi uFelikhe wafika lomkakhe uDrusila owaye ngumJudakazi. Wathi kakubizwe uPhawuli, wamlalela echaza ngokukholwa kuJesu Khristu.

²⁵ UPhawuli wathi esebalisa ngokulunga, langokuzithiba langokwahlulelwa okuzayo uFelikhe wesaba wathi, "Sekwanele okwamanje! Usungahamba. Kungaze kulunge njalo ngizakubiza."

²⁶ Yena wayekhumbula ukuthi uPhawuli wayezamupha imfumbathiso, yikho wayembiza futhi futhi ekhuluma laye.

²⁷ Isidlule iminyaka emibili, uFelikhe walandelwa esikhundleni nguPhokhiyu Festu, kodwa ngoba uFelikhe wayefuna ukuthabisa abaJuda, watshiya uPhawuli elokhu esentolongweni.

Ukuthonisiswa Phambi KukaFestu

25 Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintathu

efikile esifundeni uFestu wasuka eKhesariya waya eJerusalema ² lapho abaphristi abakhulu labakhokheli babaJuda bema phambi kwakhe beneka amacala kaPhawuli. ³ Bamcela uFestu ngokuphangisa, ukuba abenzele umusa, abalethele uPhawuli eJerusalema, ngoba babelungisa ukumcathamela bambulale endleleni. ⁴ UFestu waphendula wathi, "UPhawuli uvalelwe eKhesariya, njalo mina ngokwami ngiyakhona masinyane. ⁵ Akuthi abanye abakhokheli bakini bahambe lami bafike bamethese amacala khonale, aluba kukhona akonileyo."

⁶ Esehlele izinsuku ezificamibili loba ezilitshumi labo wehlela eKhesariya, kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo wangenisa inkundla wathi kalethwe uPhawuli phambi kwakhe. ⁷ Esefikile uPhawuli abaJuda ababefikile bevela eJerusalema bambunganyela, bethula amacala amanengi esabekayo ngaye, kodwa bengelabufakazi ngawo.

⁸ UPhawuli wasezivikela wathi: "Angenzanga lutho oluphikisa umlayo wabaJuda kumbe ukudumaza ithempeli, kumbe oluphikisa uKhesari."

⁹ UFestu wayefuna ukwenzela abaJuda umusa, wathi kuPhawuli, "Uyavuma na ukuya eJerusalema ukuthi ngiyekuthonisisela khona ngala amacala?"

¹⁰ Waphendula uPhawuli wathi: "Khathesi sengisiyakuma phambi kwenkundla kaKhesari, lapho engifanele ukuthonisiswa khona. Kanguzanga lutho kubaJuda, njengoba lawe usazi kakuhle. ¹¹ Kodwa, uma ngilecala lokwenza loba yini efanele ukufa kangali ukubulawa. Kodwa uma lawomacala engiwetheswa yilaba abaJuda engasiqiniso, kakho olelungelo

lokunginikela kubo. Ngilidlulisela kuKhesari!"

¹²UFestu esehlanguise amakhanda lomphakathi wakhe, wathi, "Usulidlulisele kuKhesari. KuKhesari usuzahamba!"

UFestu Ubonisana LeNkosi U-Agripha

¹³Sekuyizinsuku ezimbalwa ngemva kwalokho iNkosi u-Agripha loBhenikhe bafika eKhasariya ukuyaqinisa ubudlelwano laye uFestu. ¹⁴Njengoba babezachitha izinsuku ezinengi khona, uFestu wakhuluma leNkosi ngendaba kaPhawuli. Wathi, "Kulendoda lapha eyatshiywa nguFelikhe iyisibotshwa. ¹⁵Ngathi ngiseJerusalema abaphristi abakhulu labadala bamaJuda bayimangalela ngamacala athile, bacela ukuthi ibulawe.

¹⁶"Ngabatshela ukuthi kakusumkhubo wamaRoma ukunikela umuntu engakahlanguiswanga labamangaleli bakhe, waphiwa ithuba lokuzivikela kulawo macala abambeka wona. ¹⁷Bathi sebefikile lapha behamba lami, kangiliphuzisanga icala, kodwa ngahle ngayihlanganisa inkundla ngosuku olulandelayo ngathi indoda leyo kayingeniswe. ¹⁸Sebephakamile ukuba bakhulume kabasambekanga lawomacala engangi wakhumbula.

¹⁹Kodwa, kulezinto ezithile ababephikisana ngazo laye mayelana lenkolo yabo langenye indoda eyafayo ethiwa nguJesu, uPhawuli athi yena iyaphila. ²⁰Ngisuke ngadideka ukuthi ngizicubungule njani izindaba ezinjalo; yikho ngimbuzile ukuthi angavuma yini ukuya eJerusalema ayothonisiswa khona ngamacala la. ²¹Kuthe uPhawuli esethe ucela icala lakhe limiswe liyoqunywa nguMbusi oMkhulu, ngithe kagcinwe entolongweni ngize ngimdlulisele kuKhesari."

²²U-Agripha wasesithi kuFestu, "Ngifuna ukuthi kengiyizwe mina ngokwami indoda leyo."

Waphendula wathi, "Uzayizwa kusasa."

UPhawuli Phambi Kuka-Agripha

²³Ngakusasa u-Agripha loBhenikhe bafika becicima ngodumo olukhulu bangena emthethwandaba lezikhulu zakhona ezaziwayo kanye labakhokheli bedolobho. UFestu wathi uPhawuli kalethwe. ²⁴Wathi uFestu, "Nkosi Agripha, lani lonke elikhona lathi lapha, liyayibona indoda le! Sonke isizwe samaJuda eJerusalema lakhona lapha eKhasariya senza isikhalazo kimi bememeza ukuthi kayisafanelanga ukuthi ibe ilokhu iphila. ²⁵Ngafumana ukuthi kwakungelalutho alwenzayo olufanele ukufa, kodwa ngenxa yokuthi wacela ukudluliselwa kuMbusi oMkhulu, ngakhetha ukuthi ngimdlulisele eRoma. ²⁶Kodwa kakulalutho olubambekayo engizalulobela uMhlekezazi ngaye. Yikho sengimlethe lapha phambi kwenu lonke, ikakhulu phambi kwakho wena Nkosi Agripha, ukuze kuthi ngemva kokumhlola hlezi ngithole ulutho engingaluloba. ²⁷Ngibona kungaba liphutha elikhulu ukuthumela isibotshwa ngingacacanga ngamacala esiwethweswayo."

26 U-Agripha wasesithi kuPhawuli, "Ulemvumo yokuzikhulumela." Yikho uPhawuli wasephakamisa isandla sakhe waqalisa ukuzivikela kwakhe, wathi: ²"Nkosi Agripha, ngizibona ngilenhlanhla ukuma phambi kwakho lamuhla ngisethula ukuzivikela kwami kuwo wonke amabhada okungigcona kwabaJuda, ³ ikakhulu njengoba wena

uyawazi amasiko abaJuda kanye lokuphikisana kwabo. Ngakho ngiyakucela ukuthi ungilalele ngokubekezela.

⁴"AbaJuda bonke bayayazi impilo engiyiphilileyo kusukela ebuntwaneni bami, ekuqaleni kokuphila kwami elizweni lakithi njalo laseJerusalema.

⁵Sebengazi okwesikhathi eside njalo bangafakaza, uma bethanda, ukuthi ngezinhlelo zenkolo yethu ezemicingelelo, ngangiphila ngingumFarisi. ⁶Manje sekungenxa yethemba lami kulokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa okhokho bethu okwenza ngithonisiswe lamuhla. ⁷Lesi yiso isithembiso esilindelwe yizizwana zakithi ezilitshumi lambili ukuthi zizasibona sigcwaliseka zilokhu zimkhonza uNkulunkulu ngokutshiseka emini lebusuku. Mhlekazi, kungenxa yalo lelithemba engimangalelwa lona ngabaJuda. ⁸Kungenzakala kanjani ukuthi phakathi kwenu kube yinto engakholekiyo ukuthi uNkulunkulu uyabavusa abafuleyo na?

⁹"Lami ngokwami ngangizimisele ukuthi ngenze yonke imizamo ukudiliza ibizo likaJesu waseNazaretha. ¹⁰Lakanye yikho lokho engakwenzayo eJerusalema. Ngaphiwa amandla ngabaphristi abakhulu ngaphosela abanengi abangcwele entolongweni, kwathi ekubulaweni kwabo lami ngasekela ukubalahla. ¹¹Izikhathi ezinengi ngangihamba ngingquma lamasinagogi ngisithi kabajeziswe, ngazama njalo ukubabamba ngamandla ukuthi bahlambaze uJesu. Ngathi ngihlanyiswa yikubazonda ngaya lakwamanye amadolobho aseizweni ukuyabahlukuluza khona.

¹²"Kolunye lwalezizinambo ngangisiya eDamaseku ngilegunya lomlayo wabaphrofethi abakhulu.

¹³Kwathi sekungathi sekuyimini enkulu,

wena Mhlekazi, ngisendleleni, ngabona ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini, kukhazimula kulelanga, kwabenyezela kungihanqile kanye labaphelekezeli bami. ¹⁴Sonke sawa sathi dili phansi, ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, ngesiHebheru, 'Sawuli, ungihlukuluzelani na? Kubuhlungu kuwe ukukhahlela izinciji.'

¹⁵"Ngasengibuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi na?'

"NginguJesu omhlukuluzayo,' kuphendula iNkosi. ¹⁶'Manje phakama ume ngezinyawo zakho. Ngizibonisa kuwe ukuthi ngikukhethe ukuba yinceku njalo ube ngufakazi walokho osukubonile ngami, lalokho engisezakutshengisa khona.

¹⁷Ngizakulamulela ebantwini bakini lakwabeZizwe. Ngikuthuma ¹⁸ukuthi uvule amehlo abo, ubaphendule basuke ebumnyameni baye ekukhanyeni, njalo basuke emandleni kaSathane baye kuNkulunkulu ukuze bemukele ukuthethelelwa kwezono lendawo phakathi kwalabo abangcwelisiweyo ngokukholwa kimi.'

¹⁹"Yikho-ke, Nkosi Agripha, kangiqlholozelanga umbono ovela ezulwini. ²⁰Ngaqala ngabaseDamaseku, kwalandela abaseJerusalema laseJudia lonke, kwalandela labeZizwe labo, ngatshumayela ukuthi bamele baphenduke babuyele kuNkulunkulu njalo babonise ukuphenduka kwabo ngezenzo zabo. ²¹Kungalesosizatho okwenza abaJuda bangibambe ngisemagumeni ethempeli bazama ukungibulala. ²²Kodwa uNkulunkulu ungiphephisile kuze kube namuhla, yikho ngimi lapha ngifakaza kwabancinyane labakhulu ngokufananayo. Kakulalutho engilutshoyo ngaphezu kwalokho abaphrofethi loMosi bathi kuzakwenzakala - ²³ukuthi uKhristu wayezahlupheka, athi, njengowokuqala

ukuvuka kwabafileyo, atshumaye
 ukukhanya kubantu bakibo
 lakwabeZizwe."

²⁴Khonapho uFestu wasemphazamisa esazivikela wathi, "Phawuli, usangene ingqondo! Ukufunda kwakho okukhulu sekukuphambanise ingqondo."

²⁵Waphendula uPhawuli wathi, "Kangihlanyi, Mhlekezi omkhulu Festu. Engikutshoyo kuliqiniso njalo kulengqondo. ²⁶Inkosi izijwayele lezizinto yikho ngikhuluma kuyo ngikhululekile. Ngiyakholwa ukuthi kakukho lokukodwa kukho okuyeqileyo inkosi, ngoba kakwenziwanga ejikweni ngokucatshelana. ²⁷Nkosi Agripha, uyabakholwa na abaphrofethi? Ngiyazi ukuthi uyabakholwa."

²⁸U-Agripha wasesithi kuPhawuli, "Kambe ucabanga ukuthi ngesikhatshana lesi esifitshane kangaka ungangiphendula ngibe ngumKhristu?"

²⁹UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Loba sisifitshane langabe siside – ngiyathandaza kuNkulunkulu ukuthi kakungabi nguwe kuphela kodwa bonke abangizwayo lamuhla bangaba yilokho engiyikho mina, ngaphandle kwala amaketane."

³⁰Inkosi yaphakama, kanye lombusi loBhenikhe lalabo ababehlezi labo.

³¹Baphuma endlini, bathi sebekhuluma bodwa, bathi, "Indoda le kakulalutho elwenzayo olufanele ukufa loba ukutokisiswa."

³²U-Agripha wathi kuFestu, "Indoda ibizakhululwa aluba ibingedluliselanga icala layo kuKhesari."

UPhawuli Uwelela ERoma

27 Sekumisiwe ukuthi sizawelela

e-Ithali, uPhawuli kanye lezinye izibotshwa banikelwa ezandleni zomphathi wekhulu owayethiwa

nguJuliyu owaye ngoweButho laseSikhosini. ²Sakhwela umkhumbi e-Adramithiyumi owawusulungele ukuwelela emathekwini asemakhunjini esifunda sase-Asiya, satsho salungena ulwandle. U-Aristakhu, umMakhedoniya osuka eThesalonika waye lathi.

³Ngakusasa sakhuphukela eSidoni; kwathi uJuliyu watshengisa umusa kuPhawuli wamvumela ukuthi aye kubangane bakhe bamenzele lokho ayengabe wayekuswela. ⁴Sesisuka lapho saluqonda ulwandle njalo sagudla ethunzini laseKhuphro ngoba ukuvunguza komoya kwakuphambene lathi. ⁵Sathi sesiwele sadabula ulwandle olubanzi malungana lamakhumbi aseKhilikhiya lePhamfiliya, sakhuphukela eMira eseLikhiya.

⁶Khonapho umphathi wekhulu wafumana umkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya uwelela e-Ithali, wasingenisa kuwo. ⁷Sahamba sitotoba okwezinsuku ezinengi sathwala nzima ukuyafika eKhinidu. Kwathi ngoba umoya usivalela ukuthi sihambe ngendlela yethu, sawela sayagudla ethunzini laseKhrethe, malungana leSalimone. ⁸Sahamba siceza ekhunjini sihamba nzima safika endaweni ethiwa Mathekumahle, eduze ledolobho laseLaseya.

⁹Sasesilahlekelwe yisikhathi esinengi kakhulu, lokuhamba elwandle kwasekuyingozi kabi ngoba ngalesi isikhathi kwasekungemuva kwesikhathi seZilo. Yikho uPhawuli wabaxwayisa wathi, ¹⁰"Madoda, ngibona ukuthi uhambo lolu luzakuba lengozi lomonakalo omkhulu, kubhidlike umkhumbi lezimpahla, lezimpilo zethu lathi." ¹¹Kodwa umphathi wekhulu, esikhundleni sokulalela lokho okwaktshiwo nguPhawuli, walandela iseluleko somtshayeli womkhumbi kanye lomnikazi wawo. ¹²Njengoba

itheku lalingelihle ukukanisa khona
ebusika, abanengi bakhetha ukuthi
siqhubeke siwele njalo, bethemba ukuthi
sizafika eFenikhe sikanise khona ebusika
lobo. Leli kwakulitheku eliseKhrethe,
elalikhangele eningizimu
yentshonalanga njalo lenyakatho
yentshonalanga.

Isiphepho

¹³ Kwathi ngokuphephetha umoya
opholileyo waseningizimu, banakana
ukuthi basebekutholile ababekudinga;
yikho bawukhulula umkhumbi wawela
ulandela ikhumbi laseKhrethe.
¹⁴ Kungakabi ngaphi umoya olamandla
esivunguvungu owawuthiwa "yiNhla-
mpumalanga" waphenquza usuka
esihlengeni. ¹⁵ Umkhumbi watshaywa
yilesosiphepho wehluleka ukuqondana
lomoya; yikho wasehlula sasesindenda
nje siwulandela. ¹⁶ Sathi lapho sidlula
ekusithekeni kwesihlenge esincane
esithiwa yiKhawuda, kwasekusala
lokuthi simise kuhle isikepe
sokuphephela siqonde. ¹⁷ Kwathi
amadoda esesidonsele phezulu
emkhunjini, basebethandela izintambo
bebopha umkhumbi ngokwawo ukuze
uqine ndawonye. Bathi ngoba besesaba
ukuthi bazatshayeka emhlabathini
wetshebetshabe laseSithisi, behlisa
iseyili bayekela umkhumbi
wazindendela nje. ¹⁸ Isiphepho
sasizunguza kabuhlungu kwazekwathi
ngosuku olulandelayo saqalisa ukujikela
umthwalo olwandle. ¹⁹ Ngosuku
lwesithathu baphosela phandle ngezabo
izandla izintambo lezinye izimpahla
ezokuhambisa umkhumbi. ²⁰ Kwathi
sekuyizinsuku ezinengi singaliboni
ilanga loba izinkanyezi, kodwa
isiphepho silokhu sisidla ubhedu,
saphelwa lithemba lokuthi sizaphepha.

²¹ Amadoda ayesehlale isikhathi eside
engadlanga, yikho uPhawuli wasesima

phambi kwabo, wathi: "Madoda, ngabe
lingilalele asaze sawela ukusuka
eKhrethe; ngabe kalizifakanga phakathi
kwale inhlekenhleke lokulahlekelwa
lokhu. ²² Kodwa manje ngiyalikhuthaza
ukuthi lime isibindi, ngokuba kakukho
lamunye wenu ozakufa; ngumkhumbi
kuphela ozabhidlika. ²³ Izolo ebusuku
ingilosi kaNkulunkulu mina
engingowakhe njalo engimkhonzayo ime
phambi kwami ²⁴ yathi, 'Ungesabi,
Phawuli. Kumele uyothonisiswa
nguKhesari; njalo uNkulunkulu usebe
lomusa wokukunika izimpilo zabo bonke
owela labo.' ²⁵ Ngakho manini isibindi,
madoda, ngokuba ngilethemba kuye
uNkulunkulu ukuthi kuzakwenzakala
njengokungitshela kwakhe. ²⁶ Kodwa
phela sisezake sitshayeke phansi
sikhaphazelwe esihlengeni esithile."

Ukubhidlika Komkhumbi

²⁷ Ngobusuku betshumi lane sasilokhu
siyaluziswa eLwandle lwe-Adriyathikhu,
lapho okwathi abaqhubi bomkhumbi
bezwa kungathi sasisondele
emhlabathini. ²⁸ Baphosa izintambo
zokulinganisa bafumana ukuthi amanzi
ayezike okwezingalo ezilikhulu
elilamatshumi amabili. Ngemva
kwesikhatshana baphinda baziphosa
njalo bafumana izingalo ezingamatshumi
aficamunye ukuzika. ²⁹ Bathi ngoba
besesaba ukuthi sasizasakazeka
ematsheni base besehlisa izisindo
zokumisa umkhumbi ngemuva bekhalela
ukuthi kuse. ³⁰ Abaqhubi bomkhumbi
bazama ukunyanya babaleke emkhunjini
ngokwehlisela isikepe sokusinda
elwandle ngengwegwe lokuthi
babesiyakwehlisa ezinye izisindo
ngaphambili komkhumbi. ³¹ Yikho
uPhawuli wasesithi kumphathi wekhulu
lakumabutho, "Uma amadoda la
engahlali emkhunjini lingeke lisinde."
³² Yikho amabutho asequma izintambo

ezazibambe isikepe sokusinda asiyekela sayagxumukela le.

³³ Sekubanga emathakusa uPhawuli wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi badle. Wathi, "Okwezinsuku ezilitshumi lane ezidlulileyo belihlezi libambe amaphaphu enu lisehluleka lokudla - kalizange lidle lutho. ³⁴ Okwamanje ngilicela ukuthi lidle. Liyakuswela ukuze lilulame. Kakho loyedwa wenu ozalahlekelwa lalunwele ekhanda lakhe." ³⁵ Esekutshilo lokhu, wathatha isinkwa wabonga kuNkulunkulu phambi kwabo bonke. Wasesihlephula wadla. ³⁶ Bonke baqunga isibindi base besidla labo. ³⁷ Sisonke sasingabantu abangamakhulu amabili lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesithupha emkhunjini. ³⁸ Bathi sebedlile basutha, baphungula ukusindwa komkhumbi ngokuchithela amabele elwandle.

³⁹ Kwathi sekusile kabawunanzelelanga umhlabathi, kodwa babona itheku elilekhumbi elilitshebetshebe, base bezimisela ukuthi umkhumbi bayewuhuzulela khona nxa kuvuma. ⁴⁰ Baquma izisindo bazitshiya zicwila olwandle, baphinde njalo banyomula izintambo ezazibambe amaphini. Yikho base bephakamisa iseyili yaphambili beyiqondisa emoyeni, base beqonda ekhunjini. ⁴¹ Kodwa umkhumbi wahuzuleka esidulini setshebetshebe olwandle wahle wabhajwa. Isihloko sawo sathi ngxi phansi asabe sisanyikinyeka, ingemuva yona yahlakazeka idutshuzwa ngamagagasi.

⁴² Amabutho asesithi kungcono abulale izibotshwa ukuze kungabikhona esizantsheza sibaleke. ⁴³ Kodwa umphathi wekhulu wayefuna ukusindisa impilo kaPhawuli, yikho wasebalela ukuthi bakwenze lokho abase bekumisile. Walaya labo ababelamandla okuhlamba ukuba bazithele olwandle

bona kuqala baqonde emhlabathini. ⁴⁴ Inengi lalizandenda ngamapulanka liyekhona loba ngasiqa bani somkhumbi. Ngale indlela wonke umuntu wafika emhlabathini ephophile.

Emhlabathini EMalitha

28 Sathi sesiphephile safika

emhlabathini, sezwa ukuthi isihlenge leso sasithiwa yiMalitha. ² Abantu bakhona basiphatha ngomusa ongajayelekanga. Basemukela kuhle sonke, basibasela umlilo wekhanka ngokuba lalisina njalo kumakhaza.

³ Uphawuli watheza umnyaba wenkuni, wasesithi kasibase kwaphuma inhlanguwana isixotshwa ngumlilo yahle yamnamathela esandleni. ⁴ Abahlali besihlenge bathi bebona inyoka ilenga esandleni sakhe bathi omunye komunye, "Indoda le iyisigebengu; ngoba loba isindile olwandle uKwahlulelakuhle kakumvumelanga ukuthi aphile."

⁵ Kodwa uPhawuli wayithintitha inyoka wayilabhulela emlilweni yena kaze alimala lakancane. ⁶ Abantu babelinde okwesikhathi eside bengaboni lutho olubi lusenzakala kuye, baguqula imicabango yabo basebesithi ungunkulunkulu.

⁷ Eduze kwalapho kwakulepulazi lingelikaPhabhiliyu, owayeyisona sikhulu esiphethe isihlenge. Wasemukela ngesihle emzini wakhe wasihlalisa khona okwezinsuku ezintathu esiphethe kuhle. ⁸ Uyise wayegula elele phansi ephethwe luquqho lesihudo. Uphawuli wayambona, kwathi esekhulekile, wambeka izandla wamsilisa. ⁹ Kwathi sekwenzakele lokhu, bonke abagulayo esihlengeni beza basiliswa. ¹⁰ Basidumisa ngeziphopho ezinengi, kwasekusithi sesilungela ukuwela basilungisela umphako owaneleyo.

Ukufika ERoma

¹¹ Ngemuva kwezinyanga ezintathu sangena olwandle sikhwele umkhumbi owawuchithe ubusika khona lapho. Wawungumkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya owawulesimo esilamakhandla amaphahla abonkulunkulu oKhasto loPholukhi.

¹² Sakhuphukela eSirakhusi sahlala khona okwezinsuku ezintathu.

¹³ Sesisuka lapho sawela sayafika eRegiyumi. Ngakusasa kwaphephetha umoya weningizimu, yikho ngelanga elilandelayo sayafika ePhuthewoli.

¹⁴ Lapho safumana abazalwane abasinxusa ukuthi sihlale khona okweviki silabo. Yikho sasesidlulela eRoma. ¹⁵ Abazalwane balapho basebezwele ukuthi siyeza, yikho bahamba baze bayafika eNkundleni yase-Aphiya laseziNkantini eziNtathu besihlangabeza. Wathi ebona lababantu uPhawuli wabonga uNkulunkulu njalo waqiniswa. ¹⁶ Sithe sesifikile eRoma uPhawuli wavunyelwa ukuhlala yedwa, elindwe ngelilodwa ibutho.

*UPhawuli Utshumayela ERoma**Elindiwe*

¹⁷ Ngemva kwezinsuku ezintathu uPhawuli wabiza abakhokheli babaJuda. Bathi sebehlangene wathi kubo:

"Bazalwane bami, loba ngingenzanga lutho olubi ebantwini bakithi kumbe olwephula imikhubo yabokhokho bethu, ngabotshwa eJerusalema nganikelwa kumaRoma. ¹⁸ Wona esengihlolile afisa ukungikhulula ngokuba ngangingelacala loba elakuphi ukuganga okwakungafanela ukufa. ¹⁹ Kodwa kwathi ngoba abaJuda bakwala lokho ngabona sekufanele ukuthi ngikhalaze kuKhesari - kungayisikho ukuthi ngasengimangalela abantu bakithi.

²⁰ Ngalesi isizatho ngicelile ukuthi ngilibone, ngikhulume lani. Kungenxa

yethemba lika-Israyeli okwenza ngibotshwe ngale iketane."

²¹ Baphendula bathi, "Kasitholanga zincwadi ezivela eJudiya mayelana lawe, njalo kakho umzalwane ovela khonale oke wabika kumbe wakhuluma ulutho olubi ngawe. ²² Kodwa sifuna ukuzwa ukuthi imibono yakho ithini, ngoba siyakwazi ukuthi ezindaweni zonke abantu bakhuluma kubi ngaloluhlelo lwenkolo."

²³ Balungisa ukuhlangana loPhawuli ngelinye ilanga, kwathi ababesethekelela uPhawuli lapho ayehlala khona bababanengi okudlulayo. Kusukela ekuseni kwaze kwaba ntambama wachaza njalo wamemezela ngokuseMthethweni kaMosi lakubaPhrofethi. ²⁴ Abanye basuthiswa yilokhu ayekutsho, kodwa abanye kabazange bakholwe. ²⁵ Baphikisana bona bodwa basebesuka ngemva kokuba uPhawuli eseqedile ukuphetha inkulumo yakhe esithi: "Uma oNgcwele wakhuluma iqiniso kubokhokho benu aze ukhulume ngomphrofethi u-Isaya, athi:

²⁶ "Hamba kulababantu uyekuthi, "Lizahlala lisizwa njalonje, kodwa lingaqedisisi;

lizabe libona kokuphela kodwa lingabonisisi.

²⁷ Ngokuba inhliziyo yalababantu isindikindiki;

kabasezwa ngezindlebe zabo,

njalo sebevale amehlo abo;

ngoba bangaqabuka bebona

ngamehlo abo,

bezwe ngezindlebe zabo,

baqedisise ngezinhliziyiyo zabo,

baphenduke, lami ngibasilise.

²⁸ "Ngakho ngithanda ukuthi lazi ukuba insindiso kaNkulunkulu isithunyelwe kwabeZizwe, njalo bona bazalalela!"

²⁹ (Ngemva kwalokhu abaJuda basuka, bephikisana bodwa kakhulu.)

³⁰ UPhawuli wahlala khona okweminyaka emibili egcweleyo, ehlala endlini yakhe ayeyiqatshile, njalo esemukela ngesihle bonke ababesiza bezombona. ³¹ Watshumayela ngombuso kaNkulunkulu, wafundisa ngeNkosi uJesu Khristu ngesibindi njalo engaphazanyiswa muntu.