

2 IZIKRONIKE

Isahluko: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

ISAHLUKO 1

USolomoni indodana kaDavide waqiniswa ebukhosini bakhe; uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe wayenaye, wamkhulisa kakhulu.

² USolomoni wakhuluma kuye wonke u-Israyeli, nakuzo izinduna zezinkulungwane nezamakhulu, nakubahluleli, nakuzo zonke izikhulu kwa-Israyeli wonke, izinhloko zawoyise.

³ Wahamba uSolomoni, nebandla lonke linaye, waya endaweni ephakemeyo yaseGibeyoni, ngokuba kwakukhona lapho itende lokuhlangana likaNkulunkulu elalenziwe nguMose inceku kaJehova ehlane.

⁴ Kepha umphongolo kaNkulunkulu uDavide wayewukhuphulile eKiriyati Jeharimi, wawuyisa endaweni uDavide ayewulungisele yona, ngokuba wayewumisele itende eJerusalema.

⁵ Futhi i-altare lethusi elalenziwe nguBesaleli indodana ka-Uri kaHure lalilapho phambi kwetabernakele likaJehova; uSolomoni nebandla baya ukubuza kulo.

⁶ USolomoni wanikela khona phambi kukaJehova e-altare lethusi elalingasetendeni lokuhlangana, wanikela ngeminikelo eyinkulungwane yokushiswa phezu kwalo.

⁷ Ngalobo busuku uNkulunkulu wabonakala kuSolomoni, wathi kuye: “Cela lokhu othanda ukuba ngikunike khona.”

⁸ Wayesethi uSolomoni kuNkulunkulu: “Umenzele uDavide ubaba umusa omkhulu, wangibeka inkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

⁹ Ngalokho, Jehova Nkulunkulu, maliqinise izwi lakho kuDavide ubaba, ngokuba ungibeke inkosi phezu kwabantu abangangothuli lomhlabathi ngobuningi.

¹⁰ Ngiphe manje ukuhlakanipha nokwazi ukuba ngiphume, ngingene phambi kwalabo bantu, ngokuba ngubani ongahlulela labo bantu bakho abakhulu kangaka na?”

¹¹ Wayesethi uNkulunkulu kuSolomoni: “Ngenxa yokuba lokho kwakusenhliziyweni yakho, ungacelanga ingcebo, nemfuyo, nodumo, nokuphila kwabakuzondayo, futhi ungacelanga imihla eminingi, kepha wazicelela ukuhlakanipha nokwazi ukuba wahlulele abantu bami engikubeke inkosi phezu kwabo,

¹² uyakuphiwa ukuhlakanipha nokwazi; ngiyakukunika nengcebo, nemfuyo, nodumo, angazange abe nakho okungako amakhosi ayengaphambi kwakho, nalandelayo emva kwakho awayikuba nakho.”

¹³ USolomoni wayesesuka endaweni ephakemeyo yaseGibeyoni etendeni lokuhlangana, waya eJerusalema; wabusa phezu kuka-Israyeli.

¹⁴ USolomoni wabutha izinqola nabamahhashi; wayenezinqola eziyinkulungwane

namakhulu amane nabamahhashi abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nambili, owakubeka emizini yezinqola nasenkosini eJerusalema.

¹⁵ Inkosi yenza isiliva negolide kuvame eJerusalema njengamatshe, nemisedari yayenza ibe njengemithombe esigodini ngobuningi.

¹⁶ Amahhashi uSolomoni ayenawo ayekhishwe eGibithe; abathengi benkosi bawamukela ngamadlanzi, yilelo nalelo dlanzi ngentengo yalo.

¹⁷ Bakhuphula, bakhapha eGibithe inqola ngamashekeli angamakhulu ayisithupha esiliva, nehhashi ngayikhulu namashumi ayisihlanu; bawakhiphela kanjalo onke amakhosi amaHetu namakhosi ase-Aramu ngezandla zabo.

ISAPHELA 2

USolomoni wahlosa ukwakhela igama likaJehova indlu kanye nendlu yombuso wakhe.

² USolomoni wabala abantu abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisikhombisa ukuba bathwale imithwalo, nabantu abayizinkulungwane eziyishiyagalombili ukuba babe ngababazi bamatshe ezintabeni, nezinkulungwane ezintathu namakhulu ayisithupha ukubabonisa.

³ USolomoni wathumela kuHiramu inkosi yaseTire, wathi: “Njengalokho wakwenza kuDavide ubaba, wathuma kuye imisedari, azakhele ngayo indlu ukuba ahlale kuyo, yenze njalo nakimi.

⁴ Bheka, ngiyakhela igama likaJehova uNkulunkulu wami indlu ukuba ngimngcwelisele yona, ngishise phambi kwakhe impepho ethaphukayo, kubekwe njalo izinkwa zokubukwa, kunikelwe ngeminikelo yokushiswa ekuseni nakusihlwa ngamasabatha, nangokwethwasa kwenyanga, nangemikhosi emisiweyo kaJehova uNkulunkulu wethu. Lokhu kungumthetho kwa-Israyeli kuze kube phakade.

⁵ “Indlu engiyakuyakha iyakuba nkulu, ngokuba mkhulu uNkulunkulu wethu phezu kwabo bonke onkulunkulu.

⁶ Kodwa ngubani onamandla okumakhela indlu, lokhu izulu nezulu lamazulu lingemanele na? Pho, mina ngingubani ukuba ngimakhele indlu, ukuze kushiswe impepho phambi kwakhe na?

⁷ “Ngalokho mawuthume kimi umuntu oyingcweti yokusebenza negolide, nangesiliva, nangethushi, nangensimbi, nangokububende, nangokubomvu, nangokuluhlaza, owazi ukuqopha yonke imiqopho kanye nezingcweti ezinami kwaJuda naseJerusalema, ezamiswa nguDavide ubaba.

⁸ “Ngithumele futhi imisedari, nemisayipuresi, nemi-alimugi evela eLebanoni, ngokuba ngiyazi ukuthi izinceku zakho ziyakwazi ukugawula imithi eLebanoni; bheka, izinceku zami ziyakuba nezinceku zakho

⁹ ukungilungisela imithi eminingi, ngokuba indlu engiyakuyakha iyakuba nkulu ngokumangalisayo.

¹⁰ Bheka, ngiyakunika izinceku zakho, abagawuli abagawula imithi, amakhora ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili kakolweni obhuliweyo, namakhora ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili ebhali, namabhati ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili ewayini, namabhati ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili amafutha.”

¹¹ UHiramu inkosi yaseTire waphendula ngokuloba, wakuthuma kuSolomoni, wathi: “Ngokuba uJehova uyathanda abantu bakhe, ukubeke inkosi phezu kwabo.”

¹² UHiramu wathi futhi: “Makabongwe uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli owenza izulu

nomhlaba, nowanika uDavide inkosi indodana ehlakaniphileyo, enolwazi nengqondo, eyakwakhela uJehova indlu nendlu yombuso wakhe.

¹³ “Manje sengithumile umuntu ohlakaniphileyo nonolwazi, uHiramu Abi,

¹⁴ indodana yowesifazane wamadodakazi akwaDani; uyise wayengumuntu waseTire, owayekwazi ukusebenza ngegolide, nangesiliva, nangethusi, nangensimbi, nangamatshe, nangemithi, nangokububende, nangokuluhlaza, nangeleneni elicolekileyo, nangokubomvu, nangokuqopha imiqopho yonke, nangokuqamba yonke imisebenzi yobungcweti, ukuba anikwe indawo kanye nezingcweti zakho nezingcweti zenkosi yami uDavide uyihlo.

¹⁵ “Ngalokho ukolweni, nebhali, namafutha, newayini, inkosi yami ekhulume ngakho, mayikuthume kuzo izinceku zayo.

¹⁶ Thina siyakugawula imithi eLebanoni njengokuswela konke kwakho, siyiyise kuwe eJopha elwandle ngezihlenga, wena uyikhuphulele eJerusalema.”

¹⁷ USolomoni wabala bonke abezizwe ababesezweni lakwa-Israyeli ngokubalwa uDavide uyise ayebabalile ngakho; kwafumaniseka ukuthi babe yizinkulungwane eziyikhulu namashumi ayisihlanu nezinkulungwane ezintathu namakhulu ayisithupha.

¹⁸ Kubona wamisa izinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisikhombisa ukuba bathwale imithwalo, nezinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisishiyagalombili ukuba babe ngababazi ezintabeni, nezinkulungwane ezintathu namakhulu ayisithupha ukuba babe ngababonisi bokusebenzisa abantu.

ISAHLUKO 3

USolomoni wayeseqala ukwakha indlu kaJehova eJerusalema entabeni yaseMoriya, lapho uJehova abonakala khona kuDavide uyise, nalapho eselungisile khona endaweni kaDavide esibuyeni sika-Orinani umJebusi.

² Waqala ukwakha ngolwesibili lwenyanga yesibili ngomnyaka wesine wokubusa kwakhe.

³ Yilesi isisekelo uSolomoni asibekela ukuba kwakhiwe indlu kaNkulunkulu: ubude ngezingalo zesilinganiso esidala babuyizingalo ezingamashumi ayisithupha, ububanzi babuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili.

⁴ Umpheme owawuphambi kwendlu ende malungana nobubanzi bendlu wawuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili, nokuphakama kwakuyikhulu namashumi amabili; wawunameka phakathi ngegolide elicwengekileyo.

⁵ Indlu enkulu wayembesa imisayipuresi, wayinameka ngegolide elihle, waqopha kulo amasundu namaketanga.

⁶ Wayihlobisa indlu ngamatshe ayigugu ukuze ivunuliswe; igolide laliyigolide laseParivayimi.

⁷ Wanameka nendlu, nemishayo, nemibundu, nezindonga zayo, neminyango yayo ngegolide, waqopha amakherubi ezindongeni.

⁸ Wenza indlu engcwelengcwele; yayimalungana nobubanzi bendlu; ubude bayo babuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili, nobubanzi bayo babuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili; wayinameka ngegolide elihle, lingamatalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha.

⁹ Isisindo sezipikili sasingamashekeli angamashumi ayisihlanu egolide. Amakamelo angaphezulu wawanameka ngegolide.

¹⁰ Endlini engcwelengcwele wenza amakherubi amabili aqoshiweyo; bawanameka ngegolide.

¹¹ Amaphiko amakherubi ayeyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili; iphiko lelinye laliyizingalo eziyisihlanu, lathinta odongeni lwendlu; elinye iphiko nalo laliyizingalo eziyisihlanu, lathinta

ephikweni lelinye ikherubi.

¹² Iphiko lelinye ikherubi laliyizingalo eziyisihlanu, lathinta odongeni lwendlu; elinye iphiko laliyizingalo eziyisihlanu nalo, lafinyelela ephikweni lelinye ikherubi.

¹³ Amaphiko alawo makherubi azelula izingalo ezingamashumi amabili; ema ngezinyawo zawo, ubuso bawo bubheke endlini.

¹⁴ Wenza isihengo ngokuluhlaza nangokububende nangokubomvu, nangelineni elicolekileyo, wabeka kuso amakherubi.

¹⁵ Wenza ngaphakathi kwendlu izinsika ezimbili, ukuphakama kwazo kwakuyizingalo ezingamashumi amathathu nanhlanu; isihloko esasingaphezu kwaleyo naleyo sasiyizingalo eziyisihlanu.

¹⁶ Wenza amaketanga egumbini, wawabeka ezihlokweni zezinsika; wenza amapomegranati ayikhulu, wawabeka emaketangeni.

¹⁷ Wazimisa izinsika phambi kwethempeli, enye ngakwesokunene nenye ngakwesokhohlo, wabiza igama lengakwesokunene ngokuthi uJakini negama lengakwesokhohlo ngokuthi uBowazi.

ISAHLUKO 4

Wenza i-altare lethusi; ubude balo babuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili, nobubanzi balo babuyizingalo ezingamashumi amabili, nokuphakama kwalo kwakuyizingalo eziyishumi.

² Wenza nolwandle olubunjiweyo; lwaluyizingalo eziyishumi kusukela kolunye udini kuze kufike kolunye, lwaluyisiyingilizi; ukuphakama kwalo kwakuyizingalo eziyisihlanu; umucu oyizingalo ezingamashumi amathathu waluzungeza nxazonke.

³ Phansi kwalo kwakukhona okufana nezintangazane nxazonke ezaluzungeza izingalo eziyishumi nxazonke; izintangazane zazisezinhleni ezimbili nxazonke zolwandle, zibunjiwe ekubunjweni kwalo.

⁴ Lwalumi phezu kwezinkabi eziyishumi nambili, ezintathu zibheke ngasenyakatho, ezintathu zibheke ngasentshonalanga, ezintathu zibheke ngaseningizimu, ezintathu zibheke ngasempumalanga; ulwandle lwalumiswe phezu kwazo, zonke zifulathelene.

⁵ Uhlonze lwalo lwalungangobubanzi besandla; udini lwalo lwalwenziwe njengodini lwendebe, lunjengembali yomnduze; lwamukela okulingene namabhati ayizinkulungwane ezintathu.

⁶ Wenza imicengezi eyishumi, wabeka eyisihlanu ngakwesokunene neyisihlanu ngakwesokhohlo ukuhlambela kuyo; okweminikelo yokushiswa babekugezela kuyo, kepha ulwandle lwalungolokuhlambela abapristi.

⁷ Wenza izinti zezibani zegolide njengomthetho wazo, wazibeka ethempelini, eziyisihlanu ngakwesokunene neziyisihlanu ngakwesokhohlo.

⁸ Wenza amatafula ayishumi, wawabeka ethempelini, ayisihlanu ngakwesokunene nayisihlanu ngakwesokhohlo. Wenza nezitsha eziyikhulu zegolide.

⁹ Wenza igceke labapristi, negceke elikhulu, neminyango yegceke, wazinameka izivalo zayo ngethusi.

¹⁰ Walubeka ulwandle ngakwesokunene ngasempumalanga yangaseningizimu.

¹¹ UHiramu wenza amakhanzi, namafoholo, nezitsha. UHiramu wayeseqeda ukwenza umsebenzi abewenzela inkosi uSolomoni endlini kaNkulunkulu:

¹² izinsika ezimbili, nezihloko ezimbili ezinjengezinkamba ezaziphezu kwezinsika, namanetha amabili okwembesa izihloko ezimbili ezinjengezinkamba ezaziphezu

kwezinsika,

¹³ namapomegranati angamakhulu amane amanetha omabili, izinhla ezimbili zamapomegranati kulelo nalelo netha, okwembesa izihloko zombili ezazinjengezinkamba phezu kwezinsika.

¹⁴ Wazenza nezinqe; nemicengezi wayenza ezingeni,

¹⁵ nolwandle lunye, nezinkabi eziyishumi nambili phansi kwalo.

¹⁶ Namakhanzi, namafofsholo, nezingwegwe zenyama, nezinto zonke zalokho uHiramu Abi wakwenzela inkosi uSolomoni ngethusi elikhazimulayo kube ngokwendlu kaJehova.

¹⁷ Inkosi yakubumba ethafeni likaJordani emhlabathini webumba phakathi kweSukoti neSereda.

¹⁸ USolomoni wazenza zonke lezo zinto, zaziningi kangako ukuba isisindo sethusi sasingenakutholwa.

¹⁹ USolomoni wenza-ke zonke izinto ezazisendlini kaNkulunkulu, kanye ne-altare legolide, namatafula okwakukhona kuwo izinkwa zokubukwa,

²⁰ nezinti zezibani kanye nezibani zazo ukuba zivuthe njengomthetho phambi kwegumbi, ngegolide elicwengekileyo,

²¹ nezimbali, nezibani, nezindlawu, ngegolide, igolide elipheleleyo,

²² nezizenze, nezitsha, nezinkezo, nemicengezi yomlilo, ngegolide elicwengekileyo; iminyango-ke yendlu, izivalo zayo ezingaphakathi zendawo engcwelengcwele nezivalo zendlu yethempeli, zaziigolide.

ISAHLUKO 5

Wawusuphela-ke wonke umsebenzi uSolomoni awenzela indlu kaJehova. USolomoni wangenisa izinto ezingcweliswe nguDavide uyise, kanye nesiliva negolide, nazo zonke izitsha, wakubeka engcebeni yendlu kaNkulunkulu.

² Khona uSolomoni wabutha amalunga akwa-Israyeli, nazo zonke izinhloko zezizwe, izikhulu zawoyise babantwana bakwa-Israyeli eJerusalema ukuba bakhuphule umphongolo wesivumelwano sikaJehova emzini kaDavide oyiSiyoni.

³ Onke amadoda akwa-Israyeli abuthana enkosini emkhosini wasenyangeni yesikhombisa.

⁴ Esefikile onke amalunga akwa-Israyeli, amaLevi aphakamisa umphongolo.

⁵ Akhuphula umphongolo, netende lokuhlangana, nazo zonke izinto ezingcwele ezazisetendeni, kwakhushulwa ngabapristi namaLevi.

⁶ Inkosi uSolomoni nayo yonke inhlango yakwa-Israyeli eyayihlangene kuyo babe phambi komphongolo behlaba izimvu nezinkabi ezingenakulotshwa, zingenakubalwa ngobuningi bazo.

⁷ Abapristi bawungenisa umphongolo wesivumelwano sikaJehova endaweni yawo egumbini lendlu, indawo engcwelengcwele, phansi kwamaphiko amakherubi.

⁸ Ngokuba amakherubi awelula amaphiko awo phezu kwendawo yomphongolo, amakherubi asibekela umphongolo nezinti zawo ngaphezulu.

⁹ Izinti zazizinde kangako ukuba izihloko zezinti zibonakale zeqe emphongolweni phambi kwegumbi; kepha zazingabonakali ngaphandle; usekhona lapho kuze kube namuhla.

¹⁰ Kwakungekho lutho emphongolweni, kuphela izibhebhe ezimbili zamatshe ezabekwa khona nguMose eHorebe, lapho uJehova enza isivumelwano nabantwana bakwa-Israyeli ekuphumeni kwabo eGibithe.

- ¹¹ Kwathi lapho abapristi sebephumile endaweni engcwele ngokuba bonke abapristi ababe khona babezingcwelisile bengazigcinanga izigaba zabo,
- ¹² kusemi ngasempumalanga kwe-altare amaLevi, abahlabeleli bonke, kanye no-Asafa, noHemani, noJeduthuni, namadodana abo, nabafofawo, bembethe ilineni elicolekileyo, bephethe amasimbali, nezingubhu, namahabhu, kukhona kanye nabo abapristi abayikhulu namashumi amabili bekhalisa amacilongo
- ¹³ nalapho abaphethe amacilongo nabahlabeleli bezwakalisa kanyekanye izwi linye lokudumisa nokubonga uJehova, nanxa bekhalisa amacilongo namasimbali nezinto zokubethwa, bedumisa uJehova ngokuba muhle nangokuba umusa wakhe umi phakade, khona indlu yagcwaliswa yifu, yona le ndlu kaJehova,
- ¹⁴ baze bangema abapristi ukukhonza ngenxa yefu; ngokuba inkazimulo kaJehova yagcwalisa indlu kaNkulunkulu.

ISAHLUKO 6

Khona wakhuluma uSolomoni, wathi: “UJehova ushilo ukuthi uyakuhlala esigayegayeni.

² Kepha ngikwakhele indlu yokuhlala, indawo yokuhlala kwakho kuze kube phakade.”

³ Inkosi yayisiphenduka, yalibusisa lonke ibandla lakwa-Israyeli, lonke ibandla lakwa-Israyeli lalimi.

⁴ Yathi: “Makabongwe uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli owakhuluma ngomlomo wakhe kuDavide ubaba, ukugcwalisile ngesandla sakhe, ethi:

⁵ ‘Kusukela osukwini engakhipha ngalo abantu bami u-Israyeli ezweni laseGibithe angikhethanga muzi ezizweni zonke zakwa-Israyeli ukwakha indlu ukuba igama lami libe khona lapho, futhi angikhethanga muntu ukuba abe ngumbusi wabantu bami u-Israyeli,

⁶ kodwa ngikhethe iJerusalema ukuba igama lami libe khona lapho, ngakhetha noDavide ukuba abe phezu kwabantu bami u-Israyeli.’

⁷ “Kwakusenhliziyweni kaDavide ubaba ukwakhela igama likaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli indlu.

⁸ Kepha uJehova wathi kuDavide ubaba: ‘Njengokuba kwakusenhliziyweni yakho ukwakhela igama lami indlu, wenza kahle, ngokuba kwakusenhliziyweni yakho lokho;

⁹ kepha wena awuyikwakha indlu, kodwa indodana yakho eyakuphuma okhalweni lwakho, yiyona eyakwakhela igama lami indlu.’

¹⁰ “UJehova uliqinisile izwi alikhulumayo, ngokuba mina ngivelile esikhundleni sikaDavide ubaba, ngihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi sakwa-Israyeli njengokusho kuka Jehova, ngakhele igama likaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli indlu.

¹¹ Ngiwumisile lapho umphongolo okukuwo isivumelwano sikaJehova asenza nabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.”

¹² Wema phambi kwe-altare likaJehova ebusweni balo lonke ibandla lakwa-Israyeli, welula izandla zakhe,

¹³ ngokuba uSolomoni wayenzile ibhesitulu lethusi; ubude balo babuyizingalo eziyisihlanu, nobubanzi balo babuyizingalo eziyisihlanu, nokuphakama kwalo kwakuyizingalo ezintathu; walimisa phakathi negceke, wema kulo, wayeseguqa ngamadolo phambi kwalo lonke ibandla lakwa-Israyeli, welulela izandla zakhe ngasezulwini,

¹⁴ ethi: “Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, akakho unkulunkulu onjengawe ezulwini noma emhlabeni, ogcina isivumelwano nomusa nezinceku zakho ezihamba phambi kwakho ngayo yonke inhliziyoyazo,

- ¹⁵ ogcine nenceku yakho uDavide ubaba lokho owakusho kuyo; yebo, owakukhuluma ngomlomo wakho usukugcwalisile ngesandla sakho njengokuba kunjalo namuhla.
- ¹⁶ “Ngalokho, Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, gcina nenceku yakho uDavide ubaba lokho owakusho kuyo ukuthi: ‘Akuyikunqunywa muntu kuwe emehlweni ami ukuhlala esihlalweni sobukhosi sakwa-Israyeli, uma kuphela abantwana bakho beqaphela indlela yabo ukuba bahambe emthethweni wami, njengalokho wena uhambe phambi kwami.’
- ¹⁷ Ngalokho, Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, maliqiniseke izwi lakho owalikhuluma encekweni yakho uDavide.
- ¹⁸ “Kepha uNkulunkulu uyakuhlala impela nabantu emhlabeni na? Bheka, izulu nezulu lamazulu alinakukwanela; pho, kakhulu kangakanani le ndlu encane engiyakhileyo na?
- ¹⁹ Mawubheke umkhuleko wenceku yakho nokunxusa kwayo, Jehova Nkulunkulu wami, uzwe ukukhala nokukhuleka, inceku yakho ekukhuleka phambi kwakho namuhla,
- ²⁰ ukuba amehlo akho avulekele le ndlu ubusuku nemini, indawo owasho ngayo ukuthi uyakubeka khona igama lakho, uze ulalele umkhuleko inceku yakho eyakuwukhuleka ibhekene nale ndawo.
- ²¹ Kulalele ukunxusa kwenceku yakho nokwabantu bakho u-Israyeli abayakukhuleka bebhokene nale ndawo, ukuzwe usendaweni yakho yokuhlala ezulwini, nalapho usuzwile, uthethelele.
- ²² “Uma umuntu ona umakhelwane wakhe, athweswe isifungo sokumfungisa, abeseza ukufunga phambi kwe-altare lakho kule ndlu,
- ²³ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, wenze, wahlulele izinceku zakho, kuphindiselwe konecala, ubeke indlela yakhe phezu kwekhanda lakhe, uthethelele olungileyo, umnike njengokulunga kwakhe.
- ²⁴ “Uma abantu bakho u-Israyeli benqotshwa yisitha, ngokuba bonile kuwe, kepha bese bebuya bephindela kuwe, balivume igama lakho, bakhuleke, banxuse kuwe kule ndlu,
- ²⁵ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, uthethelele isono sabantu bakho u-Israyeli, ubabuyisele ezweni owalinika bona nawoyise.
- ²⁶ “Lapho izulu livaliwe, imvula ingekho, ngokuba bonile kuwe, kepha bese bekhuleka bebhokene nale ndawo, balivume igama lakho, baphenduke esonweni sabo, ngokuba uyabajezisa,
- ²⁷ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, uthethelele isono sezinceku zakho nesabantu bakho u-Israyeli, lapho ubafundisa indlela enhle abayakuhamba ngayo, uthume imvula ezweni lakho obanike abantu bakho libe yifa labo.
- ²⁸ “Uma kukhona indlala ezweni, noma kukhona isifo, noma kukhona ukuhamuka, nesikhutha, nesikhonyane, nemiswenya, noma izitha zabo zibavimbezela ezweni lemizi yabo, noma kuyiphi inhlupheko nasiphi isifo,
- ²⁹ bese kuzwakala namuphi umkhuleko nakuphi ukunxusa noma ngumuphi umuntu noma yibo bonke abantu bakho u-Israyeli abayakwazi, kube yilowo nalowo inhlupheko yakhe nosizi lwakhe, elulele izandla zakhe kule ndlu,
- ³⁰ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, indawo yakho yokuhlala, uthethelele, unike, kube yilowo nalowo njengezindlela zakhe zonke, wena owaziyo inhliziyo yakhe ngokuba wena kuphela uyazi izinhliziyo zabantwana babantu
- ³¹ ukuba bakwesabe, bahambe ngezindlela zakho zonke izinsuku zokuhamba kwabo ezweni owalinika obaba.
- ³² “Futhi owezizwe ongesiye owabantu bakho u-Israyeli, lapho evela ezweni elikude ngenxa yegama lakho elikhulu nesandla sakho esinamandla nengalo yakho eyeluliweyo, abesefika ukukhuleka kule ndlu,

³³ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, indawo yakho yokuhlala, wenze njengakho konke lo wezizwe akhala ngakho kuwe, ukuze bonke abantu bomhlaba bazi igama lakho, bakwesabe wena njengabantu bakho u-Israyeli, nokuze bazi ukuthi le ndlu engiyakhileyo ibiziwe ngegama lakho.

³⁴ “Uma abantu bakho bephuma impi ukulwa nezitha zabo ngendlela obathuma ngayo, bese bekhuleka kuJehova bebhokene nalo muzi owukhethileyo nale ndlu engiyakhele igama lakho,

³⁵ mawuzwe wena ezulwini umkhuleko wabo nokunxusa kwabo, ubavume.

³⁶ “Uma bona kuwe ngokuba akukho muntu ongoniyo bese wubathukuthelela wena, ubanikele esitheni, ukuze ababathumbayo babamukisele ezweni lesitha, likude noma liseduze,

³⁷ kepha bese becabanga ezweni lapho bethunjelwe khona, baphenduke, banxuse kuwe ezweni lababathumbayo ngokuthi: ‘Sonile, senzile ngokuphambeneyo, saziphatha kabi;’

³⁸ uma bephendukela kuwe ngayo yonke inhliziyi yabo nangawo wonke umphefumulo wabo ezweni lokuthunjwa kwabo, lapho bebathumbele khona, bakhuleke bebhokene nezwe lakubo owalinika oyise, nomuzi owukhethileyo, nendlu engiyakhele igama lakho,

³⁹ mawuzwe wena ezulwini, indawo yakho yokuhlala, umkhuleko wabo nokunxusa kwabo, ubavume, uthethelele abantu bakho abonile kuwe.

⁴⁰ “Ngalokho, Nkulunkulu wami, amehlo akho mawavulekele, nezindlebe zakho maziwulalele umkhuleko owenziwa kule ndawo.

⁴¹ “Ngalokho: Vuka, Jehova Nkulunkulu, uze endaweni yakho yokuphumula, wena nomphongolo wamandla akho; abapristi bakho, Jehova Nkulunkulu, mabembathiswe ukusindiswa, nabathembekileyo bakho mabathokoze ngokuhle.

⁴² Jehova Nkulunkulu, ungafulatheli ogcotshiweyo wakho; khumbula umusa wakho kuDavide inceku yakho.”

ISAHLUKO 7

USolomoni eseqedile ukukhuleka, kwehla umlilo ezulwini, wadla umnikelo wokushiswa nemihlatshelo; inkazimulo kaJehova yagcwalisa indlu.

² Abapristi babengenakungena endlini kaJehova, ngokuba inkazimulo kaJehova yagcwalisa indlu kaJehova.

³ Lapho abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bebona ukwehla komlilo, nenkazimulo kaJehova iphezu kwendlu, bakhothama phansi ngobuso phezu kwendawo egandaywe ngamatshe, bakhuleka, babonga uJehova, ngokuba muhle nangokuba umusa wakhe umi phakade.

⁴ Inkosi nabo bonke abantu base benikela ngomhlatshelo phambi kukaJehova.

⁵ Inkosi uSolomoni yanikela ngomhlatshelo wezinkunzi eziyizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amabili nambili nezimvu eziyizinkulungwane eziyikhulu namashumi amabili. Inkosi nabo bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bahlambulula-ke indlu kaJehova.

⁶ Abapristi bema njengezikhundla zabo kanye namaLevi, benezinto zokubethwa ayezenzile uDavide inkosi ukuba babonge uJehova, ngokuba umusa wakhe umi phakade, lapho uDavide edumisa ngezandla zabo; abapristi bakhalisa amacilongo ngaphambi kwabo, esemi wonke u-Israyeli.

⁷ USolomoni wangcwelisa ingaphakathi legceke elalingaphambi kwendlu kaJehova, ngokuba wanikela lapho ngeminikelo yokushiswa namanoni eminikelo yokuthula, ngokuba i-altare lethusi ayelenzile uSolomoni lalingenakwanela umnikelo wokushiswa, nomnikelo wempuphu, namanoni.

- ⁸ USolomoni wagubha-ke umkhosi ngaleso sikhathi izinsuku eziyisikhombisa, wonke u-Israyeli enaye, ibandla elikhulu kakhulu, kusakela ekuyeni eHamati kuze kube semfuleni waseGibithe.
- ⁹ Ngosuku lwesishiyagalombili benza umhlangano ozothileyo ngokuba ukuhlanjululwa kwe-altare bakwenza izinsuku eziyisikhombisa nomkhosi izinsuku eziyisikhombisa.
- ¹⁰ Ngosuku lwamashumi amabili nantathu lwenyanga yesikhombisa wabamukisa abantu baya ematendeni abo, bethokoza benezinhliziyo ezenamileyo ngobuhle uJehova abenzele oDavide noSolomoni no-Israyeli abantu bakhe.
- ¹¹ USolomoni waqeda-ke indlu kaJehova nendlu yenkosi; konke okwangena enhliziyweni kaSolomoni ukukwenza endlini kaJehova nasendlini yakhe, wakuphumelelisa.
- ¹² UJehova wabonakala kuSolomoni, wathi kuye: “Ngiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho, ngizikhethele le ndawo ukuba ibe yindlu yomhlatsshelo.
- ¹³ “Uma ngivala izulu ukuba kungabikho mvula, noma ngiyaleza isikhonyane ukuba sidle izwe, noma ngithuma isifo phakathi kwabantu bami,
- ¹⁴ bazithobe abantu bami ababizwa ngegama lami, bakhuleke, bafune ubuso bami, baphenduke ezindleleni zabo ezimbi, ngiyakuzwa ezulwini, ngithethelele isono sabo, ngiphilise izwe labo.
- ¹⁵ Manje amehlo ami ayakuvuleka, izindlebe zami zilalele umkhuleko owenziwa kule ndawo.
- ¹⁶ Manje sengiyikhethele ngayingcwelisa le ndlu ukuba igama lami libe khona lapho kuze kube phakade; amehlo ami nenhliziyo yami kuyakuba khona lapho isikhathi sonke.
- ¹⁷ “Wena-ke, uma uyakuhamba phambi kwami njengokuhamba kukaDavide uyihlo, wenze njengakho konke engikuyale ngakho, ugcine izimiso zami nezahlulelo zami,
- ¹⁸ ngiyakusimisa isihlalo sobukhosi sombuso wakho njengesivumelwano sami noDavide uyihlo ngokuthi: ‘Akuyikunqunywa muntu kuwe ukuba kungabikho mbusi kwa-Israyeli.’
- ¹⁹ “Kepha uma nibuya, nishiye izimiso zami nemiyalo yami engikubeke phambi kwakho, nihambe nikhonze abanye onkulunkulu, nikhuleke kubo,
- ²⁰ ngiyakubasiphula ezweni lami engibanike lona, nale ndlu engiyingcwelisele igama lami ngiyakuyilahla ebusweni bami, ngiyenze isaga nesifenqo phakathi kwabantu bonke.
- ²¹ Le ndlu ephakeme kangaka, yilowo nalowo odlula kuyo uyakumangala athi: ‘UJehova wenzeleni kanje kuleli zwe nakule ndlu na?’
- ²² Bayakuphendula bathi: ‘Kungokuba bamshiya uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise owabakhipha ezweni laseGibithe, babambeleva kwabanye onkulunkulu, bakhuleka kubo, babakhonza; ngalokho ubehlisele konke lokho okubi.’ ”

ISAPHLUKO 8

Kwathi ngasekugcineni kweminyaka engamashumi amabili uSolomoni akhe ngayo indlu kaJehova nendlu yakhe,

² imizi uHiramu anike yona uSolomoni, uSolomoni wayivusa, wahlalisa khona abantwana bakwa-Israyeli.

³ USolomoni waya eHamati Soba, walahlula.

⁴ Wakha iTadimori ehlane, nayo yonke imizi yokubekela ayakha eHamati.

⁵ Wakha neBeti Horoni laseNhla, neBeti Horoni laseNzansi, imizi ebiyelweyo enezingange, namasango, nemigoqo,

⁶ kanye neBalati nayo yonke imizi yokubekela uSolomoni ayenayo, nayo yonke imizi

yezinqola zakhe, nemizi yabamahhashi bakhe, nakho konke uSolomoni ayefisa ukukwakha eJerusalema, naseLebanoni, nasezweni lonke lokubusa kwakhe.

⁷ Abantu bonke abaseleyo kumaHetu, nama-Amori, namaPherizi, namaHivi, namaJebusi, abangesibo abakwa-Israyeli,

⁸ abantwana babo abasala emva kwabo ezweni, abangaqedwanga ngabantwana bakwa-Israyeli, kubona uSolomoni wabiza izisebenzi kuze kube namuhla.

⁹ Kepha kubantwana bakwa-Israyeli uSolomoni akakhiphanga izigqila zomsebenzi wakhe, ngokuba babengamadoda empi, nabakhulu bezinduna zakhe, nezinduna zezinqola zakhe, nabamahhashi bakhe.

¹⁰ Lezo zaziyizinduna ezinkulu zenkosi uSolomoni; zazingamakhulu amabili namashumi ayisihlanu, zazibusa phezu kwabantu.

¹¹ USolomoni wakhuphula indodakazi kaFaro emzini kaDavide, wayiyisa endlini ayakhele yona, ngokuba wathi: “Akuyikuhlala owesifazane endlini kaDavide inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, ngokuba ingcwele, lapho kufike khona umphongolo kaJehova.”

¹² Khona uSolomoni wanikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa kuJehova e-altare likaJehova ayelakhe phambi kompheme

¹³ njengokudingekayo imihla ngemihla, enikela njengemiyalo kaMose ngamasabatha, nangokwethwasa kwenyanga, nangemikhosi emisiweyo, kathathu ngomnyaka: ngomkhosi wesinkwa esingenamvubelo, nangomkhosi wamasonto, nangomkhosi wamadokodo.

¹⁴ Wamisa njengomthetho kaDavide uyise izigaba zabapristi enkonzweni yabo, namaLevi ezikhundleni zawo ukuba adumise, akhonze phambi kwabapristi njengokudingekayo imihla ngemihla, nabalindisango ngezigaba zabo emasangweni ngamasango, ngokuba uDavide umuntu kaNkulunkulu wayeyale kanjalo.

¹⁵ Abaphambukanga emiyalweni yenkosi kubapristi namaLevi ngalutho, nangengcebo.

¹⁶ Wonke umsebenzi kaSolomoni walungiswa kwaze kwaba lusuku lokubeka isisekelo sendlu kaJehova, yaze yaphela. Yayisiphelile indlu kaJehova.

¹⁷ Khona uSolomoni waya e-Esiyoni Geberi, nase-Elito, ogwini lolwandle ezweni lakwa-Edomi.

¹⁸ UHiramu wathuma kuye ngezandla zezinceku zakhe imikhumnbi nezinceku ezazilwazi ulwandle; zafika nezinceku zikaSolomoni e-Ofiri, zalanda khona amatalenta angamakhulu amane namashumi ayisihlanu egolide, zawayisa enkosini uSolomoni.

ISAHLUKO 9

Inkosikazi yaseSheba isizwile udumo lukaSolomoni yeza ukumvivinya uSolomoni eJerusalema ngezimfumbe, inehele elikhulu kakhulu, namakamela ethwele amakha, negolide eliningi, namatshe ayigugu; isifikile kuSolomoni yakhuluma naye ngakho konke okusenhliziyweni yayo.

² USolomoni wayiphendula ezindabeni zayo zonke; kwakungekho nto eyayifihlelwe uSolomoni angayitshelanga yona.

³ Inkosikazi yaseSheba isibonile ukuhlakanipha kukaSolomoni, nendlu ayakhileyo,

⁴ nokudla kwasetafuleni lakhe, nokuhlala kwezinceku zakhe, nokuma kwezikhonzi zakhe, nezambatho zazo, kanye nabaphathizitsha nezambatho zabo, nesikhwelo sakhe akhuphukela ngaso endlini kaJehova, akwabe kusabakho moya kuyo.

⁵ Yathi enkosini: “Yayiqinisile indaba engayizwa ezweni lami ngamazwi akho nangokuhlakanipha kwakho.

⁶ Kepha angikholwanga ngamazwi abo, ngaze ngafika, kwabona amehlo ami; bheka,

angitshelwanga nanxeny yobukhulu bokuhlakanipha kwakho; uyadlula udumo engaluzwayo.

⁷ Babusiswe abantu bakho, zibusisiwe lezi zinceku zakho ezimi njalo phambi kwakho, zizwa ukuhlakanipha kwakho.

⁸ Makabongwe uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho owenamele wena ukuba akubeke esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi ukuba ube yinkosi kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho; ngokuba uNkulunkulu wakho wamthanda u-Israyeli waze wammisa kuze kube phakade, ngalokho wakubeka inkosi phezu kwabo ukuba wenze ukwahlulela nokulunga.”

⁹ Yanika inkosi amatalenta ayikhulu namashumi amabili egolide, namakha amaningi kakhulu, namatshe ayigugu; awazange abe khona amakha anjengalawo inkosi uSolomoni eyaphiwa wona yinkosikazi yaseSheba.

¹⁰ Izinceku zikaHiramu nezinceku zikaSolomoni ezabuya negolide e-Ofiri zaletsha imi-alimugi namatshe ayigugu.

¹¹ Ngemi-alimugi inkosi yenzela indlu kaJehova nendlu yenkosi izikhwelo, kanye namahabhu, nezingubhu zabahlabeleli; akuzange kubonwe phambili okunjengakho ezweni lakwaJuda.

¹² Inkosi uSolomoni yanika inkosikazi yaseSheba konke ekufunayo nekucelayo ngaphandle kwalokho ebikulethele inkosi. Yayisibuya, yaya ezweni layo, yona nezinceku zayo.

¹³ Isisindo segolide elafika kuSolomoni iminyaka yonke sasingamatalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi ayisithupha nesithupha egolide

¹⁴ ngaphandle kokuvela kubahwebi nabathengisi; onke amakhosi ase-Arabiya nababusi bezwe baletha igolide nesiliva kuSolomoni.

¹⁵ Inkosi uSolomoni yenza izihlangu ezingamakhulu amabili zegolide elikhandiweyo, kwaba ngamashekeli angamakhulu ayisithupha egolide elikhandiweyo kuso isihlangu sinye,

¹⁶ kanjalo nezihlangu ezingamakhulu amathathu egolide elikhandiweyo, amashekeli angamakhulu amathathu egolide kuso isihlangu sinye; inkosi yazibeka endlini yehlathi laseLebanoni.

¹⁷ Inkosi yenza nesihlalo sobukhosi esikhulu sezimpondo zendlovu, yasinameka negolide elicwengekileyo.

¹⁸ Isihlalo sobukhosi sasinezikhwelo eziyisithupha, sinesenabelo segolide esasinamathelisiwe esihlalweni sobukhosi, nemikhono ngalapha nangalapha kwendawo yokuhlala, kumi izingonyama ezimbili ngaseceleni kwemikhono.

¹⁹ Kwakumi izingonyama eziyishumi nambili ngalapha nangalapha ezikhwelweni eziyisithupha. Okunjalo akwenziwanga komunye umbuso.

²⁰ Zonke izitsha zokuphuza zenkosi uSolomoni zaziigolide, nazo zonke izitsha zendlu yehlathi laseLebanoni zaziigolide elicwengekileyo, isiliva lingento yalutho emihleni kaSolomoni.

²¹ Ngokuba inkosi yayinemikhumbi eyaya eTharishishi kanye nezinceku zikaHiramu; kanye ngeminyaka emithathu yafika imikhumbi yaseTharishishi iletha igolide, nesiliva, nezimpondo zendlovu, nezimfene, namapikoko.

²² Inkosi uSolomoni yaba nkulu kunawo onke amakhosi omhlaba ngengcebo nangokuhlakanipha.

²³ Onke amakhosi omhlaba afuna ubuso bukaSolomoni ukuba ezwe ukuhlakanipha kwakhe, uNkulunkulu akubekile enhliziyweni yakhe.

²⁴ Baletha, kwaba yilowo nalowo isipho sakhe, izitsha zesiliva, nezitsha zegolide,

nezingubo, nezikhali, namakha, namahhashi, neminyuzi, okwenziwa iminyaka ngeminyaka.

²⁵ USolomoni wayenezipani eziyizinkulungwane ezine zamahhashi nezingqola, nabamahhashi abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi nambili, owababeka emizini yezingqola nasenkosini eJerusalema.

²⁶ Wabusa phezu kwawo onke amakhosi kusukela emfuleni kuze kube sezweni lamaFilisti nasemkhawulweni waseGibithe.

²⁷ Inkosi yenza isiliva livame eJerusalema njengamatshe, nemisedari yayenza ibe njengemithombe ehlanzeni ngobuningi.

²⁸ Bamlethela uSolomoni amahhashi evela eGibithe nasemazweni onke.

²⁹ Ezinye izindaba zikaSolomoni, ezokuqala nezokugcina, angithi zilotshiwe ezindabeni zikaNathani umprofethi, nasesiprofethweni sika-Ahiya waseShilo, nasemibonweni ka-Ido umboni ngoJerobowamu indodana kaNebati na?

³⁰ USolomoni wabusa eJerusalema phezu kuka-Israyeli wonke iminyaka engamashumi amane.

³¹ USolomoni wayeselala koyise, wembelwa emzini kaDavide uyise; uRehobowamu indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 10

URehobowamu waya eShekemi, ngokuba wonke u-Israyeli wayefikile eShekemi ukumbeka inkosi.

² Kwathi lapho uJerobowamu indodana kaNebati ekuzwile ngokuba wayeseGibithe, lapho ayebalakele khona, ebalekele ubuso benkosi uSolomoni uJerobowamu wabuya eGibithe.

³ Bathuma bambiza; uJerobowamu naye wonke u-Israyeli beza, bakhuluma kuRehobowamu, bathi:

⁴ “Uyihlo wenza ijoka lethu laba lukhuni; ngalokho yenza wena ube lula umsebenzi olukhuni kayihlo nejoka lakhe elisindayo owalibeka phezu kwethu, siyakukukhonza.”

⁵ Wathi kubo: “Buyelani kimi emva kwezinsuku ezintathu.” Basuka-ke abantu.

⁶ Inkosi uRehobowamu yelulekana namalunga ayemile phambi kukaSolomoni uyise esekhona, yathi: “Nina ningeluleka ukubuyisela mpenduloni kulaba bantu na?”

⁷ Akhuluma kuye, athi: “Uma uzakuba muhle kulaba bantu, ubathokozise, ukhulume amazwi amahle kubo, bayakuba yizinceku zakho izinsuku zonke.”

⁸ Kepha walahla isiluleko samalunga ameluleke ngaso, welulekana nezinsizwa eziyintanga yakhe, ezazimi phambi kwakhe.

⁹ Wathi kuzo: “Nina niluleka ukuba sibuyise mpenduloni kulaba bantu abakhulume kimi ngokuthi: ‘Yenza ijoka uyihlo alibeka phezu kwethu libe lula,’ na?”

¹⁰ Zase zikhuluma kuye izinsizwa eziyintanga yakhe, zithi: “Uyakusho kanje kubantu abakhulume kuwe ngokuthi: ‘Uyihlo walenza ijoka lethu lasinda, kepha wena ulenze libe lula kithina,’ uyakusho kubo kanje ukuthi: ‘Ucicicane wami mkhulu kunokhala lukababa.’”

¹¹ Manje ubaba wanithwesa ijoka elisindayo, mina ngiyakwenezela ejokeni lenu; ubaba wanishaya ngeziswebhu, mina ngawofezela.’ ”

¹² UJerobowamu nabantu bonke base befika kuRehobowamu ngosuku lwesithathu njengokusho kwenkosi ithi: “Buyelani kimi ngosuku lwesithathu.”

¹³ Inkosi yabaphendula kalukhuni; inkosi uRehobowamu yalahla isiluleko samalunga,

¹⁴ yakhuluma kubo njengesiluleko sezinsizwa ngokuthi: “Ubaba walenza ijoka lenu

lasinda, mina ngiyakwenezela kulo; ubaba wanishaya ngesiswebhu, mina ngawofezela.”

¹⁵ Inkosi ayibalalelanga abantu, ngokuba kwakuyisiyiba esivela kuNkulunkulu, ukuze uJehova amise izwi lakhe alikhulumayo ngesandla sika-Ahiya waseShilo kuJerobowamu indodana kaNebati.

¹⁶ Wonke u-Israyeli esebonile ukuthi inkosi ayibalalelanga, abantu babuyisela izwi enkosini, bathi: “Sinasabelo sini kuDavide na? Ifa asinalo endodaneni kaJese. Yilowo nalowo makaye etendeni lakhe, Israyeli; zibhekele indlu yakho manje, Davide.” Wayesesuka u-Israyeli wonke, waya ematendeni akhe.

¹⁷ Kepha abantwana bakwa-Israyeli abakhe emizini yakwaJuda, uRehobowamu wabusa phezu kwabo.

¹⁸ Inkosi uRehobowamu yathuma u-Adoramu owayephezu kwezisebenzi; abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bamkhanda ngamatshe, wafa. Inkosi uRehobowamu yashesha ukukhwela inqola yayo ukuba ibalekele eJerusalema.

¹⁹ U-Israyeli wayeseyihlubuka-ke indlu kaDavide kuze kube namuhla.

ISAHLUKO 11

U Rehobowamu esefikile eJerusalema wabutha indlu yakwaJuda noBenjamini, abantu abakhethiweyo abayizinkulungwane eziyikhulu namashumi ayisihiyagalombili, amabutho, ukuba balwe no-Israyeli, bawubuyisele umbuso kuRehobowamu.

² Lase lifika izwi likaJehova kuShemaya umuntu kaNkulunkulu, lathi:

³ “Khuluma kuRehobowamu indodana kaSolomoni, inkosi yakwaJuda, nakuye wonke u-Israyeli kwaJuda noBenjamini, ngokuthi:

⁴ ‘Usho kanje uJehova, uthi: Aniyikukhuphuka, ningalwi nabafowenu; buyelani, kube yilowo nalowo endlini yakhe, ngokuba le nto ivela kimi.’ ” Balalela amazwi kaJehova, babuya ekumhlaseleni uJerobowamu.

⁵ URehobowamu wahlala eJerusalema, wakha imizi ukuba ibe yizingqaba kwaJuda.

⁶ Wakha iBetlehema, ne-Etamu, neThekhowa,

⁷ neBeti Suri, neSoko, ne-Adulamu,

⁸ neGati, neMaresha, neZifi,

⁹ ne-Adorayimi, neLakishi, ne-Azeka,

¹⁰ neSora, ne-Ajaloni, neHebroni, ekwaJuda nakwaBenjamini, imizi ebiyelweyo.

¹¹ Waziqinisa izingqaba, wabeka izinduna kuzo, nokudla, namafutha, newayini.

¹² Emizini yonke, yileyo naleyo, wabeka izihlangu nemikhonto, wayiqinisa kakhulu impela. ElakwaJuda nelakwaBenjamini lalingelakhe.

¹³ Abapristi namaLevi ayekwa-Israyeli wonke bazihlanganisa naye bephuma emikhawulweni yonke.

¹⁴ Ngokuba amaLevi ashiya amadlelo awo nefa lawo, aya kwaJuda naseJerusalema, ngokuba uJerobowamu namadodana akhe bawalahla ukuba angabe esaba ngabapristi bakaJehova,

¹⁵ wazimisela abapristi bezindawo eziphakemeyo, nabamademoni, nabamathole awenzileyo.

¹⁶ Emva kwabo kwaphuma ezizweni zonke zakwa-Israyeli abanhliziyo zabo zibhekiswe ukufuna uJehova uNkulunkulu wakwa-Israyeli, bafika eJerusalema ukuhlabela uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

¹⁷ Base bewuqinisa-ke umbuso wakwaJuda, benza uRehobowamu indodana kaSolomoni

waba namandla iminyaka emithathu, ngokuba bahamba iminyaka emithathu endleleni kaDavide noSolomoni.

¹⁸ URehobowamu wazithathela umfazi, uMahalati, indodakazi kaJerimoti indodana kaDavide neka-Abihayili, indodakazi ka-Eliyabe, indodana kaJese.

¹⁹ Wamzalela amadodana: ngoJewushe, noShemariya, noZhamu.

²⁰ Emva kwakhe wathatha uMahakha, indodakazi ka-Abisalomu; wamzalela o-Abiya, no-Athayi, noZiza, noShelomiti.

²¹ URehobowamu wamthanda uMahakha indodakazi ka-Abisalomu phezu kwabo bonke abafazi bakhe nezancinza zakhe, ngokuba wathatha abafazi abayishumi nesishiyagalombili nezancinza ezingamashumi ayisithupha, wazala amadodana angamashumi amabili nesishiyagalombili namadodakazi angamashumi ayisithupha.

²² URehobowamu wabeka u-Abiya, indodana kaMahakha, abe yinhloko, abe ngumbusi phakathi kwabafowabo, ngokuba wacabanga ukumbeka inkosi.

²³ Wenza ngokuhlakanipha, wahlakaza onke amadodana akhe emazweni onke akwaJuda noBenjamini, emizini yonke ebiyelweyo, wawanika ukudla okuningi, wawafunela abafazi abaningi.

ISAPHLUKO 12

Kwathi lapho umbuso kaRehobowamu usuqinisiwe, yena esenamandla, washiya umthetho kaJehova no-Israyeli wonke kanye naye.

² Kepha kwathi ngomnyaka wesihlanu wenkosi uRehobowamu, uShishaki inkosi yaseGibithe wakhuphukela eJerusalema, ngokuba babephambukile kuJehova,

³ enezinqola eziyinkulungwane namakhulu amabili, nabamahhashi abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisithupha; abantu babengenakubalwa abaphuma naye eGibithe: ngamaLubi, namaSuki, namaKushe.

⁴ Wayithatha imizi ebiyelweyo yakwaJuda, wafika eJerusalema.

⁵ Wayesefika uShemaya umprofethi kuRehobowamu nasezikhulwini zakwaJuda ezazibuthene eJerusalema ngenxa kaShishaki, wathi kubo: “Usho kanje uJehova, uthi: ‘Nina ningishiyile; ngalokho nami nginishiyile esandleni sikaShishaki.’ ”

⁶ Zase zizithoba izikhulu zakwa-Israyeli nenkosi, bathi: “UJehova ulungile.”

⁷ Lapha uJehova ebona ukuthi bayazithoba, kweza izwi likaJehova kuShemaya, lathi: “Bazithobile; angiyikubachitha, kepha ngiyikubakhulula emva kwesikhashana, nentukuthelo yami ayiyikuthululelwa phezu kweJerusalema ngesandla sikaShishaki.

⁸ Nokho bayakuba yizinceku zakhe ukuba bazi inkonzo yami nenkonzo yemibuso yezizwe.”

⁹ UShishaki, inkosi yaseGibithe, wakhuphukela eJerusalema, wathatha ingcebo yendlu kaJehova nengcebo yendlu yenkosi, yebo, wathatha konke, wathatha izihlangu zegolide ezenziwe nguSolomoni.

¹⁰ Inkosi uRehobowamu yenza izihlangu zethusi esikhundleni sazo, yazinikela ezandleni zezinduna zabalindi abagcina umnyango wendlu yenkosi.

¹¹ Kwathi njalo uma inkosi ingena endlini kaJehova, zafika izigijimi zizithwele, zazibuyisela ekamelweni labalindi.

¹² Kepha lapho esezithoba, intukuthelo kaJehova yabuya kuye ukuba angamchithi ngokupheleleyo, futhi kwakusekhona nokuhle kwaJuda.

¹³ Inkosi uRehobowamu yayisiziqinisa-ke eJerusalema yabusa, ngokuba uRehobowamu

wayeneminyaka engamashumi amane nanye ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa; wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nesikhombisa eJerusalema, umuzi uJehova awukhethileyo ezizweni zonke zakwa-Israyeli ukuba abeke khona igama lakhe; igama likanina lalinguNahama umAmonikazi.

¹⁴ Wenza okubi, ngokuba akabhekisanga inhliziyo yakhe ukumfuna uJehova.

¹⁵ Izindaba zikaRehobowamu, ezokuqala nezokugcina, angithi zilotshiwe ezindabeni zikaShemaya umprofethi nezika-Ido umboni, zibhalwe ngezizukulwane, na? Kwakukhona njalo ukulwa phakathi kukaRehobowamu noJerobowamu.

¹⁶ URehobowamu wayeselala koyise, wembelwa emzini kaDavide; u-Abiya indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 13

Ngomnyaka weshumi nesishiyagalombili wenkosi uJerobowamu u-Abiya waba yinkosi kwaJuda.

² Wabusa iminyaka emithathu eJerusalema; igama likanina lalinguMikhaya indodakazi ka-Uriyeli waseGibeya. Kwakukhona ukulwa phakathi kuka-Abiya noJerobowamu.

³ U-Abiya waqala ukulwa enempi yamaqhawe anamandla, abantu abakhethiweyo abayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amane, kepha uJerobowamu wahlela ukulwa naye enabantu abakhethiweyo abayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu ayisishiyagalombili, bengamaqhawe anamandla.

⁴ U-Abiya wema entabeni yaseSemarayimi esezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi, wathi: “Ngizweni wena Jerobowamu no-Israyeli wonke:

⁵ Bekunganifanele ukwazi yini ukuthi uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli wanika uDavide umbuso kwa-Israyeli kuze kube phakade, yena namadodana akhe, ngesivumelwano sikasawoti, na?

⁶ Nokho uJerobowamu indodana kaNebati, inceku kaSolomoni indodana kaDavide, wavuka, wahlubuka inkosi yakhe.

⁷ Kwabuthana kuye amayiyane, abantu ababi, aziqinisa ukulwa noRehobowamu indodana kaSolomoni, uRehobowamu esemusha, inhliziyo isathambile, engenakumelana nawo.

⁸ “Manje nithi niyakumelana nobukhosi bukaJehova obusesandleni samadodana kaDavide, lokhu niyisixuku esikhulu, futhi kukhona amathole egolide enenzelwa wona nguJerobowamu ukuba abe ngonkulunkulu benu.

⁹ Anixoshanga yini abapristi bakaJehova, amadodana ka-Aroni namaLevi, nazenzenza abapristi ngendlela yabantu bezizwe; bonke abafika ukwahlukaniselwa, bephethe iduna nezinqama eziyisikhombisa, bangaba ngabapristi babangesibo onkulunkulu.

¹⁰ “Kepha thina, uJehova unguNkulunkulu wethu; asimshiyanga; sinabapristi abamkhonzayo uJehova, amadodana ka-Aroni namaLevi emisebenzini yabo;

¹¹ bamshisela uJehova iminikelo yokushiswa nempepho ethaphukayo ekuseni nakusihlwa njalo, basihlela isinkwa sokubukwa etafuleni elihlanzekileyo, bokhela uthi lwezibani lwegolide nezibani zalo kusihlwa njalo, ngokuba thina sigcina imfanelo kaJehova uNkulunkulu wethu, kepha nina nimshiyile.

¹² Futhi bhekani, uNkulunkulu unathi, uyinhloko yethu, kanye nabapristi abaphethe amacilongo okuhlaba umkhosi ukuba bawakhalise ngani; bantwana bakwa-Israyeli, ningalwi noJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyihlo, ngokuba aniyikuphumelela.”

¹³ Kepha uJerobowamu wayegwegwesile abaqamekeli ukuba bafike emuva; babe phambi kukaJuda, abaqamekeli babe semva kwabo.

- ¹⁴ Lapho uJuda esephenduka, bheka, impi yayingaphambili nangasemva kwabo; bakhala kuJehova, abapristi bakhalisa amacilongo.
- ¹⁵ Base bekhamuluka abantu bakwaJuda, nalapho abantwana bakwaJuda bekhamuluka, uNkulunkulu washaya oJerobowamu no-Israyeli wonke phambi kuka-Abiya noJuda.
- ¹⁶ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli babaleka ebusweni bukaJuda, uNkulunkulu wabanikela esandleni sabo.
- ¹⁷ U-Abiya nabantu bakhe babaceka ngokuceka okukhulu; kwawa amadoda akhethiweyo akwa-Israyeli abuleweyo ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu ayisihlanu.
- ¹⁸ Bathotshiswa-ke ngaleso sikhathi abantwana bakwa-Israyeli; kepha abantwana bakwaJuda bahlula, ngokuba babencika kuJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.
- ¹⁹ U-Abiya wamxosha uJerobowamu, wamaphuca imizi: iBethele nemizana yalo, neJeshana nemizana yalo, ne-Efroni nemizana yalo.
- ²⁰ Futhi uJerobowamu akabe esaba namandla emihleni ka-Abiya; uJehova wamshaya, wafa.
- ²¹ Kepha u-Abiya waba namandla, wazithathela abafazi abayishumi nane, wazala amadodana angamashumi amabili nambili namadodakazi ayishumi nesithupha.
- ²² Ezinye izindaba zika-Abiya, nezindlela zakhe, namazwi akhe, kulotshiwe esichasiselweni somprofethi u-Ido.

ISAHLUKO 14

- U**-Abiya wayeselala koyise; bammbela emzini kaDavide; u-Asa indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe: emihleni yakhe izwe lazola iminyaka eyishumi.
- ² U-Asa wenza okuhle nokulungile emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.
- ³ Wawasusa ama-altare abezizwe nezindawo eziphakemeyo, wazibhidliza izinsika, wabagawula o-Ashera,
- ⁴ wamtshela uJuda ukuba amfune uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise, awenze umthetho nemiyalo.
- ⁵ Wasusa kuyo imizi yakwaJuda izindawo eziphakemeyo, nama-altare empepho; umbuso wazola phambi kwakhe.
- ⁶ Wakha imizi ebiyelweyo kwaJuda, ngokuba izwe lazola, engenampi kuleyo minyaka, ngokuba uJehova wayemphumuzile.
- ⁷ Wathi kuJuda: “Masakhe le mizi, siyihaqe ngogange, nangemibhoshongo, nangezivalo, nangemigoqo; izwe lisephambi kwethu, ngokuba simfunile uJehova uNkulunkulu wethu; simfunile, wasiphumuza nxazonke.” Base bakha-ke, baphumelela.
- ⁸ U-Asa wayenempi ephethe izihlangu nemikhonto, evela kwaJuda, iyizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu, nevela kwaBenjamini, ephethe amahawu nensala iminsalo, iyizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili namashumi ayisishiyagalombili; bonke labo babe ngamaqhawe anamandla.
- ⁹ Kwaphuma ukulwa nabo uZera umKushe enempi eyizinkulungwane eziyinkulungwane nezinqola ezingamakhulu amathathu, wafika eMaresha.
- ¹⁰ U-Asa wayesephuma ukuhlangabezana naye, bahlela impi esigodini saseSefata ngaseMaresha.
- ¹¹ U-Asa wakhala kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, wathi: “Jehova, akakho ngaphandle kwakho ongasiza phakathi konamandla amakhulu nongenawo; sisize, Jehova Nkulunkulu wethu, ngokuba sencika kuwe, sifike ngegama lakho kulesi sixuku. Jehova, wena

unguNkulunkulu wethu, mawungahlulwa muntu.”

¹² UJehova wawashaya amaKushe phambi kuka-Asa naphambi kukaJuda; amaKushe abaleka.

¹³ U-Asa nabantu ababe naye bawaxosha kwaze kwaba seGerari, kwawa amaKushe kwaze kwangasala muntu ophilayo, ngokuba achithwa phambi kukaJehova naphambi kwempi yakhe, bamuka nempango enkulu kakhulu.

¹⁴ Bachitha yonke imizi ezungeza iGerari, ngokuba ingebhe ngoJehova yayiphezu kwabo; baphanga yonke imizi, ngokuba kwakukhona impango eningi kuyo.

¹⁵ Bachitha namatende ezinkomo, bamuka nezimvu eziningi namakamela, babuyela eJerusalema.

ISIAHLUKO 15

UMoya kaNkulunkulu waba phezu kuka-Azariya indodana ka-Odedi;

² waphuma ukuhlangabeza u-Asa, wathi kuye: “Ngizweni, Asa, noJuda wonke, noBenjamini, uJehova unani, uma ninaye; uma nimfuna, uyakufunyanwa yinina; kepha uma nimshiya, uyakunishiya nani.

³ Kwakuyizinsuku eziningi u-Israyeli engenaye uNkulunkulu oqinisileyo, namfundisi ofundisayo, namthetho;

⁴ kepha ekuhluphekeni kwabo baphendukela kuJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, bamfuna; wafunyanwa yibo.

⁵ Ngaleso sikhathi kwakungekho kuthula kophumayo nakongenayo, ngokuba ukuphaphatheka okukhulu kwakukhona phezu kwabo bonke abakhe ezweni.

⁶ Isizwe saphahlazwa yisizwe nomuzi ngumuzi, ngokuba uNkulunkulu wabesabisa ngezinkathazo zonke.

⁷ Kepha nina yibani namandla, zingadangali izandla zenu, ngokuba umsebenzi wenu uyakuba nomvuzo wawo.”

⁸ Lapho u-Asa esezwa lawo mazwi nesiprofetho sika-Azariya ka-Odedi umprofethi, waziqinisa isibindi, wasusa izinengiso ezweni lonke lakwaJuda noBenjamini, nasemizini ayeyithathile ezintabeni zakwa-Efrayimi, walivusa i-altare likaJehova elaliphambi kompheme kaJehova.

⁹ Wabutha wonke uJuda noBenjamini nabagogobele kubo bevela kwa-Efrayimi, nakwaManase, nakwaSimeyoni, ngokuba abaningi bahlubukela kuye bevela kwa-Israyeli, lapho bebona ukuthi uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe unaye.

¹⁰ Babuthana eJerusalema ngenyanga yesithathu ngomnyaka weshumi nanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa.

¹¹ Bahlabela uJehova ngalolo suku empangweni ababeyilethile, izinkabi ezingamakhulu ayisikhombisa nezimvu eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa.

¹² Bangena esivumelwaneni sokumfuna uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise ngayo yonke inhliziyo yabo nangawo wonke umphefumulo wabo,

¹³ nesokuba bonke ababengamfuni uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli babulawe, noma bebancane noma bebakhulu, owesilisa noma owesifazane.

¹⁴ Bafunga kuJehova ngezwi elikhulu, nangokukhamuluka, nangamacilongo, nangemitshingo.

¹⁵ Wonke uJuda wathokoza ngesifungo, ngokuba babefungile ngayo yonke inhliziyo yabo, bamfuna ngakho konke ukufisa kwabo; wafunyanwa yibo; uJehova wabaphumiza

nxazonke.

¹⁶ Wamsusa uMahakha unina ka-Asa inkosi ebukhosikazini, ngokuba wayemenzele u-Ashera isithombe esinengekayo; u-Asa wagawula isithombe sakhe, wasicolisisa, wasishisa ngasemfudlaneni iKidroni.

¹⁷ Kodwa izindawo eziphakemeyo azisuswanga kwa-Israyeli; nokho inhliziyo ka-Asa yayiphelele zonke izinsuku zakhe.

¹⁸ Wangenisa endlini kaNkulunkulu izinto ezingcwele zikayise nezinto zakhe ezingcwele: isiliva, negolide, nezitsha.

¹⁹ Akwabe kusaba khona ukulwa kwaze kwaba semnyakeni wamashumi amathathu nanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa.

ISAPHELA 16

Ngomnyaka wamashumi amathathu nesithupha wokubusa kuka-Asa, uBahasha, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, wakhuphuka ukuhlasele uJuda, wakha iRama, ukuze angavumeli muntu ukuphuma nokungena ku-Asa inkosi yakwaJuda.

² U-Asa wakhupha isiliva negolide engcebeni yendlu kaJehova nasendlini yenkosi, wathumela kuBeni Hadadi, inkosi yase-Aramu owahlala eDamaseku, wathi:

³ “Kukhona isivumelwano phakathi kwami nawe, njengalokho sasikhona phakathi kukababa noyihlo; bheka, ngithuma kuwe isiliva negolide; hamba waphule isivumelwano sakho noBahasha inkosi yakwa-Israyeli ukuba asuke kimi.”

⁴ UBeni Hadadi wayilalele inkosi u-Asa, wathuma izinduna zempi yakhe ukuba zihlasele imizi yakwa-Israyeli; zangoba i-Ijoni, neDani, ne-Abela Mayimi, nayo yonke imizi yokubekela yakwaNafetali.

⁵ Kwathi lapho uBahasha esekuzwile lokho, wayeka ukwakha iRama, wamisa umsebenzi wakhe.

⁶ Kepha u-Asa inkosi wahamba naye wonke uJuda; basusa amatshe aseRama nemithi yalo uBahasha ayelakhe ngakho; wakha ngakho iGeba neMispa.

⁷ Ngaleso sikhathi kweza uHanani, umboni ka-Asa, inkosi yakwaJuda, wathi kuye: “Ngokuba wencike enkosini yase-Aramu, ungencikanga kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho, ngalokho impi yenkosi yase-Aramu iphunyakile esandleni sakho.

⁸ AmaKushe namaLubi ayengesiyo impi enkulu yini, inezinqola nabamahhashi abaningi kakhulu na? Kepha ngenxa yokwencika kwakho kuJehova wawanikela esandleni sakho.

⁹ Ngokuba amehlo kaJehova aqalaza emhlabeni wonke ukuba abe namandla kwabanhliziyo yabo iphelele kuye; wenze ngobuwula kule nto, ngokuba kusukela manje uyakuba nokulwa njalo.”

¹⁰ U-Asa wacunuka ngomboni, wamfaka endlini yezitokisi, ngokuba wamfutha ngenxa yale nto. U-Asa wabadlova nabathile babantu ngaleso sikhathi.

¹¹ Bheka, izindaba zika-Asa, ezokuqala nezokugcina, bheka-ke, zilotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwaJuda nakwa-Israyeli.

¹² Ngomnyaka wamashumi amathathu nesishiyagalolunye wokubusa kwakhe u-Asa waba nesifo ezinyaweni zakhe; isifo sakhe sasinzima kakhulu; kepha akafunanga uJehova esifweni sakhe, izinyanga zodwa.

¹³ U-Asa wayeselala koyise, wafa ngomnyaka wamashumi amane nanye wokubusa kwakhe.

¹⁴ Bammbela emathuneni akhe owayeziqophele wona emzini kaDavide, bambeka embhedeni ogcwele iphunga elimnandi namakha ayizinhlobonhlobo, alungisiwe ngokwenza komthaki; bamenzela ukushisa kwempepho okukhulu kakhulu.

ISAHLUKO 17

UJehoshafati indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe, waziqinisa ukulwa no-Israyeli.

² Wabeka amabutho emizini yonke ebiyelweyo yakwaJuda, wabeka amakhanda ezweni lakwaJuda, nasemizini yakwa-Efrayimi u-Asa uyise ayithathileyo.

³ UJehova wayenaye uJehoshafati, ngokuba wahamba ngezindlela zokuqala zikayise uDavide, akafunanga oBali,

⁴ kepha wafuna uNkulunkulu kayise, wahamba ngemiyalo yakhe, kungengakwenza kuka-Israyeli.

⁵ Ngalokho uJehova wawuqinisa umbuso esandleni sakhe; wonke uJuda wathela intela kuJehoshafati, wayenengcebo nodumo olukhulu.

⁶ Inhliziyo yakhe yaphakanyiswa ezindleleni zikaJehova; futhi wasusa izindawo eziphakemeyo nawo-Ashera kwaJuda.

⁷ Ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kwakhe wathuma izikhulu zakhe oBeni Hayili, no-Obadiya, noZakariya, noNethaneli, noMikhaya ukuba zifundise emizini yakwaJuda,

⁸ zinamaLevi oShemaya, noNethaniya, noZebadiya, no-Asaheli, noShemiramoti, noJehonathani, no-Adoniya, noThobiya, noThobi Adoniya, amaLevi, beno-Elishama noJehoramu, abapristi.

⁹ Base befundisa kwaJuda benencwadi yomthetho kaJehova; bazungeza baya emizini yonke yakwaJuda, bafundisa phakathi kwabantu.

¹⁰ Kwehlela ingebhe ngoJehova phezu kwayo yonke imibuso yamazwe eyayinxazonke zakwaJuda, ayilwanga noJehoshafati.

¹¹ AmaFilisti athile aletha izipho kuJehoshafati, nesiliva lentela; nabase-Arabiya baletha kuye imihlambi, izinqama eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa namakhulu ayisikhombisa nezimpongo eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa namakhulu ayisikhombisa.

¹² UJehoshafati wayelokhu ekhula njalo, waze waba mkhulu kakhulu; wakha izinqaba nemizi yokubekelela kwaJuda.

¹³ Wayenemisebenzi eminingi emizini yakwaJuda kanye namadoda empi, amaqhawe anamandla, eJerusalema.

¹⁴ Nakhu ukubalwa kwabo njengezindlu zawoyise: kwaJuda: izinduna zezinkulungwane: ngu-Adina induna, enamaqhawe anamandla ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu;

¹⁵ emva kwakhe kwakunguJehohanani induna, enezinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili namashumi ayisihiyagalombili;

¹⁶ emva kwakhe kwakungu-Amasiya indodana kaZikiri, owazinikela ngenhliziyo kuJehova, enamaqhawe anamandla ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili;

¹⁷ kwaBenjamini: ngu-Eliyada, iqhawe elinamandla, enabahlome iminsalo nezihlangu abayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili;

¹⁸ emva kwakhe kwakunguJehozabadi, enabahlomele impi abayizinkulungwane

eziyikhulu namashumi ayisishiyagalombili.

¹⁹ Yilabo ababekhonza inkosi ngaphandle kwalabo inkosi eyababeka emizini ebiyelweyo kulo lonke lakwaJuda.

ISAHLUKO 18

UJehoshafati wayenengcebo nodumo olukhulu, wahlangana ngobuhlobo no-Ahabi.

² Ngasekugcineni kweminyaka ethile wehlela ku-Ahabi eSamariya. U-Ahabi wamhlabela yena nabantu ababenaye izimvu nezinkabi eziningi, wamncenga ukuba akhuphukele eRamoti Gileyadi.

³ U-Ahabi inkosi yakwa-Israyeli wathi kuJehoshafati inkosi yakwaJuda: “Uyakhamba nami, siye eRamoti Gileyadi, na?” Wathi kuye: “Mina nginjengawe, abantu bami banjengabantu bakho; siyakuba nawe empini.”

⁴ UJehoshafati wathi enkosini yakwa-Israyeli: “Ake ubuze namuhla izwi likaJehova.”

⁵ Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yayisibutha abaprofethi, amadoda angamakhulu amane, yathi kubo: “Sihambe siye yini eRamoti Gileyadi ukulwa, noma ngiliyeke na?” Bathi: “Khuphukani, ngokuba uNkulunkulu uyakulinekela esandleni senkosi.”

⁶ Kepha uJehoshafati wathi: “Akusekho mprofethi kaJehova lapha ukuba sibuze kuye na?”

⁷ Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafati: “Kusekhona umuntu munye esingabuza ngaye kuJehova, kodwa ngiyamzonda, ngokuba akazange aprofethe okuhle ngami, kepha okubi njalo; nguMikhaya indodana kaJimila.” Wathi uJehoshafati: “Inkosi mayingasho njalo.”

⁸ Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yayisibiza induna, yathi: “Landa masinyane uMikhaya indodana kaJimila.”

⁹ Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli noJehoshafati inkosi yakwaJuda babehlezi, kwaba yilowo nalowo esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi, bembethe izambatho zabo, behlezi esibuyeni ngasesikhaleni sesango laseSamariya; bonke abaprofethi baprofetha phambi kwabo.

¹⁰ USedekiya indodana kaKhenahana wazenzela izimpondo zensimbi, wathi: “Usho kanje uJehova, uthi: ‘Ngalezi uyakuqhubukusha ama-Aramu aze aphele.’ ”

¹¹ Bonke abaprofethi baprofetha kanje, bathi: “Khuphukela eRamoti Gileyadi, ube nempumelelo, ngokuba uJehova uyakulinekela esandleni senkosi.”

¹² Isithunywa ebesihambile ukumbiza uMikhaya sakhuluma kuye, sathi: “Bheka, amazwi abaprofethi mahle enkosini ngamlomo munye; ngalokho izwi lakho malibe njengelinnye labo, ukhulume okuhle.”

¹³ Kepha uMikhaya wathi: “Kuphila kukaJehova, lokhu uNkulunkulu wami akushoyo, lokhu ngiyakukhuluma khona.”

¹⁴ Esefikile enkosini, inkosi yathi kuye: “Mikhaya, sihambe silwe neRamoti Gileyadi, noma ngiliyeke na?” Wathi: “Khuphukani, nibe nempumelelo; bayakunikelwa esandleni senu.”

¹⁵ Yayisithi kuye inkosi: “Ngiyakukufungisa izikhathi ezingaki ukuba ungakhulumi lutho kimi ngaphandle kweqiniso egameni likaJehova na?”

¹⁶ Wayesethi: “Ngabona wonke u-Israyeli ehlakazekile ezintabeni njengezimvu ezingenamalusi; uJehova wathi: ‘Laba abasenankosi; mababuyele, kube yilowo nalowo endlini yakhe ngokuthula.’ ”

¹⁷ Yayisithi inkosi yakwa-Israyeli kuJehoshafati: “Angishongo yini kuwe ukuthi akayikuprofetha okuhle ngami, okubi kuphela, na?”

- 18** UMikhaya wathi: “Ngalokho yizwani izwi likaJehova: Ngambona uJehova ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi, nebandla lonke lasezulwini limi ngakwesokunene nangakwesokhohlo sakhe.
- 19** UJehova wathi: ‘Ngubani oyakuyenga u-Ahab inkosi yakwa-Israyeli ukuba akhuphuke, afele eRamoti Gileyadi na?’ Omunye washo ukuthi nomunye ukuthi.
- 20** Kwavela umoya, wema phambi kukaJehova, wathi: ‘Mina ngiyakumyenga.’ UJehova wathi kuye: ‘Ngantoni na?’
- 21** “Wathi: ‘Ngiyakuphuma ngibe ngumoya wamanga emilonyeni yabaprofethi bakhe bonke.’ “Wathi: ‘Uyakumyenga, futhi uyakumahlula; hamba, wenze njalo.’
- 22** “Bheka, ngalokho uJehova ubekile umoya wamanga emilonyeni yalaba baprofethi bakho; uJehova ukhulumile okubi ngawe.”
- 23** USedekiya indodana kaKhenahana wayesesondela, wamshaya uMikhaya esihlathini, wathi: “UMoya kaJehova wasuka kimi ngaphi ukuba akhulume kuwe na?”
- 24** Wathi uMikhaya: “Bheka, uyakukubona ngalolo suku oyakungena ngalo emakamelweni ngamakamelo ukuba ucashe.”
- 25** Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yathi: “Mthatheni uMikhaya, nimbuyisele ku-Amoni umbusi womuzi nakuJowashi indodana yenkosi,
- 26** nithi: ‘Ishe kanje inkosi, ithi: Fakani lona etilongweni, nimuphe isinkwa sokuhlupheka namanzi okuhlupheka, ngize ngibuye ngokuphila.’ ”
- 27** Wayesethi uMikhaya: “Uma ubuya impela ngokuphila, uyakube engakhulumanga ngami uJehova.” Wathi futhi: “Yizwani nina bantu bonke.”
- 28** Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli noJehoshafati inkosi yakwaJuda base bekhuphukela eRamoti Gileyadi.
- 29** Inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafati: “Ngiyakuziguqula, ngingene ekulweni, kepha wena wembathe izambatho zakho.” Yayisiziguqula inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, bangena ekulweni.
- 30** Kepha inkosi yase-Aramu ibiyalile izinduna zezinqola zayo ngokuthi: “Ningalwi namuntu, omncane noma omkhulu, kuphela nenkosi yakwa-Israyeli yodwa.”
- 31** Kwathi lapho izinduna zezinqola sezibonile uJehoshafati, zathi: “Yena uyinkosi yakwa-Israyeli;” zase ziphenduka ukuba zilwe nayo, kepha uJehoshafati wamemeza, uJehova wamsiza; uNkulunkulu wazimukisa kuye.
- 32** Kwathi sezibonile izinduna zezinqola ukuthi yena akasiyo inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, zabuya ekumlandeleni.
- 33** Kepha umuntu othile wansala umnsalo wakhe ngokungazeleli nje, wayihlaba inkosi yakwa-Israyeli enhlanganisweni yebhantshi lensimbi; yathi kumshayeli: “Phenduka, ungikhiphe empini, ngokuba ngikhutshaziwe.”
- 34** Ukulwa kwaqina ngalolo suku; inkosi yakwa-Israyeli yasekelwa enqoleni yayo malungana nama-Aramu kwaze kwaba kusihlwa, yafa ngesikhathi sokushona kwelanga.

ISAHLUKO 19

UJehoshafati inkosi yakwaJuda wabuyela ngokuphila endlini yakhe eJerusalema.

2 UJehu, indodana kaHanani umboni, waphuma ukumhlangabeza, wathi enkosini uJehoshafati: “Usiza yini ababi, uthanda abamzondayo uJehova na? Ngalokho intukuthelo iphezu kwakho ivela kuJehova.

3 Nokho kufunyaniswa kuwe nezinto ezinhle, ngokuba ususile o-Ashera ezweni,

wabhekisa inhliziyi yakho ukuba ifune uNkulunkulu.”

⁴ UJehoshafati wahlala eJerusalema, kepha wabuye waphuma, wahamba phakathi kwabantu, kusukela eBeri Sheba kuze kube sezintabeni, wababuyisela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

⁵ Wamisa abahluleli ezweni emizini yonke ebiyelweyo yakwaJuda, imizi ngemizi, wathi kubahluleli:

⁶ “Bhekani enikwenzayo, ngokuba anahluleleli umuntu kepha uNkulunkulu, onani ekwahluleleni.

⁷ Ngelokho ingebhe ngoJehova mayibe phezu kwenu; qaphelani nikwenze, ngokuba ukungalungi akukho kuJehova uNkulunkulu wethu, nokukhetha ubuso, nokwamukela umvuzo.”

⁸ Futhi uJehoshafati wamisa eJerusalema kumaLevi nakubapristi nasezinhlokweni zawoyise bakwa-Israyeli abokwahlulela kukaJehova nabombango. Sebebuyela eJerusalema,

⁹ wabayala wathi: “Niyakwenze njalo ngokumesaba uJehova, ngeqiniso nangenhliziyi epheleleyo.

¹⁰ Yonke imibango efika kini ivela kubaflowenu abahlala emizini yabo phakathi kwegazi negazi, noma phakathi komthetho nomyalo, noma phakathi kwezimiso nezahlulelo, niyakubaxwayisa ngayo ukuba bangabi nacala kuJehova, nehlelwe yintukuthelo nina nabaflowenu; yenzani njalo, aniyikuba nacala.

¹¹ “Bheka, u-Amariya umpristi omkhulu uphezu kwenu kuzo zonke izindaba zikaJehova, noZebadiya indodana ka-Ishmayeli, umbusi wendlu yakwaJuda, kuzo zonke izindaba zenkosi; namaLevi ayakuba yizinduna ngaphambi kwenu. Yibani namandla ekwenzeni kwenu, uJehova uyakuba nabalungileyo.”

ISAHLUKO 20

Kwathi emva kwalokho kwafika abantwana bakwaMowabi nabantwana bakwa-Amoni benabanye bamaMehuni kuJehoshafati, beyokulwa.

² Kwafika abanye, bamtshela uJehoshafati, bathi: “Kusondela kuwe isixuku esikhulu sivela phesheya kolwandle e-Aramu; bheka, sebeseHasasoni Thamari eliyi-Eni Gedi.”

³ UJehoshafati wayeseshaywa luvalo, wabhekisa ubuso bakhe ukumfuna uJehova, wamemezela ukuzila ukudla kulo lonke lwakwaJuda.

⁴ UJuda wabuthana ukucela ukusizwa nguJehova; baphuma emizini yonke yakwaJuda, bafika ukumfuna uJehova.

⁵ UJehoshafati wema ebandleni lakwaJuda nelaseJerusalema endlini kaJehova phambi kwegceke elisha,

⁶ wathi: “Jehova Nkulunkulu wawobaba, wena awusiye uNkulunkulu ezulwini, awusiye umbusi wemibuso yonke yabezizwe, na? Esandleni sakho kukhona amandla negunya, akakho ongamelana nawe.

⁷ Awuxoshanga yini, Nkulunkulu wethu, abakhileyo kuleli zwe phambi kwabantu bakho u-Israyeli, wanika lona inzalo ka-Abrahama umngane wakho kuze kube phakade, na?

⁸ Bahlala kulo, bakwakhela kulo indlu engcwele ibe ngeyegama lakho, bethi:

⁹ ‘Uma sehlelwa ngokubi, inkemba, nokwahlulelwa, nesifo, nendlala, siyakuma phambi kwale ndlu naphambi kwakho, ngokuba igama lakho likule ndlu, sikhale kuwe ekuhluphekeni kwethu, uyakuzwa, usisindise.’

¹⁰ “Bheka, manje abantwana bakwa-Amoni nabakwaMowabi nabasentabeni yaseSeyiri,

ongavumelanga u-Israyeli ukubangenela ekuphumeni kwakhe ezweni laseGibithe, kepha wabachezuka, akabachithanga,

¹¹ bheka, ukusivuza kwabo ukuba bafike ukusixosha efeni lakho osinike lona ukuba silidle.

¹² Nkulunkulu wethu, awuyikubahlulela na? Ngokuba asinamandla ebusweni balesi sixuku esikhulu esisifikelayo; futhi asazi ukuthi siyakwenze njani, kodwa amehlo ethu akuwe.”

¹³ Wonke uJuda wayemi phambi kukaJehova, nezingane zabo, nawomkabo, namadodana abo.

¹⁴ Kwase kufika uMoya kaJehova phezu kukaJahaziyeli kaZakariya kaBenaya kaJehiyeli kaMathaniya umLevi, emadodaneni ka-Asafa phakathi kwebandla,

¹⁵ wathi: “Yizwani nina nonke bakwaJuda, nabakhileyo eJerusalema, nawe nkosi Jehoshafati: usho kanje kini uJehova, uthi: ‘Ningesabi, ningapheli amandla ngenxa yalesi sixuku esikhulu, ngokuba impi ayisiyo eyenu, ngekaNkulunkulu.

¹⁶ Yehlelani kubo kusasa; bhekani, bayakukhuphuka ngommango waseSisi; niyakubafumana ekugcineni kwesigodi ngaphambi kwehlane laseJeruweli.

¹⁷ Akusikho okwenu ukulwa kule mpi; zihleleni, nime, nibone ukunisindisa kukaJehova, nina Juda neJerusalema; ningesabi, ningapheli amandla; phumelani kubo kusasa, ngokuba uJehova unani.’ ”

¹⁸ Wayesekhothama uJehoshafati, ubuso bakhe bubheke phansi; wonke uJuda nabakhileyo eJerusalema bawa phambi kukaJehova bekhuleka kuJehova.

¹⁹ AmaLevi abantwana bamaKohati nawabantwana bamaKorahi asukuma ukumdumisa uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ngezwi elikhulu kakhulu.

²⁰ Bavuka ekuseni, baphuma baya ehlane laseThekhowa; ekuphumeni kwabo uJehoshafati wema, wathi: “Ngizweni, Juda nani bakhileyo eJerusalema! Kholwani nguJehova uNkulunkulu wenu, niyakuqiniswa; kholwani ngabaprofethi bakhe, niyakuphumelela.”

²¹ Eselulekene nabantu wamisa abayakuhlabelela kuJehova ukuba bamdumise behlotshisiwe ngobungcwele, besaphuma ngaphambi kwempi, bathi: “Bongani uJehova, ngokuba umusa wakhe umi phakade.”

²² Lapho sebegala ukuhalalisa nokudumisa, uJehova wabeka abaqamekeli babantwana bakwa-Amoni, nabakwaMowabi, nabaseSeyiri, ababefikele uJuda, banqotshwa.

²³ Abantwana bakwa-Amoni nabakwaMowabi bamelana nabakhileyo entabeni yaseSeyiri ukuba babachithe, babaqothule; sebebaqedile abakhileyo eSeyiri basiza, kwaba yilowo nalowo, ngokubulalana bodwa.

²⁴ UJuda esefike embonisweni wasehlane, babheka isixuku; bheka, babe yizidumbu nje eziwele phansi, akusindanga noyedwa.

²⁵ Lapho uJehoshafati nabantu bakhe befika ukuqoqa impango kubo, bafumanisa phakathi kwabo ubuningi bengcebo nezidumbu nezinto ezinxanelekayo, bazihlubulela zona, kwaze kwangabakho ongazithwala; kwaba yizinsuku ezintathu beqoqa impango, ngokuba yayiningi kangaka.

²⁶ Ngosuku lwesine babuthana esiGodini saseBerakha, ngokuba bambonga uJehova khona; ngalokho igama laleyo ndawo labizwa ngokuthi isiGodi saseBerakha kuze kube namuhla.

²⁷ Base bebuya bonke abantu bakwaJuda nabaseJerusalema, uJehoshafati ephambi kwabo, ukuba babuyele eJerusalema ngentokozo, ngokuba uJehova wayesebathokozisile phezu kwezitha zabo.

²⁸ Bafika-ke eJerusalema benezingubhu namahabhu namacilongo endlini kaJehova.

²⁹ Ingebhe ngoNkulunkulu yaba phezu kwayo yonke imibuso yamazwe, lapho isizwile

ukuthi uJehova wayelwile nezitha zakwa-Israyeli.

³⁰ Umbuso kaJehoshafati wawusuzola, ngokuba uNkulunkulu wakhe wamnika ukuphumula nxazonke.

³¹ UJehoshafati wabusa-ke phezu kukaJuda; wayeneminyaka engamashumi amathathu nanhlanu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa; wabusa iminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu eJerusalema; igama likanina lalingu-Azuba indodakazi kaShilehi.

³² Wahamba ngendlela ka-Asa uyise, kaphambukanga kuyo, ekwenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova.

³³ Kepha izindawo eziphakemeyo azisuswanga; futhi abantu babengabhekisanga izinhliziyi zabo kuNkulunkulu wawoyise.

³⁴ Ezinye izindaba zikaJehoshafati, ezokuqala nezokugcina, bheka, zilotshiwe ezindabeni zikaJehu indodana kaHanani ezifakwe encwadini yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli.

³⁵ Emva kwalokho uJehoshafati, inkosi yakwaJuda, wazihlanganisa no-Ahaziya inkosi yakwa-Israyeli; yena wayekwenza okubi impela;

³⁶ wazihlanangisa naye ukwenza imikhumbi yokuya eTharishishi; bayenza imikhumbi e-Esiyoni Geberi.

³⁷ U-Eliyezeri indodana kaDodavahu waseMaresha waprofetha ngoJehoshafati ngokuthi: “Ngenxa yokuba uzihlanganisile no-Ahaziya, uJehova uyakudiliza imisebenzi yakho.” Yaphuka-ke imikhumbi, yathiyeka ukuya eTharishishi.

ISAHLUKO 21

UJehoshafati wayeselala koyise, wembelwa koyise emzini kaDavide; uJehoram, indodana yakhe, waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

² Wayenabafowabo, amadodana kaJehoshafati: ngo-Azariya, noJehiyeli, noZakariya, no-Azariyahu, noMikayeli, noShefathiya; bonke labo babengamadodana kaJehoshafati inkosi yakwa-Israyeli.

³ Uyise wabanika izipho ezinkulu zesiliva nezegolide, namagugu kanye nemizi ebiyelweyo kwaJuda, kepha umbuso wawunika uJehoram, ngokuba wayeyizibulo.

⁴ UJehoram esemile embusweni kayise, eseziqinisile, wabulala bonke abafowabo ngenkomba kanye nabathile bezikhulu zakwa-Israyeli.

⁵ UJehoram wayeneminyaka engamashumi amathathu nambili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyisishiyagalombili eJerusalema.

⁶ Wahamba ngendlela yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli njengokwenza kwendlu ka-Ahabi, ngokuba indodakazi ka-Ahabi yayingumkakhe; wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova.

⁷ Kepha uJehova akathandanga ukuchitha indlu kaDavide ngenxa yesivumelwano asenzayo noDavide, njengokusho kwakhe ukuthi uyakumnika yena nabantwana bakhe isibani izinsuku zonke.

⁸ Emihleni yakhe u-Edomi wahlubuka phansi kwesandla sakwaJuda, wazibekela inkosi.

⁹ Wayesewela uJehoram nezinduna zakhe, nazo zonke izinqola zakhe zinaye; wavuka ebusuku, wabachitha abakwa-Edomi abamhaqileyo kanye nezinduna zezinqola.

¹⁰ Wahlubuka-ke u-Edomi phansi kwesandla sakwaJuda kuze kube namuhla; khona lahlubuka neLibina ngasona lesi sikhathi phansi kwesandla sakhe, ngokuba wayemshiyile uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

¹¹ Futhi wenza izindawo eziphakemeyo ezindaweni zakwaJuda, wenza ukuba abakhileyo eJerusalema baphinge, wayenga uJuda.

- ¹² Kwafika kuye incwadi iphuma ku-Eliya umprofethi, ithi: “Usho kanje uJehova uNkulunkulu kaDavide uyihlo, uthi: ‘Ngokuba ungahambanga ngezindlela zikaJehoshafati uyihlo nangezindlela zika-Asa inkosi yakwaJuda,
- ¹³ kepha uhambe ngendlela yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli, wenza uJuda nabakhileyo eJerusalema ukuba baphinge njengokwenza kwendlu ka-Ahabi, futhi wabulala abafowenu bendlu kayihlo abahle kunawe,
- ¹⁴ bheka, uJehova uyakushaya ngokushaya okukhulu abantu bakho nabantwana bakho, nawomkakho, nayo yonke impahla yakho,
- ¹⁵ wena wehlelwe yisifo esikhulu, isifo sezibilini, ukuze izibilini zakho ziphume ngesifo ekuhambeni kwezinsuku.’ ”
- ¹⁶ UJehova wavusa umoya wamaFilisti nowabase-Arabiya abaseceleni kwamaKushe ngoJehoramu;
- ¹⁷ bakhuphukela ukulwa noJuda, bafohllela kuye, basusa yonke impahla eyayifumaniseka endlini yenkosi kanye namadodana akhe nawomkakhe; akusalanga ndodana kuyo, uJehowahazi omncane emadodaneni ayo kuphela.
- ¹⁸ Emva kwakho konke lokho uJehova wamshaya ezibilinini zakhe ngesifo esingenakwelashwa.
- ¹⁹ Kwathi ekuhambeni kwezinsuku ngesikhathi sokufika ekugcineni kweminyaka emibili, izibilini zakhe zaphuma kuye ngesifo sakhe, wafa ngobuhlungu obukhulu. Abantu bakhe abamshiselanga lutho njengokushiselwa kwawoyise.
- ²⁰ Wayeneminyaka engamashumi amathathu nambili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyisihyagalombili eJerusalema, wamuka engakhalelwanga muntu; bammbela emzini kaDavide, kepha kungesemathuneni amakhosi.

ISAHLUKO 22

Abakhileyo eJerusalema babeka u-Ahaziya indodana yakhe encane inkosi esikhundleni sakhe, ngokuba iviyo lababefike ekamu nabase-Arabiya lalibulele bonke abokuqala. Wayesebusa-ke u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoramu inkosi yakwaJuda.

² U-Ahaziya wayeneminyaka engamashumi amane nambili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa umnyaka eJerusalema; igama likanina lalingu-Athaliya indodakazi ka-Omri.

³ Naye wahamba ngezindlela zendlu ka-Ahabi, ngokuba unina wayengomeluleka ukwenza okubi.

⁴ Wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova njengokwenza kwendlu ka-Ahabi, ngokuba bona babengabamelulekayo emva kokufa kukayise, kwaba ngukuchithwa kwakhe.

⁵ Futhi wahamba ngeziluleko zabo, lapho ehamba noJehoramu, indodana ka-Ahabi, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, ukulwa noHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu eRamoti Gileyadi; ama-Aramu amlimaza uJoramu.

⁶ Wabuyela ukwelashwa eJizreyeli ngenxa yamanxeba ayemlimaze wona eRama ekulweni kwakhe noHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu. U-Azariya indodana kaJehoramu, inkosi yakwaJuda, wehla ukumbona uJehoramu indodana ka-Ahabi eJizreyeli, ngokuba wayegula.

⁷ Ukubhubha kuka-Ahaziya kwavela kuNkulunkulu ekuyeni kwakhe kuJoramu, ngokuba lapho esefikile khona waphuma noJehoramu ukulwa noJehu indodana kaNimishi, amgobileyo uJehova ukuba anqume indlu ka-Ahabi.

⁸ Kwathi lapho uJehu ahlulela indlu ka-Ahabi, wafumanisa izikhulu zakwaJuda namadodana abafowabo baka-Ahaziya ababekhonzela u-Ahaziya; wababulala.

⁹ Wamfuna u-Ahaziya, bambamba; wayecashile eSamariya bamletha kuJehu, bambulala; bammabela, ngokuba bathi: “Uyindodana kaJehoshafati owamfuna uJehova ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke.” Indlu ka-Ahaziya yayingasenamandla okuwugcina umbuso.

¹⁰ Kepha u-Athaliya, unina ka-Ahaziya, esebonile ukuthi indodana yakhe ifile wasuka wachitha yonke imbewu yobukhosi yendlu kaJuda.

¹¹ Kodwa uJehoshabeyati, indodakazi yenkosi, wamthatha uJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya, wameba phakathi kwamadodana enkosi abulawayo, wambeka nomzanyana wakhe ekamelweni lokulala. UJehoshabeyati, indodakazi yenkosi uJehoramu, umkaJehoyada umpri — ngokuba wayengudadewabo ka-Ahaziya — wamfihla ebusweni buka-Athaliya, ukuze angambulali.

¹² Wayenabo ethukusiwe endlini kaNkulunkulu iminyaka eyisithupha; u-Athaliya wabusa ezweni.

ISAHLUKO 23

Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa uJehoyada waziqinisa, wazithathela izinduna zamakhulu, u-Azariya indodana kaJerohamu, no-Ishmayeli indodana kaJehohanani, no-Azariya indodana ka-Obede, noMahaseya indodana ka-Adaya, no-Elishafati indodana kaZikiri, zenza isivumelwano naye.

² Zazungeza kwaJuda, zabutha amaLevi emizini yonke yakwaJuda, nezinhloko zawoyise bakwa-Israyeli, bafika eJerusema.

³ Lonke ibandla lenza isivumelwano nenkosi endlini kaNkulunkulu; uJehoyada wathi: “Bhekani, indodana yenkosi iyakubusa njengokukhuluma kukaJehova ngamadodana kaDavide.

⁴ Nansi into eniyakuyenza: abesithathu kini abangena ngesabatha, ababapristi nabamaLevi, bayakuba ngabalindisango,

⁵ abesithathu babe sendlini yenkosi, abesithathu babe seSangweni Lesisekelo, bonke abantu babe semagcekeni endlu kaJehova.

⁶ Makungangeni muntu endlini kaJehova ngaphandle kwabapristi namaLevi akhonzayo; bona bangangena, ngokuba bangcwele; kepha bonke abantu bayakugcina izimfanelo zikaJehova.

⁷ AmaLevi ayakuyizungeza inkosi nxazonke, yilowo nalowo abe nezikhali zakhe esandleni sakhe; ongena endlini makabulawe; yibani nenkosi ekungeneni kwayo nasekuphumeni kwayo.”

⁸ AmaLevi naye wonke uJuda benza njengakho konke uJehoyada umpri ayale ngakho, bathatha, kwaba yilowo nalowo abantu bakhe ababeyakungena ngesabatha kanye nababeyakuphuma ngesabatha, ngokuba uJehoyada umpri akamukisanga izigaba.

⁹ UJehoyada umpri wanikela ezinduneni zamakhulu imikhonto namahawu nezihlangu okwakungokwenkosi uDavide, kusendlini kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰ Wamisa abantu bonke, kwaba yilowo nalowo enesikhali sakhe esandleni sakhe, kusukela ohlangothini lokunene lwendlu kuze kube sohlangothini lwesokhohlo lwendlu, ngase-altare nasendlini nxazonke zenkosi.

¹¹ Base beyikhipha indodana yenkosi, wayifaka umqhele, wayinika ubufakazi, bayibeka inkosi; uJehoyada namadodana akhe bayigcoba bathi: “Mana njalo, nkosi.”

¹² U-Athaliya esezwa ukumemeza kwabantu begijima beyidumisa inkosi, waya kubantu endlini kaJehova,

¹³ wabuka; bheka, inkosi yayimi ngasensikeni yayo ekungeneni, izikhulu nabamacilongo

bengasenkosini; bonke abantu bezwe bathokoza, bakhalisa amacilongo; abahlabeleli babetha izinto zokubethwa, bahola ukuhlabelela kwendumiso. U-Athaliya wayeseklebhula izingubo zakhe, wathi: “Ngugobe! Ngugobe!”

¹⁴ UJehoyada wayesezikhipha izinduna zamakhulu ezazibekwe phezu kwempi, wathi kuzo: “Mkhipheni endlini, nimngenise phakathi kwezinhla; omlandelayo nimbulale ngenkemba,” ngokuba umpri wathi: “Ningambulali endlini kaJehova.”

¹⁵ Base bemdedela nxazombili, waya ekungeneni kwesango lamahhashi endlini yenkosi; bambulala khona.

¹⁶ UJehoyada wenza isivumelwano phakathi kwakhe nabantu bonke nenkosi ukuba babe ngabantu bakaJehova.

¹⁷ Bonke abantu baya endlini kaBali, bayibhidliza, baphahlaza ama-altare akhe nezithombe zakhe, babulala uMathani umpri kaBali phambi kwama-altare.

¹⁸ UJehoyada wamisa ababonisi bendlu kaJehova ngesandla sabapri bamaLevi uDavide abahlukanisile endlini kaJehova bokunikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa kuJehova njengokulotshiweyo emthethweni kaMose, ngentokozo nangokuhlabelela, njengokuhlela kukaDavide.

¹⁹ Wamisa abalindisango emasangweni endlu kaJehova ukuba kungangeni ongcolile noma ngantoni.

²⁰ Wazithatha izinduna zamakhulu, nabakhulu, nababusi babantu, nabo bonke abantu bezwe, wayehlisa inkosi endlini kaJehova, bafika ngesango lasenhla endlini yenkosi, bayibeka inkosi esihlalweni sobukhosi sombuso.

²¹ Bonke abantu bezwe bathokoza; umuzi wazola; bambulala u-Athaliya ngenkemba.

ISAHLUKO 24

UJowashi wayeneminyaka eyisikhombisa ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa; wabusa iminyaka engamashumi amane eJerusalema; igama likanina lalinguSibiya waseBeri Sheba.

² UJowashi wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova zonke izinsuku zikaJehoyada umpri.

³ UJehoyada wamthathela abafazi ababili; wazala amadodana namadodakazi.

⁴ Kwathi emva kwalokho kwakusenhliziyweni kaJowashi ukuvusa indlu kaJehova.

⁵ Wabutha abapri namaLevi, wathi kubo: “Phumani niye emizini yakwaJuda, niqoqe ku-Israyeli wonke imali yokulungisa indlu kaNkulunkulu wenu iminyaka ngeminyaka, niyisheshise le ndaba.” Kepha amaLevi awasheshanga.

⁶ Inkosi yayisibiza uJehoyada inhloko, yathi kuye: “Awubizanga ngani kumaLevi ukuba alethe kwaJuda naseJerusalema intela kaMose inceku kaJehova neyebandla lika-Israyeli, ibe ngeyetende lobufakazi na?”

⁷ Ngokuba amadodana ka-Athaliya, owesifazane lowo omubi, ayeyichithile indlu kaNkulunkulu, nezinto zonke ezingcwele zendlu kaJehova azenza ukuba zibe ngezikaBali.

⁸ Yayisikhuluma inkosi, benza umphongolo, bawubeka ngaphandle ngasesangweni lendlu kaJehova.

⁹ Kwase kumenyezelwa kwaJuda naseJerusalema ukuba balethe kuJehova intela uMose inceku kaNkulunkulu ayibeke phezu kuka-Israyeli ehlane.

¹⁰ Zonke izikhulu nabo bonke abantu bathokoza, bayiletha, bayiphonsa emphongolweni, baze baqeda.

¹¹ Kwathi ngesikhathi umphongolo owayiswa ngaso ezinduneni zenkosi ngesandla

samaLevi, nalapho zibona ukuthi imali iningi, umbhali wenkosi nenduna yompristi omkhulu beza, bawuthulula umphongolo, bawuthatha, bawubuyisela endaweni yawo. Benze njalo imihla ngemihla, baqoqa imali eningi.

12 Inkosi noJehoyada bayinika abenza umsebenzi wenkonzo endlini kaNkulunkulu, baqasha abakhi nababazi ukuvusa indlu kaJehova, nabasebenza ngensimbi nethusi ukuba baqinise indlu kaJehova.

13 Zase zisebenza-ke izisebenzi, zalungisa zaqeda ngezandla zazo, zayimisa indlu kaNkulunkulu ngezilinganiso zayo, zayiqinisa.

14 Sebeqedile baletha imali eseleyo phambi kwenkosi noJehoyada, benza ngayo izitsha zendlu kaJehova, izitsha zokukhonzela nezokunikelela, nezinkezo, nezinye izitsha zegolide nezesiliva. Banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa endlini kaJehova njalo zonke izinsuku zikaJehoyada.

15 Kodwa uJehoyada waguga, wafa esanelisiwe yizinsuku; wayeneminyaka eyikhulu namashumi amathathu ekufeni kwakhe.

16 Bammbela emzini kaDavide phakathi kwamakhosi, ngokuba wayenze okuhle kwa-Israyeli, nakuNkulunkulu, nasendlini yakhe.

17 Emva kokufa kukaJehoyada kwafika izikhulu zakwaJuda, zakhuleka enkosini; khona inkosi yazilalela.

18 Bayishiya indlu kaJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise, bakhonza o-Ashera nezithombe; uJuda neJerusalema kwehlelwa yintukuthelo ngaleli cala labo.

19 Kepha wathuma abaprofethi kubo ukuba bababuyisele kuJehova; babaxwayisa, kepha kababekanga ndlebe.

20 UMoya kaNkulunkulu wembesa uZakariya indodana kaJehoyada umpri; wema ngaphezu kwabantu, wathi kubo: “Usho kanje uNkulunkulu, uthi: ‘Neqelani imiyalo kaJehova ukuba ningabi nampumelelo na? Ngokuba nimshiyile uJehova, naye unishiyile nina.’ ”

21 Bamenzela ugobe, bamkhanda ngamatshe ngesiyalezo senkosi egcekeni lendlu kaJehova.

22 UJowashi, inkosi, akakhumbulanga umusa uJehoyada amenzele wona, wabulala indodana yakhe. Ekufeni kwakhe wathi: “UJehova makakubone lokhu, akuphindisele.”

23 Kwathi ngasekupheleni komnyaka impi yase-Aramu yakhuphukela kuye, yafika kwaJuda naseJerusalema, yabhubhisa zonke izikhulu zabantu phakathi kwabantu, yathuma yonke impango yazo enkosini yaseDamaseku.

24 Ngokuba impi yase-Aramu yafika neviyo elincane labantu, nokho uJehova wanikela impi enkulu kakhulu esandleni sabo, ngokuba babemshiyile uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise. Base bemahlulela uJowashi.

25 Lapho sebemukile kuye ngokuba bamshiya egula kakhulu izinceku zakhe zamenzela ugobe ngenxa yegazi lamadodana kaJehoyada umpri, zambulala embhedeni wakhe, wafa; bammbela emzini kaDavide, kodwa abammbelanga emathuneni amakhosi.

26 Nampa ababemenzela ugobe: nguZabadi indodana kaShimeyati umAmonikazi noJehozabadi indodana kaShimriti umMowabikazi.

27 Ngamadodana akhe, nangobukhulu bemithwalo phezu kwakhe, nangokuvuswa kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, bheka, kulotshiwe esichasiselweni sencwadi yamakhosi. U-Amasiya indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

U-Amasiya wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka engamashumi amabili nesishiyagalolunye eJerusalema; igama likanina lalinguJehohadani waseJerusalema.

² Wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova, kungenganhliziyo epheleleyo kodwa.

³ Kwathi lapho umbuso usuqinisiwe kuye, wazibulala izinceku zakhe ezaziybulele inkosi uyise.

⁴ Kodwa akabulalanga abantwana bazo, kepha wenza njengokulotshiweyo emthethweni encwadini kaMose njengokuyala kukaJehova ngokuthi: “Oyise abayikubulawa ngenxa yabantwana, nabantwana abayikubulawa ngenxa yawoyise, kepha yilowo nalowo uyakufa ngesakhe isono.”

⁵ Futhi u-Amasiya wabutha uJuda, wabamisa ngokwezindlu zawoyise phansi kwezinduna zezinkulungwane nezinduna zamakhulu, oJuda wonke noBenjamini; wababala kusukela kwabaneminyaka engamashumi amabili kuya phezulu, wabafumana beyizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu abakhethekileyo abangaphuma impi nabangaphatha umkhonto nesihlangu.

⁶ Waqasha kwa-Israyeli amaqhawe anamandla ayizinkulungwane eziyikhulu ngamatalenta ayikhulu esiliva.

⁷ Kepha kwafika kuye umuntu kaNkulunkulu, wathi: “Nkosi, impi yakwa-Israyeli mayingahambi nawe, ngokuba uJehova akasenaye u-Israyeli nabo bonke abantwana bakwa-Efrayimi,

⁸ kepha noma kuhamba wena, ukwenza, uziqinisele impi; uNkulunkulu uyakukuwisa phansi ebusweni bezitha. Ngokuba uNkulunkulu unamandla okuwisa phansi nokusiza.”

⁹ U-Amasiya wayesethi kulowo muntu kaNkulunkulu: “Kepha siyakwenze njani ngamatalenta ayikhulu engiwanike impi yakwa-Israyeli na?” Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi: “UJehova unamandla okukunika okuningi kunalokho.”

¹⁰ U-Amasiya wayeseyahlukanisa impi ebifike kuye ivela kwa-Efrayimi ukuba iye ekhaya; ngalokho ulaka lwabo lwavuthela kakhulu uJuda, babuyela ekhaya bevutha ulaka.

¹¹ U-Amasiya waziqinisa, wahola abantu bakhe, waya esiGodini Sikasawoti, wabulala abantwana baseSeyiri abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi.

¹² Abayizinkulungwane eziyishumi bathunjwa ngabantwana bakwaJuda besezwa, babayisa esiqongweni sesiwa, babaphonsa phansi besesiqongweni sesiwa, baphihlizeka bonke.

¹³ Kepha abantu bempi ababebuyiselwe emuva ngu-Amasiya ukuba bangaphumi impi naye baphundla imizi yakwaJuda kusukela eSamariya kuze kube seBeti Horoni, babulala kuyo izinkulungwane ezintathu, bathatha impango eningi.

¹⁴ Kwathi u-Amasiya esebuyile ekubulaleni abakwa-Edomi, waletha onkulunkulu babantwana baseSeyiri, wabamisa babe ngonkulunkulu bakhe, wakhothama phambi kwabo, wabashisela impepho.

¹⁵ Ngalokho intukuthelo kaJehova yamvuthela u-Amasiya, wathuma umprofethi kuye owathi kuye: “Ufuneleni onkulunkulu babantu abangophulanga abantu babo esandleni sakho na?”

¹⁶ Kwathi esakhuluma naye, wathi kuye: “Sikubeke umluleki wenkosi na? Yeka, ubuyakubulawelani na?” Wayeseyeka umprofethi, wathi: “Ngiyazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu unqumile ukukubhubhisa, ngokuba wenzile lokho, ungalalelanga isiluleko sami.”

¹⁷ U-Amasiya, inkosi yakwaJuda, eselulekiwe wathumela kuJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi kaJehu, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, wathi: “Woza sibhekane ubuso nobuso.”

¹⁸ UJowashi, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, wathumela ku-Amasiya inkosi yakwaJuda, wathi:

“Isihlahla somkhaya saseLebanoni sathumela kumsedari waseLebanoni, sathi: ‘Nika indodana yami indodakazi yakho ibe ngumkayo.’ Kwadlula isilo sasendle saseLebanoni, sanyathela phansi isihlahla somkhaya.

¹⁹ Uthi: ‘Bheka, ngichithile u-Edomi;’ inhliziyo yakho iyakuphakamisa ukuba uzidumise; hlala ekhaya manje; uzilebelani ukuba uwe wena, noJuda ekanye nawe, na?”

²⁰ Kepha u-Amasiya akalalelanga, ngokuba kwavela kuNkulunkulu ukuba abanikele esandleni sezitha zabo, ngokuba babefunile onkulunkulu bakwa-Edomi.

²¹ Wayesekhuphuka uJowashi inkosi yakwa-Israyeli; yena no-Amasiya inkosi yakwaJuda babhekana ubuso nobuso eBeti Shemeshi elingelakwaJuda.

²² UJuda wahlulwa phambi kuka-Israyeli; babaleka, kwaba yilowo nalowo etendeni lakhe.

²³ UJowashi inkosi yakwa-Israyeli wambamba u-Amasiya inkosi yakwaJuda indodana kaJowashi kaJehowahazi eBeti Shemeshi, wamyisa eJerusalema, wadiliza ugange lwaseJerusalema kusukela eSangweni lakwa-Efrayimi kuze kube seSangweni Lasegumbini, izingalo ezingamakhulu amane.

²⁴ Wathatha lonke igolide nesiliva, nazo zonke izitsha ezafunyanwa endlini kaJehova ku-Obede Edomi, nengcebo yendlu yenkosi, nabayisibambiso, wabuyela eSamariya.

²⁵ U-Amasiya indodana kaJowashi, inkosi yakwaJuda, wayesekhona emva kokufa kukaJowashi indodana kaJehowahazi, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, iminyaka eyishumi nanhlanu.

²⁶ Ezinye izindaba zika-Amasiya, ezokuqala nezokugcina, bheka, angithi zilotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwaJuda nakwa-Israyeli na?

²⁷ Kusukela esikhathini u-Amasiya aphambuka ngaso ekumlandeleni uJehova bamenzela ugohe eJerusalema; wabalekela eLakishi, kepha bathumela bamlanda eLakishi, bambulala khona.

²⁸ Bamthwala ngamahhashi, bammbela koyise emzini wakwaJuda.

ISAHLUKO 26

Bonke abantu bakwaJuda bathatha u-Uziya owayeneminyaka eyishumi nesithupha, bambeka inkosi esikhundleni sikayise u-Amasiya.

² Yena wakha i-Eloti, walibuyisela kuJuda, inkosi isilele koyise.

³ U-Uziya wayeneminyaka eyishumi nesithuha ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka engamashumi ayisihlanu nambili eJerusalema; igama likanina lalinguJekoliya waseJerusalema.

⁴ Wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova njengakho konke akwenzileyo uyise u-Amasiya.

⁵ Wayelokhu emfuna uNkulunkulu emihleni kaZakariya owafundisa ekumesabeni uJehova; emihleni yokumfuna kwakhe uJehova, uNkulunkulu wamhlahlamelisa.

⁶ Waphuma walwa namaFilisti, wadiliza ugange lwaseGati, nogange lwaseJabine, nogange lwase-Ashidodi; wakha imizi kwelase-Ashidodi naphakathi kwamaFilisti.

⁷ UNkulunkulu wamsiza kumaFilisti, nakwabase-Arabiya ababehlala eGuri Bali, nakumaMehuni.

⁸ Abakwa-Amoni bathela intela ku-Uziya; igama lakhe lahamba laze lafika nasekuyeni eGibithe, ngokuba waba namandla kakhulu.

⁹ U-Uziya wakha nemibhoshongo eJerusalema ngaseSangweni Lasegumbini, nangaseSangweni Lasesigodini, nangaseNqutshini, wayiqinisa.

¹⁰ Wakha imibhoshongo ehlane, wemba imigodi eminingi yamanzi, ngokuba wayenezinkomo eziningi ehlanzeni nasethafeni, wayenabalimi nabaphathi bezivini

ezintabeni naseKarmeli, ngokuba wayengothanda umhlabathi.

11 U-Uziya wayenempi elwayo eyaphuma ukulwa ngamaviyo njengomumo wokubalwa kwabo ngesandla sikaJehiyeli, umbhali, noMahaseya, umbusi phansi kwesandla sikaHananiya, enye yezinduna zenkosi.

12 Umumo wonke wezinhlalo zawoyise, amaqhawe anamandla, wawuyizinkulungwane ezimbili namakhulu ayisithupha.

13 Phansi kwezandla zabo kwakukhona impi enamandla eyizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu nezinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa namakhulu ayisihlanu, eyalwa ngamandla amakhulu ukuba isize inkosi ezitheni.

14 U-Uziya walungisela impi yonke izihlangu, nemikhonto, nezigqoko, namabhantsi, neminsalo, namatshe endwayimana.

15 Wenza eJerusalema imishini eyaqanjwa ngokuhlakanipha ukuba ibe phezu kwemibhoshongo nasezingosini, kuphonswe ngayo imicibisholo namatshe amakhulu. Igama lakhe laphumela ekudeni, ngokuba wasizwa ngokumangalisayo waze waba namandla.

16 Kepha lapho eseqinisele, inhliziyo yakhe yazikhukhumeza kwaze kwaba ngukubhubha kwakhe, waphambuka kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, wangena ethempelini likaNkulunkulu ukuba ashise impepho e-altare lempepho.

17 U-Azariya umpristi wangena emva kwakhe, bekhona kanye naye abapristi bakaJehova abangamashumi ayisishiyagalombili, amadoda anamandla;

18 bamelana no-Uziya inkosi, bathi kuye: “Akusikho okwakho, Uziya, ukushisela uJehova impepho, kungokwabapristi, amadodana ka-Aroni, abangcweliselwe ukushisa impepho; phuma endlini engcwele, ngokuba wenze isiphambeko; futhi awuyikuba nodumo oluvela kuJehova uNkulunkulu.”

19 Wayesethukuthela u-Uziya; wayenomcengezi womlilo esandleni sakhe ukuba ashise impepho; esabathukuthelele abapristi, kwaqhamuka uchoko ebunzini lakhe phambi kwabapristi endlini kaJehova eceleni kwe-altare lempepho.

20 U-Azariya, umpristi omkhulu, nabo bonke abapristi bambuka; bheka, wayenochoko ebunzini lakhe; bashesha bamkhipha khona; naye waphuthuma ukuphuma, ngokuba uJehova wayemshayile.

21 U-Uziya, inkosi, wayesengonochoko kwaze kwafika usuku lokufa kwakhe, wahlala endlini eyahlukanisiweyo, lokhu engonochoko, ngokuba wanqunywa endlini kaJehova. UJothamu indodana yakhe wayephezu kwendlu yenkosi, ahlulela abantu bezwe.

22 Ezinye izindaba zika-Uziya, ezokuqala nezokugcina, zalotshwa ngu-Isaya umprofethi, indodana ka-Amose.

23 U-Uziya wayeselala koyise; bammela koyise ngaphandle kwamathuna amakhosi, ngokuba bathi: “Ungonochoko.” UJothamu, indodana yakhe, waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 27

UJothamu wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nesithupha eJerusalema; igama likanina lalinguJerusha indodakazi kaSadoki.

2 Wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova njengakho konke akwenzileyo u-Uziya, kepha akangenanga ethempelini likaJehova. Abantu babesasebenza ukonakala.

3 Wakha iSango Lasenhla lendlu kaJehova; nasogangeni lwase-Ofeli wakha okuningi.

- ⁴ Wakha imizi ezintabeni zakwaJuda; emahlathini wakha izinqaba nemibhoshongo.
- ⁵ Walwa nenkosi yabantwana bakwa-Amoni, wabahlula. Abantwana bakwa-Amoni bamnika ngawo lowo mnyaka amatalenta ayikhulu esiliva, namakhora ayizinkulungwane eziyishumi kakolweni, nawebhali ayizinkulungwane eziyishumi. Lokho-ke abantwana bakwa-Amoni bakuyisa kuye nangomnyaka wesibili nangowesithathu.
- ⁶ UJothamu waba namandla, ngokuba walungisa izindlela zakhe phambi kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.
- ⁷ Ezinye izindaba zikaJothamu, nakho konke ukulwa kwakhe, nezindlela zakhe, bheka, zilotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli nakwaJuda.
- ⁸ Wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nesithupha eJerusalema.
- ⁹ UJothamu wayeselala koyise; bammbela emzini kaDavide; u-Ahazi indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

IS AHLUKO 28

U-Ahazi wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nesithupha eJerusalema; akenzanga okulungile emehlweni kaJehova njengoDavide uyise,

- ² kepha wahamba ngezindlela zamakhosi akwa-Israyeli, wenzela oBali izithombe ezibunjiweyo.
- ³ Washisa impepho esigodini sendodana kaHinomu, washisa abantwana bakhe emlilweni njengezinengiso zabezizwe uJehova abaxosha phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.
- ⁴ Wahlabana, washisa impepho ezindaweni eziphakemeyo, nasemagqumeni, naphansi kwayo yonke imithi eluhlaza.
- ⁵ UJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe wayesemnikela esandleni senkosi yase-Aramu, bamshaya, bathumba kuye isixuku esikhulu sabathunjwa, babayisa eDamaseku. Naye wanikelwa esandleni senkosi yakwa-Israyeli eyamshaya ngokushaya okukhulu.
- ⁶ Ngokuba uPheka indodana kaRemaliya wabulala kwaJuda izinkulungwane eziyikhulu namashumi amabili ngalusuku lunye, bonke bengamadoda anamandla, ngokuba bebeshiyile uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.
- ⁷ UZikiri, iqhawe lakwa-Efrayimi, wabulala uMahaseya, indodana yenkosi, no-Azirikamu umbusi wendlu, no-Elkana owelama inkosi.
- ⁸ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli bathumba kubafowabo izinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili, abesifazane, namadodana, namadodakazi, besusa kubo nempango eningi, beyiyisa impango eSamariya.
- ⁹ Kepha kwakukhona lapho umprofethi kaJehova ogama lakhe lalingu-Odedi; waphuma ukuhlangabeza impi eyayiza eSamariya, wathi kubo: “Bhekani, ngokuba uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyihlo wayethukuthelele uJuda, wabanikela esandleni senu, kepha nina nibabulele ngokufutha okufinyelele nasezulwini.
- ¹⁰ Manje-ke nithi niyakunyathela phansi abantwana bakwaJuda nabaseJerusalema babe yizigqila nezigqilakazi zenu. Kepha aniyikuba necala kuJehova uNkulunkulu wenu ngalokho kuphela na?
- ¹¹ Ngalokho ngizweni, nibuyise abathunjwa enibathumbile kubafowenu, ngokuba ulaka olushisayo lukaJehova luphezu kwenu.”
- ¹² Kwase kusukuma abezinhloko zabantwana bakwa-Efrayimi, u-Azariya indodana kaJohanani, noBerekiya indodana kaMeshilemoti, noJehizikiya indodana kaShalumi, no-

Amasa indodana kaHadilayi, bamelana nabaphuma empini,

13 bathi kubo: “Ningabangenisi abathunjwa lapha, ngokuba nicabanga okuyakuba yicala lethu kuJehova ukuba kwenezele ezonweni zethu nasecaleni lethu, ngokuba icala lethu selilikhulu namanje; ulaka olushisayo luphezu kuka-Israyeli.”

14 Abahlomileyo base bebashiya abathunjwa nempango phambi kwezikhulu nebandla lonke.

15 Namadoda abizwe ngamagama ayesesukuma, abathatha abathunjwa, abembathisa impango bonke ababehamba ze, abembathisa, abafaka izicathulo, abapha ukudla, abaphuzisa, abagcoba, abakhweza ezimbongolweni bonke ababebuthakathaka, abayisa eJeriko umuzi wamasundu kubafowabo; ayesebuyela eSamariya.

16 Ngaleso sikhathi inkosi u-Ahazi yathumela emakhosini ase-Asiriya ukuba ayisize.

17 Ngokuba phezu kwakho konke babefikile abakwa-Edomi, bashaya uJuda, bathumba abathunjwa.

18 NamaFilisti ayengenele imizi yasehlanzeni neyaseningizimu yakwaJuda, athatha iBeti Shemeshi, ne-Ajaloni, neGederoti, neSoko kanye nemizana yalo, neThimna nemizana yalo, neGimizo nemizana yalo; ahlala khona.

19 Ngokuba uJehova wathobisa uJuda ngenxa ka-Ahazi inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, ngokuba wayedlubulundile kwaJuda, waphambuka nokuphambuka kuJehova.

20 Wayesefika kuye uThiligati Philineseri inkosi yase-Asiriya, wamhlupha, akamqinisanga.

21 Ngokuba u-Ahazi waphanga indlu kaJehova nendlu yenkosi neyezikhulu, wakunika inkosi yase-Asiriya, kepha akumsizanga.

22 Ngesikhathi sokuhlupheka kwakhe waqhubeka ekuphambukeni kuJehova, yona leyo nkosi u-Ahazi.

23 Wahlabela onkulunkulu baseDamaseku ababemshayile, wathi: “Ngokuba onkulunkulu bamakhosi ase-Aramu bawasiza, ngiyakubahlabela ukuba bangisize nami.” Kepha baba yisikhubekiso kuye nakuye wonke u-Israyeli.

24 U-Ahazi waqoqa izinto zendlu kaNkulunkulu, wazihlahlela izinto zendlu kaNkulunkulu, wavala izivalo zendlu kaJehova, wazenzela ama-altare emagumbini onke aseJerusalema.

25 Nakuyo yonke imizi yakwaJuda, imizi ngemizi, wenza izindawo eziphakemeyo zokuba ashisele abanye onkulunkulu impepho, wamcunula uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

26 Ezinye izindaba zakhe nazo zonke izindlela zakhe, ezokuqala nezokugcina, bheka, zilotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwaJuda nakwa-Israyeli.

27 U-Ahazi wayeselala koyise; bammabela emzini, iJerusalema, ngokuba abamyisanga emathuneni amakhosi akwa-Israyeli; uHezekiya indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 29

UHezekiya waqala ukubusa eneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu, wabusa iminyaka engamashumi amabili nesishiyagalolunye eJerusalema; igama likanina lalingu-Abiya indodakazi kaZakariya.

2 Wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova njengakho konke akwenzileyo uDavide uyise.

3 Ngomnyaka wokuqala wokubusa kwakhe ngenyanga yokuqala wavula izivalo zendlu kaJehova, wazilungisa.

4 Wangenisa abapristi namaLevi, wababutha esigcawini ngasempumalanga,

5 wathi kubo: “Ngizweni nina maLevi; zingcweliseni, niyingcwelise nendlu kaJehova

uNkulunkulu wawoyise, nikhiphe ukungcola endaweni engcwele.

⁶ Ngokuba oyihlo baphambukile, benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu wethu, bamshiya, baphendula ubuso babo endlini kaJehova, bamfulathela.

⁷ Bavala nezivalo zompheme, bacima izibani, abashisanga impepho, abanikelanga ngeminikelo yokushiswa endaweni engcwele kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

⁸ Intukuthelo kaJehova yayisiba phezu kukaJuda neJerusalema, wabanikela baba yisibonelo esibi, nesimangaliso, nento enximfelwayo, njengalokhu nibona ngamehlo enu.

⁹ Bhekani, obaba bawile ngenkemba, amadodana ethu namadodakazi ethu nawomkethu basekuthunjweni ngenxa yalokho.

¹⁰ Manje sekusenhliziyweni yami ukwenza isivumelwano noJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukuba ulaka lwakhe oluvuthayo lubuye kithina.

¹¹ Madodana ami, ningadebeseli, ngokuba nina uJehova unikhethile ukuba nime phambi kwakhe, nimkhonze, nibe yizikhonzi zakhe, nishise impepho.”

¹² Kwase kusukuma amaLevi: nguMahathi indodana ka-Amasayi noJoweli indodana ka-Azariya emadodaneni amaKohati; emadodaneni kaMerari: nguKishi indodana ka-Abidi no-Azariya indodana kaJehaleli; kumaGereshoni: nguJowa indodana kaZima no-Edene indodana kaJowa;

¹³ emadodaneni ka-Elisafani: ngoShimri noJehiyeli; emadodaneni ka-Asafa: ngoZakariya noMathaniya;

¹⁴ emadodaneni kaHemani: ngoJehiyeli noShimeyi; emadodaneni kaJeduthuni: ngoShemaya no-Uziyeli.

¹⁵ Babutha abafowabo, bazingcwelisa, bangena njengesiyalezo senkosi ngamazwi kaJehova ukuba bayihlambulule indlu kaJehova.

¹⁶ Abapristi bangena kokuphakathi kwendlu kaJehova ukuba bayihlambulule, nakho konke ukungcola abakufumanisayo ethempelini likaJehova bakukhiphela egcekeni lendlu kaJehova. AmaLevi akuthatha, akukhipha, akuyisa emfudlaneni iKidroni.

¹⁷ Baqala ukungcwelisa ngolokuqala lwenyanga yokuqala; ngosuku lwesishiyagalombili lwenyanga bafika emphemeni kaJehova, bayingcwelisa indlu kaJehova ngezinsuku eziyisishiyagalombili; ngosuku lweshumi nesithupha lwenyanga yokuqala baqeda.

¹⁸ Base bengena phakathi kuHezekiya inkosi, bathi: “Sihlambulule yonke indlu kaJehova, ne-altare leminikelo yokushiswa, kanye nazo zonke izinto zayo, netafula lezinkwa zokubukwa.

¹⁹ Zonke izinto inkosi u-Ahazi eyazilahla ekuphambukeni kwayo isabusa, sizilungisile, sazingcwelisa; bheka, seziphambi kwe-altare likaJehova.”

²⁰ UHezekiya inkosi wayesevuka ekuseni, wabutha izinduna zomuzi, wakhuphukela endlini kaJehova.

²¹ Baletha izinkunzi eziyisikhombisa, nezinqama eziyisikhombisa, namawundlu ayisikhombisa, nezimpongo eziyisikhombisa, kube ngumnikelo wokona ngombuso nangendlu engcwele nangoJuda. Wayaleza abapristi, amadodana ka-Aroni, ukuba banikele ngakho e-altare likaJehova.

²² Base bezihlaba izinkunzi; abapristi bamukela igazi, bafafaza ngalo i-altare; bazibulala izinqama, bafafaza i-altare ngegazi; bawabulala amawundlu, bafafaza i-altare ngegazi.

²³ Base besondeza izimpongo ngenxa yomnikelo wesono phambi kwenkosi nebandla; babeka izandla zabo phezu kwazo;

²⁴ abapristi bazihlaba, benza umnikelo wesono ngegazi lazo e-altare ukuba benzele u-Israyeli wonke ukubuyisana, ngokuba inkosi yayaleza ukuba umnikelo wokushiswa nomnikelo wesono ube ngoka-Israyeli wonke.

- ²⁵ Wawamisa amaLevi endlini kaJehova ephethe amasimbali, nezingubhu, namahabu njengesiyalezo sikaDavide nesikaGadi umboni wenkosi nesikaNathani umprofethi, ngokuba isiyalezo sasingesikaJehova ngesandla sabaprofethi bakhe.
- ²⁶ AmaLevi ayesema ephethe izinto zokubethwa zikaDavide, ekanye nabapristi bephethe amacilongo.
- ²⁷ UHezekiya wayala ukunikela ngomnikelo wokushiswa e-altare. Ngesikhathi sokuqala komnikelo wokushiswa kwaqala nesihlabelelo sikaJehova, namacilongo, kanye nezinto zokubethwa zikaDavide inkosi yakwa-Israyeli.
- ²⁸ Lonke ibandla lakhuleka, abahlabeleli bahlabelela, abamacilongo babetha; konke kwaqhubeka waze waphela umnikelo wokushiswa.
- ²⁹ Sebeqedile ukunikela, inkosi nabo bonke ababe nayo bakhothama, bakhuleka.
- ³⁰ UHezekiya inkosi nezikhulu bawayala amaLevi ukumdumisa uJehova ngamazwi kaDavide nangaka-Asafa umboni. Badumisa ngokuthokoza, bakhothamisa amakhanda abo, bakhuleka.
- ³¹ Wayesethatha uHezekiya, wathi: “Senizahlukanisele uJehova; sondelani, nilethe imihlatshelo neminikelo yokubonga endlini kaJehova.” Ibandla laletha imihlatshelo neminikelo yokubonga, nabo bonke abaqhutshwa yinhliziyi evumayo baletha iminikelo yokushiswa.
- ³² Inani leminikelo yokushiswa elaletshwa yibandla laliyizinkunzi ezingamashumi ayisikhombisa, nezinqama eziyikhulu, namawundlu angamakhulu amabili; konke lokhu kwakungokomnikelo wokushiswa kuJehova.
- ³³ Okungcwelisiwe kwakuyizinkabi ezingamakhulu ayisithupha nezimvu eziyizinkulungwane ezintathu.
- ³⁴ Abapristi babe yingcosana nje, babengenakuhlinza yonke iminikelo yokushiswa; abafowabo amaLevi base bebasiza, waze waphela umsebenzi, nabapristi baze bazingcwelisa, ngokuba amaLevi ayelungele ngezinhliziyi kunabapristi ukuba azingcwelise.
- ³⁵ Neminikelo yokushiswa yayiminingi kanye namanoni eminikelo yokuthula neminikelo yokuphuzwa yeminikelo yokushiswa. Yayisihleliwe inkonzo yendlu kaJehova.
- ³⁶ UHezekiya wathokoza kanye nabantu bonke ngenxa yalokho uNkulunkulu ayebalungisele khona abantu, ngokuba leyo nto yavela ingalindelwanga.

ISAHLUKO 30

- U**Hezekiya wathumela kuye wonke u-Israyeli noJuda, walobela o-Efrayimi noManase izincwadi ukuba beze endlini kaJehova eJerusalema, bamenzele uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli iphasika.
- ² Ngokuba inkosi yayelulekene nezikhulu zayo nebandla lonke laseJerusalema ukuba bagcine iphasika ngenyanga yesibili.
- ³ Ngokuba babengenakulenza ngaleso sikhathi, lokhu abapristi bebengazingcwelisanga ngokwaneleyo nabantu bebengakabuthani eJerusalema.
- ⁴ Leyo nto yabe ilungile emehlweni enkosi nasebandleni lonke.
- ⁵ Benza isinqumo sokuhambisa izwi ku-Israyeli wonke kusukela eBeri Sheba kuze kube kwaDani ukuba bafike, bamenzele uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli iphasika eJerusalema, ngokuba babengalenzanga ebandleni njengokulotshiweyo.
- ⁶ Zase zihamba izigijimi nezincwadi eziphuma esandleni senkosi nasezikhulwini zayo, zaya kuye wonke u-Israyeli noJuda ngesiyalezo senkosi sokuthi: “Nina bantwana bakwa-

Israyeli, buyelani kuJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama noka-Isaka noka-Israyeli ukuba abuyele kuyo insali yenu yabasindileyo esandleni samakhosi ase-Asiriya.

⁷ Ningabi njengoyihlo nabafo wenu ababephambuka kuJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise, waze wabanikela encithakalweni, njengalokhu nibona.

⁸ Ningabi ntamo elukhuni njengawoyihlo, kepha nimnike uJehova isandla senu, ningene endlini yakhe engcwele ayingcwelisile kuze kube phakade, nimkhonze uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu ukuba ulaka lwakhe oluvuthayo lubuye kini.

⁹ Ngokuba ekubuyeleni kwenu kuJehova abafowenu nabantwana benu bayakuthola umusa phambi kwababathumbayo, babuyele kuleli zwe, ngokuba uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu unomusa nesihe, akayikunifulathela, uma nibuyela kuye.”

¹⁰ Izigijimi zazilokhu zidlula emizini ngemizi ezweni lakwa-Efrayimi nelakwaManase kwaze kwaba kwaZebuloni; kepha bazihleka usulu, baziklolodela.

¹¹ Kepha abathile babakwa-Asheri nabakwaManase nabakwaZebuloni bazithoba, beza eJerusalema.

¹² NakwaJuda sasikhona isandla sikaNkulunkulu ukubanika inhliziyonye ukuba benze isiyalezo senkosi nesezikhulu ngezwi likaJehova.

¹³ Kwabuthana eJerusalema abantu abanengi ukuba bagubhe umkhosi wesinkwa esingenamvubelo ngenyanga yesibili, ibandla elikhulu kakhulu.

¹⁴ Basuka, basusa ama-altare aseJerusalema; nawo onke ama-altare empepho bawasusa, bawaphonsa emfudlaneni iKidroni.

¹⁵ Base belihlaba iphasika ngolweshumi nane lwenyanga yesibili; abapristi namaLevi babe namahloni, bazingcwelisa, baletha iminikelo yokushiswa endlini kaJehova.

¹⁶ Bema ezindaweni zabo njengehlelo labo ngokomthetho kaMose, umuntu kaNkulunkulu; abapristi bafafaza ngegazi elalisesandleni samaLevi.

¹⁷ Ngokuba babe baningi ebandleni ababengazingcwelisanga; amaLevi ayephezu kokuhlatsywa kwamaphasika abo bonke ababengahlambulukile ukuba abangcwelisele uJehova.

¹⁸ Ngokuba isixuku sabantu, abanengi bakwa-Efrayimi nakwaManase nakwa-Isakare nakwaZebuloni, sasingazihlambululanga, salidla iphasika ngokungalotshiwe. Ngokuba uHezekiya wayebakhulekele ngokuthi: “UJehova omuhle makathethelele

¹⁹ bonke ababebhekisa izinhliziyi zabo ukufuna uNkulunkulu, uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise, noma kungenjengokuhlanjululwa kwendlu engcwele.”

²⁰ UJehova wamuzwa uHezekiya, wabaphilisa abantu.

²¹ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli ababe khona eJerusalema bawugubha umkhosi wesinkwa esingenamvubelo izinsuku eziyisikhombisa ngokuthokoza okukhulu; amaLevi nabapristi bamdumisa uJehova imihla ngemihla ngezinto zokubethwa ezizwakalayo kuJehova.

²² UHezekiya wakhuluma kahle kuwo onke amaLevi ayebonakalisa ukuqonda inkonzo kaJehova. Badla-ke iminikelo yomkhosi izinsuku eziyisikhombisa, benikela ngemihlatshelo yeminikelo yokuthula, bembonga uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

²³ Lonke ibandla lase livumelana ukugubha ezinye izinsuku eziyisikhombisa; bagubha ezinye izinsuku eziyisikhombisa ngokuthokoza.

²⁴ Ngokuba uHezekiya inkosi yakwaJuda wayenikile ibandla izinkunzi eziyinkulungwane nezimvu eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa zibe yiminikelo, nezikhulu zazinikile ibandla izinkunzi eziyinkulungwane nezimvu eziyizinkulungwane eziyishumi; abapristi abanengi bazingcwelisa.

²⁵ Lonke ibandla lakwaJuda kanye nabapristi namaLevi, nalo lonke ibandla elaphuma ku-Israyeli, nabafokazi abaphuma ezweni lakwa-Israyeli behlezi kwaJuda, bathokoza.

²⁶ Kwakukhona-ke ukuthokoza okukhulu eJerusalema, ngokuba kusukela esikhathini sikaSolomoni indodana kaDavide, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli, akuzange kube khona okunjalo eJerusalema.

²⁷ Base besukuma abapristi namaLevi, bababusisa abantu; izwi labo lezwakala, nomkhuleko wabo wafika endaweni yakhe engcwele ezulwini.

ISAHLUKO 31

Sekuphelile konke lokho, u-Israyeli wonke owayekhona waphuma waya emizini yakwaJuda, waphula izinsika, wagawula o-Ashera, wadiliza izindawo eziphakemayo nama-altare kwaJuda wonke, nakwaBenjamini, nakwa-Efrayimi, nakwaManase, waze waqeda konke. Base bebuyela bonke abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, kwaba yilowo nalowo efeni lakhe, emizini yakubo.

² UHezekiya wamisa izigaba zabapristi nezamaLevi ngezigaba zabo, kwaba yilowo nalowo njengenkonzakhe, abapristi namaLevi beminikelo yokushiswa neminikelo yokuthula, ukuba bakhonze, babonge, badumise emasangweni ekamu likaJehova,

³ nesabelo senkosi emfuyweni yayo ukuba sibe ngeseminikelo yokushiswa, eseminikelo yokushiswa yasekuseni neyakusihlwa, neseminikelo yokushiswa yamasabatha, neyokwethwasa kwenyanga, neyemikhosi emisiweyo njengokulotshiweyo emthethweni kaJehova.

⁴ Washo kubantu abakhileyo eJerusalema ukuba banike abapristi namaLevi izabelo, ukuze babambelele emthethweni kaJehova.

⁵ Lanele ukusakazeka nje leli zwi, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli banikela kakhulu ngolibo lwamabele, nolwewayini, nolwamafutha, nolwezinyosi, nakuzo zonke izithelo zamasimu, baletha kakhulu okweshumi kwakho konke.

⁶ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli nabakwaJuda ababehlala emizini yakwaJuda baletha nabo okweshumi kwezinkabi nezimvu nokweshumi kwezinto ezingcwele ezazingcweliselwe uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo, bakubeka izingwaba ngezingwaba.

⁷ Ngenyanga yesithathu baqala ukubeka izisekelo zezingwaba, ngenyanga yesikhombisa baziqeda.

⁸ Lapho uHezekiya nezikhulu beza ukuzibona izingwaba, bambonga uJehova nabantu bakhe u-Israyeli.

⁹ UHezekiya wababuza abapristi namaLevi ngezingwaba.

¹⁰ U-Azariya umpri omkhulu wendlu kaSadoki wathi: “Kusukela ekuqaleni kokulethwa kweminikelo endlini kaJehova sidlile sasutha, sashiya okuningi, ngokuba uJehova ubusisile abantu bakhe; okuseleyo yile ngebo.”

¹¹ Wayesesho uHezekiya ukuba kulungiswe amakamelo endlini kaJehova; bawalungisa-ke.

¹² Base bengenisa iminikelo, nokweshumi, nezinto ezingcwele ngokuthembeka; uKhonaniya, umLevi, waba ngumphathi walokho; uShimeyi umfowabo waba ngowesibili.

¹³ OJehiyeli, no-Azariya, noNahati, no-Asaheli, noJerimoti, noJozabadi, no-Eleyeli, noJisimakiya, noMahati, noBenaya babe ngababonisi phansi kwesandla sikaKhonaniya noShimeyi umfowabo ngesiyalezo sikaHezekiya inkosi no-Azariya umphathi wendlu kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ UKore, indodana kaJimna umLevi, umlindisango wasesangweni lasempumalanga, wayephethe iminikelo yesihle kaNkulunkulu ukuba abele iminikelo kaJehova nezinto ezingcwele.

¹⁵ Phansi kwakhe kwakungo-Edene, noMinyamini, noJeshuwa, noShemaya, no-Amariya, noShekaniya emizini yabapristi ezikhundleni zabo ukuba babele abafowabo ngezigaba zabo abakhulu njengabancane,

¹⁶ ngaphandle kwabesilisa ababhaliweyo ngezizukulwane zabo, kusukela kwabaneminyaka emithathu kuya phezulu, bonke ababengena endlini kaJehova ngendaba yomsebenzi wabo wemihla ngemihla ngezimfanelo zabo nezigaba zabo;

¹⁷ abapristi babhalwa ngezindlu zawoyise, namaLevi abhalwa kusukela kwaneminyaka engamashumi amabili kuya phezulu ngezimfanelo zawo nezigaba zawo.

¹⁸ Babhalwa ngezizukulwane kanye nezingane zabo, nawomkabo, namadodana abo, namadodakazi abo, isixuku sonke, ngokuba bazingcwelisa ngobungcwele ezikhundleni zabo.

¹⁹ Namadodana ka-Aroni, abapristi ababe semasimini amadlelo emizi yabo, imizi ngemizi, ayenamadoda abizwa ngegama ukuba anike bonke abesilisa babapristi nawo onke amaLevi abhaliweyo ngezizukulwane izabelo.

²⁰ Wenze njalo uHezekiya kwaJuda wonke; wenza okuhle nokulungile nokuthembekile phambi kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.

²¹ Emisebenzini yonke ayiqalayo enkonzweni yendlu kaNkulunkulu, nasemthethweni, nasemiyalweni, ukuba afune uNkulunkulu wakhe, wakwenza ngayo yonke inhliziyi yakhe, waphumelela.

ISAHLUKO 32

Emva kwalezo zinto naleso sibonelo sokuthembeka kwafika uSaneheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya, wangena kwaJuda, wamisa malungana nemizi ebiyelweyo, wathi uyakuzifohlela yona.

² Lapho uHezekiya esebona ukuthi uSaneheribi ufikile nokuthi uqonda ukulwa neJerusalema,

³ welulekana nezikhulu zakhe namaqhawe akhe ukuba bavimbe amanzi emithombo eyayingaphandle komuzi; bamsiza.

⁴ Kwabuthana abantu abaningi, bavimba yonke imithombo, nomfudlana owawugobhoza phakathi nezwe, bathi: “Kungangani ukuba kufike amakhosi ase-Asiriya, afumane amanzi amaningi, na?”

⁵ Waziqinisa, wakha lonke ugange olwaludilizwe, wabeka imibhoshongo phezu kwalo, nolunye ugange ngaphandle, waqinisa iMilo emzini kaDavide, wenza izikhali nezihlangu eziningi.

⁶ Wabeka izinduna zempi phezu kwabantu, wazibuthela bona esigcawini ngasesangweni lomuzi, wakhuluma kahle kubo, wathi:

⁷ “Qinani, nime isibindi, ningesabi, ningapheli amandla ngenkosi yase-Asiriya nangesixuku sonke esinayo, ngokuba onathi mkhulu kunonaye;

⁸ okunaye yingalo yenyama; okunathi nguJehova uNkulunkulu wethu ukuba asisize, alwe izimpi zethu.” Abantu bencika emazwini kaHezekiya inkosi yakwaJuda.

⁹ Emva kwalokho uSaneheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya wathuma izinceku zakhe eJerusalema wayephambi kweLakishi nabo bonke ababusi benaye kuHezekiya inkosi yakwaJuda nakuye wonke uJuda waseJerusalema, wathi:

¹⁰ “Usho kanje uSaneheribi, inkosi yase-Asiriya, uthi: Nethembani nina, njengokuba nihlala nivinjezelwe eJerusalema, na?

¹¹ UHezekiya akaniyengi yini ukuba aninikele, nife ngendlala nangokoma, ethi: ‘UJehova

uNkulunkulu wethu uyakusophula esandleni senkosi yase-Asiriya,' na?

12 Yena lowo Hezekiya akasusanga yini izindawo eziphakemeyo nama-altare akhe, wayala uJuda neJerusalema, wathi: 'Niyakukhuleka phambi kwe-altare linye, nishise impepho,' na?

13 "Anazi yini ukuthi mina nawobaba senzeni kubo bonke abezizwe na? Onkulunkulu babezizwe babe namandla yini nakanjani okophula izwe labo esandleni sami na?

14 Ngubani phakathi kwabo bonke onkulunkulu balezo zizwe ezachithwa ngobaba owayenamandla okophula abantu bakhe esandleni sami, ukuze uNkulunkulu wenu anophule nina esandleni sami, na?

15 Ngelokho uHezekiya makanganikhohlisi, anganiyengi ngale ndlela, ningakholwa nguye, ngokuba kwakungekho nkulunkulu nakusiphi isizwe noma kumuphi umbuso owayenamandla okophula abantu bakhe esandleni sami nasesandleni sawobaba; kakhulu kangakanani anganophula esandleni sami uNkulunkulu wenu na?"

16 Izinceku zakhe zazikhuluma nokunye okuphambene noJehova uNkulunkulu nenceku yakhe uHezekiya.

17 Wayelobe nencwadi yokumhlambalaza uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, wakhuluma okuphambene naye, wathi: "Njengalokho onkulunkulu babezizwe bengabophulanga abantu babo esandleni sami, kanjalo uNkulunkulu kaHezekiya akayikubophula abantu bakhe esandleni sami."

18 Bamemeza ngezwi elikhulu ngolimi lwabaJuda kubantu baseJerusalema ababe sogangeni ukuba babethuse, babesabise, ukuze bawuthathe umuzi.

19 Bakhuluma ngoNkulunkulu waseJerusalema njengangawonkulunkulu babantu bomhlaba abangumsebenzi wezandla zabantu.

20 UHezekiya inkosi no-Isaya umprofethi, indodana ka-Amose, bakhuleka ngenxa yalokho, bakhala ngasezulwini.

21 UJehova wathuma ingelosi eyanquma onke amaqhawe anamandla, nabaholi, nezinduna ekamu lenkosi yase-Asiriya. Yayisibuyela ezweni layo ijabhile. Isingenile endlini kankulunkulu wayo, ababephume ezibilini zayo bayibulala khona ngenkemba.

22 UJehova wasindisa-ke uHezekiya nabakhileyo eJerusalema esandleni sikaSaneheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya nasesandleni sabo bonke abanye, wabahola nxazonke.

23 Abaningi baletha izipho kuJehova eJerusalema namagugu kuHezekiya inkosi yakwaJuda, waze waphakanyiswa emehlweni abo bonke abezizwe ngasemuva.

24 Ngalezo zinsuku uHezekiya wagula waze waba sengozi yokufa; wakhuleka kuJehova; yena wakhuluma kuye, wamnika isibonakaliso.

25 Kepha uHezekiya akabuyiselanga okuhle okwenzelwe yena, ngokuba inhliziyi yakhe yayikhukhumele; ngalokho kwaba khona ulaka phezu kwakhe, naphezu kukaJuda, naphezu kweJerusalema.

26 Kepha lapho uHezekiya esezithoba ekukhukhumaleni kwenhliziyo yakhe, yena nabakhileyo eJerusalema, ulaka lukaJehova alubehlelanga emihleni kaHezekiya.

27 UHezekiya wayenengcebo nodumo oluningi kakhulu, wazenzela izindlu zesiliva, nezegolide, nezamatshe angamagugu, nezamakha, nezezihlangu, nezezinto zonke ezinxanelekayo,

28 nezinqolobane zezithelo zamabele nezewayini nezamafutha, nezibaya zezinhlobo zonke zezilwane, nezindawo zezimvu.

29 Wazenzela nemizi, nemfuyo yezimvu, nezinkomo eziningi, ngokuba uNkulunkulu wayemnike impahla eningi kakhulu.

30 Yena lowo Hezekiya wavimbezela umthombo wasenhla wamanzi aseGihoni,

wawaqondisa ngasentshonalanga komuzi kaDavide. UHezekiya waphumelela emisebenzini yakhe yonke.

³¹ Kanjalo namaqondana nezithunywa zezikhulu zaseBabele ezathumela kuye ukubuza ngesibonakaliso esenziwa ezweni uNkulunkulu wamshiya ukumvivinya nje ukuba azi konke okusenhliziyweni yakhe.

³² Ezinye izindaba zikaHezekiya nezenzo zakhe ezinhle, bheka, zilotshiwe embonweni ka-Isaya umprofethi, indodana ka-Amose, encwadini yamakhosi akwaJuda nakwa-Israyeli.

³³ UHezekiya wayeselala koyise; bammbela emmangweni wamathuna amadodana kaDavide; wonke uJuda nabakhileyo eJerusalema bamenzela udumo ekufeni kwakhe. UManase indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 33

UManase wayeneminyaka eyishumi nambili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka engamashumi ayisihlanu nanhlanu eJerusalema.

² Wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova njengezinengiso zabezizwe uJehova abaxosha phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.

³ Wabuye wakha izindawo eziphakemeyo uHezekiya uyise azidilizile; wamisela oBali ama-altare, wenza o-Ashera, wakhuleka kulo lonke ibandla lasezulwini, walikhonza.

⁴ Wakha ama-altare endlini kaJehova, uJehova asho ngayo ukuthi: "Igama lami liyakuba khona eJerusalema kuze kube phakade."

⁵ Wakhela nalo lonke ibandla lasezukwini ama-altare emagcekeni omabili endlu kaJehova.

⁶ Wadabulisa abantwana bakhe emlilweni esigodini sendodana kaHinomu, wahlola imihlola, wenza imilingo, wenza amalumbo, wamisa abanamadlozi, nabathakathi, wenza okubi okuningi emehlweni kaJehova, waze wamcunula.

⁷ Wabeka umfanekiso obaziweyo wesithombe awenzileyo endlini kaNkulunkulu asho ngayo uNkulunkulu kuDavide nakuSolomoni indodana yakhe ukuthi: "Kule ndlu naseJerusalema engilikhethile ezizweni zonke zakwa-Israyeli ngiyakubeka igama lami kuze kube phakade;

⁸ futhi angisayikususa unyawo luka-Israyeli ezweni engilimisele oyihlo, uma beyakugcina kuphela ukwenza konke engibayale ngakho, wonke umthetho, nezimiso, nezahlulelo, ngesandla sikaMose."

⁹ UManase wadukisa uJuda nabakhileyo eJerusalema, baze benza okubi kunabezizwe uJehova abachitha phambi kwabantwana bakwa-Israyeli.

¹⁰ UJehova wakhuluma kuManase nakubantu bakhe, kepha kabalalelanga.

¹¹ Ngalokho-ke uJehova wabehlisela izinduna zempi yenkosi yase-Asiriya; zambamba uManase ngamaketanga, zambopha ngawozankosi, zamuyisa eBabele.

¹² Lapho esekuhluphekeni, wanxusa kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, wazithoba kakhulu phambi kukaNkulunkulu wawoyise.

¹³ Wakhuleka kuye; wancengwa nguyeyi, wezwa ukunxusa kwakhe, wambuyisela eJerusalema embusweni wakhe. Wayesekwazi uManase ukuthi uJehova nguyeyi onguNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ Emva kwalokho wakha ugange olungaphandle komuzi kaDavide ngasentshonalanga kwaseGihoni esigodini kuze kube sekungeneni kweSango Lezinhlanzi; walihaqa i-Ofeli, waliphakamisa kakhulu; wabeka izinduna ezinamandla emizini yonke ebiyelweyo

yakwaJuda.

15 Wasusa onkulunkulu babezizwe nesithombe endlini kaJehova, nawo onke ama-altare ayewakhile entabeni yendlu kaJehova naseJerusalema, wakulahla ngaphandle komuzi.

16 Wakha i-altare likaJehova, wanikela phezu kwalo ngemihlatshelo yeminikelo yokuthula neyokubonga, washo kuJuda ukuba bamkhonze uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

17 Nokho abantu babesahlaba ezindaweni eziphakemeyo, kodwa kuJehova uNkulunkulu wabo kuphela.

18 Ezinye izindaba zikaManase, nomkhuleko wakhe kuNkulunkulu wakhe, namazwi ababoni ababewakhuluma kuye egameni likaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, bheka, kulotshiwe ezindabeni zamakhosi akwa-Israyeli.

19 Umkhuleko wakhe, nokunxuswa kukaNkulunkulu nguye, nazo zonke izono zakhe, nazo zonke iziphambeko zakhe, nezindawo akha kuzo izindawo eziphakemeyo, amisa kuzo o-Ashera nezithombe ezibaziweyo, engakazithobi, bheka, lokho kulotshiwe ezindabeni zikaHozayi.

20 UManase wayeselala koyise; bammbele endlini yakhe; u-Amoni indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

21 U-Amoni wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nambili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka emibili eJerusalema.

22 Wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova njengalokho enzile uManase uyise; u-Amoni wahlabela zonke izithombe ezibaziweyo ayezenzile uManase uyise, wazikhonza.

23 Akazithobanga phambi kukaJehova njengalokho ebezithobile uManase uyise kepha yena lowo Amoni wenza amacala akhe aba maningi.

24 Izinceku zakhe zamenzela ugobe, zambulala endlini yakhe.

25 Kepha abantu bezwe bababulala bonke ababeyenzele inkosi u-Amoni ugobe; abantu bezwe bambeka uJosiya indodana yakhe inkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

ISAHLUKO 34

UJosiya wayeneminyaka eyisishiyagalombili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka engamashumi amathathu nanye eJerusalema.

2 Wenza okulungile emehlweni kaJehova, wahamba ngezindlela zikaDavide uyise, kachezukulanga ngakwesokunene nangakwesokhohlo.

3 Ngomnyaka wesishiyagalombili wokubusa kwakhe esengumfana waqala ukufuna uNkulunkulu kaDavide uyise; ngomnyaka weshumi nambili waqala ukuhlambulula uJuda neJerusalema, wasusa izindawo eziphakemeyo, nawo-Ashera, nezithombe ezibaziweyo, nezithombe ezibunjiweyo.

4 Bawadiliza phambi kwakhe ama-altare awoBali; nama-altare empepho ayephezu kwawo wawanquma; waphula o-Ashera, nezithombe ezibaziweyo, nezithombe ezibunjiweyo, wakucolisisa, wakuvumvuzela phezu kwamathuna ababenikele kukho.

5 Wawashisa amathambo abapristi ema-altare abo, wahlambulula uJuda neJerusalema.

6 Emizini yakwaManase, nakwa-Efrayimi, nakwaSimeyoni kwaze kwaba nakwaNafetali wacinga ezindlini zabo nxazonke.

7 Wawadiliza ama-altare, waphula o-Ashera nezithombe ezibaziweyo kwaba luthuli, wawanquma onke ama-altare empepho ezweni lonke lakwa-Israyeli, wabuyela eJerusalema.

8 Ngomnyaka weshumi nesishiyagalombili wokubusa kwakhe esehlambululile izwe

nendlu, wathuma uShafani, indodana ka-Asaliya, noMahaseya umbusi womuzi, noJowa indodana kaJowahazi, umabhalana, ukuba bayilungise indlu kaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁹ Bafika kuHilikiya umpristi omkhulu, bayinikeza imali eyayilethwe endlini kaNkulunkulu iqoqwe ngamaLevi, abalindisango, esandleni sakwaManase no-Efrayimi, nakuyo yonke insali yakwa-Israyeli, nakuye wonke uJuda noBenjamini, nakwabakhileyo eJerusalema;

¹⁰ bayinikeza ezandleni zababewenza umsebenzi ababeyiphethe indlu kaJehova; bona bayinika ababesebenza umsebenzi wasendlini kaJehova ukuba bayilungise, bayiqinise indlu;

¹¹ bayinika nababazi nabakhi ukuba bathenge amatshe abaziweyo nemithi yokuhlanganisa, benze imishayo yezindlu amakhosi akwaJuda abezichithile.

¹² Amadoda enza umsebenzi wawo ngokuthembeka; ababonisi phezu kwabo babe ngoJahati no-Obadiya amaLevi, emadodaneni akwaMerari, noZakariya noMeshulamu emadodaneni amaKohati, ukuba babahole, kanye namaLevi onke ayeqonda izinto zokubethwa.

¹³ Ayephezu kwabathwala imithwalo, aholo bonke abenza umsebenzi wezinkonzo ngezinkonzo; kumaLevi kwakukhona nababhali, nezinduna, nabalindisango.

¹⁴ Lapho beyikhipha imali eyayilethwe endlini kaJehova, uHilikiya, umpristi, wafumana incwadi yomthetho kaJehova eyalotshwa ngesandla sikaMose.

¹⁵ UHilikiya wathatha wathi kuShafani umbhali: “Ngifumene incwadi yomthetho endlini kaJehova.” UHilikiya wayinika uShafani incwadi.

¹⁶ UShafani wayiyisa incwadi enkosini, waletha nombiko wokuthi: “Konke okwanikelwa ezandleni zezinceku zakho ziyakwenza.

¹⁷ Ziyithululile imali eyafunyanwa endlini kaJehova, zayinikeza ezandleni zababonisi nasezandleni zezisebenzi.”

¹⁸ UShafani umbhali wayitshela inkosi, wathi: “UHilikiya umpristi unginike incwadi.” UShafani wafunda kuyo phambi kwenkosi.

¹⁹ Kwathi lapho inkosi isizwile amazwi omthetho, yaziklebhula izingubo zayo.

²⁰ Inkosi yayala oHilikiya, no-Ahikamu indodana kaShafani, no-Abidoni indodana kaMika, noShafani umbhali, no-Asaya inceku yenkosi, yathi:

²¹ “Hambani ningibuzele kuJehova, mina nabaseleyo kwa-Israyeli nakwaJuda ngamazwi encwadi efunyenweyo, ngokuba inkulu intukuthelo kaJehova ethululelwe phezu kwethu, ngokuba obaba abaligcinanga izwi likaJehova ukwenza njengakho konke okulotshiweyo kule ncwadi.”

²² Wayesehamba uHilikiya nabanye benkosi, baya kuHulida umprofethikazi, umkaShalumi indodana kaThokathi kaHasira, umgcinizingubo — wahlala eJerusalema enxenyeni yesibili — bakhuluma kuye ngokunjalo.

²³ Wathi kubo: “Usho kanje uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: Tshelani umuntu onithume kimi ukuthi:

²⁴ ‘Usho kanje uJehova, uthi: Bhakani, ngiyakwehlisela okubi phezu kwale ndawo naphezu kwabakhileyo kuyo, zonke iziqalekiso ezilotshiweyo encwadini abayifundileyo phambi kwenkosi yakwaJuda,

²⁵ ngokuba bangishiyile, bashisela abanye onkulunkulu impepho baze bangicunula ngayo yonke imisebenzi yezandla zabo; intukuthelo yami isithululelwe kule ndawo, ayiyikucinywa.’

²⁶ Kepha enkosini yakwaJuda eyanithuma ukubuza kuJehova niyakusho kuyo kanje, nithi: ‘Usho kanje uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: Maqondana namazwi owezwileyo,

- ²⁷ ngenxa yokuba inhliziyo yakho yayithambile, wazithoba phambi kukaNkulunkulu ekuzweni kwakho amazwi akhe ngale ndawo nangabakhileyo kuyo, yebo, wazithoba phambi kwami, waziklebhula izingubo zakho, wakhala phambi kwami, mina ngikuzwile, usho uJehova.
- ²⁸ Bheka, ngiyakukubuthela koyihlo, ubuthelwe ethuneni lakho ngokuthula, angaboni amehlo akho konke okubi engiyakukwehlisela phezu kwale ndawo naphezu kwabakhileyo kuyo.' " Babuyisela enkosini leli zwi.
- ²⁹ Inkosi yayisithumela, yabutha onke amalunga akwaJuda naseJerusalema.
- ³⁰ Inkosi yakhuphukela endlini kaJehova kanye nabo bonke abantu bakwaJuda nabakhileyo eJerusalema, nabapristi, namaLevi, nabantu bonke, abakhulu nabancane, wafunda ezindlebeni zabo onke amazwi encwadi yesivumelwano ebifunyenwe endlini kaJehova.
- ³¹ Inkosi yema endaweni yayo, yenza isivumelwano phambi kukaJehova ukumlandela uJehova nokugcina imiyalo yakhe, nobufakazi bakhe, nezimiso zakhe ngayo yonke inhliziyo yayo nangawo wonke umphefumulo wayo ukuba iwenze amazwi esivumelwano ayelotshwe kule ncwadi.
- ³² Wenza ukuba bonke abafunyanwa eJerusalema nakwaBenjamini beme kuso. Abakhileyo eJerusalema benza njengesivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu wawoyise.
- ³³ UJosiya wazisusa zonke izinengiso emazweni onke akwa-Israyeli, wenza ukuba bonke abafunyanwa kwa-Israyeli bakhonze, bamkhonze uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo. Zonke izinsuku zakhe abasukanga ekumlandeleni uJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise.

ISAHLUKO 35

UJosiya wamenzela uJehova iphasika eJerusalema; balihlaba iphasika ngolweshumi nane lwenyanga yokuqala.

- ² Wamisa abapristi ezikhundleni zabo, wabaqinisa emsebenzini wendlu kaJehova.
- ³ Washo kumaLevi afundisa wonke u-Israyeli, ayengcwele kuJehova, wathi: "Bekani umphongolo ongcwele endlini ayakhayo uSolomoni indodana kaDavide, inkosi yakwa-Israyeli; akusayikubakho mthwalo emahlombe enu; khonzani manje uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu nabantu bakhe u-Israyeli.
- ⁴ Zilungiseni ngezindlu zawoyihlo ngezigaba zenu njengokubhala kukaDavide inkosi yakwa-Israyeli nanjengokubhala kukaSolomoni indodana yakhe,
- ⁵ nime endaweni engcwele njengamaqembu ezindlu zawoyise babafowenu, abantu besizwe, yilelo nalelo libe nesigaba sendlu kayise yamaLevi.
- ⁶ Lihlabeni iphasika, nizingcwelise, nilungisele abafowenu ukuba benze njengezwi likaJehova ngesandla sikaMose."
- ⁷ UJosiya wabanika abantu besizwe bonke ababekhona emihlambini amawundlu namazinyane ezimbuzi, onke abengaweminikelo yephasika, umumo uyizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amathathu nezinkunzi eziyizinkulungwane ezintathu; lokho kwakungokwempahla yenkosi.
- ⁸ Izikhulu zakhe zabanika abantu, nabapristi, namaLevi iminikelo yesihle. OHilikiya, noZakariya, noJehiyeli, abaphathi bendlu kaNkulunkulu, babanika abapristi amawundlu ayizinkulungwane ezimbili namakhulu ayisithupha nezinkabi ezingamakhulu amathathu, kube ngokweminikelo yephasika.
- ⁹ OKhonaniya, noShemaya, noNethaneli, abafowabo, noHashabiya noJehiyeli,

noJozabadi, izinduna zamaLevi, bawanika amaLevi amawundlu ayizinkulungwane eziyisihlanu nezinkabi ezingamakhulu ayisihlanu, kube ngokweminikelo yephasika.

¹⁰ Yayisilungiswa-ke inkonzo; abapristi bema ezindaweni zabo namaLevi ngezigaba zawo njengesiyalezo senkosi.

¹¹ Balihlaba iphasika, abapristi bafafaza ngezandla zabo, amaLevi alihlinza.

¹² Ayisusa iminikelo yokushiswa ukuba ayabele njengamaqembu ezindlu zawoyise babantu besizwe, ukuze banikele ngayo kuJehova njengokulotshiweyo encwadini kaMose. Enze njalo nakuzo izinkabi.

¹³ Alosa iphasika ngomlilo njengokomthetho, neminikelo engcwele ayosa emakhanzini, nasezocweni, nasemabhodweni, ashesha akuletha kubantu besizwe.

¹⁴ Ngasemuva azilungiselela wona nabapristi, ngokuba abapristi, amadodana ka-Aroni, babesekunikeleni iminikelo namanoni kwaze kwaba sebusuku; ngalokho amaLevi azilungiselela wona nabapristi, amadodana ka-Aroni.

¹⁵ Abahlabeleli, amadodana ka-Asafa, babe sendaweni yabo njengokwesiyalezo sikaDavide, no-Asafa, noHemani, noJeduthuni umboni wenkosi; abalindisango babengasesangweni; kwakungadingeki ukuba basuke emsebenzini wabo, ngokuba abafowabo amaLevi babalungisela.

¹⁶ Yayisilungiswa-ke inkonzo kaJehova ngalusuku lunye ukwenza iphasika nokunikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa e-altare likaJehova njengesiyalezo senkosi uJosiya.

¹⁷ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli ababekhona balenza iphasika ngaleso sikhathi nomkhosi wesinkwa esingenamvubelo izinsuku eziyisikhombisa.

¹⁸ Alenziwanga iphasika elinjengalelo kwa-Israyeli kusukela emihleni kaSamuweli umprofethi, nawo onke amakhosi akwa-Israyeli awenzanga iphasika elinjengalelo elenziwa nguJosiya, nabapristi, namaLevi, naye wonke uJuda no-Israyeli owayekhona, kanye nabakhileyo eJerusalema.

¹⁹ Ngomnyaka weshumi nesishiyagalombili wokubusa kukaJosiya leli phasika lenziwa.

²⁰ Emva kwakho konke lokho uJosiya eselilungisile ithempeli, uNekho inkosi yaseGibithe wenyuka ukulwa neKharikemishi ngase-Ewufathe; uJosiya waphuma ukumhlangabeza.

²¹ Kepha wathuma izithunywa, wathi: “Nginamsebenzi muni nawe nkosi yakwaJuda na? Angiphambene nawe namuhla, kepha ngiphambene nendlu engilwa nayo; uNkulunkulu ungitshelile ukuba ngisheshe; mgweme uNkulunkulu onami ukuba angakuchithi.”

²² Kepha uJosiya akaphendukanga kuye, kodwa waziguqula ukuba alwe naye; akalalelanga amazwi kaNekho emlonyeni kaNkulunkulu, weza ukulwa esigodini saseMegido.

²³ Abacibishelayo bacibishela inkosi; inkosi yathi ezincekwini zayo: “Ngikhipheni, ngokuba ngikhutshaziwe kakhulu.”

²⁴ Izinceku zayo zayikhipha enqoleni, zayikhwelisa enqoleni yesibili eyayinayo, zayiyisa eJerusalema; yafa, yembelwa emathuneni awoyise. Wonke uJuda neJerusalema bamlilela uJosiya.

²⁵ Naye uJeremiya wamlilela uJosiya; bonke abahlabeleli besilisa nabesifazane bakhuluma ngoJosiya ekulileni kwabo kuze kube namuhla; bakwenza kwaba yisimiso kwa-Israyeli; bheka, kulotshiwe eziLilweni.

²⁶ Ezinye izindaba zikaJosiya, nezenzo zakhe ezinhle njengokulotshiweyo emthethweni kaJehova,

²⁷ nezindaba zakhe, ezokuqala nezokugcina, bheka, zilotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli nakwaJuda.

Abantu bezwe bathatha uJehowahazi indodana kaJosiya, bambeka inkosi esikhundleni sikayise.

² UJehowahazi wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nantathu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa izinyanga ezintathu eJerusalema.

³ Inkosi yaseGibithe yamsusa eJerusalema, yathelisa izwe amatalenta ayikhulu esiliva nentalenta legolide.

⁴ Inkosi yaseGibithe yabeka u-Eliyakimi umfowabo inkosi kwaJuda naseJerusalema, yaguqula igama lakhe labanguJehoyakimi. UNekho wathatha uJehowahazi umfowabo, wamyisa eGibithe.

⁵ UJehoyakimi wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nanye eJerusalema; wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁶ Kwenyukela kuye uNebukadinesari inkosi yaseBabele, wambopha ngamaketanga ukuba amyise eBabele.

⁷ UNebukadinesari wayisa ezinye izitsha zendlu kaJehova eBabele, wazibeka ethempelini lakhe eBabele.

⁸ Ezinye izindaba zikaJehoyakimi, nezinengiso azenzayo, nokunye okufumaniseke kuye, bheka, kulotshiwe encwadini yamakhosi akwa-Israyeli nakwaJuda; uJehoyakini indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

⁹ UJehoyakini wayeneminyaka eyisishiyagalombili ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa izinyanga ezintathu nezinsuku eziyishumi eJerusalema; wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova.

¹⁰ Ekuqaleni komnyaka inkosi uNebukadinesari yathumela yamletha eBabele kanye nezitsha ezinxanelekayo zendlu kaJehova, yabeka uSedekiya, umfowabo, inkosi kwaJuda naseJerusalema.

¹¹ USedekiya wayeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nanye ekuqaleni kwakhe ukubusa, wabusa iminyaka eyishumi nanye eJerusalema.

¹² Wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe; akazithobanga phambi kukaJeremiya umprofethi womlomo kaJehova.

¹³ Wayihlubuka inkosi uNebukadinesari eyayimfungisile uJehova, wenza lukhuni intamo yakhe, wenza lukhuni nenhliziyo yakhe ukuba ingaphendukeli kuJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

¹⁴ Zonke izikhulu zabapristi nabantu baphambuka kakhulu ngezinengiso zabezizwe, bayingcolisa indlu kaJehova ayingcwelisileyo eJerusalema.

¹⁵ UJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyise wathuma kubo ngezandla zezithunywa zakhe, ethuma njalonjalo, ngokuba wahawukela abantu bakhe nendawo yakhe yokuhlala;

¹⁶ kepha baziklolodela izithunywa zikaNkulunkulu, bawadelela amazwi akhe, babaphatha kabi abaprofethi bakhe, yaze yavuka intukuthelo kaJehova ngabantu bakhe, kwaze kwangabakho ukwelashwa.

¹⁷ Ngalokho wabehlisela inkosi yamaKaledi eyabulala izinsizwa zabo ngenkemba endlini yabo engcwele, ayihawukelanga nansizwa, nantombi, naxhegu, nogugileyo; wabanikela bonke esandleni sayo.

¹⁸ Zonke izitsha zendlu kaNkulunkulu, ezinkulu nezincane, nengcebo yendlu kaJehova, nengcebo yenkosi neyezikhulu zayo, konke lokho wakuyisa eBabele.

¹⁹ Bayishisa indlu kaNkulunkulu, baludiliza ugange lwaseJerusalema, bazishisa zonke

izingaba ngomlilo, bazichitha zonke izitsha ezinxanelekayo zakhona.

20 Abasele enkembeni wabathumbela eBabele; baba yizinceku zakhe nezamadodana akhe, kwaze kwabusa umbuso wasePheresiya

21 ukuba ligcwaliseke izwi likaJehova ngomlomo kaJeremiya, lize laneliswe izwe ngamasabatha alo sonke isikhathi liyincithakalo laligcina isabatha kuze kugcwaliswe iminyaka engamashumi ayisikhombisa.

22 Ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKoresi inkosi yasePheresiya ukuba kufezeke izwi likaJehova ngomlomo kaJeremiya uJehova wavusa umoya kaKoresi inkosi yasePheresiya ukuba amemezele embusweni wakhe wonke, alobe futhi ngokuthi:

23 “Usho kanje uKoresi, inkosi yasePheresiya, uthi: ‘UJehova uNkulunkulu wezulu unginikile yonke imibuso yomhlaba; ungiyalile ukumakhela indlu eJerusalema lakwaJuda. Noma ngumuphi phakathi kwenu kubo bonke abantu bakhe, uNkulunkulu makabe naye, akhuphuke.’ ”

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