

***The One Man
Who Could've
Prevented
the Churban***

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In this kina, each line begins with the first word of the corresponding verse in Elisha chapter 4, which according to tradition was the eulogy Jeremiah said after the death of King Josiah (Rashi, Lam. 4:1). Commentary for this kina begins on page 292.

דמי רחמיכי
להידי

וְיִקְרָא וְיִבְכֶּה עַל יְהוֹשִׁיָּהוּ:

אֵיכָה אֵלַי, קוֹרְבִי מֵאֵלַיִךְ

בְּאֵשׁ מוֹתָה שָׁרָה הִחַל לְדַוֵּשׁ מֵאֵלַיִךְ.

פָּנָה חֶסֶד מִעֲבָדֶיךָ, חָנוּ עָלַי

וְלֹא הוֹכֵר לִי שְׂגוֹי מִפְעֻלֶיךָ:

גַּם בְּכָל הַמַּלְכִּים אֲשֶׁר קָמוּ לְקִדְוָה

לֹא קָם כְּמוֹתוֹ, מִיּוֹמֹת אַבְרָהָם:

דָּבַק בּוֹ עַוְלָה לִיבִי הַיּוֹר

אֲשֶׁר אֶחָד הִדְלִיתָ קָמוּ לְסוּדֵי:

הָאֲדָמִים וְרַע שָׂחֹר

פָּתְמוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם, פָּתְמוּ מִשְׁחֹר:

וְגִדְלֵי עֵץ, וְהַשִּׁיב וּמִן אֲחֹר:

וְעוֹד לֹא שָׁלַח יָדוֹ מִן הַחֹר:

וְכֵן אֲמַרְוּ, בְּנֵי דָת לְהַקִּים

בְּצַע אֲמֹרְתוֹ, בְּאֹרֶחַ אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִקְיָם:

הַשֵּׁן תִּפְאֹרַח פִּנְאָצוֹ וְרוֹחִים

בְּבִצָּע מוֹאֲבִי דָת וְחֻקִּים:

טוֹבִים רַעִים נִקְרָא, בְּשִׁלְחוֹ מֶלֶךְךָ

מִדֵּי לִי וְלֶךְ הַיָּם, לְהִתְלַחֵץ:

יְדֵי עַם הָאָרֶץ, דְּמִים בְּמִלְחָמָךְ

הַעֲנֵשׁ, בְּבִצָּעוֹת אֶת פִּנְי פִּלְאָךְ:

כָּלֵה הַחוֹמֹת, לְלֶכֶת אֶרֶץ נִהְרִים

לְמַעַן לֹא תַעֲבֹר חֹדֶב מִן שְׁנוֹת בְּאִפְרַיִם:

לֹא שָׁמַע לְחֻצֹת, לְשׁוֹב אֲחֻרָיִם

כִּי גִזְרָה נִגְזְרָה לְסִכְכֹּךְ מַעֲרִים בְּמַעֲרִים:

וְיִקְרָא וְיִבְכֶּה עַל יְהוֹשִׁיָּהוּ:

א How a wail and a lament issued forth from the mighty leaders, for [Josiah], who, at the age of eight, began to search for God on his own.

ב The sons of Ham [Egypt] passed through [the Land of Israel] and encamped there. The merit of his many good deeds was to no avail.

ג Among all the kings of Israel who sought to mend the breach [of idolatry], none surpassed him since the days of Avigdor [Moses].

ד But the sin of his hypocritical generation stuck to him; those who concealed idolatrous images on the interior of their doors.

ה Consumers of the Nile's vegetation [Egyptians], discolored his golden visage so that it became blacker than coal.

ו The people's many sins caused God to withhold His redeeming right arm and no longer intercede on their behalf.

ז [Josiah's] promise to uphold the Law was sincere. He rent his clothing when he learned that those who fail to enforce the Torah are cursed.

ח His face became darkened with soot, as the enemy, once distant, now threatened, all because of the sin of those who rejected statutes and law.

ט The would-be ally [king of Egypt] sent a messenger, assuring peace: "There is no enmity between us to justify waging war with you!"

י Why cause my soldiers to spill much blood? Why should you bear the blame for my divinely ordained [war against Assyria]?"

כ [Josiah, stubbornly denying Egypt passage,] caused so many to fall at the battle in distant Aram, near the Euphrates, just so that "no sword" should, in any way, trespass the land of Ephraim.

כא He ignored [Jeremiah's] instructions not to oppose Egypt's passage, for Egypt was doomed to self-destruction [and Israel's opposition thus not needed].

Deut. 32:26

11 Chr. 35:25

- ח Because they worshiped idols behind closed doors
and scorned the vision of the prophet
ז from Anatot, the Anamites [Egyptians] advanced
and ravaged their bodies;
[Josiah] persisted to do battle, and for that we lament.
- ט "Turn back," [the prophets] pleaded, "before disaster strikes!"
But they refused to turn back, thus shaking the earth's foundation.
י [Josiah] continued to do battle, but his prayers were to no avail;
the arrows of archers pierced Josiah.
- יא His eyes already closed, they continued to pound his body,
shooting forcefully dart after dart.
יב They ambushed him and made him their target,
pelted him with three hundred arrows.
- יג Swiftly, they drew near to hear his last words.
His deeds remained beautiful even as he expired.
יד With his last gasp, he mumbled,
"The LORD is righteous; it is I who defied His word!"
- טו Rejoice, Nof [Egypt], for He has vent His wrath
to punish that crowd who sinned through theft.
טז Gone because of their sin is the finest gold [King Josiah],
For whom [Jeremiah] composed, "Alas! The gold is dulled!"
- יז He met the same fate [as King Ahab],
drinking the bitter cup of Megiddo,
in the post-Sabbatical year, at the time the people would gather.
יח For another twenty-two years, He postponed shattering the Temple's
foundations, corresponding to the twenty-two letters [of the alphabet]
with which the dirge in [Josiah's] honor was composed [by Jeremiah].

11 Chr 33:33

Lam. 4:1

אֲנִי מִיִּי אֶתֵּן מִיִּי אֶתֵּן מִיִּי אֶתֵּן
at the time I forgot my Creator.
אֲנִי חָשַׁבְתִּי שֶׁאֶתֵּן מִיִּי אֶתֵּן מִיִּי אֶתֵּן
wickedly, \ was expelled, and my shelter [the Temple] is now forsaken.

מִשְׁחָרֵי לַחֲשֻׁעָה בֵּאֵר - קִינֹת
הָיוּ עֲתֻדֹתֵי הַחֵלֶל לְבָאֵר.
נָעוּ עֲנָמִים לְחֹפֵי לְחֵבֹת.
וְלֹא הִסֵּב פָּנָיו, וְסָפְדוּ עַל זֹאת:
סָפְדוּ הָעִיר, עַד לֹא שָׁאָה.
וְיִמָּאֲנוּ סוּר, וְכֵס וְסוּר נִשְׁתָּה.
פָּנֵי קֹדֶשׁ קָדֹשׁ, וְלֹא עָלְתָה לוֹ שְׂעִירָה
וְיָדוּ הָיִים לְפָנָיו, יִאֲשֻׁרָה:
עוֹדֵנוּ עוֹרֵם עֵינָיו, בָּגָדוֹ נוֹחָצִים
הֵן אֲנֵנוּ הֵן, מוֹרִים וְלֹחֲצִים.
צָדוֹ וְשִׁמּוֹתוֹ בְּמִשְׁחָה לְחֹצִים
וְאֶרְקֶה בּוֹ שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת הָחֹצִים:
קָלִים אֲתָנוּ אֲדָרְיוֹ, אֲוִיו מוֹצֵא פִיָּה
וְעַד מִצְוֵי נִפְשׁוֹ, מִעֲשֵׂיו הִיפְיָהוּ.
רָחַם שְׁפָרְתוֹ הַפִּצָּה מִפִּידוֹ
צָדִיק הוּא הַדּוֹר, כִּי מְרִירָתוֹ פִּידוֹ:
שִׁשִּׁי נֹאף, כִּי קָטַף זֶהֱם
לִשְׁלֹם שְׂאוֹתָם בְּעוֹן בָּצָעִים.
הֵם בָּרָם הַטּוֹב, עִם זֶה בְּפִשְׁעֵם
וְקָלָן עָלָיו כִּי אֵיכָה יִדַּע זֶהֱם:
הֵם בְּמִקְרָה אֲחֵר כּוֹס מִגִּדּוֹ לְשִׁמּוֹת
בְּמִעַד שְׁנֵת הַשְׁמִיטָה, בָּעַד הַקֹּדֶשׁ לְאַתָּה.
הָלַךְ עֲשָׂרִים וְשָׁתֵּם, מִדְּרוֹם שְׁמֹת
כִּי סָפְדוּ לוֹ אֵיכָה, בְּעֲשָׂרִים וְשָׁתֵּם אוֹתָהּ:
אוֹתוֹת קִינֹת לְבִטָּה מִחוּלֵי / עַתָּה כִּי שִׁכְחָנוּ מִחוּלֵי
וְסָפְדוּ כִּי לֹעַד יֵאָחֲזוּ / רִשְׁעֵנוּ וְנִסְכְּנוּ, וְנִשְׁפֹּשׁ אֶהְיֶה:

דברי הימים ב
לח ב

אסתר א

מְלָכִים ב 2 Kings Chapter 23

- א** וַיִּשְׁלַח, הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַיֹּאסְפוּ אֵלָיו, כָּל-זִקְנֵי יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם. **1** And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.
- ב** וַיַּעַל הַמֶּלֶךְ בֵּית-יְהוָה וְכָל-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה וְכָל-יֹשְׁבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם אִתּוֹ, וְהַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַנְּבִיאִים, וְכָל-הָעָם, לְמִקְטָן וְעַד-גָּדוֹל; וַיִּקְרָא בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם, אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית, הַנִּמְצָא, בְּבֵית יְהוָה. **2** And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.
- ג** וַיַּעֲמֵד הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל-הָעֲמֹוד וַיַּכְרֹת אֶת-הַבְּרִית לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, לָלֶכֶת אַחֲרֵי יְהוָה וְלִשְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתָיו וְאֶת-עֲדוּתָיו וְאֶת-חֻקֹּתָיו בְּכָל-יָב וּבְכָל-נֶפֶשׁ, לְהַקִּים אֶת-דְּבָרֵי הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת, הַכְּתוּבִים עַל-הַסֵּפֶר הַזֶּה; וַיַּעֲמֵד כָּל-הָעָם, בְּבְרִית. **3** And the king stood on the platform, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments, and His testimonies, and His statutes, with all his heart, and all his soul, to confirm the words of this covenant that were written in this book; and all the people stood to the covenant.
- ד** וַיִּצַּו הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-חִלְקִיָּהוּ הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל וְאֶת-כֹּהֲנֵי הַמִּשְׁנָה, וְאֶת-שָׂמְרֵי הַסֹּף, לְהוֹצִיא מֵהֵיכַל יְהוָה, אֶת כָּל-הַכֵּלִים הָעֲשׂוּיִם לְבַעַל וּלְאַשֶׁרָה וּלְכָל צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם; וַיִּשְׂרֹפֵם מִחוּץ לִירוּשָׁלַם, בְּשָׂדֵמוֹת קִדְרוֹן, וַנָּשָׂא אֶת-עֲפָרָם, בֵּית-אֵל. **4** And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-el.

- ה וְהִשְׁבִּית אֶת-הַכֹּמָרִים, אֲשֶׁר
נָתַנוּ מְלָכֵי יְהוּדָה, וַיִּקְטֹּר
בַּבָּמֹת בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה, וּמִסָּבִי
יְרוּשָׁלַם; וְאֶת-הַמִּקְטָרִים לַבַּעַל,
לְשֶׁמֶשׁ וּלְיָרֵחַ וּלְמַזְלוֹת, וּלְכָל
צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם.
- 5 And he put down the idolatrous
priests, whom the kings of Judah had
ordained to offer in the high places
in the cities of Judah, and in the
places round about Jerusalem; them
also that offered unto Baal, to the
sun, and to the moon, and to the
constellations, and to all the host of
heaven.
- ו וַיֵּצֵא אֶת-הָאֲשֵׁרָה מִבֵּית יְהוָה
מִחוּץ לְיְרוּשָׁלַם, אֶל-נַחַל קִדְרוֹן,
וַיִּשְׂרֹף אֹתָהּ בְּנַחַל קִדְרוֹן, וַיִּדְק
לָעָפָר; וַיִּשְׁלֹךְ, אֶת-עֲפָרָהּ, עַל-
קֶבֶר, בְּנֵי הָעָם.
- 6 And he brought out the Asherah
from the house of the LORD,
without Jerusalem, unto the brook
Kidron, and burned it at the brook
Kidron, and stamped it small to
powder, and cast the powder thereof
upon the graves of the common
people.
- ז וַיִּתֵּץ אֶת-בֵּתֵי הַקְדָּשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר
בְּבֵית יְהוָה: אֲשֶׁר הִנָּשִׁים,
אֲרָגוֹת שָׁם בֵּתִים--לָאֲשֵׁרָה.
- 7 And he broke down the houses of
the sodomites, that were in the house
of the LORD, where the women
wove coverings for the Asherah.
- ח וַיָּבֵא אֶת-כָּל-הַכֹּהֲנִים, מֵעָרֵי
יְהוּדָה, וַיְטַמֵּא אֶת-הַבָּמֹת אֲשֶׁר
קָטְרוּ-שָׁמָּה הַכֹּהֲנִים, מִגִּבְעַע עַד-
בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע; וַנִּתֵּץ אֶת-בָּמֹת
הַשָּׁעָרִים, אֲשֶׁר-פָּתַח שַׁעַר
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ שַׁר-הָעִיר, אֲשֶׁר-עַל-
שְׂמֹאל אִישׁ, בְּשַׁעַר הָעִיר.
- 8 And he brought all the priests out
of the cities of Judah, and defiled the
high places where the priests had
made offerings, from Geba to Beer-
sheba; and he broke down the high
places of the gates that were at the
entrance of the gate of Joshua the
governor of the city, which were on
a man's left hand as he entered the
gate of the city.
- ט אָךְ, לֹא יָעִלוּ כֹהֲנֵי הַבָּמֹת,
אֶל-מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה, בְּיְרוּשָׁלַם: כִּי
אִם-אָכְלוּ מִצֹּת, בִּתְוֹךְ אֲחֵיהֶם.
- 9 Nevertheless the priests of the high
places came not up to the altar of the
LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat
unleavened bread among their
brethren.

כא וַיִּצַו הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת-כָּל-הָעָם לֵאמֹר, עֲשׂוּ פֶסַח, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם--כַּכְּתוּב, עַל סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית הַזֶּה.

21 And the king commanded all the people, saying: 'Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in this book of the covenant.'

כב כִּי לֹא נַעֲשָׂה, כַּפֶּסַח הַזֶּה, מִיָּמֵי הַשִּׁפְטִים, אֲשֶׁר שָׁפְטוּ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְכָל, יָמֵי מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל-וּמַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה.

22 For there was not kept such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

כג כִּי, אִם-בְּשָׁמְנָה עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה, לַמֶּלֶךְ, יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ: נַעֲשָׂה הַפֶּסַח הַזֶּה, לַיהוָה--בִּירוּשָׁלַם.

23 but in the eighteenth year of king Josiah was this passover kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

כד וְגַם אֶת-הָאֲבוֹת וְאֶת-הַיִּדְּעָנִים וְאֶת-הַתִּרְפִּים וְאֶת-הַגִּלְגָּלִים וְאֶת כָּל-הַשִּׁקְצִים, אֲשֶׁר נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה וּבִירוּשָׁלַם--בָּעֵר, יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ: לְמַעַן הָקִים אֶת-דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹרָה, הַכְּתוּבִים עַל-הַסֵּפֶר, אֲשֶׁר מָצָא חִלְקִיָּהוּ הַכֹּהֵן, בֵּית יְהוָה.

24 Moreover them that divined by a ghost or a familiar spirit, and the teraphim, and the idols, and all the detestable things that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

כה וְכַמֹּהוּ לֹא-הָיָה לְפָנָיו מֶלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁב אֶל-יְהוָה בְּכָל-לְבָבוֹ וּבְכָל-נַפְשׁוֹ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדוֹ--כָּלל, תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה; וְאַחֲרָיו, לֹא-קָם כָּמֹהוּ.

25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.