

Dovid counted

א וַיִּפְקֹד דָּוִד

the nation that was with him

אֶת־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ

and he placed over them

וַיִּשֶׂם עֲלֵיהֶם

officers of thousands

שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים

and officers of hundreds.

וּשְׂרֵי מֵאוֹת:

Dovid sent the nation,

ב וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶת־הָעָם

one third in the hand of Yoav,

הַשְּׁלִישִׁת בְּיַד־יוֹאָב

and one third

וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁת

in the hand Avishai the son of
Tzruah

בְּיַד אַבִּישַׁי בֶּן־צְרוּיָה

the brother of Yoav,

אַחֵי יוֹאָב

and one third

וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁת

in the hand of Itai the Gitti.

בְּיַד אִתַּי הַגִּתִּי ס

The king said to the nation,

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הָעָם

“I too shall go out with you (to

יֵצֵא אִצְּאָנִי גַם־אֲנִי עִמָּכֶם:

battle).”

The nation said,

ג וַיֹּאמֶר הָעָם

“You shall not go out

לֹא תֵצֵא

for if we shall run away

כִּי אִם־נָס נָנוּס

they will not pay any attention
to us.

לֹא־יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֵינוּ לְבָב

And if they will kill half of us

וְאִם־יַמְתּוּ חֲצֵינוּ

they will not pay any attention
to us,

לֹא־יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֵינוּ לְבָב

for you are (worth to them) like us

כִּי־עֲתָה כָּמוֹנוּ

ten thousand (men).

עֶשְׂרֵה אֲלָפִים

And now

וְעַתָּה

it is better

טוֹב

that you shall be for us from the city
to help.”

כִּי־תִהְיֶה־לָנוּ מֵעִיר

לְעֶזְרָה [לְעֶזְרוֹר]:

The king said to them,
“What is good in your eyes
I shall do.”

The king stood
next to the gate
and the entire nation went out
in the hundreds
and in the thousands.

The king commanded Yoav
and Avishai
and Ittai
saying,
“Go easy for me with the
young lad Avshalom.”

ד וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲשֶׁר-יִיטֵב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם
אֶעֱשֶׂה

וַיַּעֲמֵד הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֶל-יַד הַשַּׁעַר
וְכָל-הָעָם יָצְאוּ
לְמֵאוֹת
וְלָאֲלָפִים:

ה וַיִּצַו הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-יֹאָב
וְאֶת-אַבִּישי
וְאֶת-אִתַּי
לֵאמֹר
לֵאט-לִי לַנְּעָר לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם

שְׁמוּאֵל ב' פָּרָק י"ח פְּסוּקִים א'-י"ח

And the entire nation heard
when the king commanded
all the officers
about the matter of Avshalom.

וְכָל-הָעָם שָׁמְעוּ
בְּצִוֵּת הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֶת-כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים
עַל-דְּבַר אַבְשָׁלוֹם:

The nation went out to the
field
towards Yisroel
and the battle was
in the forest of Ephraim.

וַיֵּצֵא הָעָם הַשָּׂדֶה
לְקָרְאֵת יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַתְּהִי הַמְּלָחָמָה
בְּיַעַר אֶפְרַיִם:

The nation of the Yisroel was
beaten there
before the servants of Dovid
and the plague there was very
great

זַ וַיִּנְגְּפוּ שָׁם עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
לְפָנֵי עֲבָדֵי דָוִד
וַתְּהִי-שָׁם הַמַּגֵּפָה גְדוֹלָה

שְׁמוּאֵל ב' פָּרָק י"ח פְּסוּקִים א'-י"ח

on that day

בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא

twenty thousand (people
died).

עֶשְׂרִים אֲלָף:

The battle was spread out
there

ח וַתִּהְיֶי-נָשָׁם הַמִּלְחָמָה
נִפְצָוֹת [נִפְּוֹצֹת]

upon the face of the entire land

עַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָאָרֶץ

and the forest increased

וַיֵּרֶב הַיַּעַר

to consume from the nation

לֶאֱכֹל בָּעָם

(more) than the sword consumed

מֵאֲשֶׁר אָכְלָה הַחֶרֶב

on that day.

בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:

Avshalom chanced

ט וַיִּקְרָא אַבְשָׁלוֹם

before the servants of Dovid

לְפָנָי עֲבָדַי דָּוִד

and Avshalom was riding on
the mule

וְאַבְשָׁלוֹם רָכַב עַל-הַפָּרָד

and the mule came

וַיָּבֹא הַפָּרָד

under the thick branches
of the great *eilah* tree

תַּחַת שׁוֹבְרֵי הָאֵלֶּה הַגְּדוֹלָה

and his head became caught

וַיִּחַזַּק רֹאשׁוֹ

in the *eilah* tree

בָּאֵלֶּה

and he was put

וַיִּתֵּן

between the heavens

בֵּין הַשָּׁמַיִם

and between the earth

וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ

and the mule

וְהַפָּרָד

that was underneath him

אֲשֶׁר־תַּחְתָּיו

passed.

עָבַר:

A man saw

י וַיֵּרָא אִישׁ אֶחָד

and he told Yoav

וַיַּגִּד לְיוָאָב

and he said,

וַיֹּאמֶר

“Behold I have seen Avshalom

הִנֵּה רָאִיתִי אֶת־אַבְשָׁלֹם

hanging in the *eilah* tree.

תָּלוּי בְּאֵילָה:

Yoav said to the man

יֵא וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב לְאִישׁ

who told him,

הַמְּגִיד לּוֹ

“And behold you saw

וְהִנֵּה רָאִיתָ

and why did you not strike
him there to the ground?

וּמַדּוּעַ לֹא־הִכִּיתוּ שָׁם אֶרְצָה

And (if you did so) it would be upon me
to give you

וְעָלַי לָתֵת לְךָ

ten (pieces of) silver

עֲשָׂרָה כֶּסֶף

and one belt (i.e. ribbon of honor).”

וְחֲגֹרֶת אֶחָת:

The man said to Yoav,

יב וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ אֶל־יוֹאָב

“And even if I were to weigh

וְלֹא [וְלוֹ] אֲנֹכִי שִׁקֵּל

upon my palms

עַל־כַּפֵּי

one thousand pieces of silver

אַלְפֵי כֶּסֶף

שְׁמוּאֵל ב' פָּרָק י"ח פְּסוּקִים א'-י"ח

I would not extend my hand
to (harm) the son of the king.

לֹא-אֶשְׁלַח יָדִי

אֶל-בֶּן-הַמֶּלֶךְ

For with our ears (we heard)

כִּי בְּאָזְנוֹנֵינוּ

the king commanded you

צִוְּתָה הַמֶּלֶךְ אֹתְךָ

and Avishai

וְאֶת-אַבִּישָׁי

and Ittai

וְאֶת-אִטָּי

saying,

לֵאמֹר

'Guard (so that no one
touches) the lad Avshalom.'

שְׁמְרוּ-מִי בְּנֵעַר בְּאַבְשָׁלוֹם:

Even if I had done falsehood with
my soul (by killing Avshalom),

יֵג אוֹ-עֲשִׂיתִי בְּנִפְשׁוֹ

[בְּנִפְשִׁי] שֶׁקֶר

(however) everything

וְכָל-דָּבָר

would not be hidden from the king,

לֹא-יִכְתָּר מִן-הַמֶּלֶךְ

and you

וְאַתָּה

would stand aside (and not defend

תִּתְיָצֵב מִנִּגְדָּ:

me against the king's anger).”

Yoav said,

“Not so will I ask before you
(anymore).”

He took three sticks

in his palm

and he stuck them

into the heart of Avshalom

who was still alive

in the heart of the Eilah tree.

יָד וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב

לֹא־כֵן אֶתִּילָה לְפָנֶיךָ

וַיִּקַּח שְׁלֹשָׁה שִׁבְטִים

בְּכַפוֹ

וַיִּתְקַעֵם

בְּלֵב אַבְשָׁלוֹם

עוֹדֵנוּ חַי

בְּלֵב הָאֵילָה:

Ten lads turned around

those who carried the weapons of Yoav

and they hit Avshalom

and they killed him.

טו וַיִּסָּבּוּ עֹשְׂרֵה נְעָרִים

נִשְׂאֵי כֶלֵי יוֹאָב

וַיִּכּוּ אֶת־אַבְשָׁלוֹם

וַיָּמִיתוּהוּ:

Yoav blew the shofar
and the nation returned
from chasing after Yisroel
for Yoav held back the nation.

טז וַיִּתְקַע יוֹאָב בַּשּׁוֹפָר
וַיָּשָׁב הָעָם
מִרְדֹּף אַחֲרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
כִּי־חָשַׁף יוֹאָב אֶת־הָעָם:

They took Avshalom
and they threw him into the forest
to the great pit
and they put upon him
a very great pile of stones.
And all of Yisroel fled
each man to his tent.

יז וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־אַבְשָׁלוֹם
וַיִּשְׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ בַּיַּעַר
אֶל־הַפֶּתַח הַגָּדוֹל
וַיַּצְבּוּ עָלָיו
גִּלְ־אַבְנִים גָּדוֹל מְאֹד
וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל נָסוּ
אִישׁ לְאֹהֲלוֹ [לְאֹהֲלוֹ]:

And Avshalom took

יח וַאֲבָשָׁלֹם לָקַח

שְׁמוֹאֵל ב' פָּרָק י"ח פְּסוּקִים א'-י"ח

and he put up for himself in his lifetime

וַיִּצַב-לּוֹ בְּתוּוֹ [בְּתוּוֹ]

the monument

אֶת-מִצְבֵּת

which is in the Valley of the King

אֲשֶׁר בְּעֵמֶק-תְּפֹלֶךְ

for he said,

כִּי אָמַר

“I do not have a son

אֵין-לִי בֵן

in order that my name should be mentioned.”

בְּעֵבֹר תִּזְכֵּיר שְׁמִי

And he called the monument on his name

וַיִּקְרָא לַמִּצְבֵּת עַל-שְׁמוֹ

and it is called

וַיִּקְרָא לָהּ

Yad Avshalom (the place of Avshalom)

יַד אַבְשָׁלֹם

until this day.

עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: