

The Book of  
**1 Kingdoms**

**Chapter 1**

**T**here was a man of Armathaim Sifa, of the mountain *of* Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkana, a son of Jeremeel the son of Eliou the son of Thoke, in Nasiv Ephraim. 2 And he *had* two wives; the name of the one Anna, and the name of the second Phennana; and Phennana had children, but Anna had no children.

3 And the man went up from days to days from his city, from Armathaim, to worship and sacrifice to the Lord God of Sabaoth at Selo: and there were Eli and his two sons Ophni and Phinees, the priests of the Lord.

4 And the day came, and Elkana sacrificed, and gave portions to his wife Phennana and her children. 5 And to Anna he gave one portion, because she had no children, for Elkana loved Anna more than the other; but the Lord closed her womb. 6 For the Lord gave her no children in her affliction and according to the despondency of her affliction; and she was disheartened because of this, that the Lord closed her womb so as not to give her children. 7 So she did year by year, in going up to the house of the Lord; and she was disheartened, and wept, and did not eat.

8 And Elkana her husband said to her, Anna: and she said to him, Here *am* I, my lord: and he said to her, What troubles thee that thou weeps? And why do thou not eat? And why does thy heart strike thee? *Am* I not better to thee than ten children?

9 And Anna rose up after they had eaten in Selo, and stood before the Lord: and Eli the priest *was* on a seat by the doorposts of the temple of the Lord.

10 And she was in great pain *to her* soul, and prayed to the Lord, and wept exceedingly. 11 And she vowed a vow to the Lord, saying, Adoni Lord Eloi of Sabaoth, if thou will indeed look upon the humiliation of thine handmaid, and remember me, and give to thine handmaid the seed of men, then will I indeed dedicate him before thee till the day of his death; and he shall drink no wine nor inebriating drink, and no iron *razor* shall come upon his head.

12 And it came to pass while she was long praying before the Lord, that

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15 And Anna answered and said, Nay, my lord, I am a woman with a hard day, and I have not drunk wine or inebriating drink, and I pour out my soul before the Lord. 16 Give not thy slave for a mischievous woman, for by reason of the abundance of my meditations I have stretched out *my prayers* until now. 17 And Eli answered and said to her, Go in peace: *may* the God of Israel give thee thy entire petition, which thou have asked of him. 18 And she said, Thine slave has found favor in thine eyes: and the woman went her way, and entered into her lodging, and ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was no longer fallen.

19 And they arose early in the morning, and worshipped the Lord, and they went their way: and Elkana went into his house at Armathaim, and knew his wife Anna; and the Lord remembered her, and she conceived. 20 And it came to pass in the season of days that she gave birth to a son, and called his name Samuel, and said, That from *the* Lord God of Sabaoth I did ask of Him.

21 And the man Elkana and his entire house went up to offer in Selo the yearly sacrifice, and his vows, and all the tithes of his land. 22 And Anna did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, *I will not go up* until the child goes up, when I have weaned him, and he shall be presented before the Lord, and he shall abide there for ages. 23 And Elkana her husband said to her, Do that which is good in thine eyes, abide until thou shall have weaned him; but may the Lord establish that which comes out of thy mouth: and the woman tarried, and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

24 And she went up with him to Selo with a calf in its third year, and loaves, and an ephah of fine flour, and a bottle of wine: and she entered into the house of the Lord in Selo, and the child with them. 25 And they brought him before the Lord; and his father killed his offering which he offered from year to year to the Lord; and he brought near the child, and killed the calf; and Anna the mother of the child brought him to Eli. 26 And she said, by me lord, thy soul shall live, I *am* the woman that stood in thy presence with thee while praying to the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord has given me my request that I asked of Him. 28 And I lend him to the Lord all his days that he lives, for a use by the Lord: and she said:

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3 Do not boast, and do not speak of exalted *things*; do not let lofty words come out of your mouth, for the Lord *is* a God of knowledge, and God is preparing His practices. 4 The bow of the mighty has grown feeble, and the weak have girded themselves with power. 5 They that were full of bread *loaves* are made low; and the hungry have forsaken the land; for the barren has born seven, and she that abounded in children has grown feeble. 6 The Lord puts to death and makes alive; He leads *them* down into Hades, and leads *them* up. 7 The Lord makes poor, and makes rich; He brings low, and lifts up. 8 He rises up the poor from the earth, and raises the needy from the dung; to seat him with the mighty ones of the people, and causing them to inherit the throne of glory: 9 granting his petition to him that prays; and He blesses the years of the righteous, for by strength cannot man prevail. 10 The Lord will weaken his adversary; the Lord *is* holy. Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast in his strength, and let not the rich man boast in his wealth; but let him that boasts boast in this, to understand and know the Lord, and to execute judgment and justice in the midst of the earth. The Lord has gone up to the heavens, and has thundered: he will judge the extremities of the earth, and he gives strength to our kings, and will exalt *the* horn of His Christ. And she left him there before the Lord,

11 and they departed to Armathaim: and the child officiated before the face of the Lord before Eli the priest. 12 And the sons of Eli the priest *were* pestilential sons, not knowing the Lord. 13 And the priest's legal claim from every one of the people that sacrificed *was this*: the servant of the priest came when the meat was boiling, and in his hand was a three-pronged meat-hook. 14 And he struck it into the great caldron, or into the brass vessel, or into the earthen pot, and whatever came up with the meat-hook, the priest took for himself: so they did to all Israel that came to sacrifice to the Lord in Selom.

15 And before the fat was burned for a sweet savor, the servant of the priest would come, and say to the man that sacrificed, Give meat to roast for the priest, and I will by no means take of thee boiled meat out of the caldron. 16 And *if* the man that sacrificed said, First let the fat be burned, as it is fit, and take for thyself of all things which thy soul desires: then he would say, Nay, for thou shall give it *to* me now; and if not I will take it by force. 17 And the sin of the young men was exceedingly great before the Lord, for they invalidated the

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21 And the Lord visited Anna, and she bore yet three sons, and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

22 And Eli *was* very old, and he heard what his sons did to the sons of Israel. 23 And he said to them, Why do ye according to this thing, which I hear from the mouth of all the people of the Lord? 24 Nay *my* sons, for the hearing which I hear *is* not good; do not do so, for it is not good the hearing which I hear of the people not serving God. 25 If by sinning a man should sin against a man, then shall they pray for him to the Lord; but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall pray for him? But they hearkened not to the voice of their father, because the Lord would by all means utterly destroy them. 26 And the young man Samuel grew up, and was *in* good *favor* with God and with men.

27 And a man of God came to Eli, and said, Thus says the Lord, in revealing I reveal *myself* to the house of thy father, when they were slaves in Egypt to the house of Pharaoh. 28 And I chose the house of thy father out of all the tribes of Israel to officiate to Me in the priest's office, to go up to My altar, and to burn incense, and to wear an ephod. And I gave to the house of thy father all the offerings by fire of the sons of Israel for food. 29 And wherefore have thou looked upon My incense *offering* and My sacrifice *offering* with a shameless eye, and have glorified thy sons above Me, so that they should bless themselves with the first-fruits of every sacrifice of Israel before Me? 30 For this, thus says the Lord God of Israel, I said, Thy house and the house of thy father shall pass before Me forever: and now the Lord says, That be far from Me; for I will only glorify them that glorify Me, and he that treats Me with contempt shall be despised.

31 Behold, the days come when I will destroy thy seed and the seed of the house of thy father. 32 And thou shall not have an old man in My house forever. 33 And *if* I do not destroy a man of thine from My altar, his eyes shall fail and his soul will flow down; and every one that remains in thy house shall fall by the broadsword of men. 34 And this which shall come upon thy two sons Ophni and Phinees shall be a sign to thee; in one day they shall both die. 35 And I will raise up to Myself a faithful priest, who shall do all that is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build Him a sure house, and he shall walk before My Christ forever. 36 And it shall come to pass that he that survives in thy house shall come to do obeisance before him for an obolus of silver \*, saying, Cast me unto one of thy priest's offices to eat bread.

## Chapter 3

**A**nd the young man Samuel officiated to the Lord before Eli the priest: and the word of the Lord was precious in those days, because there was no vision for *the* giving of orders.

2 And it came to pass at that time that Eli was sleeping in his place; and his eyes began to be weighed down, and he was not able to see. 3 And the lamp of God *was burning* before it was trimmed, and Samuel slept in the temple, where the ark of God *was*. 4 And the Lord called, Samuel, Samuel; and he said, Behold, *it is I*. 5 And he ran to Eli, and said, behold, *it is I*, for thou did call me: and he said, I did not call thee; return to sleep; and he returned and slept. 6 And the Lord put forward again and called, Samuel, Samuel: and he went to Eli the second time, and said, Behold *it is I*, for thou did call me: and he said, I did not called thee; return and sleep. 7 And *it was* before Samuel knew the Lord, and *before* the word of the Lord was revealed to him. 8 And the Lord put forward *again* to call Samuel for the third time: and he arose and went to Eli, and said, Behold, *it is I*, for thou did call me: and Eli discerned that the Lord *had* called the young man. 9 And he said, Return, sleep child, and it shall come to pass if He shall call thee, that thou shall say, Speak for thy servant hears: and Samuel went and slept in his place. 10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called him as once *before* and once *before thereof*: and Samuel said, Speak, for thy servant hears.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I execute My words in Israel; so that whoever hears them, they shall sound in both of his ears. 12 In that day I will arise against Eli all the many *things* that I have said against his house; I will begin, and I will make an end. 13 And I have announced to him that I will punish his house forever for *the* iniquities of his sons, because his sons spoke evil against God, and he did not admonish them. 14 And *it shall not be* so; I have sworn to the house of Eli, *the* iniquity of *the* house of Eli shall not be atoned for with incense or sacrifices forever. 15 And Samuel slept till morning, and rose early in the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord; and Samuel feared to tell the vision \* to Eli. 16 And Eli said to Samuel, Samuel, *my* son; and he said, Behold, *it is I*. 17 And he said, What *was* the word being spoken to thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: may God do these things to thee, and add to it, if thou

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20 And all Israel knew from Dan even to Bersabee, that Samuel was faithful as a prophet to the Lord. 21 And the Lord again manifested himself in Selom, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel; and Samuel was trusted to become the prophet to the Lord in all Israel from one end of the land to the other: and Eli was a very old man, and his sons *were* going and kept *on* going, and their way was evil before the Lord.

\* *Codex Vaticanus* omits: "to Eli".

## Chapter 4

**A**nd it came to pass in those days that the \* Philistines *did* gather themselves together against Israel to war; and Israel went out to meet them and encamped at Abenezar, and the \* Philistines encamped in Aphek. 2 And the \* Philistines prepare for war against Israel, and the war was turned against them; and the men of Israel failed before the \* Philistines, and there were struck in the battle, in the field, four thousand men.

3 And the people came into the encampment, and the elders of Israel said, Why has the Lord caused us to fail this day before the \*Philistines? Let us take the Ark of our God out of Selom, and let it come forth from the midst of us, and it shall deliver us from *the* hand of our enemies.

4 And the people sent to Selom, and they take thence the Ark of the Lord who sits *between* the cherubs: and both the sons of Eli, Ophni and Phinees, *were* with the ark. 5 And it came to pass when the Ark of the Lord entered into the encampment that all Israel shouted out with a great voice and the earth resounded. 6 And the \* Philistines heard the cry, and the \* Philistines said, What *is* this great cry in the encampment of the Hebrews: and they understood that the Ark of the Lord had come into the encampment. 7 And the \* Philistines feared, and said, These Gods have come to them into the encampment. 8 Woe to us, O Lord, deliver us today for such a thing has not happened yesterday and a third *day*: woe to us, who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These *are* the Gods that struck Egypt with every plague, and in the wilderness. 9 Strengthen yourselves and become like men, ye \* Philistines, that ye may not serve the Hebrews as they have served us, and you shall be men and wage war

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12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the battle array, and he came to Selom on that day: and his clothes *were* rent, and earth *was* upon his head. 13 And he came, an behold, Eli was upon the seat by the gate watching the way, for his heart was *filled with* sorrow for the Ark of God: and the man entered into the city to bring tidings; and the city cried out. 14 And Eli heard the sound of the cry, and said, What *is* the sound of this cry? And the men hasted and went in, and reported to Eli. 15 Now Eli *was* a son of ninety years old, and his eyes rose up, and he saw not. 16 And Eli said to them that stood around him, What *is* the utterance of this sound? And the man hasted and advanced to Eli, and said to him, I am he that is come out of the encampment, and I have fled from the battle array today: and Heli said, What *is* the thing taking place *my* child? 17 And they young man answered and said, *Every* man of Israel fled from the face of the \* Philistines, and there was a great slaughter among the people, and both thy sons have died \*, and the Ark of God is taken. 18 And it came to pass, when he mentioned the Ark of God, that he fell from the seat backward near the gate, and his back was broken, and he died, for *he was* an old man and heavy: and he judged Israel twenty years.

19 And his daughter-in-law, *the* wife of Phinees, *was* with child, *just about* to give birth; and she heard the tidings, that the Ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law and her husband had died; and she wept and gave birth, for her *birth* pains turned *greatly* upon her. 20 And in the time she was at the point of death; the women that stood by her, said to her, Fear not, for thou have born a son: but she answered not, and did not regard *it* in her heart. 21 And she called the boy \* Woe of Varhavoth, because of the Ark of God, and because of her father-in-law, and because of her husband. 22 And they said, *The* glory of Israel has resettled *far away from us*, in the taking of the Ark of the Lord.

\* This word is used in the *Septuagint* as a distinct reference to “Philistines”, but is literally translated as “foreigners”, or “those of another people or tribe”.

\* According to Alfred Rahlfs’ *Septuaginta*, Origen’s *LXX recension* adds: “Ophni, and Phinees”.

\* *Codex Vaticanus* has these two words as one word and reads it as a name. It is translated as: “Ouaivarhavoth”.

\* Alfred Rahlfs’ *Septuaginta*, citing Origen’s *LXX recension* and Lucian’s *LXX recension*, reads the

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2 And the \* Philistines took the Ark of the Lord, and carried it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. 3 And the people of Azotioi arose early, and entered into the house of Dagon; and looked, and behold, Dagon had fallen on his face before the Ark of the God: and they raised Dagon, and placed him in his place. And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon the Azotians, and He plagued them, and He struck them in their buttocks, the Azotons and her boarders. 4 And it came to pass when they arose early in the morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face before *the* Ark of *the* Covenant of *the* Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off each in front of the threshold, and both the wrists of his hands had fallen on *the floor* of the entrance of the gate; only the spine of Dagon was left. On account of this none *of* the priests of Dagon, *or* do any *who* enter into the house of Dagon, tread upon the threshold of the house of Dagon in Azotou until this day. For by passing over they pass over it.

6 And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon Azoton, and he brought it against them, and it burst out against them in the ships, and mice arose in the midst of her country, and there came to pass a great confusion of death in the city. 7 And the men of Azotou saw that *it was* so, and they said, The Ark of the God of Israel shall not stay with us, for his hand *is* hard upon us and upon Dagon our god. 8 And they send and gather the \* lords of the \* Philistines to themselves, and say, What shall we do to the Ark of the God of Israel? And the Gethaie say, Let the Ark of God come over to us; and the Ark of the God of Israel came to Geth.

9 And it came to pass after it passed through the ranks, that *the hand of the* Lord came \* *upon* the city, a very great confusion; and He struck the men of the city small and great, and struck them in their buttocks: and the Gethaie made to themselves *images of* buttocks.

10 And they sent out the Ark of God to Askalona. And it came to pass as the Ark of God went into Askalona, that the Askalonitai cried out, saying, Why have ye brought back the Ark of the God of Israel to us, *is it* to cause our death and *that of* our people? 11 And they send and gather the \* lords of the \* Philistines, and they said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it lodge in its place; and let it not slay us and our people. 12 For there was a very great confusion in all the city, when the Ark of the God of Israel entered there; and

\* *Codex Alexandrinus* adds: "against".

## Chapter 6

**A**nd the ark was seven months in *the* field of the \* Philistines, and their land erupted with mice. 2 And the \* Philistines called the priests, and their clairvoyants, and their enchanter, saying, What shall we do to the Ark of the Lord? Make known to us wherewith we shall send it away to its place. 3 And they said, If ye send away the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord God of Israel, do not on any account send it away empty, but by delivering *it back*, you give it back for the plague; and then shall ye be healed, and an atonement shall be made for you: should not His hand be removed from off you? 4 And they say, What for the plague shall we give for it? And they said, According to the number of the \* lords of the \* Philistines, five golden buttocks, for the plague was on you, and on your rulers, and on the people; 5 and golden mice, the likeness of the mice that corrupted your land: and ye shall give glory to the Lord, that He may lighten His hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. 6 And why do ye *make* your hearts heavy, as Egypt and Pharaoh *made* their hearts heavy? *Was it not so* when he mocked them *that* they released them, and they departed?

7 And now, take and make a new wagon, and two cows that have given birth for the first time, without their calves; and do you yoke the cows to the wagon, and lead away the calves from behind them to *the* house. 8 And ye shall take the ark and put it on the wagon; and the items of gold ye shall deliver with it for the plague; and ye shall place them in a chest, at the side thereof: and ye shall let it go, and send it away, and it shall depart. 9 And ye shall see, if it shall go the way of its boarders along by Baithsamys, He has brought upon us this great calamity; and if not, then shall we know that His hand has not touched us, but this *is* a chance *that* has happened to us.

10 And the \* Philistines did so; and they took two cows that had given birth for the first time, and yoked them to the wagon, and their calves they locked away at home. 11 And they set the Ark of the Lord, and *as well as* place the chest, and the mice of gold, on the wagon. 12 And the cows went straight on the way to the road of Baithsamys, they went along one track; and labored, and turned not aside to the right or to the left, and the \* lords of the \* Philistines went

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15 And the Levites brought up the Ark of the Lord, and the place chest with it, and the golden items upon it, and placed them on the great stone, and the men of Baithsamys offered whole burnt offerings and sacrificed on that day to *the* Lord. 16 And the five \* lords of the \* Philistines saw, and returned to Askalona in that day.

17 And these *are* the buttocks of gold which the \* Philistines gave for the plague to the Lord; for Azotou one, for Gazys one, for Askalonos one, for Geth one, for Akkaron one. 18 And the mice of gold according to the number of all the cities of the \* Philistines, belonging to the five \* lords, from the city being firmly *fortified* to the village of the Pherezaiou, and to the great stone, on which they placed the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, \* that was in the field of Osee the Baithsamysitou.

19 And the sons of Jehonias were not pleased with the men of Baithsamys, because they saw *the* Ark of *the* Lord; and *the* Lord struck among them seventy men, and fifty thousand men: and the people mourned, because the Lord had inflicted on the people, an exceedingly great plague. 20 And the men, the ones from Baithsamys, said, Who shall be able to go in the presence of *the* Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall the Ark of the Lord go up from us? 21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kariathiarim, saying, The \* Philistines have returned the Ark of the Lord, go down and lead it up to yourselves.

\* This word is used in the *Septuagint* as a distinct reference to “Philistines”, but is literally translated as “foreigners”, or “those of another people or tribe”.

\* Literally: “Satraps”.

\* According to Alfred Rahlfs’ *Septuaginta, Codex Alexandrinus* and Origen’s *LXX recension* add the phrase: “until this day”.

## Chapter 7

**A**nd the men of Kariathiarim came, and led up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord: and brought it into *the* house of Aminadav on the hill; and Eleazar, his son, they sanctified to safeguard the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.

? And it came to pass from the day that the ark was in Kariathiarim the

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4 And the sons of Israel removed the Baalim and the *sacred* groves of Astaroth, and served the Lord alone.

5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Massephath, and I will pray for you to *the* Lord. 6 And they gathered together in Massephath, and drew water, and poured it out before *the* Lord upon the earth. And they fasted on that day, and said, We have sinned before *the* Lord. And Samuel adjudicated the sons of Israel in Massephath.

7 And the \* Philistines heard that all the sons of Israel were gathered together in Massephath: and the \* lords of the \* Philistines went up against Israel: and the sons of Israel heard, and they became fearful from before *the* face of the \* Philistines. 8 And the sons of Israel said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry before the Lord thy God for us, and He shall deliver us from out of *the* hand of *the* \* Philistines. 9 And Samuel took one suckling lamb, and offered it up as a whole burnt offering with the entire people to the Lord: and Samuel cried to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord heard him. 10 And Samuel was offering the whole burnt offering; and the \* Philistines drew near to *make* war against Israel; and the Lord thundered with a great voice in that day upon the \* Philistines, and they were confounded and overthrown before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went forth out of Massephath, and pursued the \* Philistines, and struck at them below Baithhor.

12 And Samuel took a stone, and set it up between Massephath and *that which is* the old; and he called the name of it Abenezzer, Stone of the Helper; and he said, Hitherto the Lord helped us.

13 And *the* Lord humbled the \* Philistines, and they did not proceed any longer to come unto *the* border of Israel; and the hand of the Lord was against the \* Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 And the cities which the \* Philistines took from the sons of Israel were returned; and they returned them to Israel \* from Askalonos to Azov: and the boarder of Israel was removed from *the* hand of *the* \* Philistines; and there was peace between Israel and the Amorraiou.

15 And Samuel adjudicated *for* Israel all the days of his life. 16 And he went year by year, and went around Bethel, and Galgala, and Massephath; and he adjudicated *for* Israel in all these consecrated places. 17 And he turned unto Armathaim, because there was his house; and *from* there he adjudicated *for* Israel, and built there an altar to the Lord.