

JUDGES

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A verse can express a spiritual truth, even if it is in a story which may not be historical.

Each time the subject of a verse changes from “Yahweh”
to “God” and vice versa, there is a new line.

(Because of Microsoft software problems, verses can independently move from where they have been placed. A ` has been placed on each vacant line in order to try to stop the verses from moving so much from where they have been placed.)

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<p>` `</p> <p>1:1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD,¹ 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The tribes of Judah and Simeon conquer many strongholds of the Canaanites</p> <p>1:1 Now after the death of Joshua, it came to pass that the Israelites asked Yahweh, the Deity of Israel, “What tribe shall go first for us to fight against the Canaanites?” 2 And Yahweh said, “The tribe of Judah shall go first. Behold, I have delivered the land into their hands.”</p>

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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 Talmai.

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

3 And the tribe of Judah said to the tribe of Simeon, "Come with us into our allotted territory so that we may fight against the Canaanites, and we likewise will go with you into your allotted territory." So the tribe of Simeon went with the tribe of Judah.

4 And the tribe of Judah went out to attack, and Yahweh delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they struck down ten thousand Canaanites and Perizzites in Bezek.

5 And the tribe of Judah found Adonibezek in Bezek. And they fought against him and they killed the Canaanites and Perizzites.

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

7 And Adonibezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off have picked up scraps under my table. As I have done, so Yahweh has now done to me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

8 Now the tribe of Judah had fought against Jerusalem and captured it from the Jebusites with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

9 And afterward, the tribe of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the Negeb and in the Shephelah.

10 And the tribe of Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron. (Now the previous name of Hebron was Kiriath-arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai.

11 And from there, the tribe of Judah went against the inhabitants of Debir. And the previous name of Debir was Kiriath-sepher.

12 And Caleb said, "He who fights and captures Kiriath-sepher, I will give Achsah my daughter to be his wife."

13 And Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to Othniel to be his wife.

14 And it came to pass, when Achsah came to Othniel, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?"

15 And she said to her father, "Give me a blessing. You have given me a land in the south. Also, give me springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

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.

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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.)

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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.

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

16 And the tribe of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went from Jericho, the City of Palm Trees, with the tribe of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, south of Arad. And they went to live among the people there.

17 And the tribe of Judah went with their relatives, the tribe of Simeon, and together they killed the Canaanites that inhabited Zephath and utterly destroyed it. And the city was renamed Hormah.

18 Also, the tribe of Judah took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

19 And Yahweh was with the tribe of Judah, and they drove out the inhabitants of the hill country. But they could not drive out the inhabitants of the plains because the Canaanites who lived there had chariots of iron.²

20 And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said. And Caleb drove the three sons of Anak from there.

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Other tribes do not drive out the Canaanites, but rather live among them

21 And the tribe of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem. For the Jebusites dwell with the tribe of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.³

22 And the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh (descendants of Joseph) planned to attack Bethel. And Yahweh was with them.

23 And the tribe sent spies to Bethel. (Now the previous name of the city was Luz.)

24 And the spies saw a man coming from the city. And they said to him, "Show us the way into the city, and we will show you mercy."

25 And when he showed them the way into the city, the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh killed everyone in the city with the edge of the sword. But they did not hurt the man and his family.

26 And the man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and called it Luz, which is its name to this day.

27 And the tribe of Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and its towns, nor the inhabitants of

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<p>Canaanites would dwell in that land.</p> <p>28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.</p> <p>29 Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.</p> <p>30 Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>32 But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>36 And the coast of the Amorites was from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.</p>	<p>Megiddo and its towns. So the Canaanites continued to dwell in that land.</p> <p>28 And it came to pass when Israel was strong, that the people of Israel forced the Canaanites to work for them and did not drive them out completely.</p> <p>29 Neither did the tribe of Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer. So the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.</p> <p>30 And the tribe of Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol. So the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor.</p> <p>31 And the tribe of Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Sidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob.</p> <p>32 So the tribe of Asher lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. For they did not drive them out.</p> <p>33 And the tribe of Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-anath. So they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. But the tribe of Naphtali forced the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath to work for them.</p> <p>34 But the Amorites forced the tribe of Dan into the hill country, for they would not allow them to dwell in the plains.</p> <p>35 The Amorites lived in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. But the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh prevailed over the Amorites there and forced the Amorites to work for them.</p> <p>36 The border of the Amorites ran from Sela and the Akrabbim Pass northward.</p>
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<p>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 swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out</p>	<p>The Israelites worship gods instead of Yahweh</p> <p>2:1 And an angel of Yahweh came up from Gilgal to Bochim and said, speaking for Yahweh, "I, Yahweh, brought you up out of Egypt, and have brought you to the land which I swore to your ancestors. And I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.</p> <p>2 "'And you shall not make agreements with the inhabitants of this land; you shall throw down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?</p> <p>3 "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out</p>
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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 Ashtaroth.

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.

from before you. But they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”⁴

4 And it came to pass when the angel of Yahweh spoke these words to all the Israelites, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

5 And they called the name of that place “Bochim” (those who cry). And they sacrificed there to Yahweh.

6 And when Joshua had let the people go, all of the Israelites went to their inheritances, to possess the land.

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

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

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

10 And that whole generation were also gathered to their ancestors. And there arose another generation after them who did not know Yahweh, nor the works which He had done for Israel.

11 And the Israelites did evil in the sight of Yahweh and served Baalim.

12 And they turned away from Yahweh, the Deity of their ancestors, which brought them out of the land of Egypt. And they followed other gods, the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to these gods and provoked Yahweh to anger.

13 And they turned away from Yahweh and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

14 And the anger of Yahweh was hot against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of those who plundered them. And He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer withstand them.

15 Wherever they went, the power of Yahweh was against them for evil, as Yahweh had said, and as He had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

16 Nevertheless, God raised up judges⁵ who delivered them from the hand of those who plundered them.

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.</p>	<p>17 And yet they would not hearken to their judges, but they prostituted themselves with other gods, bowing to them. They turned quickly from the way of their ancestors. Their ancestors had obeyed the commandments of God, but they did not.⁶</p> <p>18 And when God raised up a judge for them, then God was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies while the judge was still alive. For God helped them because of their groaning by reason of those who oppressed and tormented them.</p> <p>19 But whenever a good judge died, the people relapsed, and corrupted themselves more than their ancestors, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings, nor from their stubborn ways.</p> <p>20 And the anger of Yahweh was hot against Israel. And He said, "This people has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their ancestors and have not listened to My voice.</p> <p>21 "So I will no longer drive out from before them any nations which Joshua left when he died.</p> <p>22 "In this I may test whether Israel will keep the way of Yahweh, walking in it as their ancestors did."⁷</p> <p>23 Therefore, Yahweh left those nations without driving them out hastily. Nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.</p> <p>\</p> <p>\</p> <p>\</p> <p>\</p>
<p>\</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the</p>	<p>The nations which Yahweh left to test Israel</p> <p>3:1 Now these are the nations which Yahweh left to test all the Israelites who had not known the wars of Canaan.</p> <p>2 He left these nations so that all the Israelites who knew nothing about war might learn about it.</p> <p>3 He left five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon to the entrance of Hamath.</p> <p>4 And they were to test the Israelites, to find out if they would obey the commandments of Yahweh, which He commanded their ancestors by Moses.</p>

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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 forgot 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.

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.

5 And the Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

6 And the Israelites took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to the sons of the pagans, and served their gods.

7 And the Israelites did evil in the sight of Yahweh and forgot Yahweh their Deity and served Baalim and the groves.

8 Therefore, the anger of Yahweh was hot against the Israelites, and He sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. And the Israelites served Chushan-rishathaim for eight years.

9 And when the Israelites cried out to Yahweh, He raised up a deliverer to them: Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who delivered them.

10 And the spirit of Yahweh came upon him, and he became judge of Israel and went out to war. And Yahweh delivered Chushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into Othniel's hand. And Othniel's hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

11 And the land had rest for forty years. And Othniel, the son of Kenaz, passed on.

12 And the Israelites committed evil again in the sight of Yahweh. And Yahweh strengthened Eglon, the king of Moab, against the Israelites because of their evil ways.

13 And Eglon enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him and went and struck down Israel and possessed Jericho the City of Palm Trees.

14 So the Israelites served Eglon, the king of Moab, for eighteen years.

15 But when the Israelites cried out to Yahweh, He raised them up a deliverer: Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. And by him the Israelites sent a present to Eglon, the king of Moab.

16 For Ehud made a dagger which had two edges and was about eighteen inches long. And he fastened it under his clothing upon his right thigh.

17 And he brought the present to Eglon, king of Moab. And Eglon was a very fat man.

18 And when Ehud had offered the present, he sent away those who had carried it.

19 But Ehud himself turned back from the carved stones by Gilgal and said to Eglon, "I have a secret

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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,

message to you, O king.” And the king said to his servants, “Leave us.” And all the servants left him.

20 And Ehud approached Eglon, who was sitting by himself in his summer parlor. And Ehud said, “I have a message from Yahweh to you.” And Eglon arose from his throne.

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

22 Even the handle went in after the blade, and the fat closed upon the blade so that Eglon could not draw the dagger from his belly. And his intestines spilled out.

23 Then Ehud went out through the porch, shutting and locking the parlor doors behind him.

24 When Ehud had left, Eglon’s servants came. And when they saw that the doors of the parlor were locked, they said, “Surely the king is relieving himself in his summer chamber.”

25 And they waited until they were ashamed. And behold, the king did not open the doors of the parlor. Therefore, they took a key, opened the doors, and discovered, their master dead on the floor.

26 And Ehud escaped while they were waiting, and passed beyond the carved stones, escaping to Seirath.

27 And it came to pass when Ehude had come, that he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites followed him from the hill country, and he led them.

28 And he said to them, “Follow after me, for Yahweh has delivered your enemies, the Moabites, into your hand.” And they followed him and took the fords of the Jordan River toward Moab and did not allow any people of Moab to pass over.

29 And they killed about ten thousand soldiers of Moab at that time, all of whom were strong and valiant. And no Moabite soldier escaped.

30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land rested from war for eighty years.

31 And after Ehud, Shamgar, the son of Anath, became judge. . He delivered Israel, killing six hundred warriors of the Philistines with an ox prod.

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<p>which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.</p>	<p>` `</p>
<p>` `</p> <p>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 Lapidoth, 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. `</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p>Deborah, a judge of the Israelites, bests Sisera the Canaanite General</p> <p>4:1 And after Ehud had passed on, the Israelites again committed evil in the sight of Yahweh. 2 And Yahweh sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The general of the host of Jabin was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth of the Gentiles. 3 And the Israelites cried out to Yahweh, for Sisera had nine hundred chariots of iron. And for twenty years he mightily oppressed the Israelites. 4 And the prophetess Deborah, the wife of Lapidoth, led Israel at that time. 5 And she judged under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim. And the Israelites came to her for judgment. 6 And she sent for Barak, the son of Abinoam, from Kedeshnaphtali and said to him, "Has not Yahweh, the Deity of Israel, commanded, 'Go toward Mount Tabor and take with you ten thousand soldiers of the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun? 7 "I will draw to you Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude, at the Kishon River. And I will deliver him into your hand." 8 And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go. But if you will not go with me, I will not go." 9 And Deborah said, "I will surely go with you. However, the journey that you take will not be for your honor. For Yahweh shall give Sisera into the hands of a woman." And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak summoned the tribe of Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And he went with ten thousand soldiers under his command, and Deborah went with him. 11 Now Heber the Kenite, who was of the tribe of Hobab (Jethro), the father-in-law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites and pitched (put up) his tent in the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh. 12 And they told Sisera that Barak, the son of</p>

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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 enquire 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,

Abinoam, had gone up to Mount Tabor.
13 And Sisera gathered all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles to the river of Kishon.
14 And Deborah said to Barak, "Rise up, for this is the day in which Yahweh has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not Yahweh gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor, leading ten thousand soldiers.
15 And Yahweh threw Sisera, his chariots and all his soldiers into a panic before Barak. And Sisera got down off his chariot and fled away on foot.
16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth of the Gentiles, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. And there was not one left.
17 And Sisera fled on foot 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 to him, "Come in, my Lord; come in to me. Do not be afraid." And when he had come into her tent, she covered him with a mantle to hide him.
19 And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." And she opened a jug of milk and gave him a drink and covered him up again.
20 And he said to her, "Stand in the entrance of the tent, and if anyone comes and inquires of you, 'Is there anyone here?' You shall say, 'No.'"
21 Then Jael took a tent peg and a hammer and went silently to him, for he was weary and fast asleep. She drove the peg into his forehead, clear into the ground, and he died.
22 And behold as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the tent peg was in his forehead.
23 So on that day, Yahweh subdued Jabin, the king of Canaan, before the Israelites.
24 And the hand of the Israelites prospered and prevailed against Jabin, the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed him.

<p>and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.</p>	<p>˘ ˘ ˘</p>
<p>˘</p> <p>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 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;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The song of Deborah</p> <p>5:1 Then Deborah and Barak, the son of Abinoam, sang on that day: 2 “Praise Yahweh for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves. 3 “Hear, O you kings; listen, O you chiefs; I, even I, will sing to Yahweh; I will sing praise to the Yahweh of Israel. 4 “Yahweh, when You went from Seir, from the field of Edom, the earth trembled, the heavens dropped rain, the clouds also dropped water.⁸ 5 “The mountains melted before Yahweh, even Sinai before the Yahweh of Israel. 6 “In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were empty, and the travelers walked through hidden trails for safety. 7 “The inhabitants of the villages ceased; they ceased in Israel until Deborah arose as a mother in Israel. 8 “The people chose new gods. Then war was in the gates. But no shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. 9 “My heart honors the governors of Israel, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Praise Yahweh. 10 “Praise Him, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit in judgment and walk by the way. 11 “Around the wells the village musicians will sing about the righteous acts of God, His righteous acts toward the inhabitants of His villages in Israel. Then the people of God will celebrate at the gates of their villages. 12 “Awake, awake, Deborah; awake, awake, sing a song; arise, Barak, you son of Abinoam, and lead away your captives. 13 “Then He made him that remained to have dominion. God gave me dominion over the mighty. 14 “From Ephraim they came against the Amalekites, following the tribe of Benjamin. From Machir came down governors, and from the tribe of Zebulun came those who handle the pen of a writer. 15 “And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah</p>

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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 jeopardated 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

and Barak. He was sent on foot into the valley. But the people of Reuben had misgivings.

16 "Why did you stay behind among the sheepfolds, to hear the sheep calling to each other? Now the people of the tribe of Reuben are full of regrets, for they did not go.

17 "The inhabitants of Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan River. And why did Dan remain in ships? Asher remained on the seashore and dwelt in his harbors.

18 "But Zebulun and Naphtali risked their lives to the death in the high places of the field.

19 "The kings came and fought. The kings of Canaan fought in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. But they did not carry away any plunder of silver.

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

21 "The river of Kishon, that ancient river, the Kishon River swept them away. O my *soul* [spirit], you have trodden down strength.

22 "Then the hoof beats of the horses sounded in their gallopings, the gallopings of the mighty ones.

23 "'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of Yahweh. 'Bitterly curse the inhabitants of Meroz, because they did not come to the help of Yahweh, to help Yahweh against the mighty.'

24 "Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, shall be blessed above women. She shall be blessed above other women in the tent.

25 "Sisera asked for water, and she gave him milk. She brought forth butter in a costly dish.

26 "She took the tent peg with her left hand, and the worker's hammer with her right hand. And with the hammer she struck Sisera. She cut off his head after she had driven the tent peg through his forehead.

27 "At her feet he bowed, he lay down. At her feet he bowed. Where he bowed, there he fell down dead.

28 "The mother of Sisera looked from a window and cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why are the wheels of his chariots so slow?'"

29 "Her wisest attendants answered her, and she answered herself,

30 "'They are busy dividing the spoil, the booty, and to every man a young woman or two. Did not Sisera

<p>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.</p>	<p>receive a cloth of many colors of needlework on both sides, appropriate for the necks of those who take the plunder?’ 31 “So let all Your enemies perish, O Yahweh. But let those who love You be as the sun when it rises in its might.” And the land had rest from war for forty years. `. `. `.</p>
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<p>`. `. 6:1 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 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;</p>	<p>Gideon becomes chief of the Israelites and opposes the Midianites 6:1 And the Israelites committed evil in the sight of Yahweh. And Yahweh delivered them into the hand of the Midianites for seven years. 2 And the hand of the Midianites prevailed against Israel. And because of the Midianites, the Israelites made themselves shelters in the hill country, caves and strongholds. 3 And when the Israelites had harvested their crops, the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the east came up against them. 4 And they set up camp against the Israelites and destroyed the increase of the as far as Gaza, and left nothing for the Israelites to live on, neither sheep, oxen, nor donkeys. 5 For they came with their cattle, their tents, as thick as grasshoppers. 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 Israelites cried out to Yahweh. 7 And it came to pass, when the Israelites cried out to Yahweh because of the Midianites, 8 that Yahweh sent a prophet to the Israelites to tell them that Yahweh, the Deity of Israel, says, “I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage. 9 “And I delivered you out of the hands of the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 “And I said to you, I am Yahweh. Do not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But you have not obeyed My voice.”</p>
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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

11 And an angel of Yahweh came and sat under an oak tree in Ophrah, that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. And his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of Yahweh appeared to Gideon and said to him, "Yahweh is with you, you mighty man of valor."

13 And Gideon said to Him, "Oh Yahweh, if Yahweh is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all His miracles which our ancestors told us of, saying, 'Did not Yahweh bring us up from Egypt?' But now Yahweh has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

14 And Yahweh looked upon him, and said, "Go in your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

15 And Gideon said, "Oh Yahweh, how shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

16 And Yahweh said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites as easily as if they were just one person."

17 And Gideon said to Him, "If I have found grace in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You speaking with me."⁹

18 "Do not leave, I pray you, until I come back to You and bring my present and set it before You." And Yahweh said, "I will stay here until you return."

19 And Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened cakes made from about a bushel of flour. Gideon put the meat in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought the meat and the broth out to the oak, and presented them.

20 And the angel of Yahweh said to him, "Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.

21 Then the angel of Yahweh put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And a fire rose from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of Yahweh disappeared.

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was dealing with an angel of Yahweh, Gideon said, "Alas, O Yahweh! For I have seen an angel of Yahweh face to face."¹⁰

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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 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 enquired 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,

23 And Yahweh said to him, "Be at peace. Do not fear. You will not die."

24 Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it "Yahweh-shalom" (Yahweh is peace). To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25 And it came to pass the same night, that Yahweh said to Gideon, "Take your father's young bull, and a second bull seven years old. And break down the altar of Baal that your father has built and cut down the sacred grove that is by it.

26 "And build an altar to Yahweh upon the top of this rock in the proper way. And take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the sacred grove which you have cut down."

27 Then Gideon took ten of his servants and did as Yahweh had told him. And because he feared his father's household and the people of the city, he did not do it during the day; rather he did it at night.

28 And when the people of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the grove beside it was cut down. And the second bull had been offered upon the altar that was built.

29 And they said to one another, "Who has done this?" And when they inquired, they were told, "Gideon, the son of Joash, has done this."

30 Then the people of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son so that he may die, because he has broken down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the sacred grove that was beside it."

31 And Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you plead for Baal? Will you save him? Whoever pleads for Baal shall be put to death this morning. If Baal is a god, let him plead for himself because someone has broken down his altar."

32 Therefore, from that day they called Gideon "Jerubbaal" (Let Baal defend himself), saying, "Let Baal plead against Gideon because Gideon has broken down his altar."

33 Then all the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the east assembled, crossed the Jordan and pitched their tents in the valley of Jezreel.

34 And the spirit of Yahweh came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet. And the people of Abiezer gathered to him.

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<p>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.</p>	<p>35 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all Manasseh. And the people of Manasseh gathered to him. And Gideon sent messengers to Asher, to Zebulun, and to Naphtali. And the people of these tribes came to meet him. Yahweh performs a sign as Gideon requests 36 And Gideon said to Yahweh, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have promised,¹¹ 37 behold I will put a fleece of wool on the floor. And if there is dew only on the fleece, and the ground around the fleece is dry, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have promised.” 38 And it was so. For Gideon rose up early the next day and squeezed the fleece together, and wrung out so much dew that it filled a bowl full of water. 39 And Gideon said to Yahweh, “Do not be angry with me; I will ask just this. Let me test with the fleece: let only the fleece stay dry, and let there be dew on the ground around it.” 40 And Yahweh did so that night. For it was dry only upon the fleece, and there was dew on all the surrounding ground.</p>
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<p>7:1 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</p>	<p>Gideon overcomes the Midianites 7:1 Then Gideon, who was also called Jerubbaal (let Baal defend himself), and all the people who were with him, rose early, and pitched their tents 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 Yahweh said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest the people of Israel boast against Me, saying, ‘Our own hands have saved us.’¹² 3 “Therefore proclaim now in the ears of the people, ‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let that person leave Mount Gilead and return home.’” And twenty-two thousand of the people departed, and ten thousand remained. 4 And Yahweh said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will test them there for you. And if I say to you, these</p>
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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 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

shall go with you, they shall go; and if I say to you, these shall not go with you, they shall not go.”

5 So Gideon brought down the people to the water. And Yahweh said to Gideon, “Separate those who cup the water with their hands and lap it with their tongue as a dog laps, from those who kneel down to drink.”

6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouth, were three hundred. But all the rest of the people kneeled down to drink.

7 And Yahweh said to Gideon, “By the three hundred people who lapped, I will save you and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let the others return to their tents.”¹³

8 So the people took food and their trumpets in their hands. And Gideon sent the rest of Israel back to their tents and retained these three hundred people. And the camp of Midian was beneath Gideon in the valley.

9 That same night, Yahweh said to him, “Arise, go down to the enemy army, for I have delivered it into your hands.

10 “But if you are afraid to go down, go with Phurah your servant down to the army.

11 “And you shall hear what they say. And afterward, your hands shall be strengthened to go down to the army.” Then he went down with Phurah his servant to the outermost of the armed soldiers who were in the enemy army.

12 And the Midianites, the Amalekites, and all the people of the east were spread out in the valley as thick as grasshoppers. And their camels were without number, like the sand by the seaside.

13 And when Gideon came there, behold, he heard a soldier of the enemy telling a dream to a fellow soldier, saying, “Behold, I dreamed a dream. A cake of barley bread tumbled into the army of the Midianites and came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned and lay flat on the ground.”

14 And his fellow soldier said, “This is nothing except the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, a man of Israel. For into his hand Yahweh has delivered Midian and all its army.”

15 And when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped and returned to the army of Israel and said, “Arise; for Yahweh

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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.

has delivered into your hands the army of the Midianites.”

16 And Gideon divided the three hundred soldiers into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every soldier's hand and an empty pitcher and a lamp within the pitcher.

17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise. And behold when I come to the outskirts of the camp, you shall do as I do.

18 “When I blow the trumpet, then you shall also blow the trumpets on every side of the camp and say, “The sword of Yahweh and of Gideon.”

19 So Gideon, and the hundred soldiers who were with him, came to the outside of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch (from ten p.m. until two a.m.) when the enemy had changed the guard.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow them. And they shouted, “The sword of Yahweh, and of Gideon.”

21 And all the Israelite soldiers were in appointed places around the camp. And the entire enemy army cried out and ran and fled.

22 And when the three hundred trumpets blew, Yahweh set all the soldiers' swords against their fellow soldiers throughout the enemy army, and the army fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah near Tabbath.

23 And the army of Israel gathered themselves together from Naphtali, from Asher, and from Manasseh and pursued the Midianites.

24 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against the Midianites, and take control of the waters to Bethbarah and the Jordan River.” Then all the soldiers of Ephraim assembled and took control of the waters as far as Bethbarah and the Jordan River.

25 And they took two chiefs of the Midianites, Oreb, and Zeeb. And they killed Oreb upon the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. And they pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was on the east side of the Jordan River.

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<p>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.</p>	<p>˘ ˘ ˘ ˘ ˘</p>
<p>˘ ˘</p> <p>8:1 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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>˘</p> <p>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.</p> <p>˘</p> <p>4 And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.</p> <p>˘</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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 briers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>9 And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Gideon is criticized for not calling the Ephraimites to help battle the Midianites</p> <p>8:1 And the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, “Why did you treat us badly by not calling us to join you when you went to fight with the Midianites?” And they criticized him bitterly.</p> <p>2 And he said to them, “The small amount I have done is nothing in comparison to what you have done. Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the main harvest of Abiezer?”</p> <p>3 “Yahweh has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb, and Zeeb. This is far greater than what I was able to do in comparison.” Their anger toward him was greatly lessened when he said that.</p> <p>4 And Gideon came to the Jordan River and passed over with the three hundred soldiers who were with him, faint with hunger, yet pursuing the Midianites.</p> <p>5 And he said to the people of Succoth, “Please give loaves of bread to the soldiers who are with me. For they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of the Midianites.”</p> <p>6 But the chiefs of Succoth said, “Are Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hands so that we should give food to your army?”</p> <p>7 And Gideon said, “Because of your refusal to aid me now, when Yahweh has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hands, I will tear your flesh with the thorns and briers of the wilderness.”</p> <p>8 And he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them likewise. And the people of Penuel answered him as the people of Succoth had answered him.</p> <p>9 And he said to the people of Penuel, “When I come again in peace, I will break down the tower of your city.”</p> <p>10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with their armies, about fifteen thousand soldiers. This was all that was left of all the armies of the people of the east. For one hundred twenty thousand enemy</p>

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thousand men that drew sword.

11 And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt 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 enquired 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 briers, 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

swordsmen had fallen.

11 And Gideon went up by way of the tent dwellers on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked the army when the army felt secure.

12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them and captured the two kings of the Midianites, Zebah and Zalmunna, and caused their army to panic.

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

14 and captured a young man of the soldiers of Succoth and questioned him. And the young man described to him the chiefs of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven in all.

15 And Gideon came to the people of Succoth and said, "Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hands so that we should give food to your soldiers who are weary?'"

16 And he took the elders of the city, and with the thorns and briers of the wilderness, he taught the elders of Succoth a lesson.

17 And Gideon tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the people of the city.

18 Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of soldiers were those whom you killed at Tabor?" And they answered, "As you are, so were they. Each one resembled the child of a king."

19 And Gideon said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother; as Yahweh lives, if you had spared them, I would not slay you."

20 And Gideon said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise up and slay them." But the youth did not draw his sword. For he was afraid because he was still a youth.

21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise and fall upon us. For as the man is, so is his strength." And Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

22 Then the people of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you, your child, and your grandchild also. For you have delivered us from the hand of the Midianites."

23 And Gideon said to them, "I shall not rule over you; neither shall my offspring rule over you. God

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<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>will rule over you.” 24 And Gideon said to them, “I would ask something of you, that every one of you would give me the earrings you seized.” (For the enemy had golden earrings because they were Ishmaelites.) 25 And they answered, “We will willingly give them.” And they spread a garment, and all of them threw on it the earrings they had taken from their prey. 26 And the weight of the golden earrings that Gideon requested was over forty pounds, besides ornaments, collars, and purple clothing that were on the kings of the Midianites, and besides the chains that were around their camels' necks. 27 And Gideon made an idol of the gold, and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel went there, prostituting themselves after it. This became a snare to Gideon and to his household. 28 Thus the Midianites were subdued before the Israelites, so that they did not lift up their heads anymore. And the country enjoyed quietness for forty years in the days of Gideon. 29 And Jerubbaal (Gideon), the son of Joash, went and lived in his own house. 30 And Gideon had seventy sons, for he had many wives. 31 And his concubine who was in Shechem bore Gideon a son, who Gideon called Abimelech. 32 And Gideon, the son of Joash, died in a good old age and was buried in the sepulcher of Joash, his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 33 And it came to pass that as soon as Gideon was dead, the Israelites turned again, and prostituted themselves after Baalim and made Baal-berith their god. 34 And the Israelites did not remember Yahweh, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side. 35 Neither did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the good which he had done for Israel.</p>
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<p>、 、 9:1 And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and</p>	<p>Abimelech tries to become the chief of the Israelites 9:1 And Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal, by one of his concubines, went to Shechem, to his mother's</p>
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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?

brethren and communed with them and with all the family of his mother's father, saying,

2 "Please say to all the people of Shechem, 'Is it better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you? Remember also that I am your flesh and blood.'"

3 And his mother's brethren told all these words of Abimelech to all the people of Shechem. And their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech, saying, "He is our brother."

4 And they gave him seventy pieces of silver from the temple of Baal-berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless persons, who followed him.

5 And Abimelech went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, upon one large rock. However, Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, survived, for he hid.

6 And all the leaders of Shechem assembled with all the leaders of Millo to crown Abimelech king at the stone pillar that was in Shechem.

7 And when Jotham was told, he went and stood at the top of Mount Gerizim and lifted up his voice and cried out, "Listen to me, you people of Shechem so that Yahweh may listen to you.

8 "Once upon a time, the trees went forth 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 stop producing my oil with which they honor God and humanity, and go to be promoted over the trees?'

10 "And the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come, and reign over us.'

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

12 "Then the trees said to the grapevine, 'Come, and reign over us.'

13 "And the grapevine said to them, 'Should I stop producing my wine which cheers God and humanity, and go to be promoted over the trees?'

14 "Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'Come, and reign over us.'

15 "And the bramble said to the trees, 'If you truly anoint me king over you, then come and put your

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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 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 liars 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

trust in my shadow. And, if not, let fire come from the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.”

16 Jotham continued, “Have you acted truly and sincerely in making Abimelech king? And have you dealt well with Jerubbaal and his household, and have you done to him according to what he deserves?

17 “For my father fought for you, and risked his life, and delivered you from the hand of the Midianites.

18 “But you have revolted against my father's household this day, and have slain his sons, all seventy of them, upon one huge rock, and have made Abimelech, the son of Gideon's maidservant, king over the people of Shechem, because he is your brother.

19 “If you have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his household this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

20 “But if you have not, let fire come out from Abimelech and devour the people of Shechem and the household of Millo. And let fire come out from the people of Shechem and from the household of Millo and devour Abimelech.”

21 And Jotham ran away, fleeing to Beer, and lived there for fear of Abimelech his brother.

22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,

23 Yahweh stirred up animosity between Abimelech and the people of Shechem, and the people of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.

24 This took place so that the cruelty done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be avenged, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and upon the people of Shechem, who aided Abimelech in the killing of his brothers.

25 And the people of Shechem lay in wait for Abimelech on the top of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them, and it was told to Abimelech.

26 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his relatives and went over to Shechem, and the people of Shechem put their confidence in him.

27 And they went out into the fields, gathered grapes from their vineyards, trampled the grapes, made wine, and went into the house of their god,

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,

where they ate, drank and cursed Abimelech.

28 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, said, "Who is Abimelech and what kind of people are you, you people of Shechem, that you should serve him? Is not Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal? And does not Zebul, the ruler of Shechem, serve Abimelech? Let us serve Hamor who founded Shechem, for why should we serve Abimelech?"

29 "And if only these people were under my command! Then I would remove Abimelech." And he said to Abimelech, "Increase your 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 to Abimelech at Arumah saying, "Behold, Gaal, the son of Ebed, and his relatives have come to Shechem. And behold they are fortifying the city against you.

32 "Therefore, now go up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field.

33 "And in the morning as soon as the sun is up, rise early and attack the city. And when Gaal and the people who are with him come out against you, then you may do to them as you wish."

34 And Abimelech and all the people with him, arose by night, and they laid wait against Shechem outside the city in four companies.

35 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, went out and stood in the gate of the city, and Abimelech arose, and the people who were lying in wait with him.

36 And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Behold, people are coming down from the top of the mountains." And Zebul said to him, "You mistake the shadow of the mountains for people."

37 And Gaal spoke again and said, "See people are coming down by the middle of the land, and another company is coming along by the plain of Meonenim."

38 Then Zebul said to him, "Where is your confidence with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech that we should serve him?' Are not the people who are coming, those whom you have despised? Now go out and fight them."

39 And Gaal went out before the people of Shechem and fought with Abimelech.

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 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

40 And Abimelech chased Gaal, and Gaal fled before him, and many were overthrown and wounded all the way to the entrance of the city.

41 And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brothers so that they could no longer dwell in Shechem.

42 And the next day, the people went out to the field and told Abimelech.

43 And he divided the people into three companies and laid wait in the field and watched. When he saw people coming out of the city, he rose against them and struck them down.

44 And Abimelech and the group that was with him rushed forward and stood in the gate of the city. And the two other companies attacked all the people in the fields and killed them.

45 And Abimelech fought against the city all that day, until he captured it and killed its people. He then destroyed the city and sowed it with salt.

46 And when all the people of the tower of Shechem heard that, they entered a stronghold of the house of the god Berith.

47 And Abimelech was told that all the people of the tower of Shechem were assembled.

48 And Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon accompanied by all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an ax and cut down a bough from a tree and laid it on his shoulder. And he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, hurry and do as I have done."

49 And every person likewise cut down a bough and followed Abimelech. Then they put them next to the stronghold and set the stronghold on fire upon the people inside. So all the people, about a thousand men and women, in the tower of Shechem died.

50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez, fought against it and captured it.

51 But there was a strong tower within the city, and all the men and women of the city fled there and shut themselves in the tower.

52 And Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it and went to the door of the tower to burn it.

53 And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and it broke his skull.

54 Then he called hastily to the young man who was

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<p>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.</p>	<p>his armor-bearer and said to him, "Draw your sword and slay me so that people do not say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" And the young man thrust him through, and he died. 55 And when the people of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they all returned to their homes. 56 Thus Yahweh repaid the wickedness of Abimelech which he had done to his father in slaying his seventy brothers. 57 And Yahweh also brought all the evil done by the people of Shechem back upon their heads—the curse of Jotham, son of Jerubbaal, came upon them. ` ` `</p>
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<p>` 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</p>	<p>Various chiefs arise to lead the Israelites 10:1 And after Abimelech, a man of Issachar named Tola, the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, arose to defend Israel; and he lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 And he led Israel for twenty-three years, and passed on and was buried in Shamir. 3 And after him, Jair, a Gileadite, arose, and led Israel for twenty-two years. 4 And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkey colts, and they had thirty cities in the land of Gilead, which are called Havoth-jair to this day. 5 And Jair died and was buried in Camon. 6 And the Israelites committed evil again in the sight of Yahweh and served Baalim, Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And the Israelites abandoned Yahweh and did not serve Him. 7 And Yahweh was angry with the Israelites, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites. 8 And for eighteen years, the Ammonites persecuted and oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan River in Gilead, land of the Amorites.</p>
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<p>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 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 Mizpah. 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.</p>	<p>9 Moreover, the Ammonites went west over the Jordan River to fight against the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim. So Israel was very distressed. 10 And the Israelites cried out to Yahweh, “We have sinned against you because we have forsaken our Deity and also served Baalim.” 11 And Yahweh said to the Israelites, “Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, from the Amorites, from the Ammonites, and the Philistines? 12 “The Zidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hands. 13 “Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore, I will not deliver you anymore. 14 “Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen. Let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.” 15 And the Israelites said to Yahweh, “We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to You. Only deliver us, we pray You, this day.” h 16 And they put away the strange gods from among them and served Yahweh, and He looked with compassion on Israel because of their misery. 17 Then the Ammonites assembled and camped in Gilead. And the Israelites assembled and camped in Mizpah. 18 And the people and chiefs of Gilead said to each other, “Who will lead us to fight against the Ammonites? This person shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.” ` `</p>
<p>` 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</p>	<p>Jephthah becomes chief of the Israelites 11:1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, and he was the son of a prostitute; for Gilead fathered Jephthah by the prostitute. 2 And Gilead's wife bore him sons, who grew up, and drove Jephthah out, saying to him, “You shall not inherit any of our father's property, for you are the son of another woman, not our mother.” 3 Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, where worthless people bonded</p>

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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 Mizpah.
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

with him wherever he went.
4 And a while after that, the Ammonites made war against Israel.
5 And when they attacked Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah from the land of Tob.
6 And they said to Jephthah, "Come, and be our leader so that we may fight the Ammonites."
7 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did not you hate me, and throw me out of my father's house? And yet you come to me now because of your distress?"
8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "We turn again to you now so that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our leader over all the inhabitants of Gilead."
9 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight against the Ammonites, and Yahweh conquers them before me, will I be your leaser?"
10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Yahweh is witness between us that we will do according to your words."
11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him their leader and captain. And Jephthah spoke all his words before Yahweh in Mizpah.
12 And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites, saying, "Why have you come against me in my land to fight with me?"
13 And the king answered them, "Because the Israelites took away my land when they came up out of Egypt from Arnon, even to Jabbok, and to the Jordan River. Therefore, restore those lands again now peaceably."
14 And Jephthah sent messages again to the king of the Ammonites,
15 saying, "The Israelites did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the Ammonites.
16 "The Israelites came up from Egypt and walked through the wilderness to the Sea of Reeds and came to Kadesh.
17 "Then the Israelites sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please let us pass through your land.' But the king of Edom would not agree to it. And in like manner the Israelites sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So the Israelites

to Kadesh;

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.

paused in Kadesh.

18 "Then they traveled through the wilderness around the land of Edom and the land of Moab and came by the east side of the land of Moab. And they pitched their tents on the other side of the Arnon River, but did not come within the border of Moab; for the Arnon River was the border of Moab.

19 "And the Israelites sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, saying to him, 'Please let us pass through your land to our place.'

20 "But Sihon did not trust the Israelites to pass through his land, so he assembled all his people and fought against the Israelites.

21 "And Yahweh, the Deity of the Israelites delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of the Israelites, and they struck them down. So the Israelites possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

22 "And they possessed all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon River even to Jabbok, and from the wilderness, even to the Jordan River.

23 "So now Yahweh, the Deity of the Israelites has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people the Israelites, and should you possess their land instead of the Israelites?

24 "Will you not possess that which Chemosh your Deity gives you to possess? So whomever Yahweh shall drive out from before us, their land we will possess.

25 "And now are you better than Balak, the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against the Israelites, or fight against them?

26 "For three hundred years, the Israelites have lived in Heshbon and its towns, in Aroer and its towns, and in all the cities that are along the coasts of Arnon. Therefore, why did you not recover them within that time?

27 "Therefore, I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to war against me. Let Yahweh the Judge be judge this day between the Israelites and the Ammonites."

28 However, the king of the Ammonites did not listen to the words which Jephthah sent him.

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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.

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,

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Jephthah makes a vow in honor of Yahweh

29 Then the spirit of Yahweh came upon Jephthah, and he crossed over Gilead, Manasseh and then Mizpah of Gilead. And from Mizpah of Gilead he crossed over to the Ammonites.

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow to Yahweh, "If you will surely deliver the Ammonites into my hands, 31 then whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites, shall surely be Yahweh's. And I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

32 So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and Yahweh delivered them into his hands.

33 And Jephthah defeated them in, twenty cities from Aroer to Minnith, and to the plain of the vineyards with a very great slaughter. Thus the Ammonites were subdued before the Israelites.

34 And Jephthah returned home to Mizpah, and behold, his daughter came out to meet him playing the tambourine and dancing. And she was his only child: beside her, Jephthah had no other son or daughter.

35 And it came to pass when Jephthah saw her, he rent (tore) his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low. You have brought me sorrow, for I have made a vow to Yahweh, and I cannot take it back."¹⁴

36 And she said to him, "My father, if you have made a vow to Yahweh, do to me as you said you would. For Yahweh has avenged you on your enemies, the Ammonites."¹⁵

37 And she said to her father, "Do this for me: leave me alone for two months, so that I may go up and down the mountains with my friends and grieve that I must die a virgin."

38 And Jephthah said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months, and she went with her companions and mourned her virginity as she wandered in the hill country.

39 And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned to her father, who did with her as he had vowed. And she had not lain with a man.

<p>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.</p>	<p>And after that it was a custom in Israel 40 that the daughters of Israel spent four days every year grieving for the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite. ` `</p>
<p>` 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</p>	<p>Jephthah overcomes the Ephraimites 12:1 And the people of Ephraim assembled and went northward and said to Jephthah, “Why did you go to fight against the Ammonites and not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you.” 2 And Jephthah said to them, “I and my people were involved in great strife with the Ammonites. And when I called you, you did not deliver me from their hands. 3 “And when I saw that you did not help me, I put my life in my hands and went against the Ammonites. And Yahweh delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come to me this day to fight against me?” 4 Then Jephthah assembled all the people of Gilead and fought with the tribe of Ephraim. And the people of Gilead struck down because they had said, “You Gileadites are nothing but unwanted runaways from Ephraim among the Ephraimites and the Manassites.” 5 And the Gileadites guarded the passages of the Jordan River which the Ephraimites might use. And so, whenever an Ephraimite who had escaped said, “Let me cross the Jordan River,” the people of Gilead said to him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” If he said, “No.” 6 They would say to him, “Say Shibboleth.” And he would say “Sibboleth.” For he could not pronounce it right. Then they would seize him and kill him at the passages of the Jordan River, and forty-two thousand of the Ephraimites fell at that time. 7 And Jephthah led Israel for six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead. 8 And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem led 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 led Israel for</p>

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<p>seven years. 10 Then died Ibzán, and was buried at Bethlehem. 11 And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. 12 And Elon the Zebulonite 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.</p>	<p>seven years. 10 Then Ibzán died and was buried at Bethlehem. 11 And after him, Elon, a Zebulonite, led Israel for ten years. 12 And Elon the Zebulonite died and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun. 13 And after him Abdon, the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, led Israel. 14 And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, who rode on seventy donkey colts; and he led Israel eight years. 15 And Abdon, the son of Hillel the Pirathonite, died and was buried in Pirathon in the hill country of Ephraim, on the hill of the Amalekites.</p>
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<p>\</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Samson is born</p> <p>13:1 And the Israelites committed evil again in the sight of Yahweh, and Yahweh delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for 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 had no children.¹⁶ 3 And the angel of Yahweh appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have no children, but you shall conceive and have a son. 4 “Now therefore be careful to drink no wine or strong drink, and do not eat any ritually impure thing. 5 “For, behold, you shall conceive and have a son; and no razor shall come on his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite, consecrated to Yahweh from the womb. And he shall begin to deliver the Israelites from the hand of the Philistines.” 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of Yahweh came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of Yahweh, very wonderful. But I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name. 7 “But he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any ritually impure thing, for the child shall be a Nazarite to Yahweh from the womb to the day of his death.’” 8 Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh, and said, “O Yahweh, let the man of Yahweh whom You sent</p>
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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

come again to us and teach us what we shall do with the child who shall be born.”

9 And Yahweh listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of Yahweh came again to the woman as she sat in the field, but Manoah, her husband, was not with her.

10 And the woman ran quickly to tell her husband, “Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me again.”

11 And Manoah arose and followed his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to my wife?” And he said, “I am.”

12 And Manoah said, “Now when your words have come to pass, what shall we tell the child, and how shall we raise him?”

13 And the angel of Yahweh said to Manoah, “Be sure that your wife is careful concerning all that I said to her.

14 “She may not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, neither may she drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any ritually impure thing. All that I commanded her, let her do.”

15 And Manoah said to the angel of Yahweh, “I pray you, let us detain you until we have prepared a young goat for you.”

16 And the angel of Yahweh said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food, and if you will offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to Yahweh.” For Manoah did not know that the visitor was an angel of Yahweh.

17 And Manoah said to the angel of Yahweh, “What is your name so that when your sayings come to pass, we may honor you?”

18 And the angel of Yahweh said to him, “Why are you asking my name, seeing it is secret?”

19 So Manoah took a young goat as a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock to Yahweh. And the angel did an amazing thing, as Manoah and his wife looked on.

20 For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, that the angel of Yahweh ascended in the flame of the altar. And when Manoah and his wife saw it, they fell forward to the ground.

21 But the angel of Yahweh did not appear any more to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah knew

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<p>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.</p>	<p>that what he saw was an angel of Yahweh. 22 And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die because we have seen Yahweh." 23 But his wife told him, "If Yahweh had wanted to kill us, He would not have received a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands. And He would not have shown us all these things, nor would He at this time have told us such things as these." 24 And the woman had a son, and called him Samson, and the child grew, and Yahweh blessed him. 25 And the spirit of Yahweh began to strengthen Samson at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. `</p>
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<p>`</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p>Samson tells his wife the answer to a riddle 14:1 And Samson went down to Timnath and saw a woman in Timnath of the Philistines. 2 And he came up and told his father and his mother, "I have seen a woman in Timnath of the Philistines; therefore, get her for me now to be my wife." 3 Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there not a woman who pleases you among your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." 4 But his father and his mother did not know that Samson was led by Yahweh to seek an opportunity against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. 5 Then Samson went down, with 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 Yahweh came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion as he would have torn a young goat, and he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. 7 And he went down and talked with the woman, and she pleased Samson very much. 8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and</p>
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turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, [there was] a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase 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 carcase 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.

behold; there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

9 And he took honey in his hands and journeyed on, eating as he went, and came to his father and mother; and he gave them honey, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the carcass of a lion.

10 So his father went down to the woman, and Samson made a feast there, for this was a custom of the young men then.

11 And it came to pass, that the Philistines saw him and brought thirty companions.

12 And Samson said to them, "I will put forth a riddle to you now. If you can answer the riddle within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen cloths and thirty changes of clothes.

13 "But if you cannot answer the riddle, then you shall give me thirty linen cloths and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Tell us your riddle so that we may hear it."

14 And he said to them, "Out of the eater came forth something to eat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." And they could not solve the riddle in three days.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband to explain the riddle, or we will burn you and your family to death. Did you invite us here to rob us? It seems so!"

16 And Samson's wife wept before Samson and said, "You hate me and do not love me; you have put forth a riddle to my people and have not told it to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told it to my father or my mother, and should I tell it to you?"

17 And she wept before him during the seven days while the feast lasted, and it came to pass on the seventh day that he told her because she kept asking him. And she then told the answer to the riddle to her people.

18 And the people 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?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

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<p>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.</p> <p>20 But Samson's wife was [given] to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.</p>	<p>19 And the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Samson, and he went down to Ashkelon, killed thirty of the Philistines and took their clothing as plunder and gave a change of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. And burning with anger, he went to his father's house.</p> <p>20 And Samson's wife was given to his companion, with whom Samson had been friends.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>9 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.</p> <p>10 And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Samson kills a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey</p> <p>15:1 But it came to pass a while after, at the time of the wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife, bringing her a young goat as a gift. And he said, "I want to see my wife in her chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in.</p> <p>2 And her father said, "I truly thought that you had utterly hated her; therefore, I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister fairer than she is? Please take her younger sister instead of her."</p> <p>3 And Samson replied to him, "Now I shall be more blameless than the Philistines when I do harm to them."</p> <p>4 And Samson caught three hundred foxes and took torches, tied the foxes in pairs, tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails.</p> <p>5 And after lighting the torches, he released the foxes in the standing grain of the Philistines, thereby burning up the piled and standing grain along with the vineyards and olives.</p> <p>6 Then the Philistines demanded, "Who has done this?" And the answer was, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because the Timnite had taken Samson's wife and given her to Samson's companion." And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father to death.</p> <p>7 And Samson said to them, "Because you have done this, I will be avenged on you, and after that I will be done."</p> <p>8 And he ruthlessly attacked the Philistines, slaughtering many, and then he went down and lived on the top of the rock of Etam.</p> <p>9 Then the Philistines went and camped in Judah and spread themselves in Lehi.</p> <p>10 And the people of Judah said to the Philistines,</p>

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<p>against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.</p>	<p>“Why have you come up against us?” And the Philistines answered, “We have come to capture Samson, to get revenge for what he has done to us.”</p> <p>11 Then three thousand people of Judah went to the top of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that you have done to us?” And Samson said to them, “As they have treated me, so have I treated them.”</p> <p>12 And the people of Judah said to Samson, “We have come down to bind you, so that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines.” And Samson said to them, “Swear to me, that you will not kill me yourselves.”</p> <p>13 And they said to him, “No, we will bind you fast and deliver you into their hand, but we promise we will not kill you.” And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him from the rock.</p> <p>14 And when he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him; and the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms broke like burnt flax, and his bands dropped from off his hands.</p> <p>15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, took hold of it, and killed a thousand people with it.</p> <p>16 And Samson sang, “With the jawbone of an ass, with the jaw of a donkey I have slain a thousand persons, heaps upon heaps.”</p> <p>17 And it came to pass, when he had finished singing, he cast away the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi (jawbone hill).</p> <p>18 And he was very thirsty and called on Yahweh and said, “You have given this great victory into the hand of your servant. But now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?”</p> <p>19 But Yahweh made a hollow place in the jaw, and water came from it; and when Samson had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived. Therefore, he called the name of the place Enhakkore (the spring of him who called), which is in Lehi to this day.</p> <p>20 And he led Israel in the days of the Philistines for twenty years.</p>
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Samson falls in love with Delilah and tells her

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 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

the source of his great strength

16:1 Then Samson went to Gaza where he saw a prostitute and went in to her.
2 And the Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." And they laid in wait for him throughout the night at the gate of the city, and were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him."
3 But Samson lay down only until midnight. Then he arose, took the doors of the gate of the city the two posts and carried them away, bar and all. And he put them upon his shoulders and carried them up to the top of a hill that is before Hebron.
4 Some time later, Samson fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek, and her name was Delilah.
5 And the leaders of the Philistines came to her and said, "Get Samson to tell you what the source of his great strength is. And find out by what means we may prevail against him so that we may capture him to punish him. Then each of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."
6 And Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be bound."
7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven green bowstrings that have not dried yet, then I shall be weak and be like any other person."
8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought to her seven green bowstrings which had not been dried yet, and she bound him with them.
9 Now there were people lying in wait with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson." And he broke the bowstrings as easily as a thread breaks when touched by fire. So his strength was not known.
10 And Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies; now tell me, I beg you, what you might be bound with."
11 And he said to her, "If they bind me tightly with new ropes that have never bound anyone, then I shall be weak and be like any other person."
12 Therefore Delilah took new ropes, and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson." And people were lying in wait in the room. And he broke the ropes from off his arms like threads.
13 And Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have

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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

mocked me and told me lies; tell me what you might be bound with." And he said to her, "Weave the seven locks of my head together with a loom, and fasten them together with a pin."

14 And she did so, fastening them with a pin, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson." And he awakened from his sleep and went away with the pin and with the loom.

15 And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times and have not told me in what your great strength lies."

16 And day after day she pleaded with him until his *soul* [spirit] was vexed to death,

17 that he told her all his heart and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazarite to Yahweh from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak and be like any other person."

18 And when Delilah realized that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the rulers of the Philistines, saying, "Come once more, for he has told me all his heart." Then the rulers of the Philistines came to her with the money in their hands.

19 And she lulled Samson to sleep upon her knees, and she called for someone to shave off the seven locks of Samson's hair. And she began to hit him, and his strength left him.

20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson." And he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will escape as at other times." But he did not know that Yahweh had departed from him.

21 And the Philistines took him, put out his eyes, brought him to Gaza and bound him with chains of bronze. There they forced him to work grinding grain in the prison house.

22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaved.

23 Then the rulers of the assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon, their god, and to rejoice. For they said, "Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hands."

24 And when the people saw Samson, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy and the destroyer of our country, who killed many of us."

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.

17:1 And there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah.

2 And he said to his mother, “The eleven hundred pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you cursed and spoke of to me— behold, the silver is with me. I took it.” And his mother said, “May Yahweh bless you, my son.”

3 And when he had returned the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, she said, “I had wholly dedicated the silver to Yahweh from my hand to make an image and an idol of Yahweh.”

4 And his mother took two hundred pieces of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who made from them an image and an idol. And they were in the house of Micah.

5 And Micah had gods in his house and made a priestly garment, and an idol, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but all the people did what was right in their own eyes.

7 And there was a young man from Bethlehem of Judah, of the family of Judah, a Levite, and he lived temporarily at Bethlehem.

8 And the young man departed from the city of Bethlehem of Judah to live for a while wherever he could find a place. And as he journeyed, he came to the house of Micah in the hill country of Ephraim.

9 And Micah said to him, “Where did you come from?” And the young man said to Micah, “I am a Levite of Bethlehem of Judah, and I go to live wherever I may find a place.”

10 And Micah said to him, “Dwell with me and be to me a father and a priest,¹⁷ and I will pay you ten pieces of silver a year and a suit of clothing and your food.” So the Levite accepted.

11 And the Levite was content to dwell with Micah, and the young man was to Micah as one of his sons.

12 And Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house.

13 Then Micah said, “Now I know that Yahweh will bless me, seeing I have a Levite as my priest.”

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<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The tribe of Dan hires Micah's priest to go with them</p> <p>18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel, and the tribe of Dan sought an inheritance of land to dwell in. For until that day, all their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not come to them.</p> <p>2 And the tribe of Dan sent five persons from their family, people of valor, from Zorah and Eshtaol, to explore the land. And these persons came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah and lodged there.</p> <p>3 And they knew the voice of the young man who was the Levite, and they said to him, "Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this place?"</p> <p>4 And he said to them, "Micah has dealt well with me and has hired me, and I am his priest."</p> <p>5 And they said to him, "We urge you to ask counsel of Yahweh, so we may know whether the way we are going will prosper us."</p> <p>6 And the priest said to them, "Go in peace; Yahweh is watching over your journey."</p> <p>7 Then the five persons departed and came to Laish, where they saw that the people there lived without a care, quietly and securely like the Zidonians. And there was no magistrate in the land that might humiliate the people there in anything they did, and they were far from the Zidonians and had no business with anyone.</p> <p>8 When the five persons returned to their relatives in Zorah and Eshtaol, the relatives asked them, "What do you have to say?"</p> <p>9 And they said, "Arise, so that we may attack the people of Laish, for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. Do not sit here; do not hesitate to enter the land to possess it.</p> <p>10 "When you go you shall come to a secure people and a large land, for Yahweh has given it into your hands. It is a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."</p> <p>11 And six hundred people of the family of the Danites departed from Zorah and Eshtaol with weapons of war.</p> <p>12 And they went, and pitched their tents in Kirjath-jearim in Judah; therefore, they called that place</p>
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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

Mahaneh-dan (camp of Dan) to this day; behold, it is behind Kirjath-jearim.

13 And they passed there to the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah.

14 Then the five persons who had gone to spy on the country of Laish said to the other people, "Do you know that there are in these houses a priestly garment, an idol, an image? Therefore, consider now what you have to do."

15 And when they came to the house of Micah, where the young Levite lived, they greeted the Levite.

16 And the six hundred people of the tribe of Dan stood at the entrance of the gate with their weapons.

17 And the five persons who had gone to spy on the land went into the house and took the priestly garment, the idol, and the other images. And the priest stood at the gate with the six hundred armed soldiers.

18 Then the priest asked them, "What are you doing?"

19 And they said to him, "Be still; lay your hand over your mouth and go with us and be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one person or to be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"

20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the priestly garment, the idol, and the other images and went with the people.

21 So they departed, putting their children, cattle and their most valued possessions in front of them.

22 And when they were a good distance from the house of Micah, the people who were in the houses near to Micah's house assembled with Micah and overtook the tribe of Dan.

23 And they cried out to the tribe of Dan. And the tribe of Dan turned around and said to Micah, "What troubles you, that you come with such a large group of people?"

24 And Micah said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. What else do I have? And yet you say to me, 'What troubles you?'"

25 And the tribe of Dan said to him, "Do not raise your voice against us lest angry men run upon you,

<p>aieth 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 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 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 unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first. 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 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.</p>	<p>and you lose your life and the lives of your household.” 26 And the tribe of Dan went their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he returned to his house. 27 And they took the things which Micah had made, and his priest and came to Laish to a people who were at peace and secure. And they struck them down with the edge of the sword and burned down the city. 28 And there was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no business with anyone else. It was in the valley that lies by Bethrehob. And the Danites built a city and lived in it. 29 And they called the name of the city Dan after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was the son of Israel (Jacob); however, the name of the city was originally Laish. 30 And the tribe of Dan set up the image. And Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, along with his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. 31 And they set up Micah's idol, which he made, all the time that the tabernacle of Yahweh was in Shiloh. ` ` ` ` `</p>
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<p>` `</p> <p>19:1 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 played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehemjudah, and was there four whole months. 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</p>	<p>The men of Gibeah rape and kill a Levite's concubine</p> <p>19:1 And it came to pass in those days when there was no king in Israel, that a certain Levite living in the hill country of Ephraim took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem of Judah. 2 And his concubine was unfaithful to him and went away to her family's house in Bethlehem of Judah and was there four whole months. 3 And her husband arose, having his servant and two donkeys with him, and went after her to speak kindly to her and to bring her back to him. And she brought him into her family's house; and when the</p>
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when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.

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 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 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 when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged there again.

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 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 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 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 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 unto his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in Ramah.

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 thither, to go in and to

father of the young woman saw the Levite, he rejoiced to meet him.

4 And the Levite's father-in-law, the young woman's father, retained him; and the Levite stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank, and the Levite lodged there.

5 And it came to pass on the fourth day, they arose early and the Levite was about to leave. But the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Enjoy some food and afterward go your way."

6 And they sat down, and both of them ate and drank together; for the young woman's father had said to the Levite, "Please be content and tarry all night and let your heart be merry."

7 And when the Levite got up to leave, his father-in-law urged him to stay another night; therefore, the Levite lodged there again.

8 And on the fifth day he got up to leave; but the young woman's father said, "Please comfort your heart." And they stayed until afternoon, and ate together.

9 And when the Levite got up to leave with his concubine and his servant, his father-in-law said to him, "Behold, now the day draws toward evening. Please stay here another night so that your heart may be merry. And tomorrow you may leave early to go home."

10 But the Levite would not stay another night, but instead he left and came near Jebus, which is Jerusalem. And his concubine and two saddled donkeys were with him.

11 And when they reached Jebus, the day was almost over, and the servant said to his master, "I suggest that we stop in this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it."

12 And his master said to him, "We will not stop in a city of strangers who are not of the children of Israel; we will move on to Gibeah."

13 And he said to his servant, "Come, and let us approach one of these places to lodge all night in Gibeah or Ramah."

14 And they continued their journey, and the sun went down upon them when they approached Gibeah, which belongs to the tribe of Benjamin.

15 And they stopped in Gibeah to lodge there. But when the Levite went in, he sat down in the city

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, 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 Benjaminites.

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,

street; for no one would take them in to lodge them.

16 And behold, that evening an old man came home from his work in the field. He was of the hill country of Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah, but the people of the place were Benjaminites.

17 And when the old man looked up, he saw a traveler in the city street, and asked him, "Where are you going? And where did you come from?"

18 And the Levite said to him, "We are traveling from Bethlehem of Judah toward the hill country of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem of Judah, but I am now going to the temple of Yahweh, and there is no one who has offered to take me in."

19 "Yet there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and I have food and wine for me, for my concubine, and for the young man who is my servant. We do not lack anything."

20 And the old man said, "Peace be with you. However, let me be responsible for providing you with all you need; only do not spend the night on the street."

21 So the old man brought the Levite into his house and gave fodder to the donkeys, and they washed their feet and ate and drank.

22 Now while they were enjoying themselves, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, surrounded the house, and beat on the door, and said to the old man, "Bring out the man who came into your house so that we may have our way with him."

23 And the old man went out to them and said, "No, my brothers, no, please do not act so wickedly, seeing that this man has come into my house. Do not commit this vile act.

24 Behold, here is my virgin daughter and his concubine; I will bring them out now. You may abuse them, and do with them whatever you wish. But do not so vile a thing to this man."

25 But the men would not listen to the old man, so the Levite took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they raped and abused her all night until the morning; and when the day began to dawn, they let her go.

26 Then the woman went back to the old man's house where her master was, collapsed at the door, and lay there until daylight.

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<p>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.</p>	<p>27 And that morning her master opened the door of the house to leave on his journey, when he saw his concubine laying at the door with her hands on the threshold. 28 And he said to her, "Get up, and let us go." But she did not answer, for she was dead. Then the Levite put her upon a donkey and journeyed to his place.¹⁸ 29 And when he came into his house, he picked up a knife, took hold of his concubine, divided her into twelve pieces and sent the pieces throughout all the land of Israel. 30 And all who saw it said, "Nothing like this has been done or seen since the day that the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt to this day. Consider it; say what should be done; speak your minds." ` `</p>
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<p>` ` `</p> <p>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 Mizpeh. 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 Mizpeh.) 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 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</p>	<p>The tribes of Israel overcome the tribe of Benjamin, which will not produce the guilty men of Gibeah for punishment</p> <p>20:1 Then all the Israelites were roused, and the congregation assembled as one person from Dan even to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead. They assembled before Yahweh in Mizpah. 2 And the chief of all the people, of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of Yahweh. And four hundred thousand armed warriors were there. 3 (Now the tribe of Benjamin heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the Israelites said, "Tell us, how did this wickedness come about?" 4 And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was slain, answered, "I came with my concubine to spend the night in Gibeah, which belongs to the tribe of Benjamin. 5 "And the men of Gibeah rose against me and surrounded the house by night and threatened to kill me. And they raped my concubine to death. 6 "And I took my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her throughout all the country of Israel, for they committed an evil and immoral act in Israel. 7 "Behold, you are all Israelites; give your advice</p>
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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

and counsel here.”

8 And all the people arose as one person, saying, “None of us will go to our tent, neither will any of us go home.

9 “But now this is what we will do to Gibeah: we will go up by lot against it.

10 “And we will take ten people out of every hundred from all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to prepare food for the army. And when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin the army will do to the people of Gibeah what they deserve for what they have done in Israel.”

11 So all the Israelites assembled against the city as one person.

12 And the tribes of Israel sent messengers throughout all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What wickedness is this that was done among you?

13 “Therefore, deliver now to us the men, the followers of Belial in Gibeah, so that we may put them to death and purge this evil from Israel.” But the tribe of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their relatives, the other Israelites.

14 Instead, the tribe of Benjamin assembled from the cities to Gibeah to go out to battle the other Israelites.

15 And they mobilized twenty- six thousand swordsmen from the cities, joined by seven hundred inhabitants of Gibeah.

16 Among all these people there were seven hundred who were left-handed and who could sling stones at a small object and not miss.

17 And the Israelites against Benjamin numbered four hundred thousand warriors.

18 And the Israelites arose and went up to the temple to ask counsel of Yahweh and said, “Who of us shall go first to battle the tribe of Benjamin?” And Yahweh said, “Judah shall go first.”

19 And the Israelites arose in the morning and camped against Gibeah.

20 And they went to battle Benjamin, and took up their positions against the army of Benjamin at Gibeah.

21 And the tribe of Benjamin came forth from Gibeah and destroyed twenty- two thousand Israelites down to the ground that day.

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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 enquired 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 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

22 And the people of Israel encouraged themselves and set their battle positions in the same place as the first day.

23 And the Israelites went and wept before Yahweh until evening. They asked counsel of Yahweh, saying, "Shall we go again to battle our relatives, the tribe of Benjamin?" And Yahweh said, "Go against them."

24 And the Israelites approached the tribe of Benjamin the second day.

25 And the Benjamites went out against them from Gibeah and destroyed eighteen thousand Israelite soldiers down to the ground that day.

26 Then all the people of Israel went to the temple of Yahweh. There they wept, sat, fasted until evening and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to Yahweh.

27 And the Israelites inquired of Yahweh, for the ark (chest) of the covenant of the Deity 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 again go out to battle my relatives, the tribe of Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And Yahweh said, "Go, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

29 And Israel set ambushes in wait around Gibeah.

30 And the Israelites went up against the tribe of Benjamin on the third day and set their battle positions against Gibeah, as at other times.

31 And the tribe of Benjamin went out against the other Israelites and were drawn away from the city. And they began to strike and kill the people, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goes up to the temple of Yahweh and the other to Gibeah. And they killed about thirty soldiers of Israel in the field.

32 And the tribe of Benjamin said, "We are defeating them, as before." But the Israelites said, "Let us flee and draw them from the city to the highways."

33 And all the soldiers of Israel arose from their place and set their battle positions at Baal-tamar. And the Israelites lying in ambush charged out of the meadows of Gibeah.

34 And ten thousand chosen soldiers from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the fighting was fierce, but

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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 hasted, 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.

the Benjamites did not know that disaster was at hand.

35 And Yahweh struck down the tribe of Benjamin before Israel, and the Israelites destroyed twenty-five thousand one hundred warriors of the Benjamites that day.

36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. For the soldiers of Israel retreated from the Benjamites because they trusted the ambush they had set against Gibeah.

37 And those lying in ambush charged quickly against Gibeah. They advanced and killed everyone.

38 Now there was an appointed sign between the soldiers of Israel and those lying in ambush, that they should send up a great cloud of smoke over the city.

39 And when the soldiers of Israel drew back in the battle, the Benjamites struck and killed about thirty soldiers of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle."

40 But when the pillar of smoke began to rise from the city, the Benjamites looked behind them. And behold, the smoke of the city ascended to the heavens.

41 And when the soldiers of Israel turned back toward the soldiers of Benjamin, the Benjamites were terrified, for they saw that disaster had fallen upon them.

42 Therefore they fled before the soldiers of Israel to the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and the Israelites who came from the cities destroyed them.

43 Thus the Israelites surrounded the Benjamites and chased them, and trampled them down with ease near Gibeah toward the sunrise.

44 And eighteen thousand soldiers of the tribe of Benjamin fell; all these were persons of valor.

45 And the Benjamites turned and fled toward the wilderness, to the rock of Rimmon. And the Israelites struck down five thousand of them in the highways and pursued hard after them to Gidom, killing two thousand more.

46 So twenty-five thousand soldiers of the tribe of Benjamin fell that day; all these were soldiers of valor.

47 But six hundred Benjamites turned and fled to

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>47 But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and stayed there for four months.</p> <p>48 And the soldiers of Israel again attacked the tribe of Benjamin and struck them down with the edge of the sword—the people of every city as well as the animals and everything they found. They also burned down every city they came to.</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p>
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<p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>、</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6 And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>8 And they said, What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the LORD? And,</p>	<p>The Israelites find wives for the men of Benjamin who have survived the battles and are without wives</p> <p>21:1 Now the people of Israel had sworn in Mizpah “None of us shall give our daughter to a Benjaminite as a wife.”¹⁹</p> <p>2 And the people came to the tabernacle of Yahweh and stayed there until the evening before Yahweh, lifting up their voices and weeping bitterly.</p> <p>3 And they said, “O Yahweh, why has this come to pass in Israel, that one tribe should be missing today in Israel?”</p> <p>4 And it came to pass the next day, that the people of Israel rose early and built there an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.</p> <p>5 And the Israelites said, “Who among all the tribes of Israel did not come to the assembly before Yahweh?” For they had made a great oath concerning those who did not come up to Yahweh to Mizpah, saying, “They shall surely be put to death.”</p> <p>6 And the Israelites grieved for their relatives, the Benjamites and said, “One tribe has been cut off from Israel this day.</p> <p>7 “How shall their survivors get wives, seeing we have sworn by Yahweh not to give them any of our daughters as wives?”</p> <p>8 And they asked, “Which one of the tribes of Israel did not come up to Mizpah to Yahweh?” And</p>
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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

behold, none came from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.

9 For when the people were counted, behold, there were no inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

10 And the congregation sent twelve thousand valiant soldiers to Jabesh-Gilead and commanded them, "Go and strike down all the men and some of the women with the edge of the sword.

11 "This what you are to do, utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has lain with a man."

12 And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins who had not lain with a man. And the Israelites brought them to the camp to Shiloh, in the land of Canaan.

13 Then the whole congregation sent a message of peace to the six hundred sons of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon.

14 And the Benjamites returned at that time, and the Israelites gave them the four hundred virgins that they had spared in Jabesh-gilead as wives. But there were not enough women to give the remaining two hundred Benjamites wives who had fled to the rock of Rimmon.

15 And the Israelites grieved for the tribe of Benjamin because Yahweh had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

16 Then the elders of the congregation said, "How shall those two hundred remaining Benjamite men get wives, seeing the women have been destroyed from the tribe of Benjamin?"²⁰

17 And the Israelites said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin so that a tribe is not wiped out from Israel.

18 "However, we may not give them wives of our daughters, for the Israelites have sworn, 'Cursed are the parents who give a wife to a Benjaminite.'"

19 Then the Israelites said, "Behold, there is an annual feast of Yahweh in Shiloh, which is on the north side of Bethel on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, to the south of Lebonah."

20 Therefore they commanded the two hundred remaining Benjamites who needed a wife, "Go, hide in the vineyards

21 "and watch. And, when you see the daughters of Shiloh come out to join in dances, then every man of

<p>the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.</p>	<p>you is to come from the vineyards and catch a wife from the daughters of Shiloh and take her back with you to the land of Benjamin.</p> <p>22 “And it shall be when their parents or their relatives come to us to complain, we will say to them, ‘Be favorable to the Benjamites, because we were only able to get wives for four hundred of them through our war with Jabesh-gilead. And since you did not give the two hundred daughters of Shiloh willingly to the Benjamites, you did not break an oath not to give any of your daughters to a Benjamite.’”</p> <p>23 And the two hundred remaining Benjamites caught two hundred wives for themselves of those who danced. And the Benjamites returned to their inheritances and repaired their cities and lived in them.</p> <p>24 And the Israelites departed from there at that time, all people to their tribe and their family; they went out from there to their inheritance.</p> <p>25 In those days there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.</p>
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¹ 1:1 The word “LORD” appears in this verse in this book in the 1769 KJV for the first time. Whenever “LORD” or “GOD” appears in small caps in the 1769 KJV, it is a translation of “LORD God” or “Yahweh” or “Jehovah,” the tribal God of the Israelites. This limited, faulty concept of God was a figment of the mortal mind of the Israelites and was utilized to promote only the welfare of the Israelites against the welfare of other ethnic groups. The writer of this book sincerely believed in the LORD God of Israel (Yahweh).

² 1:19 At the time referred to, the Canaanites had entered the Iron Age; the Israelites were still in the Bronze Age. Consequently, the Canaanites had chariots of iron with which they could defeat the Israelites in battles on the plains.

¹:21 Israel has been extensively excavated. The archaeological record is much more consistent with the Book of Judges than with the Book of Joshua; so mainstream archaeologists consider Judges to be much more historical than Joshua. The Book of Judges has the Israelites mostly settling among the Canaanites, rather than destroying them and displacing them.

⁴ 2:3 This verse in the 1769 KJV criticizes the worship of the so-called Deities of the nations surrounding the nation of Israel.

⁵ 2:16 The chiefs were mostly charismatic military leaders.

⁶ 2:17 This verse in the 1769 KJV criticizes the Israelites for worshipping Deities in addition to the LORD God (Yahweh.)

2:22 In the book of Joshua, Yahweh’s will supposedly is that the Canaanites be destroyed to purify the land for the Israelites. On the other hand, in Judges, Yahweh’s will supposedly is that the Canaanites be left in the land to test the loyalty of the Israelites to Yahweh.

⁸ 5:4 This verse in the 1769 KJV implies that Yahweh is the Deity of the whole earth.

⁹ 6:17-21 These verses in the 1769 KJV portray Gideon as wanting confirmation to the material senses that Gideon would be victorious over the Midianites as promised by Yahweh.

¹⁰ 6:22 Gideon, like many Hebrews at that time, thought of Yahweh as being anthropomorphic and having a face like a human being, and believed that if anyone saw the face of Yahweh, that person would be punished with death.

¹¹ 6:36-40 When Christian Scientists are faced with a discordant human situation, whether physical or otherwise, and they do metaphysical work correctly, they are rewarded by the removal of the discord. This is the sign which God, Spirit, has chosen to give them to show the truthfulness of their prayers.

In Matt. 12:39, Jesus said, "A faithless and evil generation seeks after a sign." Gideon is guilty of this. Gideon received Yahweh's promise, but Gideon wanted a confirmation to his physical senses that Yahweh would keep His promise. Once Gideon received physical confirmation, he was not satisfied, but wanted a second confirmation appreciable to his physical senses. He lacked the faith to wait patiently for Yahweh to fulfill His promise. According to the story in the Bible, Yahweh graciously gave Gideon two confirmations to his physical senses, thus allowing Gideon to break the commandment to not test God. Since it does not seem to be in God's nature to supply miracles demanded by mortals to prove the existence and power of God, Spirit, to material sense, the truthfulness of this story seems questionable. When Jesus was asked by unbelievers to perform a miracle for them, he never did so in any of the Gospels.

Material sense wants desperately to understand Spirit, but it will never do so despite how hard it tries.

¹² 7:2 This story expresses the belief that Yahweh was actively engaged in fighting Israel's enemies.

¹³ 7:7 There seems to have been nothing special about those who drank from their cupped hands versus those who drank directly from the water. It was just a way that God could whittle down the number of Israelites as much as desirable.

¹⁴ 11:35 Whether Jephthah is a real person or just a character in a story, he is in bondage to the belief that, if he has made a vow to Yahweh, no matter how foolish the vow, he is bound by the vow because Yahweh is too arbitrary, too unforgiving, too unkind and too unloving to release him from it. In other words, Jephthah is in bondage to his erroneous, negative concept of God.

¹⁵ 11:36 Although the nameless daughter of Jephthah is depicted as being very noble and selfless, she, like her father, is in bondage to the same erroneous, negative concept of Deity as arbitrary, unforgiving, unkind and unloving.

¹⁶ 13:2 The name of the woman is not given. Only the name of her husband is given. In those days women were considered to have little value and had no rights of their own: they had rights only through their fathers, or through their husbands if they were married.

¹⁷ 17:10 According to 17:10, Micah had made his son a priest.

¹⁸ 19:28 This verse portrays the Levite who owned the concubine as being heartless.

¹⁹ 21:1 As thousands of Benjamite men were killed in battle, there was a huge surplus of Benjamite women desiring marriage. Consequently, this section doesn't make much sense.

²⁰ 21:16 Why were all the women of Benjamin destroyed? What had they done wrong? This detail appears to have been put into the story to explain why virgins outside the tribe of Benjamin had to be found to provide wives for the sons of Benjamin who had fled to the rock at Rimmon.