

II AMAKHOSI

Isigwebo sikaJehova ku-Ahaziya

1 Ngemva kokufa kuka-Ahabi, amaMowabi ahlamukela u-Israyeli.
²U-Ahaziya wayewele embotsheni yendlu yakhe engaphezulu eSamariya walimala. Wathumela izithunywa, wathi kuzo, "Hambani liyebuza kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu wase-Ekhroni, ukuthi kambe ngizasila yini kulokhu kulimala na."

³Kodwa ingilosi kaJehova uNkulunkulu yathi kuElija umThishibi, "Suka uyehlangabeza izithunywa zenkosi yaseSamariya uyezibuza ukuthi, "Kambe yikuthi akuselaNkulunkulu ko-Israyeli na ukuze uyehlhlula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu wase-Ekhroni?"
⁴Ngakho uJehova uNkulunkulu uthi: 'Awuyikusuka kulowombheda ogulela kuwo. Ngempela uzakufa!'"

⁵Ekubuyeleni kwezithunywa enkosini, yazibuza yathi, "Kungani selibuyile na?"

⁶Izithunywa zaphendula zathi, "Kulendoda esihlangabezileyo yathi kithi, 'Buyelani enkosini elithumileyo liyeyitshela ukuthi, "Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Kungenxa yokuthi akulaNkulunkulu yini ko-Israyeli okubangele ukuthi uthumele abantu ukuyahlhlula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu we-Ekhroni na? Ngakho awuyikuvuka kulowombheda olele kuwo. Ngempela uzakufa!'" "

⁷Inkosi yabuza izithunywa yathi, "Ngumuntu onjani lowo olihlangabezileyo waselitshela lokhu?"

⁸Izithunywa zaphendula zathi, "Yindoda ebigqoke isigqoko soboya ekhalweni ibophe ngozwezwe." Inkosi yathi, "Lowo ngu-Elija umThishibi."

⁹Inkosi yasithumela ku-Elija induna yebutho labantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yebutho yakhwela yaya ku-Elija, owayehlezi phezu koqaqa, yafika yathi kuye, "Muntu kaNkulunkulu, inkosi ithi, 'Yehla!'"

¹⁰U-Elija ephendula induna yebutho wathi, "Nxa ngingumuntu kaNkulunkulu, kakwehle umlilo ovela ezulwini ukuqothule wena kanye labantu bakho abangamatshumi amahlanu!" Lakanye wehla umlilo uvela ezulwini wayiqothula induna yebutho kanye labantu bayo.

¹¹Ngokubona lokho inkosi yathuma ku-Elija eyinye induna yebutho lamanye amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yathi ku-Elija, "Muntu kaNkulunkulu, inkosi ithi, 'Yehla khathesi.'"

¹²U-Elija waphendula wathi, "Nxa ngingumuntu kaNkulunkulu, kakwehle umlilo ovela ezulwini ukuqothule wena kanye labantu bakho!" Ngakho umlilo kaNkulunkulu wehla uvela ezulwini waqothula izinduna zamabutho ezakuqala zombili kanye labo bonke abantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu.

¹³Ngakho inkosi yathuma induna yebutho yesithathu labantu bayo abangamatshumi amahlanu. Induna yebutho yesithathu yakhwela yafika yaguqa ngamadolo phambi kuka-Elija yamncenga yathi, "Muntu kaNkulunkulu, akube lesihawu ngempilo yami leyamadoda la angamatshumi amahlanu, thina zincku zakho!"

¹⁴Angithi uyabona, umlilo wehle uvela ezulwini waqothula izinduna zamabutho lamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu induna nganye. Kodwa manje akunakekele impilo yami!"

¹⁵Ingilosi kaJehova yathi ku-Elija, "Yehla kanye layo induna; ungayesabi." Ngakho u-Elija wasukuma wehla kanye lenduna waya enkosini.

¹⁶Wasesithi enkosini, "Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Kungenxa yokuthi akulaNkulunkulu yini ko-Israyeli ukuze uthume izithunywa ukuthi ziyohlhula kuBhali-Zebhubhi, unkulunkulu we-Ekhroni na? Ngenxa yesenzo sakho lesi, awuyikuvuka kulowombheda olele kuwo. Ngempela uzakufa!" ¹⁷Lakanye wafa, njengelizwi likaJehova elakhulunywa ngu-Eliza.

Njengoba u-Ahaziya wayengelandodana, ubukhosi bakhe bathathwa nguJoram owaba yinkosi ngomnyaka wesibili wokubusa kukaJehoram indodana kaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda. ¹⁸Konke okwembali yokubusa kuka-Ahaziya, kanye lakwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

U-Eliza Uhwithelwa Ezulwini

2 Kwathi uJehova esezathatha u-Eliza ukuba aye ezulwini ngesivunguzane, u-Eliza lo-Elisha babevela eGiligali.

²U-Eliza wathi ku-Elisha, "Hlala lapha; uJehova usengithume eBhetheli."

Kodwa u-Elisha wathi, "Njengoba uJehova ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe." Ngakho basuka baya eBhetheli.

³Iqula labaphrofethi eBhetheli leza ku-Elisha lambuza lisithi: "Uyakwazi yini ukuthi uJehova uzakuthathela inkosi yakho lamuhla na?"

U-Elisha wathi, "Yebo, ngiyakwazi, kodwa lingakhulumi ngakho."

⁴Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi kuye, "Hlala lapha, Elisha; uJehova usengithume eJerikho." U-Elisha waphendula wathi: "Njengoba uJehova ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe." Ngakho basuka baya eJerikho.

⁵Iqula labaphrofethi eJerikho laya ku-Elisha lambuza lisithi, "Uyakwazi yini ukuthi uJehova uzathatha inkosi yakho lamuhla na?"

Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, ngiyakwazi, kodwa lingakhulumi ngakho."

⁶Ngakho u-Eliza wasesithi, "Hlala khonapha; uJehova usengithume eJodani."

Yena waphendula wathi, "Njengoba uJehova ephila njalo njengoba lawe uphila, angiyikutshiyana lawe." Ngakho baqhubekela phambili ngohambo.

⁷Amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu exukwini labaphrofethi asuka ayakuma bucwadlana ekhangele lapho u-Eliza lo-Elisha ababemi khona eJodani.

⁸U-Eliza wasethatha ingubo yakhe, wayigoqa watshaya ngayo amanzi. Amanzi adabuka phakathi amanye aba kwesokunene amanye kwesokhohlo, basebechapha emhlabathini owomileyo.

⁹Ekuchapheni kwabo, u-Eliza wathi ku-Elisha, "Akungitshela, kambe kuyini engingakwenzela khona ngingakususwa kuwe?"

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, "Ngicela isabelo esiphindwe kabili somoya wakho."

¹⁰U-Eliza wathi, "Usucele into elukhuni, kodwa ungangibona ngisuswa kuwe kuzakuba ngokwakho, kungenjalo hatshi."

¹¹Besahamba belokhu bekhuluma, kwafika inqola yokulwa yomlilo lamabhiza ayo avuthayo yabehlukanisa, ngakho u-Eliza waya ezulwini ngesivunguzane. ¹²U-Elisha ebona lokhu wamemeza wathi, "Baba! Baba! Izingqola zokulwa labamabhiza okulwa ako-Israyeli!" U-Elisha kasazange aphinde ambone futhi. Wasethatha izigqoko zakhe wazidabula.

¹³ Wasedobha ingubo eyayiwe ku-Eliza wabuyela emuva wayakuma okhunjini lomfula uJodani. ¹⁴ Wathatha ingubo eyayiwe kuye watshaya ngayo amanzi wathi, "Ungaphi khathesi uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Eliza?" Wasetshaya amanzi, adabuka phakathi amanye kwesokunene amanye kwesokhohlo, wasechaphela ngaphetsheya.

¹⁵ Ixuku labaphrofethi ababevela eJerikho, ababebukele, lathi, "Umoya ka-Eliza uphezu kuka-Elisha." Basebesiya mhlangebeza bakhothama phambi kwakhe. ¹⁶ Basebesithi, "Uyabona, thina izinceku zakho silamadoda angamatshumi amahlanu enelisayo. Yekela amadoda la ayedinga inkosi yakho. Mhlawumbe uMoya kaJehova umthethe wayambeka entabeni ethile loba esihotsheni esithile."

U-Elisha wathi, "Hatshi, lingabathumi."

¹⁷ Kodwa baphikelela waze wakhulelwa zinhloni zokuba elokhu esala. Wasesithi, "Bathumeni." Ngakho bathuma amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu, amdinga okwezinsuku ezintathu amswela. ¹⁸ Bathe sebebuyela ku-Elisha, owayesehlala eJerikho, wababuza wathi, "Bengingalitshelanga yini ukuthi lingamdingi?"

Ukuhlanjulukwa Kwamanzi

¹⁹ Amadoda omuzi wakhona athi ku-Elisha, "Akubone, nkosi yethu, umuzi lo usendaweni ebukeyayo, njengoba lawe uzibonela, kodwa amanzi alapha mabi lomhlaba wakhona awulazithelo."

²⁰ U-Elisha wathi, "Ngiphani umganu oyingubhe liwufake itshwayi." Ngakho bawuletha umganu.

²¹ Wasephuma esiya emthonjeni wafika waphosela khona itshwayi ekhuluma esithi, "Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: 'Sengiwahlambulule amanzi la.

Awangeke aphinde futhi abangele imfa loba ukungatheli kuhle kwalumhlaba.' "

²² Amanzi lawo kusukela mhlalokho kuze kube lamuhla mahle, njengokwakutshiwo ngu-Elisha.

Ukuhozwa Kuka-Elisha

²³ Esuka lapho u-Elisha waya eBhetheli. Esahamba endleleni, kwavela kulowomuzi ixuku lentanga yabatsha lamhoza lisithi, "Qhubeka, wena mpabanga! Qhubeka, wena mpabanga!"

²⁴ Wanyemukula, wabakhangela wasebehlisela isiqalekiso ngebizo likaJehova. Kwasekuvela amabhere amabili ehlathini afohloza abangamatshumi amane lababili babo.

²⁵ Wasesedlulela eNtabeni yaseKhameli, uthe esesuka lapho waya eSamariya.

Ukuhlamuka KwamaMowabi

3 UJoram indodana ka-Ahabi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya ngomnyaka wetshumi lafica mibili wokubusa kukaJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, yena wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lambili. ² Wona emehlweni kaJehova, kodwa kwakungafanani lokukayise lonina ababekwenzile. Walahla ilitshela likaBhali elalizila elalibazwe nguyise. ³ Kodwa wagxila ezozweni zikaJerobhowami indondana kaNebathi, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze; kazange azifulathele.

⁴ UMesha inkosi yaseMowabi wayefuya izimvu, wayefanele ukupha inkosi yako-Israyeli izimvu ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu kanye loboya benqama ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu. ⁵ Kodwa ngemva kokufa kuka-Ahabi, inkosi yamaMowabi yahlamukela inkosi yako-Israyeli. ⁶ Ngalesosikhathi inkosi uJoram yasuka eSamariya yabutha abako-Israyeli

bonke. ⁷ Wathumela lelizwi kuJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wathi: "Inkosi yamaMowabi isingihlamukele. Singahambisana siyehlasela amaMowabi na?"

UJehoshafathi waphendula esithi, "Ngizahamba lawe. Mina nginguwe, abantu bami banjengabantu bakho, amabhiza ami anjengamabhiza akho."

⁸ Wasebuza ukuthi, "Sizahlasela sivelela ngaphi na?"

UJoram wathi "Sizavelela eNkangala yase-Edomi."

⁹ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphuma lenkosi yakoJuda kanye lenkosi yase-Edomi. Ngemva kohambo bezulazula okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa amanzi amabutho kanye lawezinyamazana zempi aphela.

¹⁰ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yababaza yathi, "Kutheni kanti? UNkulunkulu angasibiza singamakhosi amathathu ukuze azosinikela ezandleni zamaMowabi na?"

¹¹ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, "Akulamphrofethi kaJehova yini, esingabuza ngaye kuJehova na?"

Esinye sezikhulu zenkosi yako-Israyeli sathi, "Ukhona u-Elisha indodana kaShafathi. Wayeyinceku ka-Elija."

¹² UJehoshafathi wathi, "Ilizwi likaJehova likuye." Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye loJehoshafathi lenkosi yase-Edomi baya kuye.

¹³ U-Elisha wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, "Mina lawe singenelana njani? Hamba kubaphrofethi bakayihlo lakubaphrofethi bakanyoko."

Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula yathi, "Hayi, kungenxa yokuthi uNkulunkulu wasibiza sobathathu singamakhosi sinje ukuze asinikele kumaMowabi."

¹⁴ U-Elisha wathi, "Njengoba uJehova uSomandla engimkhonzayo ephila,

kungasikuhlonipha kwami ukuthi kuloJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda, ngibe ngingayikukukhangela loba ukukubona ukuthi ukhona kodwa lokhu. ¹⁵ Kodwa-ke ngibizela umtshayi wechacho."

Umtshayi wechacho esatshaya ichacho, amandla kaJehova ehlela ku-Elisha, ¹⁶ wasesithi, "Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Lungisani imigelo emineni kulesisigodi. ¹⁷ Ngoba ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Aliyikubona yezi loba izulu, kodwa lesisigodi sizagcwala ngamanzi, kuthi lina lezinkomo zenu kanye lezinyamazana zonke lithole ukunatha. ¹⁸ Le yinto elula kuJehova uNkulunkulu, njalo uzanikela amaMowabi esandleni sakho. ¹⁹ Uzanqoba kuzo zonke izinqaba zedolobho lakuyo yonke imizi eqakathekileyo. Uzawisa zonke izihlahla ezinhle, ugqibe yonke imithombo yamanzi, wonakalise wonke amasimu amahle ngamatshe."

²⁰ Ngosuku olulandelayo ekuseni, ngesikhathi sokunikela imihlatshelo, lakanye babona, nanko amanzi egeleza evela e-Edomi! Ngakho ilizwe lagcwala amanzi.

²¹ AmaMowabi wonke ayesezwile ukuthi amakhosi ayezohlasela; ngalokho amadoda wonke, abadala lamajaha, ababengenelisa ukuphatha izikhali balawulwa ukuba bayevikela umngcele. ²² Bathi bevuka emadabukakusa bathola ilanga linkanyazela phezu kwamanzi. Ekuboneni kwamaMowabi ngale, amanzi ayekhanya ebomvu kungani ligazi. AmaMowabi asesithi, ²³ "Ligazi leliyana! Kutsho ukuthi amakhosi lawayana alwile abulalana wodwa. Asiyeni butha impango, maMowabi!"

²⁴ Kodwa amaMowabi athe efika enkambeni yama-Israyeli, ama-Israyeli awavukela awahlasela, amaMowabi aze abaleka. Ngakho ama-Israyeli ahlasela ilizwe lelo abhubhisa amaMowabi.

²⁵ Atshabalalisa imizi kwathi indoda

nganye yaphosela ilitshe kuwo wonke amasimu amahle aze agcwala ngamatshe. Bagqibela yonke imithombo yamanzi bawisa zonke izihlahla ezinhle. Kwasala iKhiri Haresethi eyasala amatshe ayo elokhu enjalo, kodwa amadoda ayehlome ngezavutha ayihonqolozela njalo ayihlasela.

²⁶Inkosi yamaMowabi ithe ibona ukuthi isikhulelwa ekulweni, yathatha amadoda angamakhulu ayisikhombisa alwa ngenkemba yazama ukuthi idabule phakathi ngamandla iyephutshela enkosini yase-Edomi, kodwa yehluleka. ²⁷Inkosi yaseMowabi yasithatha ingqabutho yayo eyiyo indodana eyayizasala ibusa yanikela ngayo phezu kwemiduli yedolobho. Kwakukukhulu ukuthukuthelela abakoIsrayeli baze bahlehla babuyela kwelakibo.

Amafutha Omfelokazi

4Umfazi wenye indoda phakathi

kwexuku labaphrofethi wakhalaza ku-Elisha wathi, "Indoda yami ebiyinceku yakho isifile, njalo uyakwazi ukuthi ibe imkhonza uNkulunkulu. Umkami ubebesikwelede sendoda ethile esifuna ukuthumba amadodana ami amabili ukuze abe yizigqili zayo."

²U-Elisha wamphendula wathi, "Ngingakunceda kanjani na? Akungitshela, kulani endlini yakho?"

Umfelokazi wathi, "Incekukazi yakho ayilalutho ngaphandle kwengcosana yamafutha."

³U-Elisha wasesithi, "Hamba uyekweboleka izimbiza ezinengi kubomakhelwana bakho bonke. Ungaceli ezilutshwana nje. ⁴Ubusungena endlini yakho lamadodana akho uvale umnyango. Ubusuthululela amafutha embizeni inye nganye, ithi ingagcwala uyibeke eceleni."

⁵Wasuka kuye kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi wavala umnyango lamadodana akhe. Amadodana amqhubela izimbiza yena elokhu ezigcwalisa ngamafutha. ⁶Kuthe izimbiza zonke sezigcwele, wathi endodaneni yakhe, "Letha enye futhi."

Kodwa yaphendula yathi, "Akuselambiza eseleyo." Amafutha kazabe esajuluka.

⁷Wasuka wayatshela umuntu kaNkulunkulu, owathi, "Hamba uyethengisa amafutha lawo ubhadale izikwelede zakho. Wena lamadodana akho lizaphila ngaseleyo."

Ukuvuswa Kwendodana yoMshunami

⁸Ngolunye usuku u-Elisha waya eShunemi. Kwakulowesifazana onothileyo, owamcela ukuba amelele ukudla. Kwakusithi nxa ehambele khonale wayethola ukudla khonapho.

⁹Owesifazana wathi kumyeni wakhe, "Ngiyakwazi ukuthi lumuntu ohlala esedlula lapha ngumuntu ongcwele kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁰Kasimlungisele indlu ephezulu simfakele khona umbheda, itafula, isihlalo kanye lesibane. Kube yindlu azafikela kiyo nxa elapha kithi."

¹¹Kwelinye ilanga, u-Elisha wafika wayangena endlini yakhe leyo wacambalala khona. ¹²Wathuma inceku yakhe uGehazi, wathi, "Ngibizela umShunami." Ngakho inceku yambiza, wafika wema phansi kwakhe. ¹³U-Elisha wasesithi, "Umtshele uthi, 'Usuzihluphe kangaka usilungisela. Kambe kuyini ongakwenzelwa wena? Singakukhulumela yini enkosini loba kumlawuli wamabutho na?' "

Owesifazana wathi, "Ngilomuzi phakathi kwabantu bakithi."

¹⁴U-Elisha wabuza wathi, "Kuyini esingamenzela khona na?"

UGehazi wathi, "Kalandodana njalo umyeni wakhe useluphele."

¹⁵Ngakho u-Elisha wathi, "Mbize." Inceku yasimbiza, wafika wema emnyango. U-Elisha wathi, ¹⁶"Ngasolesi isikhathi ngomnyaka ozayo uzaphatha indodana ezandleni zakho."

Owesifazana waphikisa wathi, "Atshi, nkosi yami, ungabokhohlisa incekekazi yakho, wena muntu kaNkulunkulu!"

¹⁷Owesifazana wathatha isisu, kwathi ngomnyaka owalandelayo ngesikhathi esifananayo wakhululeka wazuza indodana njengokutshelwa kwakhe ngu-Elisha.

¹⁸Umntwana wakhula, kwathi ngelinye ilanga walandela uyise, owayelabavuni. ¹⁹Wasesithi kuyise, "Maye ikhanda lami! Maye ikhanda lami!"

Uyise wathuma isisebenzi wathi, "Thwala umntwana uye laye kunina."

²⁰Isisebenzi sesimthwalele kunina unina wamgona kwaze kwaba semini enkulu umntwana wasesifa. ²¹Unina wamthatha wayamlalisa embhedeni womuntu kaNkulunkulu, waphuma wasevala umnyango.

²²Owesifazana wathumela kumkakhe ilizwi elithi, "Ngicela ungithumele esinye sezisebenzi kanye lobabhemi ukuze ngiphange ngiyebona umuntu kaNkulunkulu ngiphenduke."

²³Umyeni wakhe wathi, "Kungani umlanda lamuhla? Akusikho ekuThwaseni kweNyanga njalo akusilo iSabatha."

Owesifazana wathi, "Kulungile kunjalo."

²⁴Wethesa ubabhemi wasesithi kusisebenzi sakhe, "Khokhela; ungahambi kancane usenzela mina ngaphandle kokuba ngikutshela."

²⁵Ngakho waphuma wahamba waze wayafumana umuntu kaNkulunkulu eNtabeni yaseKhameli.

Ebona owesifazana esesebucwadlana, umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi kuGehazi inceku yakhe, "Khangela! Nanguyana umShunami! ²⁶Gijima umhlangabeze umbuze uthi, 'Konke kulungile kuwe na? Umkakho uyaphila na? Umntanakho uyaphila na?' "

Owesifazana wathi, "Konke kulungile."

²⁷Kodwa esefikile emuntwini kaNkulunkulu entabeni, wagagadlela izinyawo zakhe. UGehazi weza kuye wamfuqela khatshana, kodwa umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathi, "Myekele! Uphakathi kosizi olukhulu, kodwa uJehova ukufihlile kimi lokho njalo kangitshelanga ukuthi kungani."

²⁸Owesifazana wathi, "Ngake ngacela indodana kuwe na, nkosi yami? Angizange ngikutshela yini ukuthi ungaze wangikhohlisa na?"

²⁹U-Elisha wathi kuGehazi, "Phicela ingubo yakho ebhantini, uphathe intonga yami ngesandla ubusugijima. Loba ngubani ohlangana laye, ungambingeleli, loba angaze akubingelele ungamphenduli. Ufike ubeke intonga yami ebusweni bomfana."

³⁰Kodwa unina womfana wathi, "Ngeqiniso elinjengoba uJehova ephila lanjengoba uphila, angiyikukutshiya." Ngakho wasuka walandela owesifazana.

³¹UGehazi wahle wagijima phambili wayabeka intonga ebusweni bomfana, kodwa akuzwakalanga lutho njalo kanyikinyekanga. Ngakho uGehazi wabuyela ukuyahlangabeza u-Elisha wamtshela wathi, "Umfana kavukanga."

³²Ekufikeni kwakhe endlini u-Elisha, wafumana lakanye nangu umfana usembhedeni wakhe ufile. ³³Wangena

wavala umnyango baba bobabili lomfana wasekhuleka kuJehova.³⁴ Wakhwela embhedeni wacambalala phezu komfana, umlomo emlonyeni, amehlo emehlweni, izandla ezandleni. Uthe esazelula phezu komfana, umzimba womfana waqalisa ukukhudumala.³⁵ U-Elisha wafulathela wahambahamba endlini waphinda wabuyela embhedeni wacambalala phezu komfana. Umfana wathimula kakhombisa wasevula amehlo.

³⁶U-Elisha wabiza uGehazi wathi kuye, "Biza umShunami." Wakwenza lokho. Uthe esefikile wasesithi kuye owesifazana, "Thatha indodana yakho."³⁷ UmShunami wangena, wawela ezinyaweni zakhe wakhothama. Wasethatha indodana yakhe wahamba.

Ukufa Okusembizeni

³⁸U-Elisha wabuyela eGiligali njalo kulesosigaba kwakulendlala. Kwathi esesemhlanganweni lexuku labaphrofethi, wathuma isisebenzi sakhe wathi, "Beka imbiza enkulu eziko, uphekele abaphrofethi ukudla."

³⁹Omunye wabo wayakukha imibhida egangeni wathola ivini leganga. Wakha amajodwana wagwalisa ophikweni lwesigqoko sakhe. Ekuphendukeni kwakhe wawaqobaqoba wawafaka embizeni yesitshebo lanxa kungekho owayesazi ukuthi kuyini.

⁴⁰Kwaphakululwa ukuba abantu badle, kodwa bathi beqalisa ukudla bamemeza bathi, "Awu muntu kaNkulunkulu kulokufa embizeni!" Kabazabe besakudla.

⁴¹U-Elisha wathi, "Lethani ifulawa." Wayifaka embizeni wasesithi, "Baphakuleleni abantu badle." Ngalokho kwakungaselabuthi embizeni.

Abalikhulu Baphiwa Ukudla

⁴²Kwafika indoda ethile ivela eBhali-Shalisha, iphathele umuntu kaNkulunkulu izinkwa zebhali ezingamatshumi amabili, zibhakwe ngezilimo zakuqala. U-Elisha wathi, "Nikani abantu badle."

⁴³Inceku yakhe yathi, "Ngingababela njani abantu abalikhulu okungaka?"

Kodwa u-Elisha wathi, "Phakululela abantu badle. Ngoba ilizwi likaJehova lithi: 'Bazakudla baze bakutshiye.' "

⁴⁴Inceku yasiphakululela abantu, badla baze bakutshiya, njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova.

UNamani Welatshwa Ubulephero

5 UNamani wayengumlawuli webutho lenkosi yase-Aramu. Wayelodumo ehlonipheka emehlweni enkosi yakhe, ngoba ngaye uNkulunkulu wanika ele-Aramu ukunqoba. Wayelibutho elilesibindi, kodwa wayelobulephero.

² Amaxuku amabutho ase-Aramu ayephumile athumba intombazana yako-Israyeli, yaba yisichaka somkaNamani.³ Yathi kunkosikazi yayo, "Ngabe inkosi yami ike ibonane lomphrofethi oseSamariya! Ubezayelapha ubulephero bayo."

⁴UNamani wayatshela inkosi yakhe ngalokhu okwakutshiwo yintombazana yako-Israyeli.⁵ Inkosi yase-Aramu yathi, "Ye kufanele uhambe, ngizabhalela inkosi yako-Israyeli incwadi." Ngakho uNamani, wasuka ephethe amathalenta esiliva alitshumi, amashekeli egolide azinkulungwane eziyisithupha kanye lamaxha ezigqoko alitshumi.⁶ Incwadi ahamba layo enkosini yako-Israyeli yayisithi: "Ngalincwadi ngikuthumela inceku yami uNamani ukuba uzomelapha ubulephero bakhe."

⁷ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi iqeda ukufunda incwadi leyo, yadabula izambatho zayo yathi, "NginguNkulunkulu mina na? Ngilamandla okubulala lamandla okuphilisa na? Kungani lumuntu ethumele umuntu esithi ngimelaphe ubulephero? Angithi liyabona ukuthi udinga ukuxabana lami!"

⁸ U-Elisha umuntu kaNkulunkulu esezwe ukuthi inkosi yako-Israyeli yayisidabule izambatho zayo, wayithumela ilizwi esithi, "Kungani usudabule izambatho zakho na? Letha indoda leyo kimi ukuze yazi ukuthi kulomphrofethi ko-Israyeli." ⁹ Ngakho uNamani wahamba lamabhiza akhe kanye lezinqola zokulwa wayakuma emnyango wendlu ka-Elisha. ¹⁰ U-Elisha wathuma isigijimi ukuthi siyotshela uNamani sithi: "Hamba, uyegeza kakhombisa emfuleni uJodani, inyama yakho izahluma njalo lawe uhlambuluke."

¹¹ Kodwa uNamani wasuka ethukuthele wasesithi: "Mina benginakana ukuthi ngempela uzaphuma eze kimi ame abize ibizo likaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, aphakamise isandla phezu kwezilonda angelaphe ubulephero. ¹² Imifula yaseDamaseko, i-Abhana leFariphari ayingcono yini kulemifula yako-Israyeli na? Bengingeze ngageza kuyo ngihlambuluke na?" Ngakho wafulathela wahamba ethukuthele.

¹³ Izinceku zikaNamani zamlanda zathi kuye, "Baba, alubana umphrofethi ubekutshela ukuthi wenze into enkulu ube ungayikuyenza na? Pho, kwehlula ngaphi nxa esithi, 'Geza uhlambuluke!' " ¹⁴ Yikho ukusuka kwakhe esiya khonale efika egeza kakhombisa, njengokulaywa kwakhe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu, inyama yakhe

yahluma njalo yahlambuluka kungathi ngeyomfana omncinyane.

¹⁵ Ngakho uNamani kanye lezinceku zakhe babuyela kumphrofethi kaJehova uNkulunkulu. Wafika wema phambi kwakhe wathi, "Ngiyakwazi ukuthi akulankulunkulu emhlabeni wonke ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Ngoxolo ngicela wamukele lesisipho senceku yakho."

¹⁶ Umphrofethi wathi, "Ngeqiniso elinjengokuba uJehova engimkhonzayo ephila, angiyikwamukela lutho." Kwathi lanxa uNamani emncenga wala.

¹⁷ UNamani wasesithi, "Nxa ungasoze ukwamukele ngiyacela, mina nceku yakho, ukuba ngithole umhlabathi walapha ongalingana ukuthwalwa zimbongolo ezimbili, ngoba mina nceku angisayikunikela iminikelo yokutshiswa lemihlatshelo lakuwuphi unkulunkulu kodwa kuJehova. ¹⁸ Kodwa inceku yakho icela ukuba uNkulunkulu ayixolele kulokhu kuphela: Nxa inkosi yami ingena ethempelini likaRimoni ukuze iyemkothamela yengeme engalweni yami lami ngikhothame kanye layo, nxa ngikhothama ethempelini likaRimoni, ngiyacela ukuba uNkulunkulu angixolele kulokho."

¹⁹ U-Elisha wathi, "Hamba ngokuthula." UNamani uthe eshambe okommango othile, ²⁰ uGehazi, isisebenzi sika-Elisha inceku kaNkulunkulu, wazitshela ukuthi, "Inkosi yami imyekele uNamani wase-Aramu, wahamba ingasamukelanga isipho sakhe. Ngeqiniso elinjengoba uJehova ephila ngizamlandela ngiyezuza ulutho kuye."

²¹ Ngakho uGehazi wahaluzela wamxhuma uNamani. Kwathi uNamani embona esiza egijima, wehla enqoleni yakhe wamhlangabeza, wambuza wathi, "Kulungile konke na?"

²² UGehazi wathi, "Yebo, konke kulungile. Inkosi yami ingithumile

ukuba ngithi, 'Sekufike amajaha amabili exuku labaphrofethi bevela elizweni lezintaba elako-Efrayimi, icela ukuba uwanike ithalenta lesiliva elilodwa lezigqoko ezimbili.' "

²³UNamani wathi, "Ngokujabula, ngithi thatha amathalenta amabili." Wamkhuthaza uGehazi ukuba awamukele, wasebophela amathalenta esiliva amabili emigodleni emibili, lamaxha amabili ezigqoko. Wawaqhubela izisebenzi ezimbili, zawathwala zahamba kuqala phambi kukaGehazi. ²⁴Esefikile eqaqeni uGehazi, wathatha izimpahla kulezisebenzi wayazibeka endlini. Wathi kababuyele, lakanye basuka.

²⁵Wasengena wafika wema phambi kwenkosi yakhe u-Elisha.

U-Elisha wambuza wathi, "Ube ungaphi Gehazi?"

UGehazi waphendula wathi, "Inceku yakho ayizange iye ndawo."

²⁶Kodwa u-Elisha wathi kuye, "Umoya wami ubungekanye lawe na lapho lowomuntu ephenduka enqoleni ekuhlangabeza? Yisikhathi sokwamukela imali lesi na, kumbe esokwamukela izigqoko, lezivande zama-oliva, lamavini lemihlambi yezimvu, leyezinkomo, kumbe eyezinceku zesilisa lesifazana?"

²⁷Ubulephero bukaNamani buzanamathela kuwe lasenzalweni yakho kuze kube laphakade." UGehazi wasuka phambi kuka-Elisha eselobulephero esemhlophe njengongqwaqwane.

Ukundenda KweHloka

6 Ixuku labaphrofethi lathi ku-Elisha, "Khangela, indawo esihlala kiyo lawe kayisasaneli. ²Asiye eJodani lapho

esizagamula khona izigodo sakhe indawo yokuhlala."

U-Elisha wathi, "Kulungile, hambani."

³Omunye wabo wathi, "Ungazake uhambe lezinceku zakho na?"

U-Elisha wathi, "Kulungile ngizahamba." ⁴Ngakho wasehamba labo.

Baya eJodani bafika baqalisa ukugamula izigodo. ⁵Omunye wathi egamula ihloka lakhe laqamuka isihloko salo sawela emanzini. Wasekhala esithi, "Nkosi yami, ihloka leli bengilebolekile."

⁶Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasebuza esithi, "Liwele ngaphi?" Uthe esemtshengisile indawo yakhona, u-Elisha wagamula uswazi waluphosela khonapho, lokho kwenza ihloka lelo landenda. ⁷Wasesithi, "Lenyule emanzini." Umuntu lowo welula isandla sakhe walenyula.

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⁸Inkosi yase-Aramu yayisempini kulwiwa labako-Israyeli. Ngemva kokukhulumisana lezikhulu zayo inkosi yathi, "Inkamba yami ngizayimisa ekuthinithini."

⁹Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wathumela ilizwi enkosini yako-Israyeli lisithi, "Qaphela ungedluli kuleyana indawo, ngoba ama-Aramu azakwehla aye khona." ¹⁰Ngakho inkosi yako- Israyeli yahlolisisa kuleyondawo eyayiqanjwe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu. U-Elisha wakuphinda enkosini lokhu kuxwayisa kanenginengi, ukuze izivikele ezindaweni ezinjengalezi.

¹¹Lokhu kwayithukuthelisa inkosi yase-Aramu. Yabiza izikhulu zayo yazihwabhela yathi, "Aliyikungitshela yini ukuthi phakathi kwethu ngubani oseceleni lenkosi yako-Israyeli na?"

¹² Esinye sezikhulu zakhe sathi, "Kakho phakathi kwethu nkosi yami, kodwa u-Elisha, umphrofethi wako-Israyeli, ulakho ukutshela inkosi yako-Israyeli ngawonalawo amazwi owakhuluma usendlini yakho yokulala."

¹³ Inkosi yabalaya yathi, "Hambani liyemdinga lapho akhona, ukuze ngithumele amadoda ayemthumba." Kwavela impendulo ethi, "UseDothani."

¹⁴ Inkosi yasithuma abamabhiza labezinqola zokulwa kanye lamabutho aqinileyo. Bahamba ebusuku bahle bagombolozela umuzi wakhona.

¹⁵ Kuthe inceku yomuntu kaNkulunkulu ivuka ekuseni ngelanga elilandelayo yaphuma phandle yathola amabutho alamabhiza lezinqola zokulwa sezihonqolozele idolobho. Inceku yethuka yathi, "Maye, nkosi yami, sizakwenzenjani na?"

¹⁶ Umphrofethi wathi, "Ungesabi. Labo abalathi banengi kulalabo abangakubo."

¹⁷ U-Elisha wasekhuleka wathi, "O Jehova, vula amehlo akhe ukuze abone." Ngakho uJehova wavula amehlo enceku, yakhangela yabona amaqoqo agcwele amabhiza lezinqola zokulwa ezomlilo zihonqolozele u-Elisha.

¹⁸ Kuthe izitha zisondela kuye, u-Elisha wakhuleka kuJehova wathi, "Tshaya lababantu babe yiziphofu." Ngakho wabaphumputhekisa, njengokucela kuka-Elisha.

¹⁹ U-Elisha wabatshela wathi, "Akusiwo umgwaqo njalo akusiwo umuzi eliwudingayo. Ngilandelani, ngizalikhokhela liye emuntwini elimdingayo." Ngakho wabakhokhelela eSamariya.

²⁰ Sebephakathi komuzi, u-Elisha wathi, "Jehova, vula amehlo alababantu ukuze babone." Ngakho uJehova wavula amehlo abo, bazibonela ukuthi babephakathi kweSamariya.

²¹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli ithe ibabona, yabuza ku-Elisha yathi, "Ngibabulale yini, baba? Ngibabulale na?"

²² Yena waphendula wathi, "Ungababulali. Kambe ungababulala yini ngenkamba loba ngomtshoko wakho abantu obathumbileyo. Baphe ukudla lamanzi ukuze badle babe sebebuyela enkosini yabo." ²³ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibenzela idili elikhulu, bathe sebeqedile ukudla lokunatha, yabakhulula ukuba bahambe, ngakho basuka babuyela enkosini yabo. Kwathi amaxuku amabutho ase-Aramu ayehlala ehlasela ele-Israyeli akhawula ukuhlasela.

Indlala ESamariya Ngesikhathi Ivinjezelwe

²⁴ Ngemva kwesikhathi, uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu yaqoqa amabutho ayo wonke yayavimbezela umuzi waseSamariya. ²⁵ Kwaba khona indlala enkulu eSamariya ngesikhathi sokuvinjezelwa kwayo; ngakho inhloko kababhemi yayithengiswa ngamashekeli esiliva angamatshumi afica mibili, legajana lombhida othile ngamashekeli amahlanu esiliva.

²⁶ Kwathi ngolunye usuku inkosi yako-Israyeli ihambahamba phezu komduli womuzi, owesifazana othile wamemeza esithi kuyo, "Akungincede, baba nkosi yami!"

²⁷ Inkosi yaphendula yathi, "Nxa uJehova uNkulunkulu engakusizi, mina kambe ngizaluthatha ngaphi uncedo? Ngizaluthatha esikhamelweni sewayini yini loba esizeni sokubhulela na?"

²⁸ Kodwa uhlutshwa yini?"

Owesifazana wathi, "Owesifazana lo uthe kimi, 'Letha umntanakho ukuba simudle lamuhla, kuzakuthi kusasa sidle owami.' ²⁹ Ngakho simphekile umntanami samudla. Ngosuku

olulandelayo ngasengisithi, 'Letha umntanakho ukuba simudle.' Kodwa yena ubesemfihlile."

³⁰ Inkosi ithe isizwa okwakutshiwo ngowesifazana lowo yadabula izigqoko zayo. Inkosi yayihamba phezu komduli, abantu bayikhangela, babona ukuthi isigqoko sayo sangaphansi sasingesokulila. ³¹ Inkosi yathi, "Sengathi uNkulunkulu angangihlanekela kubi nxa ikhanda lika-Elisha indodana kaShafathi kungasa lilokhu limi phezu kwamahlombe akhe lamuhla!"

³² U-Elisha wayehlezi endlini yakhe labadala babehlezi laye. Inkosi yasithuma isigijimi phambili, kodwa sithe singakafiki u-Elisha wathi ebadaleni, "Liyakubona yini ukuthi umbulali lo usethumele umuntu ukuba azoquma ikhanda lami na? Khangelani, ekufikeni kwesigijimi lapha libovala umnyango libambe isivalo siqine. Kalizizwa yini izisinde zenkosi yaso ngemuva kwaso na?"

³³ Kwathi esakhuluma, isigijimi sahle safika. Ngakho inkosi yathi, "Uhlupho lonke lolu luvela kuJehova. Pho-ke ngisamlindelelani uJehova na?"

7 U-Elisha wathi, "Zwanini ilizwi

likaJehova. Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: Kusasa ngasolesi isikhathi, ingxenye yegokoko lefulawa izabe isithengiswa ngeshekeli kuthi ingxenye ezimbili zegokoko lebhali zibe ngezeshekeli elilodwa esangweni laseSamariya."

² Isikhulu leso inkosi eyayeyeme engalweni yaso sathi emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, "Khangela, kambe loba uJehova angaze avule amasango empophoma zamazulu bekungenzeka lokhu na?"

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, "Lokho uzakubona ngawakho amehlo, kodwa awuyikudla loba yini yakho!"

Ukuvinjezelwa Kuyasuswa

³ Kwakukhona amadoda alobulephero amane esangweni lomuzi. Akhulumisana athi, "Sihlaleleni lapha size sife na? ⁴ Nxa singathi, 'Asingeneni phakathi komuzi.' Lakhona kulendlala, sizakufa. Singahlala khonapha, sizakufa. Ngakho asiyeni enkambeni yama-Aramu siyezinkela. Bangahlala bengasibulali, sizaphila; kodwa bangasibulala, sizakufa."

⁵ Kusihlwa baya enkambeni yama-Aramu. Bathe befika eduzane lenkamba, bananzelela ukuthi kwakungaselamuntu loyedwa, ⁶ ngoba uJehova wayebangele ama-Aramu ukuthi ezindlebeni zawo ezwe umsindo wezinqola zokulwa lamabhiza kanye lebuthe elikhulu, aze atshelana athi, "Qaphelani, inkosi yako-Israyeli inxuse amakhosi amaHithi lamaGibhithe ukuthi azosihlasela!" ⁷ Ngakho asuka abaleka ngomnyama wokuhlwa atshiya amathente awo kanye lamabhiza labobabhemi. Abaleka atshiya inkamba ilokhu imi injalo evikela impilo yawo.

⁸ Amadoda ayelobulephero angena enkambeni afika ahlala kwelinye lamathente. Adla anatha, aze athwala lesiliva, legolide lezigqoko, ahamba lakho ayakufihla. Aphenduka njalo angena kwelinye lamathente athatha njalo ezinye izimpahla lazo ayazifihla.

⁹ Asekhulumisana esithi, "Akulunganga lokhu esikwenzayo. Lolu lusuku lwezindaba ezinhle kodwa silokhu singazitsheli muntu. Singalindela ukusa kwelanga sizajeziswa. Asihambeni khathesi siyebika esigodlweni."

¹⁰Ngakho bahamba bamemeza abalindi masango bomuzi bathi kubo, "Siye sayafika enkambeni yama-Aramu safumana kungelamuntu loyedwa kodwa lokhu kungezwakali lomsindo womuntu ngaphandle kwamabhiza labobabhemi kubotshelwe, kanye lamathente etshiywe enjengoba enjalo." ¹¹Abalindi bamasango bamemezela lezizindaba, kwaze kwayabikwa laphakathi esigodlweni.

¹²Inkosi yavuka ebusuku yakhuluma lezikhulu zayo yathi, "Ngizalitshela ukuthi ama-Aramu asenzeni kithi. Ayakwazi ukuthi siphakathi kwendlala; ngakho asuke atshiya izinkamba zawo ukuze asicathamele emaphandleni enakana esithi, 'Ngempela bazaphuma ijumo, kube lapho esizabathumba khona singene phakathi komuzi.' "

¹³Esinye sezikhulu zenkosi sathi, "Thuma abahlanu ngamabhiza aseleyo phakathi komuzi. Bazawelwa luhlupho olufana lolwama-Israyeli wonke asele lapha, yebo, bazafana nje labo bonke abako-Israyeli abalindele ukufa. Ngakho asibathume balandele bayedingisisa okwenzakeleyo."

¹⁴Basebekhetha izinqola zokulwa ezimbili lamabhiza azo, inkosi yathuma ukuba zilandele ibutho lama-Aramu. Inkosi ekulawuleni kwayo abatshayeli balezinqola zokulwa yathi, "Hambani liyedingisisa ukuthi kuyini okwenzakeleyo." ¹⁵Balandela baze bayafika eJodani, bafumana kuyikuthi indlela yonke yayihlakazeke ngezizigqoko langempahla ezazilahlwe ngama-Aramu ekubalekeni kwawo. Ngakho zaphenduka izithunywa zafika zabika enkosini. ¹⁶Abantu baphuma bayaphanga okwakusenkambeni yama-Aramu. Ngakho igokoko lefulawa lathengiswa ngeshekeli, amagokoko amabili ebhali athengiswa ngeshekeli, njengokutsho kukaJehova.

¹⁷Inkosi yayibeke isikhulu eyayeyeme engalweni yaso ukuba silondoloze isango. Abantu baphithizela basinyathela esangweni, safu, njengokwakutshiwo ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu ngesikhathi inkosi ize ifike endlini yakhe.

¹⁸Kwenzakala njengalokhu umuntu kaNkulunkulu wayetshilo enkosini: "Ngalesi isikhathi kusasa, igokoko lefulawa lizathengiswa ngeshekeli, amagokoko amabili ebhali azathengiswa ngeshekeli esangweni laseSamariya."

¹⁹Isikhulu senkosi sona sasithe emuntwini kaNkulunkulu, "Khangela, loba uJehova angaze avule amasango empophoma zamazulu bekungenzeka lokhu na?" Umuntu kaNkulunkulu yena wayephendule wathi, "Lokhu uzakubona ngawakho amehlo, kodwa awuyikudla loba yini yakho!" ²⁰Yikho kanye okwenzakala kulesisikhulu senkosi, ngoba abantu baphithizela basinyathela esangweni, safu.

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8 U-Elisha wayetshela umfazi

olomntwana ayemvuse ekufeni wathi, "Suka uhambe labendlu yakho uyehlala lapha ongathuthela khona okwesikhathshana, ngoba uJehova uzaletsa indlala elizweni ezathatha iminyaka eyisikhombisa." ²Owesifazana lowo wakwenza lokho njengokulaywa kwakhe ngumuntu kaNkulunkulu. Yena kanye labendlu yakhe basuka bayahlala elizweni lamaFilisti okweminyaka eyisikhombisa.

³Ekupheleni kweminyaka eyisikhombisa wasuka elizweni lamaFilisti waya enkosini yakibo wayacela indawo yomuzi kanye lamasimu akhe. ⁴Inkosi yayikhuluma loGehazi, isisebenzi somuntu

kaNkulunkulu, yathi, "Ake ungixoxele ngezimanga ezinkulu esezike zenziwa ngu-Elisha." ⁵Uthe uGehazi esathi uyalandisela inkosi ngokuthi u-Elisha waphilisa njani abafileyo, owesifazana ondodana yakhe yasiliswa ngu-Elisha wafika ezocela ukubuyela emzini wakhe lokulima amasimu akhe.

UGehazi wathi, "Nguyenalo owesifazana, nkosi yami, nansi lendodana yakhe, eyiyo eyavuswa kwabafileyo ngu-Elisha." ⁶Inkosi yambuza ngalokhu umama lowo, lakanye wakufakaza lokho.

Inkosi yasikhethe esinye sezikhulu zayo ukuba sikhangele izikhhalazo zowesifazana yaqonqosela yathi, "Uze umbuyisele konke okwakungokwakhe, lenzuzo yonke eyasala izuzakala emasimini akhe kusukela mhla asuka kulelilizwe kuze kube sekuphendukeni kwakhe lamuhla."

UHazayeli Ubulala uBheni-Hadadi

⁷U-Elisha waya eDamaseko, uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu wayegula. Inkosi isitsheliwe ngalokho ukuthi, ⁸"Umuntu kaNkulunkulu usefikile uvela ekudeni khonale esiza lapha," wathi kuHazayeli: "Thatha isipho uyehlangabeza umuntu kaNkulunkulu. Khuluma ubuze uNkulunkulu ngaye; uthi, 'Kambe ngizasila yini kulokhu kugula na?' "

⁹UHazayeli waphuma wayahlangabeza u-Elisha, ephethe izipho zezimpahla ezinhle kakhulu ezenziwa ngabaleminwe eDamaseko zithwelwe ngamakamela angamatshumi amane. Wafika wangena wema phambi kwakhe, wathi, "Indodana yakho uBheni-Hadadi inkosi yase-Aramu ungithumile ukuba ngizobuza, uthi yena, 'Kambe ngizasila emkhuhlaneni na?' "

¹⁰U-Elisha waphendula wathi, "Hamba uyemtshela ukuthi, 'Ngempela uzasila'; kodwa uNkulunkulu usebonakalisile kimi umbono wokuthi uzakufa."

¹¹Wamkhangela engaciyozi emuthe nzo ngamehlo uHazayeli waze waba lenhloni. Umuntu kaNkulunkulu wasekhala.

¹²UHazayeli wabuza wathi, "Kungani inkosi yami ikhala?"

Umuntu kaNkulunkulu waphendula wathi, "Kungenxa yokuthi ngiyabazi ububi ozabenza ebantwini bako-Israyeli; uzatshisa izinqola zabo ngomlilo, ubulale lamadodana abo njalo uqhahqhe abesifazana abazithweleyo."

¹³UHazayeli wathi, "Kambe inceku yakho, yona iyinja ngokwayo, ingasanelisa njani isiga esingako?"

U-Elisha waphendula wathi, "UNkulunkulu ungitshengisile ukuthi wena uzakuba yinkosi yase-Aramu.

¹⁴Ngakho uHazayeli wasuka ku-Elisha wabuyela enkosini yakhe. UBheni-Hadadi wasebuza esithi, "Utheni u-Elisha kuwe?" UHazayeli yena waphendula wathi, "Ungitshela ukuthi ngempela uzasila." ¹⁵Kodwa ngosuku olulandelayo wathatha ingubo, wayigxamuza emanzini, wasegubuzela ubuso benkosi ngayo yaze yafa. Ngakho uHazayeli waba yinkosi.

UJehoram yinkosi YakoJuda

¹⁶Ngomnyaka wesihlanu kaJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, ngesikhathi uJehoshafathi eyinkosi yakoJuda, uJehoram indodana kaJehoshafathi waqalisa ukubusa eyinkosi yakoJuda. ¹⁷Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eficamibili. ¹⁸Yena wahamba enyathelweni lamakhosi ako-Israyeli, njengalokho okwakwenziwe

ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wayethethe indodakazi ka-Ahabi. Wona phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ¹⁹ Loba kunjalo, ngenxa kaDavida inceku yakhe, uNkulunkulu kathandanga ukudiliza indlu kaJuda. Wayemthembase ukugcina isibane sikaDavida lenzalo yakhe kuze kube nini lanini.

²⁰ Ngezinsuku zikaJehoram, i-Edomi yamhlamukela uJuda yabeka eyayo inkosi. ²¹ Ngakho uJehoram waya eZayiri lezinqola zakhe zokulwa. Ama-Edomi amhanqa yena kanye labalawuli bezinqola zokulwa, wavuka ebusuku waphulukundlela ngobusuku; kodwa amabutho akhe abaleka abuyela ekhaya. ²² Kuze kube lamuhla lokhu i-Edomi ilokhu yahlamukela uJuda. ULibhina laye wahlamuka ngalesosikhathi.

²³ Okunye ngombuso langezehlakalo zikaJehoram, lakho konke okunye akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhozi akoJuda na? ²⁴ UJehoram waya kwabaphansi, wangewatshwa laboyise eMzini kaDavida. Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

U-Ahaziya iNkosi yakoJuda

²⁵ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili kaJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ²⁶ U-Ahaziya waqalisa ukubusa eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okomnyaka owoodwa. Unina wayengu-Athaliya, umntanomntanakhe ka-Omiri inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁷ Wahamba ngenyathelo labendlu ka-Ahabi wona phambi kukaNkulunkulu, njengokwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wayeyisihlobo sabo ngokuthatha.

²⁸ U-Ahaziya waya empini loJoram indodana ka-Ahabi besilwa loHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu eRamothi-Gileyadi.

Ama-Aramu alimaza uJoram, ²⁹ ngakho inkosi uJoram yabuyela eJezereli ukuthi iyekwelatshwa amanxeba lapho eyayilinyazwe khona ngama-Aramu eRamothi ekulweni kwakhe loHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu.

Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda wehla wayabona uJoram indodana ka-Ahabi, njengoba wayeselimele.

UJehu Ugcotshwa Ukuba Yinkosi yako-Israyeli

9 Umphrofethi u-Elisha wabiza enye indoda exukwini labaphrofethi wathi kuyo, "Khwica isambatho sakho ebhantini ubusuthatha iqhagana lamafutha leli, uye eRamothi Gileyadi. ² Ekufikeni kwakho khonale, ubodinga uJehu indodana kaJehoshafathi, indodana kaNimishi. Ufike umthathe, umsuse kubangane bakhe ubusumngenisa endlini engaphakathi. ³ Ube usuthatha iqhagana lamafutha uwathele ekhanda lakhe, ube usubika uthi, 'Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Ngikugcoba ubukhosi bako-Israyeli.' Ube usuvula umnyango ubaleke; ungabophuza."

⁴ Ngakho ijaha leli, umphrofethi, waya eRamothi Gileyadi. ⁵ Ekufikeni kwakhe khonale wafumana izikhulu zebutho zihlezi ndawonye, wasesithi kuzo, "Mlawuli, ngilombiko kuwe."

UJehu wabuza wathi, "Ngokabani phakathi kwethu?"

Yena waphendula wathi, "Ngowakho mlawuli webutho."

⁶ UJehu wasukuma wangena endlini. Umphrofethi wathela amafutha ekhanda likaJehu wasebika ukuthi, "Ilizwi likaJehova ka-Israyeli lithi: 'Ngigcoba wena ukuba ube yinkosi phezu kwabantu bakaJehova, u-Israyeli. ⁷ Kumele ubhubhise indlu ka-Ahabi inkosi yakho,

njalo ngizaphindisela igazi lezinceku zami abaphrofethi kanye legazi lezinceku zonke zikaJehova elachithwa nguJezebeli. ⁸Indlu ka-Ahabi izabhujiswa. Ngizaqeda ko-Ahabi bonke abesilisa ko-Israyeli, isigqili loba okhululekileyo. ⁹Indlu ka-Ahabi ngizayenza lokhu engakwenza ekaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi kanye lokwenzakala endlini kaBhahasha indodana ka-Ahija. ¹⁰UJezebeli, yena uzadliwa yizinja elizweni laseJezereli; kayikungcwatshwa muntu.' " Wasevula umnyango, wabaleka.

¹¹UJehi uthe ephuma lapho esebuyele kwabanye abalawuli, omunye wabo wambuza wathi, "Kulungile konke na? Uhlanya lolu lube luzofunani kuwe?" UJehi wathi, "Liyamazi umuntu lo kanye lezinto azikhulumayo."

¹²Abalawuli basebesithi, "Kakusilo iqiniso lokho! Sitshele."

UJehi wathi, "Nanku angitshela khona: 'Ilizwi likaJehova lithi: Ngiyakugcoba ube yinkosi ko-Israyeli.' "

¹³Baphanga bathatha izambatho zabo bazendlala ezinyaweni zakhe ezikhwelweni. Bavuthela icilongo bamemeza besithi, "UJehi useyinkosi!"

UJehi Ubulala UJoramu Lo-Ahaziya

¹⁴Ngakho uJehi indodana kaJehoshafathi, indodana kaNimishi wavukela uJoramu. (UJoramu labo bonke abako-Israyeli babevikela iRamothi-Gileyadi kuHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu, ¹⁵kodwa inkosi uJoramu yayisibuyele eJezereli ukuze yelatshwe amanxeba okulinyazwa ekulweni lama-Aramu kulwiwa loHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu.) UJehi wathi, "Nxa lifuna lokho, akungabikho loyedwa ozaphuma emzini ukuba ayefikisa ilizwi eJezereli."

¹⁶Wasekhwela enqoleni yakhe yokulwa waya eJezereli, ngoba uJoramu

wayephumulela khonale njalo u-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda wayehlele khona ukuba ayembona.

¹⁷Umlindi owayemi emphotshongweni eJezereli wathi ebona amabutho kaJehi esiza, wamemeza esithi, "Ngibona impi ezayo."

UJoramu wathi, "Thumela umgadi webhiza abahlangabeze ayebabuza ukuthi, 'Liza ngokuthula na?' "

¹⁸Umgadi webhiza wasuka wayahlangabeza uJehi wathi, "Inkosi ingithume ukuba ngibuze ngisithi, 'Uza ngokuthula na?'"

UJehi waphendula wathi, "Ulani lakho ukuthula na? Ngena ngemuva kwami."

Umlindi wabika wathi, "Isithunywa sesifikile kubo, kodwa kasiphenduki."

¹⁹Ngakho inkosi yathuma umgadi webhiza wesibili. Esefikile kubo wathi, "Inkosi ithi: 'Liza ngokuthula na?' "

UJehi waphendula wathi, "Ulani lakho ukuthula na? Ngena ngemuva kwami."

²⁰Umlindi wabika wathi: "Usefikile kubo, kodwa kukhanya kaphenduki. Ugijima sengathi nguJehi indodana kaNimishi njalo utshayela sengathi luhlanya."

²¹UJoramu wakhwaza wathi, "Bophani inqola yami yokulwa." Inqola yokulwa ithe isilungisiwe, uJoramu inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye lo-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda bagada, basuka omunye ekweyakhe inqola yokulwa lomunye laye ekweyakhe, behlangabeza uJehi. Bahlangana laye esivandeni sesiqinti esasikade singesikaNabothi umJezereli. ²²UJoramu uthe ebona uJehi wambuza wathi, "Uza ngokuthula na, Jehu?"

UJehi wathi, "Kambe kungaba lokuthula njani khona kugcwele izithombe lobuthakathi bukanyoko uJezebeli na?"

²³ UJoramu wafulathela wabaleka, ememezela ku-Ahaziya esithi, "Ukuhlamuka, Ahaziya!"

²⁴ UJehu wakhokha umtshoko wakhe waciba uJoramu esiphangengi ngomtshoko wakhe. Umtshoko wahle wangena enhliziyweni yakhe yena wathi votshololo enqoleni yakhe yokulwa.

²⁵ UJehu wathi kuBhidikhari, owayeyisikhulu sakhe sezinqola zokulwa, "Dobha isidumbu sakhe uyesiphosela ensimini eyayingeka Nabothi umJezereli. Uyakhumbula mhla sasigadile sobabili enqoleni yokulwa ngemuva kuka-Ahabi uyise mhla uJehova enza lesisiphrofetho ngaye esithi, ²⁶ 'Izolo ngibone igazi lika Nabothi lelamadodana akhe, kutsho uJehova, ngeqiniso ngizakwenza ulihlawulele kulesisivande, kutsho uJehova.' Ngakho umthathe, uyemphosela ensimini leyana, njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova."

²⁷ U-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda esebone lokhu okwakwenzakele wabaleka wahamba ngomgwaqo esiya eBhethi-Hagani. UJehu waxotshana laye ememeza esithi, "Mbulaleni laye!" Bamlimaza enqoleni yakhe yokulwa endleleni yokuya eGuri phansi kwe-Ibhiliyami, kodwa wabaleka waya eMegido lapho ayafela khona.

²⁸ Izinceku zakhe zamthwala ngenqola yokulwa zamusa eJerusalema zayamngcwaba laboyise ethuneni lakhe eMzini kaDavida. ²⁹ (Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanye kaJoramu indodana ka-Ahabi, u-Ahaziya waba yinkosi yakoJuda.)

Ukubulawa KukaJezebeli

³⁰ Ngakho uJehu waya eJezereli. UJezebeli wathi ekuzwa lokho, wazicomba ngesibhuda emehlweni weluka inwele zakhe waselunguza gewindi. ³¹ UJehu uthe engena

esangweni, wambuza wathi, "Uza ngokuthula na, Zimiri, wena mbulali wenkosi yakho?"

³² Yena wakhangelela phezulu ewindini wabuza wathi, "Ngubani ongakimi na? Ngubani?" Abathenwa ababili loba abathathu bakhangelela phansi kuye.

³³ UJehu wathi, "Msakazeleni phansi!" Ngakho basebemsakazela phansi, elinye igazi lakhe lachaphakela emdulini lasemabhizeni ayeseqidagida emnyathela ngamasondo.

³⁴ UJehu wangena wafika wadla njalo wanatha. Wathi, "Ake limthathe lo owesifazana oqalekisiweyo liyemngcwaba, ngoba eyindodakazi yenkosi." ³⁵ Kodwa bathe sebethi bayathatha isidumbu bafumana sekusele ikhanda lenyawo lezandla kuphela.

³⁶ Babuyela bayatshela uJehu yena owathi, "Leli yilizwi likaJehova alikhuluma ngenceku yakhe u-Elija umThishibi lisithi: 'Esiqintini esiseJezereli izinja zizakudla inyama kaJezebeli, ³⁷ lesidumbu sikaJezebeli sizakuba njengomquba osegangeni elizweni laseJezereli ukuze kungabi khona ozakutsho ukuthi, 'Lo nguJezebeli.' "

Ukubulawa Kwabendlu ka-Ahabi

10 ESamariya kwakulamadodana angamatshumi ayisikhombisa ayengawendlu ka-Ahabi. Ngakho uJehu waloba izincwadi elobela izikhulu zaseJezereli, abadala lakulabo ababesondla abantwana baka-Ahabi. Waloba kanje: ² "Masinyazana ekuboneni kwenu lincwadi, njengoba abantwana benkosi yenu besezandleni zenu njalo lilezinqola zokulwa lamabhiza, umuzi wenqaba lezikhali, ³ khethani lowo elimbona efanele kulabo bonke phakathi kwamadodana enkosi

yenu limfake esihlalweni sikayise sobukhosi, beselilwela indluyenkosi yenu."

⁴Kodwa besaba bathi: "Nxa amakhosi amabili ehlulekile ukumelana laye, thina singakwenza njani?"

⁵Ngakho isiphathamandla sesigodlo, usibalukhulu, abadala kanye labalindi bathumela lelilizwi kuJehu, "Sizinceku zakho, njalo sizakwenza konke njengokutsho kwakho. Kakho esizamketha ukuba abe yinkosi; yenza lokho obona kulungile kakhulu."

⁶Ngakho uJehu wabalobela incwadi yesibili esithi, "Nxa livumelana lami njalo lizimisele ukungilalela, qumani amakhanda amadodana enkosi yenu libe selibuya lawo kusasa eJezereli ngasonalesisikhathi."

Amakhosana esikhosini, ayengamatshumi ayisikhombisa, ayehlala lamadoda aqakathekileyo phakathi komuzi, okuyiwo ayesondla amadodana enkosi. ⁷Incwadi yathi ifika, amadoda la, abulala wonke amakhosana angamatshumi ayisikhombisa. Afaka amakhanda awo ezitsheni awathumela kuJehu eJezereli. ⁸Isigijimi sithe sifika satshela uJehu sathi: "Sebewalethile amakhanda amakhosana."

UJehu wasekhupha ilizwi esithi, "Abutheleleni abe zinqwaba ezimbili esangweni lomuzi kuze kube sekuseni."

⁹Ngosuku olulandelayo uJehu waphuma; wema phambi kwabantu wathi, "Lina kalilacala. Yimi engithame ukubulala inkosi yami njalo ngiyibulele, kodwa ngubani obulele bonke laba?"

¹⁰Alibokwazi ukuthi akukho lalinye ilizwi elivela kuJehova lingxame u-Ahabi labendlu yakhe, elizakwehluleka. UNkulunkulu usekwenzile lokho akuthembisa ngenceku yakhe u-Elia." ¹¹Ngakho uJehu wabulala bonke eJezereli abendlu

ka-Ahabi ababesele, kanye lezikhulu zakhe, abangane bakhe abasekhwapheni labaphristi bakhe, akusalanga muntu kwabendlu ka-Ahabi.

¹²UJehu waphuma njalo waqonda eSamariya. EBhethi-Ekhedi yaBelusi, ¹³wahlangana lezihlobo zika-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda wababuza wathi, "Lingobani lina na?"

Bona bamphendula bathi, "Siyizihlobo zika-Ahaziya, njalo silande ukuzabona abomndlunkulu wenkosi kanye lendlovukazi engunina."

¹⁴Yena wathi ezincekwini zakhe, "Bathatheni bephila!" Ngakho babathatha bephila bayababulalela emthonjeni weBhethi-Ekhedi – amatshumi amane amadoda. Kakho loyedwa abamtshiya ephila.

¹⁵Ngemva kokusuka kwakhe lapho, wahlangana loJehonadabi indodana ka-Rekhabi, owayesendleleni ezomhlangabeza. UJehu wambingelela wathi, "Wena uvumelana lami na, njengoba mina ngikanye lawe?"

UJehonadabi waphendula wathi, "Mina ngilawe."

UJehu wathi, "Nxa kunjalo ngibamba isandla," kwathi esembambile wamkhweza enqoleni yokulwa. ¹⁶UJehu wasesithi, "Woza sihambe ngiyekutshengisa ukuphithshekela kwami uJehova." Ngakho wagada laye enqoleni yakhe yokulwa.

¹⁷UJehu uthe efika eSamariya, wabulala bonke ababesele khonale abendlu ka-Ahabi, wababhubhisa njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova ekhuluma ku-Elia.

Ukubulawa Kwabaphrofethi BakaBhali

¹⁸Ngakho uJehu wamema abantu bonke wabahlanganisa wasesithi kubo, "U-Ahabi ubekhonza uBhali kancinyane; uJehu uzamkhonza kakhulu. ¹⁹Ngakho

memani bonke abaphrofethi bakaBhali, bonke abatshumayeli bakhe labaphristi bakhe. Linanzelele ukuthi kakho loyedwa ozasala, ngoba ngifuna ukwenza umhlatshelo omkhulu kuBhali. Ongayikubuya kasayikuphila." UJehu wayebakhohlisa ngoba wayedinga ukubhubhisa abafundisi bakaBhali.

²⁰UJehu wasesithi, "Bizani umhlangano wokudumisa uBhali." Basebewumemezela. ²¹Wasethumela ilizwi kulo lonke elako-Israyeli, beza bonke abafundisi bakaBhali; kakho loyedwa ongezanga. Bagcwala baminyana ethempelini likaBhali kusukela emsamo kusiya emnyango. ²²UJehu wasesithi kulowo owayegcina izigqoko zabakhonza uBhali, "Balethele izigqoko bonke abakhonza uBhali." Ngakho wabalethela lezozigqoko.

²³UJehu loJehonadabi indodana kaRekhabi bangena ethempelini likaBhali. UJehu wathi kubafundisi bakaBhali, "Linanzelele kungangeni loyedwa oyinceku kaNkulunkulu enkonzweni yenu, akube ngabakhonzi bakaBhali kuphela." ²⁴Ngakho bangena banikela benza lemihlatshelo yokutshiswa. UJehu wayelindise amadoda angamatshumi afica mibili wawaqonqosela wathi, "Loba ngubani ozayekela omunye walamadoda engiwabeke ezandleni zenu ephunyuka, ngizaphindisela ngempilo yakhe."

²⁵UJehu wathi eseqedile ukunikela umhlatshelo wokutshiswa, wathi kubalindi lezikhulu zebutho, "Ngenani liyebabulala; kungabikho loyedwa ozaphunyuka." Ngakho babatshaya ngenkamba bababhubhisa. Abalindi lezikhulu balahlela phandle izidumbu basebengena ethempelini likaBhali elingaphakathi. ²⁶Bakhipha ilitshela elikhonzwayo likaBhali balitshisa.

²⁷Balidiliza lelolitshe likaBhali elikhonzwayo babhidliza lethempeli

lakhe, balenza laba yindlu yokuyela ngaphandle kuze kube lalamuhla lokhu.

²⁸Ngalokho uJehu wadiliza ukhoho lukaBhali ko-Israyeli. ²⁹Kodwa, yena katshiyananga lezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNabothi, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuzenza, ukukhonza amathole egolide eBhetheli laseDani.

³⁰UJehova wathi kuJehu, "Njengoba wenze kuhle ngokuphelelisa lokho okufaneleyo phambi kwami njalo wenze konke ebengikumisele abendlu ka-Ahabi, abendlu yakho bazabusa ko-Israyeli kuze kube yisizukulwana sesine." ³¹Kodwa uJehu kazange ananzelele ukugcina umthetho kaJehova ka-Israyeli ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. Kazange atshiyane lezono ezazisenziwa nguJerobhowami, lezo ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuba azenze.

³²Ngalezozinsuku uJehova waqalisa ukwehlisa inani labako-Israyeli. UHabayeli wanqoba ama-Israyeli kulo lonke ilizwe lawo, ³³empumalanga yeJodani kulo lonke eleGileyadi (kuthatha ummango ka-Gadi, oka-Rubheni lokaManase,) kusukela e-Aroweri ngaseSihotsheni se-Arinoni kusiyaphutsha eGileyadi kungena eBhashani.

³⁴Okunye kwezehlakalo lezenzo ngokubusa kukaJehu, konke akwenzayo, aphumelela kukho, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na ?

³⁵UJehu wafa walala kuboyise emathuneni aseSamariya. UJehowahazi indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi yabusa. ³⁶UJehu isikhathi abusa ngaso u-Israyeli eseSamariya kwaba yiminyaka engamatshumi amabili lafica mibili.

U-Athaliya loJowashi

11 U-Athaliya unina ka-Ahaziya wathi ebona ukuthi indodana yakhe isifile, waqhubeka ebulala bonke abendlunkulu. ²Kodwa uJehosheba, indodakazi yenkosi uJehoram njala engudadewabo ka-Ahaziya, wathatha uJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya wamngqisa emsusa phakathi kwamakhosana ayesezabulawa. Wamfihla kanye lomlizane wakhe endlini yokulala emcatshisa ukuze u-Athaliya angaze ambona; yikho kasazange abulawe. ³Wahlala ecatsishiwe yena kanye lomlizane wakhe ethempelini likaJehova okweminyaka eyisithupha yokubusa kuka-Athaliya.

⁴Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa uJehoyada wamema abalawuli bamakhulu, amaKharithi kanye lababalindi, bonke balethwa phambi kwakhe ethempelini likaJehova. Wenza isivumelwano labo wabafungisa ethempelini likaJehova. Wasebatshengisa indodana yenkosi.

⁵Wabalaya wathi, "Nanku elizakwenza: Lina elikumaviyo amathathu azabe elindile ngeSabatha, ingxenye yokuthathu yenu abalinde isigodlo, ⁶lengxenye yokuthathu abaseSangweni laseSuri, lengxenye yokuthathu esangweni elingemuva kwabalindi, abazophisanayo ukulinda ithempeli, ⁷lani elikumaviyo amabili okuvame ukuthi lingasebenzi ngeSabatha, lonke lizalinda ithempeli likaJehova. ⁸Lizalinda lizingelezele inkosi, ngulowo ehlo mile ngesikhali sakhe esandleni sakhe. Loba ngubani onondela kini kumele abulawe. Hlalani liseduze kwenkosi loba ingaze iye ngaphi."

⁹Abalawuli bekhulu benza njengokulaywa kwabo nguJehoyada umphristi. Ngamunye umlawuli wathatha iviyo lakhe lamadoda lawo

ayesiya ekulindeni ngeSabatha lalawo ayezakuba engasebenzi eza kuJehoyada umphristi. ¹⁰Ngakho yena wanika abalawuli imikhonto lamahawu ayengawenkosi uDavida ayegcinwa ethempelini likaJehova. ¹¹Kwathi abalindi ngamunye, ephethe isikhali esandleni sakhe, bajama bephahle inkosi iseduze kwe-alithare lethempelini, kusukela ezansi kusiya enyakatho yethempeli.

¹²UJehoyada waseveza indodana yenkosi wayethwesa umqhele; wayiqhubela lesivumelwano sikaJehova wahle wamemezela ukuba isiyinkosi. Bayigcoba inkosi, abantu batshaya izandla bahlaba umkhosi besithi, "Mpilo ende enkosini!"

¹³U-Athaliya uthe esizwa umkhosi wokujabula kwabalindi kanye labantu bonke, waya ebantwini ngasethempelini likaJehova. ¹⁴Uthe ethi mehlo suka, wabona nansi inkosi, yayimi eduze kwensika njengomkhuba. Izikhulu labatshayi bamacilongo babesekele inkosi, abantu bonke bejabula ngokutshaya amacilongo. Ngakho u-Athaliya wadabula izambatho zakhe wamemeza esithi, "Ukuhlamuka! Ukuhlamuka!"

¹⁵UJehoyada waselaya abalawuli bekhulu, ababelawula amabutho wathi: "Mkhupheni limfake phakathi kwamaviyo amabutho limhlasele ngenkamba lowo ozama ukumlandela." Kuyikuthi umphristi wayethe, "Akumelanga abulawelwe ethempelini likaJehova." ¹⁶Ngakho bamdumela ekufikeni kwakhe endaweni lapha okungenela khona amabhiza esigodlweni, kulapho abulawelwa khona.

¹⁷UJehoyada wasesenza isivumelwano phakathi kukaJehova lenkosi kanye labantu ukuthi bavume ukuba ngabantu bakaJehova. Wenza njalo isivumelwano

phakathi kwenkosi labantu. ¹⁸ Abantu bonke belizwe baya ethempelini likaBhali bafika balidilizela phansi. Babhidliza ama-alithare lezithombe kwaba yizicucu, babulala uMathani umphristi kaBhali phambi kwama-alithare.

Ngakho uJehoyada umphristi wasebeka abalindi ethempelini likaJehova. ¹⁹ Wathatha abalawuli bamakhulu, amaKharithi, abalindi labantu bonke belizwe, sebendawonye behla lenkosi ethempelini likaJehova baya layo esigodlweni, bengenela esangweni labalindi. Inkosi yasithatha indawo yayo esihlalweni sobukhosi, ²⁰ abantu bonke belizwe baba lokujabula okukhulu. Kwaba lokuthula emzini, ngoba u-Athaliya wayesebulewe ngenkamba esigodlweni.

²¹ UJowashi waqalisa ukubusa eleminyaka eyisikhombisa.

UJowashi Ulungisa IThempeli

12 Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa

kaJehu, uJowashi waba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. Ibizo likanina kunguZibiya; yena wayevela eBherisheba. ² UJowashi wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova ngayo yonke leyominyaka elaywa nguJehoyada umphristi. ³ Kodwa indawo zokukhonzela azidilizwanga, ngakho abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo yabo khona, njalo betshisa impepha khona.

⁴ UJowashi wathi kubaphristi, "Qoqani yonke imali elethwa ethempelini kuyiminikelo engcwele, imali eqoqwe ekubalweni kwabantu, lemali eyamukelwe ngokuzifungela komuntu lemali elethwe ngokuzithandela ethempelini. ⁵ Akuthi ngamunye

umphristi amukele imali evela kubagciningcebo, leyomali izasetshenziswa ukulungisa lapho okonakala khona ethempelini."

⁶ Kodwa kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wamatshumi amabili lemithathu wokubusa kwenkosi uJowashi, abaphristi babelokhu bengalilungisanga ithempeli. ⁷ Ngakho inkosi uJowashi yabiza uJehoyada umphristi kanye labanye abaphristi yababuza yathi, "Kungani lingalungisi lapho okwadilika khona ethempelini? Lingabe lisathatha enye imali kubagciningcebo, kodwa liyilethe ukuze kulungiswe ethempelini."

⁸ Abaphristi bavuma ukuthi abasayikuthatha enye imali ebantwini njalo abasayikulungisa ithempeli bona ngokwabo.

⁹ UJehoyada umphristi wasethatha ibhokisi, wabhoboza isikhala esivalweni salo, waselibeka eceleni kwe-alithare, ngakwesokudla nxa umuntu engena ethempelini likaJehova. Abaphristi bokulinda emnyango basebefaka ebhokisini yonke imali eyayilethwa ethempelini likaJehova. ¹⁰ Besithi bangabona isinengi ebhokisini, babize uNobhala wesigodlweni kanye lomphristi omkhulu, bafike bayibale yonke engenileyo ethempelini likaJehova babesebeyigqiba emigodleni. ¹¹ Kwakusithi imali isibaliwe kukhitshwe eyokubhadala ababekhethele ukukhangela umsebenzi ethempelini. Ngaleyomali babhadala labo ababesebenza ethempelini likaJehova, ababazi kanye labakhi ¹² labakha ngamatshe lababazi bamatshe. Bathenga amapulanka lamatshe abaziweyo ayasetshenziswa ukwakha kulungiswa ithempeli likaJehova, njalo babhadala zonke izindleko ezazingezomsebenzi wokuvuselela ithempeli.

¹³ Imali eyalethwa ethempelini kayisetsenziswanga ukwenza imiganu

yesiliva, lezindlawu, lemiganu yokuchela, lamacilongo loba ezinye izinto zegolide lezesiliva; ¹⁴yaphiwa izisebenzi ezayisebenzisa ukulungisa ithempeli. ¹⁵Akudingakalanga ukuthi bacele imvumo kulabo ababanika imali yokubhadala ababesebenza, ngoba babesebenza beyiphatha ngokuthembeka okupheleleyo. ¹⁶Imali yeminikelo yecala leminikelo yesono kayilethwanga ethempelini likaJehova ngoba yayingeyabaphristi.

¹⁷Ngalesosikhathi uHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu wayahlasela iGathi, wayithumba, wazimisela ukuthumba iJerusalema, ¹⁸kodwa uJowashi inkosi yakoJuda wathatha zonke izimpahla ezingcwele ezazinikelwe ngokhokho bakhe uJehoshafathi loJehoram lo-Ahaziya, amakhosi akoJuda lalezoziph ezazinikelwe nguye ngokwakhe, legolide lonke elatholakala ethempelini likaJehova lasesigodlweni, wazithumela kuHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu. UHazayeli wasesuka eJerusalema.

¹⁹Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJowashi, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini encwadini yembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²⁰Izikhulu zakhe zaceba ndawonye ngaye zambulala eBhethi-Milo, emgwaqweni owehla usiya eSila. ²¹Izikhulu ezambulalayo ngoJozabadi indodana kaShimeyathi loJehozabathi indodana kaShomeri. Wafa wangcwatshwa laboyise eMzini kaDavida. U-Amaziya indodana yakhe yabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

UJehowahazi iNkosi Yako-Israyeli

13 Ngomnyaka wamatshumi

amabili lantathu wokubusa kukaJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya inkosi yakoJuda, uJehowahazi indodana kaJehu waba

yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya njalo wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa. ²Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova ngokulandela izono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, owayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze, njalo kazange axekelane lazo. ³Ngakho ulaka lukaJehova lwavutha ku-Israyeli, okwaze kwathi okwesikhathi eside wabayekela bengaphansi kombuso kaHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu loBheni-Hadadi indodana yakhe.

⁴UJehowahazi wacela ukuthethelelwa kuJehova. UJehova wamuzwa, ngoba wabona ukuba abako-Israyeli bacindezelwe kanganani yinkosi yase-Aramu. ⁵UJehova wabapha umkhululi abako-Israyeli owabakhulula esandleni sama-Aramu. Ngalokho abako-Israyeli bahlala emizini yabo njengakuqala. ⁶Kodwa abatshyananga lezono zabendlu kaJerobhowami, lezo ayebangele abako-Israyeli ukuthi bazenze; baqhubeka ngazo, njalo lezinsika zika-Ashera zahlala zilokhu zikhona eSamariya.

⁷Akusalanga lutho lwamabutho kaJehowahazi ngaphandle kwabagadi bamabhiza abangamatshumi amahlanu, lezinqola zempi ezilitshumi kanye lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi zamabutho ahamba ngezinyawo, ngoba inkosi yase-Aramu yayibhubhise bonke abanye yabenza baba njengothuli ngesikhathi sokubhula.

⁸Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJehowahazi, lakho konke akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe, akulotshwanga encwadini yembali yamakhosi abako-Israyeli na? ⁹UJehowahazi waphumula laboyisemkhulu njalo wangcwatshwa eSamariya. Indodana yakhe uJehowashi yabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

UJehowashi iNkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹⁰Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesikhombisa ka-Jowashi inkosi yakoJuda, uJehowashi indodana kaJehowahazi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, yena-ke wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha.

¹¹Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova njalo kazange axekelane lezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze, waqhubeka ngazo.

¹²Mayelana lezinye izahlakalo zombuso ka-Jehowahazi lakho konke akwenzayo lokuphumelela kwakhe lezimpi azilwa lo-Amaziya inkosi yamaJuda akulotshwanga encwadini yembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

¹³UJehowashi waphumula laboyisemkhulu, ubukhosi bakhe bathathwa nguJerobhowami. UJehowashi wangcwatshwa eSamariya ndawonye lamakhosi abako-Israyeli.

¹⁴U-Elisha wayegula umkhuhlane owacina usumbulala. UJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wahamba ukuyambona wafika wakhala wathi, "Baba! Baba! Izingqola zokulwa labagadi bamabhiza ako-Israyeli!"

¹⁵U-Elisha wathi, "Thatha idandili lemitshoko." Wakwenza lokho.

¹⁶Wathi enkosini yako-Israyeli, "Phatha idandili lelo ngezandla." Yathi isiliphethe, u-Elisha wabeka izandla zakhe phezu kwezandla zenkosi.

¹⁷U-Elisha wasesithi, "Vula iwindi elisempumalanga." Yalivula, u-Elisha wathi, "Tshoka!" Yatshoka. U-Elisha wasememeza eqonqosela wathi, "Umtshoko wokunqoba kaJehova, umtshoko wokunqoba ele-Aramu! Uzabhubhisa ama-Aramu e-Afeki."

¹⁸Wasesithi enkosini, "Thatha imitshoko yakho," inkosi yayithatha. U-Elisha wasesithi kuyo, "Tshaya

iphansi leli," inkosi yatshaya iphansi kwaze kwaba kathathu yasisima.

¹⁹Umuntu kaNkulunkulu kwamzondisa lokho wasesithi kuyo inkosi, "Bekufanele ukuthi utshaye iphansi kahlanu loba kasithupha; ngalokho kade uzabe unqobe ele-Aramu njalo walibhubhisa. Kodwa khathesi usuzalinqoba kathathu kuphela."

²⁰U-Elisha wafa wangcwatshwa.

Abahlaseli bamaMowabi babejayele ukungena elizweni entwasa. ²¹Kwathi kwesinye isikhathi abako-Israyeli bengcwaba indoda ethile, babona nampa abahlaseli; basebelahlela isidumbu leso ethuneni lika-Elisha. Kuthe isidumbu leso sithinta amathambo ka-Elisha, indoda leyo yavuka yasukuma yama ngezinyawo zayo.

²²UHazayeli inkosi yase-Aramu wacindezela abako-Israyeli kuso sonke isikhathi sokubusa kukaJehowahazi.

²³Kodwa uJehova waba lomusa kubo waba lozwelo watshengisela ukubakhathalela ngenxa yesivumelwano sakhe lo-Abrahama, u-Isaka loJakhobe. Kuze kube lamuhla khandi ukubabhubhisa loba ukubalahla basuke phambi kwakhe.

²⁴UHazayeli inkosi yama-Aramu wafa, uBheni-Hadadi indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe. ²⁵Ngakho uJehowashi indodana kaJehowahazi wabuya wathumba njalo amadolobho embusweni ka-Bheni-Hadadi indodana kaHazayeli ayethunjwe empini kayise uJowahazi. UJehowashi wamnqoba kathathu, ngakho wawabuyisa amadolobho abako-Israyeli.

*U-Amaziya iNkosi YakoJuda***14** Ngomnyaka wesibili

kaJehowashi indodana kaJehowahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Amaziya

indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ²Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lafica munye. Unina kwakunguJehowadini, owayevela eJerusalema. ³Yena wenza okulungileyo phambi kukaJehova, kodwa kwakungafanani lokukayise uDavida. Kukho konke ayekwenza walandela inyathelo likayise uJowashi. ⁴Kodwa izindawo zokukhonzela azizange zisuswe; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo lokutshisa impepha kulezondawo.

⁵Kuthe umbuso usuqinile ezandleni zakhe, wabulala izikhulu ezazibulele uyise owayeyinkosi. ⁶Kodwa kasabulalanga amadodana alabo ababulala uyise inkosi, njengokulotshiweyo eNcwadini Yomthetho kaMose lapho uJehova walaya wathi: "Oyise abayikufela abantwababo, loba abantwana bafele oyise; ngulowo lalowo uzafela izono zakhe."

⁷Nguye owanqoba ama-Edomi azinkulungwane ezilitshumi, eSihotsheni seSawudo waze wathumba iSela empini, wayibiza ngokuthi yiJokitheli, okulibizo layo kuze kube lalamuhla.

⁸Ngakho u-Amaziya wathumela izigijimi kuJehowashi indodana kaJehowahazi, indodana kaJehu, inkosi yako-Israyeli emqopha esithi, "Woza, uqondane lami ubuso ngobuso."

⁹Kodwa uJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waphendula u-Amaziya inkosi yako-Juda wathi, "Isihlahlana sameva saseLebhanoni sathumela umsedari eLebhanoni ilizwi sathi, 'Yendisela indodakazi yakho kundodana yami.' Kwavela isilo eLabhanoni eseza safika sagxobagxoba isihlahlana sameva ngamasondo aso. ¹⁰Ngempela umnqobile

u-Edomi ngakho khathesi usukloloda. Ziqhenye ekunqobeni kwakho, kodwa uhlale ekhaya! Kungani uzibizela uhlupho uzibangela ukulwa kwakho njalo lokukaJuda na?"

¹¹Loba kunjalo, u-Amaziya, kazange alalele, ngakho uJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wahlasela. Yena waqondana lo-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda bakhangelana ubuso ngobuso eBhethi Shemeshi koJuda. ¹²UJuda wachithwa ngu-Israyeli, kwathi amadoda wonke abalekela emizini yawo. ¹³UJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wathumba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, indodana kaJowashi, eyindodana ka-Ahaziya, eBhethi-Shemeshi. Ngakho uJehowashi wasesiya eJerusalema wayadiliza umduli weJerusalema kusukela esangweni lika-Efrayimi kusiya eSangweni leJiko, isibanga esingaba yizingalo ezingamakhulu ayisithupha ubude. ¹⁴Wathatha lonke igolide lesiliva lazo zonke ezinye izimpahla ezafunyanwa zisethempelini likaJehova lasezindlini zenotho esigodlweni waphinda wathumba labantu wahamba labo eSamariya.

¹⁵Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJehowashi, lakho konke lokuphumelela kwakhe, lempi ayilwa lo-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, lokhu akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

¹⁶UJehowashi waphumula laboyise, njalo wambelwa eSamariya lamakhosi ako-Israyeli. UJerobhowami indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

¹⁷U-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waphila okweminyaka elitshumi lemihlanu ngemva kokufa kukaJehowashi indodana kaJehowahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli. ¹⁸Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso ka-Amaziya azilotshwanga na egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda?

¹⁹ Bamenzela icebo eJerusalema, wasebalekela eLakhishi, kodwa bathumela amadoda amlandela ayambulalela khonale. ²⁰ Bamthwala ngebhiza bamletha eJerusalema lapha angcwatshwa khona laboyise, eMzini kaDavida.

²¹ Ngakho abantu bonke koJuda bathatha u-Azariya, owayeleminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa yokuzalwa bamgcoba ubukhosi bukayise u-Amaziya. ²² Nguye owakha kutsha i-Elathi walibuyisela koJuda ngemva kokuphumula kukayise labokhokho bakhe.

UJerobhowami Wesibili iNkosi Yako-Israyeli

²³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanhlano ka-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda, uJerobhowami indodana kaJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waba yinkosi eSamariya, njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye. ²⁴ Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova njalo kazange atshiye lasinye sezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, lezo abangela u-Israyeli ukuthi azenze. ²⁵ Nguye owabuyisela imingcele yako-Israyeli kusukela eLebho Homathi kusiya eLwandle lwase-Arabha, njengelizwi likaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, alikhuluma ngenceku yakhe uJona indodana ka-Amithayi, umphrofethi owayevela eGathi Heferi. ²⁶ UJehova wayekubonile ukuthi kwakubuhlungu kanganani kubo bonke abako-Israyeli, izigqili loba ababekhululekile, ukuhlupheka ababekukho; kungekho labani owayengabasiza. ²⁷ Kanti njengoba uJehova wayengatshongo ukuthi uzakwesula ibizo lika-Israyeli ngaphansi kwamazulu, wabahlenga ngesandla sikaJerobhowami indodana kaJehowashi.

²⁸ Mayelana lezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaJerobhowami, konke akwenzayo, kanye lokuphumelela kwakhe empini, lokuthi wathumba njani wabuyisela embusweni ka-Israyeli iDamaseko leHamathi, ayengawe-Yawudi, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na? ²⁹ UJerobhowami waphumula laboyise, amakhosi ako-Israyeli. UZekhariya indodana yakhe wabusa esikhundleni sakhe.

U-Azariya iNkosi YakoJuda

15 Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili

lesikhombisa kaJerobhowamu inkosi yako-Israyeli, u-Azariya indodana ka-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ² Wayeleminyaka elitshumi lesithupha yokuzalwa esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lambili. Ibizo likanina lalinguJekholiya; evela eJerusalema. ³ Wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Amaziya. ⁴ Kodwa izindawo zokukhonzela, azidilizwanga; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo kanye lokutshisela imphepha kuzo.

⁵ UJehova wehlisela inkosi u-Azariya ubulephero eyabugula yaze yafa, njalo yayihlala yodwa endlini yayo. UJothamu indodana yakhe wayegcina isigodlo senkosi, ephethe labantu belizwe.

⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Azariya, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ⁷ U-Azariya wafa walala kuboyise njalo wangcwatshwa phansi kwabo eMzini kaDavida. UJothamu indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

UZekhariya iNkosi Yako-Israyeli

⁸Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu leminyaka efica mibili ka-Azariya inkosi yako-Juda, uZekhariya indodana kaJerobhowami waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, njalo wabusa okwezinyanga eziyisithupha. ⁹Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova, njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngoyise. Kazange atshiye izono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, yena owabangela ukuba u-Israyeli azenze.

¹⁰UShalumi indodana kaJabheshi wenza amacebo okususa uZekhariya wamhlasela phambi kwabantu, wambulala wahle wathatha ubukhosi waba yinkosi. ¹¹Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaZekhariya zilotshwe egwalweni lwembali yombuso wamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ¹²Ngakho kwagcwaliseka ilizwi likaJehova kuJehuelathi: "Abendlu yakho bazabusa u-Israyeli kuze kube yisizukulwane sesine."

UShalumi Inkosi Yako-Israyeli

¹³UShalumi indodana kaJabheshi waba yinkosi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesifica munye ka-Uziya inkosi yakoJuda, yena wabusa eSamariya okwenyanga eyodwa. ¹⁴Ngakho uMenahemu indodana kaGadi wehla esuka eThiriza esiya eSamariya. Wahlasela uShalumi indodana kaJabheshi eSamariya, wambulala wasethatha ubukhosi.

¹⁵Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaShalumi, lamacebo okuhlama lawokukhokhela kwakhe, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

¹⁶Ngalesosikhathi uMenahemu, wathi esuka eThiriza wahlasela uThifisa laye wonke umuntu owafunyanwa esedolobheni lababeseduzane lalo, ngoba

bala ukuvula amasango abo. Wasuka uThifisa waqhaqha wonke amanina ayezithwele.

UMenahemu iNkosi yako-Israyeli

¹⁷Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu laficamunye ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uMenahemu indodana kaGadi waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli, wabusa eSamariya okweminyaka elitshumi. ¹⁸Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova. Ekubuseni kwakhe konke kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, ayebangele ukuba u-Israyeli azenze.

¹⁹Ngakho uPhuli inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela ilizwe, njalo uMenahemu wamnika amathalenta esiliva ayinkulungwane ukuze azuze ukusekelwa lokuqinisa umbuso wakhe. ²⁰UMenahemu wathelisa bonke abako-Israyeli. Wonke umuntu onothileyo kwakumele athele ngamashekeli esiliva angamatshumi amahlanu ukuze aphiwe inkosi yase-Asiriya. Ngakho inkosi yase-Asiriya yasuka elizweni, ayizange ibe isahlala khona.

²¹Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaMenahemu, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

²²UMenahemu waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. UPhekhahiya indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

UPhekhahiya iNkosi yako-Israyeli

²³Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amahlanu ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uPhekhahiya indodana kaMenahemu waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, yena wabusa okweminyaka emibili. ²⁴UPhekhahiya wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova. Kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, ayebangele u-Israyeli ukuba azenze.

²⁵ Omunye wezikhulu zakhe, uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya wabumba amacebo okumsusa. Wathatha amadoda angamatshumi amahlanu aseGileyadi, wayabulala uPhekhahiya, kanye lo-Arigobi lo-Ariye enqabeni yesigodlo eSamariya. Ngakho uPhekha wabulala uPhekhahiya njalo wahle wathatha ubukhosi.

²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaPhekhahiya, lakho konke akwenzayo, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

UPhekha iNkosi Yako-Israyeli

²⁷ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amahlanu lambili ka-Azariya inkosi yakoJuda, uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili. ²⁸ Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova. Kazange atshiyane lezono zikaJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, ayebangele ukuthi u-Israyeli azenze.

²⁹ Ngezinsuku zikaPhekha inkosi yako-Israyeli, uTigilathi Phileseri inkosi yase-Asiriya weza wathumba i-Ijoni, le-Abeli Bheti Mayakha, leJanoya, leKhedeshi kanye leHazori. Wathumba iGileyadi kanye leGalile, kubalwa lelizwe lonke likaNafthali njalo waxotshela abantu e-Asiriya. ³⁰ Ngakho uHosheya indodana ka-Ela wenza amacebo okususa uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya. Wamhlasela wambulala, wasethatha umbuso waba yinkosi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili kaJothamu indodana ka-Uziya.

³¹ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaPhekha, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli na?

UJothamu iNkosi YakoJuda

³² Ngomnyaka wesibili kaPhekha indodana kaRemaliya inkosi yako-

Israyeli, uJothamu indodana ka-Uziya inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa.

³³ Waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala bakhe, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Ibizo likanina kwakunguJerusha indodakazi kaZadoki. ³⁴ Wenza okulungileyo phambi kukaJehova, njengalokho okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Uziya. ³⁵ Kodwa izindawo zokukhonzela kazisuswanga; abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo lokutshisa impepha khonale. UJothamu wavuselela iSango laNgaphezulu lethempeli likaJehova.

³⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJothamu, kanye lakwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ³⁷ (Ngalezozinsuku uJehova waqala ukuthuma uRezini inkosi yase-Aramu kanye loPhekha indodana kaRemaliya ukumelana loJuda.) ³⁸ UJothamu waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe wangewatshwa labo eMzini kaDavida, okwakulidolobho likayise. U-Ahazi indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

U-Ahazi iNkosi YakoJuda

16 Ngomnyaka wetshumi lesikhombisa kaPhekha indodana kaRemaliya, u-Ahazi indodana kaJothamu inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa. ² U-Ahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili esiba yinkosi, yena wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Wayengafanani loyise uDavida, ngoba kazange enze ukulunga phambi kukaJehova. ³ Wahamba ngezindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli waze wenza umhlatshelo wokutshiswa ngendodana yakhe, elandela izindlela ezingamanyala

zezizwe uJehova ayezixotshe abako-Israyeli bengakangeni kulelolizwe.

⁴Wanikela imihlatshelo njalo watshisa impepha ezindaweni zokukhonzela phezu kwamaqaqa langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

⁵Ngakho uRezini inkosi yama-Aramu kanye loPhekha indodana kaRemaliya inkosi yako-Israyeli basuka bayahlasela iJerusalema bavimbezela u-Ahazi, kodwa abazange bamehlule.

⁶Ngalesosikhathi, uRezini inkosi yase-Aramu, wahluthuna i-Elathi wayibuyisela kuma-Aramu ngokududula abantu bakoJuda. Ama-Edomi ahle angena e-Elathi ahlala khona kuze kube lamuhla.

⁷U-Ahazi wathuma izigijimi ukuthi ziyekuthi kuThigilathi-Phileseri inkosi yase-Asiriya, "Ngiyincedu yakho lesichaka. Woza uzongikhulula esandleni senkosi yase-Aramu lasesandleni senkosi yako-Israyeli, amakhosi angihlaselayo." ⁸Ngakho u-Ahazi wathatha isiliva legolide elafunyanwa ethempelini likaJehova lasezindlini zenotho zesigodlweni senkosi wakuthumela kwaba yisipho senkosi yase-Asiriya. ⁹Inkosi yase-Asiriya yahle yamhlomulela ngokuhlasela iDamaseko yayithumba. Yakhupha ababehlala khona yabaxotshela eKhiri njalo uRezini yahle yambulala.

¹⁰Ngakho inkosi u-Ahazi yasisiya eDamaseko ukuze ibonane loThigilathi-Phileseri inkosi yase-Asiriya. Yabona i-alithare eDamaseko yasithumela umdwebo walelo alithare ku-Uriya umphristi lengcazelo egcweleyo yokwakhiwa. ¹¹Ngakho u-Uriya umphristi wasesakha i-alithare ngomdwebo owawuvela enkosini u-Ahazi eDamaseko waliqeda inkosi u-Ahazi ingakaphenduki. ¹²Inkosi ithe isivela eDamaseko yabona i-alithare

yahle yayanikela kulo. ¹³Inkosi yanikela umnikelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wamabele, yathela okunathwayo komnikelo, yachela igazi lomnikelo wobudlelwano e-alithareni. ¹⁴I-alithare lethusi elalimi phambi kukaJehova yaliletha livela ngaphambili ethempelini, phakathi kwe-alithare elitsha lethempeli likaJehova, yalifaka ngenyakatho ye-alithare elitsha.

¹⁵Inkosi u-Ahazi yasilaya u-Uriya umphristi yathi, "Phezu kwe-alithare elikhulu elitsha, nikela umnikelo wokutshiswa wekuseni kuthi ntambama kube ngumnikelo wamabele, lomnikelo wabantu bonke elizweni, lomnikelo wabo wonke wamabele kanye lowokunathwayo. Chela i-alithare ngalo lonke igazi leminikelo yokutshiswa kanye lemihlatshelo. Kodwa ngizasebenzisa i-alithare lethusi ukucela iziqondiso." ¹⁶Ngakho u-Uriya umphristi wenza njengokulaywa kwakhe yinkosi u-Ahazi.

¹⁷Inkosi u-Ahazi yasusa izinsimbi zenqodlana lemiganu phezu, yethula uLwandle phezu kwezinkabi zethusi ezazingaphansi kwalo, yalubeka phezu kwesisekelo selitshe. ¹⁸Yasusa isembeso seSabatha esasakhiwe ethempelini, yavala intuba yokungena inkosi eyayiphandle kwethempeli likaJehova, ivumela okwakufunwa yinkosi yase-Asiriya.

¹⁹Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Ahazi, kanye lokunye akwenzayo, akulotshwanga egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ²⁰U-Ahazi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe eMzini kaDavida. UHezekhiya indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

UHosheya Inkosi Yokucina ko-Israyeli

17 Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili wokubusa kuka-Ahazi inkosi yakoJuda, uHosheya indodana ka-Ela waba yinkosi yako-Israyeli eSamariya, njalo wabusa iminyaka efica munye.² Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova, kodwa akubanga njengokwamakhosi ako-Israyeli amandulelayo.

³ UShalimaneseri inkosi yase-Asiriya weza wahlasela uHosheya, owayekade eyisichaka sakhe esasithela kuye.

⁴ Kodwa inkosi yase-Asiriya yafumana ukuthi uHosheya ngumhlamuki, ngoba wayekade ethumele amaxusa enkosini yaseGibhithe uSo, njalo engasatheli imithelo enkosini yase-Asiriya njengalokhu ayekwenza minyaka yonke. Ngakho uShalimaneseri wambamba wamfaka entolongweni.⁵ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yasihlasela ilizwe lonke, yangena eSamariya yalivimbezela okweminyaka emithathu.⁶ Ngomnyaka wesificamunye kaHosheya, inkosi yase-Asiriya yathumba iSamariya yaxotshela abako-Israyeli e-Asiriya. Yabahlalisa eHala, ngaseGozani eMfuleni uHabori lasemizini yamaMede.

U-Israyeli Uxotshwa Elizweni Ngenxa Yezono

⁷ Konke lokhu kwenzakala ngenxa yokona kwabako-Israyeli phambi kukaJehova, owabakhupha eGibhithe emandleni kaFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe. Bakhonza abanye onkulunkulu⁸ belandela lemikhuba yezizwe uJehova ayezixotshile phambi kwabo kanye lemikhuba amakhosi akoIsrayeli ayeseyingenisile.⁹ Basebesenza ngasese izinto ezazingalunganga kuJehova. Kusukela emphongolweni wesilindo kusiya enqabeni yomuzi basebezakhele izindawo zokukhonzela emizini yabo.

¹⁰ Bazimisela amatshe okukhonzela lezinsika zika-Ashera kuwo wonke amaqqa aphakemeyo langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.¹¹ Kuzo zonke izindawo zokukhonzela batshisa impepha, njengalokhu okwakusenziwa yizizwe uJehova ayezixotshile phambi kwabo. Benza okubi okwathukuthelisa uJehova.¹² Bakhonza izithombe, lanxa uJehova wayethe, "Lingabokwenza lokhu."¹³ UJehova wayebaxwayisile abako-Israyeli kanye labakoJuda ngabaphrofethi bakhe bonke lababoni wathi: "Tshiyani izindlela zenu ezimbi. Gcinani imithetho yami lezimiso zami ezisemlayweni engalaya okhokho benu ngawo lengawuthumela kini ngezinceku zami abaphrofethi."

¹⁴ Kodwa abalalelanga njalo baba ntamolukhuni njengabokhokho babo, bona abangazange bathembele kuJehova wabo.¹⁵ Balahla izimiso zakhe lesivumelwano asenza labokhokho babo lezixwayiso ayebanike zona. Balandela izithombe eziyize, labo ngokwabo baba yize, balingisela izizwe ababehlala phakathi kwazo lanxa uJehova wayebalaye wathi, "Lingenzi njengabo," njalo benza izinto ayebanqabele ukuthi bazenze.

¹⁶ Bayephula yonke imilayo kaJehova wabo, bazenzela izithombe ezikhandiweyo ezamathole amabili, benza insika ku-Ashera. Bakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu, njalo bakhonza uBhali.¹⁷ Benza umhlatshelo ngamadodana lamadodakazi abo emlilweni. Babevumisa njalo besenza ubuthakathi, bazinikela ekwenzeni okubi phambi kukaJehova bamthukuthelisa.

¹⁸ Ngakho uJehova wabathukuthelela abako-Israyeli wabaxotsha kuye. Isizwana sakoJuda yiso kuphela esasalayo,¹⁹ loba nje laye uJuda engayigcinanga imilayo kaJehova.

Balandela imikhuba eyayingeniswe ngabako-Israyeli. ²⁰Ngakho uJehova wakhalala bonke abantu bako-Israyeli; wabahlukuluza njalo wabanikela ezandleni zabaphangi, waze wabasusa phambi kwakhe.

²¹UJehova uthe esemkhiphile u-Israyeli endlini kaDavida, babeka uJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi ukuba abe yinkosi yabo. UJerobhowami wamphambula u-Israyeli ekulandeleni uJehova wambangela ukuba enze isono esikhulu. ²²Abako-Israyeli baqhubeka ngazo zonke izono zikaJerobhowami abaze bazidela. ²³UJehova waze wabasusa phambi kwakhe, njengoba wayexwayisile ngezinceku zakhe zonke abaphrofethi. Ngakho abantu bako-Israyeli bathunjwa elizweni labo basiwa e-Asiriya, njalo balokhu bekhonale.

Ukhlaliswa Kutsha ESamariya

²⁴Inkosi yase-Asiriya yaletha abantu ababevela eBhabhiloni, leKhutha, le-Ava, leHamathi kanye leSefavayimi yayabahlalisa emizini yeSamariya endaweni eyayingeyabako-Israyeli.

²⁵Besafika, babengamkhonzi uJehova; ngakho uJehova wathumela izilwane phakathi kwabo, zabalala abanye babo.

²⁶Kwabikwa enkosini yase-Asiriya kwathiwa, "Abantu obaxotshela eSamariya wabahlalisa emizini yakhona abakwazi ukuthi unkulunkulu walelolizwe ufunani. Usethumele izilwane phakathi kwabo, ezibabulalayo zibaqeda, ngoba abantu abakwazi ukuthi ufunani?"

²⁷Inkosi yase-Asiriya yakhupha isiqondiso yathi, "Thuma omunye wabaphristi owabathumbayo eSamariya, abuye ayohlala labantu njalo abafundise ukuthi unkulunkulu walelolizwe ufunani." ²⁸Ngakho omunye wabaphristi ababethunjwe eSamariya

weza wayahlala eBhetheli wabafundisa ukuthi uJehova ukhonzwa njani?

²⁹Loba kunjalo, yileloqembu ngobuzwe balo lenza onkulunkulu balo emadolobheni wonke ababehaliswe khona, bababeka ezindaweni zokukhonzela ezazakhiwe ngabantu beSamariya. ³⁰Abantu ababevela eBhabhiloni babumba uSukhothi Bhenothi, kwathi ababevela eKhutha benza uNerigali, ababevela eHamathi benza u-Ashima, ³¹ama-Avi enza uNibhazi kanye loTharithaki, lamaSefavi enza umhlatshelelo ngokutshisa abantwababo emlilweni benikela ku-Adrameleki lo-Anameleki, onkulunkulu bamaSefavayimi. ³²Bamkhonza uJehova kodwa basebezikhethela abangaqedakaliyo ukuthi babe ngabaphristi ezindaweni zokukhonzela. ³³Bamkhonza uJehova, kodwa babekhonza labonkulunkulu babo belandela imikhuba yezizwe ababevela kizo.

³⁴Kuze kube lamuhla balokhu bekwenza lokhu belandela imikhuba emidala. Abamkhonzi uJehova njalo abalandeli izimiso leziqondiso, imithetho lemilayo uJehova ayeyiphe abantwana bakaJakhobe, lo ambiza ngokuthi ngu-Israyeli. ³⁵UJehova wathi esenza isivumelwano labako-Israyeli, wabalaya wathi, "Lingakhonzi abanye onkulunkulu loba ukubakhothamela, lingabenzeli lutho loba ukubenzela umhlatshelelo. ³⁶Khonzani kuphela uJehova, yena owalikhuphula walisusa eGibhithe ngamandla amakhulu langesandla somusa esivulekileyo, nguyeyedwa okumele limkhonze. Kuye lizakhothama njalo kuye lizanikela imihlatshelo. ³⁷Linanzelele ngezikhathi zonke ukulondoloza izimiso, leziqondiso, imithetho lemilayo alilobela yona. Lingabokhonza abanye onkulunkulu. ³⁸Lingakhohlwa

isivumelwano engasenza lani, njalo lingakhonzi abanye onkulunkulu.

³⁹ Kodwa, khonzani uJehova wenu, nguye ozalikhulula ezandleni zezitha zenu zonke."

⁴⁰ Loba kunjalo, kabazange balalele kodwa baqhubeka belandela imikhuba yabo yakuqala. ⁴¹ Lanxa babemkhonza uJehova, babelandela izithombe zabo. Lalamuhla abantwababo labantwana babantwababo balokhu besenza khonokho okwakusenziwa ngoyise.

UHezekhiya iNkosi YakoJuda

18 Ngomnyaka wesithathu

kaHosheya indodana ka-Ela inkosi yako-Israyeli, uHezekhiya indodana ka-Ahazi inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa.

² Wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlano esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lafica munye. Ibizo likanina lalingu-Abhija indodakazi kaZekharia. ³ Wenza okulungileyo phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida.

⁴ Wadiliza izindawo zokukhonzela wabhidliza amatshe ababewakhonza kanye lensika zika-Ashera. Watshaya wenza izicucu inyoka yethusi eyayenziwe nguMosi, ngoba kuze kube yilesosikhathi abako-Israyeli babelokhu beyitshisela impepha. (Yayibizwa ngokuthi Nehushithani.)

⁵ UHezekhiya wayethembele kuJehova ka-Israyeli. Kakho owayenjengaye kuwo wonke amakhosi akoJuda, loba kulabo abamandulelayo kumbe labo abamlandelayo ekubuseni.

⁶ Wabambelela kuJehova kazange ayekele ukumlandela, wagcina imilayo uJehova ayeyinike uMosi. ⁷ UJehova wayelaye; waphumelela kukho konke ayekwenza. Wahlamukela inkosi yase-Asiriya kasabanga ngaphansi kwayo.

⁸ Kusukela emphongolweni wesilindo kusiya emzini oyingqaba, wanqoba amaFilisti, kuze kuye fika khonale eGaza lamazwe akhona.

⁹ Ngomnyaka wesine wenkosi uHezekhiya, okwakungumnyaka wesikhombisa wokubusa kukaHosheya indodana ka-Ela inkosi yako-Israyeli, uShalimaneseri inkosi yase-Asiriya wayahlasela iSamariya wayivimbezela. ¹⁰ Ngemva kweminyaka emithathu ama-Asiriya alithumba. Ngakho iSamariya yathunjwa ngomnyaka wesithupha wokubusa kukaHezekhiya, okwakungumnyaka wesificamunye wokubusa kukaHosheya inkosi yako-Israyeli. ¹¹ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yaxotshela abako-Israyeli e-Asiriya yabahlalisa eHala ngaseGozani eMfuleni uHabori lasemizini yamaMede. ¹² Lokhu kwenzakala ngoba bengalalelanga uJehova wabo, kodwa sebephule isivumelwano sakhe, lakho konke uMosi inceku kaJehova ayebalaye ngakho. Abazanga balalele njalo abazanga bakwenze.

¹³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi lane wokubusa kwenkosi uHezekhiya, uSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela yonke imizi yakoJuda eyinqaba wayithumba. ¹⁴ Ngakho uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda wathumela ilizwi enkosini yase-Asiriya eLakhishi esithi, "Ngiphambanisile. Suka kimi, mina ngizakubhadala konke okufunayo kimi." Inkosi yase-Asiriya yathi uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda kayinike amathalenta esiliva angamakhulu amathathu kanye legolide elingamathalenta engamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁵ Ngakho uHezekhiya wamnika sonke isiliva esatholakala ethempelini likaJehova lasezindlini zenotho yesigodlweni senkosi.

¹⁶ Ngalesisikhathi uHezekhiya inkosi yako-Juda waxexebula igolide

elalisezivalweni zethempeli likaJehova lelalinanyathiselwe emigubazini yethempeli likaJehova, walinika inkosi yase-Asiriya.

USenakheribi Usongela iJerusalema

¹⁷ Inkosi yase-Asiriya yathumela umlawuli omkhulu wamabutho ayo, lesikhulu somndlunkulu kanye lomlawuli wamabutho lamabutho amanengi, besuka eLakhishi besiya enkosini uHezekhiya eJerusalema. Bafika eJerusalema bema ngasemfolweni wechibi elingaphezulu, elisendleleni yeNsimu yoMgezisi.

¹⁸ Babiza inkosi ngokwayo: Kodwa kweza u-Eliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya umphathi wesigodlo, loShebhina umabhalane, loJowa indodana ka-Asafi umbhali.

¹⁹ Umlawuli wamabutho wathi kubo, "Tshelani uHezekhiya ukuthi:

" Inkosi enkulu, inkosi yase-Asiriya ithi: Uthembeni ngalesisibindi sakho na?

²⁰ Uthi ulamaqhinga lamabutho alamandla, kodwa yikukhuluma ize. Usuthembe bani ukuze ungivukele na? ²¹ Khangela-ke, uthembe iGibhithe, yona enjengomhlonga ozimvava osika isandla somuntu umlimaze nxa eseyama kuwo. Unjalo-ke uFaro inkosi yaseGibhithe kubo bonke abathembele kuye. ²² Nxa wena ungathi kimi, "Sithembele kuJehova wethu," kanti kayisuye olendawo zokukhonzela lama-alithare okwasuswa nguHezekhiya esithi kuJuda leJerusalema, "Limele likhonze phambi kwaleli i-alithare eliseJerusalema na"?

²³ "Ngakho-ke, yenza isivumelwano lenkosi yami, inkosi yase-Asiriya: Ngizakunika amabhiza azinkulungwane ezimbili nxa ungazuza abangawagada! ²⁴ Kambe ungamehlula njani lomncane wezikhulu zenkosi yami loba uthembele

eGibhithe ukuthola izigqoko zempi labagadi bamabhiza? ²⁵ Kambe ngize ukuchitha lindawo ngaphandle kwelizwi elivela kuJehova na? UJehova nguye ongitshela ukuba ngihlasele ilizwe leli ngilichithe.' "

²⁶ Ngakho u-Eliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya, loShebhina loJowa basebesithi kumlawuli wamabutho, "Ake ukhulumle lezinceku zakho ngolimi lwesi-Aramu, njengoba siluzwa. Ungasikhulumisi ngesiHebheru laba abaphezu kwemiduli besizwa."

²⁷ Kodwa umlawuli wamabutho waphendula esithi, "Likhumbula ukuthi inkosi yami ingithume ukuba ngitsho lezizinto enkosini yenu lakini kuphela hatshi lakulaba abaphezu komduli, bona abafanele ukuthi labo njengani, bazakudla amanyala abo banathe lemithambiso yabo na?"

²⁸ Umlawuli wasephakama wamemezela ngesiHebheru esithi, "Zwanini nanti ilizwi lenkosi enkulu, inkosi yase-Asiriya! ²⁹ Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi: Lingabokhohliswa nguHezekhiya. Angeke alikhulula esandleni sami. ³⁰ Lingaboyekela uHezekhiya elincenga ukuthi lithembele kuJehova lapho esithi, 'UJehova ngempela uzasikhulula, umuzi lo angeke awunikela ezandleni zenkosi yase-Asiriya.'

³¹ "Lingamlaleli uHezekhiya. Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi yase-Asiriya: Yenzani isivumelwano sokuthula lami njalo phumani lize kimi. Ngalokho omunye lomunye wenu uzazidlela izithelo zamavini akhe lezithelo zemikhiwa yakhe azinathele amanzi omthombo wakhe, ³² ngize ngifike ngilithathe, ngilise elizweni elifanana lelakini, eligcwele amabele lewayini elitsha ilizwe lesinkwa lezivini, ilizwe lezihlahla zama-oliva lezinyosi. Khethani impilo hatshi ukufa!

"Lingamlaleli uHezekhiya, ngoba uyalikhohlisa nxa esithi, 'UJehova uzasikhulula.'³³ Kambe ukhona onkulunkulu wesinye isizwe osewake wakhulula ilizwe lakhe esandleni senkosi yase-Asiriya na? ³⁴ Bangaphi onkulunkulu baseHamathi le-Ariphadi na? Bangaphi onkulunkulu baseSefavayimi labaseHena labase-Iva na? Bayikhulule iSamariya esandleni sami na? ³⁵ Nguwuphi kubo bonke onkulunkulu balawomazwe osindise ilizwe lakhe esandleni sami na? Pho uJehova angayikhulula njani iJerusema esandleni sami na?"

³⁶ Abantu bathula, kabaze baphendula langelilodwa ilizwi ngoba inkosi yayilaye yathi, "Lingamphenduli."

³⁷ U-Eliyakhimu indodana kaHilikhiya owayengumgcini wesigodlo, loShebhina umabhalane, loJowa indodana ka-Asafi, owayengumbhali, beza kuHezekhiya izigqoko zabo zidabukile bamtshela okwakutshiwo ngumlawuli omkhulu webutho.

*Umbono Ngokukhululwa
KweJerusema*

19 Inkosi uHezekhiya ithe ikuzwa lokhu, yadabula izigqoko zayo yagqoka amasaka yasingena ethempelini likaJehova. ² Yathuma u-Eliyakhimu umphathi wesigodlo, uShebhina umabhalane labaphristi abangabakhokheli, bonke begqoke amasaka, baya kumphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi. ³ Bamtshela lokhu bathi, "Nanti ilizwi elivela kuHezekhiya lithi: Lolu lusuku lokuhlupheka lolokusolwa lolwehlazo, sinjengabantwana ngesikhathi sokuba bazalwe engekho amandla okubakhokhelela. ⁴ Mhlawumbe uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho uwezwele wonke

amazwi omlawuli wamabutho omkhulu othunywe yinkosi yakhe yase-Asiriya, ukuba ikholodele uJehova ophilayo, lokuthi uJehova wakho uzamkhuza ngalokhu akuzwileyo. Ngakho-ke khulekela ingcosana esaseleyo."

⁵ Kwathi izikhulu zenkosi uHezekhiya sezifikile ku-Isaya, ⁶ wathi kuzo, "Tshelani inkosi yenu lithi, 'Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova, Ungesabi ngenxa yamazwi owezwileyo izinceku zenkosi yase-Asiriya ezingithuke ngawo.

⁷ Lalela! Ngizamfaka umoya ozamenza athi nxa esizwa umbiko othile, abuyele elizweni lakhe, athi angafika khonale ngenze ukuba abulawe ngenkamba.' "

⁸ Umlawuli wamabutho uthe esizwa ukuthi inkosi yase-Asiriya yayisisukile eLakhishi, wabuyela emuva lapho afumana khona inkosi isilwa loLibhina.

⁹ USenakheribhi wemukela umbiko othi uThirihaka, uMkhushi, inkosi yase-Gibhithe wayesiza ukuzamhlasela. Ngakho wathumela njalo izithunywa kuHezekhiya, lombiko lo:

¹⁰ "Tshela uHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda ukuthi: Ungavumeli onkulunkulu omthembileyo ekukhohlisa esithi, 'IJerusema aliyikunikelwa ezandleni zenkosi yase-Asiriya.' ¹¹ Ngeqiniso usuzwile ukuthi amakhosi ase-Asiriya enzeni kuwo wonke amazwe, ukuthi awachithile, awatshabalalisa. Wena uzaphepha na? ¹² Onkulunkulu bezizwe zonke ezachithwa ngokhokho bami bazivikela na: onkulunkulu beGozani, eHarani, eRezefi labantu base-Edeni ababeseTheli-Assari? ¹³ Ingaphi inkosi yaseHamathi, inkosi yase-Ariphadi, inkosi yomuzi waseSefavayimi, loba eyeHena loba e-Iva na?"

Umthandazo KaHezekhiya

¹⁴ UHezekhiya wamukela incwadi eyayiphethwe yizithunywa wayifunda.

Wayithatha waya layo ethempelini likaJehova wafika wayichaya phambi kukaJehova. ¹⁵ UHezekhiya wakhuleka kuJehova wathi: "O Jehova ka-Israyeli, ohlezi ngaphezu kwamaKherubhi, wena wedwa unguNkulunkulu phezu kwemibuso yonke yomhlaba. Wenzile izulu lomhlaba. ¹⁶ Akubeke indlebe yakho, O Jehova, uzwe; vula amehlo akho, O Jehova, ubone; lalela amazwi kaSenakheribi awathumelayo ukuthuka uJehova ophilayo.

¹⁷ "Yebo, O Jehova, kuliqiniso ukuthi amakhosi ama-Asiriya azichithile lezizizwe lamazwe azo. ¹⁸ Asephosele onkulunkulu bawo emlilweni abatshabalalisa, ngoba kungesibo onkulunkulu kodwa kungamatshe lezigodo kuphela, okubunjwe ngezandla zabantu. ¹⁹ Khathesi, O Jehova, Nkulunkulu wethu, sikhulule esandleni sakhe, ukuze imibuso yonke emhlabeni ibone, yazi ukuthi wena wedwa, O Jehova, unguNkulunkulu."

U-Isaya Uphrofetha Ngokuwa KukaSenakheribi

²⁰ U-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi wathumela ilizwi kuHezekhiya esithi: "Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova ka-Israyeli: Ngiwuzwile umthandazo wakho omayelana loSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya. ²¹ Nanti ilizwi uJehova amlahla ngalo:

" 'Ndodakazi eGcweleyo yaseZiyoni iyakweyisa njalo iyakuklodela. INdodakazi yeJerusalema inqekuza ikhanda lapho ubaleka.

²² Ngubani omthukileyo wamhlazisa na? Ngubani omkhalimelayo ngelizwi lakho omkhangelela phansi uzikhukhumeza? Kambe ngoNgcwele ka-Israyeli!

²³ Ngezithunywa zakho

uthuthele izethuko zakho phezu kukaJehova.

Utshilo njalo ukuthi,
"Ngeziqola zami zokulwa ezinengi ngikhwele ezingqongweni zezintaba,

izingqongo eziqongileyo zeLebhanoni. Sengigamule ngawisa izihlahla ezinde zemisedari, izihlahla ezikhethiweyo zamaphayini Sengifinyelele ezindaweni zayo ezikude, amagusu ayo abukekayo.

²⁴ Ngigebhe imithombo yamanzi ezizweni, nganatha amanzi khonale. Ngezinyawo zami ngomisa yonke imifula yaseGibhithe."

²⁵ " 'Awuzwanga na? Kudala ngakumisa lokhu. Ezinsukwini zakudala ngakulungiselela; lamuhla sengikwenzile, ukuba wena usuphendule imizi evikelweyo, yaba yinqwaba yamatshe.

²⁶ Abantu bayo, sebephele amandla, badangele njalo basehlazweni. Banjengezilimo ensimini, njengamahlumela aluhlaza abuthakathaka, njengotshani bumila ephahleni, obutsha buqothuleke bungakakhuli.

²⁷ " 'Kodwa ngiyakwazi lapha ohlala khona lokuthi ufika uphinde usuke nini lokuthi ukhwaza kangani kimi.

²⁸ Ngenxa yokungikhwazela mina, lokudelela kwakho sekufikile ezindlebeni zami, ngizafaka umkhala wami empumulweni yakho

lamatomu ami emlonyeni wakho,
njalo ngizakwenza ubuyele
ngendlela oze ngayo.'

²⁹ "Lokhu kuzakuba yisibonakaliso
kuwe,
we Hezekhiya:

"Lonyaka lizakudla okuzikhulela
kodwa,
kuthi ngomnyaka wesibili
lidle amahlumela akhona.
Kodwa ngomnyaka wesithathu
hlanyelani livune,
limani izivini lidle izithelo zazo.

³⁰ Abaseleyo koJuda bazagxumeka
impande phansi
bathele izithelo phezulu.

³¹ Ngoba eJerusalema kuzavela
insalela,
kanti eNtabeni yaseZiyoni kuzavela
ixuku labaphephayo.

Ukutshiseka kukaJehova uSomandla
kuzaphelelisa lokhu.

³² "Ngakho nanku okutshiwo nguJehova
mayelana lenkosi yase-Asiriya:

"Kayiyikungena kulumuzi
loba itshoke umtshoko lapha.
Kayiyikufika phambi kwawo
ngehawu
loba yakhe umduli
wokuwvimbezela.

³³ Ngendlela eze ngayo izaphindela
emuva, kayiyikungena kulumuzi,
kutsho uJehova.

³⁴ Ngizawuvikela umuzi lo
ngiwuphephise,
ngizenzela mina njalo ngisenzela
uDavida inceku yami."

³⁵ Ngalobobusuku ingilosu kaJehova
yaphuma yayabulala amadoda
azinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi

aficamibili lanhlanu enkambeni yama-
Asiriya. Kwathi abantu bevuka ngelanga
elilandelayo bafumana lezozidumbu!

³⁶ Ngakho uSenakheribi inkosi yase-
Asiriya wadiliza izihonqo wasuka.
Wabuyela eNineve wahlala khona.

³⁷ Kwathi kwelinye ilanga esethempelini
ekhonza unkulunkulu wakhe uNisirokhi,
amadodana akhe u-Adrameleki
loSharezeri, ambulala ngenkamba,
asebalekela elizweni lase-Ararathi.
Ngakho indodana yakhe u-Esarihadoni
waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

Ukugula KukaHezekhiya

20 Ngalezonsuku uHezekhiya

wagula, waba seduze lokufa.
Umphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-
Amozi waya kuye wafika wathi: "Nanku
okutshiwo nguJehova: Lungisa indlu
yakho, ngoba uzakufa; awuyikusila."

² UHezekhiya waphendula ubuso
bakhe wakhangela emdulini wakhuleka
kuJehova wathi, ³ "Khumbula, O Jehova
ukuthi bengiziphethe njani phambi
kwakho ngokwethembeka,
ngokuzinikela ngenhliziyo yami yonke
njalo ngenze okulungileyo emehlweni
akho." UHezekhiya walila kabuhlungu.

⁴ U-Isaya engakasuki egumeni
elingaphakathi, kwafika ilizwi
likaJehova kuye lisithi: ⁵ "Buyela
uyetshela uHezekhiya, umkhokheli
wabantu bami uthi, 'Nanku okutshiwo
nguJehova, uNkulunkulu kayihlo
uDavida. Uthi: Ngiwuzwile umthandazo
wakho njalo ngizibonile lezinyembezi
zakho; ngizakusilisa. Ngosuku
lwesithathu kusukela khathezi
uzakhwela uye ethempelini likaJehova.
⁶ Ngizakwengezelela iminyaka elitshumi
lanhlanu empilweni yakho.
Ngizakukhulula wena kanye lawo umuzi
esandleni senkosi yase-Asiriya.

Ngizawuvikela umuzi lo ngizenzela mina njalo ngisenzela inceku yami uDavida.' "

⁷U-Isaya wathi: "Lungisani ligoqele isinkwa somkhiwa." Bakwenza lokho basebethoba ngaso ithumba, wasesila.

⁸UHezekhiya wayebuze u-Isaya wathi, "Yisibonakaliso bani sokuthi uJehova uzangisilisa kanye lokuthi ngizakhwela ngiye phezulu ethempelini likaJehova ngosuku lwesithathu kusukela khathesi na?"

⁹U-Isaya waphendula wathi, "Nansi isibonakaliso sikaJehova kuwe, esokuthi uJehova uzakwenza akuthembisayo. Kambe isithunzi sizakuya phambili amanyathelo alitshumi kumbe sizabuyela emuva amanyathelo alitshumi na?"

¹⁰UHezekhiya wathi kulula ukuba isithunzi siye phambili amanyathelo alitshumi, kodwa kasiyi emuva amanyathelo alitshumi."

¹¹Ngakho umphrofethi u-Isaya wacela kuJehova, uJehova wenza ukuthi isithunzi sibuyele emuva okwamanyathelo alitshumi esasehle ngawo ekhwelelweni lika-Ahazi.

Izithunywa Ezazivela EBhabhiloni

¹²Ngalesosikhathi uMerodakhi-Bhaladani indodana kaBhaladani inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wabhalela uHezekhiya izincwadi wamthumela lesipho ngoba wayezwile ngokugula kukaHezekhiya.

¹³UHezekhiya wazamukela izithunywa wasezitshengisa konke ayelakho eziphaleni zakhe, isiliva, igolide, iziyoliso kanye lamafutha acengekileyo, izikhali zakhe kanye lakho konke okwakuphakathi kwengcebo yakhe. Akulalutho esigodlweni sakhe loba embusweni wakhe wonke uHezekhiya angazange azitshengise lona.

¹⁴Ngakho umphrofethi u-Isaya waya ku-Hezekhiya inkosi wambuza wathi, "Atheni amadoda layana njalo avela ngaphi?"

UHezekhiya wathi: "Avela elizweni elikhatshana. A vele eBhabhiloni."

¹⁵Umprofethi wabuza njalo wathi: "Aboneni esigodlweni sakho?"

UHezekhiya wathi, "Abone konke okusesigodlweni sami. Akukho loba okukodwa phakathi kokuligugu kwami engingawatshengisanga khona."

¹⁶Ngakho u-Isaya wathi kuHezekhiya, "Zwana nanti ilizwi likaJehova lithi:

¹⁷Isikhathi siyeza ngeqiniso lapho konke okusesigodlweni sakho lalokho okhokho bakho abakugcinayo kuze kube lamuhla kuzathwalelwa eBhabhiloni, kakuyikusala lutho, kutsho uJehova.

¹⁸Abanye besizukulwana sakho, abenyama legazi lakho, abazazalwa nguwe, bazathathwa bayekuba ngabathenwa esigodlweni senkosi yaseBhabhiloni."

¹⁹UHezekhiya wathi: "Ilizwi likaJehova alikhulumileyo lilungile." Yena wayenakana esithi: "Kambe kakuyikuba lokuthula lokuvikeleka ngisaphila na?"

²⁰Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso kaHezekhiya, konke ukuphumelela kwakhe lokwakha kwakhe ichibi kanye lomgelo owaletha amanzi phakathi komuzi, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na?

²¹UHezekhiya waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. Indodana yakhe uManase yathatha ubukhosi.

UManase iNkosi YakoJuda

21 UManase wayeleminyaka elitshumi lambili eqalisa ukubusa njalo wabusa okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lemihlanu eJerusalema. Ibizo

likanina lalinguHefizibha. ²Wenza ububi emehlweni kaJehova, elandela imikhuba eyenyanyekayo yezizwe uJehova ayezixotshile phambi kuka-Israyeli. ³Wavuselela izindawo zokukhonzela ezazidilizwe nguyise uHezekhiya, wakha lama-alithare kaBhali wenza lensika ka-Ashera, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe ngu-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli. Wakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu wazikhonza. ⁴Wakha ama-alithare ethempelini likaJehova, lona uJehova ayethe, "EJerusalema ngizabeka khona iBizo lami." ⁵Kuwo womabili amagama ethempeli likaJehova, wakhela izinkanyezi zezulu ama-alithare. ⁶Wenza umhlatshelo ngendodana yakhe emlilweni, wavumisa, wenza imilingo, wasebenza lezanuse labemimoya. Wenza okubi kakhulu emehlweni kaJehova, wamthukuthelisa.

⁷Wathatha insika ebaziweyo ka-Ashera ayeyenzile wayifaka ethempelini, lona lelo kanye uJehova ayethe kuDavida lakuSolomoni indodana yakhe, "Kulelithempeli lakulo umuzi waseJerusalema, engiwukhethileyo kuzo zonke izizwana zako-Israyeli, ngizabeka iBizo lami kuze kube nini nini." ⁸Angiyi kuphinda ngenze izinyawo zabako-Israyeli zizule elizweni engalinika okhokho babo, nxa bezanazelela balandele yonke imilayo engabanika yona bagcine wonke uMthetho abawunikwa nguMosi inceku yami." ⁹Kodwa abantu abalalelanga. UManase wabalahlekisa, ngakho bona kakhulu ukwedlula izizwe uJehova ayazitshabalalise phambi kokuba u-Israyeli angene.

¹⁰UJehova wakhuluma ngezinceku zakhe abaphrofethi wathi: ¹¹"UManase inkosi yakoJuda wenzile wonke amanyalala. Wenzile izono lezi ezenyanyekayo. Usenze ububi obukhulu obedlula obama-Amori ayekhona

ngaphambi kwakhe, njalo usekhokhelele uJuda esonweni ngezithombe zakhe, ¹²ngakho-ke nanku okutshiwo nguJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: Ngizakwehlisela phezu kweJerusalema loJuda incithakalo ezakwenza izindlebe zakhe wonke oyizwayo zinkenteze. ¹³Ngizakwelula phezu kweJerusalema intambo eyasetshenziswa ekulahleni iSamariya, lentambo eyasetshenziswa ekulahleni indlu ka-Ahabi. Ngizakwesula iJerusalema njengomuntu owesula umganu, awesule awumbokothe. ¹⁴Ngizalahla insalela yabantu bami, ngibanikele ezitheni zabo. Bazathunjwa babe yimpango yezitha zabo zonke, ¹⁵ngoba benzile okubi phambi kwami, bangithukuthelisa, kusukela ekuphumeni kwabokhokho babo eGibhithe kuze kube lamuhla."

¹⁶Futhi uManase wachitha igazi elinengi kakhulu elingelacala waze waligcwalisa iJerusalema kusukela ekuqaleni kwalo kuze kube sekucineni, ngaphandle kwesono ayebangele uJuda ukuba asenze, ngakho benza isono emehlweni kaJehova.

¹⁷Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kukaManase, lakho konke akwenzayo, kanye lesono asenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ¹⁸UManase waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe, wangcwatshelwa esivadeni sesigodlo sakhe, isivande sika-Uza. U-Amoni indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

U-Amoni iNkosi YakoJuda

¹⁹U-Amoni waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emibili. Ibizo likanina lalinguMeshulemethi indodakazi kaHaruzi; owayevela eJothibha. ²⁰Wenza okubi emehlweni kaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise uManase.

²¹ Walandela konke okwakwenziwe nguyise, wakhonza izithombe ezazikhonzwa nguyise, njalo wazikhothamela. ²² Wamdela uJehova wabokhokho bakhe, njalo kazange ahambe ngendlela kaJehova.

²³ Izikhulu zika-Amoni zamelana laye zabumba icebo zambulala esigodlweni sakhe. ²⁴ Abantu bakulelolizwe basebebulala ababecebe ukubulala inkosi u-Amoni, basebebeka indodana yakhe uJosiya waba yinkosi, esikhundleni sakhe.

²⁵ Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kuka-Amoni, lakho konke akwenzayo, akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhozi akoJuda na?

²⁶ Wangcwatshwa ethuneni lakhe esivandeni sika-Uza. UJosiya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhozi.

Ukufunyanwa KoGwalo LoMlayo

22 UJosiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka eficamibili eqalisa ukubusa njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lowodwa. Ibizo likanina lalinguJedida indodakazi ka-Adayiya; wayevela eBhozikhathi. ² Wenza okulungileyo emehlweni kaJehova njalo wahamba ezindleleni zonke zikayise uDavida, engaphambukeli eceleni kwesokudla loba esenxele.

³ Ngomnyaka wetshumi laficamibili wokubusa kwakhe, uJosiya inkosi wathumela unobhala wakhe, uShafani indodana ka-Azaliya, indodana kaMeshulami, ethempelini likaJehova. Wathi, ⁴ "Yana kuHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu uyekuthi kalungise imali elethwe ethempelini likaJehova, ekade iqoqwa ebantwini ngabalindi beminyango. ⁵ Abayigcinise amadoda akhethelwe ukukhangela ukuqhubeka

komsebenzi ethempelini. Babe yibo abazaholisa abasebenza ukulungisa kutsha ithempeli likaJehova, ⁶ ababazi, abakhi lababazi bamatshe. Babe yibo njalo abazathenga amapulanka lamatshe abaziweyo okulungisa kutsha ithempeli. ⁷ Kodwa akusweleki ukuthi babike ngokusetshenziswa kwemali abayigcinisiweyo, ngoba basebenza ngokwethembeka."

⁸ UHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu wathi kuShafani unobhala, "Sengifumene uGwalo lweMithetho ethempelini likaJehova." Walunika uShafani, owalufandayo.

⁹ Ngakho wathi, "Izikhulu zakho sezibhadele imali ebisethempelini likaJehova njalo seziyigcinise izisebenzi kanye labakhangela ethempelini."

¹⁰ UShafani unobhala wasebikela inkosi esithi, "UHilikhiya umphristi usenginike ugwalo." Ngakho uShefani waselubala phambi kwenkosi.

¹¹ Inkosi ithe isiwezwele amazwi oGwalo loMthetho, yadabula izingubo zayo. ¹² Yapha leziziqondiso kuHilikhiya umphristi, lo-Ahikhamu indodana kaShafani, lo-Akhibhori indodana kaMikhaiya loShafani unobhala kanye lenceku kaJehova u-Isaya, yathi: ¹³ "Hambani kuJehova liyengibuzela mina labantu kanye loJuda wonke ngalokhu okulotshwe kulolugwalo olufunyenweyo. Likhulu ulaka lukaJehova oluvuthayo kithi ngoba okhokho bethu kabawalalelanga amazwi alolugwalo: abakulandelanga konke okulotshiweyo kulo mayelana lathi."

¹⁴ UHilikhiya umphristi, lo-Ahikhamu, lo-Akhibhori, loShafani lo-Asayiya bayakhuluma lomphrofethikazi uHulida umkaShalumi indodana kaThikhiva, indodana kaHarihasi, umgcini wezigqoko. UHulida wayehlala eJerusalema Esigabeni Sesibili.

¹⁵Yena wathi kubo: “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: Tshelani indoda elithume kimi ukuthi,
¹⁶‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: Ngizakwehlisela incithakalo kulindawo lasebantwini bayo ngakho konke okulotshwe egwalweni olubalwa yinkosi yakoJuda. ¹⁷Ngoba bangihlamukele, batshisela abanye onkulunkulu impepha, njalo bangithukuthelisile ngazo zonke izithombe abazenze ngezandla zabo, ulaka lwami luzavutha kule indawo lungacitshwa muntu.’ ¹⁸Tshelani inkosi yakoJuda yona elithume ukuzabuza kuJehova, lithi, ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli mayelana lamazwi eliwazwileyo: ¹⁹Ngenxa yokuthi inhliziyi yakho ivumile njalo uzithobile phambi kukaJehova lapho usizwa engikukhulume ngendawo le labantu bayo, ukuthi bazakuba ngabaqalekisiweyo bachithwe, njalo ngenxa yokuthi udabule izigqoko zakho wakhala phambi kwami, ngikuzwile, kutsho uJehova. ²⁰Ngakho ngizakusa kubokhokho bakho, njalo uzangcwatshwa ngokuthula. Amehlo akho awayikuyibona incithakalo engizayehlisela kule indawo.’ ”

Ngakho izithunywa zayithatha leyompendulo zayisa enkosini.

UJosiya Uvuselela Isivumelwano

23 Inkosi yamema bonke abadala bakoJuda labeJerusalema. ²Yasuka yaya ethempelini likaJehova lamadoda akoJuda, abantu baseJerusalema, abaphristi labaphrofethi, abantu bonke kusukela kubantukazana kusiya kuzo kanye izikhulu. Yabafundela bonke besizwa wonke amazwi oGwalo lweSivumelwano, olwafunyanwa ethempelini likaJehova. ³Inkosi yema

ngasensikeni, yavuselela isivumelwano phambi kukaJehova sokumlandela lokugcina imilayo yakhe lemithetho yakhe lezimiso zakhe ngenhliziyi yayo yonke langomoya wayo wonke, ngalokho iqinisa amazwi esivumelwano ayebhaliwe kulolugwalo. Ngakho bonke abantu bazinikela kuso isivumelwano.

⁴Inkosi yalaya uHilikhiya umphristi omkhulu labaphristi abalandelayo labalindi beminyango ukuba bakhuphe ethempelini likaJehova zonke izitsha ezazenzelwe uBhali lo-Ashera, lazo zonke izinkanyezi zaphezulu, wazitshisela ngaphandle kweJerusalema eziqintini zeSigodi saseKhidroni, umlotha wazo wawuthwalela eBhetheli. ⁵Wakhupha abaphristi bezithombe ababekhethwe yinkosi yakoJuda ukuba batshise impepha emizini yakoJuda lakuleyo ephansi kweJerusalema, labo ababetshisa impepha kuBhali lelanga lenyanga lezinkanyezi zonke zaphezulu. ⁶Wakhupha ethempelini likaJehova insika ka-Ashera, wayisa esigodini seKhidroni ngaphandle kweJerusalema, wayitshisela khona, wayichola yaba luthuli wasechithachithela umlotha wayo phezu kwamangcwaba abantukazana. ⁷Wadiliza izindlu zamadoda angamawule ezazikhona ethempelini lapho abesifazana ababeselukela khona u-Ashera amaveli.

⁸UJosiya waletha bonke abaphristi besuka emizini yakoJuda, wangcolisa izindawo zokukhonzela, kusukela eGebha kusiya lapho abaphristi ababetshisela khona impepha eBherisheba. Wabhidliza izindawo zokukhonzela emasangweni ekungeneni kwesango likaJoshuwa umphathi womuzi, ngakwesokhohlo kwesango lomuzi. ⁹Loba abaphristi bezindawo zokukhonzela bengaphathisanga e-alithareni likaJehova eJerusalema, kodwa badla isinkwa esingelamvubelo

kanye labanye abaphristi ababedlelana labo.

¹⁰ Wangcolisa iThofethi elisesihotsheni saseBheni-Hinomi ukuze kungabi khona otshisa indodana yakhe kumbe indodakazi emlilweni kaMoleki.

¹¹ Entubeni yethempeli wasusa amabhiza amakhosi abakoJuda ayewahlukanisele ilanga, wona ayeseduze lendlu yesikhulu esasithiwa nguNathani-Meleki. UJosiya wasetshisa izinqola zempi ezazehlukaniselwe ilanga.

¹² Wadilizela phansi ama-alithare ayakhiwe ngamakhosi akoJuda ephahleni eduze lendlu ephezulu ka-Ahazi lama-alithare uManase ayewakhile emagumeni womabili ethempeli likaJehova. Wawasusa lapho, wawachoboza, aba yizicucu waziphosela eSigodini seKhidroni. ¹³ Inkosi yangcolisa izindawo zokukhonzela ezazingempumalanga kweJerusalema, ngaseningizimu kwentaba yokuXhwala zonalezo uSolomoni inkosi yako-Israyeli eyayizakhele u-Ashithorethi unkulunkulukazi oyisinengiso wamaSidoni, loKhemoshi unkulunkulu oyisinengiso wamaMowabi, kanye loMoleki oyisinengiso wama-Amoni.

¹⁴ uJosiya wabhidliza amatshe okukhonza, waquma izinsika zika-Ashera, wafaka amathambo abantu abanengi endaweni yazo.

¹⁵ Le-alithare elaliseBhetheli indawo yokukhonzela eyayenziwe nguJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi owenza ukuba u-Israyeli one, lalalo-alithare lendawo yokukhonzela, wakubhidliza. Watshisa indawo yokukhonzela wayichola yaba yimpuphu njalo watshisa insika ka-Ashera.

¹⁶ UJosiya wathalaza ngapha langapha, kwathi ebona amangcwaba amanengi ayelapho ewatheni loqaqa wathi kawasuswe, atshiswe e-alithareni ukulingcolisa mayelana lelizwi

likaJehova elamenyezelwa ngumuntu kaJehova owaziphrofethayo lezizinto.

¹⁷ Inkosi yabuza yathi, "Iitshe lesikhumbuzo sengcwaba leliyana engilibonayo ngelani?"

Abantu bomuzi bathi, "Liphawule ingcwaba lomuntu kaJehova owavela koJuda, waqalekisa i-alithare laseBhetheli ngazona lezi izinto osunzenzile kulo."

¹⁸ Yena wasesithi, "Liyekeleni lingavumeli muntu awathinte amathambo akhe." Ngakho bawayekela amathambo akhe kanye lalawo awomphrofethi owavela eSamariya.

¹⁹ UJosiya wasusa amathempeli ezindawo zokukhonzela ezisemizini yaseSamariya ayekade akhiwe ngamakhosi ako-Israyeli, ethukuthelisa uJehova, wenza kiwo lokho ayekwenze eBhetheli. ²⁰ UJosiya wabulalela abaphristi bezindawo zokukhonzela phezu kwama-alithare, watshisela amathambo abantu phezu kwawo. Wasebuyela eJerusalema.

²¹ Inkosi uJosiya yalaya bonke abantu yathi, "Ligcine iPhasika likaJehova wenu, njengoba kulotshiwe eGwalweni LweSivumelwano." ²² Lalingagcinwa iPhasika elinjalo kusukela ezinsukwini zabehluleli abaphatha u-Israyeli, lakuzo zonke izinsuku zamakhosi ako-Israyeli lezamaxhosi akoJuda. ²³ Kodwa ngomnyaka wetshumi laficamibili wenkosi uJosiya, lagcinwa iPhasika likaJehova eJerusalema.

²⁴ Wakwenza njalo uJosiya ukususa izangoma, labahlahluli, labonkulunkulu basezindlini, lezithombe kanye lazo zonke izinto zamanyala ezazikhona koJuda laseJerusalema. Lokhu kwakuyikugcwalisa izimiso zomlayo owawulotshwe encwadini umpristi uHilikhya ayifumana ethempelini likaJehova. ²⁵ Ngaphambi kwakhe noma ngemva kwakhe uJosiya kakubanga

khona inkosi eyafanana laye
 eyaphendukela kuJehova njengalokhu
 akwenzayo ngenhliziyo yakhe
 langomphefumulo wakhe wonke njalo
 langamandla akhe wonke mayelana lawo
 wonke uMthetho kaMosi.

²⁶ Kanti uJehova kadedanga
 ekuvutheni kolaka lwakhe olwavutha
 kakhulu koJuda ngenxa yazo zonke
 izinto uManase amthukuthelisa ngazo.

²⁷ Ngakho uJehova wathi, "Ngizamsusa
 phambi kwami uJuda njengoba ngasusa
 u-Israyeli, ngiwulahle lumuzi
 waseJerusalema engawukhethayo,
 lethempeli leli engathi ngalo, 'Ibizo lami
 lizakuba kulo.' "

²⁸ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso
 kaJosiya, lakho konke akwenzayo,
 akulotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali
 yamakhozi akoJuda na?

²⁹ Ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaJosiya,
 uFaro-Nekho inkosi yaseGibhithe waya
 eMfuleni uYufra the ukuyancedisa inkosi
 yase-Asiriya. Inkosi uJosiya
 wamhlangabeza empini kodwa uNekho
 waqondana laye wambulala eMegido.

³⁰ Izisebenzi zikaJosiya zaletha isidumbu
 sakhe ngenqola yokulwa zisuka eMegido
 zisiya eJerusalema njalo zamngcwabela
 ethuneni lakhe. Ngakho abantu elizweni
 bathatha uJehoyahazi indodana kaJosiya
 bamgcoba ubukhosi bukayise.

UJehoyahazi yiNkosi yakoJuda

³¹ UJehoyahazi wayeleminyaka
 engamatshumi amabili lantathu ubudala
 bakhe esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa
 eJerusalema inyanga ezintathu. Ibizo
 likanina kwakunguHamuthali indodakazi
 kaJeremiya njalo wayevela eLibhina.

³² Wenza ububi emehlweni kaJehova
 njengabokhokho bakhe. ³³ Inkosi uFaro-
 Nekho wambopha ngamaketani eRibhila
 elizweni lamaHamathi ukuze angabusi
 eJerusalema, wamthelisa kakhulu uJuda

amathalenta alikhulu esiliva, lethalenta
 legolide. ³⁴ UFaro-Nekho wabeka
 u-Eliyakhimi indodana kaJosiya
 esihlalweni sobukhosi esikhundleni
 sikayise uJosiya waseguqula ibizo lakhe
 wathi nguJehoyakhimi. Kodwa wathatha
 uJehoyahazi waya laye eGibhithe,
 wafela khonale. ³⁵ UJehoyakhimi wathela
 ngenani lesiliva legolide elalifunwa
 nguFaro-Nekho. Ukuze akwenelise
 lokho wayethelisa abantu elizweni
 ngesiliva legolide ngesilinganiso
 ayebona sibalingene.

UJehoyakhimi Inkosi YakoJuda

³⁶ UJehoyakhimi wayeleminyaka
 engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala
 bakhe ethatha ubukhosi, yena wabusa
 eJerusalema iminyaka elitshumi lanye.
 Ibizo likanina lalinguZelida indodakazi
 kaPhedaya owayevela eRuma. ³⁷ Wenza
 ububi phambi kukaJehova,
 njengabokhokho bakhe.

24 Ngezinsuku zokubusa

kukaJehoyakhimi uNebhukhadinezari
 walihlasela ilizwe uJehoyakhimi wathela
 kuye okweminyaka emithathu. Kodwa
 waphinda waguquka wamvukela
 uNebhukhadinezari. ² UJehova wathuma
 abahlaseli bamaBhabhiloni lama-Aramu
 lamaMowabi, lama-Amoni, amhlasela.
 Wabathuma ukuchitha uJuda
 njengelizwi likaJehova alikhuluma
 ngezinceku zakhe abaphrofethi.
³ Ngempela konke lokho kwenzeka
 koJuda mayelana lomlayo kaJehova
 ukuze basuswe phambi kwakhe ngenxa
 yazo zonke izono zikaManase azenzayo,
⁴ langenxa yegazi elachithekayo
 lingelacala. Ngokuba wayegcwalise
 iJerusalema ngegazi elingelacala njalo
 uJehova wayengazimisela
 ukuthethelela.

⁵ Ezinye izehlakalo zembali kaJehoyakhimi azilotshwanga yini egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda na? ⁶ Wafa uJehoyakhimi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe. UJehoyakhini indodana yakhe yathatha ubukhosi.

⁷ Inkosi yaseGibhithe ayizanga ihlasele futhi iphuma elizweni layo, ngenxa yokuthi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yayisithethe ingxenye yelizwe layo enkulu kakhulu, kusukela eSihotsheni seGibhithe kuze kuyefika eMfuleni uYuFrathe.

UJehoyakhini iNkosi YakoJuda

⁸ UJehoyakhini wayeleminyaka elitshumi laficamibili esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwenyanga ezintathu. Ibizo likanina lalinguNehushita indodakazi ka-Elinathani; evela eJerusalema. ⁹ Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise.

¹⁰ Ngalesosikhathi amabutho kaNebhukhadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni afika eJerusalema, awuvimbezela umuzi,

¹¹ uNebhukhadinezari yena ngokwakhe wazafika amabutho akhe esewuvimbezele umuzi.

¹² UJehoyakhini inkosi yakoJuda wazinikela enkosini yaseBhabhiloni, yena lonina lezinceku zakhe labathenwa bakhe.

Ngomnyaka wesificamibili wokubusa kwenkosi yaseBhabhiloni uNebhukhadinezari wathumba uJehoyakhini. ¹³ Njengelizwi likaJehova, uNebhukhadinezari wabutha yonke inotho yasethempelini likaJehova lenotho yesigodlo senkosi, wabutha zonke izitsha zegolide ezazisethempelini likaJehova, ezazenziwe nguSolomoni inkosi yako-Israyeli, njengokutsho

kukaJehova. ¹⁴ Wathumba abaseJerusalema bonke: izikhulu zonke, lawo wonke amadoda empi lazo zonke izingcitshi ezileminwe, abantu abayizinkulungwane ezilitshumi. Kwasala abantukazana kuphela elizweni.

¹⁵ UNebhukhadinezari wamthatha uJehoyakhini wayamgqilaza eBhabhiloni. Wathumba njalo eJerusalema unina wenkosi labafazi bayo lezikhulu zayo lamadoda aziwayo elizweni. ¹⁶ Inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yathumbela eBhabhiloni wonke amadoda angamaqhawe, ayizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa, aqinileyo ayengaphuma impi, kanye lezingcitshi ezileminwe eziyinkulungwane. ¹⁷ Inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yabeka uMathaniya uyise omncinyane kaJehoyakhini waba yinkosi esikhundleni sikaJehoyakhini, yasimupha ibizo elitsha lokuthi nguZedekhiya.

UZedekhiya iNkosi YakoJuda

¹⁸ UZedekhiya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanye ebekwa ukuba yinkosi, wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. Ibizo likanina lalinguHamuthali indodakazi kaJeremiya, evela eLibhina. ¹⁹ Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova, njengokwakwenziwe nguJehoyakhini. ²⁰ Kwakungenxa yokuthukuthela kukaJehova ukuze kwenzakale konke lokhu eJerusalema lakoJuda, okwabangela ukuthi uJehova abachithe.

Ukuwa KweJerusalema

UZedekhiya wayihlamukela inkosi yaseBhabhiloni.

25 Ngomnyaka wesificamunye wokubusa kukaZedekhiya, ngosuku lwetshumi lwenyanga yetshumi,

uNebhukhadinezari inkosi
yaseBhabhiloni wayafika eJeruselema
layo yonke impi yakhe, wayivimbezela;
wayakhela imiduli yokuvimbezela inxa
zonke. ²Umuzi wavinjezelwa kwaze
kwaba ngumnyaka wetshumi lanye
wokubusa kwenkosi uZedekhiya.

³Ngosuku lwesificamunye lwenyanga
yesine indlala yakhula phakathi komuzi,
kwakungaselakudla kwabantu elizweni.

⁴Basebediliza umduli womuzi,
amabutho wonke abaleka ebusuku
aphuma ngesango eliphakathi kwemiduli
ephansi kwesivande senkosi, lanxa
abeBhabhiloni babewuhonqolozele
umuzi. Abaleka aqonda e-Arabha.

⁵Kodwa amabutho amaBhabhiloni
axotshana lenkosi aze ayayibambela
emagekeni aseJerikho. Wonke
amabutho enkosi ayesehlakazekile
ehlukana layo ekuthunjweni kwayo.

⁶Yona yathathwa yasiwa enkosini
yaseBhabhiloni eRibhila, lapho eyafika
yagwetshelwa khona. ⁷Babulala
amadodana kaZedekhiya ekhangele.
Basebemkhupha amehlo, bambopha
ngamaketane ethusi bamusa
eBhabhiloni.

⁸Ngosuku lwesikhombisa ngenyanga
yesihlanu, kungumnyaka wetshumi
laficamunye wokubusa
kukaNebhukhadinezari inkosi
yaseBhabhiloni, uNebhuzaradani
umlawuli wamabutho okulinda
umndlunkulu, eyisikhulu senkosi
yaseBhabhiloni, wafika eJeruselema.

⁹Wafika watshisa ithempeli likaJehova,
wathungela lesigodlo sesikhosini
lezindlu zonke eJeruselema. Loba yiphi
indlu eqakathekileyo wayithungela
ngomlilo yadilika. ¹⁰Wonke amabutho
aseBhabhiloni, ekhokhelwa ngumlawuli
wamabutho okulinda umndlunkulu,
adiliza imiduli ehonqolozele
iJeruselema. ¹¹UNebhuzaradani
umlawuli wabalindi wathutha bonke

abantu ababesele emzini, wabaxotshela
ezizweni, ndawonye labo bonke abantu
lalabo abasebeye enkosini
yaseBhabhiloni. ¹²Kodwa umlawuli
wamabutho watshiya abayanga abavele
bengalalutho elizweni ukuze balime
amasimu lezivini.

¹³AbeBhabhiloni baphahlaza izinsika
zethusi lezinti zezibane loLwandle
lwethusi, okwakusethempelini
likaJehova. Bathwalela ithusi lelo
eBhabhiloni. ¹⁴Bathatha njalo izimbiza,
lamafotsholo, lezindlawu, lezitsha
zempepha, lezitsha zonke
ezazisetshenziswa. ¹⁵Umlawuli
wabalindi besigodlo wathatha
izindengezi lemiganu yokuchela, konke
okwakwenziwe ngegolide elicengekileyo
loba isiliva.

¹⁶Ithusi elalingelezinsika ezimbili,
loLwandle olulodwa, lezinti zezibane,
konke okwakwenzelwe ithempeli
likaJehova nguSolomoni,
kwakulesisindo esasingelinganiswe.
¹⁷Ubude bensika nganye babuzingalo
ezilitshumi laficamibili ukuya phezulu.
Isiduku sethushi ngasinye phezu kwensika
sasizingalo ezintathu ukuya phezulu,
njalo sasiceciswe ngomeluko
lamaphomegranethi ethusi nxazonke.
Eyinye insika kanye lomeluko wayo
layo yayinjalo.

¹⁸Umlawuli wabalindi wabopha
umphristi omkhulu uSeraya,
lomlandelayo uZefaniya labalindi
bomnyango abathathu. ¹⁹Kulabo
ababelokhu bekhona emzini, wathatha
isikhulu esasiphethe amadoda okulwa
labacebisi besikhosini abahlanu.
Wathatha lonobhala oyisikhulu
esasiphethe umsebenzi wokubuthwa
kwabantu bengeniswa emabuthweni
kanye lamadoda angamatshumi
ayisithupha ayelawo afunyanwa
phakathi komuzi. ²⁰UNebhuzaradani
umlawuli wabathatha bonke wabasa

phambi kwenkosi yaseBhabhiloni eRibhila. ²¹ Khonale eRibhila, elizweni laseHamathi, inkosi yathi kabaqunywe.

Ngakho abakoJuda baya ekuthunjweni kude lelizwe labo.

²² UNebhukhadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wakhetha uGedaliya indodana ka-Ahikhamu, oyindodana kaShafani, ukuba apha abantu ababesele koJuda. ²³ Zonke izikhulu zabalawuli bamabutho lamabutho, bonke sebezile ukuthi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yayisibeke uGedaliya ukuba nguSibalukhulu, beza kuGedaliya

eMizipha izikhulu kungu-Ishimayeli indodana kaNethaniya, uJohani indodana kaKhareya, uSeraya indodana kaThanhumethi umNethofathi, uJazaniya indodana kaMahakhathi, labantu babo. ²⁴ UGedaliya wafunga wabathembisa lamabutho abo wathi: "Lingesabi izikhulu zaseBhabhiloni. Lina yakhani lihlale elizweni lisebenzele inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, konke kuzalilungela."

²⁵ Kodwa ngenyanga yesikhombisa u-Ishimayeli indodana kaNethaniya, indodana ka-Elishama, owayezalwa esikhosini, weza lamadoda alitshumi bafika babulala uGedaliya lamadoda akoJuda kanye laweBhabhiloni ayekade elaye eMizipha. ²⁶ Ngenxa yalokhu, abantu bonke kusukela kubantukazana kusiya kwabaphakemeyo, kanye lezikhulu zamabutho, babalekela eGibhithe ngokwesaba abeBhabhiloni.

Ukukhululwa KukaJehoyakhini

²⁷ Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lesikhombisa wokuthunjwa kuka-Jehoyakhini inkosi yakoJuda, ngomnyaka u-Avili-Merodakhi aba yinkosi eBhabhiloni, wakhulula uJehoyakhini entolongweni ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa

lwenyanga yetshumi lambili.

²⁸ Wakhuluma kuhle wamnika isihlalo esihloniphekayo ukwedlula lezo ezazingezamakhosi ayekade elawo eBhabhiloni. ²⁹ Ngakho uJehoyakhini wakhupha izigqoko zakhe zentolongweni njalo kusukela lapho empilweni yakhe yonke wadla kuhle etafuleni lenkosi. ³⁰ Izinsuku zonke inkosi yayinika uJehoyakhini isabelo sansuku zonke, empilweni yakhe yonke.