

Spirit of Prophecy Version™

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10

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Translation Principle:
Syntactic and Semantic Precision

English Style:
Translation English

King James Version:
Pure Cambridge Edition
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Last Updated:
January 2017

This work of translation is
DEDICATED TO

- 1) God, the Eternal Father, the Creator and Sustainer of all existence
- 2) The Holy Spirit, the seven Spirits of God who are before his throne,
who continually convict us of sin, righteousness, and the coming Judgment
- 3) Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, the Lord and Savior of all mankind

Without these Three, this work would never have been possible.

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1

1 Now it happened after the death of Joshua, that the sons of Israel consulted the LORD, saying, "Who shall go up for us first¹ against the Canaanites, to fight against them?"

2 And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand."

3 Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into my lot, in order that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into your lot." So Simeon went with him.

4 And Judah went up. And the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they struck them at Bezek—ten thousand men.

5 And they found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him. And they struck the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 But Adoni-bezek fled, and they pursued after him, and seized him, and cut off his thumbs and his big toes².

7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings, their thumbs and their big toes cut off, would pick up under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him [to] Jerusalem, and he died there.

8 Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and captured it. And they struck it with the edge of [the] sword, and set the city on fire.

9 And afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who were dwelling in the hill country, and the Negev, and the lowland.

10 And Judah went against the Canaanites who were dwelling in Hebron (now the name of Hebron [was] in former times Kiriath-arba), and they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi.

11 And from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (now the name of Debir [was] in former times Kiriath-sepher).

12 And Caleb said, "[He] who strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter as a wife."

13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb³, captured it. So he gave him Achsah his daughter as a wife.

14 And it happened when she came in, that she incited him to ask of her father the field. Then she came down from off the donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?"

15 And she said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her [the] upper springs⁴ and [the] lower springs⁵.

16 Now the sons of [the] Kenite, the father-in-law of Moses, went up with the sons of Judah from the city of palm trees [to] the wilderness of Judah, which [is] in the south of Arad. And they went and dwelled with the people.

17 And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites who were dwelling in Zephath, and devoted it to destruction. So he called the name of the city Hormah.

18 And Judah captured Gaza and its territory, and Ashkelon and its territory, and Ekron and its territory.

19 And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but [he was] not [able] to dispossess the inhabitants of the valley because they had chariots of iron.

20 And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had spoken. And he dispossessed from there the three sons of Anak.

21 But the sons of Benjamin did not dispossess the Jebusites who were dwelling in Jerusalem. So the Jebusites have dwelled with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 And the house of Joseph, they too, went up [against] Bethel, and the LORD [was] with him.

23 And the house of Joseph made a reconnaissance in Bethel (now the name of the city [was] formerly Luz).

24 And the watchmen saw a man coming out from the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance of the city, and we will show kindness with you."

25 And he showed them the entrance of the city. And they struck the city by the edge of [the] sword, but they let the man and all his family go.

26 And the man went [to] the land of the Hittites, and built a city, and called its name Luz. That [is] its name to this day.

1) lit, "at the beginning"

2) lit, "the big digits of his hands and his feet"

3) lit, "brother of Caleb who was younger than him"

4) lit, "springs of upper"
5) lit, "springs of lower"

1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

2 And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.

3 And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him.

4 And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men.

5 And they found Adonibezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 But Adonibezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

7 And Adonibezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered [their meat] under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

8 Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley.

10 And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before [was] Kirjatharba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi.

11 And from thence he went against the inhabitants of Debir: and the name of Debir before [was] Kirjathsepher:

12 And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.

13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife.

14 And it came to pass, when she came [to him], that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted from off [her] ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou?

15 And she said unto him, Give me a blessing: for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the nether springs.

16 And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which [lieth] in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

17 And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they slew the Canaanites that inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah.

18 Also Judah took Gaza with the coast thereof, and Askelon with the coast thereof, and Ekron with the coast thereof.

19 And the LORD was with Judah; and he drave out [the inhabitants of] the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.

20 And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

21 And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.

22 And the house of Joseph, they also went up against Bethel: and the LORD [was] with them.

23 And the house of Joseph sent to descry Bethel. (Now the name of the city before [was] Luz.)

24 And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said unto him, Shew us, we pray thee, the entrance into the city, and we will shew thee mercy.

25 And when he shewed them the entrance into the city, they smote the city with the edge of the sword; but they let go the man and all his family.

26 And the man went into the land of the Hittites, and built a city, and called the name thereof Luz: which [is] the name thereof unto this day.

JUDGES 1, 2

SPV

27 And Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in this land.

28 And it happened when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not dispossess them at all.

29 And Ephraim did not dispossess the Canaanites who were dwelling in Gezer, so the Canaanites dwelled in Gezer in their midst.

30 Zebulun did not dispossess the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, so the Canaanites dwelled in their midst, but they became subject to forced labor.

31 Asher did not dispossess the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or [take possession of] Ahlab, or Achzib, or Helbah, or Aphik, or Rehob.

32 So the Asherites dwelled in the midst of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not dispossess them.

33 Naphtali did not dispossess the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but they dwelled in the midst of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. However, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

34 And the Amorites pushed the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not permit them to come down to the valley.

35 And the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph weighed heavily, and they became subject to forced labor.

36 Now the border of the Amorites [was] from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Selah and upward.

CHAPTER 2

1 And the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt, and I brought you to the land which I had sworn to your fathers. And I said, 'I will never¹ break my covenant with you,

2 "and you shall not cut a covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What [is] this you have done?

3 "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out from before you, but they will be traps to you, and their gods will be a snare to you.'"

4 And it happened when the angel of the LORD had spoken these words to all the sons of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice and wept.

5 And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

6 When Joshua had sent the people away, the sons of Israel went each one to his inheritance to take possession of the land.

7 And the people served the LORD [for] all the days of Joshua, and [for] all the days of the elders who outlived² Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD which he had done for Israel.

8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, [being] a hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, on the north of Mount Gaash.

10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD, or even the work which he had done for Israel.

11 And the sons of Israel did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and served the Baals.

12 And they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out from the land of Egypt. And they went after other gods, from the gods of the peoples who [were] around them, and prostrated themselves to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.

13 So they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and the Asheroths.

CHAPTER 1

27 Neither did Manasseh drive out [the inhabitants of] Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land.

28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.

29 Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

30 Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries.

31 Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob:

32 But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out.

33 Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Bethshemesh, nor the inhabitants of Bethanath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: nevertheless the inhabitants of Bethshemesh and of Bethanath became tributaries unto them.

34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:

35 But the Amorites would dwell in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries.

36 And the coast of the Amorites [was] from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

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CHAPTER 2

1 And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?

3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be [as thorns] in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

5 And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD.

6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land.

7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, [being] an hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that [were] round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroath.

1) lit. "not to eternity"

2) lit. "prolonged days after"

14 And the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he gave them into [the] hand of plunderers, and they plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their enemies on every side, with the result that they were not able any longer to stand before their enemies.

15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed³.

16 Then the LORD raised up judges, and they saved them from the hand of those who plunder them.

17 And yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and prostrated themselves to them. They hastily turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.

18 And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD would be with the judge, and would save them from the hand of their enemies [for] all the days of the judge, for the LORD would be moved to pity because of their groaning on account of those who were tormenting them and those who were oppressing them.

19 But it would be when the judge had died, they would turn back and would act more corruptly than their fathers, by going after other gods to serve them and to prostrate themselves to them; they did not abandon their practices, or their stubborn way.

20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he said, "Because this nation has transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to my voice,

21 "I also will not continue to dispossess from before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

22 "for the purpose of testing Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD by walking in them as their fathers kept [it], or not."

23 Therefore the LORD allowed these nations to remain in order not to dispossess them hastily, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

3) lit, "it was distressed to them greatly"

14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; [but] they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, [that] they returned, and corrupted [themselves] more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep [it], or not.

23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

CHAPTER 3

1 Now these [were] the nations which the LORD allowed to remain, in order to test Israel by them, all who had not known any of the wars of Canaan

2 (only in order that the generations of the sons of Israel might know, to teach them war, only [those] who before had not known them):

3 the five tyrants of [the] Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites who were dwelling on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

4 And they were for the purpose of testing Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 Therefore the sons of Israel dwelled in the midst of the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

6 And they took their daughters to themselves as wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and they served their gods.

7 And the sons of Israel did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and they forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asherahs.

8 Therefore the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim the king of Mesopotamia. And the sons of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim [for] eight years.

9 But when the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a savior for the sons of Israel, and he saved them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb¹.

10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. And he went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim the king of Mesopotamia into his hand, and his hand prevailed against Cushan-rishathaim.

11 And the land was at rest [for] forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

12 And the sons of Israel again did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD.

CHAPTER 3

1 Now these [are] the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, [even] as many [of Israel] as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

3 [Namely], five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath.

4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years.

9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, [even] Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.

11 And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

12 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

1) lit, "brother of Caleb who was younger than him"

13 And he gathered to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek, and went and struck Israel. And they took possession of the city of palm trees.

14 And the sons of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab [for] eighteen years.

15 But when the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a savior for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a man bound on his right hand. And the sons of Israel sent a tribute by his hand to Eglon the king of Moab.

16 And Ehud made for himself a dagger, and it had two edges, its length [was] a cubit. And he girded it under his garments upon his right thigh.

17 And he presented the tribute to Eglon the king of Moab. Now Eglon [was] a very fat man.

18 And it happened when he had finished presenting the tribute, that he sent away the people who were carrying the tribute.

19 But he himself turned back from the idols which [were] near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he said, "Keep silence!" And all those who were standing by him went out from him.

20 Now Ehud came to him while he was sitting by himself in the cool roof chamber which he had. And Ehud said, "I have the word of God for you." And he arose from his seat.

21 Then Ehud stretched out his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.

22 And the handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed in upon the blade, for he did not pull the sword out from his belly, and the refuse came out.

23 Then Ehud went out into the vestibule, and shut the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked [them].

24 Now when he had gone out, his servants came, and they saw, and behold, the doors of the roof chamber were locked, and they said, "Surely he is relieving himself² in the cool chamber."

25 And they waited anxiously until [they] were ashamed. And behold, he was not opening the doors of the roof chamber. Therefore they took the key and opened [them], and behold, their lord was lying dead on [the] ground.

26 Now Ehud escaped while they were delaying, and passed by the idols. And he escaped to Seirah.

27 And it happened when he came, that he blew the horn in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country while he [was] before them.

28 And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies, Moab, into your hand." So they went down after him, and captured the fords of the Jordan against Moab, and they did not permit a man to pass over.

29 And they struck Moab at that time, about ten thousand men, all robust and all men of strength, and no man escaped.

30 So Moab was subdued on that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was at rest [for] eighty years.

31 And after him Shamgar the son of Anath came. And he struck [the] Philistines, six hundred men, with a prod of oxen. And he himself also saved Israel.

2) lit, "covering his feet"

13 And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

14 So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

15 But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

16 But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh.

17 And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon [was] a very fat man.

18 And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present.

19 But he himself turned again from the quarries that [were] by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him.

20 And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of [his] seat.

21 And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly:

22 And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

23 Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them.

24 When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour [were] locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber.

25 And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened [them]: and, behold, their lord [was] fallen down dead on the earth.

26 And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath.

27 And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

28 And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over.

29 And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man.

30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.

31 And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

CHAPTER 4

1 And the sons of Israel again did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, when Ehud had died.

2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin the king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. And the commander of his army [was] Sisera, and he was dwelling in Harosheth-hagoyim.

3 Then the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and he oppressed the sons of Israel with force [for] twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a woman, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, she was judging Israel at that time.

5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim. And the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD the God of Israel commanded, 'Go and march into Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun.

7 "And I will draw out Sisera, the commander of the army of Jabin, and his chariots and his army to you to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand?"

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 4

1 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host [was] Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, [saying], Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."
 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, your glory will not be on the road on which you are going, for the LORD will sell Sisera into [the] hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.
 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And ten thousand men went up at his feet, and Deborah went up with him.
 11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from Kain, from the sons of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far as [the] terebinth in Zaananim, which [was] near Kedesh.
 12 And they told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up [to] Mount Tabor.
 13 Then Sisera called all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who [were] with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon.
 14 And Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this [is] the day on which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men after him.
 15 And the LORD confounded Sisera and all the chariots and all the army by the edge of [the] sword before Barak. Then Sisera came down from [his] chariot, and fled on his feet.
 16 But Barak pursued after the chariots and after the army as far as Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of [the] sword; not even one was left.
 17 Now Sisera fled on his feet to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for [there was] peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.
 18 And Jael came out to meet Sisera, and she said to him, "Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.
 19 And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." Then she opened a skin bottle of milk and gave [it] to him to drink, and she covered him.
 20 And he said to her, "Stand [at] the opening of the tent, and it will be, if a man comes and inquires of you and says, 'Is there a man here?' that you shall say, 'There is not.'"
 21 However, Jael the wife of Heber took the peg of the tent, and took a hammer into her hand. Then she went to him in secret, and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground. Now he had fallen fast asleep and had been exhausted. Therefore he died.
 22 And behold, Barak was pursuing Sisera, and Jael came out to meet him, and she said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." And he went in to her, and behold, Sisera was lying dead, and the peg [was] in his temple.
 23 Therefore God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the sons of Israel.
 24 And the hand of the sons of Israel pressed harder and harder upon Jabin the king of Canaan, until they cut off Jabin the king of Canaan.

CHAPTER 5

1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying,
 2 "For the fact that [the] unplaited hair hangs free in Israel, for the fact that [the] people offer themselves willingly, bless the LORD.
 3 "Hear, O kings; give ear, O rulers; I, to the LORD, I myself will sing; I will make melody to the LORD the God of Israel.
 4 "O LORD, when you went forth from Seir, when you marched from the field of Edom, [the] earth quaked, [the] heavens also dropped, even [the] clouds dropped water.
 5 "[The] mountains flowed because of the LORD, this one of Sinai; because of the LORD the God of Israel.
 6 "In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, [the] highways were abandoned, and those who were walking on roads were going [by] crooked paths.
 7 "[The] peasants ceased in Israel, they ceased, until I, Deborah, arose, [until] I arose [to become] a mother in Israel.
 8 "One chose new gods; then war [was in the] gates; a shield was not seen, or a spear, among forty thousand in Israel.

CHAPTER 5

8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, [then] I will not go.
 9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.
 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.
 11 Now Heber the Kenite, [which was] of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which [is] by Kedesh.
 12 And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor.
 13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, [even] nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that [were] with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.
 14 And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this [is] the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.
 15 And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all [his] chariots, and all [his] host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off [his] chariot, and fled away on his feet.
 16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; [and] there was not a man left.
 17 Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for [there was] peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.
 18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.
 19 And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.
 20 Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and inquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No.
 21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.
 22 And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her [tent], behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail [was] in his temples.
 23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.
 24 And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

CHAPTER 5

1 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,
 2 Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.
 3 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, [even] I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing [praise] to the LORD God of Israel.
 4 LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.
 5 The mountains melted from before the LORD, [even] that Sinai from before the LORD God of Israel.
 6 In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.
 7 [The inhabitants of] the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.
 8 They chose new gods; then [was] war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 "My heart [is] toward the rulers of Israel, [toward those] who would offer themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD.

10 "[You] who ride on tawny female donkeys, [you] who sit on carpets, and [you] who walk by [the] way—give praise.

11 "Because of the voice of [those] who distribute between drawing places of water, they shall recount there the righteous acts of the LORD, the righteous acts of his peasants in Israel. Then the people of the LORD went down to the gates.

12 "Awake, awake, O Deborah; awake, awake, utter a song; arise, O Barak, and lead your captives captive, O son of Abinoam.

13 "Then [the] survivor came down to [the] majestic [ones]; the people of the LORD came down to me against the mighty [ones].

14 "Out of Ephraim [those whose] root [is] in Amalek [came down]; after you, O Benjamin, among your peoples; out of Machir rulers came down; and out of Zebulun [those] who draw [the] staff of a scribe.

15 "And my princes in Issachar [were] with Deborah; and Issachar was the support of Barak; into the valley he was sent forth on his feet. Among the divisions of Reuben [the] engravings of heart [were] great.

16 "Why did you sit between the two saddlebaskets, to hear the whistlings for [the] flocks? In relation to the divisions of Reuben [the] searchings of heart [were] great.

17 "Gilead dwelled on the other side of the Jordan; and Dan, why did he sojourn [in] ships? Asher sat at the shore of [the] seas, and dwelled [at] his landing places.

18 "Zebulun [was] a people [who] despised their soul to the point of death; and Naphtali, upon the heights of [the] field.

19 "Kings came, they fought; then the kings of Canaan fought, in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they did not take gain of silver.

20 "From [the] heavens the stars fought; from their paths they fought against Sisera.

21 "The torrent Kishon swept them away, [a] torrent of antiquity [is] the torrent Kishon. May you march on, O my soul, [with] strength.

22 "Then the hooves of [the] horse beat on account of [the] galloping, the galloping of his mighty [ones].

23 "'Curse Meroz,' the angel of the LORD said, 'Curse bitterly its inhabitants, for they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty [ones].'

24 "Most blessed among women Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; most blessed is she among women in the tent.

25 "He asked for water; she gave milk; in a bowl for majestic [ones] she presented cream.

26 "She put forth her hand to the tent peg, and her right [hand] to a hammer of workmen. Then she struck Sisera; she shattered his head; indeed she smashed and cut through his temple.

27 "Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay; between her feet he bowed, he fell; in [the place] where he bowed down, there he fell—struck dead.

28 "Through the window she looked down, and cried shrilly; the mother of Sisera through the window lattice, 'Why has his chariot delayed in coming? Why have the paces of his chariots tarried?'

29 "The wisest [ones] of her princesses answer her; indeed, she [herself] returns her words to to her:

30 "'Are they not finding, [are] they [not] dividing [the] spoil, a woman, two women for every man? A spoil of colored cloths for Sisera, a spoil of colored cloths [which is] colorful embroidery, a colored cloth of colorful double embroidery on the necks of [the] spoil?'

31 "Thus let all your enemies perish, O LORD. But [let] those who love him [be] as the going forth of the sun in its might." And the land was at rest [for] forty years.

CHAPTER 6

1 And the sons of Israel did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian [for] seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the clefts which [were] in the mountains, and the caves, and the strongholds.

CHAPTER 6

9 My heart [is] toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

10 Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way.

11 [They that are delivered] from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, [even] the righteous acts [toward the inhabitants] of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the LORD go down to the gates.

12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

13 Then he made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the LORD made me have dominion over the mighty.

14 Out of Ephraim [was there] a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.

15 And the princes of Issachar [were] with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben [there were] great thoughts of heart.

16 Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben [there were] great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.

18 Zebulun and Naphtali [were] a people [that] jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

19 The kings came [and] fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.

20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

21 The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.

22 Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

25 He asked water, [and] she gave [him] milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.

26 She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: where he bowed, there he fell down dead.

28 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot [so] long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?

29 Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself,

30 Have they not sped? have they [not] divided the prey; to every man a damsel [or] two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, [meet] for the necks of [them that take] the spoil?

31 So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but [let] them that love him [be] as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: [and] because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which [are] in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

3 And it would be when Israel had sown, that Midian would come up, and Amalek and the sons of [the] east, indeed they would come up against them.

4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the yield of the land, until you come to Gaza, and they would leave no sustenance in Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor donkey.

5 For they and their livestock would come up, also their tents, and they would come like an abundance of locusts in multitude; there was no number both to them and to their camels. Therefore they came into the land to devastate it.

6 So Israel was impoverished because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.

7 And it happened when the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of Midian,

8 that the LORD sent a man, a prophet, to the sons of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus the LORD the God of Israel has said, 'I myself brought you up from Egypt, and I brought you out from a house of slaves.

9 "And I delivered you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of all those who were oppressing you, and I drove them out from your presence and I gave you their land.

10 "And I said to you, 'I [am] the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are dwelling.' But you have not obeyed my voice."

11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth which [was] in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while Gideon his son was beating out wheat in the winepress in order to whisk [it] away from the presence of Midian.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him, and he said to him, "The LORD [is] with you, O mighty man of strength."

13 And Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, then why has all this happened to us? And where [are] all his wonderful acts which our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and has given us into the hand of Midian."

14 And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours, and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?"

15 And he said to him, "O my Lord, by what means will I save Israel? Behold, my clan [is] the weakest in Manasseh, and I [am] the most insignificant in the house of my father."

16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you will strike Midian as one man."

17 And he said to him, "If in any way I have found favor in your eyes, then perform a sign for me that you are speaking with me.

18 "Please do not depart from this [place] until I come to you and bring out my gift and set [it] in your presence." And he said, "I will stay until you return."

19 So Gideon went and prepared a young goat and an ephah of flour for unleavened bread; the flesh he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot. And he brought [them] out to him under the terebinth, and presented [them].

20 And the angel of God said to him, "Take the flesh and the unleavened bread, and lay [them] upon this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

21 Then the angel of the LORD stretched out the tip of his staff which [was] in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened bread. And the fire went up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread, while the angel of the LORD departed from his eyes.

22 Then Gideon saw that he [was] the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

23 And the LORD said to him, "Peace [be] to you. Do not fear; you will not die."

24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and he called it Adonai-shalom. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25 And it happened on that night, that the LORD said to him, "Take the bull which belongs to your father, that is, the second bull seven years old, and you shall tear down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and you shall cut down the Asherah which [is] beside it,

3 And [so] it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; [for] both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,

8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;

10 And I said unto you, I [am] the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which [was] in Ophrah, that [pertained] unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide [it] from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where [be] all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house.

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set [it] before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought [it] out unto him under the oak, and presented [it].

20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay [them] upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

21 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that [was] in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

22 And when Gideon perceived that he [was] an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace [be] unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it [is] yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that [is] by it:

26 "and you shall build an altar to the LORD your God upon the top of this stronghold in the proper arrangement. Then you shall take the second bull, and shall offer [it as] a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you will cut down."

27 So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had spoken to him. And it happened because he was too afraid of the house of his father and the men of the city so as to do [it] by day, that he did [it] by night.

28 And when the men of the city had risen early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal had been torn down, and the Asherah which [was] beside it had been cut down, and the second bull had been offered upon the altar which had been built.

29 And they said, each man to his companion, "Who has done this thing?" And they investigated and sought. Then they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."

30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, in order that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the Asherah which [was] beside it."

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you yourselves contend for Baal? or will you yourselves save him? [He] who contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he [is] a god, let him contend for himself, for he has torn down his altar."

32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal contend against him, because he has torn down his altar."

33 Now all Midian and Amalek and [the] sons of [the] east assembled themselves together, and they crossed over and encamped in the valley of Jezreel.

34 Now the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he blew the horn, and Abiezer was called together after him.

35 And he sent messengers into all Manasseh, and they also were called together after him. At the same time he sent messengers into Asher, and into Zebulun, and into Naphtali, and they came up to meet¹ them.

36 Then Gideon said to God, "If you really will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken,

37 "behold, I will be putting the fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and dryness on all the ground, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken."

38 And it was so. When he rose up early [on] the next day and squeezed the fleece, he drained out the dew from the fleece, a bowlfull of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me, but rather let me speak only this time. Please let me test only this time with the fleece. Let there now be dryness on the fleece alone, and let there be dew on all the ground."

40 And God did so on that night, and there was dryness on the fleece alone, and there was dew on all the ground.

1) or, "confront"

CHAPTER 7

1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon), rose up early, and all the people who [were] with him, and they encamped beside the spring of Harod, while the army of Midian came to them from [the] north, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2 And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who [are] with you [are] too many for me to give Midian into their hand, lest Israel boast against me, saying, 'My hand has saved me.'

3 "Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever [is] afraid and trembling, let him return and turn back to Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand of the people returned, while ten thousand remained.

4 And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people [are] still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will refine them for you there. And it will be, [he] of whom I say to you, 'This [one] shall go with you,' he shall go with you. And everyone of whom I say to you, 'This [one] shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

5 So he brought down the people to the water, and the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps with his tongue from the water, as a dogs laps, you shall set him by himself, and everyone who kneels upon his knees to drink."

6 And the number of those who were lapping with their hands to their mouth was three hundred men, but all the rest of the people kneeled upon their knees to drink water.

CHAPTER 7

26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and [so] it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do [it] by day, that he did [it] by night.

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that [was] by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar [that was] built.

29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that [was] by it.

31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst [it is yet] morning: if he [be] a god, let him plead for himself, because [one] hath cast down his altar.

32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; [and] if the dew be on the fleece only, and [it be] dry upon all the earth [beside], then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

1 Then Jerubbaal, who [is] Gideon, and all the people that [were] with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that [are] with thee [are] too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever [is] fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people [are] yet [too] many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, [that] of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, [putting] their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7 And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men who are lapping I will save you and will give Midian into your hand. Therefore let all the people go, each man to his place.

8 So they took the provisions of the people in their hand and their trumpets, and he sent all the men of Israel away, each man to his tents, but he kept hold of the three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

9 And it happened on that night, that the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down into the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

10 "But if you [are] afraid to go down, go down, you and Purah your attendant, to the camp,

11 "and you will hear what they say, and afterward your hands will be strengthened. Then you will go down into the camp." So he and Purah his attendant went down to the outposts of the armed men who [were] in the camp.

12 Now Midian and Amalek and the sons of [the] east were laying along in the valley like locusts in abundance, and there was no number to their camels, as the sand which [is] upon the shore of the sea in abundance.

13 When Gideon came, behold, a man was recounting a dream to his companion, and he said, "Behold, I have dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came up to the tent and struck it, and it fell, and it turned it upside down, and the tent was lying flat."

14 And his companion answered and said, "This is nothing except the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, the man of Israel. God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand."

15 And it happened when Gideon had heard the recounting of the dream and its interpretation, that he prostrated himself. Then he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the LORD has given the camp of Midian into your hand."

16 And he divided the three hundred men [into] three units, and he put horns into the hand of all of them, and empty jars, with torches in the midst of the jars.

17 And he said to them, "Look on me, and thus do. And behold, I am about to go into the outskirts of the camp, and it will be, as I do, thus you shall do.

18 "When I blow the horn, I and all who [are] with me, then you also blow the horns [on] every side of all the camp, and say, 'For the LORD, and for Gideon.'"

19 So Gideon and a hundred men who [were] with him came into the outskirts of the camp [at] the beginning of the middle watch; they had only just then posted the guards; and they blew the horns and smashed the pitchers which [were] in their hand.

20 So the three units blew the horns and broke the jars and held the torches in their left hand and the horns in their right hand to blow, and they cried out, "A sword for the LORD, and for Gideon."

21 And they stood, each man in his place [on] every side of the camp. And all the host ran, and cried out, and fled.

22 And they blew the three hundred horns, and the LORD set the sword of each man against his neighbor, even against all the army. And the host fled as far as Bethshittah toward Zererath, as far as the border of Abelmeholah by Tabbath.

23 And the men of Israel were called together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and they pursued after Midian.

24 At the same time Gideon sent messengers into all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down to confront Midian, and seize against them the waters as far as Bethbarah, and the Jordan." So all the men of Ephraim were called together, and they seized the waters as far as Bethbarah, and the Jordan.

25 And they captured the two commanders of Midian: Oreb and Zeeb. And they slew Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and they pursued Midian, and the heads of Oreb and Zeeb they brought to Gideon on [the] other side of the Jordan.

CHAPTER 8

1 And the men of Ephraim said to him, "What [is] this thing you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they contended with him **vigorously**!

2 And he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Are not the gleanings of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

1) lit, "with strength"

CHAPTER 8

7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the [other] people go every man unto his place.

8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all [the rest of] Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

9 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that [were] in the host.

12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels [were] without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

13 And when Gideon was come, behold, [there was] a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and said, This [is] nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: [for] into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

15 And it was [so], when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

16 And he divided the three hundred men [into] three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be [that], as I do, so shall ye do.

18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that [are] with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, [The sword] of the LORD, and of Gideon.

19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that [were] with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that [were] in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow [withal]: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, [and] to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

23 And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

24 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan.

25 And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

1 And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

2 And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? [Is] not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?

3 "God has given into your hand the commanders of Midian: Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able [to] do in comparison with you?" Then their temper subsided from upon him when he had said this thing.

4 And Gideon came to the Jordan; [he] was crossing over. He and the three hundred men who [were] with him [were] tired, yet were pursuing.

5 And he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who [are] at my feet, for they [are] tired, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

6 And the officials of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

7 And Gideon said, "Therefore when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will thresh your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with the briars."

8 And from there he went up [to] Penuel, and spoke to them in like manner, and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.

9 And he said also to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower."

10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna [were] in Karkor, and their armies [were] with them, about fifteen thousand, all those who were left of the whole army of the sons of [the] east, for those who had fallen [were] a hundred and twenty thousand men who drew out a sword.

11 And Gideon went up [by] the way of those who dwell in tents on [the] east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and struck the army when the army was [in] security.

12 And Zebah and Zalmunna fled, and he pursued after them and captured the two kings of Midian: Zebah and Zalmunna, and he terrified the whole army.

13 Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle from the ascent of Heres.

14 And he captured a young man of the men of Succoth and questioned him. Then he wrote down for him the officials of Succoth and its elders, seventy seven men.

15 And he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Here [are] Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are weary?'"

16 Then he took the elders of the city, and the thorns of the wilderness and the briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth a lesson.

17 And he tore down the tower of Penuel, and killed the men of the city.

18 Then he said to Zebah and to Zalmunna, "Where² [are] the men whom you killed at Tabor?" And they said, "As you [are], so [were] they. Each one [was] like the form of the sons of a king."

19 And he said, "They [were] my brothers, the sons of my mother. [As] the LORD lives, if you had kept them alive, I would not kill you."

20 Then he said to Jether his firstborn, "Arise, kill them." But the boy did not draw out his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a boy.

21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Arise yourself and fall upon us, for as the man [is], [so is] his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the crescent ornaments which [were] on the necks of their camels.

22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son and the son of your son, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian."

23 But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you."

24 And Gideon said to them, "Let me request from you [with] a request: give me, each man, the earrings of his spoil." For they had earrings of gold, because they [were] Ishmaelites.

25 And they said, "We will surely give [them]." And they spread out a cloak, and they threw there, each man, the earrings of his spoil.

26 And the weight of the earrings of gold which he requested was a thousand and seven hundred [shekels of] gold, apart from the crescent ornaments and the ear pendants and the garments of purple which [were] on the kings of Midian, and apart from the neck chains which [were] on the necks of their camels.

3 God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

4 And Gideon came to Jordan, [and] passed over, he, and the three hundred men that [were] with him, faint, yet pursuing [them].

5 And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they [be] faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

6 And the princes of Succoth said, [Are] the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

7 And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars.

8 And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered [him].

9 And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna [were] in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand [men], all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.

11 And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was secure.

12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.

13 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun [was up],

14 And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, [even] threescore and seventeen men.

15 And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, [Are] the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men [that are] weary?

16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

17 And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

18 Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men [were they] whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou [art], so [were] they; each one resembled the children of a king.

19 And he said, They [were] my brethren, [even] the sons of my mother: [as] the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.

20 And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, [and] slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he [was] yet a youth.

21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man [is, so is] his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that [were] on their camels' necks.

22 Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

23 And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

24 And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they [were] Ishmaelites.)

25 And they answered, We will willingly give [them]. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.

26 And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred [shekels] of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that [was] on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that [were] about their camels' necks.

² or, "Of what kind?"

27 Then Gideon made it into an ephod, and he placed it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his house.

28 So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift up their head again. And the land was at rest [for] forty years in the days of Gideon.

29 And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelled in his house.

30 Now Gideon had seventy sons, those who came out of his thigh, for he had many wives.

31 And his concubine who [was] in Shechem, she herself also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.

32 And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33 And it happened when Gideon died, that the sons of Israel turned back and whored after the Baals, and set for themselves Baal-berith as a god.

34 And the sons of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had saved them from the hand of all their enemies on every side.

35 And they did not show loving kindness with the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon), in accordance with all the goodness which he had shown with Israel.

27 And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, [even] in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

28 Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

29 And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

30 And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.

31 And his concubine that [was] in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

32 And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33 And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god.

34 And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

35 Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, [namely], Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

CHAPTER 9

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1 And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to the brothers of his mother, and he spoke to them and to the whole clan of the house of the father of his mother, saying,

2 "Speak now in the ears of all the citizens of Shechem, 'Which [is] better for you: [that] seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you, or [that] one man rule over you?' Remember also that I [am] your bone and your flesh"

3 And the brothers of his mother spoke all these words on his behalf in the ears of all the citizens of Shechem. And their heart inclined after Abimelech, for they said, "He [is] our brother."

4 And they gave him seventy [pieces of] silver out of the house of Baal-berith, and Abimelech hired with them worthless and reckless men, and they went after him.

5 And he went [to] the house of his father at Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.

6 Then all the citizens of Shechem and all the house of Millo assembled together, and they went and made Abimelech reign as king, near a fixed terebinth which [was] in Shechem.

7 And they told Jotham, and he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried out, and said to them, "Listen to me, O citizens of Shechem, in order that God may listen to you.

8 "The trees once went to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.'

9 "But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I be made to give up my fatness, by which through me they honor gods and men, and go to wave over the trees?'

10 "Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You, come, reign over us.'

11 "But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I be made to give up my sweetness and my good produce, and go to wave over the trees?'

12 "Then the trees said to the vine, 'You, come, reign over us.'

13 "But the vine said to them, "Should I be made to give up my sweet wine which cheers gods and men, and go to wave over the trees?'

14 "Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'You, come, reign over us.'

15 "And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come, take refuge in my shade; but if not, let fire come out from the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon.'

16 "Now therefore if you have acted in truth and in honesty when you made Abimelech king, and if you have done good things with Jerubbaal and with his house, and if you have done to him according to the accomplishment of his hands

1 And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2 Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether [is] better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, [which are] threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I [am] your bone and your flesh.

3 And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He [is] our brother.

4 And they gave him threescore and ten [pieces] of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

5 And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, [being] threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

6 And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that [was] in Shechem.

7 And when they told [it] to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

8 The trees went forth [on a time] to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.

9 But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

10 And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, [and] reign over us.

11 But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

12 Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, [and] reign over us.

13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

14 Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, [and] reign over us.

15 And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, [then] come [and] put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

16 Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands;

17 “(for my father fought for you, and threw his soul in front, and delivered you from the hand of Midian,
 18 “(but you have risen up against the house of my father [this] day and have killed his sons, seventy men, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the sons of his maidservant, king over the citizens of Shechem, because he [is] your brother),
 19 “if then you have acted in truth and in honesty with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.
 20 “But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and consume the citizens of Shechem and the house of Millo, and let fire come out from the citizens of Shechem and from the house of Millo and consume Abimelech.”
 21 Then Jotham ran away and fled, and he went to Beer and dwelled there because of Abimelech his brother.
 22 And Abimelech ruled over Israel [for] three years.
 23 And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, and the citizens of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,
 24 in order that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and in order to lay their blood upon Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and upon the citizens of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.
 25 And the citizens of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who were passing by them on the road. And it was told to Abimelech.
 26 And Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers came, and they passed over into Shechem, and the citizens of Shechem trusted in him.
 27 And they went out [into] the field and gathered their vineyards, and trod [them], and held a festival, and went [into] the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.
 28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, “Who [is] Abimelech, and who [is] Shechem, that we should serve him? Is [it] not the son of Jerubbaal, and Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem, but why should we serve him?
 29 “And who will give this people into my hand? Then I will remove Abimelech.” And he said to Abimelech, “Make your army numerous, and come out.”
 30 When Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.
 31 And he sent messengers to Abimelech in cunning, saying, “Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem, and behold, they are constraining the city against you.
 32 “Now therefore arise [at] night, you and the people who [are] with you, and set an ambush in the field.
 33 “And it will be, in the morning when the sun rises, you shall rise up early and rush upon the city. And behold, he and the people who [are] with him will be coming out against you, then you shall do to him as your hand finds to do.
 34 Therefore Abimelech and all the people who [were] with him rose up [at] night, and they set an ambush against Shechem [in] four units.
 35 And Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood [at] the entrance of the gate of the city. Then Abimelech and the people who [were] with him rose up from the ambush.
 36 When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, “Behold, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains.” Then Zebul said to him, “You are seeing the shadow of the mountains as men.”
 37 And Gaal spoke again and said, “Behold, people are coming down from the center of the land, and one unit is coming from the direction of [the] Terebinth of Diviners.
 38 Then Zebul said to him, “Where then [is] your mouth, [with] which you were saying, ‘Who [is] Abimelech, that we should serve him?’? Is not this the people whom you have despised? Go out now indeed, and fight against him.”
 39 And Gaal went out before the citizens of Shechem and fought against Abimelech.
 40 And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from before him. And many fell slain, up to the entrance of the gate.
 41 And Abimelech dwelled at Arumah. And Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers from dwelling in Shechem.

17 (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:
 18 And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he [is] your brother;)
 19 If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, [then] rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you:
 20 But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.
 21 And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.
 22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,
 23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:
 24 That the cruelty [done] to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.
 25 And the men of Shechem set liers in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.
 26 And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.
 27 And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode [the grapes], and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.
 28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who [is] Abimelech, and who [is] Shechem, that we should serve him? [is] not [he] the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?
 29 And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out.
 30 And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.
 31 And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee.
 32 Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that [is] with thee, and lie in wait in the field:
 33 And it shall be, [that] in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, [when] he and the people that [is] with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion.
 34 And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that [were] with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.
 35 And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people that [were] with him, from lying in wait.
 36 And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as [if they were] men.
 37 And Gaal spake again and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.
 38 Then said Zebul unto him, Where [is] now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who [is] Abimelech, that we should serve him? [is] not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them.
 39 And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.
 40 And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown [and] wounded, [even] unto the entering of the gate.
 41 And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

42 And it happened on the following day, that the people went out [to] the field, and they told Abimelech.

43 Then he took the people and divided them into three units, and set an ambush in the field. And he looked, and behold, the people were coming out from the city. And he rose up against them and struck them.

44 Now Abimelech and the units which [were] with him rushed forward and stood [at] the entrance of the gate of the city, while the two units rushed upon all who [were] in the field and struck them.

45 Therefore Abimelech was fighting against the city [during] that whole day. And he captured the city and killed the people who [were] in it, and he tore down the city and sowed salt [upon] it.

46 When all the citizens of the tower of Shechem heard of [it], they went into the vault of the house of El-berith.

47 And it was told to Abimelech that all the citizens of the tower of Shechem had gathered together.

48 Then Abimelech went up [to] Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who [were] with him. And Abimelech took axes in his hand, and cut down a branch of trees, and took it up and laid [it] upon his shoulder. And he said to the people who [were] with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste, do like me."

49 So all the people likewise cut down each man his branch and went after Abimelech, and put [them] upon the vault, and set the vault on fire over them. And all the men of the tower of Shechem also died, about a thousand men and women.

50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez and encamped against Thebez and captured it.

51 But a strong tower¹ was in the midst of the city, and all the men and the women and all the citizens of the city fled there and shut [it] behind them, and they went up on the roof of the tower.

52 And Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and drew near to the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 And a certain woman threw an upper millstone² upon the head of Abimelech and crushed his skull.

54 Then he called [in] haste to the attendant who was carrying his weapons and said to him, "Draw out your sword and kill me, lest they say about me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his attendant pierced him through, and he died.

55 When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech died, they went each man to his place.

56 Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

57 Also God returned all the evil of the men of Shechem upon their head, and the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal came upon them.

1) lit. "tower of strength"

2) lit. "millstone of upper"

42 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech.

43 And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people [were] come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them.

44 And Abimelech, and the company that [was] with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two [other] companies ran upon all [the people] that [were] in the fields, and slew them.

45 And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that [was] therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

46 And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard [that], they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith.

47 And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

48 And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that [were] with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid [it] on his shoulder, and said unto the people that [were] with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, [and] do as I [have done].

49 And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put [them] to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

50 Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.

51 But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut [it] to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.

52 And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.

54 Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

55 And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.

56 Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:

57 And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

CHAPTER 10

1 And after Abimelech, Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, the man of Issachar, arose to save Israel. Now he was dwelling in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim.

2 And he judged Israel [for] twenty three years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir.

3 And after him, Jair the Gileadite arose. And he judged Israel [for] twenty two years.

4 And he had thirty sons who were riding on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities which [were] in the land of Gilead. They have been calling them Hawoth-jair to this day,

5 Then Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

6 And the sons of Israel again did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Syria¹, and the gods of Sidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of [the] Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him.

7 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of [the] Philistines and into the hand of the sons of Ammon.

8 And they shattered and grievously oppressed the sons of Israel in that year. [For] eighteen years, all the sons of Israel who [were] in the region across the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which [was] in Gilead.

9 And the sons of Ammon passed over the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, with the result that Israel was greatly distressed².

1) lit. "Aram"

2) lit. "it was distressed to Israel greatly"

CHAPTER 10

CHAPTER 10

1 And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim.

2 And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.

3 And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty and two years.

4 And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havothjair unto this day, which [are] in the land of Gilead.

5 And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.

7 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.

8 And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that [were] on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which [is] in Gilead.

9 Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was sore distressed.

10 And the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against you, for indeed we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals."

11 And the LORD said to the sons of Israel, "Was it not because of Egypt, and because of the Amorites, and because of the sons of Ammon, and because of [the] Philistines

12 "(Also [the] Sidonians and Amalek and Maon oppressed you) that you cried out to me, and I save you from their hand?"

13 "Yet you have forsaken me and have served other gods; therefore I will not save you again.

14 "Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress."

15 And the sons of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned; you do to us according to all that which is good in your eyes; only please deliver us this day."

16 And they removed the foreign gods³ from their midst and served the LORD. Then his soul became impatient because of the misery of Israel.

17 Then the sons of Ammon were called together, and encamped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together, and encamped in Mizpah.

18 And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said each man to his companion, "Who [is] the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall be head of all the inhabitants of Gilead."

CHAPTER 10

10 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim.

11 And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, [Did] not [I deliver you] from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines?

12 The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand.

13 Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more.

14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

15 And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day.

16 And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

17 Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh.

18 And the people [and] princes of Gilead said one to another, What man [is he] that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

3) lit, "gods of foreignness"

CHAPTER 11

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty [man] of strength, and he [was] a son of a woman, a prostitute; and Gilead begot Jephthah.

2 And the wife of Gilead bore him sons. And when the sons of the wife grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in the house of our father, for you [are] a son of another woman."

3 Then Jephthah fled from the presence of his brothers and dwelled in the land of Tob. And worthless men gathered themselves to Jephthah, and they went out with him.

4 And it happened after some time, that the sons of Ammon fought against Israel.

5 And it happened when the sons of Ammon fought against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

6 And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader, in order that we may fight against the sons of Ammon."

7 Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you yourselves not hate me and drive me out from the house of my father? So why have you come to me now when you are distressed?¹"

8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Therefore we have now returned to you, in order that you might go with us and fight against the sons of Ammon and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

9 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me back to fight against the sons of Ammon, and the LORD gives them before me, I will be your head."

10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be a witness² between us, if we do not do so according to your word."

11 So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.

12 Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, "What have you to do with me³, that you have come to me to fight against my land?"

13 And the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took my land when he came up from Egypt, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan. Now therefore return them in peace."

14 And Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon,

15 and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah, 'Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of the sons of Ammon,

16 "for when they came up from Egypt, and Israel went through the wilderness to [the] Red Sea⁴ and came to Kadesh,

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CHAPTER 11
1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he [was] the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

2 And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou [art] the son of a strange woman.

3 Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

4 And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.

5 And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:

6 And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.

7 And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?

8 And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

9 And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?

10 And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.

11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.

12 And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land?

13 And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those [lands] again peaceably.

14 And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon:

15 And said unto him, Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon:

16 But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh;

1) lit, "It is distressed to you?"

2) lit, "listener"

3) lit, "to me and to you"

4) lit, "Sea of Reeds"

17 "Israel then sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please let me pass through your land," but the king of Edom did not listen. And he also sent to the king of Moab, but he did not consent. So Israel dwelled in Kadesh.

18 "Then he went through the wilderness and went around the land of Edom and the land of Moab and came on [the] east⁵ of the land of Moab, and they encamped on the region across Arnon, but they did not come within the border of Moab, for Arnon [was] the border of Moab.

19 "And Israel sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, "Please let us pass through your land to my place,"

20 "But Sihon did not trust Israel [to] pass through his border. Then Sihon gathered all his people and encamped at Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

21 "And the LORD the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them. So Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites who were dwelling in that land.

22 "So they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from Arnon to the Jabbok, and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

23 "Now therefore the LORD the God of Israel dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and should you dispossess them?

24 "That which Chemosh your god gives you to possess, will you not take possession of it? So all that the LORD our God has dispossessed from before us, we will take possession of it.

25 "Now therefore are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend against Israel, or did he ever fight against them?

26 "While Israel dwelled in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities which [were] on the banks of Arnon [for] three hundred years, why did you not recover [them] during that time?

27 "Therefore I have not sinned against you, and you are doing me wrong by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, judge this day between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon."

28 But the king of the sons of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah which he had sent to him.

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh. Then he passed through Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed on [to] the sons of Ammon.

30 And Jephthah vowed [with] a vow to the LORD, and said, "If you will surely give the sons of Ammon into my hand,

31 "then it will be, whatever⁶ comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, that it will belong to the LORD, and I will offer it up [as] a burnt offering."

32 So Jephthah passed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.

33 And he struck them from Aroer until you come [to] Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramin, [with] a very great slaughter. So the sons of Ammon were subdued at the presence of the sons of Israel.

34 Then Jephthah came [to] Mizpah to his house, and behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. Now [it was] only she, [the] only [daughter]; apart from her he did not have a son or a daughter.

35 And it happened when he saw her, that he tore his garments and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become among those who trouble me, for I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I am not able to turn back."

36 And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to that which has gone out from your mouth, after the LORD has taken vengeance for you against your enemies, against the sons of Ammon."

37 Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone [for] two months, in order that I may go up and go down upon the mountains, and weep on account of my virginity, I and my companions."

5) lit, "rising of sun"

6) lit, "the coming out one who"

17 Then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land: but the king of Edom would not hearken [thereto]. And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not [consent]: and Israel abode in Kadesh.

18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon [was] the border of Moab.

19 And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place.

20 But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

21 And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

22 And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan.

23 So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldst thou possess it?

24 Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.

25 And now [art] thou any thing better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them,

26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that [be] along by the coasts of Arnon, three hundred years? why therefore did ye not recover [them] within that time?

27 Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

28 Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over [unto] the children of Ammon.

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,

31 Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

33 And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, [even] twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

34 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she [was his] only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.

36 And she said unto him, My father, [if] thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, [even] of the children of Ammon.

37 And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.

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38 And he said, "Go." And he sent her away [for] two months. And she went, she and her companions, and wept on account of her virginity upon the mountains.

39 And it happened at [the] end of two months, that she returned to her father. Then he performed upon her the vow [with] which he had vowed; and she had not known a man. Thus it became a decree in Israel:

40 from year to year the daughters of Israel would go to recount about the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite [for] four days in the year.

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38 And he said, Go. And he sent her away [for] two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.

39 And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her [according] to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,

40 [That] the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

CHAPTER 12

1 And the men of Ephraim were called together, and they passed over to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, "Why did you pass over to fight against the sons of Ammon and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house upon you with fire."

2 And Jephthah said to them, "I was a man of great strife, I and my people, with the sons of Ammon. And I called you, but you did not save me from their hand.

3 "And when I saw that you would not save [me]¹, I put my soul into my hand and passed over to the sons of Ammon, and the LORD gave them into my hand. Why, then, have you come up to me this day to fight against me?"

4 Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, "You [are] the fugitives of Ephraim, O Gilead, in the midst of Ephraim, in the midst of Manasseh."

5 And Gilead captured the fords of the Jordan against Ephraim. And it would happen, when the fugitives of Ephraim would say, "Let me pass over," that the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"

6 then they said to him, "Say now Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not manage to speak correctly. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. And at that time forty two thousand of Ephraim fell.

7 And Jephthah judged Israel [for] six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.

8 And after him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

9 And he had thirty sons, and he sent away thirty daughters outside, and he brought in thirty daughters from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel [for] seven years.

10 Then Izban died and was buried in Bethlehem.

11 And after him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. And he judged [for] ten years.

12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

13 And after him, Abdon the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, judged Israel.

14 And he had forty sons and thirty sons of sons, who would ride on seventy donkeys. And he judged Israel [for] eight years.

15 Then Abdon the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

CHAPTER 12

1) or, "were not a savior"

CHAPTER 12

1 And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.

2 And Jephthah said unto them, I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands.

3 And when I saw that ye delivered [me] not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?

4 Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, Ye Gileadites [are] fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, [and] among the Manassites.

5 And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was [so], that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, [Art] thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay;

6 Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce [it] right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.

7 And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in [one of] the cities of Gilead.

8 And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

9 And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, [whom] he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years.

10 Then died Ibzan, and was buried at Bethlehem.

11 And after him Elon, a Zebulunite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years.

12 And Elon the Zebulunite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

13 And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, judged Israel.

14 And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts: and he judged Israel eight years.

15 And Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died, and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mount of the Amalekites.

CHAPTER 13

1 And the sons of Israel again did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of [the] Philistines for forty years.

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, from the clan of the Danites, and his name [was] Manoah. And his wife [was] infertile, and had not given birth.

3 And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman, and said to her, "Behold now, you [are] infertile and have not given birth, but you will conceive and will give birth to a son.

4 "Now therefore be sure to guard yourself, and do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, and do not eat any unclean [thing].

5 "For behold, you [will be] pregnant, and will give birth to a son, and no razor shall come up upon his head, for the child will be the Nazirite of God from the womb; and he himself will begin to save Israel from the hand of [the] Philistines."

6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, "The man of God came to me, and his appearance [was] like the appearance of the angel of God, very dreadful. And I did not ask him where he [was] from, and he did not tell me his name,

CHAPTER 13

CHAPTER 13

1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name [was] Manoah; and his wife [was] barren, and bare not.

3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou [art] barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean [thing]:

5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance [was] like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he [was], neither told he me his name:

7 "but he said to me, 'Behold, you [will be] pregnant, and will give birth to a son. Now therefore do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, and do not eat anything in the state of uncleanness, for the child will be the Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.'

8 Then Manoah supplicated the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, the man of God whom you sent, please let him come to us again, in order that he may teach us what we should do to the child that will be born."

9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband [was] not with her.

10 Then the woman made haste and ran, and told her husband, and she said to him, "Behold, the man who came to me on [that] day has appeared to me."

11 And Manoah arose and went after his wife, and he came to the man, and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to the woman?" And he said, "I [am]."

12 And Manoah said, "Now your words will come to pass. What will be the prescribed manner of life of the child, and his occupation?"

13 And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Against all that I said to the woman, let her guard herself.

14 "From anything that comes out of the grapevine¹, she shall not eat, and wine or intoxicating drink, let her not drink, and anything in the state of uncleanness, let her not eat. All that I have commanded her, let her observe."

15 Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you, in order that we may prepare before you a young goat²."

16 And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your bread. But if you prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, you may offer it up." For Manoah did not know that he [was] the angel of the LORD.

17 And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What [is] your name? When your word comes to pass, we will honor you."

18 And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why so do you ask for³ my name, seeing it [is] incomprehensible?"

19 So Manoah took the young goat⁴ and the grain offering, and offered [them] up upon the rock to the LORD. Now [he] was doing wondrously while Manoah and his wife were watching.

20 For it happened when the flame went up from upon the altar toward the heavens, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife were watching. Then they fell on their faces to the ground.

21 But the angel of the LORD did not reappear again to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he [was] the angel of the LORD.

22 Then Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God!"

23 But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had been pleased to put us to death, he would not have accepted from our hand a burnt offering and a grain offering, nor would he have shown us all these [things], nor at this time would he have made us hear [things] like this."

24 And the woman gave birth to a son, and called his name Samson. And the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

CHAPTER 14

1 And Samson went down to Timnah, and he saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of [the] Philistines.

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of [the] Philistines. Now therefore get her for me as a wife."

3 Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there none among the daughters of your brothers or among all my people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

4 However, his father and his mother did not know that it [was] from the LORD, for he was seeking an occasion against [the] Philistines. Now at that time [the] Philistines were ruling over Israel.

CHAPTER 13

7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean [thing]: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

8 Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.

9 And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband [was] not with her.

10 And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the [other] day.

11 And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, [Art] thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I [am].

12 And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and [how] shall we do unto him?

13 And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.

14 She may not eat of any [thing] that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean [thing]: all that I commanded her let her observe.

15 And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee.

16 And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he [was] an angel of the LORD.

17 And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What [is] thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?

18 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it [is] secret?

19 So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered [it] upon a rock unto the LORD: and [the angel] did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

20 For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on [it], and fell on their faces to the ground.

21 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he [was] an angel of the LORD.

22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

23 But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these [things], nor would as at this time have told us [such things] as these.

24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

1) lit, "vine of the wine"

2) lit, "young goat of goats"

3) or, "about"

4) lit, "young goat of goats"

CHAPTER 14

1 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, [Is there] never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.

4 But his father and his mother knew not that it [was] of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

5 And Samson and his father and his mother went down to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion was roaring to confront him.

6 Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he tore it to pieces as [one] tears a young goat, and there was nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

7 And he went down and spoke to the woman, and she was right in the eyes of Samson.

8 And he returned after a time to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, a swarm of bees [was] in the body of the lion, and honey.

9 And he scraped it out into his palms, and he went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and to his mother, and gave [some] to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

10 And his father went down to the woman. And Samson made there a feast, for so the young men would do.

11 And it happened when they saw him, that they took thirty companions, and they were with him.

12 And Samson said to them, "Let me now riddle you [with] a riddle: if you can certainly explain it to me [during] the seven days of the feast and solve [it], then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of garments.

13 "But if you are not able to explain [it] to me, then you yourselves shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of garments." And they said to him, "Riddle [us with] your riddle, in order that we may hear it."

14 And he said to them, "Out of the eater came forth something to eat¹, and out of something strong came forth something sweet." But they were not able to explain the riddle [for] three days.

15 And it happened on the seventh day, that they said to the wife of Samson, "Persuade your husband, in order that he may explain to us the riddle, lest we burn you and the house of your father with fire. Have you called us to dispossess us? Is it not?"

16 And the wife of Samson wept upon him, and said, "You only hate me, and do not love me! You have riddled the sons of my people [with] the riddle, and have not explained [it] to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not explained [it] to my father or to my mother, and shall I explain [it] to you?"

17 And she wept upon him [during] the seven days [for] which their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day, that he explained [it] to her, for she pressed him hard. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people.

18 And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What [is] sweeter than honey, and what [is] stronger than a lion?" Then he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

19 And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he went down [to] Ashkelon, and struck thirty men of them, and took their spoils. And he gave the changes to those who had explained the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up [to] the house of his father.

20 But the wife of Samson became the possession of his friend, whom he had made as best man for himself.

CHAPTER 14

5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and [he had] nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion: and, behold, [there was] a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

10 So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do.

11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

12 And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find [it] out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments:

13 But if ye cannot declare [it] me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.

14 And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? [is it] not [so]?

16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told [it] me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told [it] my father nor my mother, and shall I tell [it] thee?

17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What [is] sweeter than honey? and what [is] stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

20 But Samson's wife was [given] to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

¹) or, "food"

CHAPTER 15

1 And it happened after some time in [the] days of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife into the chamber." But her father did not allow him to go in.

2 And her father said, "I truly thought that you really hated her; therefore I gave her to your friend. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please let her be yours instead of her."

3 And Samson said to them, "I will be blameless this time in regard to [the] Philistines, when I do them harm."

4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and he took torches, and turned [them] tail to tail, and put a torch between the two tails in the middle.

5 And he set fire to the torches, and released [them] into the fields of standing grain of [the] Philistines, and burned up both heap of sheaves and standing grain, and vineyard [and] olive plantation.

CHAPTER 15

CHAPTER 15

1 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.

2 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: [is] not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

3 And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.

4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails.

5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let [them] go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards [and] olives.

6 Then [the] Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his friend." Then [the] Philistines went up and burnt her and her father with fire.

7 And Samson said to them, "If you are doing [things] like this, surely I will take revenge on you, but afterward I will cease."

8 And he struck them shank upon thigh, [with] a great slaughter. Then he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

9 Then [the] Philistines went up and encamped in Judah, and made a raid on¹ Lehi.

10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" And they said, "To bind Samson we have come up, to do to him as he has done to us."

11 Then three hundred men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and they said to Samson, "Do you not know that [the] Philistines are ruling over us? What, then, [is] this you have done to us? And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, in order to give you into the hand of [the] Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not fall upon me yourselves."

13 And they said to him, saying, "No; but we will only bind you and give you into their hand. Therefore we will certainly not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock.

14 He was coming to Lehi, when [the] Philistines shouted to confront him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes which [were] upon his arms became as flax that they burned with fire, and his bonds melted away from off his hands.

15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and stretched out his hand, and took it, and with it he struck a thousand men.

16 Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, a heap, two heaps; with the jawbone of a donkey I have struck a thousand men."

17 And it happened when he finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone away from his hand, and he called that place Ramath-lehi.

18 And he was very thirsty, and he called out to the LORD, and said, "You have given by the hand of your servant this great victory. But will I now die on account of thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

19 Then God split the mortar which [was] in Lehi, and water came out from it. And he drank, and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En-hakkore, which [is] in Lehi until this day.

20 And he judged Israel in the days of [the] Philistines [for] twenty years.

CHAPTER 16

1 Now Samson went to Gaza, and he saw a woman there, a prostitute, and went in to her.

2 [And it was told] the Gazites, saying, "Samson has come here." And they came around and lay in wait for him during the whole night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent during the whole night, saying, "When the morning dawns¹, then we will kill him."

3 And Samson lay until the middle of the night, and he rose up at the middle of the night and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, and he pulled them out along with the bar, and put [them] upon his shoulders. And he brought them up to the top of the mountain that [was] in front of Hebron.

4 And it happened afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, and her name [was] Delilah.

5 Then the tyrants of [the] Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Persuade him, and see by what means his strength [is] great, and by what means we may prevail against him, in order that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we ourselves will each give you eleven hundred [pieces of] silver."

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me by what means your strength [is] great, and by what means you could be bound with the result that [one] could afflict you."

7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh tendons which have not been dried, then I will become weak and be like one of the humans."

CHAPTER 15

1) or, "spread out in"

6 Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

7 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.

8 And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

9 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

10 And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines [are] rulers over us? what [is] this [that] thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

12 And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.

13 And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

14 [And] when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that [were] upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

17 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi.

18 And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19 But God clave an hollow place that [was] in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which [is] in Lehi unto this day.

20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

CHAPTER 16

1) or, "[Let us wait] until the light of the morning"

CHAPTER 16

1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

2 [And it was told] the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed [him] in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put [them] upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that [is] before Hebron.

4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name [was] Delilah.

5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength [lieth], and by what [means] we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred [pieces] of silver.

6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength [lieth], and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

7 And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

8 Then the tyrants of [the] Philistines brought up to her seven fresh tendons which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9 Now she had the ambush abiding in the chamber. And she said to him, "[The] Philistines [are] upon you, Samson!" And he tore the tendons apart as a thread of tow is torn apart when it senses fire. Therefore his strength was not known.

10 And Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have deceived me, and have spoken lies to me. Now please tell me by what means you may be bound."

11 And he said to her, "If they only² bind me with new ropes with which no work has been done, then I will become weak and be like one of the humans."

12 So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and she said to him, "[The] Philistines [are] upon you, Samson!" Now the ambush was abiding in the chamber. And he tore them apart from off his arms like a thread.

13 And Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have deceived me, and have spoken lies to me. Tell me by what means you can be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven plaits of my head into³ the warp."

14 And she fastened [it] together with the pin, and said to him, "[The] Philistines [are] upon you, Samson!" And he woke up from his sleep, and pulled out the pin of the loom and the warp.

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart [is] not with me? These three times you have deceived me, and have not told me by what means your strength [is] great."

16 And it happened when she pressed him hard with her words all the days and importuned him, that his soul was impatient to the point of dying.

17 So he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has come up upon my head, for I [have been] the Nazarite of God from the womb of my mother. If I am shaved, then my strength will depart from me, and I will become weak and be like all humanity."

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the tyrants of [the] Philistines, saying, "Come up this time, for he has told me all his heart." Then the tyrants of [the] Philistines came up to her, and brought up the silver money in their hand.

19 And she made him sleep on her knees, and called for the man, and she shaved off the seven plaits of his head. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength departed from upon him.

20 And she said, "[The] Philistines [are] upon you, Samson!" And he woke up from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as at other times, and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

21 Then [the] Philistines seized him, and gouged out his eyes. And they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with two bronze shackles. And he became a grinder in the house of shackles.

22 However, the hair of his head began to grow abundantly after he was shaved.

23 Now the tyrants of [the] Philistines assembled to sacrifice a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and for joy, for⁴ they said, "Our god has given into our hand Samson our enemy!"

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given into our hand our enemy, and the desolator of our land, and [the one] who made our slain numerous."

25 And it happened when their heart was joyful, that they said, "Call for Samson, in order that he may provide amusement for us." So they called for Samson from the house of shackles, and he provided amusement before them. And they made him stand between the pillars.

26 Then Samson said to the attendant who was holding [him] by his hand, "Leave me behind and let me feel the pillars on which the house is established, in order that I may lean against them."

27 Now the house was full of the men and the women (meanwhile all the tyrants of [the] Philistines [were] there, and on the roof [were] about three thousand men and women) who were watching while Samson was providing amusement.

2) or, "tightly"

3) or, "with"

4) or, "and"

8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9 Now [there were] men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

10 And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

11 And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And [there were] liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

13 And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

14 And she fastened [it] with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart [is] not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength [lieth].

16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any [other] man.

18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20 And she said, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

22 Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.

25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines [were] there; and [there were] upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

28 Then Samson cried out to the LORD, and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this time, O God, in order that I may take vengeance [with] a one-time vengeance against [the] Philistines for my two eyes!"

29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house was established, and he leaned against them: one with his right [hand] and [the] other with his left [hand].

30 And Samson said, "Let my soul die with [the] Philistines!" Then he stretched out with might, and the house fell upon the tyrants and upon all the people who [were] in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than [those] whom he had killed in his life.

31 Then his brothers and all the house of his father came down. And they took him and brought [him] up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the grave of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel [for] twenty years.

CHAPTER 17

1 Now there was a man from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name [was] Micah.

2 And he said to his mother, "The thousand and one hundred [pieces of] silver which were taken from you, about which you cursed and also spoke [it] in my ears, behold, the silver [is] with me; I took it." Then his mother, "Blessed be my son by the LORD."

3 And he returned the thousand and one hundred [pieces of] silver to his mother. And his mother said, "I have wholly consecrated the silver to the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a molten image. Now therefore I will return it to you."

4 When he had returned the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred [pieces of] silver and gave it to the smelter, and he made it [into] a carved image and a molten image. And it was in the house of Micah.

5 Now the man Micah had a house of God¹, and he made an ephod and images², and he consecrated³ one of his sons, and he became his priest.

6 In those days there was no king in Israel; each man did that which was right in his eyes.

7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem of Judah, from the clan of Judah, and he [was] a Levite, and he was sojourning there.

8 Then the man departed from the city of Bethlehem of Judah to sojourn in [a place] in which he could find, and he came [to] the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah while undertaking his journey.

9 And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I [am] a Levite from Bethlehem of Judah, and I am going to sojourn in [a place] in which I can find."

10 And Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten [pieces of] silver per year and a suit of garments and your provisions." And the Levite went in.

11 And the Levite was willing to dwell with the man; and the young man became to him like one of his sons.

12 And Micah consecrated⁴ the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will deal well with me, because the Levite has become my priest."

CHAPTER 18

1 In those days there was no king in Israel, and in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell in, for nothing had fallen to them up to that day in the midst of the tribes of Israel as an inheritance.

2 So the sons of Dan sent five men from their clan, men, sons of strength, from their totality, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it, for they had said to them, "Go, explore the land." And they came [to] the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and spent the night there.

3 They [were] near the house of Micah, and they recognized the voice of the young man the Levite. Then they turned aside there and said to him, "Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this [place]? And what do you have here?"

4 And he said to them, "He has dealt with me like this and like that, and he has hired me, and I have become his priest."

CHAPTER 16

28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with [all his] might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that [were] therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than [they] which he slew in his life.

31 Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought [him] up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

CHAPTER 17

CHAPTER 17

1 And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name [was] Micah.

2 And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred [shekels] of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver [is] with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed [be thou] of the LORD, my son.

3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred [shekels] of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.

4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred [shekels] of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

5 And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

6 In those days [there was] no king in Israel, [but] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes.

7 And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who [was] a Levite, and he sojourned there.

8 And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find [a place]: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I [am] a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find [a place].

10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten [shekels] of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.

11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.

12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to [my] priest.

1) or, "gods"
2) lit, "teraphim"
3) lit, "filled the hand of"

4) lit, "filled the hand of"

CHAPTER 18

CHAPTER 18

1 In those days [there was] no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day [all their] inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

2 And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

3 When they [were] by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this [place]? and what hast thou here?

4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

5 And they said to him, "Please inquire of God, in order that we may know whether our journey on which we are going will be successful."

6 And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. Your journey on which you are going [is] before the LORD."

7 Then the five men departed and came to Laish, and they saw the people who [were] in the midst of it dwelling in security, according to the manner of [the] Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, and there was no oppressive conqueror¹ in the land who would put [them] to shame [in] anything, and they [were] far away from [the] Sidonians, and they had no dealings with man.

8 And when they came to their brethren [at] Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, "What do you [report]?"

9 And they said, "Arise, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and behold, [it is] very good. And are you going to be inactive? Do not be sluggish to go, to enter in order to take possession of the land.

10 "When you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people, and the land [is] wide on both sides, for God has given it into your hand, a place where there is no lack of anything that [is] in the earth."

11 Then six hundred men who were girded with weapons of war, of the clan of the Danites, set out from there, from Zorah and from Eshtaol.

12 And they went up and encamped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. Therefore they have called that place Mahaneh-dan to this day; behold, [it is] west of² Kiriath-jearim.

13 And they pass on from there [to] the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah.

14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land [of] Laish responded and said to their brothers, "Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, and images, and a carved image, and a molten image? Now therefore consider what you will do."

15 And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young man the Levite, [to] the house of Micah, and asked him about [his] welfare.

16 Now six hundred men who were girded [with] their weapons of war³, who [were] of the sons of Dan, were stationing themselves [by] the entrance of the gate.

17 And the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up; they came there; they took the carved image, and the ephod, and the images, and the molten image, while the priest was standing [by] the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were girded [with] the weapons of war.

18 When these had entered the house of Micah and had taken the carved image of the ephod, and the images, and the molten image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

19 And they said to him, "Be silent; put your hand on your mouth and come with us, and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or to be a priest to a tribe and a clan in Israel?"

20 Then the heart of the priest became glad, and he took the ephod, and the images, and the carved image, and went in the midst of the people.

21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the livestock and the valuable things before them.

22 They had gone a distance from the house of Micah when the men who [were] in the houses which [were] near the house of Micah were called together, and they overtook the sons of Dan.

23 And they shouted to the sons of Dan. And they turned their faces around and said to Micah, "What [is] with you, that you have been called together?"

24 And he said, "You have taken the gods which I have made and the priest, and have departed, and what do I still have? So how, then, can you say to me, 'What [is] with you?'"

25 And the sons of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest men bitter of soul fall upon you, and you lose your life and the life of your house."

26 Then the sons of Dan went on their way. And when Micah saw that they [were] too strong for him⁴, he turned around and went back to his house.

1) lit, "a dispossessor of oppression"

2) or, "behind"

3) lit, "the weapons of their war"

4) or, "stronger than he"

5 And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.

6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD [is] your way wherein ye go.

7 Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that [were] therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and [there was] no magistrate in the land, that might put [them] to shame in [any] thing; and they [were] far from the Zidonians, and had no business with [any] man.

8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What [say] ye?

9 And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it [is] very good: and [are] ye still? be not slothful to go, [and] to enter to possess the land.

10 When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where [there is] no want of any thing that [is] in the earth.

11 And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war.

12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathjearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, [it is] behind Kirjathjearim.

13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

14 Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.

15 And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, [even] unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

16 And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which [were] of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate.

17 And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, [and] came in thither, [and] took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men [that were] appointed with weapons of war.

18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye?

19 And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: [is it] better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?

20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.

21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

22 [And] when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that [were] in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.

23 And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?

24 And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what [is] this [that] ye say unto me, What aileth thee?

25 And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.

26 And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they [were] too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.

27 Now they took that which Micah had made and the priest who had belonged to him, and they came to⁵ Laish, to a quiet and unsuspecting people, and struck them by the edge of [the] sword and burned the city with fire.

CHAPTER 18
5) or, "against"

27 And they took [the things] which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people [that were] at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.

28 And there was no deliverer because it [was] far away from Sidon, and they had no dealings with man. And it [was] in the valley that belonged to Beth-rehob. Then they rebuilt the city and dwelled in it.

28 And [there was] no deliverer, because it [was] far from Zidon, and they had no business with [any] man; and it was in the valley that [lieth] by Bethrehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.

29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel; however, the name of the city originally [was] Laish.

29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city [was] Laish at the first.

30 And the sons of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the exile of the land.

30 And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

31 So they set up for themselves the carved image of Micah which had made, [during] all the days during which the house of God [was] in Shiloh.

31 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

CHAPTER 19

CHAPTER 19

CHAPTER 19

1 And it happened in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning in the remotest parts of the hill country of Ephraim. And he took for himself a woman, a concubine, from Bethlehem of Judah.

1) or, "played the harlot against"

1 And it came to pass in those days, when [there was] no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah.

2 And his concubine became angry with¹ him, and went away from him to the house of her father to Bethlehem of Judah, and she was there [for] a time [of] four months.

2) lit, "upon her heart"

2 And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehemjudah, and was there four whole months.

3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her² in order to bring her back. Now his servant [was] with him, and a couple of donkeys. And she brought him [into] the house of her father. And when the father of the girl saw him, he was glad to meet him.

3 And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, [and] to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into her father's house: and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.

4 And his father-in-law, the father of the girl, retained him, and he dwelled with him [for] three days. So they ate and drank and spent the night there.

4 And his father in law, the damsel's father, retained him; and he abode with him three days: so they did eat and drink, and lodged there.

5 And it happened on the fourth day, that they rose up early in the morning, and he rose up to go, but the father of the girl said to his son-in-law, "Sustain your heart [with] a piece of bread, and afterward you may go."

5 And it came to pass on the fourth day, when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart: and the damsel's father said unto his son in law, Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way.

6 So the two of them sat down and ate and drank together. Then the father of the girl said to the man, "Please be resolved and spend the night, and let your heart be glad."

6 And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry.

7 And the man rose up to go, but his father-in-law urged him. So he spent the night there again.

7 And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged there again.

8 And he rose up early in the morning on the fifth day to go. And the father of the girl said, "Please sustain your heart." And they lingered until the declining of the day, and the two of them ate.

3) lit, "the declining of the day"

8 And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the damsel's father said, Comfort thine heart, I pray thee. And they tarried until afternoon, and they did eat both of them.

9 And the man rose up to go, he and his concubine and his servant. But his father-in-law, the father of the girl, said to him, "Behold, now the day has waned to the point of becoming evening. Please spend the night. Behold, the day is declining³. Spend the night here, and let your heart be glad. Then tomorrow you may rise up early for your journey and go to your tent."

9 And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.

10 But the man did not want to spend the night. So he rose up and departed and came to the opposite of Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). Now a couple of saddled donkeys [were] with him, and his concubine [was] with him.

10 But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus, which [is] Jerusalem; and [there were] with him two asses saddled, his concubine also [was] with him.

11 They [were] near Jebus when the day had greatly declined. And the servant said to his master, "Please come, and let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites, in order that we may spend the night in it."

11 [And] when they [were] by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it.

12 And his master said to him, "We will not turn aside to a city of foreigners, who [are] not of the sons of Israel, but we will pass on to Gibeah."

12 And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that [is] not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah.

13 And he said to his servant, "Come, and let us draw near to one of [these] places, and we will spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah."

13 And he said unto his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in Ramah.

14 So they passed on and went. And the sun went down upon them near Gibeah, which belonged to Benjamin.

14 And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them [when they were] by Gibeah, which [belongeth] to Benjamin.

15 And they turned aside there, to go in to spend the night in Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open plaza of the city, for no man would receive them into [his] house to spend the night.

15 And they turned aside thither, to go in [and] to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for [there was] no man that took them into his house to lodging.

16 And behold, an old man was coming from his work from the field at evening. Now the man [was] from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in Gibeah, but the men of the place [were] Benjamites.

17 And he lifted up his eyes and saw the traveling man in the open plaza of the city. And the old man said, "Where are you going to? And where do you come from?"

18 And he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem of Judah to the remotest parts of the hill country of Ephraim; I [am] from there. And I went to Bethlehem of Judah. Now I am going to the house of the LORD, but no man is receiving me into [his] house.

19 "Yet there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and there is also bread and wine for me and for your maidservant and for the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything."

20 And the old man said, "Peace [be] to you; surely all your need [is] upon me; only do not spend the night in the open plaza."

21 So he brought him into his house and gave mixed fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

22 They were making their heart glad when, behold, the men of the city, the men of the sons of Belial, surrounded the house, beating themselves violently against the door. And they said to the old man, the owner of the house, saying, "Bring out the man who has come into your house, in order that we may know him."

23 And the man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, please do not do wickedly; after this man has come into my house, do not do this disgraceful folly."

24 "Here [is] my daughter, a virgin, and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Then violate them and do to them that which is good in your eyes, but to this man you shall not do the thing of this disgraceful folly."

25 But the men were not willing to listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made [her] go outside to them. Then they knew her and abused her [during] the whole night until the morning. Then they let her go when the morning twilight⁴ ascended.

26 And the woman came at the turning of the morning, and fell down [at] the entrance of the house of the man where her master [was], until the daylight [appeared].

27 And her master rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his journey. And behold, the woman, his concubine, was lying [at] the entrance of the house, and her hands [were] upon the threshold.

28 And he said to her, "Get up and let us go." But there was no answer. Then he took her upon the donkey, and the man rose up and went to his place.

29 And when he came to his house, he took a knife and took hold of his concubine and cut her up, according to her bones, into twelve pieces. Then he sent her out into the whole territory of Israel.

30 And it would happen, everyone who saw [it], that he would say, "[A thing] like this has not happened or has been seen from the day on which the sons of Israel came up from the land of Egypt to this day. Consider it for yourselves, take counsel, and speak."

CHAPTER 20

1 Then all the sons of Israel came out, and the congregation assembled as one man, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, to the LORD at Mizpah.

2 And the chiefs of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the contingent of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen who drew sword.

3 Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up [to] Mizpah. And the sons of Israel said, "Speak, how did this wickedness happen?"

4 And the man, the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "I came to Gibeah which belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night.

5 "Then the citizens of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house because of me [at] night. They intended to kill me; but instead they violated my concubine with the result that she died.

CHAPTER 19

16 And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even, which [was] also of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place [were] Benjamites.

17 And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou?

18 And he said unto him, We [are] passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence [am] I: and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I [am now] going to the house of the LORD; and there [is] no man that receiveth me to house.

19 Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man [which is] with thy servants: [there is] no want of any thing.

20 And the old man said, Peace [be] with thee; howsoever [let] all thy wants [lie] upon me; only lodge not in the street.

21 So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.

22 [Now] as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, [and] beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.

23 And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, [nay], I pray you, do not [so] wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.

24 Behold, [here is] my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing.

25 But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go.

26 Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord [was], till it was light.

27 And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down [at] the door of the house, and her hands [were] upon the threshold.

28 And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her [up] upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.

29 And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, [together] with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.

30 And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak [your minds].

4) or, "dawn"

CHAPTER 20

CHAPTER 20

1 Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpah.

2 And the chief of all the people, [even] of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.

3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpah.) Then said the children of Israel, Tell [us], how was this wickedness?

4 And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that [belongeth] to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

5 And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, [and] thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.

6 "Then I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her out into the whole territory of the inheritance of Israel, for they had committed infamy and disgraceful folly in Israel.

7 "Behold, all of you, O sons of Israel, give advice¹ and counsel here."

8 Then all the people arose as one man, saying, "We will not go each man to his tent, and we will not turn aside each man to his house.

9 "But now this [is] the thing which we will do to Gibeah: [we will go² up] against it by lot,

10 "and we will take ten men out of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to get provisions for the people, in order to do, when they come to Gibeah³ of Benjamin, according to all the disgraceful folly which they have committed in Israel."

11 So all the men of Israel gathered together against the city, united as one man.

12 And the tribes of Israel sent men into all the tribes of Benjamin, saying, "What [is] this wickedness which has happened among you?"

13 "Now therefore give up the men, the sons of Belial who [are] in Gibeah, in order that we may put them to death and purge evil from Israel." But the sons of Benjamin were not willing to listen to the voice of their brothers the sons of Israel.

14 Then the sons of Benjamin gathered together from the cities to Gibeah, to go out to the battle against the sons of Israel.

15 And the sons of Benjamin were mustered on that day from the cities twenty six thousand men who drew sword, apart from the inhabitants of Gibeah who were mustered seven hundred chosen men.

16 Out of all this people, seven hundred chosen men [were] bound [in] their right hand; all these could sling a stone at a single hair and would not miss.

17 And the men of Israel, apart from Benjamin, were mustered four hundred thousand men who drew sword; all these [were] men of war.

18 And they arose and went up [to] Bethel and consulted God, and the sons of Israel said, "Who shall go up first for us to the battle against the sons of Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Judah first."

19 So the sons of Israel rose up in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

20 And the men of Israel went out to the battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel drew up a battle formation against them at Gibeah.

21 And the sons of Benjamin came out from Gibeah and destroyed to [the] ground among Israel on that day twenty two thousand men.

22 But the people, the men of Israel, took courage, and they again drew up a battle formation in the place where they had drawn [it] up on the first day.

23 Then the sons of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until the evening. And they consulted the LORD, saying, "Shall I again draw near to the battle against the sons of Benjamin my brother?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him."

24 So the sons of Israel drew near against the sons of Benjamin on the second day.

25 And Benjamin went out from Gibeah to confront them on the second day, and they again destroyed to the ground among the sons of Israel eighteen thousand men; all these [were] those who drew sword.

26 Then all the sons of Israel and all the people went up and came [to] Bethel and wept. And they sat there before the LORD and fasted on that day until the evening, offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

27 And the sons of Israel consulted the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God [was] there in those days,

28 (and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, was standing before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to the battle against the sons of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will give him into your hand."

29 So Israel set men in an ambush against Gibeah [on] every side.

1) or, "word"

2) or, "come"

3) lit, "Geba"

6 And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel.

7 Behold, ye [are] all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

8 And all the people arose as one man, saying, We will not any [of us] go to his tent, neither will we any [of us] turn into his house.

9 But now this [shall be] the thing which we will do to Gibeah; [we will go up] by lot against it;

10 And we will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel.

11 So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man.

12 And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness [is] this that is done among you?

13 Now therefore deliver [us] the men, the children of Belial, which [are] in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel:

14 But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel.

15 And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men.

16 Among all this people [there were] seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair [breadth], and not miss.

17 And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these [were] men of war.

18 And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah [shall go up] first.

19 And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.

20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Gibeah.

21 And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand men.

22 And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day.

23 (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD said, Go up against him.)

24 And the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day.

25 And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword.

26 Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

27 And the children of Israel inquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God [was] there in those days,

28 And Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days,) saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the LORD said, Go up; for to morrow I will deliver them into thine hand.

29 And Israel set liers in wait round about Gibeah.

30 And the sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day and drew up a formation against Gibeah as at other times.

31 And the sons of Benjamin went out to confront the people; they were drawn away from the city. And they began to inflict casualties⁴ of the people, as at other times, in the highways of which one goes up [to] Bethel and [the] other to Gibeah, in the open country, about thirty men among Israel.

32 And the sons of Benjamin said, "They are struck before us, as at the first." But the sons of Israel said, "Let us flee, in order that we may draw them away from the city to the highways."

33 And all the men of Israel rose up from their place and drew up a formation at Baal-tamar, and the ambush of Israel was charging from its place from Maareh-geba.

34 And ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel came in front of Gibeah, and the battle [was] severe; but they did not know that disaster was closing in upon them.

35 And the LORD struck Benjamin before Israel, and the sons of Israel destroyed among Benjamin on that day twenty five thousand and one hundred men; all these [were] those who drew sword.

36 So the sons of Benjamin saw that they had been struck. And the men of Israel gave place to Benjamin, because they trusted the ambush which they had set against Gibeah.

37 Now the ambush hurried and rushed against Gibeah. The ambush proceeded and struck the whole city with the edge of [the] sword.

38 Now the appointed sign between the men of Israel and the ambush was that they would make a great rising column of smoke ascend from the city.

39 Then the men of Israel turned back in the battle, and Benjamin began to inflict casualties⁵ among the men of Israel, about thirty men, for they said, "Surely they are truly struck before us, as [in] the first battle."

40 Now the rising column began to ascend from the city [in] a column of smoke. Then Benjamin turned around behind him, and behold, the entirety of the city went up toward the sky.

41 Now the men of Israel had turned back. And the men of Benjamin were horrified, for they saw that disaster closed in upon them.

42 Therefore they turned before the men of Israel toward the direction of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them. Meanwhile [those] who [were] from the cities were destroying them in their midst.

43 They surrounded Benjamin; they pursued him⁶; they trod him down [at his] resting place as far as the opposite of Gibeah on the east⁷.

44 And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these [were] men of strength.

45 And they turned around and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they gleaned of them in the highways, five thousand men. And they pursued closely after them to Gidom and struck two thousand men of them.

46 Therefore all those who fell of Benjamin on that day [were] twenty five men who drew sword; all these [were] men of strength.

47 But six hundred men turned around and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and dwelled at the rock of Rimmon [for] four months.

48 Now the men of Israel turned back against the sons of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of [the] sword, both [the] entire city⁸ and cattle and all that was found; also all the cities which were found they set on fire.

CHAPTER 20

4) lit. "slain ones"

5) lit. "slain ones"

6) or, "had him pursued"

7) lit. "at rising of sun"

8) lit. "city of soundness"

30 And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times.

31 And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, [and] were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the people, [and] kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goeth up to the house of God, and the other to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

32 And the children of Benjamin said, They [are] smitten down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways.

33 And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baaltamar: and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their places, [even] out of the meadows of Gibeah.

34 And there came against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore: but they knew not that evil [was] near them.

35 And the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty and five thousand and an hundred men: all these drew the sword.

36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: for the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted unto the liers in wait which they had set beside Gibeah.

37 And the liers in wait hastened, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers in wait drew [themselves] along, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword.

38 Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city.

39 And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite [and] kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: for they said, Surely they are smitten down before us, as [in] the first battle.

40 But when the flame began to arise up out of the city with a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and, behold, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven.

41 And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed: for they saw that evil was come upon them.

42 Therefore they turned [their backs] before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and them which [came] out of the cities they destroyed in the midst of them.

43 [Thus] they inclosed the Benjamites round about, [and] chased them, [and] trode them down with ease over against Gibeah toward the sunrising.

44 And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these [were] men of valour.

45 And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon: and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them unto Gidom, and slew two thousand men of them.

46 So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these [were] men of valour.

47 But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months.

48 And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of [every] city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

CHAPTER 21

1 Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, saying, "No man of us will give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."

2 And the people came [to] Bethel and sat there until the evening before God, and they lifted up their voice and wept [with] a great weeping.

3 And they said, "O LORD, God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that today one tribe should be missing from Israel?"

4 And it happened on [the] next day, that the people rose up early and built there an altar and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings.

CHAPTER 21

CHAPTER 21

1 Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.

2 And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;

3 And said, O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel?

4 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

5 Then the sons of Israel said, "Who of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the contingent to the LORD?" For a great oath took place concerning [him] who did not come up to the LORD [at] Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

6 And the sons of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother and said, "One tribe has been cut off from Israel [this] day.

7 "What shall we do about wives for them, for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD not to give them [any] of our daughters as wives?"

8 And they said, "Who [is the] one of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to the LORD [at] Mizpah?" And behold, no man had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the contingent.

9 For the people were mustered, and behold, there was not a man of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

10 So the congregation sent twelve thousand men of the sons of strength there and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of [the] sword, with the women and the little ones.

11 "And this [is] the thing which you shall do: every male and every woman who has lain with¹ a man, you shall devote to destruction."

12 And they found of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young girls, virgins, who had not known a man by lying with² a man. And they brought them to the camp [at] Shiloh, which [was] in the land of Canaan.

13 Then the whole congregation sent and spoke to the sons of Benjamin who [were] at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them.

14 And Benjamin returned at that time. And they gave them the women whom they had preserved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but thus they were not enough for them.

15 Now the people had compassion for Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

16 Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do about wives for those who are left, since women have been destroyed out of Benjamin?"

17 And they said, "[There must be] an inheritance for survivors of Benjamin, in order that a tribe may not be blotted out from Israel.

18 "Yet we are not able to give them wives from our daughters." For the sons of Israel had sworn, saying, "Cursed [is] he who gives a wife to Benjamin."

19 And they said, "Behold, [there is] the feast of the LORD at Shiloh from year to year, which [is] on [the] north of Bethel, toward the east³ of [the] highway which goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on [the] south of Lebonah."

20 And they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, "Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards,

21 "and watch. And behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out from the vineyards and snatch for yourselves each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

22 "And it will be, when their fathers or their brothers come complain to us, that we will say to them, 'Show them favor for our sake, because we did not take each man his wife in the battle, for you yourselves did not give [them] to them, [else] at [this] time you would be guilty.'"

23 And the sons of Benjamin did so, and took wives, according to their number, from those who were dancing, whom they snatched away. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and rebuilt the cities and dwelled in them.

24 And the sons of Israel dispersed from there at that time, each man to his tribe and to his clan, and they went out from there each man to his inheritance.

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; each man would do that which was right in his eyes.

5 And the children of Israel said, Who [is there] among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the LORD? For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the LORD to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

6 And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.

7 How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?

8 And they said, What one [is there] of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the LORD? And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabeshgilead to the assembly.

9 For the people were numbered, and, behold, [there were] none of the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead there.

10 And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children.

11 And this [is] the thing that ye shall do, Ye shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman that hath lain by man.

12 And they found among the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which [is] in the land of Canaan.

13 And the whole congregation sent [some] to speak to the children of Benjamin that [were] in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably unto them.

14 And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabeshgilead: and yet so they sufficed them not.

15 And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

16 Then the elders of the congregation said, How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?

17 And they said, [There must be] an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel.

18 Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters: for the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed [be] he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.

19 Then they said, Behold, [there is] a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly [in a place] which [is] on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.

20 Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;

21 And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

22 And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, [that] ye should be guilty.

23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and took [them] wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.

24 And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance.

25 In those days [there was] no king in Israel: every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes.

1) lit, "known the bed of"

2) lit, "according to the bed of"

3) lit, "rising of the sun"