

The Pardes 2016 Hershdorfer Kantrowitz Brettler Lecture Series

## DAVID A Complicated Hero

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Lecture #1
Young David. A Male Cinderella

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11Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the boys you have?" He replied, "There is still the youngest; he is tending the flock." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send someone to bring him, for we will not be sit down to eat-b until he gets here." 12So they sent and brought him. He was bruddy-cheeked, bright-eyed, b and handsome. And the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." 13Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord gripped David from that day on. Samuel then set out

is with the flock." 20Jesse took b-an ass [laden to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, who and handsome in appearance, and the Lorp is courtiers, "Find me someone who can play well and you will feel better." 17So Saul said to his skilled at playing the lyre; whenever the evil gan to terrify him. 15Saul's courtiers said to him it; Saul would find relief and feel better, and vid remain in my service, for I am pleased with strong liking to him and made him one of his to Saul and entered his service; [Saul] took a with]-bbread, a skin of wine, and a kid, and sent with him." 19Whereupon Saul sent messengers wart fellow and a warrior, sensible in speech Bethlehemite who is skilled in music; he is a stal spoke up, "I have observed a son of Jesse the and bring him to me." 18One of the attendants spirit of God comes over you, he will play it tendance on you will look for someone who is lord give the order [and] the courtiers in atfrom Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lorp beupon Saul, David would take the lyre and play him." 23Whenever the [evil] spirit of God came arms-bearers. 22Saul sent word to Jesse, "Let Dathem to Saul by his son David. 21So David came the evil spirit would leave him. "An evil spirit of God is terrifying you. 16Let ou 14Now the spirit of the Lord had departed

> שְׁמִהּאֵל הֵילֶךְ הָרְמֵּחָה: ס יווְהֹאמֶר שְׁמִהּאֵל אֶל־יִשִׁי הַהָּמִה הַנְּעָלָה וְיֵקְם וֹוּהְא אִרְיִהוֹ מְתִּיּוֹם הַהְּא וְמֵעְלָה וְיֵקְם וֹוּהְא אִרְמוֹנִי עִם־יְמָה עִינֶים וְטִוֹב לֹא־יָלָה עִרְבּי, וְהַוֹּה לְיִה מְשְׁלָה וְיִבְּם וִיּמְשָׁה אֹתוֹ בְּקֶרֵב אָחִיוֹ וִהִּעְלָח וְהְוַּחְ וֹיִה הָוֹא: נוּ וְיִּאָר יְהַנָּה אָנִים מְשְׁנָהוּ כָּר־ וְיִּהְשָׁה אַרְבָּאוֹ שְּׁמִיאֵל אָר־יָשָׁה וְמָשְׁלָח וְיִהְי וְיִהְי שְׁמִר יְהַנָּה הָהְיּשִׁי וְתָבְּיוֹ וְהָנָה בְּיָאוֹ וְיוֹה אָל וִיְלָּךְ הְרָמֵחָה: ס שְׁמִהּאֵל וַיְלֶּךְ הְרָמֵחָה: ס שְׁמִהּאֵל וַיְלֶּךְ הְרָמֵחָה: ס שְׁמִהּאֵל וַיְלֶּךְ הְרָמֵחָה: ס שְׁמִהּאֵל וַיֵּלֶּך הְוֹבְּחָה: ס

וְאָישׁ מִלְחָמֶה וּנְבָוֹן דָּבֶר וְאָישׁ תְּאַר וִידהָה עִּמְּוֹ: יּוּ וִיִּשְׁלָח שְׁאָיל מַלְאָבֶּים עלוף רונו־אַלהים רעה ונגן בְּיָדוֹ וְטִוֹב וְבַקְשׁׁוּ אִֿישׁ יֹדֵאַ מְנַגַּן בּּכּנְוֹר וְדָיָה בְּדְיוֹת מְבַעתֵּך: 10 יאמִר־נֶא אֲדֹנֵנוֹ עַבְנֵיף לְפָנִיף שְׁאָוּל אָלֵיוּ הַנֵּה־נֵא רְוּחַ־אֱלֹהַיָּם רְעָה יי וְרָנִּח יְהוָה מֶרָה מֵעָם שְׁאַנּל נּבֶעֲתַתּנּ אַת־הַפּנִּוֹר וְנִגָּן בְּנָדֵי וְרֵנֵח לְשְׁאנּל וְטְוֹב אָל־יִשֵׁי וַיּאמָר שׁלְתָה אַלֵּי אָת־דָּוִר בְּנְךֵּ בּן לִישִׁי בֵּית הַלִּוְמִי יוֹעֵע נַבּוּן וְגְבּוּר חָיִל וו וַנִּעוֹ אַחָׁד מְהַנְּעָרִים וַיֹּאמֶר הַנֵּה רְאִיתִי לֵר: פ זו וַלָּאמֶר שָׁאַוּל אֶל־עָבְדֵיוּן רְאוּ־ יווו־רָעָה מַאַת וְחוֶה: מּוּ וַיּאמְרָרּ עּבְּדֵיי־ רוד לפני כּי־מָצְא דֵּן בְּעִינֵי: יני וְדְיָדְה 22 וַיִּשְׁלָח שָׁאִרל אָל־יִשָּׁו לַאמָר וַעָּמָר־נָא יו ולני תנים אנור ונאלוו בת-בנו. ביו אַשֵׁר בּאַאן: 10 וִיּלֵּח ישׁׁי חֲמָוֹר לֶּחֶם וְנָאר א לי איש מיעיב לגגן והביאותם אלי: בָּהְיָוֹת רְוּחַ־אֱלּוֹתִיםׂ אֶל־שָׁאַנּל וְלָקָח דְּנָרְי לְפָנֵיו וַיְאֲחָבָחִי מְאֹר וַיְחִי־לִוּ נשַׁא כַּלִים: אָל־שָׁאָוּל: וֹז וַיָּבָא דְוִד אָל־שְׁאוּל וַיְּעֲבָּוֹד לו וְעָרָה מִעְלֵיני רָנוֹח הָרְעֲה: פ

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<sup>34</sup>Samuel then departed for Ramah, and Saul went up to his home at Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Samuel never saw Saul again to the day of his death. But Samuel grieved over Saul, because the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king

with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have since I have rejected him as king over Ismanded. When he came to Bethlehem, the elthe Lorp.' 3Invite Jesse to the sacrificial feast will kill me." The Lord answered, "Take a heife replied, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he decided on one of his sons to be king." 2Samuel rael? Fill your horn with oil and set out; I am the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king his death. But Samuel grieved over Saul, because the LORD. Purify yourselves and join me in the 5"Yes," he replied, "I have come to sacrifice to and said, "Do you come on a peaceful errand?" out to you." 4Samuel did what the Lorp comshall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I point and then I will make known to you what you sacrificial feast." He also instructed Jesse and his ders of the city went out in alarm to meet him he sacrificial feast. sons to purify themselves and invited them to O uel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, 35Samuel never saw Saul again to the day of over Israel. And the Lord said to Sam-

6When they arrived and he saw Eliab, he thought: "Surely the Lord's anointed stands before Him." 7But the Lord said to Samuel, "Pay no attention to his appearance or his stature, for I have rejected him. For not as man sees [does the Lord see]; man sees only what is visible, but the Lord sees into the heart." 8Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass before Samuel, but he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9Next Jesse presented Shammah; and again he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 10Thus Jesse presented seven of his sons before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

אָל-בּוּטִוּ יִּבְעַׁת שְׁאִרּל: «נַּעָלֵרְ שְׁמִנּאָל חָלֶמֶתָה וְשְׁאָרּל עָלֶה

שְאַיּל וְדֵוּנְגָי פּ וּנִּאמֶר יְדִּוֹדִה אָנְלָת מֶלֶבְּ: צוֹאמֶר שְׁמִנּאֵל אַרְּ אֲנָבְּ וְשְׁמֶע אָל-יִשִׁי מֵּוֹת שְׁמִּיּאֵל אַרְ אָנְיִנִי בְּּנְצֵיוֹ לִי אָל-יִשִׁי מֵּוֹת הָלִיוֹמִי כִּי־רְאִינִי בְּּנְצֵיוֹ לִי אָל-יִשִׁי מֵּנִת הַלָּוֹמִי כִּי־רְאִינִי בְּּנְצֵיוֹ לִי שְאֵיל וִידְוָּה גָּל-שְׁמִּיּאֵל עִר־מְנִי אִמְּל שְאֵיל וִידְנָה גָּלִי שְׁמִינִּאֵל עִר־מְנִי אִמְּל שְאֵיל וִידְנָה גָּלִישְׁרָאֵל: פּ וּנִּיּאמֶר שְאֵיל וְדִוּנְה גָּלָם בְּידִוּאַבָּל שְׁמִינִּאַל אֶל-שָׁאָיל וֹיִה בָּעָר שְׁאָרַל: פּ וּנִּיּאמֶר שְאֵיל וְדָרְנָנִי פּ וּנִּיאמֶר יְבְּוֹדְ אָנָר אָרְיִים מִוֹנִי בְּיִבְּיוֹת אָרִים בּירִיוֹי בְּנְעָר שְׁאַרִּל: בּי וֹנְאָמֶר יְבִּינְה בְּעִר שְׁאָרִל: פּ וּנִיּאמֶר אָבָּיר אָבְיר בְּיִרְיוֹ בְּנִינְיוֹי בְּבְעָר שְׁאָרִל:

אוֹדִיעֻךּ אַת אָשֵׁר־פִּעֻשָּׁה וּמְשִׁחְתָּ לי אַת יואה האדם כי האדם יראה לעינים אָל־שְׁמוּאֵל אַל־תַּבָּט אֶל־מֵרְאֵדֵוּ וְאָל־ גְּלָדָה קוֹמְתִוּ כִּי מְאַסְתֵּיחוּ כִּי ו לֹא אֲשֶׁר טיטלוקו ולאורם אינו. פולט נוענים ונאמר ו שלום לובו ליהוה באתי ָקנֵי הָעִיר לְקְרָאתׁו ויַּאמֶר״ שְׁלָם בּוֹאֶרְ: קני הָעִיר לְקְרָאתׁו ויַּאמֶר״ אָשֵׁר וּבֵּר וְחֹלָה וַנְבָּא בִּית לֻחֶם וַיֶּחֶרְ״וּ אָשֶׁר־אֹמֶר אַלֵּיך: זּיִנִישׁ שׁמוּאַל אַת מאני: יולונאלי לישי פובח ואנכי בַּקֵר תִּקָּח בְּנֵוֹר וְאָמֶרְתְּׁ לוְבָּח לֵיחוָה שַׁמָה וַיֹּאמֶר נִם־בָּוֶה לֹא־בָתַר וְהַוֶה: ים־בָּוֶה לָא־בָּתַר יְתוֶה: יּנִישָבֶר יִשְׁי אַבִּינְדֵׁ ב וַיַּעֲבֶרֶהוּ לִפְנֵי שְׁמוּאֵל וּיֹּאמֶר אַר נגר יְדוּנֶה מְשִׁיהְוֹו: יְנַיּאמֶר יְדוֹנָה וּנְתָּי בְּבוֹאָם ווּיֶרָא אָת־אֶלִיאָב וּיְּאמֶר יִאמֶר שְמוּאֵל אֶל־יִשַּׁי לֹא־בָתַר יְחוֶה א וּנִּעְבָר יִשִׁי שִׁרְעַת בְּנֵיו לִפְנֵי שְׁמִּנְאֵל ויהנה וראה ללבר: יווקרא ישו אל-אָת־יִשׁיֹ וְאָת־בָּנָיוּ וִיּקְרָא לְחֶם לְזָבָח:

## Psalm 151A (Qumran)

<sup>1</sup>Smaller was I than my brothers,

and the youngest of the sons of my father,

<sup>2</sup>So he made me shepherd of his flock,

and ruler over his kids

<sup>3</sup>My hands have made an instrument,

and my fingers a lyre

And (so) have I rendered glory to the Lord, thought I, within my soul.

The mountains do not witness to him.

nor do the hills proclaim

The trees have cherished my words,

and the flock my works

<sup>7</sup>For who can proclaim and who can bespeak,

and who can recount the deeds of the

Lord?

Everything has God seen,

everything has he heard and he has heeded.

'He sent his prophet to anoint me,

Samuel to make me great;

<sup>10</sup>My brothers went out to meet him,

handsome of figure and appearance.

"Though they were tall of stature,

and handsome by their hair

<sup>12</sup>The Lord God chose them not.

<sup>13</sup>But he sent and took me from behind the flock,

and anointed me with holy oil,

<sup>14</sup>And he made me leader to his people,

and ruler over the sons of his covenant.

## Yalkut Hamekhiri

One said: David was the son of a beloved [woman], and one said: David was the son of a hated [woman] . . . and [Jesse] had six big sons, and he avoided his wife for three years. After three years he had a handsome maidservant and he desired her. He said to her: My daughter, fix yourself up tonight . . . The maidservant went away and said to her mistress: Save yourself and my soul and my lord from hell. She said to her: What is the matter? She told her everything. She said to her: My daughter, What can I do that it is now three years that he has not touched me? She said to her: I will give you advice. Go and fix yourself up, and also I will do so, and in the evening when he says 'close the door'—you slip in and I will go out. So she did. At evening, the maidservant stood and extinguished the candle, [she] went to close the door, her mistress entered and she left, she spent the whole night with him and conceived David. And from his love for that maidservant David emerged much ruddier than his brothers [apparently, this is based on a folk belief

that particularly red babies are the fruit of forbidden desire; see also 1 Sam. 17:42] . . . After nine months her sons wanted to kill her and her son David because they saw that he was red. Jesse said to them: Leave him alone; he will be our servant and will tend to the flocks. The matter was kept quiet for twenty-eight years, when the Holy One, blessed be he, said to Samuel: "I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite . . .," [Jesse] told him: "there is still the youngest; he is tending the flock." He told him: "Send someone to bring him." When he came, the oil [this is the oil with which kings are anointed] began to swell and rise up. The Holy One, blessed be He, said to Samuel: "... anoint him, for this is the one." The oil on his head crystallized into jewels and pearls . . . and Jesse and his sons stood in great fear. They said: He did not come but to scorn us and let Israel know that this son is illegitimate. And the mother of David was happy, inside, but sad, outside. When [Samuel] raised a glass, they were all happy. Samuel stood and kissed him on his head and said: "the Lord said to me, 'You are My son'" (Ps. 2:7). At the same time, his mother said: "The stone that the builders [habonim] rejected has become the chief cornerstone" (Ps. 118:22). "The sons" [habanim] is written [the word habonim can be alternatively vocalized, and read, as habanim, and it is the play between those two readings that the midrash makes use of]. She said: You are a son rejected by your brothers and now you have become the cornerstone and you have ascended higher than all. Her sons said to her: "This is the Lord's doing" (Ps. 118:23), therefore "This is the day that the Lord has made—let us exult and rejoice on it" (v. 24). (Yalkut Hamekhiri to Psalms 118:22)



