

**24**[1H2] And it was, just as Saul returned from going after Philistines, so they declared to him, saying, “Behold, David is in Spring of Gedi's wilderness.” [2H3] And Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men on the face of the rocks of the mountain goats. [3H4] And he came to the sheepfolds by the road, and there was a cave. And Saul went in to cover his feet,<sup>1</sup> and David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.

[4H5] And David's men said to him, “Behold, today is where Yehvah said to you, 'Behold, I am giving your enemies<sup>2</sup> in your hand, and you shall do to him just as is good in your eyes.’” And David arose and cut the edge of Saul's robe in secret. [5H6] And it was, afterward, David's heart struck him, because he cut an edge that was Saul's. [6H7] And he said to his men, “Far be it for me from Yehvah, if I do this thing to my lord, to Yehvah's anointed, to send my hand against him; for he is Yehvah's anointed.” [7H8] And David dispersed<sup>3</sup> his men in the words and did not give them to rise against Saul. And Saul arose from the cave and went on the road.

[8H9] And David arose afterward and went out from the cave and called out after Saul, saying, “My lord, the king.” And Saul looked after him, and David bowed, nostrils<sup>4</sup> to earth, and bowed down. [9H10] And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to words of man,<sup>5</sup> saying, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? [10H11] Look, this day your eyes see where Yehvah gave you today into my hand in the cave. And it was said to kill you, and she<sup>6</sup> had pity on you. And I said, 'I will not send my hand against my lord, for he is Yehvah's anointed.' [11H12] And my father, see also, see your robe's edge in my hand. For in my cutting off your robe's edge and I did not kill you, know and see there is no harm and transgression in my hand. And I have not sinned against you. And you lie in wait for my soul to take it. [12H13] Yehvah judge between me and you, and Yehvah avenge me from you. And my hand will not be against you. [13H14] Just as the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness goes out from wicked ones.' And my hand shall not be against you. [14H15] After who has the king of Israel gone out? After who are you pursuing? After a dead dog? After one flea? [15H16] And Yehvah be for judge, and he judge between me and you. And may he see and plead my case and judge<sup>7</sup> me from your hand.”

[16H17] And it was, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, so Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David.” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. [17H18] And he said to David, “You are more righteous than I. You have dealt me the good, and I have dealt you the bad. [18H19] And you have declared today with which you have done me good, wherein Yehvah delivered me in your hand; and you

---

1 לְהַסֵּךְ אֶת־רַגְלָיו (lehâsêkh 'et-raglâyv) “to cover his feet” i.e. to go poop. See Judges 3:24 and footnote. See also Leviticus 4:11 for more on poop.

2 Written אֹיְבָיִךָ ('oyveykhâ) “your enemies”; read אֹיְבֶיךָ ('oyivkhâ) “your enemy”

3 יָשַׁעַע (yeshassa', piel verb) “dispersed” MEV; “checked” WEB; “restrained” NKJV; “subdueth” YLT; “persuaded” NAS – in piel used elsewhere for “split” (Leviticus 1:17); tear in two (Judges 14:6).

4 אֶפְיִם ('apayim) “nostrils” - same word as “nostrils” (NKJV) e.g. in Genesis 2:7; 7:22; Exodus 15:8; etc..

5 אָדָם ('âdâm) “man”

6 תַּחַס (tâchâs) “she had pity” - feminine verb referring to David's “hand” (feminine noun).

7 יִשְׁפֹּטֵנִי (yishpetênîy) “judge me”; DARBY “do me justice”; NIV “may he vindicate me”; NKJV, etc. “deliver me” - same root verb as the prior “judge” (NKJV).

did not kill me. [19H20] If a man finds his enemy, will he send him away in a good way? So Yehvah repay you good for what you did to me this day. [20H21] And now, behold, I know that you shall surely reign, and Israel's kingdom shall arise in your hand. [21H22] And now, swear to me in Yehvah you will not cut off my seed after me nor exterminate my name from my father's house.” [22H23] And David swore to Saul, and Saul went to his house. And David and his men went up on the stronghold.