54 from their hot pursuit of the Philistines and plundered their camp. And David
seized the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but as for his weapons,
55 he placed them in his tent. As Sha'ul watched David charging out
toward the Philistine, he said to his army commander, Avner, "Whose son is
that boy again, Avner?" "By your life, O King," said Avner, "I do not know."
56 The king replied, "Find out whose son that youth is." So when
57 David returned from defeating the Philistine, Avner took him and brought
58 him before Sha'ul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. "Whose son
are you, young man?" Sha'ul asked him, and David replied, "The son of your
18 1 servant, Yishai the Bethlehemite." By the time he had finished speaking to
Sha'ul, Yehonatan's very soul became bound up with David's, and Yehonatan
2 loved him as his own self. Sha'ul took him in on that day and did not allow
3 him to return to his father's house. And Yehonatan and David formed a pact;
4 because he loved him as himself, Yehonatan stripped off the robe he wore and
gave it to David, along with his uniform, his sword, his bow, and his belt.
5 When David set out, he was successful in every mission on which Sha'ul sent
him, so Sha'ul appointed him over the military force. This pleased all the men
6 and even Sha'ul's officials. Once, when they arrived after David
returned from defeating the Philistines, the women came out from all the
towns of Israel to sing, the dancers to meet Sha'ul the king, to the joyful
7 accompaniment of timbrels and lutes. The laughing women echoed each
other, chanting, "Sha'ul has struck down thousands, and David – myriads!"
8 This infuriated Sha'ul, and the affair seemed ominous to him. "They credited
myriads to David," he said, "and credited me with just thousands. Only the
9 kingship is yet to be his!" And Sha'ul kept a close eye on David from that day
10 onward. The next day, a dark spirit from God seized Sha'ul, and
he began to rave in the house. Now, David was strumming away as usual –
11 while the spear was in Sha'ul's hand. Sha'ul hurled the spear, thinking, "I will
12 pin David to the wall," but David turned away from him twice. And Sha'ul
became afraid of David, for the LORD was with him, while He had grown
13 distant from Sha'ul. So Sha'ul had him distanced from him; he appointed him
as a commander of a thousand, and he went out and came in at the head of
14 the people. David was successful in every way, and the LORD was
15 with him. When Sha'ul saw how successful he was, he shrank away from him,
16 but all of Israel and Yehuda loved David, for he went out and came in before
17 them. So Sha'ul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter, Merav;
her I shall give you for a wife on the condition that you be a valiant man for
me and fight the LORD's battles," for Sha'ul thought, "I need not deal with him
18 myself – let the Philistines deal with him." "Who am I," David said
to Sha'ul, "and how worthy is my father's kin in Israel, that I should become
19 son-in-law to the king?" So at the time that Merav, Sha'ul's daughter, was
supposed to be given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholatite for a

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נד פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיָּשֹׂם אֶת־מַחֲנֹתֵיהֶם: וַיִּקַּח דָּוִד אֶת־רֹאשׁ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיְבִאֵהוּ
נה יְרוּשָׁלִָם וְאֶת־כֵּלָיו שָׂם בְּאָהֳלוֹ: וְכִרְאוֹת שָׁאוּל אֶת־
דָּוִד יֹצֵא לִקְרַאת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אָמַר אֶל־אַבְנֵר שַׂר הַצָּבָא בֶּן־מִי־זֶה
נו הַנַּעַר אַבְנֵר וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְנֵר חֵי־נַפְשְׁךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ אִם־יָדָעְתִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ
נז שְׁאַל אַתָּה בֶּן־מִי־זֶה הָעֶלֶם: וּכְשׁוּב דָּוִד מֵהַכּוֹת אֶת־
הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּקַּח אֹתוֹ אַבְנֵר וַיְבִאֵהוּ לִפְנֵי שָׁאוּל וְרֹאשׁ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי בְּיָדוֹ:
נח וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו שָׁאוּל בֶּן־מִי אַתָּה הַנָּעַר וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד בֶּן־עַבְדְּךָ יִשַׁי בֵּית
יח א הַלַּחְמִי: וַיְהִי כְּכַלֹּתוֹ לְדַבֵּר אֶל־שָׁאוּל וְנֶפֶשׁ יְהוֹנָתָן נִקְשְׁרָה בְּנֶפֶשׁ
ב דָּוִד וַיֶּאֱהָבֵהוּ יְהוֹנָתָן כְּנַפְשׁוֹ: וַיִּקָּחֵהוּ שָׁאוּל בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וְלֹא נְתָנוֹ לְשׁוּב בֵּית אָבִיו: וַיִּכְרֹת יְהוֹנָתָן וְדָוִד בְּרִית בְּאַהֲבָתוֹ אֹתוֹ כְּנַפְשׁוֹ:
ד וַיִּתְפַּשֵּׁט יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־הַמְּעִיל אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ לְדָוִד וּמַדָּיו וְעַד־
ה חַרְבּוֹ וְעַד־קַשְׁתּוֹ וְעַד־חֲגֹרוֹ: וַיֵּצֵא דָּוִד בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלָחֶנּוּ שָׁאוּל
יַשְׂכִּיל וַיְשִׂמֵהוּ שָׁאוּל עַל אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה וַיִּיטַב בְּעֵינֵי כָל־הָעָם וְגַם
ו בְּעֵינֵי עַבְדֵי שָׁאוּל: וַיְהִי בְּבוֹאָם בְּשׁוּב דָּוִד מֵהַכּוֹת
אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַתֵּצֶאנָה הַנָּשִׁים מִכָּל־עָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָשׁוּר וְהַמְּחֹלוֹת לָשִׁיר
ז לִקְרַאת שָׁאוּל הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּתֻפִּים בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשָׁלִשִׁים: וַתַּעֲנֶינָה הַנָּשִׁים
ח הַמְשַׂחֲקוֹת וַתֹּאמֶרְנָה הִכָּה שָׁאוּל בַּאֲלָפָיו וְדָוִד בְּרִבְבֹתָיו: וַיִּחַר לְשָׁאוּל
מְאֹד וַיֵּרַע בְּעֵינָיו הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר נָתְנוּ לְדָוִד רְבָבוֹת וְלִי נָתְנוּ
ט הָאֲלָפִים וְעוֹד לוֹ אַךְ הַמְלוּכָה: וַיְהִי שָׁאוּל עָיִן אֶת־דָּוִד מֵהַיּוֹם הַהוּא עוֹיֵן
י וָהָלְאָה: וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרָת וַתִּצְלַח רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים ׀ רָעָה ׀
אֶל־שָׁאוּל וַיִּתְנַבֵּא בְּתוֹךְ־הַבַּיִת וְדָוִד מְנַגֵּן בְּיָדוֹ כְּיוֹם ׀ בְּיוֹם וְהַחֲנִית
יא בְּיַד־שָׁאוּל: וַיָּטֶל שָׁאוּל אֶת־הַחֲנִית וַיֹּאמֶר אַכ�ֶּה בְדָוִד וּבְקִיר וַיִּסֹּב
יב דָּוִד מִפָּנָיו פַּעֲמָיִם: וַיִּרָא שָׁאוּל מִלִּפְנֵי דָוִד כִּי־הָיָה יְהוָה עִמּוֹ וּמֵעִם
יג שָׁאוּל סָר: וַיְסִרֵהוּ שָׁאוּל מֵעִמּוֹ וַיְשִׂמֵהוּ לוֹ שַׂר־אָלֶף וַיֵּצֵא וָבֹא לִפְנֵי
יד טו הָעָם: וַיְהִי דָוִד לְכָל־דְּרָכָו מַשְׂכִּיל וַיְהוָה עִמּוֹ: וַיַּרְא שָׁאוּל יב
טז אֲשֶׁר־הוּא מַשְׂכִּיל מְאֹד וַיָּגָר מִפָּנָיו: וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וִיהוּדָה אֹהֵב אֶת־
יז דָּוִד כִּי־הוּא יוֹצֵא וָבָא לִפְנֵיהֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶל־דָּוִד
הִנֵּה בִתִּי הַגְּדוֹלָה מֵרַב אֹתָהּ אֶתֵּן־לָךְ לְאִשָּׁה אַךְ הֱיֵה־לִי לְבֶן־
חַיִל וְהִלָּחֶם מִלְחֲמוֹת יְהוָה וְשָׁאוּל אָמַר אַל־תְּהִי יָדִי בּוֹ וּתְהִי־
יח בּוֹ יַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים: וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־שָׁאוּל מִי אָנֹכִי וּמִי
יט חַיַּי מִשְׁפַּחַת אָבִי בְיִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־אֶהְיֶה חָתָן לַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיְהִי בְּעֵת תֵּת
אֶת־מֵרַב בַּת־שָׁאוּל לְדָוִד וְהִיא נִתְּנָה לְעַדְרִיאֵל הַמְּחֹלָתִי לְאִשָּׁה:

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wife. But Mikhal, Sha'ul's daughter, loved David, and when Sha'ul was told of
this, the matter pleased him. "If I give her to him," Sha'ul thought, "she will
be a distraction for him, and the Philistines will deal with him." So Sha'ul said
to David for the second time, "This time, you will become my son-in-law."
And Sha'ul commanded his servants, "Speak to David privately, saying, 'Now,
the king is delighted with you, and all his servants love you; now you should
become the king's son-in-law.'" Sha'ul's servants repeated these words in
David's hearing, and David said, "Is it a trivial matter in your eyes, to become
the king's son-in-law? I myself am but a poor, trivial man." When Sha'ul's
servants told him, "This was David's answer," Sha'ul said, "Tell
David the following: the only bride-price the king desires is a hundred
Philistine foreskins, to wreak vengeance upon the king's enemies," for Sha'ul
intended to have David fall into the hands of the Philistines. When Sha'ul's
servants repeated these words to David, the idea of becoming the king's son-
in-law pleased David. And before the set time was up, David rose and set out,
together with his men, and struck down two hundred Philistine men. David
brought their foreskins, fulfilling the king's conditions for becoming the king's
son-in-law, and Sha'ul gave him his daughter Mikhal for a wife. And Sha'ul
realized and acknowledged that the LORD was with David, and that Mikhal,
Sha'ul's daughter, loved him. Yet Sha'ul grew still more afraid of David,
and Sha'ul became David's lifelong enemy. The Philistine
officers launched attacks, and whenever they launched an attack, David was
the most successful of all of Sha'ul's servants. And his reputation soared
19 high. Sha'ul spoke to Yehonatan and to all his servants about having
David killed, but Yehonatan, the son of Sha'ul, stuck by David. So Yehonatan
told David, "Sha'ul, my father, seeks to kill you. Now be on your guard in the
morning – stay hidden in a secret place. I will go out and stand with my father
in the field where you are, and I will speak about you to my father. Then I will
see what there is to tell you." And Yehonatan spoke well of David to
Sha'ul, his father. "Do not let the king wrong his servant, David," he said to
him, "for he has not wronged you – in fact, his deeds are highly advantageous
for you. He took his life in his hands and defeated the Philistine, and the LORD
granted a great victory for Israel – when you saw it, you rejoiced. Why should
you sin by shedding innocent blood and kill David without cause?" Sha'ul
heeded Yehonatan's voice, and Sha'ul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not
be killed." Yehonatan called to David, and Yehonatan told him everything.
Then Yehonatan brought David to Sha'ul, and he remained in his presence as
before. War raged once more, and David charged out to fight against
the Philistines; he dealt them a mighty blow, and they fled before him. But a
dark spirit from the LORD settled on Sha'ul while he was sitting at home with
his spear in his hand as David strummed away. Sha'ul attempted to pin David

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כ וַתֶּאֱהַב מִיכַל בַּת־שָׁאוּל אֶת־דָּוִד וַיַּגִּדוּ לְשָׁאוּל וַיִּשַׁר הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינָיו:
כא וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶתְּנֶנָּה לוֹ וּתְהִי־לוֹ לְמוֹקֵשׁ וּתְהִי־בוֹ יַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים
כב וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶל־דָּוִד בִּשְׁתַּיִם תִּתְחַתֵּן בִּי הַיּוֹם: וַיְצַו שָׁאוּל אֶת־
עֲבָדָו דַּבְּרוּ אֶל־דָּוִד בַּלָּט לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה חָפֵץ בְּךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל־עֲבָדָיו
אֲהֵבוּךָ וְעַתָּה הִתְחַתֵּן בַּמֶּלֶךְ: וַיְדַבְּרוּ עַבְדֵי שָׁאוּל בְּאָזְנֵי דָוִד אֶת־
כג הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד הַנָּקֵלָה בְעֵינֵיכֶם הִתְחַתֵּן בַּמֶּלֶךְ וְאָנֹכִי
כד אִישׁ־רָשׁ וְנִקְלֶה: וַיַּגִּדוּ עַבְדֵי שָׁאוּל לוֹ לֵאמֹר כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה דִּבֶּר
כה דָּוִד: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל כֹּה־תֹאמְרוּ לְדָוִד אֵין־חֵפֶץ לַמֶּלֶךְ
בְּמֹהַר כִּי בִּמְאָה עָרְלוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים לְהִנָּקֵם בְּאֹיְבֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשָׁאוּל חָשַׁב
כו לְהַפִּיל אֶת־דָּוִד בְּיַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים: וַיַּגִּדוּ עֲבָדָיו לְדָוִד אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּשַׁר הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי דָוִד לְהִתְחַתֵּן בַּמֶּלֶךְ וְלֹא מָלְאוּ הַיָּמִים:
כז וַיָּקָם דָּוִד וַיֵּלֶךְ ׀ הוּא וַאֲנָשָׁיו וַיַּךְ בַּפְּלִשְׁתִּים מָאתַיִם אִישׁ וַיָּבֵא דָוִד
אֶת־עָרְלָתֵיהֶם וַיְמַלְאוּם לַמֶּלֶךְ לְהִתְחַתֵּן בַּמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ שָׁאוּל אֶת־
כח מִיכַל בִּתּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: וַיַּרְא שָׁאוּל וַיֵּדַע כִּי יְהוָה עִם־דָּוִד וּמִיכַל בַּת־
כט שָׁאוּל אֲהֵבָתְהוּ: וַיּוֹסֶף שָׁאוּל לְיִרְא מִפְּנֵי דָוִד עוֹד וַיְהִי שָׁאוּל אוֹיֵב
ל אֶת־דָּוִד כָּל־הַיָּמִים: וַיֵּצְאוּ שָׂרֵי פְלִשְׁתִּים וַיְהִי ׀ מִדֵּי
יט א צֵאתָם שָׂכַל דָּוִד מִכֹּל עַבְדֵי שָׁאוּל וַיִּיקַר שְׁמוֹ מְאֹד: וַיְדַבֵּר
שָׁאוּל אֶל־יוֹנָתָן בְּנוֹ וְאֶל־כָּל־עֲבָדָיו לְהָמִית אֶת־דָּוִד וִיהוֹנָתָן בֶּן־
ב שָׁאוּל חָפֵץ בְּדָוִד מְאֹד: וַיַּגֶּד יְהוֹנָתָן לְדָוִד לֵאמֹר מְבַקֵּשׁ שָׁאוּל
אָבִי לַהֲמִיתֶךָ וְעַתָּה הִשָּׁמֶר־נָא בַבֹּקֶר וְיָשַׁבְתָּ בַסֵּתֶר וְנַחְבֵּאתָ:
ג וַאֲנִי אֵצֵא וְעָמַדְתִּי לְיַד־אָבִי בַּשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שָׁם וַאֲנִי אֲדַבֵּר בְּךָ
ד אֶל־אָבִי וְרָאִיתִי מֶה וְהִגַּדְתִּי לָךְ: וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוֹנָתָן בְּדָוִד טוֹב
אֶל־שָׁאוּל אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַל־יֶחֱטָא הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּעַבְדּוֹ בְדָוִד כִּי לוֹא
ה חָטָא לָךְ וְכִי מַעֲשָׂיו טוֹב־לְךָ מְאֹד: וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ בְכַפּוֹ וַיַּךְ אֶת־
הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה תְּשׁוּעָה גְדוֹלָה לְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל רָאִיתָ וַתִּשְׂמָח
ו וְלָמָּה תֶחֱטָא בְּדָם נָקִי לְהָמִית אֶת־דָּוִד חִנָּם: וַיִּשְׁמַע שָׁאוּל בְּקוֹל
ז יְהוֹנָתָן וַיִּשָּׁבַע שָׁאוּל חַי־יְהוָה אִם־יוּמָת: וַיִּקְרָא יְהוֹנָתָן לְדָוִד
וַיַּגֶּד־לוֹ יְהוֹנָתָן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיָּבֵא יְהוֹנָתָן אֶת־דָּוִד
ח אֶל־שָׁאוּל וַיְהִי לְפָנָיו כְּאֶתְמוֹל שִׁלְשׁוֹם: וַתּוֹסֶף
הַמִּלְחָמָה לִהְיוֹת וַיֵּצֵא דָּוִד וַיִּלָּחֶם בַּפְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיַּךְ בָּהֶם מַכָּה גְדוֹלָה
ט וַיָּנֻסוּ מִפָּנָיו: וַתְּהִי רוּחַ יְהוָה ׀ רָעָה אֶל־שָׁאוּל וְהוּא בְּבֵיתוֹ יוֹשֵׁב
י וַחֲנִיתוֹ בְּיָדוֹ וְדָוִד מְנַגֵּן בְּיָד: וַיְבַקֵּשׁ שָׁאוּל לְהַכּוֹת בַּחֲנִית בְּדָוִד

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