

UNEHEMIYA

UMthandazo kaNehemiya

1 La ngamazwi kaNehemiya indodana kaHakhaliya:

Kwathi ngenyanga kaKhisilevi ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili, ngisenqabeni yaseSusa, ²uHamani, omunye wabafowethu, wafika evela koJuda elamanye amadoda, ngababuza ngabaJuda labo ababeyinsalela abasinda ebugqilini, njalo ngabuza ngeJerusalema. ³Bathi kimi, "Labo abasindayo ebugqilini ababuyelayo elizweni baphakathi kohlupho olumangalisayo lokuyangeka okukhulu. Umduli weJerusalema wadilika lamasango ayo atshiswa ngomlilo."

⁴Ngathi sengizwile lezizinto ngahlala phansi ngakhala. Okwezinsuku ezithile ngalila, ngazila ukudla njalo ngikhuleka phambi kukaJehova wasezulwini.

⁵Ngasengisithi:

"O Jehova, Nkulunkulu wasezulwini, uNkulunkulu omkhulu owesabekayo, ogcina isivumelwano sakhe sothando lalabo abamthandayo, abalalela imilayo yakhe, ⁶ake kuthi indlebe yakho ilalele lamehlo akho avuleke ukuze uzwe umkhuleko okhulekwa yinceku yakho kuwe imini lobusuku, ikhulekela izinceku zakho, abantu bako-Israyeli. Ngiyazivuma izono ezenziwe kuwe yithi aba-Israyeli, kugoqela mina lendlu kababa.

⁷Senzile ububi kuwe. Kasilalelanga imilayo yakho, izimemezelo lemithetho owayinika inceku yakho uMosi.

⁸Khumbula umlayo owalaya ngawo inceku yakho uMosi wathi, "Aluba lingathembekanga ngizalichithachitha phakathi kwezizwe, ⁹kodwa uma

libuya kimi lilalele imilayo yami, lapho-ke loba abathunjiweyo bakini besemkhawulweni womhlaba, ngizabaqoqa besuka khonale ngibabuyise endaweni engiyikhethileyo ukuba likhaya leBizo lami.

¹⁰Bayizinceku zakho labantu bakho owabahlengayo ngamandla akho amakhulu lesandla sakho esilamandla.

¹¹O Jehova, akuthi indlebe yakho ilalele umkhuleko wale inceku yakho, lomkhuleko wezinceku zakho ezithokoza ekwesabeni ibizo lakho. Phumelelisa inceku yakho lamuhla ngokuyipha isihawu phambi kwendoda le."

Ngangingumphathi wezitsha zokudla kwenkosi.

U-Athakisekisi uthumela uNehemiya eJerusalema

2 Ngenyanga kaNisani ngomnyaka

wamatshumi amabili weNkosi u-Athakisekisi, ngesikhathi ephiwa iwayini, ngalithatha iwayini ngalisa enkosini. Ngangingakaze ngivele kuyo ngidanile; ²ngakho inkosi yangibuza yathi, "Kungani ubuso bakho bukhanya buhlobile kanje wena ungaguli? Lokhu ngeke kube ngokunye ngaphandle kokudana okusenhliziyweni."

Ngezwa ngisesaba kakhulu, ³kodwa ngathi enkosini, "Phila lanini nkosi! Ubuso bami bungayekelelani na ukuhloba njengoba idolobho lapho okulele khona okhokho selingamanxiwa nje, lamasango alo atshiswa ngomlilo na?"

⁴Inkosi yathi kimi, "Pho ufunani?"

Ngasengikhuleka kuNkulunkulu wezulwini, ⁵yikho ngasengiyiphendula inkosi ngathi, "Aluba kungaba yikuthanda kwenkosi njalo nxa inceku yakho ifumene umusa emehlweni ayo,

kayingithumele kulelodobho elikoJuda lapho okwambelwa khona okhokho ukuze ngiyolakha kakutsha.

⁶Inkosi eyayihlezi lendlovukazi eceleni kwayo yangibuza yathi, "Uhambo lwakho luzathatha isikhathi esingakanani, njalo uzabuya nini?" Inkosi yathanda ukuthi ngihambe; yikho ngamisa isikhathi.

⁷Ngaphinde ngathi kuyo, "Uma kuyikuthanda kwenkosi, ngicela izincwadi ziye kubabusi bangaphetsheya kweYufra, ukwenzela ukuthi bangivikele ohambeni lwami ngize ngiyofika koJuda?" ⁸Njalo ngicela incwadi eya ku-Asafi, umphathi wegusu lenkosi, yikho ezanginika izigodo zokwenza izinsika zamasango esigodlo eduzane lethempeli lezomduli wedolobho kanye lezendlu engizahlala kuyo." Kwathi ngoba isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu wami sasiphezu kwami, inkosi yazamukela izicelo zami.

⁹Yikho ngasengisiya kubabusi bangaphetsheya kweYufra ngabapha izincwadi zenkosi. Inkosi yayingiphe futhi abalawuli bebutho kanye lamabutho amabhiza ukuba bangiphelekezele.

¹⁰Kwathi ukuba uSanibhalathi umHaroni loThobhiya umAmoni owayeyinduna bekuzwa lokhu, bakhathazeka kakhulu ukuthi ukhona owayeselande ukuzathuthukisa inhlobo yaba-Israyeli.

UNehemiya Uhlola Imiduli YeJerusalema

¹¹Ngaya eJerusalema, kwathi sengihlale khona izinsuku ezintathu

¹²ngaphuma kusebusuku ngilamadoda ambalwa. Ngangingazange ngitshele muntu ngalokho uNkulunkulu wami ayekubeke enhliziyweni yami ngeJerusalema. Kakho omunye owahamba egadile ngaphandle kwami.

¹³Ebusuku ngaphuma ngeSango leSigodi ngaqonda uMthombo weKhanka leSango loBulongwe, ngihlola imiduli

yeJerusalema, eyayibhidliziwe, kanye lamasango ayo ayetshiswe ngomlilo.

¹⁴Ngaqhubeka sengiqonde eSangweni loMthombo leSiziba Senkosi, kodwa kwakungelantshekuntshu yokudlula ubabhemi wami engangimgadile; ¹⁵yikho ngasengikhwela ngesigodi kusebusuku, ngihlola umduli. Ekucineni ngaphenduka ngangena ngeSango leSigodi. ¹⁶Izinduna kazizange zikwazi ukuthi ngangiyi ngaphi lokuthi ngangisenzani, ngokuba ngangivele ngingakatsho lutho kubaJuda loba kubaphristi loba ezikhulwini loba ezinduneni loba lakubobani ababekwenza umsebenzi.

¹⁷Ngasengisithi kubo, "Liyalubona uhlupho esiphakathi kwalo: iJerusalema selingamanxiwa nje, lamasango alo atshisiwe ngomlilo. Wozani, siwakhe kutsha umduli weJerusalema ukuze singabi silokhu sihlaziswa."

¹⁸Ngaphinda ngabatshela ngesandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu wami kimi lokuthi inkosi yayitheni kimi.

Baphendula bathi, "Kasiqaliseni ukwakha." Yikho bahle bawuqalisa umsebenzi lo omuhle.

¹⁹Kodwa kwathi ukuba uSanibhalathi umHaroni, loThobhiya induna yom-Amoni loGeshemi um-Arabhi bekuzwa lokho, basichithoza basihleka. "Kuyini lokhu elikwenzayo?" babuza.

"Selihlamukele inkosi na?"

²⁰Ngabaphendula ngokuthi, "UNkulunkulu wasezulwini uzasiphumelelisa. Thina izinceku zakhe sesiqalisa ukwakha kutsha, kodwa lina, kalilasabelo eJerusalema, loba imfanelo loba lungelo bani lomdabuko wenu."

Abakhi boMduli

3 U-Eliyashibi umphristi omkhulu labanye bakhe abangaphristi baya emsebenzini wokwakha bavuselela

iSango leZimvu. Balinikela basebemisa kuhle izivalo zalo, bakha baze bayafika eMphotshongweni weKhulu, lawo abawunikelayo, baqhubeka bayafika eMphotshongweni kaHananeli.

² Amadoda aseJerikho wona akha isigaba esilandelayo, kwathi uZakhuri indodana ka-Imri wakha eceleni kwabo.

³ ISango leNhlanzi lakhiwa ngamadodana kaHasena. Amisa imigubazi yalo afaka lezivalo lamabhawudo kanye leminxibo yakhona. ⁴ UMeremothi indodana ka-Uriya, indodana kaHakhozi, yena wavuselela isigaba esilandelayo. Kusukela kuye kwakha uMeshulami indodana kaBherekhiya, indodana kaMeshezabeli, kwalandela kuye uZadoki indodana kaBhana laye wayesakha.

⁵ Isigaba esilandelayo savuselelwa ngamadoda aseThekhowa, kodwa izikhulu zakhona zala ukusebenza ngaphansi kwabakhokheli babo.

⁶ ISango leJeshana lavuselelwa nguJoyada indodana kaPhaseya loMeshulami indodana kaBhesodeya. Bamisa imigubazi yalo bafaka izivalo lamabhawudo leminxibo ezindaweni zakhona. ⁷ Eceleni kwabo, kwakuvuselela amadoda aseGibheyoni labaseMizipha – uMelathiya waseGibheyoni loJadoni waseMeronothi, izindawo ezaziphethwe ngumbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufrathe.

⁸ U-Uziyeli indodana kaHarihaya, omunye wabakhandi begolide, wavuselela isigaba esilandelayo; uHananiya, omunye wabenzi bamakha, laye wavuselela isigaba esilandelayo. Balivuselela iJerusalema kwaze kwafika eMdulini Obanzi. ⁹ URefaya indodana kaHuri, umbusi wengxenye yeJerusalema, walungisa isigaba esilandelayo.

¹⁰ Okubambene lalapha kwavuselelwa nguJediya indodana kaHarumafi

okwakumalungana lendlu yakhe, loHathushi indodana kaHashabheniya wavuselela eceleni kwakhe.

¹¹ UMalikhiya indodana kaHarimu loHashubi indodana kaPhahathi-Mowabi bavuselela esinye isigaba loMphotshongo Wamaziko.

¹² UShalumi indodana kaHalosheshi, umbusi wengxenye yeJerusalema, wavuselela isigaba esilandelayo esizwa ngamadodakazi akhe.

¹³ ISango leSigodi lavuselelwa nguHanuni lezakhumuzi zaseZanoya. Balakha kutsha bafaka izivalo zalo lamabhawudo kanye leminxibo ezindaweni zakhona. Bavusa njalo umduli okwezinyathelo ezingamakhulu amahlanu kusiyafika eSangweni loBulongwe.

¹⁴ ISango loBulongwe lalungiswa nguMalikhiya indodana kaRekhabi, umbusi wesiqinti saseBethi Hakeremi. Wavuvuselela wafaka izivalo lamabhawudo leminxibo yakhona ezindaweni zakhona.

¹⁵ ISango loMthombo lavuselelwa nguShalumi indodana kaKholi-Hoze, umbusi wesiqinti saseMizipha. Walivuselela, wafaka uphahla lezivalo lamabhawudo leminxibo ezindaweni zakhona. Wavuselela futhi umduli weSiziba saseSilowami, eceleni kweSivande senkosi kwaze kwayafika ezinyathelweni ezehla zisuka eDolobheni likaDavida. ¹⁶ Ngale kwakhe, uNehemiya indodana ka-Azibhuki, umbusi wengxenye yesiqinti saseBhethi Zuri wavuselela kwaze kwayafika maqondana lamathuna kaDavida, kusiyafika echibini lokwembiwa leNdlu yaMaqhawe.

¹⁷ Kulandela yena, kwaba ngabaLevi ababesakha ngaphansi kukaRehuni indodana kaBhani. Eceleni kwakhe, kwakusakha uHashabhiya, umbusi

wengxenywe yesiqinti seKheyila,
owayesakhela isiqinti sakhe.

¹⁸ Kulandela yena, kwakusakha amadoda akibo engaphansi kukaBhinuwi indodana kaHenadadi, umbusi wenye ingxenywe yesiqinti saseKheyila.

¹⁹ Kulandela yena, kungu-Ezeri indodana kaJeshuwa, umbusi waseMizipha, owavuselela esinye isigaba, kusukela endaweni eqondane lomqanso oya endlini yezikhali kwaze kwafika ejikweni.

²⁰ Kulandela yena, kunguBharukhi indodana kaZabayi owakha esinye isigaba ngesivuvu, kusukela ejikweni kusiya entubeni engena endlini ka-Eliyashabi umphristi omkhulu.

²¹ Kulandela yena, esinye isigaba savuselelwa nguMeremothi indodana ka-Uriya, indodana kaHakhori, kusukela entubeni yako-Eliyashabi kusiya lapho ecina khona.

²² Sekusuka lapho kwalungisa abaphristi bakulowommango. ²³ Ngale kwabo, kwakusakha uBhenjamini loHashubi belungisa phambi kwendlu yabo; kulandela bona, kwasebenza u-Azariya indodana kaMaseya, indodana ka-Ananiya, esakha eduze lendlu yakhe.

²⁴ Kulandela yena, uBhinuwi indodana kaHanadadi wavuselela esinye isigaba, kusukela endlini ka-Azariya kusiya ejikweni, ²⁵ loPhalali indodana ka-Uzayi wasebenza maqondana lejiko lomphotshongo othutsha phezu kwesigodlo esingaphezulu kusiya egcekeni labalindi. Kulandela yena, kunguPhadiya indodana kaPharoshi ²⁶ lezinceku zethempelini ezazihlala eqaqeni luka-Ofeli abakha baze bafika endaweni malungana leSango laManzi kusiya empumalanga kanye lomphotshongo othutshayo.

²⁷ Kulandela bona, kwakungamadoda aseThekhowa avuselela esinye isigaba, kusukela emphotshongweni omkhulu othutshayo kusiya emdulini ka-Ofeli.

²⁸ Ngaphezulu kweSango leBhiza, kwakusakha abaphristi, ngulowo phambi kwendlu yakhe. ²⁹ Kulandela bona, uZadoki indodana ka-Imeri wayesakha phambi kwendlu yakhe. Kulandela yena, kwakunguShemiya indodana kaShekhaniya, umlindi weSango laseMpumalanga, laye owakhayo. ³⁰ Owamlandelayo, nguHananiya indodana kaShelemiya, loHanuni, indodana yesithupha kaZalafi, laye wavuselela esinye isigaba. Owalandela bona nguMeshulami indodana kaBherekhiya owakha malungana lalapho ayehlala khona. ³¹ Kulandela yena, kwakunguMalikhiya, omunye wabakhandi begolide, wakha kwaze kwayafika endlini yezinceku zethempelini kanye labathengisi, malungana leSango lokuHlolwa, kuze kufike endlini engaphezulu kwejiko; ³² kwathi phakathi kwendlu engaphezulu kwejiko leSango leZimvu abakhandi begolide labathengisi baba yibo abavuselelayo.

Ukuphikiswa Kokwakha Kutsha

4 Kwathi uSanibhalathi esizwa ukuthi sasiwuvusa umduli, wazonda waze wagcwalelana. Wabahleka ulunya abaJuda, ² wasesithi, phambi kwabakhula bakhe lebuthe laseSamariya, "OkungabaJuda lokhu kuthi kwenzani kambe? Bangawuvusa umduli wabo na? Bazayenza imihlatshelo na? Bazawuqeda ngalanga linye? Bangakubuyisa na ukuphila ematsheni layana azinqwaba zengcekeza – etshile nje enje?" ³ UThobhiya um-Amoni, owayeseceleni kwakhe wathi, "Lokhu abakwakhayo, loba nje ikhanka lingakhwela phezu kwakho, lingawudiliza umduli wabo wamatshe!"

⁴Sizwe, O Nkulunkulu wethu, ngokuba siyeyiswa. Phindisela kubo emakhanda izethuko zabo. Banikele babe yimpango elizweni lobugqili.

⁵Ungaligubuzeli icala labo kumbe wesule izono zabo emehlweni akho, ngoba bebehlabaza abakhi.

⁶Ngakho sawakha umduli wonke waze waphakama okufika ingxenye yobude bawo, ngoba abantu basebenza ngenhliziyo yabo yonke.

⁷Kodwa kwathi ukuba uSanibhalathi, loThobhiya, lama-Arabhi, lama-Amoni lamadoda ase-Ashidodi besizwa ukuthi ukuvuselelwa kwemiduli yaseJerusalema kwasekuqhubekile njalo lezikhala zazivalwa bazonda kakhulu. ⁸Baceba ukuba beze bazohlasela iJerusalema bavuse uthuli kulo. ⁹Kodwa sakhuleka kuNkulunkulu wethu sabeka abalindi emini lebusuku ukuthi balindele lokhukuhlaselwa.

¹⁰Kusunjalo, abantu bakoJuda bathi, "Amandla abasebenzi asededa, ikanti izibi zizezinengi okokuthi siyehluleka ukuqhubeka ngokwakha umduli."

¹¹Izitha zethu lazo zithe, "Besalibele nje futhi bengakasiboni, bazaqabuka sesiphakathi kwabo sesibabulala siwucinise umsebenzi lo."

¹²Kwasekusithi abaJuda ababehlala eduze labo beza bazasitshela baphindaphinda besithi, "Lingaze liqonde ngaphi bazalihlasela kuphela." ¹³Ngasengimisa abanye abantu ngezimuli zabo ezindaweni lapho umduli owawuphansi khona, ezazingeneka lula, behlomile ngezinkemba, lemikhonto langemitshoko.

¹⁴Ngemva kokuba sengiwuhlolisile wonke umumo, ngasukuma ngathi ezikhulwini, lezinduna lakubantu bonke jikelele, "Lingabesabi. Khumbulani uJehova, omkhulu owesabekayo, lilwele abafowenu, amadodana lamadodakazi enu, abafazi benu lemizi yenu."

¹⁵Kwathi izitha zethu sezizwile ukuthi sasesilazi icebo lazo lokuthi uNkulunkulu wayeselifubisile, sonke sabuyela kuwo umduli, ngulowo kowakhe umsebenzi.

¹⁶Kusukela ngalelolanga, ingxenye yamadoda engangilawo yenza umsebenzi, enye ingxenye yahloma ngemikhonto, lamahawu, lemitshoko lamabhatshi ensimbi. Izinduna zazimisa ngemuva kwabo bonke abantu bako-Juda

¹⁷ababesakha umduli. Labo ababethwala izinto zokwakha babesenza umsebenzi ngesandla esisodwa ngesinye umuntu ephethe isikhali, ¹⁸njalo ngulowo lalowo umakhi wayehlome inkemba ilengiswe eceleni kwakhe nxa esebenza. Kodwa indoda yokutshaya icilongo yahlala ikimi.

¹⁹Ngasengisithi ezikhulwini, lezinduna lakubantu bonke jikelele, "Umsebenzi ubanzi usabalele, njalo sehlukene kakhulu omunye komunye kulandela umduli.

²⁰Lingezwa ingabe kungaphi okukhala khona icilongo, phuthumani khona lize kithi. UNkulunkulu wethu uzasilwela!"

²¹Yikho sawuqhuba umsebenzi ingxenye yamadoda ihlomile ngemikhonto, kusukela emathathakusa kuze kuphume izinkanyezi.

²²Ngasonaleso isikhathi ngabuye ngathi ebantwini, "Akuthi yonke indoda kanye lomsizi wayo balale ngaphakathi kweJerusalema ebusuku, ukuze babe ngabalindi bethu ebusuku, babe ngabasebenzi emini." ²³Mina labafowethu, lamadoda ayelami, labalindi ababelami kasizange sihlubule izigqoko zethu; ngulowo waphatha isikhali sakhe loba engena emanzini.

UNehemiya Usiza Abampofu

5 Ngalesosikhathi amadoda

labomkawo baxokozela kakhulu besola abazalwane babo bamaJuda. ²Abanye babesithi, "Thina lamadodana lamadodakazi ethu sibanengi kakhulu;

ukuthi sidle ukuze siphile kumele sizuze amabele."

³ Abanye babesithi, "Sesibambisa ngamasimu ethu, langezivini zethu kanye lemizi yethu ukuzuzwa amabele ngesikhathi sendlala."

⁴ Abanye njalo labo babesithi, "Sesiseboleka imali ukuze sikwazi ukubhadala imithelo yenkosi eyamasimu ethu lezivini zethu. ⁵ Loba siyinyamanye legazi linye labantu bakithi njalo loba amadodana ethu elingana lawabo, kodwa sizibona sesifuqela amadodana lamadodakazi ethu ebugqilini. Abanye bamadodakazi ethu bavele sebegqilaziwe, kodwa kasilamandla, ngokuba amasimu ethu lezivini zethu sekungokwabanye."

⁶ Ngathi sengizwile ukukhala kwabo kanye lensolo yabo, ngathukuthela kakhulu. ⁷ Ngakuhlolisisa kuhle konke lokhu engqondweni yami ngasengicala izikhulu lezinduna. Ngathi, "Libhadalisa abantu bakini inzuzo!" Ngasengibiza umhlangano omkhulu ukuthi ngiqondane labo, ⁸ ngathi, "Ngokusemandleni ethu, sesabahlenga abazalwane bethu babaJuda abathengiselwe abezizwe. Kodwa manje selibathengisa abafowenu, babuye bathengiselwe kithi njalo!" Bathula ngoba baswela abangakutsho.

⁹ Ngaqhubeka ngathi, "Elikwenzayo kakulunganga. Kungani lingahambi ngokwesaba uJehova na ukuze lingaklolodelwa yizitha zethu zabeZizwe?"

¹⁰ Mina labafowethu labantu bami lathi siyabeboleka abantu imali lamabele. Kodwa ukufuna inzuzo kakuphele!

¹¹ Babuyiseleni khona manje amasimu abo, lezivini zabo, lezihlahla zabo zama-oliva kanye lezindlu zabo, njalo lenzuzo yokweboleka leyo eliyithathayo kubo, ingxenye eyodwa yekhulu emalini, emabeleni, ewayinini elitsha lemafutheni."

¹² Bathi, "Sizakubuyisela. Njalo kasiyikubiza lutho kubo. Sizakwenza njengoba usitsho."

Ngasengibiza abaphristi ngathi izikhulu lezinduna kabenze isifungo sokuthi bazakwenza lokho abakuthembisileyo.

¹³ Njalo ngathintitha amavinqo esigqoko sami ngathi, "UNkulunkulu uzamthintitha kanje emkhupha endlini yakhe laselifeni lakhe wonke umuntu ongemi ngalesi isithembiso. Kanjalo umuntu onjalo kathintithwe achithwe!"

Besizwa lokho umhlangano wonke wathi, "Ameni, " badumisa uJehova. Abantu benza njengokuthembisa kwabo.

¹⁴ Kwathi njalo, kusukela ngomnyaka wamatshumi amabili wokubusa kweNkosi u-Athakisekisi, sengibekiwe ukuba ngumbusi wabo elizweni lakoJuda, kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wakhe wamatshumi amathathu lambili, iminyaka elitshumi lambili – mina labazalwane bami kasizange sikuthinte ukudla okwakwabelwe umbusi.

¹⁵ Kodwa ababusi bangaphambili – labo abangandulelayo – babethwalisa nzima abantu ngokuthatha kubo amashekeli esiliva angamatshumi amane phezu kokudla lewayini. Labasekeli babo labo bathwalisa nzima abantu. Kodwa ngenxa yokumesaba uNkulunkulu mina kangikwenzanga lokho.

¹⁶ Esikhundleni salokho, ngazinikela emsebenzini womduli lo. Wonke amadoda ayelami abuthana khona ukuzasebenza; kasizange sizizuzele umhlaba.

¹⁷ Phezukwalokho, amaJuda alikhulu lamatshumi amahlanu kanye lezinduna babesidla kwami kanye lalabo abeza kithi bevela ezizweni eziseduze.

¹⁸ Insuku ngensuku kwakuhlathswa inkabi eyodwa, lezimvu zekhethelo eziyisithupha, lezinkukhu, kulungiselwe mina, kuthi kuzo zonke izinsuku ezilithshumi kulethwe yonke imihlobo

yewayini. Phezu kwakho konke lokhu, kangizange ngikubize lokhokudla okwakuyisabelo sombusi, ngoba abantu laba babethwele nzima ngezinto ezifunekayo.

¹⁹ Ungikhumbule ngomusa, O Nkulunkulu wami, ngenxa yakho konke esengikwenzele lababantu.

Kuyaphikiswa njalo ukwakha

6 Kwathi ukuba ilizwi lifike

kuSanibhalathi, loThobhiya, loGeshemi umArabhi lakuzo zonke izitha zethu ukuthi ngasengiwakhile kutsha umduli kungasasalanga sikhala kuwo – loba nje ngalesosikhathi nganginakafaki izivalo emasangweni – ² uSanibhalathi loGeshemi bangithumela lelizwi: "Woza, kesihlangane komunye wemizi esemagekeni ase-Ono."

Kodwa babeceba ukungenza kubi; ³ yikho ngasengithuma izigijimi kubo lale impendulo: "Ngiphezu komsebenzi omkhulu yikho ngeke ngize. Kungani umsebenzi ufanele ume ngiwutshiyela ukuza kini na?" ⁴ Kwazekwaba kane bengithumela mbiko munye, lami ngala ngampendulo nye.

⁵ Kwathi ngesikhathi sesihlanu, uSanibhalathi wathuma inceku yakhe iphethe lona lelolizwi, ilencwadi esandleni ingavalwanga ⁶ ilotshwe ukuthi:

"Kubikwa phakathi kwezizwe loGeshemi uthi kuliqiniso – ukuthi wena lamaJuda liceba ukuhlamuka, ngakho lakha umduli. Njalo, imibiko le ithi wena usufuna ukuba yinkosi yawo ⁷ futhi usuze wabeka abaphrofethi ukuthi benze lesisimemezelo ngawe eJerusalema esithi: 'Sekulenkosi koJuda!' Umbiko lo ungahle uyofika enkosini; yikho woza sibonisane."

⁸ Ngambuyisela impendulo le: "Akulanto enjalo mayelana lalokho othi kuyenzakala; konke kuphume engqondweni yakho."

⁹ Bonke babezama ukusethusela, bekhumbula besithi, "Izandla zabo zizaphela amandla bangabe besasebenza, yikho umsebenzi kawuyikuphela." Kodwa ngakhuleka ngathi, "Manje qinisa izandla zami."

¹⁰ Ngelinye ilanga ngaya endlini kaShemiya indodana kaDeliya, indodana kaMehethabeli, owayezivalele endlini yakhe. Wathi, "Kasihlangane endlini kaNkulunkulu, phakathi kwethempeli, sivale iminyango yethempeli, ngoba kulamadoda ezayo ukuzakubulala – ebusuku ayeza azokubulala."

¹¹ Kodwa ngathi, "Umuntu onjengami kungamfanela ukubaleka na? Kumbe umuntu onjengami angangena ethempelini ukusiza impilo yakhe na? Kangiyi!" ¹² Ngabona ukuthi wayengathunywanga nguNkulunkulu, kodwa wayenze isiphrofetho sokungilahla ngoba oThobhiya loSanibhalathi babemthengile.

¹³ Wayethengwe ukuthi angethuse ukuze ngenze isono ngokwenza lokhu, ukwenzela ukuthi bangiphe ibizo elibi ngizondakale.

¹⁴ Bakhumbule oThobhiya loSanibhalathi, O Nkulunkulu wami, ngenxa yalokho asebekwenzile; mkhumbule njalo umphrofethikazi uNowadiya labo bonke labobaphrofethi abebekade bezama ukungethusa.

Ukuqediswa koMduli

¹⁵ Ngakho umduli waphela ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili ku-Eluli, ngemva kwezinsuku ezingamatshumi amahlanu lambili. ¹⁶ Izitha zethu zonke sezikuzwile lokho, zonke izizwe eziseduze zesaba

zalahla ithemba, ngoba zananzelela ukuthi umsebenzi lo wenziwa uxhaswe nguNkulunkulu.

¹⁷Njalo, ngalezozinsuku izikhulu zakwaJuda zazithumezela izincwadi ezinengi kuThobhiya, lezimpindulo zikaThobhiya zabe zilokhu zifika kubo.

¹⁸Phela abanengi koJuda babebambebele kuye ngesifungo, ngokuba wayengumkhwenyana kaShekhaniya indodana ka-Ara, futhi indodana yakhe uJehohanani yayithethe indodakazi kaMeshulami indodana kaBherekhiya.

¹⁹Ikanti njalo babelokhu behlezi bengibikela ngezenzo zakhe ezinhle, basuke bayemtshelela ukuthi ngitheni. Njalo uThobhiya wathumezela izincwadi ukungethusela.

7 Umduli usuwakhiwe lezivalo

sengizifakile ezindaweni zazo, abalindi bamasango labahlabeleli labaLevi bakhethwa. ²Ngabeka umfowethu uHanani ukuphatha iJerusalema, kanye loHananiya umlawuli wesigodlo lenqaba ngoba wayeyindoda elobuqotho, emesabayo uNkulunkulu kulamadoda amanengi. ³Ngathi kubo, "Amasango aseJerusalema makangavulwa ilanga lize litshise. Nxa abalindimasango belokhu besemsebenzini, kabavale iminyango bayinxibe. Njalo khethani izakhamizi zeJerusalema ukuba ngabalindi, abanye ezindaweni lapho abamiswe khona, abanye eduze lezindlu zabo."

Uluhlu lwezithunjwa ezaphendukayo

⁴Idolobho lalilikhulu libanzi, kodwa kwakulabantu abalutshwana phakathi kwalo, lezindlu zazingakavuselelwa.

⁵Kwathi uNkulunkulu wami wakubeka enhliziyweni yami ukuqoqa ndawonye izikhulu, lezinduna labantukazana nje ukuthi bazobhalisa ngezimuli. Ngathola umbhalo wezizukulwane walabo ababuya

kuqala. Nanku engakuthola kubhaliwe lapho:

⁶Laba yibo abantu belizwe abafikayo bephuma ebugqilini ababethethwe nguNebhukhadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni baba yizigqili (babuyela eJerusalema lakoJuda, ngulowo waya emzini wakibo,

⁷abeza kanye loZerubhabheli, loJeshuwa, loNehemiya, lo-Azariya loRamiya, loNamari, loModekhayi, loBhilishani loMisipherethi, loBhigivayi, loNehumi loBhana):

Uluhlu Lwamadoda Ako-Israyeli:

⁸ abesizukulwana sikaPharoshi	2 172
⁹ abakaShafathiya	372
¹⁰ abaka-Ara	652
¹¹ abakaPhahathi-Mowabi (ngosendo lukaJeshuwa loJowabi)	2818
¹² abaka-Elami	1254
¹³ abakaZathu	845
¹⁴ abakaZakhayi	760
¹⁵ abakaBhinuyi	648
¹⁶ abakaBhebhayi	628
¹⁷ abaka-Azigadi	2322
¹⁸ abaka-Adonikhamu	667
¹⁹ abakaBhigivayi	2067
²⁰ abaka-Adini	655
²¹ abaka-Atheri (ngoHezekhiya)	98
²² abakaHashumi	328
²³ abakaBhezayi	324
²⁴ abakaHarifi	112
²⁵ abakaGibheyoni	95
²⁶ amadoda aseBethilehema leNethofa	188
²⁷ abase-Anathothi	128
²⁸ abaseBethi Azimavethi	42
²⁹ abaseKhiriya Jeyarimu, leKhefira leBherothi	743
³⁰ abaseRama leGebha	621
³¹ abaseMikimashi	122
³² abaseBetheli le-Ayi	123
³³ abeyinye iNebho	52

³⁴ abeyinye i-Elami	1 254	⁵⁷ Abezizukulwana zezinceku zikaSolomoni:	
³⁵ abaseHarimi	320	Abesizukulwana sikaSothayi,	
³⁶ abaseJerikho	345	loSoferethi loPherida,	
³⁷ abaseLodi, eHadidi le-Ono	721	⁵⁸ loJayala, loDakhoni, loGideli,	
³⁸ abaseSenaya	3930	⁵⁹ loShefathiya, loHathili,	
³⁹ Abaphristi:		loPhokherethi-Hazebhayimi lo-	
abesizukulwana sikaJediya		Amoni.	
(ngosendo lukaJeshuwa)	973	⁶⁰ Izinceku zethempelini	
⁴⁰ abaka-Imeri	1052	labezizukulwana	
⁴¹ abakaPashuri	1247	zezinceku zikaSolomoni	392
⁴² abakaHarimu	1017	⁶¹ Abalandelayo laba bavela	
⁴³ AbaLevi:		emadolobheni aseTheli Mela, eTheli-	
abesizukulwana sikaJeshuwa		Hasha, eKherubi, e-Adoni lase-Imeri,	
(ngoKhadimiyeli ngosendo		Kodwa behluleka ukuveza ukuthi	
lukaHodaviya)	74	usendo lwabo lwaphuma ko-Israyeli:	
⁴⁴ Abahlabeleli:		⁶² abesizukulwana sikaDeliya,	
Abesizukulwana sika-Asafi	148	loThobhiya loNekhoda	642
⁴⁵ Abalindimasango:		⁶³ Ababesuka kubaphristi:	
abesizukulwana sikaShalumi,		abesizukulwana sikaHobhiya,	
loAtheri, loThalimoni, lo-Akhubi,		lesikaHakhozi lesikaBhazilayi (indoda	
loHathitha loShobayi	138	eyayithethe indodakazi kaBhazilayi	
⁴⁶ Izinceku zethempelini:		umGileyadi laye wayebizwa	
abesizukulwana sikaZiha, Hasufa		ngalelobizo).	
loThabawothi,		⁶⁴ Bonke laba baphenyisisa izincwadi	
⁴⁷ loKherosi, loSiya, loPhadoni,		zomdabuko wezimuli zabo kodwa	
⁴⁸ loLebhama, loHagaba, loShalimayi,		baziswela, yikho batshiywa ngaphandle	
⁴⁹ loHanani, loGideli, loGahari,		kobuphristi kwathiwa bangcolile.	
⁵⁰ loReyayiya, loRezini, loNekhoda,		⁶⁵ Ngakho umbusi, wasesithi	
⁵¹ loGazami, lo-Uza, loPhaseya,		kabangakudli ukudla okungewele kuze	
⁵² loBhesayi, loMewunimi,		kube lomphristi ozakhonza nge-Urimi	
loNefusimu,		leThumini.	
⁵³ loBhakibhuki, loHakhupha,		⁶⁶ Ixuku lonke lalilinani elifika	
loHarihuri,		42 360, ⁶⁷ ngaphandle kwezinceku zabo	
⁵⁴ loBhaziluthi, loMehida, loHarisha		ezesilisa labesifazana ezazifika 7 337;	
⁵⁵ loBharikhosi, loSisera, loThema,		njalo belabahlabeleli besilisa labesifazana	
⁵⁶ loNeziya loHathifa.		abafika 245.	
		⁶⁸ Kwakulamabhiza ayefika 736,	
		izimbongolo 245, amakamela 435,	
		⁶⁹ labobabhemi 6 720.	

⁷⁰ Ezinye izinhloko zezimuli zancedisa emsebenzini. Umbusi wanikela esikhwameni esikhulu, amadrakhima egolide ayi 1000, imiganu engama 50 lezigqoko zabaphristi ezi 530.

⁷¹ Abanye abayizinhloko zezimuli baphosela esikhwameni amadrakhima egolide azi 20 000 lamamina esiliva afika 2 200.

⁷² Sekukonke okwaphiwa ngabantu bonke kwaba ngamadrakhima egolide afika 20 000, amamina esiliva afika 2000 lezigqoko zabaphristi ezingama 67.

⁷³ Abaphristi, labaLevi, labalindimasango, labahlabeleli, lezincku zethempelini, kanye labanye abantu lo-Israyeli wonke, bahlala emadolobheni akibo.

U-Ezra Ufundela Abantu Umthetho

8 Kwathi sekuyinyanga yesikhombisa abako-Israyeli basebehlezi emadolobheni akibo. Bonke abantu babuthana ngangqondo yinye egcekeni elaliphambi kweSango laManzi. Bacela u-Ezra umbhali ukuthi alethe iNcwadi yoMthetho kaMosi, uJehova ayeyilaye ngawo aba-Israyeli.

² Yikho kwathi ngelanga lokuqala lenyanga yesikhombisa u-Ezra umphristi wawuletha uMthetho phambi komhlangano, owawugcweleamadoda labafazi labo bonke ababelokuzwisisa.

³ Wafunda kakhulu kusukela ekuphumeni kwelanga kwaze kwabasemini enkulu ekhangele egcekeni leSango laManzi phambi kwamadoda, labafazi labanye ababelokuzwisisa. Bonke abantu balalelisisa ukuzwa iNcwadi yoMthetho.

⁴ U-Ezra umbhali wayemi phezu kwethala eliphakemeyo elalenziwe ngezigodo lenzelwe umkhosi lo. Eceleni kwakhe kwesokunene kwakumi uMathithiya, loShema, lo-Aniya, lo-Uriya, loHilikhithiya, loMaseya; kwathi kwesokhohlo kunguPhediya, loMishayeli, loMalikhija,

loHashumi, loHashibhadana, loZekhariya loMeshulami.

⁵ U-Ezra wayivula incwadi. Bonke abantu babembona ngoba wayemi ekuphakameni ngaphezu kwabo; kwathi lapho eyivula abantu basukuma.

⁶ U-Ezra wamdumisa uJehova, uNkulunkulu omkhulu, kwathi bonke abantu baphendula baphakamisa izandla zabo bathi, "Ameni! Ameni!" Basebekhothama bekhonza uJehova bethe mbo ngobuso phansi.

⁷ AbaLevi – oJeshuwa, loBhani, loSherebhiya, loJamini, lo-Akhubi, loShabethayi, loHodiya, loMaseya, loKhelitha, lo-Azariya, loJozabhadhi, loHanani loPhelaya – bafundisa abantu uMthetho abantu belokhu bemikhonapho. ⁸ Babebala eNcwadini yoMthetho kaNkulunkulu, bewuchasisa baveze lokho okutshoyo ukuze abantu bakuzwisise lokho okwakubalwa.

⁹ Kwasekusithi uNehemiya umbusi, lo-Ezra umphristi lombhali, kanye labaLevi ababefundisa abantu bathi kubo bonke, "Lelilanga lingcwele kuJehova uNkulunkulu wenu. Lingalili kumbe likhale." Kwakungoba bonke babekhala lapho babelalele amazwi oMthetho.

¹⁰ UNehemiya wathi, "Hambani liyozitika ngokudla okumnandi lokunathwayo okumnandi, okunye likuthumele labo abangelakho okulungisiweyo. Ilanga lanamhla lingcwele kuJehova wethu. Malingadani, ngoba ukuthokoza kukaJehova kungamandla enu."

¹¹ AbaLevi babathulisa bonke abantu, bathi, "Thulani, ngoba lolu lusuku olungcwele. Lingadani."

¹² Kwathi abantu bonke basebehamba bayakudla banatha, bathumela okunye ukudla kwabanye bazithokozisa kakhulu, ngoba manje basebezwisisa lawomazwi abase bewazwile.

¹³ Ngosuku lwesibili lwenyanga, abayizinhloko zezimuli zonke, kanye

labaphristi labaLevi, babuthana ku-Ezra umbhali ukuba bahlolisise amazwi oMthetho. ¹⁴ Bakufumana kubhaliwe eMthethweni, owayaywa nguJehova ngoMosi, ukuthi aba-Israyeli babemele bahlale ezihonqweni ngesikhathi somkhosi wenyanga yesikhombisa ¹⁵ lokuthi njalo lelilizwi babemele balimemezele liye kuwo wonke amadolobho abo laseJerusalema elithi: "Phumani liye emaqaqeni liyokhwebula amagatsha ama-oliva lama-oliva eganga, lamamikhili, lamalala lezihlahla ezilomthunzi, lenze izihonqo njengoba kulotshiwe.

¹⁶ Ngakho abantu baphuma babuya lamagatsha bazakhela izihonqo ephahleni lwezindlu zabo, emagumeni abo, emagumeni endlu kaNkulunkulu lasegcekeni eliseSangweni laManzi lalelo elaliseSangweni lika-Efrayimu.

¹⁷ Ixuku lonke elavela ebugqilini lakha izihonqo lahlala kuzo. Kusukela ezinsukwini zikaJeshuwa indodana kaNuni kuze kube yilolosuku, aba-Israyeli babengazange bawenze kanjalo lowomkhosi. Kwakukukhulu ukuthokoza kwabo.

¹⁸ Insuku ngensuku, kusukela kolokuqala kusiya kolokucina, u-Ezra wayebala eNewadini yoMthetho kaNkulunkulu. Baliqhuba lelodili okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa, kwathi ngosuku lwesitshiyagalombili, kwabakhona umhlangano omkhulu, njengokumisiweyo emthethweni.

Aba-Israyeli bavuma izono zabo

9 Ngelanga lamatshumi amabili lane aleyonyanga, aba-Israyeli bahlangana ndawonye, bazila ukudla begqoke amasaka njalo bezithele uthuli emakhanda abo. ² Labo ababengaba-Israyeli ngomdabuko bazehlukanisa kwabezizwe. Bema ezindaweni zabo

bavuma izono zabo lobubi babokhokho babo. ³ Bema khonapho ababekhona babala eNewadini yoMthetho kaJehova uNkulunkulu wabo okwengxenyane yesine yosuku, kwathi enye ingxenyane yesine babevuma izono zabo njalo bekhonza uJehova uNkulunkulu wabo. ⁴ Ethaleni kwakumi abaLevi – uJeshuwa, loBhani, loKhadimiyeli, loShebhaniya, loBhuni, loSherebhiya, loBhani loKhenani – abamemeza baqongisa amazwi kuJehova uNkulunkulu wabo. ⁵ Njalo abaLevi – uJeshuwa, loKhadimiyeli, loBhani, loHashabhineya, loSherebhiya, loHodiya, loShebhaniya, loPhethahiya – bathi; "Sukumani lidumise uJehova uNkulunkulu wenu, okhona kusukela phakade kuze kube phakade."

"Libusisiwe ibizo lakho elingwele, sengathi lingaphakanyiswa ngaphezulu kwakho konke ukubusiswa lokudunyiswa. ⁶ Wena wedwa unguJehova. Wenza amazulu, kanye lamazulu aphezukonke, lazo zonke izinkanyezi zawo, umhlaba lakho konke okukuwo, izilwandle lakho konke okukuzo. Uyapha ukuphila kukho konke, lamabandla wonke asezulwini ayakukhonza.

⁷ "UnguJehova uNkulunkulu, owakhetha u-Abhramu wamkhupha e-Uri lamaKhaladiya wambiza ngokuthi ngu-Abhrahama.

⁸ Wabona ukuthi inhliziyo yakhe yayithembekile kuwe, ngakho wenza isivumelwano laye ukupha izizukulwana zakhe ilizwe lamaKhenani, lamaHithi, lama-Amori, lamaPherizi, lamaJebusi lamaGirigashi. Usugcinile isithembiso sakho ngoba ulungile.

⁹ "Wakubona ukuhlupheka kwabokhokho bethu eGibhithe; wezwa ukukhala kwabo eLwandle oluBomvu.

¹⁰ Wathumela izibonakaliso ezingummangaliso lezimanga kuFaro,

kuzo zonke izinduna zakhe lakubo bonke abantu belizwe lakhe, ngokuba wawukwazi ukuthi amaGibhithe abaphatha njani ngodlakela. Wazenzela ibizo, elimiyo kuze kube lamuhla.

¹¹ Walwehlukanisa ulwandle phambi kwabo, ukuze bedlule kulo emhlabathini owomileyo, kodwa waphosela labo ababebaxhuma ekujuleni, njengelitshe liphoselwa ethwaceni lwamanzi.

¹² Emini wawubakhokhela ngensika yeyezi, ebusuku ngensika yomlilo ukubapha ukukhanya endleleni ababehamba ngayo.

¹³ "Wehla weza eNtabeni yaseSinayi; wakhuluma kubo usezulwini. Wabapha izimiso lemithetho eqondileyo njalo elungileyo, lezimemezelo lemilayo elungileyo. ¹⁴ Wabazisa ngeSabatha lakho elingwele njalo wabapha imilayo, lezimiso lemithetho ngenceku yakho uMosi. ¹⁵ Ekulambeni kwabo wabapha isinkwa sivela ezulwini njalo ekomeni wabalethela amanzi ephuma edwaleni; wabatshela ukuthi kabayongena balithathe ilizwe owafunga uphakamisa isandla ukubapha.

¹⁶ "Kodwa bona, okhokho bethu, baba yiziqholo baqinisa intamo, kabaze balalela imilayo yakho.

¹⁷ Bala ukulalela njalo behluleka ukukhumbula izimanga owazenzayo phakathi kwabo. Baqinisa intamo kwathi ekuhlamukeni kwabo bakhetha umkhokheli ukuze babuyele ebugqilini babo. Kodwa unguNkulunkulu oxolelayo, olomusa lesihawu, ophuza ukuthukuthela kodwa wandile ngothando. Ngakho kawubafulathelanga, ¹⁸ lalapho sebezibumbele isithombe sethole besithi, "Lo nguNkulunkulu wenu owalikhuphayo eGibhithe," lanxa benze amanyala esabekayo.

¹⁹ "Ngenxa yesihawu sakho esikhulu kawubakhalalanga enkangala. Emini insika yeyezi kayikhawulanga

ukubakhokhela endleleni yabo, loba insika yomlilo ebusuku ukukhanyisa indlela ababemele bahambe ngayo.

²⁰ Wanika uMoya wakho omuhle ukubafundisa. Kawuyigodlanga imana yakho emilonyeni yabo, njalo wabapha amanzi ukucitsha umhawu wabo.

²¹ Okweminyaka engamatshumi amane wabagcina enkangala; kabazange baswele lutho, izambatho zabo kaziguganga lezinyawo zabo kazivuvukanga.

²² Wabapha imibuso lezizwe, wababela lemingcele ekude. Balithatha ilizwe likaSihoni inkosi yaseHeshibhoni lelizwe lika-Ogi inkosi yaseBhashani.

²³ Wenza amadodana abo abamanengi njengezinkanyezi zomkhathi, wabaletha elizweni owawutshele okhokho babo ukuba bangene kulo balithathe.

²⁴ Amadodana abo angena alithatha ilizwe. Wawehlukanisa phambi kwabo amaKhenani, ababehlala phakathi kwelizwe; wanikela amaKhenani kubo, ndawonye lamakhosi awo labantu belizwe, ukuba benze kubo njengokuthanda kwabo. ²⁵ Bathumba amadolobho abiyelweyo lomhlaba ovundileyo; bazithatha izindlu ezazigwaliswe ngakho konke okuhle, lemithombo eyayivele igejiwe, izivini, lezivande zama-oliva lezihlahla ezinengi ezezithelo. Badla bazitika bakhithika imikhaba; bazithokozisa ngokulunga kwakho okukhulu.

²⁶ "Kodwa kabalalelanga bakuhlumukela; umthetho wakho bawubeka ngemuva kwabo. Babulala abaphrofethi bakho, ababebakhuza ukuze babuyele kuwe; bahlambaza ngendlela eyesabekayo.

²⁷ Ngakho wabanikela ezitheni zabo, zabacindezela. Kodwa kwathi sebecindezelwe bakhala kuwe. Usezulwini wabezwa, kwathi ngesihawu sakho esikhulu wabapha abakhululi, ababahlengayo ezandleni zezitha zabo.

²⁸ "Kodwa bonela ukuphumula, baphinda njalo benza okubi phambi kwakho. Wase ubadela ezandleni zezitha zabo ukuthi zibabuse. Kwathi lapho sebekhala kuwe njalo, wezwa usezulwini, kwathi ngesihawu sakho wabakhulula izikhathi ngezikhathi.

²⁹ "Wabaxwayisa ukuthi babuyele emthethweni wakho, kodwa baqholoza kabaze bayilalela imilayo yakho. Benza isono ngezimiso zakho, okuthi nxa umuntu ezilalela aphile. Ngobuqholo bakufulathela, baqinisa intamo, bala ukulalela. ³⁰ Okweminyaka eminengi wababekezelela. NgoMoya wakho wabakhuza ngabaphrofethi bakho. Kodwa kabananzanga, ngakho wabanikela ebantwini abakhelene labo.

³¹ Kodwa ngomusa wakho omkhulu kawubaqedanga njalo kawubadelanga, ngokuba unguJehova olomusa, olozwelo.

³² "Ngakho-ke manje, O Nkulunkulu wethu, uNkulunkulu omkhulu, olamandla njalo omangalisayo, ogcina isivumelwano sakhe sothando, ungadeleli bonke lobu ubunzima –ubunzima obusehleleyo thina, laphezu kwamakhosi ethu labakhokheli, phezu kwabaphristi labaphrofethi bethu, phezu kwabobaba labantu bakho bonke, kusukela ezinsukwini zamakhosi ase-Asiriya kuze kube lamuhla. ³³ Kukho konke lokho okwenzakeleyo kithi, ube qotho; wenze ngokuthembeka, thina sisenza okubi.

³⁴ Amakhosi ethu, abakhokheli bethu, abaphristi bethu labobaba abawulandelanga umthetho wakho; abayinanzanga imilayo yakho izixwayiso owabapha zona. ³⁵ Loba babesembusweni wabo, bekhulisa ukulunga kwakho kubo elizweni elibanzi elivundileyo lelo owabapha lona, kabakukhonzanga futhi kabaguqukanga ezindleleni zabo ezimbi.

³⁶ "Kodwa ake ubone, siyizigqili lamuhla, izigqili elizweni owalipha okhokho bethu

ukuthi badle izithelo zalo lezinye izinto ezinhle eziphuma kulo.

³⁷ Ngenxa yezono zethu, isivuno salo esinengi siya emakhosini osuwabeke phezu kwethu. Abusa phezu kwemizimba yethu laphezu kwezinkomo zethu njengokuthanda kwawo. Siphakathi kosizi olumangalisayo.

Ukuvuma Kwabantu

³⁸ "Ngenxa yakho konke lokhu, sisenza isivumelwano esibophayo, sisibhala phansi, njalo abakhokheli bethu, abaLevi labaphristi bethu bafaka uphawu lwabo kuso."

10 Labo abafaka uphawu lwabo yilaba:

UNehemiya umbusi, indodana kaHakhaliya,

loZedekhiya, ² loSeraya, lo-Azariya, loJeremiya,

³ loPashuri, lo-Amariya, loMalikhija,

⁴ loHathushi, loShebhaniya, loMaluki,

⁵ loHarimi, loMeremothi, lo-Obadiya,

⁶ loDanyeli, loGinethoni, loBharukhi,

⁷ loMeshulami, lo-Abhija, loMijamini,

⁸ loMaziya, loBhiligayi loShemayi.

Laba babe ngabaphristi.

⁹ AbaLevi:

uJeshuwa indodana ka-Azaniya,

uBhinuwi owamadodana

kaHenadadi loKhadimiyeli,

¹⁰ labasekeli babo: uShebhaniya,

uHodiya, uKhelitha, uPhelaya loHanani,

¹¹ uMikha, uRehobi, uHashabhiya,

¹² uZakhuri, uSherebhiya, uShebhaniya,

¹³ uHodiya, uBhani loBheninu.

¹⁴ Abakhokheli babantu yilaba:

uPharoshi, uPhahathi-Mowabi,
 u-Elami, uZathu uBhani,
¹⁵ uBhuni, u-Azigadi, uBhebhayi,
¹⁶ u-Adonija, uBhigivayi, u-Adini,
¹⁷ u-Atheri, uHezekhiya, u-Azuri,
¹⁸ uHodiya, uHashumi, uBhezayi,
¹⁹ uHarifi, u-Anathothi, uNebhayi,
²⁰ uMagiphiyashi, uMeshulami, uHeziri,
²¹ uMeshezabeli, uZadoki, uJaduwa,
²² uPhelathiya, uHanani, u-Anaya,
²³ uHosheya, uHananiya, uHashubi,
²⁴ uHaloheshi, uPhiliha, uShobeki,
²⁵ uRehumi, uHashabhina, uMaseya,
²⁶ u-Ahiya, uHanani, u-Anani,
²⁷ uMaluki, uHarimi loBhayana.

²⁸ Inengi labantu – abaphristi, abaLevi, abalindimasango, abahlabeleli, lezinceku zethempeli labo bonke abazehlukanisayo ebantwini bezizwe ngenxa yoMthetho kaNkulunkulu, kanye lamakhosikazi abo lamadodana lamadodakazi abo abasebezwisisa – ²⁹ bonke laba bahlanganyela labafowabo izikhulu, ukuzibopha ngesiqalekiso langesifungo ukuwulandela uMthetho kaNkulunkulu owanikwa ngoMosi inceku kaNkulunkulu lokulalela kuhle yonke imilayo, leziqondiso lezimemezelo zikaJehova iNkosi yethu.

³⁰ "Sithembisa ukuthi kasiyikwendisa amadodakazi ethu ebantwini esakhelene labo loba sithathele amadodana ethu amadodakazi abo.

³¹ "Nxa labo esakhelene labo beletha izimpahla kumbe amabele okuthengiswa ngeSabatha, kasiyikuthenga kubo ngeSabatha loba ngaliphi ilanga elingcwele. Kuwo wonke umnyaka wesikhombisa sizayekela amasimu ethu alaluke njalo sizacitsha zonke izikwelede.

³² "Siyazethesa umlandu wokugcwalisa umlayo wokupha okwesithathu kweshekali ngomnyaka okomsebenzi wendlu kaNkulunkulu:

³³ okwesinkwa esibekwe etafuleni; okomnikelo wenjayelo owamabele lowokutshiswa; okweminikelo yamaSabatha, eyemikhosi yokuThwasa kweNyanga leminyane imikhosi emisiweyo; eyiminikelo engcwele, iminikelo yesono yokubuyisana eka-Israyeli; leyayo yonke imilandu yendlini kaNkulunkulu.

³⁴ "Thina – abaphristi, abaLevi labantu – sesenze inkatho ukubona ukuthi yiyiphi imuli emele ilethe izinkuni ngasiphi isikhathi endlini kaNkulunkulu ezokutshiswa e-alithareni likaJehova wethu, njengokulotshiweyo eMthethweni.

³⁵ "Njalo sizethesa umlandu wokuletha endlini kaJehova umnyaka ngomnyaka izithelo zakuqala zamabele ethu lokwezithelo zonke zezihlahla.

³⁶ "Njengoba kulotshiwe njalo eMthethweni, sizaletha amazibulo amadodana ethu, awezinkomo zethu, lawemihlambi yethu yezimvu endlini kaNkulunkulu wethu, kubaphristi abasebenza khona.

³⁷ "Futhi njalo, sizaletha okuya eziphaleni zasendlini kaNkulunkulu, kubaphristi, okokuqala kwempumpu yethu, okweminikelo yamabele ethu, izithelo zezihlahla zethu zonke lewayini lethu elitsha kanye lamafutha. Njalo sizaletha okwetshumi okwamabele ethu kubaLevi, ngokuba ngabaLevi abaqoqa okwetshumi kuwo wonke amadolobho esisebenza kuwo. ³⁸ Umphristi odabuka ku-Aroni kaphелеkezele abaLevi besamukela okwetshumi, njalo abaLevi kumele balethe okwetshumi okomnikelo wetshumi kuze endlini kaJehova, eziphaleni eziqondane lesikhwama.

³⁹ Abantu bako-Israyeli, kanye laba-Levi, bamele balethe iminikelo yabo yamabele, iwayini elitsha lamafutha eziphaleni lapho okugcinwa khona izimpahla zendlu engcwele, njalo lapho okuhlala khona abaphristi abasebenzayo labalindimasango labahlabeleli.

"Kasiyikuyidela indlu kaNkulunkulu.

Izakhamizi Ezintsha ZeJerusalema

11 Abakhokheli babantu bahlala

eJerusalema, kwathi abantu bonke basebesenza inkatho ukukhetha oyedwa etshumini ngalinye owayemele ayehlala eJerusalema, idolobho elingcwele, kuthi abaseleyo abaficamunye bahlale emadolobheni akibo. ² Abantu bawabonga wonke amadoda azinikelayo ukuyahlala eJerusalema.

³ Laba yibo abakhokheli bezigodi abayahlala eJerusalema (abanye ab-Israelayeli, labaphristi, labaLevi, lezinceku zethempelini kanye labezizukulwana zezisebenzi zikaSolomoni bahlala emadolobheni akoJuda, ngulowo esabelweni sakhe emadolobheni ehlukeneyo, ⁴ kwathi abanye babantu bakoJuda lakoBhenjamini bahlala eJerusalema):

Abesizukulwane sikaJuda:

U-Athaya indodana ka-Uziya, indodana kaZekharia, indodana ka-Amariya, indodana kaShefathiya, indodana kaMahalaleli owosendo lukaPherezi; ⁵ loMaseya indodana kaBharukhi, indodana kaKholi-Hoze, indodana kaHazaya, indodana ka-Adaya, indodana kaJoyaribi, indodana kaZekharia, isizukulwane sikaShela.

⁶ Abesizukulwana sikaPherezi ababehlala eJerusalema babefika 468, amadoda aqinileyo.

⁷ Abesizukulwana sikaBhenjamini:

uSalu indodana kaMeshulami, indodana kaJoyedi, indodana kaPhedaya, indodana kaKholaya, indodana kaMaseya, indodana ka-Ithiyeli, indodana kaJeshaya,

⁸ labalandeli bakhe, uGabhayi loSalayi –

amadoda afika 928. ⁹ UJoyeli indodana kaZikhiri wayenguye induna yabo, loJuda indodana kaHasenuwa wayephethe iSiqinti seSibili sedolobho.

¹⁰ Ababesuka kubaphristi:

uJedaya; indodana kaJoyaribi; uJakhini; ¹¹ uSerafa indodana kaHilikhiya, indodana kaMeshulami, indodana kaZadoki, indodana kaMerayothi, indodana ka-Ahithubi, umphathi endlini kaJehova, ¹² labasekeli babo, abaqhuba umsebenzi wethempeli – amadoda afika 822; u-Adaya indodana kaJerohami, indodana kaPhelaliya, indodana ka-Amuzi, indodana kaZekharia, indodana kaPhashuri, indodana kaMalikhija, ¹³ labasekeli bakhe, ababe yizinhloko zezimuli – amadoda afika 242; u-Amashisayi indodana ka-Azareli, indodana ka-Ahizayi, indodana kaMeshilemothi, indodana ka-Imeri, ¹⁴ labasekeli bakhe, ababe ngamadoda aqinileyo – 128. Induna yabo kwakunguZabhidiyeli indodana kaHagedolimi.

¹⁵ Ababesuka kubaLevi:

uShemaya indodana kaHashubi, indodana ka-Azirikhamu, indodana kaHashabhiya, indodana kaBhuni; ¹⁶ uShabhethayi loJozabhadi, bobabili bezinduna zabaLevi ababekhangele umsebenzi waphandle kwendlu kaJehova; ¹⁷ uMathaniya indodana kaMikha, indodana kaZabidi, indodana ka-Asafi, umqondisi owayekhokhela inkonzo yokubonga lemthandazweni; uBhakhibhukiya, engowesibili phakathi kwabasekeli bakhe; u-Abhida indodana kaShamuwa, indodana kaGalali, indodana kaJeduthuni. ¹⁸ AbaLevi ababesemzini ongcwele babefika 284.

¹⁹ Abalindimasango:

u-Akhubi, loThalimoni labasekeli babo, ababelinda amasango – amadoda afika 172 .

²⁰ Bonke abanye abako-Israyeli, kanye labaphristi labaLevi, babekuwo wonke amadolobho akoJuda, ngulowo esesabelweni sakwabo esomdabuko.

²¹ Izinceku zethempelini zazihlala entabeni i-Ofeli, ziphethwe nguZiha loGishipha.

²² Umlawuli wabaLevi eJerusalema waye ngu-Uzi indodana kaBhani, indodana kaHashabhiya, indodana kaMathaniya, indodana kaMikha. U-Uzi wayengomunye wabazukulu baka-Asafi, ababengabahlabeleli abakhangele inkonzo endlini kaNkulunkulu.

²³ Abahlabeleli babengaphansi kwezimiso zenkosi, ezaziqondisa ababemele bakwenze izinsuku zonke.

²⁴ UPhethahiya indodana kaMeshezabeli, omunye wesizukulwane sikaZera indodana kaJuda, wayengumeluleki wenkosi mayelana lezindaba zonke zabantu.

²⁵ Mayelana lemizi kanye lamasimu ayo, abanye babantu bakoJuda bahlala eKhiriya Aribha lakweminye imizi eseduze, eDibhoni lemizini eseduze kwayo, eJekhabhizeli lemizana yakhona, ²⁶ eJeshuwa, eMolada, eBhethi Phelethi, ²⁷ eHazari Shuwali, eBherisheba lemizana yakhona, ²⁸ eZikhilagi, eMekhona lemizana yakhona, ²⁹ e-Eni Rimoni, eZora, eJamuthi, ³⁰ eZanoya, e-Adulamu lemizana yakhona, eLakhishi lamasimu ayo, lase-Azekha lemizana yakhona. Yikho babehlala yonke indawo kusukela eBherisheba kusiya eSigodini sikaHinomi.

³¹ Abesizukulwana samaBhenjamini ababesuka eGebha bahlala eMikhimashi, e-Ayija, eBhetheli lemizana yakhona, ³² e-Anathothi, eNobhi, le-Ananiya, ³³ eHazori, eRama leGithayimi, ³⁴ eHadidi, eZebhoyimi laseNebhalathi, ³⁵ eLodi lase-Ono, njalo laseSigodini seZingcitshi. ³⁶ Abanye bezigaba zabaLevi bakoJuda bahlala koBhenjamini.

Abaphristi LabaLevi

12 Laba ngabaphristi labaLevi

ababuya loZerubhabheli indodana kaSheyathiyeli kanye loJeshuwa:

USeraya, uJeremiya, u-Ezra,

² u-Amariya, uMaluki, uHathushi,

³ uShekhaniya, uRehumi, uMeremothi,

⁴ u-Ido, uGinethoni, u-Abhija,

⁵ u-Mijamini, uMowadiya, uBhiliga,

⁶ u-Shemaya, uJoyaribi, uJedaya,

⁷ uSalu, u-Amoki, uHilikhya loJedaya.

Laba babe ngabakhokheli babaphristi labakhulu babo ngezinsuku zikaJeshuwa.

⁸ AbaLevi babe nguJeshuwa, loBhinuwi, loKhadimiyeli, loSherebhiya, loJuda njalo loMathaniya, okwathi yena, labakhula bakhe yibo ababekhokhela izingoma zenkonzo yokubonga.

⁹ UBhakhikhukhiya lo-Uni, labakhula babo, babesima ngale bakhangelane labo ezinkonzweni.

¹⁰ UJeshuwa wayenguyise kaJoyakhimu, uyise ka-Eliyashibi, u-Eliyashibi uyise kaJoyada, ¹¹ uJoyada uyise kaJonathani, uJonathani uyise kaJaduwa.

¹² Ngezinsuku zikaJoyakhimu, labo babeyizinhloko zezimuli zabaphristi:

abendlu kaSeraya, nguMeraya;

abendlu kaJeremiya nguHananiya;

¹³ abendlu ka-Ezra, nguMeshulami;

abendlu ka-Amariya, nguJehohanani;
¹⁴abendlu kaMaluki, nguJonathani;
 abendlu kaShekaniya, nguJosefa;
¹⁵abendlu kaHarimi, ngu-Adina;
 abendlu kaMeremothi,
 nguHelikhayi;
¹⁶abendlu ka-Ido, nguZekharia;
 abendlu kaGinethoni,
 nguMeshulami;
¹⁷abendlu ka-Abhija nguZakhiri;
 abendlu kaMiniyamini
 lekaMowadiya, nguPhilithayi;
¹⁸abendlu kaBhiliga nguShamuwa;
 abendlu kaShemaya nguJehonathani;
¹⁹abendlu kaJoyaribi, nguMathenayi;
 abendlu kaJedaya, ngu-Uzi;
²⁰abendlu kaSalu, nguKhalayi;
 abendlu ka-Amoki, ngu-Ebheri;
²¹abendlu kaHilikhiya, nguHashabhiya;
 abendlu kaJedaya nguNethaneli.
²²Abayizinhloko zezindlu zabaLevi
 ngezinsuku zika-Eliyashibi, loJoyada,
 uJohanani loJaduwa, kanye lezabaphristi,
 babhalwa phansi kubusa uDariyu
 wasePhesiya. ²³Abakhokheli bezimuli
 ezizukulwaneni zikaLevi kuze kube
 yisikhathi sikaJohanani indodana ka-
 Eliyashibi babhalwa phansi encwadini
 yemilando. ²⁴Abakhokheli babaLevi
 babengoHashabhiya, loSherebhiya,
 loJeshuwa indodana kaBhadimiyeli,
 labakhula babo ababesima baqondane
 labo nxa bedumisa njalo besenza inkonzo
 yokubonga, yilabo bevumela abanye,
 njengokwamiswa nguDavida umuntu
 kaNkulunkulu. ²⁵UMathaniya,
 loBhakhikhukhiya, uObhadiya,
 uMeshulami, uThalimoni lo-Akhubi babe
 ngabalindimasango ababelinda iziphala
 emasangweni. ²⁶Bawenza umsebenzi lo
 ngezinsuku zikaJoyakhimu indodana
 kaJeshuwa, indodana kaJozadaki,
 langezinsuku zikaNehemiya umbusi lo-
 Ezra umphristi lombhali.

Ukunikelwa KoMduli WaseJerusalema

²⁷Ekunikelweni komduli
 waseJerusalema, abaLevi badingwa lapho
 ababehlala khona balethwa eJerusalema
 ukuzathakazelela umkhosi wokunikelwa
 ngezingoma langokubonga langokutshaya
 izigubhu lamachacho lemiqangala.
²⁸Abahlabeleli labo balethwa ndawonye
 besuka emsangweni oseduze
 leJerusalema – basuka emizini
 yamaNethofathi, ²⁹eBethi Giligali,
 lasemangweni waseGebha le-Azimavethi,
 ngoba abahlabeleli basebezakhele imizi
 eduze leJerusalema. ³⁰Kwathi lapho
 abaphristi labaLevi sebezihlambulule
 ngokomkhuba, bahlambulula abantu,
 amasango lomduli.
³¹Ngathi abakhokheli bakoJuda
 bakhwele phezu komduli. Njalo ngamisa
 amaqembu amakhulu amabili
 awabahlabeleli ukuthi babonge. Elinye
 lalimele likhwele phezulu komduli
 kwesokunene, kusiya ngesangweni
 loBulongwe. ³²UHoshaya lengxenye
 yabakhokheli bakoJuda babalandela,
³³kunye lo-Azariya, lo-Ezra,
 loMeshulami, ³⁴loJuda, loBhenjamini,
 loShemaya, loJeremiya, ³⁵kanye labanye
 abaphristi ababelamacilongo, loZekharia
 indodana kaJonathani, indodana
 kaShemaya, indodana kaMathaniya
 indodana kaMikhaya, indodana
 kaZakhuri, indodana ka-Asafi,
³⁶labakhula bakhe oShemaya, lo-Azareli,
 loMilalayi, loGilalayi, loMayi,
 loNethaneli, loJuda loHanani bephethe
 amachacho njengokwakumiswe
 nguDavida umuntu kaNkulunkulu.
 U-Ezra umbhali nguye owayekhokhele
 udwende. ³⁷SebeseSangweni loMthombo
 baqhubeka bakhwela izinyathelo eziya
 eMzini kaDavida emqansweni oya
 emdulini bedlula ngaphezulu kwendlu
 kaDavida baya esangweni laManzi
 ngempumalanga.

³⁸ Iqembu lesibili labahlabeleli lona lafulathela elakuqala laya le. Ngabalandela phezu komduli ngikanye lengxenywe yabantu – sedlula uMphotshongo waMaziko siqonda uMduli Obanzi, ³⁹ sedlula isango lika-Efrayimi, leSango likaJeshana, iSango leNhlanzi, uMphotshongo kaHananeli loMphotshongo weKhulu saze sayafika kuSango leZimvu. ESangweni laBalindi bafika bema.

⁴⁰ Amaqembu lawo abahlabeleli amabili ayesipha ukubonga asesima ezindaweni zawo endlini kaNkulunkulu; lami ngenze njalo, kanye lengxenywe yezinduna, ⁴¹ labaphristi o-Eliyakhimu, loMasaya, loMiniyamini, loMikhaya, lo-Eliyowenayi, loZekhariya loHananiya belamacilongo abo – ⁴² njalo loMaseya, loShemaya, lo-Eliyazari, lo-Uzi, loJehohanani, loMalikhija, lo-Elami lo-Ezeri. Amaqembu abahlabeleli ahlabela ekhokhelwa nguJezirahiya.

⁴³ Ngalelolanga banikela imihlatshelo emangalisayo, bethokoza ngoba uJehova wayebaphe ukuthokoza okukhulu. Abesifazana kanye labantwana labo bathokoza. Umsindo wokuthokoza eJerusalema wawuzwakala kude.

⁴⁴ Ngalesosikhathi kwakhethwa amadoda ukugcina iziphala besamukela lokho okwakulethwa, izithelo zokuqala lokwetshumi. Okusuka emasimini aseduzane lamadolobho babemele balethe eziphaleni lezozilinganiso ezazifuneka ngokoMthetho okwabaphristi labaLevi, ababeqhuba umsebenzi. ⁴⁵ Bayiphatha inkonzo kaNkulunkulu wabo lenkonzo yokuhlanjululwa, njalo benze njalo labahlabeleli kanye labalindimasango, njengemilayo kaDavida lendodana yakhe uSolomoni. ⁴⁶ Ngoba kudala, ezinsukwini zikaDavida lo-Asafi, kwakulabaqondisi babahlabeleli labezingoma zokudumisa lokubonga uNkulunkulu. ⁴⁷ Yikho ngezinsuku zikaZerubhabheli

loNehemiya, aba-Israyeli bonke bapha isabelo sansukuzonke esabahlabeleli labalindimasango. Baphinde njalo babeka eceleni esinye isabelo esabanye abaLevi, kwathi abaLevi labo bacezula okunye kwabo kwaba ngokwabosendo luka-Aroni.

*Izenzo Zokulunga ZikaNehemiya
Ezokucina*

13 Ngalelolanga iNcwadi kaMosi

yabalelwa abantu besizwa kwafunyanwa kuyo kubhaliwe ukuthi akungabi lamAmoni loba umMowabi ovunyelwa emhlanganweni kaNkulunkulu, loba sekutheni, ² ngokuba babengahlangabezanga aba-Israyeli ngokudla lamanzi kodwa bathenga uBhalami ukuba abaqalekise. (UJehova wethu kodwa waguqula isiqalekiso lesaba yisibusiso.) ³ Kwathi abantu sebewuzwile umthetho, babasusa ko-Israyeli bonke labo ababedabuka ezizweni.

⁴ Mandulo kwalokhu, u-Eliyashibi umphristi nguye owayephethe iziphala zendlu kaJehova wethu. Wasuka wezwana kakhulu loThobhiya, ⁵ wasemlungisela indlu enkulu eyayikade isetshenziswa ukulondoloza amabele omnikelo lempepha kanye lezimphahla zethempeli, kanye njalo lamabele awokwetshumi, lewayini elitsha lamafutha, konke okwakumiswe ukuthi kube ngokwabaLevi, labahlabeleli labalindimasango, kanye lezipho eziya kubaphristi.

⁶ Kodwa kwathi kusenzakala konke lokhu, mina ngangengekho eJerusalema, ngoba ngomnyaka wamatshumi amathathu lambili wokubusa kuka-Athakisekisi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni ngabuyela enkosini. Muva kwalokho ngacela imvumo kuye ⁷ ngabuyela eJerusalema. Kulapho engafika ngabona

khona ngaleyonto embi eyenziwa ngu-Eliyashibi ngokupha uThobhiya indlu emagumeni asendlini kaNkulunkulu.

⁸Ngacaphuka kakhulu ngaphosela phandle zonke izimpahla zikaThobhiya.

⁹Ngakhupha ilizwi ukuthi kazihlanjululwe izindlu, ngasengibuyisela kuzo izimpahla zendlini kaJehova, ndawonye lamabele omnikele lempepha.

¹⁰Ngezwa njalo ukuthi abaLevi babengaphiwanga lokho okwakuyisabelo sabo, lokuthi bonke abaLevi labahlabeleli ababeqhuba inkonzo basebebuyela emasimini abo.

¹¹Ngazikhwazela izinduna ngazibuza ngathi, "Kungani indlu kaNkulunkulu ingasakhathalelwa na?" Ngasengibabizela ndawonye ngababeka ezindaweni zemisebenzi yabo.

¹²Bonke abakoJuda baletha okwetshumi kwamabele, iwayini elitsha lamafutha eziphaleni. ¹³Ngasengibeka uShelemiya umphristi, loZadoki umbhali, lomLevi owayethiwa nguPhedaya ukuba baphathe iziphala, ngenza uHanani indodana kaZakhuri, indodana kaMathaniya, ukuba ngumsekeli wabo, ngoba amadoda la kwakuthiwa athembekile. Baphiwa umlandu wokwabela abafowabo isabelo sabo.

¹⁴Ungikhumbule ngalokhu, O Nkulunkulu wami, ungakucitshi lokho engikwenzele indlu kaNkulunkulu wami ngokuthembeka kanye lezinkonzo ezikuyo.

¹⁵Ngazonalezozinsuku ngabona abantu bakoJuda bevoya iwayini belihluza ngeSabatha njalo beletha amabele bewethesa kubobabhemi, kunye lewayini, lamagirebisi, lomkhiwa leminyemithwalo. Konke lokhu babekuletha eJerusalema ngeSabatha. Ngakho-ke ngasengibaxwayisa ukuthi bangathengisi

ukudla ngosuku lolo. ¹⁶Abantu beThire ababehlala eJerusalema babeletha izinhlanzi lemihlobo yonke yezimpahla bezithengisa eJerusalema ebantwini bakoJuda ngeSabatha.

¹⁷Ngazikhuza izikhulu zakoJuda ngathi kuzo, "Kuyini amanyala la eliwenzayo – lingcolisa usuku lweSabatha na?"

¹⁸Kakusikho yini okwenziwa ngoyihlomkhulu, okwabangela ukuthi uJehova wethu, ehlisele kithi laphezu kwalelidolobho lobubunzima na? Manje selibuye liluvusa ulaka njalo ngokungcolisa iSabatha."

¹⁹Kwathi nxa selimathunzi emasangweni aseJerusalema kungakabi yiSabatha, ngalaya ukuthi iminyango kayivalwe ingaze yavulwa iSabatha ize idlule. Ngamisa emasangweni abanye abantu bami ukuze kungangeni mthwalo ngosuku lweSabatha. ²⁰Okwezikhathi ezimbalwa abathengi labathengisi bezinhlobo zonke zezimpahla balala ngaphandle kweJerusalema. ²¹Kodwa ngabaxwayisa ngathi, "Lenzelani ukulala phansi komduli na? Lingakuphinda lokhu kuzakuba lokuxabana." Kusukela kulesosikhathi kabasaphindanga beza ngeSabatha. ²²Ngasengilaya abaLevi ukuthi bazihlambulule besebesiyalinda amasango ukuze kugcinwe usuku lweSabatha lungewe.

Ungikhumbule langalokhu njalo, O Nkulunkulu wami, njalo utshengise umusa kimi mayelana lothando lwakho olukhulu.

²³Phezu kwalokho, ngazona lezozinsuku ngabona amadoda akoJuda ayethethe abafazi base-Ashidodi, le-Amoni laseMowabi. ²⁴Ingxenye yabantwababo babekhuluma ulimi lwase-Ashidodi kumbe ulimi lwabanye abantu, bengakwazi ukukhuluma ulimi lwakwaJuda. ²⁵Ngabathethisa,

ngakhuluma iziqalekiso phezu kwabo. Amanye amadoda ngawatshaya ngaze ngawasiphuna izinwele zawo. Ngathi kabenze isifungo ngebizo likaNkulunkulu ngathi, "Lingendiseli amadodakazi enu emadodaneni abo, njalo lingathatheli amadodana enu amadodakazi abo futhi lani lingazithatheli wona.

²⁶ Kwakungasimitshado enjengale yini eyenza uSolomoni inkosi yako-Israyeli yenze isono? Phakathi kwezizwe ezinengi kwakungelankosi efana laye.

Wayethandwa nguNkulunkulu wakhe, njalo uNkulunkulu wamenza inkosi ka-Israyeli wonke, kodwa laye wahugelwa esonweni ngabafazi bezizweni.

²⁷ Manje-ke sesingezwa ukuthi lani selisenza wonke amanyala la esabekayo njalo kalisathembekanga kuNkulunkulu wethu ngokuthatha abafazi bezizwe na?"

²⁸ Omunye wamadodana kaJoyada indodana ka-Eliyashibi umphristi omkhulu wayengumkhwenyana kaSanibhalathi umHaroni. Ngahle ngamxotshela khatshana kwami.

²⁹ Ubakhumbule, O Nkulunkulu wami, ngokuba babungcolisile ubuphristi lesivumelwano sobuphristi lesabaLevi.

³⁰ Ngakho ngabahlambulula abaphristi labaLevi kuzo zonke izinto zezizweni, ngababela imisebenzi yabo, ngulowo waqondana lomsebenzi wakhe.

³¹ Ngaphinde ngenza amalungiselelo okulethwa kwezinkuni ngezikhathi ezimiswayo, njalo lawezithelo zokuqala.

Ungikhumbule ngomusa, O Nkulunkulu wami.