

Texts for Scriptural Reasoning

15. Wisdom

The Scriptural Reasoning Society

1 Samuel 17:32-44¹

32 And David said to Saul: "Let no man's heart fail within him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 And Saul said to David: "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

34 And David said unto Saul: "Thy servant kept his father's sheep; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock,

35 I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath taunted the armies of the living God."

37 And David said: "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said unto David: "Go, and the Lord shall be with thee."

38 And Saul clad David with his apparel, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail.

39 And David girded his sword upon his apparel, and he essayed to go; but could not; for he had not tried it. And David said unto Saul: "I cannot go with these; for I have not tried them." And David put them off him.

40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his scrip; and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Philistine.

41 And the Philistine came nearer and nearer unto David; and the man that bore the shield went before him.

1 שְׁמוּאֵל 17:32-44

לב וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-שָׂאוּל, אֶל-יִפְּלֹל לִב-אָדָם עֲלָיו; עֲבָדְךָ יִלְךְ, וְנִלְחַם עִם-הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַזֶּה.

לג וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל אֶל-דָּוִד, לֹא תוּכַל לָלֶכֶת אֶל-הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַזֶּה, לְהִלָּחֵם, עִמּוֹ: כִּי-נֶעַר אַתָּה, וְהוּא אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה מִנְעָרָיו.

לד וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-שָׂאוּל, רְעֵה הֲיֵה עֲבָדְךָ לְאָבִיו בְּצֹאן; וַיָּבֵא הָאָרִי וְאֶת-הַדּוֹב, וַנָּשָׂא שָׂה מֵהָעֵדֶר.

לה וַיִּצְאֵתִי אַחֲרָיו וְהִכְתִּיו, וְהִצַּלְתִּי מִפָּיו; וַיִּקֶּם עָלַי--וְהִחֲזִקְתִּי בְזִקְנוֹ, וְהִכְתִּיו וְהִמִּיתִיו.

לו גַּם אֶת-הָאָרִי גַם-הַדּוֹב, הִכָּה עֲבָדְךָ; וְהִיָּה הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הָעֶרְל הַזֶּה, כְּאֶחָד מֵהֵם, כִּי חָרַף, מֵעַרְכֹת אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים.

לז וַיֹּאמֶר, דָּוִד, יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּלְנִי מִיַּד הָאָרִי וּמִיַּד הַדּוֹב, הוּא יִצִּילְנִי מִיַּד הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַזֶּה; וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל אֶל-דָּוִד יֵלֶךְ, וַיְהוָה יְהִיָּה עִמָּךְ.

לח וַיִּלְבַּשׂ שָׂאוּל אֶת-דָּוִד מְדִיו, וְנֹתָן קוֹבַע נְחֹשֶׁת עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ; וַיִּלְבַּשׂ אֹתוֹ, שָׂרִיוֹן.

לט וַיַּחְגֹּר דָּוִד אֶת-חַרְבּוֹ מֵעַל לְמְדָיו וַיֹּאֵל לְלָכֶת, כִּי לֹא-נָסָה, וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-שָׂאוּל לֹא אוּכַל לָלֶכֶת בְּאַלְהָה, כִּי לֹא נִסִּיתִי; וַיִּסְרֶם דָּוִד, מֵעָלָיו.

מ וַיִּקַּח מִקְלוֹ בְּיָדוֹ, וַיִּבְחַר-לוֹ חֲמֹשֶׁה חֲלָקִי-אַבְנִים מִן-הַנַּחַל וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָם בְּכִלֵּי הָרֶעִים אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ וּבִזְלָקוֹט--וַיִּקְלְעוּ בְּיָדוֹ; וַיִּגָּשׂ, אֶל-הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי.

מא וַיִּלְךְ, הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי, הַלֵּךְ וְקָרַב, אֶל-דָּוִד; וְהָאִישׁ נֹשֵׂא הַצָּנָה, לִפְנָיו.

¹ Jewish Publications Society Tanakh (1917 Translation)

42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and withal of a fair countenance.

43 And the Philistine said unto David: "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" And the Philistine cursed David by his god.

44 And the Philistine said to David: "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field."

מב וַיִּבֹט הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּרְאֶה אֶת-דָּוִד, וַיִּבְזֶהוּ: כִּי-הָיָה נָעַר, וְאִדְמָנִי עִם-יָפֵה מֵרֵאָה.

מג וַיֹּאמֶר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי, אֶל-דָּוִד, הַכֶּלֶב אַנְכִי, כִּי-אַתָּה בָא-אֵלַי בַּמִּקְלוֹת; וַיִּקְלַל הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶת-דָּוִד, בְּאֱלֹהָיו.

מד וַיֹּאמֶר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי, אֶל-דָּוִד: לָכֵה אֵלַי--וְאֶתְּנָה אֶת-בְּשָׂרְךָ, לְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְבֵהֱמַת הַשָּׂדֶה.

1 Corinthians 1:17-29²

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect³.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness⁴ to those who are perishing⁵, but to us who are being saved⁶ it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: *“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing⁷ the understanding of the prudent⁸.”*

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age⁹? Has not God made foolish¹⁰ the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know¹¹ God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message¹² preached to save those who believe.

22 For Jews request a sign¹³, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block¹⁴ and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

² New King James Version

³ *kenothei* 3 sing. aorist pass. *kenoo* ‘to drain out, be empty’

⁴ *morai* fem. nom. ‘folly, silliness’

⁵ *apollumenois* masc. dat. pl. *apollumi* ‘destroy utterly, perish’

⁶ *sozomenois* pres. part. middle *sozo* ‘save, keep’

⁷ *atheteso* 1 sing. aorist *atheteo* ‘to set aside’

⁸ *suneton* masc. gen. pl. *sunetos* ‘wise, sagacious’

⁹ *suzetetes* unclear meaning in Greek

¹⁰ *emoranen* 3 aorist act. *moraino* ‘to be silly, foolish’

¹¹ *egno* 3 aorist act. *gignosko* ‘to know, learn’

¹² *kerugmatos* neut. gen. sing. *kerugma* ‘proclamation, that announced by a herald’

¹³ *semeia* neut. acc. pl. *semeion* ‘sign, mark’

¹⁴ *skandalon* neut. nom. sing. ‘trap, snare for enemy’

Προς Κορινθίους Α 1:17-29

17 ου γαρ απεστειλεν με χριστος βαπτιζειν αλλα ευαγγελιζεσθαι, ουκ εν σοφια λογου, ινα μη κενωθη ο σταυρος του χριστου.

18 ο λογος γαρ ο του σταυρου τοις μεν απολλυμενοις μωρια εστιν, τοις δε σωζομενοις ημιν δυναμις θεου εστιν.

19 γεγραπται γαρ, απολω την σοφίαν των σοφων, και την συνεσιν των συνετων αθετησω.

20 που σοφος; που γραμματευς; που συζητητης του αιωνος τουτου; ουχι εμωρανεν ο θεος την σοφίαν του κοσμου;

21 επειδη γαρ εν τη σοφια του θεου ουκ εγνω ο κοσμος δια της σοφιας τον θεον, ευδοκησεν ο θεος δια της μωριας του κηρυγματος σωσαι τους πιστευοντας.

22 επειδη και ιουδαιοι σημεια αιτουσιν και ελληνες σοφίαν ζητουσιν, 23 ημεις δε κηρυσσομεν χριστον εσταυρωμενον, ιουδαιοις μεν σκανδαλον εθνεσιν δε μωριαν,

24 αυτοις δε τοις κλητοις, ιουδαιοις τε και ελλησιν, χριστον θεου δυναμιν και θεου σοφίαν:

25 οτι το μωρον του θεου σοφωτερον των ανθρωπων εστιν, και το ασθενες του θεου ισχυροτερον των ανθρωπων.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame¹⁵ the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

²⁶βλεπετε γαρ την κλησιν υμων, αδελφοι, οτι ου πολλοι σοφοι κατα σαρκα, ου πολλοι δυνατοι, ου πολλοι ευγενεις:

²⁷αλλα τα μωρα του κοσμου εξελεξατο ο θεος ινα καταισχυνη τους σοφους, και τα ασθηνη του κοσμου εξελεξατο ο θεος ινα καταισχυνη τα ισχυρα,

²⁸και τα αγενη του κοσμου και τα εξουθενημενα εξελεξατο ο θεος, τα μη οντα, ινα τα οντα καταργηση, ²⁹οπως μη καυχησηται πασα σαρξ ενωπιον του θεου.

¹⁵ *kataischune* 3 sing. aorist *kataschuno* 'to bring shame, disgrace'

The Heifer 1-21^{16 17}

1 *Alif, Lam, Mim*¹⁸,

2 That is the book wherein there is no doubt, a guidance¹⁹ to the God-fearing²⁰;

3 Those who believe in the unseen, and who establish²¹ the prayer, and spend for God's sake²² out of what We have provided for them;

4 And those who believe in what was sent down to you, and what was sent down before you; and of the hereafter are they certain in belief²³.

5 Those are in guidance from their Lord, and those are the successful ones²⁴.

6 Verily, those who reject as unbelievers²⁵, it is the same for them whether you warn them, or do not warn them; they shall not believe.

7 God has set a seal²⁶ upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and upon their sight is a covering; and for them shall be a mighty punishment.

8 And among the people are such as who say, "We believe in God and in the Last Day"; but they are not believers.

9 They would cheat²⁷ God and those who believe, but they cheat none but themselves, and they do not sense²⁸ it.

¹⁶ Translation by Muhammad Yusuf

¹⁷ *Quran* 2

¹⁸ The *muqatta'at* are the Arabic letters which stand at the head of certain suras of the Quran, considered among its miraculous attributes

¹⁹ *hudan* fem. acc. sing. *huda* root *h-d-* 'guidance, deliverance'

²⁰ *muttaqina* gen. m. pl. act. part. *muttaq* 'one who is pious' root: *t-q-w* 'piety, God-fearing'

²¹ *yujimuna* 3 pl. imperf. *aqama* 'institute, establish, begin' root IV: *q-w-m* 'stand, begin'

²² *yunfiquna* 3. pl. imperf. *anfaqa* 'to spend, pay war tribute' root IV: *n-f-q* 'spend'

²³ *yuginuna* 3. pl. imperf. root: *y-q-n* 'be certain, firm'

²⁴ *muflibuna* masc. pl. act. part. *aflaba* 'be successful, favoured by God' root IV: *f-l-b* 'success'

²⁵ *alladhina kaffaru* 'those who deny' *kaffaru* 3 pl. perf. *kaffara* 'to reject, deny' root II: *k-f-r* 'reject, deny'

²⁶ *khatama* 3 sing. perf. root: *kh-t-m* 'seal'

²⁷ *yukbadi'una* 3 pl. imperf. *kbada'a* 'deceive, cheat' root: *kb-d-* 'spoon, hoax'

²⁸ *yash'uruna* 3 pl. imperf. root: *sh-'-r* 'feel, sense'

سورة البقرة ٢١-١

الم ١

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

٢

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ

وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ٣

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ

مِن قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُؤْفُونَ ٤

أُولَئِكَ عَلَى هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَئِكَ

هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ٥

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أُنذِرْتَهُمْ أَمْ

لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ٦

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ

وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ

عَظِيمٌ ٧

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالْيَوْمِ

الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُم بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ٨

يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ

إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ٩

10 In their hearts is a disease, and God shall increase them in disease; and for them is a severe punishment for that which they were wont to belie.

11 And if it is said to them, "Cause not mischief²⁹ in the earth:" they say, "We ourselves are only setting right³⁰."

12 Nay, is it they who are the mischief-makers; but they do not sense it.

13 And if it is said to them, "Believe as the people have believed", they say, "Shall we believe as fools have believed?" Nay, is it they who are the fools, but they do not know it.

14 And when they meet those who have believed³¹ they say, "We believe," but when they confer with their satans, they say, "Verily, we are with you; we ourselves were only mocking."

15 God shall mock at them, and extend them in their rebellion, wandering blindly.

16 Those are they who have purchased error by guidance; but their commerce has not profited, nor are they the guided ones.

17 Their similitude is the similitude of such one as lights a fire; and when it has enlightened what is around it, God takes away their light and leaves them in darkness; they do not see.

18 Deaf, dumb, blind; they shall not return;

19 Or like a storm cloud from the sky, in which there is darkness and thunder and lightning; they make their fingers in their ears from the clamour, for fear of death; and God is encompassing³² of the rejecters in unbelief.

فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا وَلَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ ١٠

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا
إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ ١١

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا
يَشْعُرُونَ ١٢

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا
أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا آمَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ

السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ١٣

وَإِذَا لَقُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا
إِلَىٰ شِيَاطِينِهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ

مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ ١٤

اللَّهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِهِمْ وَيَمُدُّهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ
يَعْمَهُونَ ١٥

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرُوا الضَّلَالََةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ
فَمَا رَبَحَتِ تِجَارَتُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ ١٦

مَثَلُهُمْ كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي اسْتَوْقَدَ نَارًا فَلَمَّا
أَضَاءَتْ مَا حَوْلَهُ ذَهَبَ اللَّهُ بِنُورِهِمْ

وَتَرَكَهُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ ١٧

صُمٌّ بُكْمٌ عُمَىٰ فَهُمْ لَّا يَرْجِعُونَ ١٨

أَوْ كَصَيْبٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فِيهِ ظُلُمَاتٌ وَرَعْدٌ
وَبَرْقٌ يَجْعَلُونَ أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِمْ مِّنَ

الصَّوَاعِقِ حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ وَاللَّهُ مُحِيطٌ

بِالْكَافِرِينَ ١٩

²⁹ *la tufsidu* 2 pl. neg. imperat. *afsada* root IV: *f-s-d* 'disintegration, immorality, putrefaction'

³⁰ *muslibuna* masc. pl. act. part. *aslaba* 'reform, repair' root IV: *s-l-h* 'righteous, correcting'

³¹ *alladhbina amanu* 'those who believe' 3 pl. perf. *amana* root: '*m-n*' 'believe, have faith'

³² *mubit* masc. act. part. 'surrounding, ocean'

20 The lightning almost snatches away their sight; whenever it lights for them, they walk in it, and if it darkens upon them they stop standing; and if God were so to will, He would take away their hearing and their sight. Verily, God is over all things All-Powerful³³.

21 O people! Worship³⁴ your Lord, who has created you and those who were before you, that you may be God-fearing.

يَكَادُ الْبَرْقُ يَخْطَفُ أَبْصَارَهُمْ كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ
لَهُمْ مَشَوْا فِيهِ وَإِذَا أَظْلَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ قَامُوا وَلَوْ
شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَذَهَبَ بِسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَارِهِمْ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ٢٠
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ
وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ٢١

³³ *qadir* nom. sing. 'all-able, all-powerful' root: *q-d-r* 'decree, able'

³⁴ *'abudu* 2 pl. imperat. '*abada* 'worship' root: '*b-d* 'worship, pray, servant'