

2 IMILANDO

USolomoni Ucela Inhlakanipho

1 USolomoni indodana kaDavida

waqina embusweni wakhe, ngoba uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe wayelaye njalo wamenza waba mkhulu kakhulu.

²Kwathi uSolomoni wakhuluma kubo bonke abako-Israyeli – kusukela kubalawuli bezinkulungwane labalawuli bamakhulu, kusiya kubehluleli lakubo bonke abakhokheli bako-Israyeli, abayizinhloko zezimuli – ³kwaze kwathi yena uSolomoni lebandla lonke baya endaweni yokukhonzela eGibheyoni, njengoba iThente lokuHlanganela likaNkulunkulu, elalenziwe nguMosi inceku kaJehova enkangala

lalikuleyondawo. ⁴UDavida wayeselethe ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu lisuka eKhiriyathi Jeyarimi elisa endaweni ayelilungisele yona, ngoba wayeselimisele ithente eJerusalema.

⁵Kodwa i-alithare lethusi elalaxhiwe nguBhezaleli indodana ka-Uri, indodana kaHuri, laliseGibheyoni phambi kwethabanikeli likaJehova; ngakho uSolomoni lebandla lonke bahamba ukuyafuna intando kaNkulunkulu khona.

⁶USolomoni wasesiya e-alithareni lethusi phambi kukaJehova eThenteni lokuHlanganela wafika wanikela iminikelo yokutshiswa eyinkulungwane phezu kwalo.

⁷Ngalobobusuku uNkulunkulu wabonakala kuSolomoni wathi kuye: “Cela loba kuyini okufunayo ukuze ngikunike khona.”

⁸USolomoni ephendula uNkulunkulu wathi: “Utshengisile umusa omkhulu kakhulu kubaba uDavida njalo mina usungibeke ngaba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe. ⁹Ngakho, Jehova, uNkulunkulu,

gcwalisa isithembiso owasenza kubaba uDavida, ngoba ungenze inkosi phezu kwabantu abanengi okothuli lomhlabathi. ¹⁰Nginika ukuhlakanipha lolwazi, ukuze ngikhokhele lababantu, ngoba ngubani ongabusa abantu bakho abaqakatheke kangaka?”

¹¹UNkulunkulu wathi kuSolomoni, “Njengoba lesi kuyisifiso somoya wakho njalo kawucelanga impahla lenotho lodumo, lokubhubha kwalabo abakuzodayo, lokuthi awucelanga impilo ende kodwa ucele inhlakanipho lolwazi ukuze ubuse phezu kwabantu bami engikwenze waba yinkosi yabo, ¹²ngexa yalokho ngizakunika inhlakanipho lolwazi. Njalo ngizakunika impahla, lenotho lodumo, okungakaze kwenzakale emakhosini akwandulelayo njalo akuyikwenzakala lakumakhosi alandelayo.”

¹³Ngakho uSolomoni waya eJerusalema esuka endaweni yokukhonzela eGibheyoni, evela phambi kweThente lokuHlanganela. Wabusa phezu kuka-Israyeli.

¹⁴USolomoni wabuthanisa izinqola zokulwa lamabhiza; wayelezinqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu alitshumi lane lamabhiza ayizinkulungwane ezilitshumi lambili, ayekugcina emizini yezinqola zezimpi okunye ekugcina yena eJerusalema. ¹⁵UJehova wandisa isiliva legolide eJerusalema kwangathi ngamatshe, kwathi lomsedari wanda kwangathi ngumkhiwane wohlobo lwesikhamore emawatheni ezintaba. ¹⁶Amabhiza kaSolomoni ayevela eGibhithe amanye avela eKhuwe – abathengi benkosi babewathenga eKhuwe. ¹⁷Bathenga inqola yokulwa eGibhithe ngamashekeli esiliva angamakhulu ayisithupha, lebhiza ngekhulu elilamatshumi amahlanu. Ngokunjalo abathengi benkosi

bawathengisela lamakhosi amaHithi lawama-Arama.

Amalungiselelo Okwakha Ithempeli

2USolomoni wathi akwakiwe ithempeli leBizo likaJehova kanye lesigodlo sakhe. ²Wabutha amadoda ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa awokuthwala lamadoda ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi afica munye awokubaza amatshe emaqaqeni langamakhulu angamatshumi amathathu layisithupha ayezakhangela abasebenzayo.

³USolomoni wakhupha ilizwi elalisiya kuHiramu inkosi yaseThire lisithi: “Ngithumela izigodo zomsedari njengalokhu owakwenza kubaba uDavida owawumthumela umsedari ukuthi azakhele isigodlo ayezahlala kuso. ⁴Sengilungiselela ukwakha ithempeli leBizo likaJehova uNkulunkulu wami lokulinikela kuye ukutshisela impepha eloqhatshi olumnandi phambi kwakhe, lokunikela isinkwa esingcwele ngezikhathi zonke, lokunikela iminikelo yokutshiswa ekuseni lantambama langeSabatha langokuthwasa kwezinyanga kanye lasemadilini abekwe nguJehova uNkulunkulu wethu. Lokhu ngokumiselwe u-Israyeli ngokungapheliyo.

⁵“Ithempeli engizalakra lizaqakatheka, ngoba uNkulunkulu wethu mkhulu kulabo bonke onkulunkulu. ⁶Ngubani ozamakhela ithempeli, njengoba lamazulu, kanye lamazulu aphezulu enqongeni, angeke amanele. Pho ngingubani mina ukuba ngimakhele ithempeli, ngaphandle kwendawo yokutshisela imihlatshelo phambi kwakhe?”

⁷“Ngakho, ngithumela indoda eyingcitshi ekusebenzeni ngegolide langesiliva, ithusi lensimbi, langamalembu ayibubende labomvu laluhlaza, ekwaziyo ukubalaza, ukuthi azosebenzela koJuda laseJerusalema labami abayizingcitshi kumisebenzi yezandla, labo abalethwa ngubaba uDavida.

⁸“Ngithumela izigodo zomsedari lezephayini leze-aligumi ezivela eLebhanoni, ngoba ngiyakwazi ukuthi abantu bakho bazingcitshi ekugamuleni izigodo khonale. Abantu bami bazasebenza labakho ⁹bengilethela izigodo ezinengi, ngoba ithempeli engilakhayo kufanele libe ngelikhulu njalo elibukekayo. ¹⁰Ngizanika izinceku zakho, abagamuli bezigodo, ingqoloyi ecolekileyo eyizilinganiso ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili, izilinganiso zebhali ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili, amatshumi amabili ezinkulungwane zesilinganiso zewayini kanye lezilinganiso sezithelo ze-oliva eziyizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili.”

¹¹UHiramu inkosi yaseThire waloba incwadi ephendula uSolomoni wathi:

“Kungenxa yokuthi uJehova uyabathanda abantu bakhe, kungakho ukwenze waba yinkosi yabo.”

¹²UHiramu wabuye wengezelela wathi:

“Udumo kuye uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena owadala izulu lomhlaba! Unike inkosi uDavida indodana ehlakaniphileyo, egcwele ukukhalipha lombono, ezakwakhela uJehova ithempeli njalo izakhele layo isigodlo sayo.

¹³“Ngikuthumela uHiramu-Abhi, indoda eyingcitshi kakhulu, ¹⁴unina wayo wayedabuka koDani loyise evela eThire. Wafundela ukusebenza igolide lesiliva, ithusi lensimbi, ilitshe lezigodo, kanye lamalembu ayibubende, aluhlaza labomvu lelineni elicolekileyo. Ulobuciko kukho konke okomceco wokuloba lokulungisa amise izimo zezifanekiso aziphiweyo. Uzasebenza lezingcitshi zakho lalaba abenkosi yami, enguyihlo uDavida.

¹⁵“Ngakho inkosi yami kayithumele izincku zayo ingqoloyi lebhali lamafutha e-oliva kanye lewayini njengokuthembisa kwayo. ¹⁶Thina sizagamula zonke izigodo zeLebhanoni ozifunayo, sizenze iminyaba ezandanda olwandle igezelele eJopha. Wena uyihlangabeze uyithwalele eJerusalema.”

¹⁷USolomoni wasebala bonke abezizweni ababeko-Israyeli, ngemva kokubalwa okwakwenziwe nguyise uDavida; kwafunyanwa kuyikuthi balikhulu elilamatshumi amahlanu lantathu lezinkulungwane, lamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹⁸Wasesithi abayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa ababe ngabokuthwala, kuthi abayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi aficamibili babe ngabokubaza amatshe emaqaqeni, abayizinkulungwane ezintathu labangamakhulu ayisithupha babe ngabokukhangela abasebenzayo.

USolomoni Wakha Ithempeli

3 USolomoni waseqalisa ukwakha ithempeli likaJehova eJerusalema eNtabeni yaseMoriya, lapho uJehova wayeke waziveza khona phambi kukayise uDavida. Kwakusesizeni sokubhulela amabele sika-Onani

umJebusi, indawo eyayilungiselelwe nguDavida. ²Waqalisa ukwakha ngosuku lwesibili lwenyanga yesibili ngomnyaka wesine wokubusa kwakhe.

³Isisekelo sesakhiwo sethempeli likaNkulunkulu esasimiswe nguSolomoni sasizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha ubude baso njalo sibanzi okwezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili (kuyisilinganiso sezingalo zakudala). ⁴Umkoto owawuphambi kwethempeli wawubanzi okwezingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ulingana lowethempeli njalo umude ukuya phezulu lakho kuzingalo ezingamatshumi amabili.

Ngaphakathi wagudula ngegolide elicengekileyo. ⁵Wabethela indlu yalo enkulu ngamapulanka ephayini wasehuqa ngegolide elicengekileyo wacecisa ngokucomba amalala lemiceco yamaketane. ⁶Wagqizisa ithempeli ngamatshe aligugu. Igolide alisebenzisayo kwakuligolide lePharivayimu. ⁷Wasegudula ingaphakathi yophahla lemijabo yakhona, imigubazi, imiduli lezivalo zethempeli ngegolide, njalo wabazela amakherubhimu emidulini.

⁸Wakha iNdawo eNgcwele kakhulu, ubude bayo bulingana lobubanzi bethempeli – izingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude njalo ezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi bayo. Wagudula ngaphakathi ngamathalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha egolide elicengekileyo. ⁹Izipikili zegolide zilesisindo samashekeli angamatshumi amahlanu. Wabuye wagudula ngegolide izindawo ezingaphezulu.

¹⁰Endaweni eNgcwele Kakhulu wenza amakherubhi abaziweyo wawahuqa ngegolide. ¹¹Amaphiko amakherubhi nxa evulekile eyizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili. Uphiko olulodwa lwekherubhi lakuqala lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude

balo njalo luthinta umduli wethempeli, kusithi olunye uphiko, lalo luzingalo ezinhlanu, luthinta uphiko lwelinye ikherubhi. ¹²Ngokufananayo uphiko lwekherubi lesibili lwaluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo lalo luthinta omunye umduli wethempeli, njalo kusithi olunye uphiko lalo oluzingalo ezinhlanu ubude balo, luthinta uphiko lwekherubhi lakuqala. ¹³Amaphiko amakherubhi ayechaye okuzingalo ezingamatshumi amabili. Ayemi ngezinyawo zawo, ekhangele indlu enkulu.

¹⁴Wenza ikhetheni ngelembu eliluhlaza, leliyibubende lelibomvu, langeleni elicolekileyo, welukela imifanekiso yamakherubhi kilo.

¹⁵Ngapha ngaphambi kwethempeli wamisa izinsika ezimbili, zona zombili zazinde okwezingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu, ngalinye lilesiduku phezulu esilingana izingalo ezinhlanu.

¹⁶Wenza amaketane aphotheneyo wawabeka phezu kwezinsika. Njalo wenza amaphomegranethe alikhulu wawanamathisela emaketaneni.

¹⁷Wasesakha izinsika zaphansi kwethempeli, eyinye ngezansi eyinye layo ngenyakatho. Insika engezansi wayibiza ngokuthi Jakhini kwathi eyenyakatho wayibiza ngokuthi Bhowazi.

Izimpahla zeThempeli

4 Wenza i-alithare lethusi elizingalo ezingamatshumi amabili ubude balo, lezingamatshumi amabili ububanzi njalo izingalo ezilitshumi ukuya phezulu. ²Wasesenza uLwandle ngethusi elincibilikisiweyo, luyisizingelezi, luzingalo ezilitshumi ukusuka okhunjini kusiya kolunye ukhumbi njalo luzingalo ezinhlanu ukuya phezulu. Isilinganiso

sokuluzingelezela sizingalo ezingamatshumi amathathu. ³Ngaphansi komphetho, kulezinkunzi eziluzingelezileyo – ingalo nganye iletshumi. Izinkunzi zazibunjelwe emizileni emibili ndawonye loLwandle.

⁴ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwezinkunzi ezilitshumi lambili, ezintathu zikhangele enyakatho, ezintathu zikhangele entshonalanga, ezintathu eningizimu kanye lezintathu zikhangele empumalanga. ULwandle lwalumi phezu kwazo, izinqe zazo zazifulathele ngaphakathi. ⁵Uhlonzi lwalungangobubanzi besandla, umphetho walo unjengomphetho wenkomitsho njengeluba liqhakaza. Lwaluthwala amatanka ayizinkulungwane ezintathu.

⁶Wasesenza izinditshi zokugezela ezilitshumi, ezinhlanu wazifaka eceleni laseningizimu ezinye ezinhlanu wazifaka enyakatho. Zazingezokuhlambululela izinto zokusetshenziswa eminkelweni yokutshiswa, kodwa uLwandle lwalungolokugezela abaphristi.

⁷Wenza izinti zezibane zegolide ezilitshumi elandela isilinganiso sazo, wazifaka ethempelini, ezinhlanu zazo eceleni leningizimu ezinye ezinhlanu ngenyakatho.

⁸Wenza amatafula alitshumi wawafaka ethempelini, amahlanu ngeningizimu kwathi amahlanu ngenyakatho. Njalo wenza imiganu elikhulu eyegolide eyokuchela.

⁹Wenza iguma labaphristi, leguma elikhulu kanye lezivalo zeguma, wasehuqa izivalo ngethusi. ¹⁰Wafaka uLwandle eceleni langeningizimu ejikweni langeningizimu yempumalanga.

¹¹Wenza njalo lezimbiza lamafotsholo lemiganu yokuchela.

Kwaba yikuqeda kukaHuramu
umsebenzi ayezinikele ukuwenzela
inkosi uSolomoni ethempelini
likaNkulunkulu:

- ¹² izinsika ezimbili;
iziduku eziyingubhe phezu
kwezinsika;
okwelukiweyo kungakubili kucecise
iziduku eziyingubhe
phezu kwezinsika;
- ¹³ amaphomogranethi angamakhulu
amane ezalukweni ezingambili
(imizila emibili
yamaphomegranathi
esalukweni ngasinye,
kucecisa iziduku eziyingubhe phezu
kwezinsika);
- ¹⁴ izinti ezilezinditshi phezulu;
- ¹⁵ uLwandle lezinkunzi ezilitshumi
lambili ngaphansi kwalo;
- ¹⁶ izimbiza, amafotsholo, izinti
zenyama
lakho konke
okuhambelana lalokho.

Zonke izinto uHuramu-Abhi azenzela
inkosi uSolomoni ezethempeli
likaJehova zazingezethusi
elilolongiweyo. ¹⁷ Inkosi yabumbela
lezozinto ngebumba emageckeni
aseJodani phakathi kweSukhothi
leZarethani. ¹⁸ Zonke lezizinto ezenziwa
nguSolomoni zazinengi okukuthi
isisindo sethushi lazo
sasingalinganiswanga.

¹⁹ USolomoni wenza zonke izinto
ezazisethempelini likaNkulunkulu:

- i-alithare legolide;
amatafula esinkwa Sobukhona;
- ²⁰ izinti zezibane zegolide elihle lezibane
zazo zokukhanyisa endlini

- engaphakathi njengokumisiweyo,
²¹ lamaluba enziwe ngegolide lezibane
lezindlawu (zazenziwe ngegolide
elihle);
- ²² Izihloko zezibane ezegolide,
imiganu yokuchela, lezindengezi
zokuthwala umlilo, lezivalo
zethempeli eziligolide, izivalo
zangaphakathi eNdaweni eNgcwele
Kakhulu lezivalo zendlu enkulu.

5 USolomoni eseqedile wonke
umsebenzi wethempeli likaJehova
ayewenzile, waletha zonke izinto
ezazinikelwe nguyise uDavida – isiliva
legolide lezimpahla – wazibeka
endaweni yezenotho ethempelini
likaNkulunkulu.

*Ibhokisi Lesivumelwano SikaJehova
Lingeniswa Ethempelini*

² USolomoni wasebiza abadala bako-
Israyeli ebanxusela eJerusalema,
lezinhloko zezizwana kanye lezinduna
zezimuli zako-Israyeli ukuthi bathathe
ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova
eZiyoni, balise eMzini kaDavida.
³ Wonke amadoda ako-Israyeli ahlangani
ndawonye enkosini ngesikhathi
somkhosi ngenyanga yesikhombisa.

⁴ Kwathi bonke abadala bako-Israyeli
sebefikile, abaLevi bathatha ibhokisi
lesivumelwano sikaJehova, ⁵ balithwala
kanye leThente lokuHlanganela lazo
zonke izinto ezingewe ezaziphakathi
kwalo. Abaphristi, ababengabaLevi,
bazithwala; ⁶ inkosi uSolomoni lebandla
lonke lako-Israyeli elalibuthene kuye
babephambi kwebhokisi lesivumelwano
sikaJehova benikela imihlatshelo
eminengi yezimvu lezinkomo
ezazingeke zilotshwe loba zibalwe.

⁷ Abaphristi basebeletha ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova endaweni yalo engcwele engaphakathi ethempelini, indawo eNgcwele Kakhulu, balifaka ngaphansi kwamaphiko amakherubhi. ⁸ Amakherubhi avula amaphiko awo phezu kwendawo yebhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova, amboza ibhokisi lesivumelwano kanye lemijabo yalo yokulithwala. ⁹ Imijabo yayimide kakhulu okokuthi izihloko zayo, zisuka ebhokisini, zazibonakala endlini engcwele yangaphakathi, kodwa hatshi eNdaweni eNgcwelengcwele; zisekhona lanamhla nje.

¹⁰ Kwakungelalutho ebhokisini ngaphandle kwezibhebhedu zombili uMosi azifaka kulo eHorebi, lapho uJehova enza khona isivumelwano lo-Israyeli sebephumile eGibhithe.

¹¹ Abaphristi basebesuka eNdaweni eNgcwelengcwele. Bonke abaphristi abalapho babezingcwelisile, kungananzwa ixuku labo. ¹² Bonke abaLevi ababe ngabahlabeleli – u-Asafi, uHemani, uJudithuni lamadodana abo lezihlobo – bamela ngempumalanga kwe-alithare, begqoke ilineni elihle njalo betshaya izigubhu, amachacho lemiqangala. Babephelekezelwa ngabaphristi abalikhulu lamatshumi amabili bekhalisa amacilongo.

¹³ Abatshayi bamacilongo labahlabeleli bahlanganyela ndawonye, kungathi yilizwi linye, ukuba badumise njalo bebonga uJehova. Sekuhlangene amcilongo lezigubhu lokunye okukhaliswayo, baphakamisa amazwi abo bedumisa uJehova behlabela besithi:

“Ulungile;

Uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini.”

Ithempeli likaJehova lagcwala iyezi, ¹⁴ ngakho abaphristi babengeke benze

inkonzo yabo ngenxa yeyezi, ngoba inkazimulo kaJehova yagcwala ithempeli likaNkulunkulu.

6 USolomoni wasesithi, “UJehova usetshilo ukuthi uzahlala eyezini elimnyama, ² sengikwakhele ithempeli elimangalisayo, indawo yakho ozahlala kuyo kuze kube nininini.”

³ Ibandla lonke lisemi khona lapho, inkosi yaphenduka yababusisa.

⁴ Yasisithi:

“Kadunyiswe uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli yena osegcwalise ngezandla zakhe ayekuthembise ubaba uDavida ngomlomo wakhe. Ngoba wathi, ⁵ ‘Kusukela ngelanga engakupha ngalo abantu bami eGibhithe, akuladolobho engalikhethayo laloba kusiphi isizwana sako-Israyeli, ukuba iBizo lami lakhelwe ithempeli khona, njalo angikhethanga loba ngubani ukuba abe ngumkhokheli wabantu bami bako-Israyeli. ⁶ Kodwa khathesi sengikhethe iJerusalema ukuba iBizo lami libe khonale, njalo sengikhethe uDavida ukuba abuse abantu bami bako-Israyeli.’”

⁷ “Ubaba uDavida wayetshiseka enhliziyweni yakhe ukuba akhele iBizo likaJehova ithempeli, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ⁸ Kodwa uJehova wathi kubaba uDavida, ‘Njengoba wawutshiseka enhliziyweni yakho ukuba wakhele iBizo lami ithempeli, wenza kuhle ukuba ube lalokhu enhliziyweni yakho. ⁹ Lanxa kunjalo, kawusuwe ozakwakha ithempeli, kodwa indodana yakho eyinyama yakho legazi lakho – yiyo ezakwakhela iBizo lami ithempeli.’”

¹⁰ “UJehova usigcinile isithembiso asenzayo. Sengikhethe isikhundla sikababa uDavida njalo khathesi ngihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi sika-Israyeli njengokuthembisa kukaJehova, njalo

sengakhele iBizo likaJehova ithempeli, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹¹ Kulapho engibeke khona ibhokisi, phakathi kwalo kulesivumelwano sikaJehova asenza labantu bako-Israyeli.”

Umkhuleko KaSolomoni WokuNikela

¹² USolomoni wasesima phambi kwe-alithare likaJehova phambi kwalo lonke ibandla lako-Israyeli welula izandla zakhe. ¹³ Wayenze isitubhu sethushi, ubude baso buzingalo ezinhlanu, lobubanzi baso buzingalo ezinhlanu njalo buzingalo ezintathu ukuya phezulu, sona wayesimise phakathi laphakathi kweguma elingaphandle. Wema phezu kwesitubhu waseguqa phambi kwalo lonke ibandla lako-Israyeli waphakamisela izandla zakhe ezulwini. ¹⁴ Wasesithi:

“O Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kakho uNkulunkulu ofanana lawe ezulwini lasemhlabeni – wena ogcina isivumelwano sakho sothando lezinceku zakho eziqhubeka endleleni yakho ngezinhliziyi ezipheleleyo.

¹⁵ Usigcinile isithembiso sakho encekwini yakho uDavida ongubaba; ngelizwi lakho uthembisile njalo ngesandla sakho usigcinile isivumelwano – njengoba kunje lamuhla.

¹⁶ “Ngakho Jehova, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, gcinela inceku yakho uDavida ubaba isithembiso owasenza kuye usithi, ‘Kawuyikuswela umuntu ozakuma phambi kwami esihlalweni sobukhosi buka-Israyeli, nxa amadodana akho ezahamba ngokomthetho wami phambi kwami, njengalokhu okwenzileyo wena.’ ¹⁷ Ngakho, O Jehova, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kaligcwaliseke ilizwi lesithembiso owalikhuluma kuDavida inceku yakho.

¹⁸ “Kambe uNkulunkulu angahlala labantu emhlabeni na? Amazulu, kanye lamazulu aphezulu kakhulu, kawakulingani. Pho lisilela kanganani lelithempeli engilakhileyo! ¹⁹ Kodwa-ke akuzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho lokucela kwayo umusa, Jehova Nkulunkulu wami, ulalele ukukhala lokukhuleka kwenceku yakho ekwenzayo phambi kwakho. ²⁰ Ebusuku lemini amehlo akho kakhangele lindlu, yona eyindawo owathi iBizo lakho lizakuba kuyo. Akuzwe umkhuleko wenceku yakho ngalindawo. ²¹ Akulalele ukucela kwenceku yakho lokwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli bekhulekela lindawo. Akuzwe ezulwini, lona eliyindawo yakho yokuhlala; ukuze uthi ungezwa, uthethelele.

²² “Nxa umuntu angonela umakhelwana wakhe, afungiswe, abesefunga isifungo phambi kwe-alithare lakho kulelithempeli, ²³ zwana usezulwini, uthethelele. Yehlulela izinceku zakho, uyehlisele ngezenzo zayo leyo elecala ngalokho ekwenzileyo. Tshono ukuthi ongonanga kalamlandu ukuze kuvele ukuba msulwa kwakhe.

²⁴ “Kuthi lapho abantu bakho bako-Israyeli behlulwe yizitha ngoba bonile kuwe akuthi lapho bephenduka befakaza ibizo lakho, bekhuleka njalo becela phambi kwakho kulelithempeli, ²⁵ zwana usezulwini uthethelele izono zabantu bakho bako-Israyeli ubabuyisele elizweni owabapha lona kanye laboyise.

²⁶ “Akuthi nxa emazulwini kuvalekile lingasani izulu ngoba abantu bakho bonile kuwe, njalo bathi nxa bekhuleka bekhangele kulindawo befakaza ibizo lakho betshiya izono zabo ngoba ubajezisile, ²⁷ zwana usezulwini uthethelele izono sezinceku zakho, abantu bakho u-Israyeli. Bafundise indlela eqondileyo yokuphila uthumele

izulu elizweni owalinika abantu bakho ukuba libe yilifa labo.

²⁸“Nxa kufika indlala loba isifo elizweni, loba ingumane loba isikwekhwe, intethe loba isikhongwane, loba izitha zibavimbezela loba kukuyiphi imizi yabo, loba kufika incithakalo kumbe umkhuhlane bani,²⁹ akuthi nxa umkhuleko kumbe isicelo sisenziwa laloba ngubani wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli – ngulowo lalowo ebona izinhlopheko lezinsizi zakhe njalo ephakamisela izandla zakhe kulelithempeli –³⁰ akuzwe wenze usezulwini, eliyindawo yakho yokuhlala. Thethelela, uphathe umuntu ngamunye, kusiya ngezenzo zakhe, ngoba wena uyayazi inhliziyi yakhe (phela nguwe wedwa owazi izinhliziyi zabantu),³¹ ukuze bakwesabe bahambe ezindleleni zakho besaphila elizweni owalipha okhokho bethu.

³²“Akuthi owezizweni ongasuye omunye wabantu bakho bako-Israyeli kodwa evela elizweni elikhatshana ngenxa yodumo lwebizo lakho lesandla sakho esilamandla lengalo yakho elulekileyo – nxa esiza ekhuleka ekhangele kulelithempeli,³³ umuzwe usezulwini, lona eliyindawo yakho yokuhlala, umenzele owezizweni loba kuyini akucela kuwe, ukuze kuthi abantu bonke emhlabeni balazi ibizo lakho bakwesabe, njengalokhu abantu bakho bako-Israyeli bekwenza, ukuze bazi ukuthi lindlu engiyakhileyo ngeyeBizo lakho.

³⁴“Nxa abantu bakho bephuma impi ukuba bahlasele izitha zabo, loba kungaphi lapha obathuma khona, kuthi nxa bekhuleka kuwe bekhangele kulumuzi owukhethileyo lalithempeli engilakhele iBizo lakho,³⁵ uzwe usezulwini imikhuleko yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubamele wena.

³⁶“Kuze kuthi nxa bonile kuwe – ngoba kakho ongenzi sono – njalo uze ubathukuthelele ubanikele ezitheni zabo, ezizabathumba zibase elizweni elikhatshana loba eliseduzane,³⁷ njalo kuthi nxa kulokuguquka kwezinhliziyi zabo elizweni lokuthunjwa kwabo, loba bephenduka loba bekuncenga elizweni lokuthunjwa kwabo sebesithi, ‘Sonile, senza okubi, saganga,’³⁸ loba nxa bephendukela kuwe ngezinhliziyi zabo zonke langemiphefumulo yabo elizweni njalo bekhuleka bekhangele elizweni owalinika oyise, edolobheni owalikhethayo lasethempelini engilakhele iBizo lakho;³⁹ ngakho wena osezulwini, endaweni yakho yokuhlala, akuzwe imikhuleko yabo lokuncenga kwabo, ubamele. Njalo ubathethelele abantu bakho, bona abakoneleyo.

⁴⁰“Ngakho-ke, Nkulunkulu wami sengathi amehlo akho angavuleka lezindlebe zakho zilalele imithandazo eyenziwa kule indawo.

⁴¹“Ngakho phakama, O Nkulunkulu, uze endaweni yakho yokuphumula, wena lebhokisi lesivumelwano samandla akho.

Sengathi abaphristi bakho, O Jehova Nkulunkulu, bangembathiswa ngensindiso, sengathi abangcwele bakho bangathokoza ngokulunga kwakho.

⁴²O Jehova Nkulunkulu, ungafulatheli ogcotshiweyo wakho. Khumbula uthando olukhulu olwathenjiswa uDavida inceku yakho.”

Ukunikelwa KweThempeli

7 Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile ukukhuleka, kwehla umlilo uvela ezulwini, waqhunqisa umnikelo wokutshiswa lemihlatshelo, inkazimulo kaJehova yagcwalisa ithempeli.

² Abaphristi behluleka ukungena

ethempelini likaJehova ngoba laligcwele inkazimulo kaJehova. ³Kwathi lapho bonke abako-Israyeli bebona umlilo usehla lenkazimulo kaJehova ethempelini, bathi mbo ngobuso phansi embundwini weguma, badumisa bebonga uJehova besithi:

“Yena ulungile;
uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini,”

⁴Inkosi labantu bonke banikela imihlatshelo kuJehova. ⁵Ngalokho inkosi uSolomoni yanikela umhlatshelo wezinkomo ezizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lambili kanye lezimvu lezimbuzi ezizinkulungwane ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili. Ngakho inkosi labantu bonke banikela ithempeli likaNkulunkulu. ⁶Abaphristi bema ngezindawo zabo, njengoba labaLevi labo bema ngamachacho lawo inkosi uDavida eyayivele iwenzele ukudumisa uJehova njalo ayevele esetshenziswa nxa ebonga, esithi, “Uthando lwakhe lumi kuze kube nininini.” Maqondana labaLevi, abaphristi babevuthela amacilongo abo, njalo bonke abako-Israyeli babemi.

⁷USolomoni wahlukanisela uJehova indawo yaphakathi laphakathi kweguma phambi kwethempeli likaJehova, njalo kulapho anikelela khona iminikelo yokutshiswa lamafutha eminikelo yobudlelwano, ngoba i-alithare lethusi ayelenzile lalingeke lenele iminikelo yokutshiswa, iminikelo yamabele kanye lamafutha.

⁸Ngakho ngalesosikhathi uSolomoni wenza idili okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa, labo bonke abako-Israyeli ababelaye – ababelibandla elikhulu, abanye bevela eLebho Hamathi kusiya eSihotsheni saseGibhithe.

⁹Ngosuku lwesificamibili benza umhlangano, ngoba babekhonze ngokunikela i-alithare okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa ledili lezinye izinsuku eziyisikhombisa phezulu. ¹⁰Ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili lantathu lwenyanga yesikhombisa wakhulula abantu ukuthi babuyele emakhaya abo bethokoza njalo bejabula ngenhliziyo ngenxa yezinto ezinhle uJehova ayezenzele uDavida loSolomoni kanye labantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

UJehova Uzibonakalisa KuSolomoni

¹¹Kwathi uSolomoni eseqedile ithempeli likaJehova lesigodlo, esenelisile lokwenza konke ayekunakana ngethempeli likaJehova kanye lesigodlo sakhe, ¹²uJehova wabonakala kuye ebusuku wathi:

“Ngiwuzwile umkhuleko wakho njalo sengizikhethele indawo le ukuba ibe lithempeli lemihlatshelo. ¹³Nxa ngivala iphezulu ukuze kungabi lezulu, loba ngithumela isifo phakathi kwabantu bami, ¹⁴nxa abantu bami, ababizwa ngebizo lami, bezazithoba bakhuleke badinge ubuso bami njalo batshiye izindlela zabo ezimbi, kulapho ngizakuzwa khona ngisezulwini ngithethelele izono zabo njalo ngiphephise ilizwe labo. ¹⁵Ngalokho amehlo ami azavuleka, lezindlebe zami zizalalela imikhuleko eyenziwa kulindawo. ¹⁶Ngilikhethile ngizahlukanisela lelithempeli ukuze iBizo lami libe kulo kuze kube nininini. Amehlo ami lenhliziyo yami kuzakuba kulo ngazo zonke izikhathi.

¹⁷“Wena, nxa unгахamba phambi kwami njengalokhu okwenziwa nguyihlo uDavida, wenze konke engikulaya ngakho, ulandele izimiso lemithetho yami, ¹⁸ngizaqinisa umbuso wakho, njengesivumelwano engasenza

loyihlo uDavida ngisithi:
‘Kawuyikuswela umuntu ozabusa
u-Israyeli.’

¹⁹“Kodwa ungafulathela utshiye izimiso lemilayo engikunika yona usuke uyekhothamela abanye onkulunkulu ubakhonze, ²⁰ kulapho ngizakhucula abako-Israyeli elizweni lami, engabanika lona, kuthi lelithempeli engilahlukanisele iBizo lami ngilichithe, ngilenze libe yinto ekhohlakeleyo into eyinhlekisa kubo bonke abantu. ²¹ Loba lelithempeli likhanga amehlo, bonke abedlula lapha bazamangala bathi, ‘Kanti kungani uJehova ekwenzile lokhu okunje kulelizwe kanye lakulelithempeli?’ ²² Abantu bazaphendula bathi, ‘Ngoba bamfulathele uJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, owabakhupha eGibhithe, basuka bayabambeleva kwabanye onkulunkulu, bebakhonza njalo bebakhothamela – yikho ebehlisele incithakalo yonke le.’”

Ezinye Izenzo ZikaSolomoni

8 Ekupheleni kweminyaka

engamatshumi amabili, leyo uSolomoni akha ngayo ithempeli likaJehova kanye lesigodlo sakhe, ² uSolomoni wabuye wavusa imizi uHiramu ayemnike yona, wahlalisa abako-Israyeli kuyo.

³ USolomoni wayahlasela iHamathi Zobha wayithumba. ⁴ Wakha njalo leThadimore enkangala layo yonke imizi yeziphala ayakha eHamathi. ⁵ Wavusa iBhethi Horoni elingaphezu kanye leBhethi Horoni elingaphansi, imizi ebiyelweyo elemithangala lamasongo alemigoqo, ⁶ kanye leBhalathi lemizi yonke yokugcinela amabele, leyokugcinela izinqola zakhe zokulwa lamabhiza akhe – lakho konke okunye ayengafisa ukukwakha eJerusalema,

leLebhanoni kanye lukulo lonke ilizwe ayelibusa.

⁷ Abantu bonke ababesele kumaHithi, lama-Amori, lamaPherizi, lama Hivi kanye lamaJebusi (lababantu babengasiwo ama-Israyeli), ⁸ kutshiwo laba, inzalo yabo eyayisele elizweni, labo abangabhujiswanga ngama-Israyeli – uSolomoni wababutha baba yizigqili: njengoba kunjalo kuze kube lalamhla. ⁹ Kodwa abako-Israyeli uSolomoni kabenzanga izigqili emsebenzini wakhe; babengamadoda akhe empi, abalawuli bezinduna zebutho, labalawuli bezinqola zokulwa labokulwa ngezinqola zokulwa. ¹⁰ Njalo babeyizikhulu zenkosi uSolomoni – bengamakhulu amabili alamatshumi amahlanu ababephethe abantu.

¹¹ USolomoni wasusa indodakazi kaFaro eMzini kaDavida wayisa esigodlweni asakhela yona, ngoba wathi, “Umkami kamelanga ahlale esigodlweni sikaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli, ngoba izindawo esezike zangena ibhokisi lesivumelwano sikaJehova zigcwele.”

¹² USolomoni wasenikela kuJehova umhlathshelo wokutshiswa phezu kwe-alithare likaJehova ayelakhele phambi komphempe, ¹³ kulandelwa umkhuba wemihla ngemihla njengokulaya kukaMosi eqakathekisa iSabatha, lokuThwasa kweNyanga kanye lokwemikhosi emithathu yomnyaka – uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelamvubelo, uMkhosi wamaViki loMkhosi wamaThabanikeli. ¹⁴ Elandela isimiso sikayise uDavida wamisa izigaba zabaphristi ngezinkonzo zabo, njalo abaLevi bekhokhela ekudumiseni lokuphathisa abaphristi kusiya ngemfanelo yemihla ngemihla. Wakhetha abalindi bamasango ngezigaba ukulinda amasango ehlukeneyo ngoba yikho okwaktshiwo nguDavida umuntu kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁵ Kabaphambukanga kulokho inkosi uDavida eyayikutshilo mayelana labaphristi labaLevi kanye lezindlu zenotho.

¹⁶ Wonke umsebenzi kaSolomoni wenziwa, kusukela ngosuku lokubekwa kwesisekelo sethempeli likaJehova kwaze kwaba sekupheleni kwawo. Kwaba yikuphela kokwakhiwa kwethempeli likaJehova.

¹⁷ Ngakho uSolomoni wasesiya e-Eziyoni-Gebheri lase-Elathi ngasemakhunjini ase-Edomi ¹⁸ UHiramu wathumela kuye imikhumbi eyayiphethwe yizinduna zakhe, amadoda ayelwazi ulwandle. Zona, kanye lezinceku zikaSolomoni zaya e-Ofiri, zayathwala igolide elingamathalenta angamakhulu amane lamatshumi amahlanu, zaya lethula enkosini uSolomoni.

Inkosikazi YaseShebha Yethekelela USolomoni

9 Inkosikazi yaseShebha isizwile ngodumo luka-Solomoni yaya eJerusalema ukuba iyomlinga ngemibuzo enzima. Yayiphelekezelwa ludwende olukhulu – amakamela ethwele iziyoliso, imiqulu yegolide kanye lamatshe aligugu – yafika kuSolomoni yaxoxa laye ngakho konke eyayikumumethe. ² USolomoni wayiphendula yonke imibuzo yayo, akubanga lalutho olwalunzima ayengehluleka ukuyichasisela lona. ³ Inkosikazi yaseShebha isibonile konke ukuhlakanipha kukaSolomoni, lesigodlo ayesakhile, ⁴ lokudla kwakhe, lokuhlaliswa kwezinduna zakhe, lokuhlelwa kwezinceku zakhe lezigqoko zazo, labaphathi bezitsha lezigqoko zabo, leminikelo yokutshiswa

ayeyinikela ethempelini likaJehova, kwayiqeda amandla.

⁵ Yathi enkosini, “Sengizibonele ngamehlo ngoba iliqiniso imibiko ebifika elizweni lami ngezindaba zakho langokuhlakanipha kwakho. ⁶ Ngibe ngingayikholwa leyomibiko ngaze ngazibonela ngawami amehlo. Ngeqiniso, akufiki engxenyeni engikuzwileyo ngokujula kwenhlakanipho yakho; engikubonileyo kwedlula engakuzwayo ngawe ngokuphindwe kanengi. ⁷ Yeka ukujabula kwabantu bakho! Yeka ziyadela izikhulu zakho, ezihlezi zimi phambi kwakho zizizwela inhlakanipho yakho! ⁸ Udumo kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho, obe lokuthokoza ngawe wakufaka esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi ukuba ube yinkosi ubusele uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho. Ngenxa yothando lukaNkulunkulu wakho ngo-Israyeli, lokuzimisela ukubamela kuze kube nininini, ukubekile waba yinkosi phezu kwabo, ukuze ulondolozwe ukwahlulela ngemfanelo langokulunga.”

⁹ Inkosikazi yasinika uSolomoni amathalenta egolide alikhulu elilamatshumi amabili, iziyoliso ezinengi, lamatshe aligugu. Kwakungakaze kube leziyoliso ezinjengalezo ezaphiwa inkosi uSolomoni yinkosikazi yaseShebha.

¹⁰ (Izinceku zikaHiramu lezikaSolomoni zaletha igolide livela e-Ofiri; zaletha lezigodo zom-aligumu. ¹¹ Inkosi yasebenzisa lezigodo ukwakha inyathelo lethempeli likaJehova lenyathelo lesigodlo sesikhosini, kanye lokwenza imihubhe lemiqangala yabahlabeleli. Kwakungakaze kubonakale okunjengalokhu kwelakoJuda).

¹² Inkosi uSolomoni yapha inkosikazi yaseShebha okwedlula lokho eyayikucelile, kwakukunengi kugabhela

lokho ayekuphathelwe yinkosikazi.
Yavalelisa-ke inkosikazi yabuyela
elizweni layo lobhobo lwezindwendwe
zayo.

Inotho Lodumo LukaSolomoni

¹³ Isisindo segolide elalifika
kuSolomoni minyaka yonke
lalingamathalenta angamakhulu
ayisithupha, ¹⁴ kungabalwa inzuzo
eyayivela emithelweni yabathengisi
labathengi. Kunjalonje amakhosi ase-
Arabhiya labosibalukhulu belizweni
baletha igolide lesiliva kuSolomoni.

¹⁵ Inkosi uSolomoni yenza izihlangu
ezinkulu zegolide elikhandiweyo
ezingamakhulu amabili; sisinye sithatha
amashekeli egolide elikhandiweyo
angamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹⁶ Inkosi
yasisenza ezinye ezincinyane
ezingamakhulu amathathu ngegolide
elikhandiweyo, sisinye sithatha
amashekeli egolide elikhandiweyo
angamakhulu amathathu. Inkosi
yazibeka eSigodlweni saseGuswini
laseLebhanoni.

¹⁷ Ngakho inkosi yasisenza isihlalo
esikhulu sinanyekwe ngezimpondo
zezindlovu ngaphakathi kodwa
ngaphandle kuligolide elihle. ¹⁸ Isihlalo
sasilamakhwelelo ayisithupha, isinabelo
segolide sasixhunywe kuso. Kunxa
zombili zesihlalo kwakulezeyamelo
zengalo kumi isilwane eceleni kwaleso
laleso. ¹⁹ Izilwane ezilitshumi lambili
zazimi kulawomakhwelelo ayisithupha,
sisinye simi nganxanye kwekhwelelo
ngalinye. Kakukho okunjalo okwakuke
kwenzekala loba kuwuphi umbuso.
²⁰ Zonke izinkezo zenkosi uSolomoni
zazingezegolide, lazo zonke izitsha
zeSigodlo saseGuswini laseLebhanoni
zazingezegolide elihle. Kakukho
okwakwenziwe ngesiliva, ngenxa
yokuthi ngezinsuku zikaSolomoni igugu
lesiliva lalilincinyane. ²¹ Inkosi

yayilodibi lwemikhumbi
yezokuthengiselana eyayigwedlwa
ngabantu bakaHiram. Yayiphenduka
kanye ngemuva kohambo lweminyaka
emithathu, iphenduka ithwele igolide,
isiliva lezimpondo zendlovu lezinkawu
lezindwangu.

²² Inkosi uSolomoni yawedlula wonke
amakhosi omhlaba ngokunotha
langokuhlakanipha. ²³ Wonke amakhosi
omhlaba eza kuSolomoni ukuzakuzwa
ukuhlakanipha uNkulunkulu ayekufake
engqondweni yakhe. ²⁴ Minyaka yonke
amlethela izipho, izinto zesiliva
lezegolide, lezambatho, lezikhali
leziyoliso lamabhiza lezimbongolo.

²⁵ USolomoni wayelezibaya zamabhiza
lezezinqola zokulwa ezizinkulungwane
ezine, kanye lamabhiza azinkulungwane
ezilitshumi lambili, ayekugcina emizini
yezinqola zokulwa okunye njalo kukuye
khonapha eJerusalema. ²⁶ Wabusa wonke
amakhosi kusukela emfuleni iYufathe
kusiya elizweni lamaFilisti,
lasemngceleni weGibhithe. ²⁷ Inkosi
yandisa isiliva eJerusalema saba sinengi
kwaze kwangani ngamatshe, lezihlahla
zomsedari zanda kwangani yizihlahla
zenkiwane yesikhamore emawatheni
amaqaqa. ²⁸ USolomoni wayezuzwa
amabhiza ayevela eGibhithe lakuwo
wonke amanye amazwe.

Ukufa KukaSolomoni

²⁹ Ezinye izenzo zikaSolomoni
kazilotshwanga yini kusukela ekuqaleni
kuze kube sekucineni, ezindabeni
zomlandu kaNathani umphrofethi,
lakisiphrofetho sika-Ahija umShiloni,
lasemibonweni ka-Ido umboni
emayelana loJerobhowamu indodana
kaNebathi? ³⁰ USolomoni wabusa
uIsrayeli wonke eJerusalema
okweminyaka engamatshumi amane.
³¹ Waya kwabaphansi, wangcwatshwa
emzini kaDavida uyise. URehobhowami

indodana yakhe waba yinkosi
esikhundleni sakhe.

Abako-Israyeli Bavukela uRehobhowami

10 URehobhowami waya eShekemu

ngoba bonke abako-Israyeli babeye
khona ukuze bamethwese ubukhosi.

² Kwathi uJerobhowami indodana
kaNebathi ekuzwa lokhu,
(wayeseGibhithe lapho wabuya evela
eGibhithe ayekhona, ebalekele inkosi
uSolomoni.) ³ Abako-Israyeli
basebethumela ilizwi bembiza
uJerobhowami, kwathi-ke yena kanye
labo bonke abako-Israyeli baya
kuRehobhowami bafika bathi: ⁴ “Uyihlo
wasithwalisa umthwalo onzima, kodwa
wena khathesi ake uphungule ubunzima
asethesa bona, wethule lemithwalo yethu
enzima abesithwalise yona, yikho
sizakukhonza.”

⁵ URehobhowami wabaphendula
wathi: “Libobuya ngemva kwezinsuku
ezintathu.” Ngakho abantu basuka
bahamba.

⁶ INkosi uRehobhowami yasicebisana
labadala ababeloyise uSolomoni
esaphila, yathi: “Lingicebisa ukuthi
ngibanike mpendulo bani lababantu?”

⁷ Abadala bathi, “Ungaba lomusa
kulababantu, ubathokozise,
ukhulumisane labo kuhle, bazakuba
yizinceku zakho.”

⁸ Kodwa uRehobhowami wasidelela
iseluleko sabadala, wasecebisana
lamajaha ayeyintanga yakhe,
ababeyizikhonzi zakhe. ⁹ Wawabuza
wathi, “Lingipha seluleko bani?
Singabapha mpendulo bani lababantu
abathi kimi, ‘Ake uphungule ubunzima
esabetheswa nguyihlo?’”

¹⁰ Amajaha ayeyintanga yakhe
amphendula athi, “Batshele lababantu

abathi kuwe, ‘Uyihlo wasethwesa
ubunzima, akusiphungulele lobu-
bunzima’ uthi kubo, ‘Ucikilicane wami
uqatha kulokhalo lukababa. ¹¹ Ubaba
walethwesa ubunzima, mina
ngizakwengezelela kubo. Ubaba
walitshaya ngezaswebhu, mina
ngizalilumisa ngezinkume.’”

¹² UJerobhowami labo bonke abantu
babuyela kuRehobhowami ngosuku
lwesithathu njengokutsho kwakhe
ukuthi, “Phendukani lize kimi ngemva
kwensuku ezintathu.” ¹³ Lakanye inkosi
yaphendula abantu ngolaka, yalahla
iseluleko sabadala, ¹⁴ yalandela iseluleko
samajaha yathi, “Ubaba walethwesa
ubunzima, mina ngizakwengezelela
kubo. Walitshaya ngezaswebhu, mina
ngizalilumisa ngezinkume.” ¹⁵ Ngakho
inkosi kayibalalelanga abantu, ngoba
lokhu kwenziwa nguJehova
uNkulunkulu ukuba kugcwaliseke ilizwi
lakhe ayelikhulume ngo-Ahija
umShiloni kuJerobhowami indodana
kaNebathi.

¹⁶ Kwathi bonke abako-Israyeli bebona
ukuthi inkosi iyala ukubalalela
bayiphendula bathi:

“Silesabelo bani kuDavida na,
silengxenye bani endodaneni
kaJese na?

Yanini emizini yenu lina bako-
Israyeli!

Sala lendlu yakho, Davida!”

Ngakho bonke abako-Israyeli
babuyela emakhaya. ¹⁷ Kodwa
uRehobhowami waqhubeka ebusa
abako-Israyeli. ababehlala emizini
yakoJuda.

¹⁸ INkosi uRehobhowami yasithuma
u-Adoniram uwayengumphathi
wezibhalwa, kodwa abako-Israyeli

bamkhanda ngamatshe wafa. Kodwa inkosi uRehobhowami yaphanga yakhwela enqoleni yayo yokulwa, yabalekela eJerusalema. ¹⁹ Kusukela kulesosikhathi abako-Israyeli bayihlamukela indlu kaDavida kuze kube lamuhla.

11 Kwathi uRehobhowami esefike eJerusalema wamema bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini – amadoda empi ayizinkulungwane ezilikhulu lamatshumi aficamibili – ukuba bayekulwa labako-Israyeli ukuze babuyisele uRehobhowami embusweni.

² Kodwa ilizwi likaJehova lafika kuShemayiya umuntu kaNkulunkulu lisithi: ³ “Tshela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni inkosi yakoJuda, labo bonke abako-Israyeli koJuda laboBhenjamini uthi, ⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova: Lingaphumi ukuthi liyekulwa labafowenu. Buyelani emizini yenu, lina lonke, ngoba lokhu kuyikwenza kwami.’ ” Ngakho balalela ilizwi likaJehova, babuyela emizini yabo, kabasayanga kulwa loJerobhowamu.

URehobhowami Wakha Izingaba KoJuda

⁵ URehobhowami wahlala eJerusalema njalo wakha imizi eyizingaba koJuda: ⁶ iBhethelhehema, le-Ethami, leThekhowa, ⁷ leBhethi Zuri, leSokho, le-Adulamu, ⁸ leGathi, leMerasha, leZifi, ⁹ le-Adorayimi, leLakhishi, le-Azekha, ¹⁰ leZora, le-Ayijaloni, kanye leHebhroni. Le kwakuyimizi ebiyelweyo koJuda laboBhenjamini. ¹¹ Waqinisa izingaba zayo wabeka abalawuli bempi kuyo, wabuthela ezinqabeni ukudla lamafutha om-oliva lewayini. ¹² Wafaka izihlangu lemikhonto kuyo yonke imizi,

wayiqinisa kakhulu. Ngakho-ke wabusa koJuda laboBhenjamini.

¹³ Abaphristi labaLevi kulezozabelo kulo lonke elako-Israyeli bamsekela. ¹⁴ AbaLevi bahle batshiya amadlelo abo lempahla, baya koJuda laboBhenjamini ngoba uJerobhowami lamadodana akhe wala ukuthi bangabaphristi bakaJehova. ¹⁵ Wasekhetha abakhe abaphristi wababeka ezindaweni zokukhonzela, labezithombe zezimbuzi lezamatshole ayenzenzile. ¹⁶ Abezizwana zonke zako-Israyeli ababezimisele ukukhonza uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, balandela abaLevi eJerusalema ukuyanikela imihlatshelo yabo kuJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo. ¹⁷ Baqinisa umbuso kaJuda basekela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni iminyaka emithathu, belandela indlela kaDavida lekaSolomoni ngalesosikhathi.

Abemuli KaRehobhowami

¹⁸ URehobhowami wathatha uMahalathi, indodakazi kaJerimothi indodana kaDavida, leka-Abhihayili indodakazi ka-Eliyabi indodana kaJese, waba ngumkakhe, ¹⁹ wamzalela amadodana la: uJewushi loShemariya loZahamu. ²⁰ Wasethatha njalo uMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhsalomi owamzalela o-Abhija lo-Athayi loZiza loShelomithi. ²¹ URehobhowami wathanda kakhulu uMahakha indodakazi ka-Abhsalomi ukwedlula bonke omkakhe labafazi beceleni; wathatha abafazi abalitshumi lesificamibili, labafazi beceleni abangamatshumi ayisithupha.

²² URehobhowami wabeka u-Abhija indodana kaMahakha ukuba abe yinkosana enkulu kubafowabo ngoba wayeqonde ukumenza inkosi. ²³ Wenza ngokuhlakanipha, amadodana akhe wawabeka ezindaweni zonke zakoJuda

lakoBhenjamini, kuyo yonke imizi ebiyelweyo. Wasebanika ukudla okunengi, wabadingela labafazi abanengi.

UShishaki Uhlasela IJerusalema

12 Ngemva kokuba uRehobhowami eselamandla, lombuso wakhe usuqinile, yena kanye labo bonke abako-Israyeli bawudela umlayo kaJehova. ² Kodwa ngoba bona kuJehova, uShishaki inkosi yaseGibhithe wahlasela iJerusalema ngomnyaka wesihlanu wokubusa kwenkosi uRehobhowami. ³ Wahlasela ngezinqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu alitshumi lambili labagadi bamabhiza abayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisithupha, labantu abangelakubalwa ubunengi babo abanye bengabeLibhiya, lamaSukhi labaKhushi abeza laye bevelela ngaseGibhithe, ⁴ wathumba imizi yakoJuda ebiyelweyo waze wayafika leJerusalema.

⁵ Ngakho uShemayiya umphrofethi waya kuRehobhowami kanye lakubakhokheli bakoJuda ababebuthene eJerusalema ngokwesaba uShishaki, wafika wathi kubo, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova uthi, ‘Lingilahlele lina; ngakho sengilinelwa kuShishaki.’”

⁶ Abakhokheli bako-Israyeli lenkosi yabo bazithoba batsho bathi, “UJehova ulungile.”

⁷ Kwathi uJehova esebonile ukuzithoba kwabo ilizwi lakhe lafika kuShemayiya lisithi: “Njengoba bezithobile, kangisayikubabhuhisa, kodwa ngizabakhulula emva kwesikhathshana, lolaka lwami kalusayikwehliselwa eJerusalema ngesandla sikaShishaki. ⁸ Kodwa bazakuba yizinceku zakhe ukuze bazi umahluko phakathi kokungikhonza lokukhonza amakhosi amanye amazwe.”

⁹ UShishaki inkosi yaseGibhithe wasehlasela iJerusalema, wabutha yonke inotho yasethempelini likaJehova kanye lenotho yasesigodlweni sesikhosini. Wathatha konke waze wathatha lezihlangu zegolide ezazenziwe nguSolomoni. ¹⁰ Ngakho iNkosi uRehobhowami yasisenza izihlangu zethusi endaweni yalezo njalo yazibeka ngaphansi kwabalawuli babalindi bamasango asesigodlweni sesikhosini. ¹¹ Kwakusithi lapho inkosi isiya ethempelini likaJehova, abalindi babehamba layo bephethe izihlangu, kuze kuthi emva kwesikhathi bazibuyisele endlini yabalindi.

¹² Ngenxa yokuthi uRehobhowami wazithoba, ulaka lukaJehova lwadeda kuye, kasazange abe esabhujiswa. Ngempela kwakukhona okuhle koJuda.

¹³ Inkosi uRehobhowami yaqinisa umbuso wayo eJerusalema njalo yaqhubeka ibusa. Ekugcotshweni kwakhe ubukhosi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amane lanye, wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesikhombisa eJerusalema umuzi kaJehova ayewukhethile phakathi kwezizwana zako-Israyeli ukuze abeke iBizo lakhe. Ibizu likanina linguNahama, engowako-Amoni. ¹⁴ Wenza okubi wona ngoba engazange abeke inhliziyi yakhe ekumdingeni uJehova.

¹⁵ Okumayelana lokubusa kukaRehobhowami, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, akulotshwanga na emibhalweni kaShemayiya umphrofethi leka-Ido umboni mayelana lokuzalana kwabantu? Kwaba lempi njalo njalo phakathi kukaRehobhowami loJerobhowami. ¹⁶ URehobhowami waya kubokhokho bakhe wambelwa eMzini kaDavida. U-Abhija, indodana yakhe, waba yinkosi ngemva kukayise.

U-Abhija Ubusa KoJuda

13 Ngomnyaka wetshumi laficamibili

wokubusa kukaJerobhowami, u-Abhija waba yinkosi yakoJuda, ² njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emithathu. Ibizo likanina lalinguMahakha, indodakazi ka-Uriyeli waseGibheya.

Kwaba lempi phakathi kuka-Abhija loJerobhowami. ³ Yathi idibana ekulweni u-Abhija wayelamadoda aqinileyo ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amane, kanti uJerobhowami wadibana laye elamadoda ayizinkulungwane ezifcamibili.

⁴ U-Abhija wema phezu kweNtaba iZemarayimi, elizweni lamaqaqa lako-Efrayimi, wathi: “Wena Jerobhowami kanye laye wonke u-Israyeli, lalalani kimi, lizwe! ⁵ Alikwazi na ukuthi uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, unikele ubukhosi bako-Israyeli kuDavida lenzalo yakhe kuze kube nininini ngesivumelwano setshwayi na? ⁶ Kukanti uJerobhowami indodana kaNebathi, isikhulu sikaSolomoni indodana kaDavida, uhlamukele inkosi yakhe. ⁷ Abantu ababi bamlandela behlamukela uRehobhowami indodana kaSolomoni esesemncinyane engakaqedisisi njalo engagabi lamandla okumelana labo.

⁸ “Khathesi licabanga ukumelana lombuso kaJehova uNkulunkulu, ophethwe ngamadodana kaDavida ngoba libona libanengi kakhulu, lilamathole eGolide elawenzelwa nguJerobhowami ukuba abe ngonkulunkulu.

⁹ Kalibaxotshanga yini abaphristi bakaJehova uNkulunkulu, amadodana ka-Aroni, kanye labaLevi, lazibekela abenu abaphristi njengalokhu okwenziwa ngabantu bamanye amazwe na? Kuthi lowo ofika elenkunzi loba izinqama eziyisikhombisa ukuba

ahlukaniselwe uJehova waba ngumphristi walokho okungayisikho onkulunkulu.

¹⁰ “Kodwa thina, uJehova uNkulunkulu ngowethu, asimdelanga. Thina abaphristi esilabo ngamadodana ka-Aroni, amkhonzayo uJehova, njalo baphathiswa ngabaLevi. ¹¹ Bayanikela kuJehova ekuseni lantambama izinsuku zonke iminikelo yokutshiswa lempepha elephunga elihle. Bayalungisa izinkwa ezahlukaniselwe uJehova etafuleni legolide elihle, balumathise izibane oluthini lwegolide ntambama nsuku zonke. Thina siyawulalela umlayo kaJehova uNkulunkulu. Kodwa lina limdelile. ¹² UNkulunkulu ulathi, nguye osikhokhelayo. Abaphristi bakhe abaphethe amacilongo bazawavuthela besimema ekulweni lani. Madoda ako-Israyeli, lingabokulwa loJehova uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu, ngoba aliyikuphumelela.”

¹³ UJerobhowami wayesethumele elinye iviyo lamabutho akhe ngemva ukuze athi yena ejamelane labakoJuda phambili lona licathamele ngemuva kwabo. ¹⁴ AbakoJuda bafulathela kodwa babona ukuthi babehlaselwe nxa zonke phambili langemuva kwabo. Bakhala kuJehova. Abaphristi bevuthela amacilongo abo ¹⁵ kwathi abakoJuda bakhwaza ngephimbo lokuhlasela empini. Kuthe kuzwakala ukukhwaza ngephimbo lokuhlasela, uNkulunkulu wabhuqa uJerobhowami labo bonke abako-Israyeli phambi kuka-Abhija labako-Juda. ¹⁶ Abako-Israyeli babalekela abakoJuda njalo uNkulunkulu wabanikela ezandleni zabo. ¹⁷ U-Abhija lamabutho akhe babulala amadoda amanengi kakhulu, kwafa amadoda ako-Israyeli aqinileyo empini ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amahlanu. ¹⁸ Amadoda ako-Israyeli aqinileyo ngalesosikhathi anqotshwa,

kwathi abako-Juda baphumelela ngoba babethembile kuJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise.

¹⁹U-Abhija waxotshana loJerobhowamu wamthathela amadolobho eBhetheli, leleJeshana kanye lele-Efroni, lemizi eyayiseduzane khonapho. ²⁰UJerobhowami kazange abuse futhi kusabusa u-Abhija. UJehova wamtshaya wafa.

²¹Kodwa u-Abhija waqina wabalamandla embusweni. Wathatha abafazi abalitshumi lane wabalamadodana angamatshumi amabili lamadodakazi alitshumi lesithupha.

²²Ezinye izehlakalo ekubuseni kuka-Abhija, akwenzayo lakutshoyo, kulotshiwe ezindabeni zomphrofethi u-Ido.

14 Ngakho u-Abhija waya

kubokhokho bakhe wembelwa eMzini kaDavida. Indodana yakhe u-Asa wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi, njalo ngezinsuku zokubusa kwakhe kwaba lokuthula elizweni okweminyaka elitshumi.

U-Asa Uba Yinkosi YakoJuda

²U-Asa wenza okuhle lokulungileyo phambi kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe. ³Wasusa wonke ama-alithare ezizweni lezindawo zokukhonzela, wadiliza izinsika zakhona lezithombe zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera. ⁴Walaya abakoJuda ukuba bakhonze uJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise, balandele yonke imithetho lemilayo yakhe. ⁵Wavala izindawo zokukhonzela lama-alithare empepha kuwo wonke amadolobho akoJuda, ngakho kwaba lokuthula ekubuseni kwakhe. ⁶Wakha imizi ebizelweyo koJuda, njengoba kwakulokuthula elizweni. Kakho

owalwa impi laye ngaleyominyaka, ngoba uNkulunkulu wamnika ukuphumula.

⁷Wathi kwabakoJuda, “Kasakheni imizi le siyizingelezele ngemiduli, lemithangala, lamasango leminxibo. Ilizwe lilokhu lingelethu, ngoba simfunile uJehova uNkulunkulu wethu; simkhonzile usesilethele ukuthula nxa zonke.” Basebesakha njalo baphumelela.

⁸U-Asa wayelamabutho empi ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu koJuda, ayehlome ngamahawu amakhulu lemikhonto, lamanye ayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili alamatshumi aficamibili koBhenjamini, ayehlome ngezihlangu ezincinyane lamadandili. Wonke kungamadoda alezibindi zokulwa.

⁹UZera uMkhushi waphuma ebathukethelele ephelekezelwa libutho elikhulu lezinqola zokulwa ezingamakhulu amathathu, waze wayafika eMaresha. ¹⁰U-Asa waphuma laye ukuyamjamela, bafika bajama eSigodini saseZafatha phansi kweMaresha.

¹¹U-Asa wasekhuleka kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe wathi: “Jehova, kakho omunye onjengawe ongavikela ababuthakathaka kwabalamandla. Sisize, O Jehova Nkulunkulu wethu, ngoba thina sithembele kuwe, ngebizo lakho siphumile ukuba silwe lalelibutho lempi elikhulu kangaka. O Jehova, unguNkulunkulu wethu; umuntu angezake amelane lawe.”

¹²UJehova wawatshaya wawabhuqa amaKhushi phambi kuka-Asa labakoJuda. AmaKhushi abaleka, ¹³kodwa u-Asa lamabutho akhe waxotshana lawo waze wayawafikisa eGerari. Kwafa amaKhushi amanengi okokuthi kasazange azame ukuqoqana

kutsha; abhuqwa phambi kukaJehova laphambi kwamabutho akhe. Amadoda akoJuda atshuquluza impango enengi kakhulu. ¹⁴ Atshabalalisa yonke imizi yaseGerari, ngoba ukuthukuthela kukaJehova kwakuphezu kwayo. Atshuquluza yonke imizi ngoba impango yayinengi kuyo. ¹⁵ Ahlasela lezibaya zabelusi abutha imihlambi yezimvu, izimbuzi kanye lamakamela. Asebuyela eJerusalema.

Imvuselelo Ka-Asa

15 Umoya kaNkulunkulu wehlela

phezu kuka-Azariya indodana ka-Obhedi. ² Waphuma ukuba ayehlangabezana lo-Asa wasesithi kuye, “Lalela kimi, Asa labo bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini. UJehova ulawe nxa wena ukuye. Nxa umfuna, uzamfumana, kodwa nxa umlahla uzakulahla. ³ Okwesikhathi eside abako-Israyeli babengelaye uNkulunkulu weqiniso, bengelaye umphristi wokufundisa njalo bengelawo umthetho. ⁴ Kodwa osizini lwabo baphendukela kuJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, bamfuna bamfumana. ⁵ Ngalezozinsuku, ngenxa yokuxokozela okukhulu kwezizwe, kwakungelula ukuhambahamba. ⁶ Kwakulencithakalo isizwe sichithwa ngesinye, umuzi uchithwa ngomunye, ngoba uNkulunkulu wabehlisela zonke izinhlobonhlobo zosizi. ⁷ Kodwa wena, qina ungayekethisi, ngoba owakho umsebenzi uzakuba lomvuzo.”

⁸ U-Asa wathi ewezwa lamazwi lesiphrofetho sika-Azariya indodana ka-Obhedi umphrofethi, waqina waba lesibindi. Wasusa zonke izithombe ezinengisayo kulo lonke ilizwe lakoJuda lelakoBhenjamini lasemizini ayeyithumbile emaqaqeni ako-Efrayimi. Wavuselela i-alithare likaJehova

elaliphambi komkoto wethempeli likaJehova.

⁹ Wasebuthanisa bonke abakoJuda labakoBhenjamini kanye labantu ababevela ko-Efrayimi, lakoManase kanye lakoSimeyoni ababehlezi phakathi kwabo, ngoba babebanengi kakhulu abako-Israyeli ababethe ngokubona ukuthi uJehova uNkulunkulu wayelaye bathutha beza ngakuye.

¹⁰ Babuthana eJerusalema ngenyanga yesithathu ngomnyaka wetshumi lanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa.

¹¹ Ngalesosikhathi benza imihlatshelo kuJehova eyezinkomo ezingamakhulu ayisikhombisa lezimvu kanye lezimbuzi eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa kulezo ababezithumbe babuya lazo. ¹² Benza isivumelwano sokuba bamdinge uJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise, ngezinhliziyi zabo ezipheleleyo langomoya. ¹³ Bonke ababengayi kumdinga uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, babefanele babulawe, loba bebancinyane loba bebakhulu, loba kungowesilisa kumbe owesifazana. ¹⁴ Benza isifungo kuJehova ngokuvungama, bememeza njalo bevuthela lamacilongo lezimpondo. ¹⁵ AbakoJuda bathokoza bonke ngesifungo ngoba babesenze ngenhliziyi yabo yonke. Bamdinga uJehova ngokulangatha, wabavumela ukumfumana. Ngakho uJehova wabanika ukuthula nxa zonke.

¹⁶ INkosi u-Asa yasusa ugogo wayo uMahakha esikhundleni sokuba yindlovukazi ngoba wayenze insika yokukhonzela unkulunkulukazi u-Ashera oyisinengiso. U-Asa wayidiliza insika, wayiqumaquma waytshisela eSigodini saseKhidroni. ¹⁷ Lanxa engasusanga izindawo zokukhonzela ko-Israyeli, u-Asa wayezinikele kuJehova ngenhliziyi yakhe yonke empilweni yakhe yonke. ¹⁸ Wangenisa ethempelini

likaNkulunkulu isiliva legolide lezinto lezo yena kanye loyise ababezahlukanisele uJehova.

¹⁹ Akusazange kube lempi kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu wokubusa kuka-Asa.

Iminyaka Yokucina ka-Asa

16 Ngomnyaka wamatshumi

amathathu lesithupha wokubusa kuka-Asa uBhahaha inkosi yako-Israyeli wasuka wayavimbezela uJuda wakhela iRama inqaba ukunqabela loba ngubani ukuthi angaphumi loba angangeni elizweni lika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda.

² Ngakho u-Asa wathatha isiliva legolide esipheleni senotho sethempeli likaJehova lakwesakhe esigodlweni sakhe wakuthumela kuBhenihadadi inkosi yase-Arama, owayebusa eDamaseko. ³ Wathi, “Kasenze isivumelwano mina lawe njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngubaba loyihlo. Uyabona, nanku mina ngikuthumele isiliva legolide. Wena yesula isivumelwano sakho loBhahaha inkosi yako-Israyeli yikho ezahlehla angiyekele.”

⁴ UBhenihadadi wavumelana lenkosi u-Asa wahle wathumela abalawuli bamabutho akhe ukuba bayehlasela imizi yako-Israyeli. Banqoba elako-Ijoni, lelakoDani le-Abheli-Mayimi kanye layo yonke imizi yeziphala zakoNafthali. ⁵ UBhahaha wathi ekuzwa lokhu wema ukubiyela iRama wahle wayekela umsebenzi wakhe. ⁶ Ngakho inkosi u-Asa yaletha wonke amadoda akoJuda athutha amatshe lezigodo eRama okwakusetshenziswa nguBhahaha. Wayakwaxha ngakho iGebha leMizipha.

⁷ Ngalesosikhathi uHanani umboni wafika ku-Asa inkosi yakoJuda wathi kuye: “Ngenxa yokuthi wethembele

enkosini yase-Arama wadela ukwethembela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho, ibutho lenkosi yase-Arama seliphunyukile esandleni sakho. ⁸ Kanti amaKhushi lamaLibhiya babengelabutho elilamandla amakhulu lamanani amanengi ezinqola zokulwa lamadoda alwa ngamabhiza na? Kodwa-ke kwathi usuthembele kuJehova, wabanikela esandleni sakho. ⁹ Ngoba amehlo kaJehova athungatha umhlaba wonke ukuze aqinise labo abanhliziyo zabo zizimisele kuye. Usuwenze ubuwula, ngakho kusukela khathesi uzahlala usempini.”

¹⁰ U-Asa wazondela umboni ngenxa yalokho; wathukuthela wahle wamfaka entolongweni. Kusenjalo u-Asa waphatha abanye babantu ngochuku.

¹¹ Izehlakalo zombuso ka-Asa, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, zilotshwe egwalweni lwamakhozi akoJuda lawako-Israyeli. ¹² Ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu laficamunye wokubusa kwakhe u-Asa wahlaselwa ngumkhuhlane ezinyaweni zakhe. Loba umkhuhlane wakhe wawubuhlungu kakhulu, kazange adinge usizo kuJehova, kodwa wayesiya ezinyangeni. ¹³ Kwathi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amane lowodwa u-Asa wafa walala kunye laboyise.

¹⁴ Bamngcwaba ethuneni ayezenzele lona eMzini kaDavida. Bambeka phezu kwethala elaligcwele amakha enhlobo ngenhlobo ayexutshwe ngokuhlakanipha kwezingcitshi zamakha, babasa umlilo omkhulu wokumhlonipha.

UJehoshafathi iNkosi YakoJuda

17 UJehoshafathi indodana ka-Asa

waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe; wazilungisela ukumelana lo-Israyeli empini. ² Wabeka amabutho emizini

ebiyelweyo yakoJuda wafaka amaviyo koJuda kanye lasemizini yako-Efrayimi eyayithunjwe nguyise u-Asa.

³UJehova wayelaye uJehoshafathi ngoba ngeminyaka yakuqala wayehamba ngezindlela ezalandelwa nguyise uDavida. Kabadinganga oBhali, ⁴kodwa wadinga uNkulunkulu kayise njalo walalela Imlayo yakhe kazange alingisele okwakusenziwa ngabako-Israyeli. ⁵UJehova wawuqinisa umbuso wakhe, bonke abakoJuda baletha izipho kuJehoshafathi, ngakho wanatha kakhulu njalo wahlonitshwa kakhulu.

⁶Inhliziyo yakhe yayikuJehova ngokuzinikela okukhulu ezindleleni zakhe; njalo wasusa zonke izindawo zokukhonzela wadiliza lezinsika zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera koJuda.

⁷Ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kwakhe wathuma izikhulu zakhe oBheni-Hayili, lo-Obhadiya, loZekhariya, loNethaneli kanye loMikhaya ukuba ziyefundisa emizini yakoJuda. ⁸Ndawonye lazo kwakulabanye abaLevi uShemayiya loNethaniya, loZebhadiya, lo-Asaheli, loShemiramothi, loJehonathani, lo-Adonija, loThobhija kanye loThobhi-Adonija – labaphristi o-Elishama loJehoram. ⁹Bafundisa kulolonke elakoJuda, bethwele uGwalo lweMithetho kaJehova; babhoda yonke imizi yakoJuda befundisa abantu.

¹⁰Ukumesaba uJehova kwagcwala kuyo yonke imibuso yamazwe akhelane loJuda, ngakho abalwanga loJehoshafathi. ¹¹Amanye amaFilisti alethela uJehoshafathi izipho lesiliva njengomthelo, lama-Arabhu aletha imihlambi yezimvu: izinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lamakhulu ayisikhombisa ezinqama, lezimbuzi eziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lamakhulu ayisikhombisa.

¹²UJehoshafathi waba lamandla

amakhulu angezelelweyo, wakha izinqaba lamadolobho eziphala koJuda ¹³njalo wayelokudla okunengi emizini yakoJuda. Wayelamabutho akwaziyo ukulwa ayehlala eJerusema. ¹⁴Wona ayemi kanje ngezimuli:

KwabakoJuda, abalawuli bamaviyo enkulungwane; u-Adina umlawuli, elamadoda okulwa

impi ayizi 30 000;

¹⁵kulandele uJehohanani umlawuli, elezi-280 000;

¹⁶kulandele u-Amasiya indodana kaZikhiri, owazinikela ukusebenzela uJehova elamadoda

ayizi 200 000.

¹⁷KwabakoBhenjamini: kungu-Eliyada, elibutho elilesibindi, elezi 200 000 zamadoda ayehlome

ngamadandili lezihlangu;

¹⁸kulandele uJehoshafathi elamadoda ayizi 180 000 ayehlomele okulwa

impi.

¹⁹Yiwola amadoda ayesebenzela inkosi, ngaphandle kwalawo ayesemzini ebiyelweyo kulolonke elakoJuda.

UMikhaya Uphrofitha Okubi Ngo-Ahabi

18 Ngakho uJehoshafathi

wayenotho kakhulu njalo ehlonipheka, waba lobunini lo-Ahabi ngokwendiselana. ²Ngemva kweminyaka ethile waya kwethekelela u-Ahabi eSamariya. U-Ahabi wamhlabela izimvu ezinengi lezinkomo yena kanye labantu ayelabo njalo

wamkhuthaza ukuba ahlasele iRamothi-Gileyadi.³ U-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli yabuza uJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda wathi: “Uzahamba lami na ukuyahlasela iRamothi Gileyadi?” UJehoshafathi waphendula wathi, “Mina nginjengawe, abantu bami banjengabantu bakho; sizakuba lawe empini.”⁴ Kodwa uJehoshafathi wasesithi enkosini yako-Israyeli, “Akubuze kuJehova kuqala.”

⁵Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yasibuthanisa abaphrofethi – amadoda angamakhulu amane – yababuza yathi, “Siphume impi siyehlasela iRamothi Gileyadi, loba ngizithibe na?”

Bayiphendula bathi, “Hamba, ngoba uNkulunkulu uzayinikela esandleni sikaJehova.”

⁶Kodwa uJehoshafathi wabuza wathi, “Kambe kakukho na umphrofethi kaJehova lapha esingabuza kuye na?”

⁷Inkosi yako-Israyeli yaphendula uJehoshafathi yathi, “Kusasele indoda eyodwa esingabuza ngayo kuJehova, kodwa ngiyayizonda ngoba ayikaze iphrofethe okuhle ngami, iphrofetha okubi kokuphela. InguMikhaya indodana ka-Imla.

UJehoshafathi wathi: “Inkosi kayingatsho njalo.”

⁸Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yabiza esinye sezikhulu zayo yathi kuso, “Ngibizela uMikhaya indodana ka-Imla khathesi.”

⁹Bembethe izambatho zabo zobukhosi, inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda babehlezi ezihlalweni zabo zobukhosi esizeni sokubhulela amabele ngasemangelweni esango laseSamarिया, labo bonke abaphrofethi bephrofetha phambi kwabo.

¹⁰UZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana wakhanda izimpondo ngezinsimbi, wasesithi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova

uthi: ‘Ngalezimpondo uzabhuqa ama-Arama uwabhubhise.’ ”

¹¹Bonke abaphrofethi babevele bephrofetha okufananayo besithi, “Hlasela iRamothi Gileyadi unqobe, ngoba uJehova uyinikile esandleni senkosi.”

¹²Isigijimi esasithunywe ukuyabiza uMikhaya sathi kuye, “Khangela, wena nguwe wedwa; abanye abaphrofethi bakhulume ngokunqoba kwenkosi. Vumelana labo, lawe ukhulume okuthokozisayo.”

¹³Kodwa uMikhaya wathi, “Ngeqiniso njengoba uJehova ukhona, engingamtshela khona yilokhu okutshiwo nguJehova.”

¹⁴Uthe efika, inkosi yabuza yathi, “Mikhaya, siye empini eRamothi Gileyadi, loba ngizithibe na?”

Yena waphendula wathi: “Hlasela unqobe, ngoba bazanikelwa ezandleni zakho.”

¹⁵Inkosi yathi kuye, “Kambe kumele ngikufungise kangaki ungangitsheli olunye ulutho ngaphandle kweqiniso ebizweni likaJehova na?”

¹⁶Ngakho uMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Ngabona abako-Israyeli bonke behlakazekile emaqaqeni njengezimvu ezingelamelusi, inkosi yathi, ‘Lababantu kabalamkhokheli. Kabazibuyelele emakhaya ngokuthula.’”

¹⁷Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Kangikutshelanga yini ukuthi uvele kaphrofethi lutho oluhle ngami kodwa okubi kuphela na?”

¹⁸UMikhaya waqhubeka wathi, “Ngakho zwanini ilizwi likaJehova: Ngabona uJehova ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi lebandla lonke lasezulwini limi ngakwesokudla langakwesenzele. ¹⁹Njalo uJehova wathi, ‘Ngubani ozakhohlisa u-Ahabi inkosi

yako-Israyeli ukuba ahlasele eRamothi Gileyadi njalo ayofela khona na?”

Omunye wabonisa lokhu, omunye laye lokhuyana. ²⁰ Ekucineni kwasekuphuma umoya othile, wema phambi kukaJehova wathi: ‘Ngizamkhohlisa mina.’ UJehova wathi kuwo: ‘Ngendlela bani na?’

²¹ “Wona wathi: ‘Ngizahamba ngiyekuba ngumoya wokuqamba amanga emilonyeni yabo bonke abaphrofethi bakhe.’

“UJehova wathi: ‘Uzaphumelela ukumkhohlisa. Hamba-ke uyekwenza lokho.’

²² “Ngakho-ke uJehova ufake umoya wokuqamba amanga emilonyeni yalaba baphrofethi bakho, ngoba uJehova ukumisele okubi.”

²³ Ngakho uZedekhiya indodana kaKhenana waphakama wayawakala uMikhaya ngempama ebusweni, watsho embuza wathi, “Umoya kaJehova wasuka njani kimi ukuyakhuluma kuwe na?”

²⁴ UMikhaya waphendula wathi, “Wena ngokwakho uzakubona lokho mhla ubalekela endlini engaphakathi usiyacatsha.”

²⁵ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi, “Bambani uMikhaya, limbuyisele ku-Amoni umbusi wedolobho lakuJowashi indodana yenkosi ²⁶ lithi: Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova, uthi: Valelani umuntu lo entolongweni, lingamniki lutho ngaphandle kwesinkwa lamanzi ngize ngiphenduke kukuhle.’ ”

²⁷ UMikhaya waqonqosela wathi, “Uma uzakufa waphenduka kukuhle, uJehova uyabe engakhulumanga ngami.” Waseqhubekela phambili wathi, “Liwabambisise amazwi ami, lina bantu lonke!”

Ukubulawa Kuka-Ahabi eRamothi Gileyadi

²⁸ Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli loJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda baya eRamothi Gileyadi. ²⁹ Inkosi yako-Israyeli yathi kuJehoshafathi, “Ngizahlasela ngingazakali ukuthi yimi, ngizifihlile, kodwa wena gqoka ezakho izigqoko zobukhosi.” Ngakho inkosi yako-Israyeli yalahlisa isimo sayo yadibana empini.

³⁰ Ngakho inkosi yase-Arama yayiqonqosele abalawuli bezinqola zokulwa yathi, “Lingalwi lamuntu, loba ngomncinyane loba ngomkhulu, ngaphandle kwenkosi yako-Israyeli.”

³¹ Abalawuli bezinqola zokulwa bathi bebona uJehoshafathi bathi, “Yiyonale inkosi yako-Israyeli.” Ngakho bamphendukela ukuba bamhlasele, kodwa uJehoshafathi wahlaba umkhosi, uJehova wamsiza. UNkulunkulu wabenza baya khatshana laye, ³² ngoba abalawuli bezinqola zokulwa bathi sebebonile ukuthi kasiyo inkosi yako-Israyeli, abazange besaxotshana laye.

³³ Kodwa omunye watshoka kungananzelelwe umtshoko waphutsha emkhandlwini wesikhali wagwaza inkosi yako-Israyeli. Inkosi yatshela umtshayeli wenqola yokulwa yathi, “Phenduka uye le, ngisusa ekulweni lapha, sengilimele.”

³⁴ Impi yalwiwa ilanga lonke, njalo inkosi yako-Israyeli yeyama enqoleni yayo yokulwa ikhangele ama-Arama kwaze kwaba ntambama. Kuthe litshona layo yabe isifa.

19 UJehoshafathi inkosi yakoJuda

wathi esebuyela eJerusalema esigodlweni sakhe ephephile, ² uJehu umboni, indodana kaHanani, waphuma ukuba ayomhlangabeza wasesithi enkosini, “Kufanele yini ukuba uncedise

ababi njalo uthande abamzondayo uJehova? Ngenxa yalokho, ulaka lukaJehova luphezu kwakho. ³Kodwa-ke kukhona okuhle ngawe, ngoba uziqedile elizweni lonke izinsika zikankulunkulukazi u-Ashera, inhliziyoyakho wayimisela ukudinga uNkulunkulu.”

UJehoshafathi Ukhetha Abehluleli

⁴UJehoshafathi wayehlala eJerusalema, waphuma wahambela abantu kusukela eBherisheba kusiya elizweni lamaqaqa lako-Efrayimi wabaphendula ukuba bamkhonze uJehova uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo. ⁵Wakhetha abehluleli elizweni, kuwo wonke amadolobho abiyelweyo akoJuda. ⁶Wabatshela wathi: “Linanzelele elikwenzayo, ngoba kalehluleli umuntu kodwa lehluleli uJehova, yena uzalisiza ekwahluleleni. ⁷Ngakho mesabeni uJehova linanzelele elikwenzayo, yahlulelani ngonanzelelo ngoba kuJehova uNkulunkulu wethu kakukho ukwehlulela kubi loba ubandlululo loba ukufumbathisana.”

⁸Lakhona eJerusalema, uJehoshafathi wabeka abaLevi abathile labaphristi lezinhloko zezindlu zabako-Israyeli ukuba balawule umthetho kaJehova balamule lemibango. Babehlala eJerusalema. ⁹Wabanika iziqondiso ezithi: “Kumele lethembeke ngokumesaba uJehova, ngobuqotho langenhliziyonye epheleleyo. ¹⁰Wonke amacala eza kini evela ezihlotsheni zenu kuwo wonke amadolobho elihlala kiwo – loba kungamacala okuchitha igazi loba awokwephula umthetho, Imlayo, izimiso loba iziqondiso – baxwayiseni ukuba bangoni kuJehova, funa ulaka lwakhe lwehlele phezu kwenu labafowenu. Lingenza lokho aliyikwenza isono.

¹¹“U-Amariya umphristi omkhulu nguye ozalikhangelwa emsebenzini wonke

kaJehova uNkulunkulu, kuthi uZebhadiya indodana ka-Ishmayeli, umkhokheli wesizwe sakoJuda alikhokhele ezintweni eziqondane lenkosi, abaLevi labo bazakuba yizikhulu zenu. Yenzani ngesibindi, njalo sengathi uJehova angaba lalabo abazakwenza ngobuqotho.”

UJehoshafathi Unqoba AmaMowabi Lama-Amoni

20 Ngemva kwalokho amaMowabi lama-Amoni kanye labanye bamaMewuni baphuma impi ukuba bayehlasela uJehoshafathi.

²Amanye amadoda aya kuJehoshafathi afika athi kuye, “Kulempi enkulu ezayo ukuzakuhlasela evela ngase-Edomi, ngaphetsheya kolwandle. IsiseHazazoni Thamari.” (okuyikuthi, Eni Gedi).

³Ngokwethuka, uJehoshafathi wazimisela ukumdinga uJehova uNkulunkulu, wamemezela ukuba akuzilwe ukudla kulo lonke elakoJuda. ⁴Abantu bakoJuda baqoqana bahlangana bezodinga uJehova, lakanye baphuma kuyo yonke imizi yakoJuda.

⁵Ngakho uJehoshafathi wema phambi kwebandla lakoJuda lelaseJerusalema ethempelini likaJehova phambi kweguma elitsha ⁶wathi,

“O Jehova, Nkulunkulu wabokhokho, kakusuwe yini uNkulunkulu osezulwini? Ubusa phezu kwemibuso yezizwe zonke. Amandla asesandleni sakho, njalo kakho ongamelana lawe. ⁷O Nkulunkulu wethu, awubaxotshanga ababekuleli lizwe phambi kwabantu bakho bako-Israyeli wabanika ukuba libe ngelabo nini lanini abesizukulwane sika-Abrahama umngane wakho na?

⁸Sebehlale kulo njalo sebakhe indawo yokukhonzela yeBizo lakho, besithi,

⁹“Nxa sisehlelwa zinhlopheko, loba

yinkemba yokwehlulela, loba yizifo loba yindlala, sizakuma ngobukhona bakho phambi kwelithempeli elileBizo lakho sikhale kuwe ekuhlukuluzweni kwethu, wena uzasizwa njalo usisindise.’

¹⁰“Kodwa khathesi nanka amadoda ama-Amoni lamaMowabi labeNtabeni yaseSeyiri, abelizwe owalela u-Israyeli ukuba alinqobe ekuphumeni kwakhe eGibhithe; okwabangela ukuthi babatshiye abaze bababhubhisa.

¹¹Khangela ukuthi khathesi baphindisela ngokunganani ngokusemuka isipho owasipha sona ukuba sibe yilifa lethu.

¹²O Nkulunkulu wethu, awuyikubehlulela na? Ngoba asilamandla okumelana lebuthe elikhulu kangaka elisihlaselayo. Asikwazi esingakwenza, kodwa amehlo ethu aphezu kwakho.”

¹³Wonke amadoda akoJuda, labomkawo labantwabawo lezinsane, bema lapho phambi kukaJehova.

¹⁴UMoya kaJehova wehlela kuJehaziyeli indodana kaZekhariya, indodana kaBhenayiya, indodana kaJeyiyeli, indodana kaMathaniya, umLevi oyisizukulwane sika-Asafu, emi phambi kwebandla.

¹⁵Wasesithi: “Lalela, wena Nkosi Jehoshafathi labo bonke abahlala koJuda labaseJerusalema! Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova kini: ‘Lingesabi njalo lingadediswa yibukhulu bebutho laleyompi. Ngoba ukulwa akusikwenu, kodwa ngokukaNkulunkulu. ¹⁶Kusasa hambani liyejamelana labo. Bona bazakhwela ngokhalo lwaseZizi, lina lizabafumana ekucineni kodonga eNkangala yaseJeruweli. ¹⁷Aliyikuyilwa limpi. Lunganini ezindaweni; lime ngesibindi lizabona ukukhulula kukaJehova azalenzela khona, O lina bakaJuda lani beJerusalema. Lingesabi, lingadangali. Phumani kusasa liyehlasela, uJehova uzakuba lani.’ ”

¹⁸UJehoshafathi wakhothama ubuso buphansi kanti njalo bonke abako-Juda labaseJerusalema bawela phansi ngobuso bemkhonza uJehova. ¹⁹Ngakho abanye abaLevi bamaKhohathi, lamaKhorahi bema bamdumisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ngelizwi eliphakemeyo okuphezulu.

²⁰Kwathi ekuseni kakhulu basuka baya eNkangala yaseThekhowa. Bathi besuka lapho, uJehoshafathi waphakama wathi, “Lalelani kimi, bantu bakoJuda lani baseJerusalema! Thembelani kuJehova uNkulunkulu wenu uzaliphathisa.”

²¹Ngemva kokubuza abantu, uJehoshafathi wakhetha amadoda okuhlabelela uJehova lokumdumisa ngenxa yenkazimulo yobungcwele bakhe bekhokhele amabutho, besithi:

“Mbongeni uJehova,
ngoba uthando lwakhe lumi
nininini.”

²²Bathi beqalisa ukuhlabelela njalo bedumisa, uJehova wabeka abantu bokucathamela abase-Amoni labaseMowabi labaseNtabeni iSeyiri ababedinga ukuhlasela uJuda, behlulwa. ²³Amadoda ako-Amoni lawamaMowabi avukela amadoda ayevela eNtabeni yaseSeyiri ukuba bawabulale bawatshabalalise. Ngemva kokuba sebeqedile ukubulala abaseSeyiri, banceda ngokubulalana bodwa.

²⁴Amadoda akoJuda athe efika endaweni emalungana lenkangala bakhangela lapho okwakulebuthe elikhulu khona babona ngezidumbu zelekene phansi, kungekho loyedwa owayebalekile. ²⁵Ngakho uJehoshafathi lamanye amadoda bahamba bayabutha impango, njalo phakathi kwayo bafumana izimpahla zokusebenzisa

lezambatho lezinye njalo izimpahla eziligugu – ukwedlula lezo ababengazithwala. Impango yayinengi kwaze kwathatha izinsuku ezintathu beyithutha.²⁶ Ngosuku lwesine babuthana eSigodini saseBherakha, lapho abadumisela khona uJehova. Kungenxa yalokho yonale indawo yabizwa ngokuthi iSigodi saseBherakha kuze kube lamhla.

²⁷ Ngakho wonke amadoda akoJuda lawaseJerusalema abuyela ngokuthokoza eJerusalema, bekhokhelwa nguJehoshafathi ngoba uJehova wayebenzele lokho okwakubajabulisile phezu kwezitha zabo.²⁸ Bangena eJerusalema baya ethempelini likaJehova betshaya imihubhe lemiqangala lamacilongo.

²⁹ Ukwesaba uNkulunkulu kwehlela phezu kwayo yonke imibuso emazweni besizwa ngokulwa kukaJehova esilwa lezitha zika-Israyeli.³⁰ Lakanye umbuso kaJehoshafathi waba lokuthula, ngoba uNkulunkulu wakhe wayemnike ukuphumula nxa zonke.

Isiphetho Sombuso KaJehoshafathi

³¹ Ngakho uJehoshafathi wabusa koJuda. Waba yinkosi yakoJuda eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lanhlanu, wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu. Unina wayengu-Azubha indodakazi kaShilihi.³² Wahamba ngezindlela zikayise u-Asa njalo kazange aphambuke kuzo; wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova.

³³ Izindawo zokukhonzela kazisusanga njalo abantu babelokhu bengazimisela ngezinhliziyo zabo ngokupheleleyo kuNkulunkulu waboyise.

³⁴ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJehoshafathi kusukela ekuqaleni kusiya ekucineni, zilotshiwe embalini

kaJehu, indodana kaHanani, yona elotshwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli.

³⁵ Ngokuqhubeka kwezikhathi, uJehoshafathi waba lesibopho asenza lo-Ahaziya inkosi yako-Israyeli, owayelecala lokwenza okubi.

³⁶ Wavumelana laye ukuba bakhe imikhumbi yokuthwala izimpahla zokuthengiselana. Ngemva kokuba isiyakhiwe e-Eziyoni Gebheri,³⁷ u-Eliyezeri indodana kaDodavahu waseMaresha wakhuluma isiphrofetho esilahla uJehoshafathi, esithi, “Ngenxa yokuthi wenza isibopho lo-Ahaziya, uJehova uzadiliza lokho okwenzileyo.” Imikhumbi yabhidlika ayaze yenelisa ukungena olwandle isiyathengisa.

21 Ngakho uJehoshafathi waya

ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa labo eMzini kaDavida. Kwathi indodana yakhe uJehoram yathatha isikhundla yaba yinkosi.

² Abafowabo bakaJehoram, amadodana kaJehoshafathi, babengo-Azariya, loJehiyeli, loZekhariya, lo-Azariyahu, loMikhayeli kanye loShefathiya. Bonke laba babengamadodana kaJehoshafathi inkosi yako-Israyeli.³ Uyise wayebanike izipho ezinengi zesiliva lezegolide kanye lezinye izimpahla eziligugu, lamadolobho abiyelweyo koJuda, kodwa ubukhosi wayebunike uJehoram ngoba eyindodana yakhe yamazibulo.

UJehoram iNkosi YakoJuda

⁴ UJehoram esengenile esikhundleni sikayise waqinisa umbuso wakhe, wabulala bonke abafowabo ngenkamba kanye lamanye amakhosana ako-Israyeli.⁵ UJehoram wabayinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eficamibili.⁶ Walandela izindlela

zamakhosi ako-Israyeli, njengalokho okwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba wathatha indodakazi ka-Ahabi. Wenza okubi phambi kukaJehova.

⁷Lanxa kunjalo, ngenxa yesivumelwano uJehova ayesenze loDavida, uJehova kathandanga ukuyidiliza indlu kaDavida. Wayethembise ukumbekela isibane yena kanye lesizukulwane sakhe nini lanini.

⁸Ngezinsuku zikaJehoram, abase-Edomi bahlamukela uJuda basebekela eyabo inkosi. ⁹Ngakho uJehoram waya khonale lezikhulu zakhe lazo zonke izinqola zakhe zempi. Abase-Edomi bamhanqa kanye labalawuli bezinqola zakhe zempi, kodwa wavuka ebusuku waphunyuka. ¹⁰Kuze kube lamhla abase-Edomi balokhu bahlamukela uJuda.

AbaseLibhina labo bahlamuka ngasolesi isikhathi, ngoba uJehoram wayefulathele uJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyise. ¹¹Njalo wamisa izindawo zokukhonzela emaqaqeni akoJuda, wenza abaseJerusalema ukuba bakhonze izithombe, wadukisa abakoJuda.

¹²UJehoram wemukela incwadi eyayivela ku-Eliza umphrofethi isithi: “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova, uNkulunkulu kayihlo uDavida, uti: ‘Kawuhambanga ezindleleni zikaJehoshafathi uyihlo lezika-Asa inkosi yakoJuda. ¹³Kodwa ulandele izindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli, waholela abakoJuda labantu baseJerusalema ekuzingcoliseni njengalokhu indlu ka-Ahabi eyakwenzayo njalo usubulele abafowenu abendlu kayihlo ababengcono kulawe.

¹⁴Ngakho-ke uJehova usezabatshaya abantu bakini lamadodana akho, labomkawo lakho konke okungokwakho, ngesidutshulo esikhulu. ¹⁵Lawe uqobo uzagula umkhuhlane omubi owesifo samathumbu akho, amathumbu akho aze ahotshuke ngokuhamba kwezinsuku ngenxa yesifo.”

¹⁶UJehova wamvusele uJehoram ulaka lwamaFilisti lama-Arabhu ayehlala eduzane lamaKhushi.

¹⁷Bahlasela koJuda, bangena khona bathutha zonke izimpahla ababezifumene esigodlweni senkosi, labantwabayo labomkayo. Akulandodana eyasalayo ngaphandle kuka-Ahaziya isicino sabo.

¹⁸Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu uJehova wehlisela uJehoram isifo samathumbu esingelaphekiyo.

¹⁹Ngokuqhubeka kwesikhathi ekupheleni komnyaka wesibili, amathumbu akhe ahotshuka ngenxa yesifo, wafa esebuhlungwini obukhulu. Abantu bakhe abazange babase umlilo wokumhlonipha njengalokhu ababekwenza kuboyise.

²⁰UJehoram waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lambili, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka eficamibili. Wafa engakhalelwa muntu, wabekwa eMzini kaDavida, kodwa kungesikho emangcwabeni amakhosi.

U-Ahaziya iNkosi YakoJuda

22 Abantu baseJerusalema babeka u-Ahaziya, indodana encinyane kaJehoram, ukuba abe yinkosi esikhundleni sikayise, njengoba abahlaseli ababeze lama-Arabhu enkambeni, babebulele wonke amadodana akhe amadala. Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda waqalisa ukubusa.

²U-Ahaziya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili ekubeni kwakhe yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okomnyaka owodwa. Unina wayengu-Athaliya, umntanomntanakhe ka-Omiri.

³Laye ngomunye owalandela izindlela zabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba unina wamkhuthaza ukwenza okubi. ⁴Wona phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe ngabendlu ka-Ahabi, ngoba ngemva kokufa kukayise bahle baba ngabasebisi bakhe, babangela ukuchitheka kwakhe. ⁵Walalela ukweluleka kwabo aze ahambe loJoram indodana ka-Ahabi inkosi yako-Israyeli empini yokuhlasela uHazayeli inkosi yase-Arama eRamathi Gileyadi. Ama-Arama alimaza uJoram; ⁶wahle wabuyela kuJezereli ukuba ayephozisa amanxeba okulinyazwa kwakhe eRamothi ekulweni kwakhe loHazayeli inkosi yase-Arama.

Ngakho u-Ahaziya indodana kaJehoram inkosi yakoJuda waya eJezereli ukuyabona uJoram indodana ka-Ahabi njengoba wayeselimele.

⁷Ngokwethekelela kuka-Ahaziya kuJoram, uNkulunkulu wayemise ukumbhubhisa u-Ahaziya. Ngoba ekufikeni kwakhe khonale wahle waphuma loJoram ukuyahlangabeza uJehu indodana kaNimishi owayegcotshwe nguJehova ukubhubhisa indlu ka-Ahabi. ⁸Kwathi lapho uJehu esenza lokhu okuyifaneleyo indlu ka-Ahabi, wahlangana lezikhulu zakoJuda lamadodana abafowabo baka-Ahaziya ababesebenzela u-Ahaziya, wababulala. ⁹Wasedinga u-Ahaziya abantu bakhe bambamba esecatshile eSamariya, bamletha kuJehu, wabulawa. Bamngcwaba ngoba bathi: “Wayeyindodana kaJehoshafathi owadinga uJehova ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke.” Ngakho kwakungaselamuntu endlini ka-Ahaziya olamandla okuwumisa umbuso.

U-Athaliya LoJowashi

¹⁰Kwathi u-Athaliya unina ka-Ahaziya esebonile ukuthi indodana yakhe isifile,

waqhubekela phambili edinga ukubhubhisa umndlunkulu wendlu yakoJuda. ¹¹Kodwa uJehosheba, indodakazi yenkosi uJehoram, wathatha uJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya wameba emthatha phakathi kwamakhosana omndlunkulu ayesezabhuji swa wamfihla endlini yakhe yokulala kanye lomlizane wakhe. Njengoba uJehosheba, indodakazi yenkosi, uJehoram njalo engumkaJehoyada umphristi, wayengudadewabo ka-Ahaziya, wamfihla umntwana ukuze angabulalwa ngu-Athaliya. ¹²Wacatsha labo ethempelini likaNkulunkulu okweminyaka eyisithupha yokubusa kuka-Athaliya elizweni.

23 Ngomnyaka wesikhombisa

uJehoyada waqunga isibindi. Wenza isivumelwano labalawuli bamakhulu embuthweni: o-Azariya indodana ka-Jerohamu lo-Ishmayeli indodana kaJehohanani, lo-Azariya indodana ka-Obhedi, loMahaseya indodana ka-Adaya kanye lo-Elishafathi indodana kaZikhiri. ²Bangena kulo lonke elakoJuda, baqoqa abaLevi kuyo yonke imizi yako Juda labayizinhloko zezimuli zako-Israyeli. Ekufikeni kwabo eJerusalem, ³ibandla lonke lenza isivumelwano lenkosi ethempelini likaNkulunkulu.

UJehoyada wathi kubo, “Indodana yenkosi izabusa, njengoba uJehova wathembisa abayinzalo kaDavida. ⁴Ngakho nanku okumele likwenze: Ingxenye yesithathu yenu baphristi labaLevi abathatha izopho langeSabatha bafanele balinde eminyango, ⁵eyinye ingxenye yesithathu esigodlweni somndlunkulu kanye lenye njalo ingxenye yesithathu ezalinda eSangweni leSisekelo, kuthi wonke amanye amadoda abesemagumeni ethempeli likaJehova. ⁶Kakho ozangena

ethempelini likaJehova ngaphandle kwabaphristi labaLevi abazabe besemsebenzini; labo bezangena ngoba behlanjululwe, kodwa wonke amanye amadoda azalinda lokho azabe ekutshengiswe nguJehova. ⁷ AbaLevi bazahonqolozela inkosi, ngulowo lalowo wabo ehlomile. Loba ngubani ozangena ethempelini kumele abulawe. Lingaxekelani lenkosi loba kungaphi lapho ezabe ikhona.”

⁸ AbaLevi lawo wonke amadoda akoJuda benza khonokho kanye ababekutshelwe nguJehoyada umphristi. Kwaba ngulowo wathatha abantu bakhe, kulabanye ababesiyaqalisa amazopho abo ngeSabatha labanye ababetshayisa ngemva kwamazopho abo – ngoba uJehoyada umphristi wayelokhu engakakhululi loba iviyo elilodwa.

⁹ Wasenika abalawuli bamaviyo amabutho alikhulu imikhonto lamahawu amakhulu lamancinyane ayekade engawenkosi uDavida ayesethempelini likaNkulunkulu. ¹⁰ Wasemisa wonke amadoda, ngamunye ephethe izikhali zakhe ezandleni, ezingelezele inkosi – phansi kwe-alithare lethempeli, kusukela eceleni langezansi kusiya enyakatho yethempeli.

¹¹ UJehoyada lamadodana akhe basebeveza indodana yenkosi njalo bayethesa umqhele; bayiqhubela lencwadi yesivumelwano bayibeka yaba yinkosi. Bayigcoba bavungama bathi:

“Mpilonde nkosi!”

¹² U-Athaliya uthethe esizwa umsindo wabantu begijima njalo behalalisa inkosi, wasuka waya kubo ethempelini likaJehova. ¹³ Lakanye wayibona inkosi imi ensikeni yayo ngasemangelweni. Izikhulu labavutheli bamacilongo besekele inkosi, njalo bonke abantu belizwe bejabula bevuthela amacilongo, kanye labahlabeleli bephethe izinto zokuhlabelela bekhokhela emkhosini

wokuhaya inkosi. U-Athaliya wadabula izigqoko zakhe njalo wamemeza ethi: “Umvukela! Umvukela!”

¹⁴ UJehoyada umphristi wathumela abalawuli bamaviyo amabutho alikhulu, ababelawula amabutho, wathi:

“Mkhupheleni phandle u-Athaliya phakathi kwamaviyo kuthi loba ngubani omlandelayo limbulale ngenkamba.” Ngoba umphristi wayethe, “Lingambulaleli ethempelini likaJehova.” ¹⁵ Ngakho bambamba esefikile emangelweni eSango laMabhiza emagumeni esigodlo, njalo kulapho abambulalela khona.

¹⁶ UJehoyada wasesenza isivumelwano sokuthi yena kanye labantu lenkosi bazakuba ngabantu bakaJehova ¹⁷ Bonke abantu baya ethempelini likaBhali, balidilizela phansi, babhidliza lama-alithare akhe lezithombe zakhe, babulala uMathani umphristi kaBhali phambi kwama-alithare.

¹⁸ UJehoyada wabeka abalindi bethempeli likaJehova ezandleni zabaphristi, ababengabaLevi, bona uDavida ayevele ebenzele amazopho abo ethempelini, ukuze balethe iminikelo yokutshiswa kaJehova njengokulotshwa kwayo eMthethweni kaMosi, kulokujabula lokuhlabelela njengokulaya kukaDavida. ¹⁹ Wahlalisa njalo abalindiminyango emasangweni ethempeli likaJehova ukuze kungangeni loyedwa ongahlanjululwanga.

²⁰ Wasethatha abalawuli bamabutho alikhulu, lezikhulu lababusi babantu kanye labantu bonke belizwe basebeletha inkosi ethempelini likaJehova. Bangena esigodlweni ngeSango elingaPhezulu bahlalisa khona inkosi esihlalweni soBukhosi, ²¹ njalo bonke abantu elizweni bajabula. Kwaba lokuthula kulo lonke idolobho ngoba u-Athaliya wayesebulewe ngenkamba.

UJowashi Ulungisa Ithempeli

24 UJowashi waba yinkosi

eleminyaka eyisikhombisa yokuzalwa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amane. Ibizo likanina linguZibiya owayevela eBherisheba.

²UJowashi wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova iminyaka yonke uJehoyada engumphristi. ³UJehoyada wamdingela abafazi ababili, wazala amadodana lamadodakazi.

⁴Ngemva kwesikhathi esithile uJowashi wabona kufanele ukuthi alungise kutsha ithempeli likaJehova.

⁵Wabuthanisa abaphristi labaLevi wathi kubo: “Yanini emizini yakoJuda liyeqoqa imali yomnyaka ngomnyaka kuye wonke um-Israyeli, lilungiswe kutsha ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wenu. Kwenzeni khathesi.” Kodwa abaLevi abazange bakwenze masinyane.

⁶Ngakho inkosi yabiza uJehoyada umphristi omkhulu yathi kuye, “Kungani ungatshelanga abaLevi ukuba baqoqe koJuda laseJerusalema umthelo owabekwa nguMosi inceku yeNkosi kanye lasebandleni lako-Israyeli okweThente loBufakazi na?”

⁷Amadodana alowaya umama oxhwalileyo u-Athaliya ayedilize ithempeli likaNkulunkulu aze azisebenzisela lezinto zalo ezingcwele kuboBhali.

⁸Ngokulaya kwenkosi, kwenziwa ibhokosi labekwa phandle, esangweni lethempeli leNkosi.

⁹Kwasekumenyazelwa kulo lonke elakoJuda laseJerusalema ukuba kulethwe eNkosini, umthelo owawumiswe nguMosi inceku kaNkulunkulu enkangala ukuba uzakhitshwa ngabako-Israyeli. ¹⁰Izikhulu zonke labantu bonke baletha okwabo ngokujabula, bakufaka ebhokisini laze

lagcwala. ¹¹Kwakusithi nxa ibhokisi lingalethwa ngabaLevi ezikhulwini zenkosi zithi zingabona ukuthi sekulemali enengi, unobhala wesigodlweni lesikhulu somphristi omkhulu bafike bathulule okwakusebhokisini babe sebelibuyisela endaweni yalo. Bakwenza lokho ngezikhathi zonke baze babuthelela imali enengi kakhulu. ¹²Inkosi loJehoyada baholisa abantu ababesenza umsebenzi owawufanele wenziwe ethempelini likaJehova. Baqatsha ababazi bamatshe lababazi ukuze bakhe kutsha ithempeli likaJehova, labakhandi bezinsimbi kanye labakhandi bethusi besakha kutsha ithempeli.

¹³Amadoda ayebona ngokuqhutshwa komsebenzi ayekhaliphile, njalo umsebenzi ayewukhangele waqhubeka kuhle. Lakhiwa kutsha ithempeli likaNkulunkulu labuyela esimeni salo elaliyiso njalo baliqinisa. ¹⁴Bathe sebeqedile, baletha imali eyasalayo enkosini lakuJehoyada, benza ngayo impahla zethempeli likaJehova: izitsha zokusebenzela kanye lezeminkelo yokutshiswa, izinditshi lezinye izitsha zegolide lezesiliva. UJehoyada esaphila, iminikelo yokutshiswa yayihlezi ikhona ethempelini likaJehova.

¹⁵UJehoyada wayeseluphele eleminyaka eminengi, wafa eleminyaka yokuzalwa elikhulu elilamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁶Wangcwatshwa lamakhosi eMzini kaDavida ngenxa yalokho okuhle akwenza ko-Israyeli ekwenzela uNkulunkulu ethempelini lakhe.

Ububi BukaJowashi

¹⁷Ngemva kokufa kukaJehoyada, izikhulu zakoJuda zayakhonza enkosini uJowashi, yazilalela. ¹⁸Balidela ithempeli likaJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyise, basebekhonza izinsika zika-

Ashera, lezithombe zakhe. Ngenxa yalesisimo, ulaka lukaNkulunkulu lwehlela phezu kwabakoJuda laseJerusalema. ¹⁹ Lanxa uJehova wathumela abaphrofethi ebantwini ukuba bababuyisele kuye njalo lanxa bafakaza ngokungavumelani labo, abazange babalalele.

²⁰ Ngakho uMoya kaNkulunkulu wehlela kuZekhariya indodana yomphristi uJehoyada. Wema phambi kwabantu wathi, “Nanku okutshiwo nguNkulunkulu: ‘Kungani lingalaleli imlayo kaJehova? Aliyikuphumelela. Ngenxa yokumlahla uJehova elikwenzileyo, laye uselilahlile.’ ”

²¹ Kodwa bamhlamukela, kwathi ngokuqondisa kwenkosi bamkhanda bambulala ngamatshe egumeni lethempeli likaJehova. ²² INkosi uJowashi ayizange izihluphe ngomusa eyayiwenzelwe nguJehoyada uyise kaZekhariya kodwa yabulala indodana yakhe, yona yathi ekufeni kwayo, “UJehova uNkulunkulu kakubone lokhu, aphindisele.”

²³ Ekupheleni komnyaka amabutho ama-Arama ahlasele uJowashi; ahlasele koJuda laseJerusalema abulala bonke abakhokheli babantu. Impango yonke ayithumela enkosini yawo eDamaseko. ²⁴ Kwathi loba impi yama-Arama yayikade ize lamadoda amalutshwana, uJehova wanikela ezandleni zawo ibutho elikhulu kakhulu. Njengoba abakoJuda babemlahlile uJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, uJowashi wehlulelwa ngokufaneleyo. ²⁵ Ama-Arama athi esehlehla, atshiya uJowashi elimele kakhulu. Izikhulu zakhe zamhlamukela ngokubulala kwakhe indodana kaJehoyada umphristi, zahle zambulalela embhedeni wakhe. Ngakho wafa wayangcwatshwa eMzini kaDavida, kodwa kungasikho emathuneni amakhosi.

²⁶ Laba abaceba ukumbulala kwakunguZabhadi, indodana kaShimeyathi owesifazana wama-Amoni loJehozabhadi, indodana kaShimrithi owesifazana wamaMowabi. ²⁷ Imbali yamadodana akhe, iziphrofetho ezinengi ngaye, lembali yokwakhiwa kutsha kwethempeli likaNkulunkulu kulotshiwe egwaleni lwezindaba zamakhosi. U-Amaziya indodana yakhe waba yinkosi esikhundleni sakhe.

U-Amaziya iNkosi YakoJuda

25 U-Amaziya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala ekubekweni kwakhe ukuba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili laficamunye. Ibizo likanina linguJehowadini evela eJerusalema. ² Wenza ukulunga emehlweni kaJehova, kodwa kakwenzanga ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. ³ Kwathi umbuso wakhe usuqinile, wabulala izinceku zakhe ezazibulele inkosi uyise. ⁴ Kodwa amadodana azo kawabulalanga, wenza okuseMthethweni, eNcwadini kaMosi, lapho uJehova wapha umlayo wathi: “Oyise kabayikubulawa ngenxa yabantwababo, labantwababo kabayikubulawa ngenxa yaboyise; ngulowo lalowo uzafela izono zakhe.”

⁵ U-Amaziya wabuthanisa abantu bakoJuda wabamisa ngezindlu zabo bephethwe yizinduna zezinkulungwane lezamaxhulu kwelakoJuda lelakoBhenjamini. Wasebutha kusukela kwabaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili kusiya phezulu, wafumana beyizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amathathu, amadoda akhethiweyo, angaphuma impi, angahloma ngemikhonto langezihlangu. ⁶ Wabuya waqatsha ko-Israyeli amaqhawe

alamandla ayizinkulungwane ezilikhulu ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu.

⁷Kodwa kwafika kuye inceku kaNkulunkulu yathi: “Mayuyu nkosi, amabutho ako-Israyeli la akufanelanga aphume impi kanye lawe – ngoba uJehova kakho kwabako-Israyeli kakho lakubani ebantwini bako-Efrayimi.

⁸Loba ungaze uhambe uyekulwa ngesibindi empini, uNkulunkulu uzakuchitha phambi kwesitha ngoba uNkulunkulu ulamandla okukusiza loba ukukuchitha.”

⁹U-Amaziya wasebuza inceku kaNkulunkulu wathi, “Pho ngizakuthini ngamathalenta alikhulu engiwabhadalele amabutho ako-Israyeli?” Inceku kaNkulunkulu yaphendula yathi,

“UJehova angakunika okunengi kakhulu kulalokho.”

¹⁰U-Amaziya wawakhulula amabutho ayevela ko-Efrayimi wathi kawabuyele kibo. Lokhu kwawathukuthelisa amabutho abazondela ababoJuda abuyela kibo ngokufuthelana okukhulu.

¹¹U-Amaziya wasequnga isibindi, waphuma lamabutho akhe, waya eSigodini seTshwayi, lapho abulala khona amadoda aseSeyiri ayizinkulungwane ezilitshumi.

¹²Ibutho lakoJuda lathumba amadoda ayizinkulungwane ezilitshumi ephila, lawaqhuba layawafikisa engqongeni yeliwa lapho awaphosela khona phansi aphahlazeka wonke abayizicucu.

¹³Kwathi amabutho ayebuyiselwe emuva ngu-Amaziya ngoba engasafuni ukuthi amlwele impi, ahamba ehlasela imizi yaseSamariya laseBhethi Horani kwelakoJuda. Abulala abantu abayizinkulungwane ezintathu njalo athutha impango enengi kakhulu.

¹⁴U-Amaziya wathi esevela bulala ama-Edomi wabuya ethwele onkulunkulu babantu baseSeyiri.

Wabamisa baba ngonkulunkulu bakhe wakhothama kubo wanikela imihlatshelo yokutshiswa. ¹⁵Ulaka lukaJehova lwavutha wathukuthelela u-Amaziya, wasethuma umphrofethi owafika wambuza wathi, “Kungani udinga uncedo kubonkulunkulu balababantu na, abehluleka ukuvikela abantu babo ekubahlaseleni kwakho?”

¹⁶Wathi esakhuluma, inkosi yathi kuye, “Sikubekile yini ukuba ngumcebisi wenkosi na? Thula! Kungani udinga ukubulawa na?” Ngakho umphrofethi wema kodwa wasesithi, “Ngiyakwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzimisele ukuthi akubhubhise, ngoba lokhu akwenzileyo kutsho ukuthi awuzange ulalele ukucebisa kwami.”

¹⁷Ngemva kokuba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda eseke wabuza abacebisi bakhe, wathumela ilizwi kuJehowashi indodana kaJehoyahazi, indodana kaJehu, inkosi yako-Israyeli wathi: “Woza, siqondane ubuso ngobuso.”

¹⁸Kodwa uJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli waphendula u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda wathi: “Isihlahla sameva saseLebhanoni sathumela umbiko kwesomsedari waseLebhanoni sathi: ‘Yendisela indodakazi yakho endodaneni yami ibe ngumkayo.’ Ngakho kwavela isilo saseLebhanoni sanyathela safohloza isihlahla sameva. ¹⁹Uzitshela ukuthi usunqobe ele-Edomi, khathesi usuqholoza uziqhenya. Kodwa hlala ekhaya! Kungani uzibangela uhlupho oluzakuchitha luze luchithe loJuda na?”

²⁰Kodwa u-Amaziya kazange alalele ngoba uNkulunkulu wayekumisile ukuthi uzabanikela kuJehowashi, ngenxa yokukhonza kwabo onkulunkulu bama-Edomi. ²¹Ngakho uJehowashi inkosi yako-

Israyeli wasehlasela. Yena kanye lo-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda baqondana ubuso ngobuso eBhethi Shemeshi koJuda. ²² AbakoJuda bahlakazwa ngabako-Israyeli kwaba yileyo laleyo indoda yabaleka yaqonda emzini wayo. ²³ UJehowashi inkosi yako-Israyeli wathumba u-Amaziya inkosi yakoJuda, indodana kaJowashi indodana ka-Ahaziya, eBhethi Shemeshi. Ngakho uJehowashi waya laye eJerusalema njalo wadiliza umduli weJerusalema kusukela eSangweni lika-Efrayimi kusiya eSangweni laseJikweni isibanga esingaba ngamanyathelo angamakhulu ayisithupha ubude baso. ²⁴ Wasethatha lonke igolide lesiliva lazo zonke izimpahla azifumana ethempelini likaNkulunkulu ezazilindwe ngu-Obhedi-Edomi, kanye leziligugu zenotho yesigodlweni lezithunjwa, wasebuyela eSamariya.

²⁵ U-Amaziya indodana kaJowashi inkosi yakoJuda waphila okweminyaka elitshumi lemihlanu ngemva kokufa kukaJehowashi indodana kaJehoyahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso ka-Amaziya, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, azilotshwanga yini egwalweni lwamakhosi akoJuda lako-Israyeli na? ²⁷ Kusukela ekuphambukeni kuka-Amaziya engasalandeli uJehova, bamsongela eJerusalema wabalekela eLakhishi, kodwa bathumela amadoda amlandela eLakhishi ambulalela khonale. ²⁸ Wabuyiswa esethwelwe ngebhiza wangcwatshwa labokhokho bakhe eMzini kaJuda.

U-Uziya Inkosi YakoJuda

26 Ngakho bonke abantu bakoJuda bathatha u-Uziya, owayeleminyaka

elitshumi lesithupha ubudala, bambeka waba yinkosi esikhundleni sikayise u-Amaziya. ² Nguye owakha kutsha umuzi we-Elathi wawubuyisela koJuda ngemva kokufa kuka-Amaziya owangcwatshwa kubokhokho bakhe.

³ U-Uziya wayeleminyaka elitshumi lesithupha ubudala ekubeni kwakhe yinkosi njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lambili. Ibizo likanina linguJekholiya; evela eJerusalema. ⁴ Wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise u-Amaziya. ⁵ Wazimisela ukumdinga uNkulunkulu ngezinsuku zikaZekhariya, owamfundisa ukumesaba uNkulunkulu. Esamlandela uJehova, uNkulunkulu wampumelelisa.

⁶ Waphuma impi wayakulwa lamaFilisti wadiliza imiduli yaseGathi, laseJabhime lase-Ashidodi. Wasesakha kutsha imizi eseduzane le-Ashidodi leminye kwezinye iziqinti phakathi kwamaFilisti. ⁷ UNkulunkulu wayelaye ekuhlaseleni kwakhe amaFilisti kanye lama-Arabhu ayehlala eGuri Bhali kanye lekuhlaseleni amaMewuni. ⁸ Ama-Amoni aletha umthelo wawo ku-Uziya, udumo lwakhe lwanda lasemingceleni kusiyafika eGibhithe, ngoba wayeselamandla amakhulu.

⁹ U-Uziya wakha imiphotshongo eJerusalema ngaseSangweni leNgosi langaseSangweni leSigodi langasengosini yomduli, wayivikela ngezinqaba. ¹⁰ Wakha njalo imiphotshongo enkangala, wemba imithombo eminengi, ngoba wayefuyile elemihlambi yezifuyo emawatheni amaqqa lasemagekeni. Wayelabantu bokulima lababesezivinini emaqaqeni lasemhlabeni ovundileyo, ngoba wayethanda ukulima.

¹¹ U-Uziya wayelamabutho ayekwazi ukulwa ebuthwe ngamaviyo ayeqoqwe nguJeyiyeli umabhalane

loMahaseya isikhulu esasiqondiswa nguHananiya, omunye wezikhulu zomndlunkulu. ¹² Inani jikelezi labakhokheli ngezimuli emadodeni okulwa laliyizinkulungwane ezimbili lamakhulu ayisithupha. ¹³ Babelawula ibutho elilamadoda azi-307 500 ayefundele ukulwa, amaviyo alamandla okuhlomulela inkosi ezitheni zayo.

¹⁴ U-Uziya wahlomisa amabutho akhe wonke ngezihlangu, imikhonto, ingowane zensimbi lamabhatshi ensimbi, lemitshoko lamatshe ezavutha.

¹⁵ EJerusalema wakhandisa imitshina yokufutha imitshoko leyokujikijela amatshe amakhulu ayikhandisa emadodeni ayezingcitshi eyayisetshenziswa emithangaleni esemajikweni. Udumo lwakhe lwanda lwayafika kude, ngoba wancediswa kakhulu waze waba lamandla amakhulu kakhulu.

¹⁶ Kodwa kwathi u-Uziya eselamandla amakhulu, ukuziqhenya kwakhe kwamlethela incithakalo. Kazange athembeke kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe, waze wangena ethempelini likaJehova, ukuba ayetshisa imphepha e-alithareni lempepha. ¹⁷ U-Azariya umphristi labanye abaphristi bakaJehova abangamatshumi aficamibili abalezibindi bamlandela phakathi ethempelini.

¹⁸ Bajamelana laye bathi kuye,

“Akulunganga ukuthi wena, Uziya, utshisele uJehova impepha. Lokho ngokwabaphristi, abenzalo ka-Aroni, abehlukaniselwa ukutshisa impepha. Phuma kulindawo engcwele, ngoba awuzange wethembeke, njalo awuyikuphakanyiswa nguJehova uNkulunkulu.”

¹⁹ U-Uziya owayephethe udengezi lokutshisela impepha esandleni sakhe, wathukuthela. Uthe elokhu esakhwazela abaphristi ngokuba kwabo phambi kwe-alithare lempepha ethempelini

likaJehova, kwaqalisa ubulephero ebunzini lobuso bakhe. ²⁰ Kwathi u-Azariya umphristi omkhulu labanye abaphristi bemkhangelana, babona eselobulephero ebunzini lakhe, ngakho baphanga bamkhuphela phandle. Lakanye yena ngokwakhe wayevele esefisa ukuphuma, ngoba uJehova wayesemtshayile.

²¹ U-Uziya inkosi waba lobulephero kwaze kwaba lilanga lakhe lokufa. Wayesehlala endlini yakhe eyayimi yodwa – elobulephero, njalo engasavunyelwa ethempelini likaJehova. UJothamu indodana yakhe yaphatha isigodlo njalo yaphatha abantu bonke belizwe.

²² Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso ka-Uziya, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekucineni, zilotshwe ngumphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi. ²³ U-Uziya waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangewatshwa eduze kwabo ensimini yokungcwaba eyayingeyamakhosi ngoba abantu bathi, “Wayelobulephero.” Ngakho uJothamu indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla sakhe waba yinkosi.

UJothamu Inkosi YakoJuda

27 UJothamu wayeleminyaka

engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala eqalisa ukubusa, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Ibizo likanina linguJerusha indodakazi kaZadoki.

² Wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova njengalokhu okwenziwa nguyise u-Uziya kodwa yena kasangenanga ethempelini likaJehova njengoyise. Lanxa kunjalo, abantu baqhubeka besenza okubi. ³ UJothamu wakha wavuselela iSango langaPhezulu lethempeli likaJehova wenza njalo umsebenzi omkhulu emdulini ngapha

ngaseqaqeni lwange-Ofeli. ⁴ Wakha amadolobho emaqaqeni aseJudiya lemithangala ezindaweni ezenileyo.

⁵ UJothamu wahlasela inkosi yama-Amoni wawanqoba. Ngalowo-mnyaka ama-Amoni athela kuye ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu, lezilinganiso zezilimo zengqoloyi ezizinkulungwane ezilitshumi lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi zebhali. Ama-Amoni amlethela inani elifananayo ngomnyaka wesibili langomnyaka wesithathu.

⁶ UJothamu waba lamandla amakhulu ngoba waqina kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁷ Ezinye izehlakalo embusweni kaJothamu, kanye lezimpi azilwayo lokunye ayekwenza, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda. ⁸ Waba yinkosi eleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu, njalo wabusa okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. ⁹ UJothamu waphumula labokhokho bakhe, wangewatshwa eMzini kaDavida.

U-Ahazi indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

U-Ahazi Inkosi YakoJuda

28 U-Ahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili ubudala nyakana esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lesithupha. Kenzanga njengoyise uDavida, kazange enze okulungileyo emehlweni kaJehova. ² Wahamba ngezindlela zamakhosi ako-Israyeli njalo wabaza izithombe zokukhonza oBhali. ³ Watshisa imihlatshelo eSigodini saseBheni Hinomu wanikela amadodana akhe emlilweni, elandela izindlela ezenyanyekayo zezizwe uJehova ayezixotshe mandulo kokufika kwabako-Israyeli. ⁴ Wanikela imihlatshelo

watshisa impepha ezindaweni zokukhonzela, laphezu kwamaqaqa langaphansi kwazo zonke izihlahla eziyizithingithingi.

⁵ Ngakho uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe wamnikela enkosini yama-Arama. Ama-Arama amnqoba athumba abantu bakhe abanengi abaletha eDamaseko. Yena njalo wanikelwa ezandleni zenkosi yako-Israyeli, yona eyambulalela abantu abanengi kakhulu. ⁶ Kwathi ngelanga elilodwa uPhekha indodana kaRemaliya wabulala amabutho ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili koJuda – ngoba abakoJuda babemfulathele uJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyise. ⁷ Uzikhiri ibutho lako-Efrayimi, wabulala uMahaseya indodana yenkosi, lo-Azirikhamu isikhulu somndlunkulu, kanye lo-Elikhana, owayengumsekeli wenkosi. ⁸ Abako-Israyeli bathumba ezihlotsheni zabo zakoJuda omkabo, lamadodana lamadodakazi abayizinkulungwane ezingamakhulu amabili. Babutha njalo impango enengi kakhulu, abayithwala babuyela layo eSamariya.

⁹ Kodwaumphrofethi wenkosi okwakuthiwa ngu-Odedi wayekhonale, ngakho waphuma ukuyahlangabeza ibutho ekuphendukeni kwalo eSamariya. Wathi kulo, “Ngenxa yokuthi uJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyihlo wayethukuthelele abako-Juda, wabanikela ezandleni zenu. Kodwa lina selibabhuhise ngolaka oluze lwayathinta ezulwini. ¹⁰ Khathesi selifuna ukuthi amadoda labesifazana bakoJuda laseJerusalema babe yizigqili zenu. Kodwa lina ngokwenu kalonanga yini kuJehova uNkulunkulu wenu na? ¹¹ Lalelani kimi! Buyiselani amadoda akini eliwenze izibotshwa, ngoba ulaka lukaJehova olwesabekayo luphezu kwenu.”

¹² Abanye babakhokheli bako-Efrayimi u-Azariya indodana kaJehohanani,

loBherekhiya indodana kaMeshilemothi, loJehizikhiya indodana kaShalumi, kanye lo-Amasa indodana ka-Hadilayi – bajamelana lalabo ababevela empini bathi kubo, ¹³“Lingalethi lezozibotshwa lapha, ngoba kungenzeka sibe lecala phambi kukaJehova. Selidinga ukuthi lengezelele lelocala phezu kwesono sethu na? Ngoba icala lethu livele likhulu, njalo lentokuthelo yakhe eyesabekayo iphezu kwabako-Israyeli.”

¹⁴Ngakho amabutho akhulula ababebotshiwe asebuyisela lezimpahla ezaziyimpango phambi kwezikhulu laphambi kwebandla. ¹⁵Amadoda ayeqanjwe ngamabizo abuyisela izibotshwa ezimpahleni zempango bagqokisa ababenqunu. Babanika izigqoko lamanyathelo, ukudla lokunathwayo, kanye lomuthi wokwelapha. Bonke abasebesehluleka babagadisa obabhemi. Ngakho babathatha bababuyisela kwabanye babo eJerikho, iDolobho lamaLala, basebebuyela eSamariya.

¹⁶Ngalesosikhathi inkosi uAhazi yacela uncedo enkosini yase-Asiriya.

¹⁷Ama-Edomi ayesehendukile ezohlasela abakoJuda njalo asuka eqhuba izibotshwa, ¹⁸kanti amaFilisti lawo ngapha ayesehlasele amadolobho angaphansi kwamaqaqa kanye laseNegebi yakoJuda. Bathumba basebehlala khona eBhethi Shameshi, le-Ayijaloni leGederothi, kanye laseSokho, leThimna leGimizozo lemizana eyayiseduze lalapho. ¹⁹UJehova wabatshaya abakoJuda ngoba u-Ahazi inkosi yako-Israyeli wayekhuthaze ukona kwabakoJuda watshengisela ukungathembeki okukhulu kuJehova.

²⁰UThigilathi-Phileseri inkosi yase-Asiriya esikhundleni sokumsiza laye wafika wengezelela uhlupho. ²¹U-Ahazi wathatha ezinye zezimpahla zasethempelini likaJehova lezinye

azithatha endlini yomndlunkulu esigodlweni waze wathatha lezamazhosana wayaziqhubela inkosi yase-Asiriya, kodwa lakho lokhu akumncedanga.

²²Kwathi lanxa ephakathi kobunzima u-Ahazi watshengisela ukungethembeki okukhulu kuJehova. ²³Wanikela imihlatshelo kubonkulunkulu baseDamaseko, ababemehlule, ngoba wakhumbula wathi, “Njengoba onkulunkulu bamakhosi ama-Arama bewancedile, ngizanikela imihlatshelo kubo ukuze bangisize lami.” Kodwa-ke kwahle kwaba yikuwa kwakhe lokuchitheka kwabako-Israyeli.

²⁴U-Ahazi wabutha zonke izitsha ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wazisusa. Wavala iminyango yethempeli likaJehova wasesakha ama-alithare kuwo wonke amajiko eJerusalema.

²⁵Wakha izindawo zokukhonzela kuwo wonke amadolobho akoJuda ukuze atshisele onkulunkulu imihlatshelo; wathukuthelisa uJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise.

²⁶Ezinye izehlakalo zombuso wakhe lezindlela zakhe zonke, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekupheleni, zilotshiwe egwalweni lwembali yamakhosi akoJuda lako-Israyeli.

²⁷U-Ahazi waya ekuphumuleni kubokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa labo emzini waseJerusalema, kodwa kafakwanga emathuneni amakhosi ako-Israyeli. UHezekhiya indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

UHezekhiya Uhlambulula Ithempeli

29 UHezekhiya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lemihlanu ubudala ethatha ubukhosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amabili laficamunye.

Ibizo likanina lalingu-Abhija indodakazi kaZekhariya. ² Wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova, njengalokho okwenziwa nguyise uDavida.

³ Ngenyanga yakuqala ngomnyaka wakuqala wokubusa kwakhe, wavula iminyango yethempeli likaJehova wayilungisa. ⁴ Wamema abaphristi kanye labaLevi, wababuthanisa egumeni eliseceleni langempumalanga ⁵ wathi: “Lalelani kimi, lina baLevi! Zihlambululeni khathesi njalo lihlambulule lethempeli likaJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyihlo. Lisuse amanyala endaweni engcwele. ⁶ Obaba babengathembekanga; benza okubi emehlweni kaJehova uNkulunkulu wethu bamdela. Indawo kaJehova bayincitsha ubuso bakhangela eceleni njalo bamfulathela uJehova.

⁷ Bavala njalo izivalo zomphempe bacitsha izibane. Abazange batshise imphepha njalo kabaletanga iminikelo yokutshiswa endaweni engcwele kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ⁸ Ngakho ulaka lukaJehova selwehlele phezu kwabakoJuda laphezu kwabaseJerusalema; uJehova usebenze besabeka, bathuthumelisa baba yinto yokweyiswa, njengoba lizibonela ngawenu amehlo. ⁹ Lokhu sekubangele ukubulawa kwabo ngenkamba njalo lokuthi amadodana lamadodakazi labomkethu babe sekuthunjweni. ¹⁰ Khathesi ngifuna ukwenza isivumelwano loJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ukuze ulaka lwakhe oluvuthayo lusidedele. ¹¹ Madodana ami, kalingabi ngabangananziyo ngoba uJehova uselikhethile lina ukuma phambi kwakhe limkhonze, limsebenzele lokutshisa impepha.”

¹² Ngakho laba abaLevi bahle baqalisa umsebenzi:
KwabakaKhohathi,
uMahathi indodana ka-Amasayi

loJoweli indodana ka-Azariya;
kwabakaMerari, uKhishi
indodana

ka-Abhidi lo-Azariya indodana
kaJehaleleli;
kwabakaGeshoni,
uJowa indodana kaZima lo-Edeni
indodana kaJowa;

¹³ kwabosendo luka-Elizafani
kunguShimiri loJeyiyeli;
kwabosendo luka-Asafi,
kunguZekhariya loMathaniya;
kwabosendo lukaHemani,
kunguJehiyeli loShimeyi;

¹⁴ kwabosendo lukaJeduthuni,
kunguShemayiya lo-Uziyeli.

¹⁵ Bathi sebebuthanise abafowabo bazihlambulula bona, bangena ukuyahlambulula ithempeli likaJehova, njengokuqondisa kwenkosi, eyayilandela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ¹⁶ Abaphristi bangena endaweni engcwele kaJehova ukuba bayeyihlambulula. Konke okwakungcolile ethempelini likaJehova bakukhuphela egumeni lethempeli likaJehova. AbaLevi bakuthwala baya lakho eSigodini saseKhidroni. ¹⁷ Baqalisa ukwahlukanisela ngosuku lwakuqala lwenyanga yakuqala, kwathi ngosuku lweficamibili lwenyanga bafika emphempeni kaJehova. Ngezinsuku ezilandelayo ezificamibili bangcwelisa ithempeli likaJehova uqobo, baze baqeda ngosuku lwetshumi lesithupha lwenyanga yakuqala.

¹⁸ Basebengena enkosini uHezekhiya ukuba bayembikela bathi: “Sesilhlambulule lonke ithempeli likaJehova, le-alithare lomnikelo wokutshiswa lezitsha zalo zonke, kanye lethala lokwendlalela isinkwa esingcwelisiweyo kanye lazo zonke izimpahla zakhona. ¹⁹ Sesilungise sangcwelisa zonke izitsha ezasuswa

yinkosi u-Ahazi ngokungathembeki kwakhe eseseyinkosi. Khathesi seziphambi kwe-alithare likaJehova.”

²⁰ Ekuseni ngosuku olulandelayo inkosi uHezekhiya wabuthanisa izikhulu zedolobho ndawonye wasesiya ethempelini likaJehova. ²¹ Baletha izinkunzi eziyisikhombisa, leziqama eziyisikhombisa, lamazinyane ezimvu amaduna ayisikhombisa kanye lezimbuzi ezinduna eziyisikhombisa kungumnikelo wesono sombuso, lesendlu yokukhonzela kanye lesikaJuda. Inkosi yalaya abaphristi, abenzalo ka-Aroni, ukunikela ngalokho e-alithareni likaJehova. ²² Ngakho babulala izinkunzi, abaphristi bathatha igazi bachela ngalo e-alithareni; kwalandela izinqama abazibulala bachela igazi lazo e-alithareni; basebebulala amazinyane ezimvu bachela igazi lawo e-alithareni. ²³ Izimbuzi zomnikelo wesono zaletswa phambi kwenkosi laphambi kwebandla, babeka izandla zabo phezu kwazo. ²⁴ Abaphristi basebebulala imbuzi baletha igazi lazo e-alithareni kungumnikelo wesono ukuze kwenzelwe wonke u-Israyeli indlela yokubuyisana, ngoba inkosi yayilaye ukuthi kube lomnikelo wokutshiswa lomnikelo wesono kunikelelwa wonke u-Israyeli.

²⁵ AbaLevi yababeka phakathi kwethempeli likaJehova belezigubhu, lamachacho lemihubhe njengalokho okwakumiswe nguDavida loGadi umboni wenkosi loNathani umprofethi; lokhu kwakungumlayo kaJehova oweza ngabaphrofethi bakhe. ²⁶ Ngakho abaLevi balinda belamachacho kaDavida, abaphristi belamacilongo.

²⁷ UHezekhiya wakhupha isiqondiso sokuba kwenziwe umhlatshele wokutshiswa e-alithareni. Kuthe kuqalisa umnikelo, ukuhlabelela uJehova lakho kwaqalisa, kwahamba kanyekanye lamacilongo kanye lamachacho

kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. ²⁸ Ibandla lonke lakhothama lakhonza, abahlabeleli behlabelelabamacilongo bewavuthela. Konke lokhu kwaqhubeka kwaze kwaphela umhlatshele wokutshiswa.

²⁹ Ngemva kokuphela kweminikelo inkosi labo bonke ababekhona baguqa bakhonza. ³⁰ Inkosi uHezekhiya lezikhulu zayo yatshela abaLevi ukuba badumise uJehova ngamazwi kaDavida kanye laka-Asafi umboni. Ngakho badumisa ngokuhlabelela ngenjabulo bakhothamisa amakhanda abo bakhonza.

³¹ UHezekhiya wasesithi, “Selizinikele kuJehova khathesi. Wozani lilethe imihlatshelo leminikelo yokubonga ethempelini likaJehova. Ngakho ibandla laletha imihlatshelo leminikelo, yokubonga njalo ababelezhliziyoy ezivumayo baletha iminikelo yokutshiswa.

³² Inani leminikelo yokutshiswa eyalethwa libandla kwakuyizinkunzi ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa, izinqama ezilikhulu lamazinyane amaduna ezimvu angamakhulu amabili – konke kungokomnikelo wokutshiswa kuJehova. ³³ Izifuyo ezahlukaniselwa ukuba ngumhlatshele kwakuyizinkunzi ezingamakhulu ayisithupha lezimvu lezimbuzi ezizinkulungwane ezintathu.

³⁴ Kodwa, abaphristi babebalutshwana kakhulu ekuhlinzeni ezomnikelo wokutshiswa; ngakho basebencediswa ngabafowabo abaLevi waze waphela umsebenzi njalo abanye abaphristi baze bangcweliswa ngoba abaLevi babekunanzelele kakhulu ukuzingwelisa kulabaphristi.

³⁵ Umnikelo wokutshiswa wawumnengi, kanye lamafutha omnikelo wobudlelwano kanye lomnikelo wokunathwayo okwakuhambelana lomnikelo wokutshiswa.

Ngakho lokhu kwaba yikuvuselelwa kwenkonzo ethempelini likaJehova.

³⁶UHezekhiya labo bonke abantu bajabula ngababekuphiwe nguNkulunkulu ekwenzela abantu bakhe, ngoba kwakwenzakale ngokuphangisa.

UHezekhiya Ugcina IPhasika

30 UHezekhiya wanxusa bonke abako-Israyeli labakoJuda wanxusa labako-Efrayimi labakoManase ngezincwadi, ukuthi bazokudla iPhasika ethempelini likaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ²Inkosi lezikhulu zayo lebandla lonke eJerusalema bavumelana ukwenza umkhosi wePhasika ngenyanga yesibili. ³Babengenelisanga ukwenza umkhosi ngesikhathi sawo ngoba abaphristi babebalutshwana ababezingcwelisile njalo labantu babengabuthananga eJerusalema. ⁴Icebo leli lakhanya lilihle enkosini lasebandleni lonke. ⁵Baquma ukuthi kukhutshwe ilizwi kulo lonke elako-Israyeli kusukela eBherisheba kusiya koDani, kunxuswa abantu ukuthi beze eJerusalema emkhosini wePhasika likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. Umkhosi lo wawungakaze wenziwe ngabanengi kusiya ngomthetho owalotshwa phansi.

⁶Ngokulaya kwenkosi, izigijimi zangena kulo lonke elako-Israyeli lelakoJuda ziphethe izincwadi ezazivela enkosini lasezikhulwini zayo, ezazilotshwe ukuthi:

“Bantu bako-Israyeli, buyelani kuJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama lo-Isaka lo-Israyeli, ukuze abuyele kulabo benu abaseleyo abaphunyuke ezandleni zamakhosi ase-Asiriya. ⁷Lingabi njengaboyihlo lezihlobo zenu ababengathembekanga kuJehova uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu, waze wabenza baba yisibonelo sokwesabekayo njengoba libona.

⁸Lingabi ntamolukhuni njengaboyihlo; zehliseni kuJehova. Wozani endlini yokukhonza aseyingcwelisile kuze kube nininini. Mkhonzeni uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu, ukuze ulaka lwakhe olwesabekayo lusuke kini. ⁹Nxa libuyela kuJehova, abafowenu labantwabenu bazafumana umusa kulabo ababathumbayo, babuye kulelilizwe, ngoba uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu ulomusa lesihawu. Kayikulifulathela nxa libuyela kuye.” ¹⁰Ngakho izigijimi zaphuma zangena kuyo yonke imizi lemizana ko-Efrayimi lakoManase, zayafika lakhonale koZebhuluni, kodwa abantu bazihleka ulunya njalo baziklolodela. ¹¹Lanxa kunjalo, abanye abantu bako-Asheri labakoManase labakoZebhuluni bazithoba baya eJerusalema. ¹²Njalo lakoJuda isandla sikaNkulunkulu sasisebantwini ukubapha ukubambana engqondweni ukuze benze lokho inkosi lezikhulu zayo eyayithe abakwenze, njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova uNkulunkulu.

¹³Kwabuthana abantu abalixuku elikhulu eJerusalema bethakazelela iDili leSinkwa esingelamvubelo ngenyanga yesibili. ¹⁴Basusa ama-alithare eJerusalema bakhucula ama-alithare empepha bawathwala bayawaphosela eSigodini saseKhidroni.

¹⁵Babulala amazinyane ezimvu awePhasika ngosuku lwetshumi lane lwenyanga yesibili. Abaphristi labaLevi bayangeka bazihlambulula baletha iminikelo yokutshiswa ethempelini likaJehova. ¹⁶Basebebuyela ezikhundleni zabo zenjayelo njengokumisiweyo emthethweni kaMosi umuntu kaNkulunkulu. Abaphristi bachela igazi ababeliqhutshelwa ngabaLevi.

¹⁷Njengoba babebanengi ababengazihlambululanga exukwini, abaLevi bahlaba amanye amazinyane ezimvu awePhasika besenzela labo

ababenghlanjululwanga ngokomkhuba njalo bengelakho ukuzahlukanisela izimvu zabo phambi kukaJehova.

¹⁸ Lanxa abantu abanengi ababevela ko-Efrayimi, ko-Manase, ko-Isakhari lakoZebhuloni babe ngakazihlambululi, kodwa badla iPhasika, okwakungekho emthethweni olotshiweyo. Kodwa uHezekhiya wabakhulekela wathi: “Kungathi uJehova, olungileyo, angathethelela bonke ¹⁹ abamdingayo uNkulunkulu – uJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyise loba bengahlambulukanga ngokomthetho wendawo engcwele.”

²⁰ Lakanye uJehova wawuzwa umthandazo ka-Hezekhiya wasilisa abantu.

²¹ Ama-Israyeli ayeseJerusalema athakazelela iDili leSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa ngokujabula okukhulu, abaLevi labaphristi behlabelela kuJehova izinsuku zonke, bephathiswa ngamachacho okudumisa uJehova.

²² UHezekhiya wabakhuthaza bonke abaLevi abatshengisela ukuzinikela emsebenzini kaJehova. Ngalezozinsuku eziyisikhombisa badla leyongxenyeyayiyisabelo sabo njalo banikela umnikelo wobudlelwano bamdumisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu waboyise.

²³ Ibandla lonke laselivumelana ukuthakazelela umkhosi lo okwezinye izinsuku eziyisikhombisa; ngakho umkhosi bawuqhuba okwezinye izinsuku eziyisikhombisa bejabula.

²⁴ UHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda walethela ibandla izinkunzi eziyinkulungwane lezimvu ezizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa lezimbuzi zingezebandla, kwathi izikhulu lazo zaletsa izinkunzi eziyinkulungwane lezimvu lezimbuzi ezizinkulungwane ezilitshumi. Abaphristi abanengi kakhulu

bazihlambulula. ²⁵ Ibandla lonke lakoJuda lajabula, ndawonye labaphristi labaLevi labo bonke ababebuthene bevela ko-Israyeli, ndawonye labezizweni ababevela ko-Israyeli lababehlala koJuda. ²⁶ Kwaba lokujabula okukhulu eJerusalema, ngoba kusukela ezinsukwini zikaSolomoni indodana kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli kwakungazange kube lomkhosi onjalo eJerusalema. ²⁷ Abaphristi labaLevi bema babusisa abantu, uNkulunkulu wabezwa, ngoba imithandazo yabo yafika ezulwini, endaweni yakhe engcwele ahlala kiyo.

31 Sekuphelile konke lokhu abako-

Israyeli ababesemkhosini bangena emizini yakoJuda, badiliza izinsika zokukhonzela u-Ashera. Badiliza izindawo zokukhonzela lama-alithare kulo lonke elakoJuda lakoBhenjamini kanye lako-Efrayimi lakoManase. Bathe sebekudilizile konke lokhu, abako-Israyeli babuyela emizini yabo, ezindaweni zabo.

Iminikelo Yenkonzo

² UHezekhiya wamisa abaphristi labaLevi ngezigaba ngamunye wabo kusiya ngemisebenzi yabo yobuphristi kumbe eyabaLevi eyokunikela ngeminikelo yokutshiswa leminikelo yobudlelwano, ukukhonza, ukubonga kanye lokuhlabelela indumiso emasangweni endaweni ehlala uJehova. ³ Inkosi yapha okuvela kweyayo inotho iminikelo yokutshiswa yekuseni lantambama kanye lokweminikelo yokutshiswa ngamasabatha, leyokuThwasa kweziNyanga yamisa njalo lezinsuku zamadili lawo njengokulotshiweyo eMthethweni kaJehova. ⁴ Inkosi yathi abantu abahlala

eJerusalema kumele banike abaphristi labaLevi imfanelo yabo ukuze basebenze ngokuzinikela eMthethweni kaJehova.

⁵ Masinyazana ngemva kwesiqondiso, abako-Israyeli banikela kakhulu ngokwesivuno sakuqala samabele, lokwewayini elitsha, lokwamafutha lokwenyosi lakho konke okwakutholakala emasimini. Baletha okunengi kakhulu, okwetshumi kukho konke. ⁶ Amadoda ako-Israyeli lawakoJuda ayehlala emizini yakoJuda lawo aletha okwetshumi kwemihlambi yezinkomo leyezimvu zabo lezinto ezingcwele zokunikela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wabo, bazibuthelela inqwabanqwaba. ⁷ Baqalisa ukukwenza lokhu ngenyanga yesithathu baze baqeda ngenyanga yesikhombisa. ⁸ UHezekhiya lezikhulu zakhe befika bebona lezozinqwabanqwaba badumisa uJehova njalo babusisa abantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

⁹ UHezekhiya wabuza abaphristi labaLevi ngenqwabanqwaba;

¹⁰ u-Azariya umphristi omkhulu, owendlu kaZadoki wampendula wathi,

“Kusukela abantu beqalise ukuletha iminikelo yabo ethempelini likaJehova, sesizuze ukudla okunengi njalo okusalayo kunengi kakhulu, ngoba uJehova ubabusisile abantu bakhe, yikho kulalokhu okunengi kangaka okuseleyo.”

¹¹ UHezekhiya wapha Imlayo yokuba kwakhiwe iziphala ethempelini likaJehova, lakanye lokho kwenziwa.

¹² Ngakho baqhubeka beletha iziphho ngokwethembeka, lokwetshumi kanye lezipho eziqakathekileyo. UKhonaniya, umLevi, wayephethe lezizinto, njalo umfowabo uShimeyi wayengumsekeli wakhe. ¹³ UJehiyeli, lo-Azaziya, loNahathi, lo-Asaheli, loJerimothi, loJozabhadi, lo-Eliyeli, lo-Isimakhiya loMahathi kanye loBhenayiya

babekhangele umsebenzi bengaphansi kukaKhonaniya lomfowabo uShimeyi, njengokukhethwa kwabo yinkosi uHezekhiya lo-Azariyathi isikhulu esasikhangele ithempeli likaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ UKhore indodana ka-Imna umLevi, owayengumlindi weSango langeMpumalanga, wayephethe iminikelo yokuzithandela kuNkulunkulu, enguye owaba okunikelwe kuJehova kanye lezipho ezahlukaniselweyo.

¹⁵ U-Edeni, loMiniyamini, loJeshuwa, loShemayiya, lo-Amariya kanye loShekhaniya bamncedisa kakhulu emizini yabaphristi, besabelana kusiya ngezigaba zabaphristi, abadala labatsha, ngokufananayo.

¹⁶ Phezu kwalokho, babesabela abesilisa kusukela kwabaleminyaka emithathu ngokulotshwa egwalweni lokuzalana kwabo bonke ababezangena ethempelini likaJehova besiyakwenza imisebenzi etshiyeneyo kusiya ngemilandu yabo ngezigaba zabo.

¹⁷ Babela abaphristi ngezimuli zabo njengokulotshiweyo egwalweni lokuzalana kwabo njalo kwaba njalo lakubaLevi abaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili yokuzalwa labadala, kusiya ngemisebenzi yabo langezigaba zabo. ¹⁸ Lokhu kwakuhlanganisa abantwana, abesifazane kanye lamadodana lamadodakazi esigaba sonke kwabasegwalweni lokuzalana kwabo. Ngoba babethembekile ngokuzahlukanisela kwabo.

¹⁹ Abaphristi abayinzalo ka-Aroni, ababehlala eziqintini eduzane lamadolobho loba kwamanye amadolobho, babeqanjwe ngamabizo ukuthi babelane iziqqa baze babele lalabo bonke ababelotshiwe ezingwalweni zokuzalana kwabaLevi.

²⁰ Lokhu yikho okwenziwa nguHezekhiya kulo lonke elakoJuda, esenza okufaneleyo lokulungileyo

ngokwethemba kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe. ²¹ Kukho konke ayekwenza emsebenzini wethempeli likaNkulunkulu lasekulaleleni kwakhe umthetho lemilayo, wadinga uNkulunkulu njalo wasebenza ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. Ngalokho waphumelela.

USenakheribi Usongela IJerusalema

32 Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu

uHezekhiya ayekwenze ngokwethembeka, kweza uSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya wahlasela elakoJuda. Wavimbezela amadolobho ayeleziqaba, edinga ukuwanqoba abe ngawakhe. ² UHezekhiya uthe ebona ukuthi uSenakheribi usefikile njalo uhlose ukuhlasela iJerusalema, ³ wabuza izikhulu zakhe kanye labebutho ukuthi kwakungaba njani kuvalwe amanzi avela ezintonjeni ezazingaphandle kwedolobho, bahle bamncedisa. ⁴ Ixuku elikhulu lamadoda labuthana, lakanye bawavala amanzi ezintombo zonke lawesifula esasidabula phakathi kwelizwe. Bathi, “Kungani amakhosi ase-Asiriya afanele afice amanzi amanengi na?” ⁵ Ngakho wasebenza ngamandla evuselela umduli lokwakha imiphongolo phezu kwawo. Wakha omunye umduli ngaphandle kwalowo waseqinisa imithangala eyayivele ingeyoMuzi kaDavida. Wenza lezikhali lezihlangu ezinengi kakhulu.

⁶ Wabeka izikhulu zebutho zaphatha abantu wasezimisa phambi kwakhe egcekeni lesango elingasedolobheni wazikhuthaza ngalamazwi: ⁷ “Qinani libe lesibindi. Lingesabi njalo lingethuselwa libutho elikhulu kangaka lenkosi yase-Asiriya ngoba kulamandla amakhulu akithi adlula akuye. ⁸ Yena ulengalo yenyama kuphela, kodwa thina siloJehova uNkulunkulu wethu ukusisiza

lokusilwela izimpi zethu.” Abantu baba lesibindi ngenxa yalokho okwatshiwo yinkosi yakoJuda uHezekhiya.

⁹ Muva, uSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya lawo wonke amabutho akhe esavimbezele eLakhishi, wathuma izikhulu zakhe eJerusalema ziphetho lelilizwi elalisiya kuHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda kanye labantu bonke abakoJuda abebekhona lapho wathi:

¹⁰ “Nanku okutshiwo nguSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya uthi: Usithatha ngaphi wena isibindi, esokuthi wale ulokhu useJerusalema yona ivinjazelwe?’ Nxa uHezekhiya esithi, ¹¹ ‘UJehova uNkulunkulu wethu uzasisindisa ezandleni zenkosi yase-Asiriya,’ uyalikhohlisa, ukuba life ngendlala langomhawu wamanzi.

¹² UHezekhiya akasuye yini ngokwakhe owasusa izindawo zokukhonzela yenalo unkulunkulu lama-alithare akhona na, esithi kwabakoJuda labaseJerusalema, ‘Kumele likhonzele e-alithareni elilodwa njalo litshisele kulo imihlatshelo na?’

¹³ “Kutsho ukuthi alikwazi yini lokho engikwenzileyo lalokho okwenziwa ngobaba ebantwini bamanye amazwe na? Kambe onkulunkulu balezo izizwe benelisa yini ukukhulula ilizwe labo esandleni sami na? ¹⁴ Nguwuphi kubonkulunkulu bonke labo balezozizwe ezabhujiswa ngobaba owake wenelisa ukuhlenga abantu kimi na? UNkulunkulu wenu angalihlenga njani esandleni sami? ¹⁵ Qaphelani lingakhohliswa nguHezekhiya limyekele elilahlekisa. Lingamethembi, ngoba kakho unkulunkulu loba ngowasiphi isizwe loba yiwuphi umbuso oseke wenelisa ukukhulula abantu bakhe esandleni sami loba esandleni sabokhokho. Pho kanganani ukuba owenu ukulunkulu angalikhulula yini esandleni sami!”

¹⁶ Izikhulu zikaSenakheribi

zaqhubekela phambili zikhuluma kubi ngoJehova uNkulunkulu langenceku yakhe uHezekhiya. ¹⁷ Inkosi yaloba lezincwadi ithuka uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, isitsho lokhu okubi ngaye: “Njengoba onkulunkulu babantu bamanye amazwe behluleka ukukhulula abantu babo esandleni sami, kuyafanana kunjalo uNkulunkulu kaHezekhiya kasoze enelise ukukhulula abantu bakhe esandleni sami.” ¹⁸ Basebememeza ngesiHebheru ebantwini baseJerusalema ababephezu komduli, bebethusela ukuze besabe babesebethumba idolobho. ¹⁹ Bakhuluma ngoNkulunkulu weJerusalema njengalokho abakwenza ngabonkulunkulu babanye abantu bemhlabeni – izinto ezibunjwe yizandla zabantu.

²⁰ Inkosi uHezekhiya lomphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi bakhala ngomkhuleko kuNkulunkulu ngalokhu. ²¹ UJehova wathuma ingilosi, eyabhubhisa wonke amadoda empi labakhokheli lezikhulu enkambeni yenkosi yase-Asiriya. Ngakho wabuyela elizweni lakhe ngokuyangeka. Esengene ethempelini likankulunkulu wakhe, amanye amadodana akhe amjuqa ngenkamba.

²² Ngalokho uJehova wamsindisa uHezekhiya labantu baseJerusalema esandleni sikaSenakheribi inkosi yase-Asiriya lakuzo zonke ezinye izitha. UJehova wabavikela wabaphatha kuhle nxa zonke. ²³ Abanengi balethela uJehova iminikelo eJerusalema kanye lezipho eziligugu kuHezekhiya inkosi yakoJuda. Kusukela lapho waba lesithunzi wahlonitshwa yizizwe zonke.

Ukuziqhenya, Ukuphumelela Lokufa KukaHezekhiya

²⁴ Ngalezozinsuku uHezekhiya wagula waphosa wafa. Wakhuleka kuJehova, wamphendula ngokumnika

ummangaliso. ²⁵ Kodwa inhliziyiyo kaHezekhiya yagcwala ngokuzikhukhumeza ngakho kazange azihluphe ngesihawu ayesitshengisiwe; ngakho intukuthelo kaJehova yehlela phezu kwakhe lasebantwini bakoJuda labaseJerusalema. ²⁶ Ngakho uHezekhiya waphenduka ukuzikhukhumeza ngenhliziyiyo yakhe, labantu baseJerusalema labo benza njalo; ngalokho ulaka lukaJehova alusabehlelanga ngezinsuku zikaHezekhiya.

²⁷ UHezekhiya wayelenotho enengi njalo elodumo, wasesakha izindlu zokulondolozela isiliva sakhe legolide kanye lamatshe akhe aligugu, iziyoliso, izihlangu lakho konke okunye okuligugu. ²⁸ Wakha njalo iziphala zokugcinela amabele, iwayini elitsha lamafutha, wakha izibaya zemihlobo eyehlukeneyo yezinkomo, lezilugu zemihlambi yezimvu. ²⁹ Wakha imizi wazuza imihlambi yezimvu leyezinkomo, ngoba uNkulunkulu wamnika inotho enkulu kakhulu.

³⁰ UHezekhiya nguye owavala amanzi entombo yangaphezulu kweGihoni wawadonsa agelezela ngentshonalanga koMuzi kaDavida. Waphumelela kukho konke ayekwenza. ³¹ Ekufikeni kwamanxusa ayethunywe ngababusi beBhabhiloni bezobuza ngommangaliso owawenzekele elizweni, uNkulunkulu wantshiya ukuze amhlole ukuthi azi konke okwakusenhliziyweni yakhe.

³² Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kukaHezekhiya lemisebenzi yakhe yokuzinikela kulotshiwe embonweni womphrofethi u-Isaya indodana ka-Amozi egwalweni lwamakhosi akoJuda lawako-Israyeli. ³³ UHezekhiya waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa eqaqeni lapha okulamangcwaba abosendo lukaDavida. AbakoJuda bonke labantu

baseJerusalema bamhlonipha ekufeni kwakhe. Kwathi uManase indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

UManase iNkosi YakoJuda

33 UManase waba yinkosi

eleminyaka elitshumi lambili ubudala njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu lanhlanu.

²Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova, elandela izenzo zamanyala ezizwe ezasuswa nguJehova mandulo kokufika kwabako-Israyeli. ³Wavuselela izindawo zokukhonzela ezazibhidlizwe nguyise uHezekhiya; waphinda wakhela oBhali ama-alithare kanye lezinsika zika-Ashera. Wakhothamela zonke izinkanyezi zezulu wazikhonza. ⁴Wakha ama-alithare ethempelini likaJehova, lona uJehova ayekhulume ngalo wathi: “IBizo lami lizahlala eJerusalema kuze kube nininini.” ⁵Emagumeni womabili ethempeli likaJehova, wakha ama-alithare ezinkanyezi zezulu. ⁶Wanikela amadodana akhe emlilweni eSigodini saseBheni Hinomu, wenza imilingo, ukuvumisa, lokuthakatha njalo wayahlahlula lakwabalemimoya. Wenza okubi kakhulu phambi kukaJehova, wamthukuthelisa.

⁷Wathatha isithombe ayesibazile wasibeka ethempelini likaNkulunkulu, lelo uNkulunkulu ayethe kuDavida lakundodana yakhe uSolomoni, “Kulelithempeli kanye laseJerusalema, engilikhethileyo ezizwaneni zako-Israyeli, ngizafaka iBizo lami kuze kube nininini. ⁸Angiyikuyekela izinyawo zabako-Israyeli zisuke kulelilizwe engalabela okhokho babo, nxa bezananzelela benze konke engabalaya ngakho okwemithetho, izimiso leziqondiso ezaphiwa uMosi.” ⁹Kodwa uManase wakhokhelela abakoJuda

labaseJerusalema ekulahlekeni, benza ububi okwedlula izizwe uJehova azibhubhisa mandulo kokufika kwabako-Israyeli.

¹⁰UJehova wakhuluma kuManase labantu bakhe, kodwa kabalalelanga. ¹¹Ngakho uJehova wabehlisela abalawuli bamabutho enkosi yase-Asiriya, abathumba uManase, bamfaka umkhala emakhaleni, bambopha ngamaketane ethusi bamusa eBhabhiloni.

¹²Ekuhlulukelweni kwakhe wacela umusa kaJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise. ¹³Ngakho uthe esekhuleka kuJehova, wezwa ukuncenga kwakhe walalela isicelo sakhe; wambuyisela eJerusalema ebukhosini bakhe. Ngalokho uManase wakwazi ukuthi uJehova unguNkulunkulu.

¹⁴Ngemva kwalokho wakha kutsha umduli wangaphandle owoMuzi kaDavida, entshonalanga kwentombo yesigodini seGihoni, kusiya emangenelweni eSango leNhlanzi kubhoda uqaqa lwe-Ofeli; njalo wawakha waba mude kulakuqala. Wafaka abalawuli bamabutho kuwo wonke amadolobho alezinqaba koJuda.

¹⁵Wasusa bonke onkulunkulu bezizweni wasusa lesithombe ethempelini likaJehova, lawo wonke ama-alithare ayewakhele eqaqeni lwethempeli kanye laseJerusalema; konke lokhu wakulahlela ngaphandle kwedolobho ¹⁶Wavuselela i-alithare likaJehova wenza imihlatshelo yobudlelwano leminikelo yokulunga phezu kwalo njalo watshela uJuda ukumkhonza uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁷Kodwa abantu baqhubeka benikela imihlatshelo ezindaweni zokukhonzela, kodwa benikela kuphela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wabo.

¹⁸Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaManase, kanye lomkhuleko wakhe kuNkulunkulu wakhe lamazwi

akhulunywa ngababoni kuye ngebizo likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, kulotshiwe embalini yamakhosi ako-Israyeli. ¹⁹Umkhuleko wakhe lokuthi uNkulunkulu wakwamukela njani ukuncenga kwakhe, lokona kwakhe konke, kanye lokungathembeki, lalezozindawo zokukhonzela ayezakhile lezinsika zika-Ashera lezithombe engakazehlisi ngokuzithoba, kulotshiwe konke emibhalweni yababoni. ²⁰UManase waphumula labokhokho bakhe wangcwatshwa esigodlweni sakhe. U-Amoni indodana yakhe yathatha isikhundla sakhe.

U-Amoni iNkosi YakoJuda

²¹U-Amoni wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lambili ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka emibili. ²²Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova, njengalokhu okwakwenziwe nguyise uManase.

U-Amoni wakhonza njalo wanikela imihlatshelo kuzo zonke izithombe ezazenziwe nguManase. ²³Kodwa kenzanga njengoyise uManase, ngoba yena kazehlisanga phansi kukaJehova; u-Amoni wenza amacala ngokuphindiweyo.

²⁴Izikhulu, zika-Amoni zathama icebo zambulalela esigodlweni sakhe. ²⁵Kodwa abantu belizwe babulala bonke labo ababethame amacebo ngenkosi u-Amoni, babeka uJosiya indodana yakhe wathatha ubukhosi.

Imvuselelo kaJosiya

34 UJosiya waba yinkosi eleminyaka eficamunye ubudala njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka engamatshumi amathathu lanye. ²Wenza ukulunga phambi kukaJehova njalo

wahamba ngenyathelo likayise uDavida, kazange aphambukele kwesokudla loba esokhohlo.

³Ngomnyaka wesificamibili wokubusa kwakhe, elokhu esesengumntwana, waqalisa ukumdinga uNkulunkulu kakhokho wakhe uDavida. Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili waqalisa ukuhlambulula elakoJuda laseJerusalema, wavala izindawo zokukhonzela, izinsika zika-Ashera, izithombe ezibaziweyo lezikhandiweyo. ⁴Ngeziqondiso zakhe kwabhidlizwa ama-alithare aboBhali; waqoba ama-alithare empepha ayengaphezu kwawo; wahlikiza izinsika zika-Ashera, izithombe kanye lemifanekiso. Lokhu wakuvidliza wasekuchithizela phezu kwamangcwaba alabo ababenikele imihlatshelo kulezozithombe.

⁵Watshisela amathambo abaphristi ema-alithareni abo, ngalokho wahlambulula elakoJuda laseJerusalema. ⁶Emizini yakoManase, lako-Efrayimi lakoSimiyoni, kuze kuyefika koNafthali, lasemanxiweni aseduzane layo, ⁷wadiliza ama-alithare lezinsika zika-Ashera njalo wahlifiza izithombe zaba yimpuphu wachithiza ama-alithare empepha kulolonke elako-Israyeli aba yizicucu. Wasebuyela eJerusalema.

⁸Ngomnyaka wetshumi laficamibili wokubusa kukaJosiya, ukuze ahlambulule ilizwe kanye lethempeli, wathumela uShafani indodana ka-Azaliya loMahaseya umbusi wedolobho, loJowa indodana kaJowahazi, umlobi, ukuba bavuselele ithempeli likaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe.

⁹Baya kuHilikhya umphristi omkhulu bamnika imali eyayilethwe ethempelini likaNkulunkulu, eyayiqoqwe ngabaLevi ababengabagcini beminyango beyiqoqa ebantwini bakoManase, lako-Efrayimi layo yonke insalela yabako-Israyeli lakubo bonke abantu bakoJuda

labakoBhenjamini lababehlala eJerusalema. ¹⁰ Basebeyiqhubela amadoda ayekhethelwe ukukhangela ukuqhubeka komsebenzi wasethempelini likaJehova. Lamadoda ayeholisa ababevuselela lokwakha kutsha ithempeli. ¹¹ Eyinye bayiqhubela ababazi labakhi ukuze bathenge amatshe abaziweyo lezigodo lezintungo zezindlu ezadilika amakhosi akoJuda engananzelele.

¹² Amadoda ayisebenza imisebenzi yawo ngokwethembeka. Ayekhokhelwa njalo eqondiswa ngoJohathi lo-Obhadiya, abaLevi bosendo lukaMerari, uZekhariya loMeshulami abosendo lukaKhohathi. AbaLevi bonke ababengamagabazi kwezamachacho omculo – ¹³ babephethe izisebenzi njalo bekhangela izisebenzi kulowo lalowo umsebenzi. Abanye abaLevi babengonobhala, labalobi kanye labalindi beminyango.

Ukufunyanwa KoGwalo Lwemithetho

¹⁴ Besakhipha imali eyayingeniswe ethempelini likaJehova, uHilikhiya umphristi wafumana ugwalo loMthetho kaJehova owawuphiwe uMosi.

¹⁵ UHilikhiya wathi kuShafani unobhala, “Sengilutholile uGwalo loMthetho ethempelini likaJehova.” Waselunika uShafani.

¹⁶ Ngalokho uShafani waluthatha walusa enkosini wayibikela wathi: “Izikhulu zakho ziyakwenza konke ozilaye ukuba zikwenze.

¹⁷ Sebeyibhadele imali leyo eyayisethempelini likaJehova njalo sebeyitshiyele abakhangeli bomsebenzi kanye lezisebenzi. ¹⁸ Ngakho uShafani unobhala wabikela inkosi, wathi, “UHilikhiya umphristi usengiphe ugwalo.” Ngakho uShafani waselubala phambi kwenkosi.

¹⁹ Inkosi yonela ukuzwa amazwi oMthetho, yadabula izambatho zayo ²⁰ yapha leziziqondiso kuHilikhiya, lo-Ahikhamu indodana kaShefani, lo-Abhidoni indodana kaMikha, loShafani unobhala kanye lo-Asaya inceku yenkosi yathi: ²¹ “Hambani liyengibuzela kuJehova lensalela yako-Israyeli labakoJuda ngalokhu okulotshwe kulolugwalo olutholakeleyo. Lukhulu ulaka lukaJehova phezu kwethu ngenxa yabokhokho abangazange balilalele ilizwi likaJehova; kabenzanga ngendlela okulotshwe ngayo kulolugwalo.”

²² UHilikhiya lalabo ayethunywe labo yinkosi bahamba ukuba bayekhuluma loHulida umphrofethikazi owayengumkaShalumi indodana kaThokhathi, indodana kaHasira, umlondolozisi wezambatho. UHulida wayehlala eJerusalema endaweni yeSiqinti Sesibili.

²³ Wathi kubo, “Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uthi: Tshelani umuntu olithume kimi lithi, ²⁴ ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova uthi: Ngizakwehlisela lindawo labantu bayo incithakalo lazo zonke izethuko ezilotshweyo egwalweni olufundwe phambi kwenkosi yakoJuda. ²⁵ Ngoba bangidelile batshisela abanye onkulunkulu impepha njalo bangithukuthelisile ngakho konke abakwenze ngezandla zabo, ulaka lwami luzakwehlela phezu kwalindawo njalo aluyikucitshwa. ²⁶ Tshelani inkosi yakoJuda, elithume ukuzabuza kuJehova lithi: ‘Nanku okutshiwo nguJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, mayelana lamazwi owezwileyo: ²⁷ Njengoba uzisolile wazehlisa ngaphansi kukaNkulunkulu wezwa ukuthi utheni ngalindawo labantu bayo njalo langenxa yokuthi uzehlisele wazithoba phambi kwami wadabula izambatho zakho

walila phambi kwami, ngikuzwile, utsho njalo uJehova.²⁸ Wena ngizakususa ngikuse kubokhokho bakho, njalo uzangewatshwa ngokuthula. Amehlo akho awayikubona leyoncithakalo engizayehlisela indawo le lakulabo abahlala khona.”

Ngempela bayithatha leyompendulo baya layo enkosini.

²⁹ Inkosi yasimema bonke abadala bakoJuda labaseJerusalema. ³⁰ Yaya ethempelini likaJehova labantu bakoJuda, kanye labaseJerusalema, labaphristi kanye labaLevi labantu bonke kusukela komncinyane kusiya komkhulu. Inkosi yabafundela wonke amazwi ayeseGwalweni lweSivumelwano, olwalufunyenwe ethempelini likaJehova. ³¹ Inkosi yema ensikeni yayo yavuselela isivumelwano sayo phambi kukaJehova – ukumkhonza uJehova lokwamukela Imlayo yakhe, leziqondiso, lezimiso zakhe ngenhliziyo yayo yonke langomphefumulo wayo wonke, lokulalela amazwi esivumelwano esilotshiweyo ogwalweni. ³² Yasifungisa bonke ababeseJerusalema labakoBhenjamini ukuba bazasigcina; abantu baseJerusalema bakwenza lokho belandela isivumelwano sikaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo.

³³ UJosiya wasusa zonke izithombe ezenyanyekayo ezabelweni zonke ezazingezako-Israyeli, wenza bonke abako-Israyeli bamkhonza uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo. Ngezinsuku zokuphila kwakhe kazange aphambuke endleleni kaJehova uNkulunkulu waboyise.

UJosiya Wenza Umkhosi WePhasika

35 UJosiya wenza umkhosi wePhasika kuJehova eJerusalema,

iwundlu lePhasika lahlathwa ngosuku lwetshumi lane lwenyanga yakuqala. ² Wabeka abaphristi ngemisebenzi yabo njalo wabakhuthaza emsebenzini wethempeli likaJehova. ³ KubaLevi, ababefundisa abako-Israyeli bonke njalo ababevele behlukaniselwe uJehova wathi: “Bekani ibhokisi lesivumelwano elingcwele ethempelini elakhiwa nguSolomoni indodana kaDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. Akumelanga libe lithwalwa ngamahlombe enu. Khathesi khonzani uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu labantu bakhe bako-Israyeli.

⁴ Hlanganani ngezindlu zenu langezigaba zenu, kusiya ngeziqondiso ezalotshwa nguDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli kanye loSolomoni indodana yakhe.

⁵ “Manini endaweni engcwele leqembu labaLevi kuzo zonke izigaba ngezindlu zezihlobo zenu, kube ngabomndeni.

⁶ Hlabani amawundlu ePhasika, lizihlambulule lilungisele izihlobo zenu lenze njengokutsho kwelizwi likaJehova ngoMosi.”

⁷ UJosiya wanika abantu makhaza bonke ababekhona izimvu lezimbuzi eziyizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amathathu zomnikelo wePhasika, kanye lezinkomo eziyizinkulungwane ezintathu – zonke zingezayo inkosi.

⁸ Izikhulu zakhe lazo zapha ngokuzinikela ebantwini zapha labaphristi labaLevi. UHilikhiya, loZekhariya loJehiyeli, abaphrofethi bethempeli likaNkulunkulu, bapha abaphristi iminikelo yePhasika engamakhulu angamatshumi amabili lesithupha lezinkomo ezingamakhulu amathathu. ⁹ Abanye abapha kanye loKhonaniya loShemayiya, loNethaneli, abafowabo, kanye loHashabhiya, loJeyiyeli, loJozabhadi, abakhokheli babaLevi, bapha okomnikelo wePhasika izinkulungwane ezinhlanu kanye

lezinkomo ezingamakhulu amahlanu ezabaLevi.

¹⁰ Inkonzo yalungiswa kwathi abaphristi bema ezindaweni zabo labaLevi ezigabeni zabo ngeziqondiso zenkosi. ¹¹ Amawundlu ePhasika ahlathswa, abaphristi bemukela igazi bachela ngalo, abaLevi ngalesosikhathi babehlinza. ¹² Babeka eceleni iminikelo yokutshiswa ukuze banike izigaba ngezigaba zezimuli zabantu ukuze banikele kuJehova, njengokulotshiweyo eGwalweni lukaMosi. Benza okufaneleyo lasezinkomeni. ¹³ Bosa izinyamazana zePhasika emlilweni njengokulaywa kwabo, babilisa iminikelo engcwele ezimbizeni, ezindengezini lasemapaneni baphanga bakuphakulela abantu. ¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho, bazilungisela okwabo ndawonye lokwabaphristi, ngoba abaphristi, abayinzalo ka-Aroni, babephathekile ngemihlatshelo yokutshiswa kanye leyamahwahwa kwaze kwaba kusihlwa. Ngakho abaLevi bazilungisela okwabo lokwabaphristi abangabendlu ka-Aroni.

¹⁵ Abahlabeleli, abenzalo ka-Asafi, babesezindaweni ezaqanjwa nguDavida, lo-Asafi, loHemani kanye loJeduthuni umboni wenkosi. Abalindi bamasango esangweni linye ngalinye akuzange kudingeke ukuthi basuke ezindaweni zabo, ngoba abaLevi abayizihlobo zabo babebalungisele okwabo.

¹⁶ Ngakho ngalesosikhathi umsebenzi kaJehova wenzelwa ukugcinwa kwePhasika lokunikelwa kweminikelo yokutshiswa e-alithareni likaJehova, njengoba inkosi uJosiya yayitshilo.

¹⁷ Abako-Israyeli ababekhona bathakazelela iPhasika ngalesosikhathi njalo benza uMkhosi weSinkwa esingela Mvubelo okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa.

¹⁸ IPhasika lalingazange ligcinwe ngalindlela ko-Israyeli kusukela

ngezinsuku zomphrofethi uSamuyeli; njalo kayikho leyodwa inkosi yako-Israyeli eyayike yathakazelela iPhasika elinjengaleli elenziwa nguJosiya, labaphristi, labaLevi labo bonke abakoJuda labako-Israyeli ababelapho labantu baseJerusalema.

¹⁹ LeliPhasika lathakazelelwa ngomnyaka wetshumi laficamibili wokubusa kukaJosiya.

Ukufa KukaJosiya

²⁰ Ngemva kwakho konke lokhu uJosiya eseqondisile konke ngeThempeli, uNekho inkosi yaseGibithe wayahlasela iKharikhemesi eYufathe, uJosiya waphuma ukuyadibana laye empini. ²¹ Kodwa uNekho wamthumela amanxusa esithi, “Kulokuxabana bani phakathi kwami lawe, we nkosi yakoJuda? Phela angihlaseli wena khatesi, ngihlaselana laleyondlu engilwa layo impi. UNkulunkulu ungitshela ukuba ngiphangise; wena mana ungaphikisani loNkulunkulu, yena olami, funa akubhubhise.”

²² Kodwa uJosiya kazange amyekele, wazifihla ukuze abe sempini. Kazange alalele akutshelwa nguNekho kuvela kuNkulunkulu kodwa laye wayakulwa emagekeni aseMegido.

²³ Abatshoki bayiciba inkosi uJosiya, yatshela izikhulu zayo yathi, “Ngisusani lapha, sengilimele kakubi.” ²⁴ Ngakho bamethula enqoleni yakhe yokulwa, bamfaka kweyinye ayelayo bamusa eJerusalema, lapho afela khona. Wangewatshwa emathuneni abokhokho bakhe, bonke abakoJuda labako-Israyeli bamlilela.

²⁵ UJeremiya laye waloba isililo ngoJosiya, njalo kuze kube lamuhla abahlabeleli bonke abesilisa labesifazana lokhu behaya isililo ngoJosiya. Lokhu-

kulila kwaba ngumkhuba ko-Israyeli njalo kubhaliwe eZililweni.

²⁶ Ezinye izehlakalo ngokubusa kukaJosiya lezinye izenzo zokuzinikela kwakhe, mayelana lokulotshiweyo eMthwethweni kaJehova ²⁷ zonke izehlakalo, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kube sekuphetheni, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda.

36 Abantu belizwe bathatha

uJehoyahazi indodana kaJosiya bamenza inkosi eJerusalema esikhundleni sikayise.

Ukubusa KukaJehoyahazi

² UJehoyahazi wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lantathu yobudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwezinyanga ezintathu. ³ Inkosi yaseGibhithe yamethula ubukhosi eJerusalema njalo yathelisa abakoJuda amathalenta alikhulu esiliva kanye lethalenta legolide. ⁴ Inkosi yaseGibhithe, yabeka u-Eliyakhimu, umfowabo kaJehoyahazi, ukuba abe yinkosi yakoJuda laseJerusalema yasiguqula ibizo lika-Eliyakhimu laba nguJehoyakhimu. Kodwa uNekho wathatha umfowabo ka-Eliyakhimu uJehoyahazi wamusa eGibhithe.

UJehoyakhimu iNkosi yakoJuda

⁵ UJehoyakhimu wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanhlanu ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe. ⁶ UNebhukhadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wamhlasela wambopha ngamaketane ethusi wasemusa eBhabhiloni. ⁷ UNebhukhadinezari

wasuka lezinye izimpahla zethempeli likaJehova wazisa ethempelini lakhe elaliseBhabhiloni.

⁸ Ezinye izehlakalo ngombuso kaJehoyakhimu, lamanyala awenzayo lakho konke okwafunyanwa kulihlazo ngaye, kulotshiwe egwalweni lwamakhosi ako-Israyeli lakoJuda. UJehoyakhini indodana yakhe wathatha isikhundla waba yinkosi.

UJehoyakhini iNkosi YakoJuda

⁹ UJehoyakhini wayeleminyaka elitshumi laficamibili ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okwezinyanga ezintathu lezinsuku ezilitshumi. Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova. ¹⁰ Kwathi entwasa, inkosi uNebhukhadinezari yathumela ukuthi bamlethe eBhabhiloni, kanye lezimpahla eziligugu ezazivela ethempelini likaJehova, wabeka uZedekhiya isihlobo sikaJehoyakhini ukuba yinkosi yakoJuda laseJerusalema.

UZedekhiya iNkosi YakoJuda

¹¹ UZedekhiya wayeleminyaka engamatshumi amabili lanye ubudala esiba yinkosi, njalo wabusa eJerusalema okweminyaka elitshumi lanye. ¹² Wenza ububi phambi kukaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe njalo kazange azithobe ngaphansi komphrofethi uJeremiya, owayekhulumela uJehova.

¹³ Wahlamukela inkosi uNebhukhadinezari, owayemfungise ngebizo likaNkulunkulu. Waba ntamolukhuni, inhliziyo yakhe kayaguquka, kazange azithobe kuJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ¹⁴ Abakhokheli bonke babaphristi lababantu baqhubeka ngokungathembeki, belandela izenzo ezingamanyala zezizwe, bengcolisa

ithempeli likaJehova, ayezehlukanisele lona eJerusalema.

Ukuwa KweJerusalema

¹⁵UJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho babo, wathumela ilizwi ephindaphinda ngezithunywa zakhe, ngoba wayelesihawu ebantwini bakhe kanye lendawo yakhe yokuhlala. ¹⁶Kodwa izithunywa zikaNkulunkulu babezihleka ulunya, bese yisa amazwi akhe njalo beklolodela abaphrofethi bakhe lwaze lwavutha ulaka lukaJehova ebantwini bakhe kungasekho okunganceda. ¹⁷Ngakho wathuma inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, yabulala amajaha akibo ngenkemba endlini engcwele, njalo akusindanga jaha loba ntombi, indoda endala loba oseluphele. UNkulunkulu wabanikela bonke esandleni sikaNebhukhadinezari. ¹⁸Wathutha zonke izimpahla zethempeli likaNkulunkulu wazisa eBhabhiloni, zonke ezincinyane lezinkulu, kanye lezenotho yethempelini likaJehova lezenotho yenkosi leyezikhulu zayo. ¹⁹Bathungela ngomlilo ithempeli likaNkulunkulu njalo badiliza umduli weJerusalema; batshisa zonke izigodlo batshabalalisa lakho konke okwakuligugu khonapho. ²⁰Wathatha bonke ababesele bengadliwanga yinkemba wabasa eBhabhiloni baba yizichaka zakhe lezamadodana akhe kwaze kwangena umbuso wasePherisiya. ²¹Ilizwe lazuza ukuphumula kwalo kwamasabatha; kuso sonke isikhathi salo sencithakalo laphumula kwaze kwaphela iminyaka engamatshumi ayisikhombisa ukugcwalisa ilizwi likaJehova elakhulunywa nguJeremiya. ²²Ngomnyaka wakuqala wenkosi uKhurosi wasePherisiya, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi likaJehova

elakhulunywa nguJeremiya, uJehova wathinta inhliziyo kaKhurosi inkosi yasePherisiya ukuthi akhuphe isimemezelo embusweni wakhe esilotshwe ukuthi:

²³“Nanti ilizwi lenkosi yasePherisiya elithi: “UJehova, uNkulunkulu wasezulwini unginike yonke imibuso yomhlaba njalo ungikhethile ukuba ngimakhele ithempeli eJerusalema koJuda. Loba ngubani, wabantu bakhe phakathi kwenu – sengathi uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe angaba laye, kahambe.’ ”