

Black people in Jewish Sources

Biblical sources

Genesis Chapter 1

כו וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים, נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם
בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ; וַיְרִדּוּ בְדִגְתַּת הַיָּם
וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם, וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-
הָאָרֶץ, וּבְכָל-הָרֶמֶשׂ, הֹרֵמֵשׁ עַל-
הָאָרֶץ.

26 And God said: 'Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness; and let them have dominion over
the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and
over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every
creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

כז וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם
בְּצַלְמוֹ, בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא
אֹתוֹ: זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה, בָּרָא אֹתָם.

27 And God created man in His own image, in the
image of God created He him; male and female
created He them.

כח וַיְבָרֵךְ אֹתָם, אֱלֹהִים, וַיֹּאמֶר
לָהֶם אֱלֹהִים פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-
הָאָרֶץ, וּכְבֹּשׁוּהָ; וַיְרִדּוּ בְדִגְתַּת הַיָּם,
וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם, וּבְכָל-חַיָּה, הֹרֵמֶשֶׁת
עַל-הָאָרֶץ.

28 And God blessed them; and God said to them: 'Be
fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and
subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air, and over every living
thing that creeps upon the earth.'

Jeremiah Chapter 13

כ שְׂאֵי (שָׂאוּ) עֵינֵיכֶם וּרְאוּ (וּרְאוּ),
הַבָּאִים מִצָּפוֹן; אֵינָהּ, הַעֵדֶר נִתְּן-לָךְ--
צֹאן, תִּפְאָרְתֶךָ.

20 Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come
from the north; where is the flock that was given
you, your beautiful flock?

כא מַה-תֹּאמְרִי, כִּי-יִפְקֹד עָלֶיךָ, וְאָתָּה
לְמַדְתָּ אֹתָם עָלֶיךָ אֲלָפִים, לְרֹאשׁ;
הֲלוֹא חֲבָלִים יֵאֱחָזוּךָ, כְּמוֹ אִשֶּׁת
לְדָה.

21 What will you say, when He shall set the friends
over you as head, whom you yourself have trained
against you? Shall not pang take hold of you, as of a
woman in travail?

כב וְכִי תֹאמְרִי בְלִבְבְּךָ, מִדַּעַת קִרְאֵנִי
אֵלֶּהָ; בָּרַב עֲוֹנֶךָ נִגְלוּ שׁוּלְחֶיךָ, נַחֲמָסוּ
עַקְבֵיךָ.

22 And if you say in your heart: 'Wherefore are these
things befallen me?'--for the greatness of your
iniquity are your skirts uncovered, and your heels
suffer violence.

כג הֲיִתְחַפֵּךְ כּוֹשֵׁי עוֹרוֹ,
וְנִמְר חֲבַרְבֶּרְתָיו;
גַּם-אַתָּם תּוֹכְלוּ לַהֲיִטִּיב,
לְמִדֵּי הָרַע.

23 Can the Kushite change his skin,
or the leopard his spots?
Then may you also do good,
that are accustomed to do evil.

כד וְאַפְיָצֶם, כְּקֹשׁ-עוֹבֵר, לְרוּחַ,
מִדְּבָר.

24 Therefore will I scatter them, as the stubble that
passes away by the wind of the wilderness.

Genesis Chapter 10

ו וּבְנֵי, חָם--כּוּשׁ וּמִצְרַיִם, וּפּוּט
וּכְנָעַן.

6 And the sons of Ham: Kush, and Mizraim, and Put,
and Canaan.

ז וּבְנֵי כּוּשׁ--שֵׁבָא וְחַוִּילָה, וְסַבְתָּה
וְרַעְמָה וְסַבְתֶּכָּא; וּבְנֵי רַעְמָה, שֵׁבָא
וּדְדָן.

7 And the sons of Kush: Seva, and Havilah, and
Savtah, and Raamah, and Savtecha; and the sons of
Raamah: Sheva, and Dedan.

ח וְכוּשׁ, יָלַד אֶת-נִמְרוֹד; הוּא הַחַל,
לְהִיטֵת גִּבּוֹר בְּאָרֶץ.

8 And Kush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty
one in the earth.

Numbers Chapter 12

- א** וַתְּדַבֵּר מִרְיָם וְאַהֲרֹן בְּמִשְׁחָה, עַל-אִדּוֹת הָאִשָּׁה הַכְּשִׁית אֲשֶׁר לָקַח כִּי-אִשָּׁה כְּשִׁית, לָקַח. **1** And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Kushite woman whom he had taken/married; for he had taken/married a Kushite woman.
- ב** וַיֹּאמְרוּ, הֲרַק אֲדָם בְּמִשְׁחָה דְבַר יְהוָה; הֲלֹא, גַם-בָּנוּ דְבַר; וַיִּשְׁמַע, יְהוָה. **2** And they said: 'But has the LORD spoken only with Moses? has He not spoken also with us?' And the LORD heard it.--
- ג** וְהָאִישׁ מֹשֶׁה, עָנּוּ מְאֹד— מִכָּל, הָאָדָם, אֲשֶׁר, עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה. {ס} **3** Now the man Moses was very humble, above all the men that were upon the face of the earth.-- {S}
- ד** וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה פְּתָאם, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל-מִרְיָם, צֵאוּ שְׁלֹשְׁתֵיכֶם, אֶל-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וַיִּצְאוּ, שְׁלֹשָׁתָם. **4** And the LORD spoke suddenly to Moses, and to Aaron, and to Miriam: 'Come out you three to the tent of meeting.' And they three came out.
- ה** וַיֵּרֵד יְהוָה בְּעַמּוּד עָנָן, וַיַּעֲמֵד פֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל; וַיִּקְרָא אֶהָרֹן וּמִרְיָם, וַיִּצְאוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם. **5** And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the door of the Tent, and called Aaron and Miriam; and they both came forth.
- ו** וַיֹּאמֶר, שְׁמַעוּ-נָא דְבָרִי; אִם-יְהִי, נְבִיאֲכֶם--יְהוָה בְּמִרְאָה אֵלָיו אֲתוֹדַע, בְּחִלּוֹם אֲדַבֵּר-בּוֹ. **6** And He said: 'Hear now My words: if there be a prophet among you, I the LORD do make Myself known to him in a vision, I do speak with him in a dream.
- ז** לֹא-כֵן, עַבְדִּי מֹשֶׁה: בְּכָל-בֵּיתִי, נֶאֱמָן הוּא. **7** My servant Moses is not so; he is trusted in all My house;
- ח** פִּה אֶל-פִּה אֲדַבֵּר-בּוֹ, וּמִרְאָה וְלֹא בְּחִידוֹת, וַתִּמְנַח יְהוָה, לְבַיִט; וּמִדּוּעַ לֹא יִרְאֶתֶם, לְדַבֵּר בְּעַבְדִּי בְּמִשְׁחָה. **8** with him do I speak mouth to mouth, even manifestly, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD does he behold; wherefore then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?'
- ט** וַיַּחַר-אַף יְהוָה בָּם, וַיֵּלֶד. **9** And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and He departed.
- י** וַהֲעֵנּוּ, סָר מֵעַל הָאֹהֶל, וַהֲנִה מִרְיָם, מִצִּרְעַת פֶּשֶׁלֶג; וַיִּפֹּן אֶהָרֹן אֶל-מִרְיָם, וַהֲנִה מִצִּרְעַת. **10** And when the cloud was removed from over the Tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow; and Aaron looked upon Miriam; and, behold, she was leprous.
- יא** וַיֹּאמֶר אֶהָרֹן, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה: בִּי אֲדַנִּי--אֶל-נָא תִשֵּׁת עָלֵינוּ חַטָּאת, אֲשֶׁר נֹאֲלָנוּ וְאֲשֶׁר חָטָאנוּ. **11** And Aaron said to Moses: 'Oh my lord, lay not, I pray you, sin upon us, for that we have done foolishly, and for that we have sinned.

על אודות האשה הכושית.
מגיד הכתוב
שכל מי שהוא רואה אותה –
היה מודה בנויה.

וכן הוא אומר (בראשית יא)
אבי מלכה ואבי יסכה,
[יסכה היא שרה
ולמה נקראה יסכה?]
אלא שהכל סוכים ביופיה,
שנאמר (בראשית י"ב: ט"ו)
ויראו אותה שרי פרעה
ויהללו אותה אל פרעה.

ר' אליעזר
בנו של רבי יוסי הגלילי אומר:
צפורה צפו וראו
מה נאה האשה:

הכושית.
וכי היתה?
אלא מדיינית היתה,
שנאמר (שמות ב)
ולכהן מדין שבע בנות,
ומה ת"ל כושית? –
מה כושי משונה בעורו,
כך צפורה משונה בנויה
יותר מכל הנשים.

כיוצא בו אתה אומר (תהלים ז)
שגיון לדוד אשר שר לה'
על דברי כוש בן ימיני.
וכי כושי היה?
אלא מה כושי משונה בעורו,
אף שאול משונה במראיו,
שנאמר (שמואל א ט)
משכמו ומעלה
גבוה מכל העם.

כיוצא בו אתה אומר (עמוס ט)
הלא כבני כושים אתם לי
בני ישראל.
וכי כושים היו?
אלא כושי משונה בעורו –
אף ישראל משונים במצוות
יותר מכל אומות העולם.

כיוצא בו אתה אומר (ירמיהו לח: ז)
וישמע עבד מלך הכושי
איש סריס.
וכי כושי היה?
אלא מה כושי משונה בעורו,
כך היה ברוך בן נריה
משונה במעשיו
יותר מכל בני פלטרין של מלך:

"... *Because of the Kushite woman*":
Scripture hereby tells us
that whoever beheld her
attested to her beauty.

And thus is it written (Bereshit 11: 29)
"... *the father of Milkah and the father of Yiskah*":
Yiskah is Sarah:
Why was she called "Yiskah"?
For all gazed upon ("sochim") her beauty,
as it is written (Ibid. 12: 15)
"And Pharaoh's officers saw her
and praised her to Pharaoh."

R. Eliezer
the son of R. Yossi Haglili said:
"Tzipporah"? "Tzfu ur'uh" ("Look and see")
how beautiful this woman is!

"*the Kushite (Ethiopian) woman*":
Now was she (actually an Ethiopian)?
Wasn't she a Midianite,
As is said (Shemot 2: 16)
"*And the priest of Midian had seven daughters, etc.*"
So what is the intent of "*Kushite*"?
Just as a Kushite is exceptional in his skin,
so Tzipporah was exceptional in her beauty
more so than all the women.

Similarly, (Psalms 7: 1)*
"*A Shiggayon of David, which he sang to the Lord
concerning Kush (Saul), a Benjaminite.*"
Now was he really a Kushite?
Just as a Kushite is exceptional in his skin,
so Saul was exceptional in his appearance,
as it is written (I Samuel 9: 2)*
"... *from his shoulder and upwards,
taller than any of the people.*"

Similarly you say, (Amos 9: 7)*
"*Are you not like Kushites to Me,
O children of Israel!*"
Now were they Kushites?
Rather just as a Chushite is exceptional in his skin,
so is an Israelite exceptional in mitzvot.
More than all nations of the world

Similarly you say, (Jeremiah 38: 7)
"*And Eved-Melech the Kushite heard,
An officer*":
Now was he a Kushite?
Rather, just as a Kushite is exceptional in his skin,
so, was Baruch ben Neriah
exceptional in his deeds,
more so than any of the others in the king's palace.

<p>כי אשה כושית לקח. למה נאמר? לפי שהוא אומר על אודות הכושית, אלא מה ת"ל כושית לקח? יש לך נוחה ביופיה ולא במעשיה, במעשיה ולא ביופיה, כמו שנאמר (משלי יא) נום זהב באף חזיר אשה יפה וסרת טעם. זאת – נאה, נוחה בנויה – ונוחה במעשיה. לכך נאמר אשה כושית לקח:</p>	<p><i>"for he had taken a Kushite woman":</i> Why is this written? Is it not written (immediately before) <i>"about the Kushite woman that he had taken"?</i> So why does it say <i>"he had taken a Kushite woman"</i>: There are those who are beautiful in appearance, but not in deed; in deed, but not in appearance, viz. (Proverbs 11: 22) <i>"Like a golden ring in the snout of a pig is a beautiful woman lacking in sense.</i> This one (Tzipporah) was pleasant beautiful in appearance and beautiful in her deeds Therefore it is written (for a second time!) <i>"he had taken a Kushite woman"</i>:</p>
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Psalms Chapter 7

- א** שִׁגְיֹון לְדָוִד אֲשֶׁר-שָׁר לַיהוָה--עַל-
דְּבַר־יְכוֹשׁ, בֶּן-יְמִינִי. **1** Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD,
concerning Kush a Benjamite.
- ב** יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי, בָּדָךְ
חֲסִיתִי; הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי מִכָּל-רֹדְפֵי,
וְהַצִּילֵנִי. **2** O LORD my God, in You have I taken refuge; save
me from all them that pursue me, and deliver me,
and deliver me.
- ג** פֶּן-יִטְרֹף כְּאַרְיֵה נַפְשִׁי; פִּרְקוּ,
וְאִין מַצִּיל. **3** Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces,
while there is none to deliver.

1 Shmuel Chapter 9

- א** וַיְהִי-אִישׁ מִבֶּן יִמִּין (מִבְּנֵי־יִמִּין),
וְשֵׁמוֹ קִישׁ בֶּן-אַבִּיאל בֶּן-צֶרֶר בֶּן-
בְּכוֹרַת בֶּן-אַפִּיחַ--בֶּן-אִישׁ
מִיָּנִי: גִּבּוֹר, חַיִּל. **1** Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name
was Kish, the son of Aviel, the son of Tseror, the son
of Bechorat, the son of Aphiach, the son of a
Benjaminite, a mighty man of valour.
- ב** וְלוֹ-הָיָה בֶן וְשֵׁמוֹ שָׂאוּל, בָּחוּר
וְטוֹב, וְאִין אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, טוֹב
מִמֶּנּוּ; מִשְׁכָּמוֹ וְמֵעֲלָה, גְּבֵהַ מִכָּל-
הָעָם. **2** And he had a son, whose name was Saul, young
and goodly, and there was not among the children of
Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulder
and upward he was taller than any of the people.

Amos Chapter 9

- ה** וְאֵדָנִי יְהוָה הַצָּבָאוֹת, הַנוֹגֵעַ
בְּאַרְצָךְ וְתִמּוֹג, וְאָבְלוּ, כָּל-יּוֹשְׁבֵי בָהּ;
וְעָלְתָה כִּיָּאֵר כְּלָהּ, וְשָׁקַעָה כִּיָּאֵר
מִצְרַיִם. **5** For the Lord, the GOD of hosts, is He that touches
the land and it melts, and all that dwell therein
mourn; and it rises up wholly like the River, and
sinks again, like the River of Egypt;
- ו** הַבּוֹנֶה בְּשָׁמַיִם מַעְלוֹתָיו, וְאֵגְדָתוֹ
עַל-אֲרָץ יִסְדָּהּ; הַקּוֹרָא לְמֵי-הַיָּם,
וַיִּשְׁפְּכֵם עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ--יְהוָה שְׁמוֹ. **6** It is He that builds His upper chambers in the
heaven, and has founded His vault upon the earth;
He that calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them
out upon the face of the earth; The LORD is His
name.

- ז הלוֹא כְּבְנֵי כְּשִׁיִּים אַתֶּם לִי
בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל,
נְאֻם-יְהוָה:
הֲלוֹא אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל הֶעֱלִיתִי
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם,
וּפְלִשְׁתִּיִּים מִכַּפְתּוֹר,
וְאֶרֶם מִקִּיר.
- 7 Are you not like the Kushites to Me,
O children of Israel?
says the LORD.
Have not I brought up Israel
out of the land of Egypt,
and the Philistines from Caphtor,
and Aram from Kir?
- ח הִנֵּה עֵינֵי אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה, בְּמַמְלַכְהָ
הַחַטָּאָה, וְהַשְׁמִדְתִּי אֶתָּה, מֵעַל פְּנֵי
הָאֲדָמָה: אֲפֹס, כִּי לֹא הַשְׁמִיד
אֶשְׁמִיד אֶת-בַּיִת יַעֲקֹב--נְאֻם-יְהוָה.
- 8 Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the
sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face
of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the
house of Jacob, says the LORD.

Jeremiah Chapter 38

- א וַיִּשְׁמַע שְׁפַטְיָה בֶן-מַטָּן, וְגַדְלִיָּהוּ
בֶן-פַּשְׁחֹר, וַיֹּכֵל בֶּן-שֶׁלְמִיָּהוּ,
וּפַשְׁחֹר בֶּן-מַלְכִּיָּה: אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים--
אֲשֶׁר יְרָמְיָהוּ מְדַבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם,
לֵאמֹר.
- 1 And Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah
the son of Pashhur, and Juchal the son of Shelemiah,
and Pashhur the son of Malkiah, heard the words that
Jeremiah spoke unto all the people, saying:
- ב כֹּה, אָמַר יְהוָה, הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּעִיר
הַזֹּאת, יָמוּת בַּחֶרֶב בְּרָעַב וּבַדָּבָר;
וְהַיֹּצֵא אֶל-הַכַּשְׂדִּים יַחִיה (וְחַיָּה),
(וְחַיָּה) לֹו נִפְשׁוֹ לְשָׁלָל וְחַי. { ס }
- 2 'Thus says the LORD: He that remains in this city
shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the
pestilence; but he that goes forth to the Chaldeans
shall live, and his life shall be to him for a prey, and
he shall live. {S}
- ג כֹּה, אָמַר יְהוָה: הַנִּתֵּן תִּנְתְּנוּ הָעִיר
הַזֹּאת, בְּיַד חֵיל מְלָךְ-בָּבֶל--וּלְכַדָּה.
- 3 Thus says the LORD: This city shall surely be
given into the hand of the army of the king of
Babylon, and he shall take it.'
- ד וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַשָּׂרִים אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, יוֹמַת
נָא אֶת-הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה--כִּי-עַל-כֵּן הוּא--
מְרַפָּא אֶת-יָדֵי אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה
הַנֹּשְׂאָרִים בְּעִיר הַזֹּאת וְאֵת יָדֵי כָל-
הָעָם, לְדַבֵּר אֵלֵיהֶם בְּדְבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה: כִּי הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה, אֵינְנוּ דֹרֵשׁ
לְשָׁלוֹם לָעָם הַזֶּה--כִּי אִם-לְרָעָה.
- 4 Then the ministers said to the king: 'Let this man,
we pray you, be put to death; forasmuch as he
weakens the hands of the men of war that remain in
this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking
such words to them; for this man seeks not the
welfare of this people, but the hurt.'
- ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ צְדֻקְיָהוּ, הִנֵּה-הוּא
בְּיַדְכֶם: כִּי-אִין הַמֶּלֶךְ, יוֹכֵל אֶתְכֶם
דָּבָר.
- 5 Then Zedekiah the king said: 'Behold, he is in your
hand; for the king cannot do anything against you.'
- ו וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-יְרָמְיָהוּ, וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֹתוֹ
אֶל-הַבּוֹר מַלְכִּיָּהוּ בֶן-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר
בַּחֲצַר הַמַּטְרָה, וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֶת-יְרָמְיָהוּ,
בַּחֲבָלִים; וּבַבּוֹר אִין-מַיִם כִּי אִם--
טִיט, וַיִּטְבַּע יְרָמְיָהוּ בְּטִיט. { ס }
- 6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the pit
of Malkiah the king's son, that was in the court of the
guard; and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And
in the pit there was no water, but mire; and Jeremiah
sank in the mire. {S}
- ז וַיִּשְׁמַע עֶבֶד-מֶלֶךְ הַכּוּשִׁי
אִישׁ סָרִיס,
וְהוּא בְּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ,
כִּי-נָתְנוּ אֶת-יְרָמְיָהוּ אֶל-הַבּוֹר;
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹשֵׁב,
בְּשַׁעַר בִּנְיָמִן.
- 7 Now heard Eved-Melech the Kushite,
an officer,
who was in the king's house,
that they had put Jeremiah in the pit;
the king then sitting
in the gate of Benjamin;
- ח וַיֵּצֵא עֶבֶד-מֶלֶךְ, מִבַּיִת הַמֶּלֶךְ;
וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, לֵאמֹר.
- 8 Eved-Melech went forth out of the king's house,
and spoke to the king, saying:

ט אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ, הֲרָעוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים
הָאֵלֶּה אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לְיִרְמְיָהוּ
הַנְּבִיא, אֶת אֲשֶׁר-הִשְׁלִיכוּ, אֶל-
הַבּוֹר; וַיָּמָת תַּחֲתָיו מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָב, כִּי
אֵין הַלֶּחֶם עוֹד בְּעִיר.

9 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the pit; and he is like to die in the place where he is because of the famine; for there is no more bread in the city.'

י וַיִּצְוֶה הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת עֶבֶד-מֶלֶךְ הַכּוּשִׁי
לֵאמֹר: קַח בְּיָדְךָ מִזֶּה, שְׁלֹשִׁים
אֲנָשִׁים, וְהַעֲלִית אֶת-יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנְּבִיא
מִן-הַבּוֹר, בְּטָרֶם יָמוּת.

10 Then the king commanded Eved-Melech the Kushite, saying: 'Take from hence thirty men with you, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the pit, before he die.'

יא וַיִּקַּח עֶבֶד-מֶלֶךְ אֶת-הָאֲנָשִׁים
בְּיָדוֹ, וַיָּבֵא בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-תַּחַת
הָאוֹצַר, וַיִּקַּח מִשָּׁם בְּלוֹי הַסַּחְבוֹת
(סַחְבוֹת), וּבְלוֹי מְלָחִים; וַיִּשְׁלַחם
אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ אֶל-הַבּוֹר, בַּחֲבָלִים.

11 So Eved-Melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence worn clouts and worn rags, and let them down by cords into the pit to Jeremiah.

יב וַיֹּאמֶר עֶבֶד-מֶלֶךְ הַכּוּשִׁי אֶל-
יִרְמְיָהוּ, שִׁים נָא בְּלוֹאֵי הַסַּחְבוֹת
וְהַמְּלָחִים תַּחַת אֲצָלוֹת גְּדִידְךָ,
מִתַּחַת, לַחֲבָלִים; וַיַּעַשׂ יִרְמְיָהוּ, כֵּן.

12 And Eved-Melech the Kushite said to Jeremiah: 'Put now these worn clouts and rags under thine armholes under the cords.' And Jeremiah did so.

יג וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ אֶת-יִרְמְיָהוּ בַּחֲבָלִים,
וַיַּעֲלוּ אוֹתוֹ מִן-הַבּוֹר; וַיָּשֶׁב יִרְמְיָהוּ,
בְּחֹצֵר הַמִּטְרָה. {ס}

13 So they drew up Jeremiah with the cords, and took him up out of the pit; and Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard. {S}

2 Samuel Chapter 18

- יט** וַאֲחִימֵעַץ בֶּן-צְדוֹק, אָמַר, אַרְוֶצָה נָא, וַאֲבַשְׂרָה אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ: כִּי-שָׁפְטוּ יְהוָה, מִיַּד אֹיְבָיו.
- 19** Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok: 'Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD has avenged him of his enemies.'
- כ** וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יוֹאָב, לֹא אִישׁ בְּשַׂרָה אֲתָה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, וּבִשְׂרָתְךָ, בַּיּוֹם אַחֵר; וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לֹא תִבָּשֵׂר, כִּי-עַל-כֵּן בֶּן-הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵת.
- 20** And Yoav said to him: 'You shall not be the bearer of tidings this day, but you shall bear tidings another day; but this day you shall bear no tidings, forasmuch as the king's son is dead.'
- כא** וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב לַכּוּשִׁי, לֵךְ הַגֵּד לַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתָה; וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ כּוּשֵׁי לְיוֹאָב, וַיָּרָץ.
- 21** Then said Yoav to the Kushite: 'Go tell the king what you have seen.' And the Kushite bowed down to Yoav, and ran.
- כב** וַיֹּסֵף עוֹד אֲחִימֵעַץ בֶּן-צְדוֹק, וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-יוֹאָב, וַיְהִי מָה, אֲרָצָה-נָא גַם-אֲנִי אַחֲרֵי הַכּוּשִׁי; וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב, לְמַה-זֶּה אֲתָה רָץ בְּנִי, וּלְכָה, אִין-בְּשׂוֹרָה מִצֵּאת.
- 22** Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Yoav: 'But come what may, let me, I pray you, also run after the Kushite.' And Yoav said: 'Wherefore will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the tidings?'
- כג** וַיְהִי-מָה אַרְוֶץ, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ רוּץ; וַיָּרֶץ אֲחִימֵעַץ דָּרָךְ הַכְּפָר, וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת-הַכּוּשִׁי.
- 23** 'But come what may, [said he,] I will run.' And he said to him: 'Run.' Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain, and overran the Kushite.
- כד** וַדָּוִד יוֹשֵׁב, בֵּין-שְׁנֵי הַשַּׁעֲרִים; וַיִּלְךְ הַצֹּפֵה אֶל-גַּג הַשַּׁעַר, אֶל-הַחוּמָה, וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא, וַהֲנֶה-אִישׁ רָץ לְבֶדוּ.
- 24** Now David sat between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate to the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.
- כה** וַיִּקְרָא הַצֹּפֵה, וַיַּגִּד לַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אִם-לְבֶדוּ בְשׂוֹרָה בָּפִיו; וַיִּלְךְ הַלּוֹךְ, וַקָּרַב.
- 25** And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said: 'If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth.' And he came apace, and drew near.
- כו** וַיִּרְא הַצֹּפֵה, אִישׁ-אַחֵר רָץ, וַיִּקְרָא הַצֹּפֵה אֶל-הַשַּׁעַר, וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה-אִישׁ רָץ לְבֶדוּ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, גַּם-זֶה מְבַשֵּׂר.
- 26** And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the porter, and said: 'Behold another man running alone.' And the king said: 'He also brings tidings.'
- כז** וַיֹּאמֶר, הַצֹּפֵה, אֲנִי רָאִה אֶת-מְרוּצַת הָרֵאשׁוֹן, כְּמְרוּצַת אֲחִימֵעַץ בֶּן-צְדוֹק; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אִישׁ-טוֹב זֶה, וְאֶל-בְּשׂוֹרָה טוֹבָה יָבֹא.
- 27** And the watchman said: 'I think the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.' And the king said: 'He is a good man, and comes with good tidings.'
- כח** וַיִּקְרָא אֲחִימֵעַץ, וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלוֹם, וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַפָּיו, אַרְצָה; {ס} וַיֹּאמֶר, בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֲשֶׁר סָגַר אֶת-הָאֲנָשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר-נָשְׂאוּ אֶת-יָדָם בְּאֹדְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ. {ס}
- 28** And Ahimaaz called, and said to the king: 'All is well.' And he bowed down before the king with his face to the earth, {S} and said: 'Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.' {S}
- כט** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, שְׁלוֹם לְנַעַר לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם; וַיֹּאמֶר אֲחִימֵעַץ רָאִיתִי הַקְּמוֹן הַגָּדוֹל לְשַׁלַּח אֶת-עֶבֶד הַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹאָב, וְאֶת-עֶבְדֶּךָ, וְלֹא יָדַעְתִּי, מָה.
- 29** And the king said: 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' And Ahimaaz answered: 'When Yoav sent the king's servant, and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.'
- ל** וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, סֵב הַתִּיַצֵּב כֹּה; וַיִּסַּב, וַיַּעֲמֵד.
- 30** And the king said: 'Turn aside, and stand here.' And he turned aside, and stood still.
- לא** וַהֲנֶה הַכּוּשִׁי, בָּא; וַיֹּאמֶר הַכּוּשִׁי, יִתְבַּשֵּׂר אֹדְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ--כִּי-
- 31** And, behold, the Kushite came; and the Kushite said: 'Tidings for my lord the king; for the LORD

שָׁפַטְךָ יְהוָה הַיּוֹם, מִיַּד כָּל-הַקָּמִים
עָלֶיךָ. {ס} has avenged you this day of all them that rose up
against you.' {S}

לב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-הַכּוּשִׁי,
הַשְּׁלוֹם לְנַעַר לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם; וַיֹּאמֶר
הַכּוּשִׁי, יְהִי כַנְעַר אֲבִי אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-קָמוּ עָלֶיךָ, לְרָעָה. {ס}
32 And the king said to the Kushite: 'Is it well with
the young man Absalom?' And the Kushite
answered: 'The enemies of my lord the king and all
that rise up against you to do you hurt, be as that
young man is.' {S}

Song of Songs Chapter 1

- א** שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים, אֲשֶׁר לְשֹׁלֹמֹה. **1** The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
- ב** יִשְׁקֶנִי מִנְּשִׁיקוֹת פִּיהוּ, כִּי-טוֹבִים
דְּדִיךָ מִיַּיִן. **2** Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for
your love is better than wine.
- ג** לְרִיחַ שְׁמֹנֶיךָ טוֹבִים, שְׁמֹן תּוֹרֵךְ
שְׁמֶךָ; עַל-כֵּן, עֲלַמּוֹת אֶהְבֹּדְךָ. **3** Your ointments have a goodly fragrance; your
name is as ointment poured forth; therefore do the
maidens love you.
- ד** מִשְׁכְּנִי, אֶחְרִיךָ נְרוּצָה; הִבִּיאֲנִי
הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲדָרָיו, נִגְלָה וְנִשְׁמַחָה בְּךָ--
נִזְכְּרָה דְּדִיךָ מִיַּיִן, מִיִּשְׁרִים
אֶהְבֹּדְךָ. {פ} **4** Draw me, we will run after you; the king has
brought me into his chambers; we will be glad and
rejoice in you, we will find your love more fragrant
than wine! sincerely do they love you. {P}
- ה** שְׁחֹרָה אָנִי וְנֹאמָה,
בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם;
כְּאֹהֲלֵי קֶדָר,
כִּירִיעוֹת שֹׁלֹמֹה. **5** 'I am black, and/but comely,
O you daughters of Jerusalem,
as the tents of Kedar,
as the curtains of Solomon.
- ו** אַל-תִּרְאוּנִי שְׁאֲנִי שְׁחֹרְחֹרֶת,
שֶׁשָּׁזַפְתָּנִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ;
בְּנֵי אִמִּי נִחְרוּ-בִּי,
שָׂמְנִי נִטְרָה אֶת הַכַּרְמִים;
כַּרְמִי שְׁלִי, לֹא נִטְרָתִי. **6** Look not upon me, that I am black,
that the sun has tanned me;
my mother's sons were incensed against me,
they made me keeper of the vineyards;
but my own vineyard I have not kept.'
- ז** הַגִּידָה לִּי, שְׂאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי, אֵיכָה
תִּרְעָה, אֵיכָה תִרְבִּיץ בְּצִהְרִים;
שֶׁלָּמָה אֶהְיָה כְּעֹטִיָּה, עַל עֲדָרֵי
חֲבֵרֶיךָ. **7** Tell me, O you whom my soul love, where you
feed, where you make your flock to rest at noon; for
why should I be as one that veils herself beside the
flocks of your companions?
- ח** אִם-לֹא תִדְעִי לָךְ, הִנֵּפָה בְּנָשִׁים;
צֵאִי-לָךְ בְּעֵקֶבֶי הַצֹּאן, וְרַעִי אֶת-
גְּדֵי־תֶיֶדְךָ, עַל מִשְׁכְּנוֹת הָרֹעִים. {פ} **8** If you know not, O you beautiful among women,
go your way forth by the footsteps of the flock and
feed your kids, beside the shepherds' tents. {P}