

## {07} Judges

### Chapter 1

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

(2) And the LORD {Jehovah} said, **Judah shall go up: Indeed, I have delivered the land into his hand.**

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

(4) And Judah went up; and the LORD {Jehovah} delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they killed in Bezek ten thousand men.

(5) And they found Adonibezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they killed 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, Seventy kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered *their food* under my table: as I have done, so God has repaid 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 struck 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, who lived in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley.

(10) And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before *was* Kirjatharba:)<sup>a</sup> and they killed Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.

(11) And from there he went against those who lived in Debir: and the name of Debir before *was* Kirjathsepher:

(12) And Caleb said, He who strikes Kirjathsepher, and takes it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter for a wife.

(13) And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter for a 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* donkey; and Caleb said to her, What do you want?

(15) And she said to him, Give me a blessing: because you have given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.<sup>b</sup>

(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 *lies* in the south of Arad; and they went and lived among the people.

1:10a - Kirjatharba - Hebron - Gen. 23:2 - place where Sarah died - See Josh. 14:15; 20:7; 21:12. In Josh. 20:7 we are told that Hebron was a city of refuge  
1:12-15b - See Josh. 15:15-19

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(17) And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they killed the Canaanites who lived in Zephath, and completely destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah.

(18) Also Judah took Gaza with its coast, and Askelon with its coast, and Ekron with its coast.

(19) And the LORD {Jehovah} was with Judah; and he drove out *those who lived in* the mountain; but could not drive out those who lived in the valley, because they had chariots of iron.

(20) And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled from there the three sons of Anak.

(21) And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites live with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

(22) And the house of Joseph, also went up against Bethel: and the LORD {Jehovah} *was* with them.

(23) And the house of Joseph sent to spy out Bethel. (Now the name of the city before *was* Luz.)<sup>c</sup>

(24) And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said to him, We ask you to show us the entrance into the city, and we will show you mercy.

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

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

(27) Neither did Manasseh drive out *those who lived in* Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor those who lived in Dor and her towns, nor those who lived in Ibleam and her towns, nor those who lived in Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would live in that land.

(28) And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put taxes upon the Canaanites, and did not completely drive them out.

(29) Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer; but the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

(30) Neither did Zebulun drive out those who lived in Kitron, nor those who lived in Nahalol; but the Canaanites live among them, and became tax payers.

(31) Neither did Asher drive out those who lived in Accho, nor those who live in Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob:

(32) But the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, those who live in the land: because they did not drive them out.

(33) Neither did Naphtali drive out those who lived in Bethshemesh, nor those who lived in Bethanath; but he lived among the Canaanites, those who lived in the land: nevertheless those who lived in Bethshemesh and of Bethanath became tax payers to them.

1:23c – Gen. 28:19

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(34) And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: because they would not allow them to come down to the valley:

(35) But the Amorites would live in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tax payers.

(36) And the coast of the Amorites *was* from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

### Chapter 2

(1) And an Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} came up from Gilgal {rolled away}<sup>a</sup> to Bochim {weeping}, and said, **I caused you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you to the land which I swore to your forefathers; and I said, I will never break My covenant with you.**

(2) **And you shall make no treaty with those who live in this land; you shall throw down their altars: but you have not obeyed My voice: why have you done this?**

(3) **Therefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides,<sup>b</sup> and their gods shall be a snare to you.**

(4) And it came to pass, when the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

(5) And they called the name of that place Bochim {weeping}:<sup>c</sup> and they sacrificed there to the LORD {Jehovah}.

(6) And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel each went to his inheritance to possess the land.

(7) And the people served the LORD {Jehovah} all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who out lived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD {Jehovah}, that He did for Israel.

(8) And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD {Jehovah}, died, *being* one hundred ten years old.<sup>d</sup>

(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 to their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, who did not know the LORD {Jehovah}, nor the works which He had done for Israel.

(11) And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD {Jehovah}, and served Baalim:

(12) And they forsook the LORD {Jehovah} God of their fathers, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked the LORD {Jehovah} to anger.

(13) And they forsook the LORD {Jehovah}, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

2:1a – Gilgal {rolled away} – Josh. 5:9

2:3b – thorns in sides – Num. 33:55

2:5c - Bochim {בכים} - weepers - or a place of weeping

2:8d – Josh. 24:29

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(14) And the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was hot against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers who spoiled them, and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

(15) Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD {Jehovah} was against them for evil, as the LORD {Jehovah} had said, and as the LORD {Jehovah} had sworn to them: and they were greatly distressed.

(16) Nevertheless the LORD {Jehovah} raised up judges, who delivered them out of the hand of those who spoiled them.

(17) And yet they would not listen to their judges, but they went prostituting after other gods, and bowed themselves to them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, and did not obey the commandments of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(18) And when the LORD {Jehovah} raised up for them judges, then the LORD {Jehovah} was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: because it repented the LORD {Jehovah} because of their groanings because of those who oppressed them and troubled them.

(19) And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down to them; they did not cease from their own deeds, nor from their stubborn ways.

(20) And the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was hot against Israel; and He said, **Because this people has sinned against My covenant which I commanded their forefathers, and have not listened to My voice;**

(21) **I will also not from this time forward drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:**

(22) **That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD {Jehovah} to walk in it, as their forefathers kept it, or not.**

(23) Therefore the LORD {Jehovah} left those nations, without quickly driving them out; neither did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

### Chapter 3

(1) Now these *are* the nations which the LORD {Jehovah} left, to prove Israel by them, *even as many of Israel* as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

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(2) Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least those who knew nothing of it before;

(3) *Namely*, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon to the entrance of Hamath.

(4) And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would listen to the commandments of the LORD {Jehovah}, which He commanded their forefathers by the hand of Moses.

(5) And the children of Israel lived 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 {Jehovah}, and forgot the LORD {Jehovah} their God, and served Baalim and the groves.<sup>a</sup>

(8) Therefore the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia {2573 A.H./C- 1469 B.C.}:<sup>b\*</sup> and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years.

(9) And when the children of Israel cried to the LORD {Jehovah}, the LORD {Jehovah} 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 {Jehovah} came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD {Jehovah} delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand {2581 A.H./C-1461 B.C.}; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.

(11) And the land had rest forty years.<sup>\*\*</sup> And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

3:7a - groves – gardens created for the purpose of worshipping idols

3:8b - Mesopotamia oppression begins 2573A.H./C- 1469 B.C., 20 years after Israel crossed over the Jordan River; 14 years after Caleb was given his allotment of land; ends 8 years later 2581 A.H./C- 1461 B.C. - see Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History

20 years after Israel crossed over the Jordan River

[\*2573 A.H./C- 1469 B.C.]

Mesopotamia oppression ends; Israel has peace 40 years

[\*\*2581 A.H./C-1461 B.C.]

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

(13) And he gathered to himself the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and struck Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

(14) So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years {2621 A.H./C-1421 B.C}.<sup>c\*</sup>

(15) But when the children of Israel cried to the LORD {Jehovah}, the LORD {Jehovah} raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man: and by him the children of Israel sent a present to Eglon the king of Moab.

(16) But Ehud made for himself a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length {about 18 in.; 0.67 m.};<sup>d</sup> and he tied it under his clothes 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 he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people who bore the present.

(19) But he himself turned again from the quarries that *were* by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand to you, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him.

(20) And Ehud came to him; and he was sitting in a summer parlor, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God to you. 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 shaft 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 parlor upon him, and locked them.

(24) When he had gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that the doors of the parlor *were* locked, they said, Surely he covers his feet in his summer chamber {to take a nap}.

(25) And they waited until they were ashamed: and, since he did not open the doors of the parlor; they took a key, and opened *them*: and, saw, their lord *had* fallen down dead on the earth.

3:14c - Moab oppression begins - 2621 A.H./C- 1421 B.C. then ends 18 years later  
2639 A.H./C- 1403 B.C.

3:16d – cubit – 1.5 feet; 0.46 meters – see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

Moab oppression begins  
[\*2621 A.H./C-1421 B.C]

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(26) And Ehud escaped while they waited, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped to Seirath.

(27) And it came to pass, when he had 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 to them, Follow after me: because the LORD {Jehovah} has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords {crossings} of the Jordan River toward Moab, and did not allow a man to pass over.

(29) And they killed of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all strong, and all men of valor; and not a man escaped.

(30) So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel {2639 A.H./C-1403 B.C.}.<sup>e</sup> And the land had rest eighty years.<sup>e</sup>

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

### Chapter 4

(1) And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD {Jehovah}, when Ehud was dead.

(2) And the LORD {Jehovah} sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan {2719 A.H./C- 1323 B.C.},<sup>\*\*</sup> who reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host *was* Sisera, who lived in Harosheth of the Gentiles {non-Jews; nations}.

(3) And the children of Israel cried to the LORD {Jehovah}: because 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 judged Israel at that time.

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

(6) And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said to him, Has not the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel commanded, *saying, Go and draw towards mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?*

3:30e - Ehud ended Moab's oppression in 2639 A.H./C- 1403 B.C. and Israel had 80 years of peace which ended in 2719 A.H./C- 1323 B.C. with the Canaanite oppression. See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

Moab oppression ends after 18 years; Israel begins 80 years of peace

[\*2639 A.H./C-1403 B.C.]

Canaanite oppression begins

[\*\*2719 A.H./C-1323 B.C.]

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

(8) And Barak said to her, If you will go with me, then I will go: but if you will not go with me, *then* I will not go.

(9) And she said, I will surely go with you: nevertheless the journey that you take shall not be for your honor; because the LORD {Jehovah} 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, *who was* of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent in the plain of Zaanaim, which *is* by Kedesh.

(12) And they showed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to mount Tabor.

(13) And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, *even* nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who *were* with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles {non-Jews; nations} to the river of Kishon.

(14) And Deborah said to Barak, Get up; because this *is* the day in which the LORD {Jehovah} has delivered Sisera into your hand: has not the LORD {Jehovah} gone out before you? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

(15) And the LORD {Jehovah} struck Sisera, and all *his* chariots, and all *his* host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera got off *his* chariot, and fled away on his feet.

(16) But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, to 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) However Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: because *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, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; do not be afraid. And when he had turned in to her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.

(19) And he said to her, I ask you to give me a little water to drink; because I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk,<sup>a</sup> and gave it to him to drink, and covered him.

4:19a – she gave him milk instead of water – the warm milk caused him to fall asleep  
– Jg. 5:25

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(20) Again he said to her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man comes and inquires of you, and say, Is there any man here? that you shall say, No.

(21) Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him, and drove the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: because he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

(22) And 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*, 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 {2739 A.H./C-1303 B.C.}.\*

(24) And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

### Chapter 5

(1) Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying,

(2) Praise the LORD {Jehovah} for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

(3) Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; I, *Even* I, will sing to the LORD {Jehovah}; I will sing *praise* to the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel.

(4) LORD {Jehovah}, when You went out Of Seir, when You marched 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 {Jehovah}, *even* that Sinai from before the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel.

(6) In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travelers walked through highways.

(7) *Those who lived in* the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

(8) They chose new gods; then there *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, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD {Jehovah}.

(10) Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit in judgment, and walk by the way.

Canaanite oppression ends; Israel begins 40 years of peace  
[\*2739 A.H./C-1303 B.C.]

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- (11) *Those who are delivered* from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there they shall rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD {Jehovah}, *even* the righteous acts *towards those who live in* His villages in Israel: then the people of the LORD {Jehovah} shall go down to the gates.
- (12) Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, sing a song: arise, Barak, and lead your captivity captive, you son of Abinoam.
- (13) Then He caused those who remained to rule over the nobles among the people: the LORD {Jehovah} caused me to rule over the mighty.
- (14) Out of Ephraim *there was* a root of them against Amalek; after you, Benjamin, among your people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun those who 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 do you stay among the sheep flocks, to hear the bleating of the flocks? Because the divisions of Reuben *there were* great searching of heart.
- (17) Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan River: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and stayed in his havens.

- (18) Zebulun and Naphtali *were* a people *that* jeopardized their lives to 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, you have trodden down strength.
- (22) Then the horse hoofs were broken because of the prancing, the prancing of their mighty ones.
- (23) The Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said, **Curse Meroz, curse bitterly those who live in it; because they did not come to the aid of the LORD {Jehovah}, to the aid of the LORD {Jehovah} 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;<sup>a</sup> she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.
- (26) She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workman's hammer; and with the hammer she struck Sisera, she struck off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

5:25a – see Jg. 4:19

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(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 do the wheels of his chariots delay in returning?

(29) Her wise ladies answered her, yes, she returned answer to herself,

(30) Have they not sped? have they *not* divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of various colors, a prey of various colors of needlework, of various colors of needlework on both sides, *meet* for the necks of *those who take* the spoil?

(31) So let all Your enemies perish, O LORD {Jehovah}: but *let* those who love Him *be* as the sun when it goes forth in its might.

And the land had rest forty years.

### Chapter 6

(1) And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD {Jehovah}: and the LORD {Jehovah} delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years {2779 A.H./C-1263 B.C.}.<sup>a\*</sup>

(2) And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: *and* because of the Midianites the children of Israel made for themselves 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, until you come to Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor donkey.

(5) Because they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; *because* 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 to the LORD {Jehovah}.

(7) And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried to the LORD {Jehovah} because of the Midianites,

6:1a - the children of Israel had peace for 40 years then the Midianites conquered them in 2779 A.H./C- 1263 B.C. and reigned over them for seven years until 2786 A.H./C- 1256 B.C. when the Lord called Gideon  
See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)  
The Midianites were descendants of Abraham through his wife Keturah {Gen. 25:1-2}

Midianite oppression begins; 226 years since Israel crossed over the Jordan River  
[\*2779 A.H./C-1263 B.C.]

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(8) That the LORD {Jehovah} sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, This is what the LORD {Jehovah} God 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 hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land;

(10) And I said to you, I *am* the LORD {Jehovah} your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live: but you have not obeyed My voice.

(11) And there came an Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *belonged* to Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the wine press, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

(12) And the angel of the LORD {Jehovah} appeared to him, and said to him, The LORD {Jehovah} is with you, you mighty man of valor.

(13) And Gideon said to him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD {Jehovah} is with us, why then has all this come upon us? and where *are* all His miracles which our forefathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD {Jehovah} bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD {Jehovah} has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

(14) And the LORD {Jehovah} looked upon him, and said, Go in this your strength, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have I not sent you?

(15) And he said to Him, Oh my Lord, with what shall I save Israel? Indeed, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

(16) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.

(17) And he said to Him, If I have now found grace in Your sight, then show me a sign that You are talking with me.

(18) I ask you, Do not depart from here, until I return to You, and bring forth my present, and set *it* before You. And He said, I will wait until you return.

(19) And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid {young goat}, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour {about 6 gal.; 22.2 L.}:<sup>b</sup> the meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought *it* out to Him under the oak, and presented *it*.

(20) And the Angel of God said to him, Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and lay *them* upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

6:19b – ephah – 24 quarts; 6 gallons; 22.2 liters – see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

## {07} Judges

(21) Then the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} put forth the end of the staff that *was* in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} departed out of his sight.

(22) And when Gideon perceived that He *was* an Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}! because I have seen an Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} face to face.

(23) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, **Peace be to you; do not be afraid: you shall not die.**

(24) Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD {Jehovah}, and called it Jehovah-shalom {Jehovah is peace}:<sup>c</sup> to this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

(25) And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, **Take your father's young bull, even the second bull of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the grove that is by it:**

(26) **And build an altar to the LORD {Jehovah} your God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bull, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which you shall cut down.**

(27) Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD {Jehovah} had said to 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, indeed, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that *was* by it, and the second bull was offered upon the altar *that was* built.

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

(30) Then the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out your son, that he may die: because he has cast down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the grove that *was* by it.

(31) And Joash said to all who stood against him, Will you plead for Baal? will you save him? he who will plead for him, let him be put to death while *it is yet* morning: if he *is* a god, let him plead for himself, because *one* has cast down his altar.

(32) Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal {let Baal contend},<sup>d</sup> saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he has thrown down his altar.

6:24c - Jehovah-shalom {יהוה שלום} - Jehovah is peace

6:32d - Jerubbaal {ירבעל} - let Baal contend

## {07} Judges

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

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

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

(36) And Gideon said to God, If You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said,

(37) Look, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew is on the fleece only, and *it is* dry upon all the earth *beside it*, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.

(38) And it was so: because he rose up early in the morning and thrust the fleece together, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

(39) And Gideon said to God, Do not let Your anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: I ask You, let me prove, 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: because it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

### Chapter 7

(1) Then Jerubbaal {let Baal contend},<sup>a</sup> who is Gideon, and all the people who *were* with him, rose up early, and made camp beside the well of Harod: so that the host {army} of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

(2) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to Gideon, *The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel boast themselves against Me, saying, my own hand has saved me.*

(3) *Now therefore go, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty-two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.*

(4) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to Gideon, *The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will try them for you there: and it shall be, that of whom I say to you, This shall go with you, the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, This shall not go with you, the same shall not go.*

(5) So he brought the people down to the water: and the LORD {Jehovah} said to Gideon, *Everyone who laps of the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, him you shall set by himself; likewise every one that bows down upon his knees to drink {putting his hand to his mouth}.*<sup>b</sup>

7:1a – Jerubbaal {let Baal contend} – Gideon - Judges 6:32

7:5b – those who did not drink as a dog, but who put their hands to their mouth

– see Jg. 7:6

**{07} Judges**

(6) And the number of those who 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 {Jehovah} said to Gideon, *By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand: and let all the other people return to their own place.*

(8) So the people took food in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all *the rest of* Israel to his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host {army} of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

(9) And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, *Arise, get yourself down to the host; because I have delivered it into your hand.*

(10) *But if you fear to go down, go with Phurah your servant down to the host {army}:*

(11) *And you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down to the host {army}.* Then he went down with Phurah his servant to the outside of the armed men who *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 had come, *there was* a man who told a dream to his fellow soldier, and said, Listen, I dreamed a dream, and, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host {army} of Midian, and came to a tent, and struck it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

(14) And his fellow answered and said, *This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: because* into his hand God has delivered Midian, and all the host.

(15) And it was that, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and its interpretation, that he worshiped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, *Arise; because the LORD {Jehovah} has 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.

## {07} Judges

(17) And he said to them, Look at me, and do as I do: and, see, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall you also do.

(18) When I blow with a trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD {Jehovah}, and of Gideon.

(19) So Gideon, and the hundred men who *were* with him, came to the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch {just after 10 p.m.};<sup>c</sup> and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands.

(20) And the three companies blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *with*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD {Jehovah}, and of Gideon.

(21) And every man stood in his place all around the camp: and all the host {army} ran, and cried, and fled.

(22) And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD {Jehovah} set each 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, to 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 to Bethbarah and the Jordan River. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters to Bethbarah and the Jordan River.

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

### Chapter 8

(1) And the men of Ephraim said to him, Why have you served us this way, that you did not call us, when you went to fight with the Midianites? And they chided with him sharply.

(2) And he said to them, What have I done now in comparison to you? *Is* not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?

7:19c - the beginning of the middle watch - the Jews and most countries of that area divided the night up into three watches of 4 hours each - the Romans later used four watches of 3 hours each. The beginning of the middle watch would be sometime just after 10 p.m. -See Mat. 14:25

**{07} Judges**

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

(4) And Gideon came to the Jordan River, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men who *were* with him, faint, yet pursuing *them*.

(5) And he said to the men of Succoth, I ask you to give loaves of bread to the people who follow me; because they *are* faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

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

(7) And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD {Jehovah} has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.

(8) And he went up from there to Penuel, and spoke to them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.

(9) And he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

(10) Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand *men*, all who were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: because there fell one hundred twenty thousand men who drew sword.

(11) And Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and struck the host: because 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 destroyed all the host.

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

(14) And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him: and he described to him the princes of Succoth, and its elders, *even* threescore and seventeen {seventy-seven} men.

(15) And he came to the men of Succoth, and said, Indeed Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom you upbraided me, saying, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who *are* weary?

(16) And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taunted the men of Succoth.

**{07} Judges**

(17) And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and killed the men of the city.  
(18) Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men *were they* whom you killed at Tabor? And they answered, As you *are*, so *were* they; each one resembled the children of a king.  
(19) And he said, They *were* my brothers, *even* the sons of my mother: *as* the LORD {Jehovah} lives, if you had saved them alive, I would not kill you.  
(20) And he said to Jether his firstborn, Get up, *and* kill them. But the youth did not draw his sword: because he was afraid, because he *was* still a youth.  
(21) Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, You rise, and fall upon us: because 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 men of Israel said to Gideon, Rule over us, both you, and your son, and your son's son also: because you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.  
(23) And Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD {Jehovah} shall rule over you.

(24) And Gideon said to them, I would desire a request of you, that every man of you would give to me the earrings of his prey. (Because they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites.)  
(25) And they answered, We will willingly give *them*. And they spread a cloth, and every man cast the earrings of his prey.  
(26) And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred *shekels* of gold {about 42.5 lbs.; 19.4 kg.};<sup>a</sup> beside ornaments, and collars, and purple clothing that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.  
(27) And Gideon made an ephod {priestly robe} of it, and put it in his city, *even* in Ophrah: and all Israel went there prostituting after it: which became a snare to Gideon, and to his house.  
(28) So Midian was subdued before the children of Israel {2786 A.H./C-1256 B.C.},\* so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was at peace forty years in the days of Gideon.  
(29) And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house.

8:26a – shekel – about 0.4 ounces; 11.4 grams – see Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures

Midianite rule ends; Israel begins 40 years of peace  
[\*2786 A.H./C-1256 B.C.]

## {07} Judges

(30) And Gideon had threescore and ten {seventy} sons fathered by him: because he had many wives.

(31) And his concubine that *was* in Shechem, she also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech {my father is a king}.<sup>b</sup>

(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 prostituting after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god.

(34) And the children of Israel did not remember the LORD {Jehovah} their God, Who had delivered them out of 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 goodness which he had shown to Israel.

### Chapter 9

(1) And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal {Gideon}<sup>a</sup> went to Shechem to his mother's brothers, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

(2) I ask you to speak, 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 {seventy} 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 brothers spoke of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; because they said, He *is* our brother.

(4) And they gave him threescore and ten *pieces* of silver {seventy} out of the house of Baalberith, with which Abimelech hired vain and light persons, who followed him.

(5) And he went to his father's house at Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, *being* threescore and ten persons {seventy}, upon one stone: nevertheless yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; because 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 to them, Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you.

8:31b - Abimelech {אבימלך} - my father is a king

9:1a - Abimelech was Gideon's son by one of his concubines {Jg. 8:31} - a concubine was a female slave who was used for sex - she did not have the same status as a wife, but her needs were provided for by her master and that was at least better than being a prostitute who was used by many men who didn't provide for her needs. Jerubbaal {Gideon} - Jg. 6:32

**{07} Judges**

(8) The trees went forth *on a time* 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 leave my fatness, with which by me they honor God and man, 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 vine, Come, *and* reign over us.

(13) And the vine said to them, Should I leave my wine, which cheers God and man, 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 in truth you 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 you have done truly and sincerely, in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him according to the deserving of his hands;

(17) (Because my father fought for you, and risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:

(18) And you have risen up against my father's house this day, and have killed his sons, threescore and ten persons {seventy}, 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 you then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, *then* rejoice 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 lived there, for fear of Abimelech his brother {2826 A.H./C-1216 B.C.}.\*

(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 {seventy} sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, who killed them; and upon the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

Abimelech usurps judgeship and begins reign of 3 years  
[\*2826 A.H./C-1216 B.C.] - see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

**{07} Judges**

(25) And the men of Shechem set ambushers for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all who came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.

(26) And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

(27) And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trampled *the grapes*, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

(28) And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? *is he* not the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: because 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 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 privately, saying, Look, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and, see, they fortify the city against you.

(32) Now therefore go up by night, you and the people who *are* with you, and lie in wait in the field:

(33) And it shall be, *that* in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, you shall rise early, and set upon the city: and, indeed, *when* he and the people that *are* with him come out against you, then you may do to them as you shall find occasion.

(34) And Abimelech rose up, and all the people who *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 entrance of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people who *were* with him, from lying in wait.

(36) And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Look, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said to him, You see the shadow of the mountains as *if they were* men.

(37) And Gaal spoke 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 Zebul said to him, Where is now your mouth, with which you said, Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? *is not this* the people that you have despised? I urge you not to go out and fight with them.

(39) And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

(40) And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown *and* wounded, *even* to the entrance of the gate.

**{07} Judges**

(41) And Abimelech lived at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brothers, that they should not live in Shechem.

(42) And it came to pass on the morning 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, the people *had* come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and struck them.

(44) And Abimelech, and the company that *was* with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city: and the two *other* companies ran upon all *the people* that *were* in the fields, and killed them.

(45) And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and killed the people that *were* in it, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.<sup>b</sup>

(46) And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard *that*, they entered into a stronghold {fortified section} 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 got up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people who *were* with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a branch from the trees, and took it, and laid *it* on his shoulder, and said to the people who *were* with him, What you have seen me do, go quickly, *and* do as I *have done*.

(49) And all the people likewise cut down every man his branch, and followed Abimelech, and put *them* against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.

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

(51) But there was a strong tower within the city, and there all the men and women fled, and all those of the city, and closed *it* upon themselves, and got themselves up to the top of the tower.

(52) And Abimelech came to the tower, and fought against it, and came near to 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, in order to crush his skull.

9:45b – sowed it with salt – so that nothing could grow there

## {07} Judges

(54) Then he called quickly to the young man his armor bearer, and said to him, Draw your sword, and kill me, that men may not say of me, A woman killed 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 to their own places.

(56) So God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father, in killing his seventy brothers:

(57) And all the evil of the men of Shechem God repaid upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal {Gideon}.<sup>c</sup>

### Chapter 10

(1) And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar {2829 A.H./C- 1213 B.C.};<sup>a\*</sup> and he lived in Shamir in mount Ephraim.

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

(3) And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite {2852 A.H./C- 1190 B.C.},<sup>\*\*</sup> and judged Israel twenty-two years.<sup>b</sup>

(4) And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty donkey colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havothjair {villages of Jair}<sup>c</sup> to 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 {Jehovah}, 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 {Jehovah}, and did not serve Him.

(7) And the anger of the LORD {Jehovah} was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon {2874 A.H./C-1168 B.C.}.

(8) And that year they troubled and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that *were* on the other side {east} of the Jordan River in the land of the Amorites, which *is* in Gilead.

9:57c – Jg. 9:7-20

10:1a - after Abimelech's 3 year reign, Tola's judgeship began in 2829 A.H./C- 1213 B.C. and lasted 23 years

10:3b - after Tola, Jair's judgeship began in 2852 A.H./C- 1190 B.C.

10:4c - Havothjair {הוֹת יַאִיר} - villages of Jair

Tola begins reign as judge for 23 years

[\*2829 A.H./C-1213 B.C.]

Jair begins reign as judge for 22 years

[\*\*2852 A.H./C-1190 B.C.] – see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

## {07} Judges

(9) Furthermore the children of Ammon passed over the Jordan River to also fight against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was greatly distressed.

(10) And the children of Israel cried to the LORD {Jehovah}, saying, We have sinned against You, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim.

(11) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to the children of Israel, *Did I not 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, oppressed you; and you cried to Me, and I delivered you out of their hand.*

(13) *Yet you have forsaken Me, and served other gods: therefore I will deliver you no more.*

(14) *Go and cry to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.*

(15) And the children of Israel said to the LORD {Jehovah}, We have sinned: do to us whatever seems good to You; only we ask You to deliver us this day.

(16) And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD {Jehovah}: and His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

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

(18) And the people *and* princes of Gilead said one to another, What man *is he* that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all those who live in Gilead.

### Chapter 11

(1) Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, and he *was* the son of a prostitute: and Gilead fathered Jephthah.

(2) And Gilead's wife bore him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said to him, You shall not inherit in our father's house; because you *are* the son of a prostitute.

(3) Then Jephthah fled from his brothers, and lived in the land of Tob: and vain men were gathered 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 to Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.

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

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(8) And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to you now, that you may go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all those who live in Gilead.

(9) And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, If you bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD {Jehovah} delivers them before me, shall I be your head?

(10) And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, The LORD {Jehovah} is witness between us, if we do not so according to your words.

(11) Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD {Jehovah} in Mizpeh.

(12) And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What have you to do with me, that you have come against me to fight in my land?

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

(14) And Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the children of Ammon:

(15) And said to him, This is what Jephthah says, Israel did not take 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 to the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh;

(17) Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, I ask you to let me pass through your land: but the king of Edom would not listen *to it*. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab: but he would not *consent*: and Israel stayed in Kadesh.

(18) Then they went along through the wilderness, and around the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the other side of Arnon, but did not come within the border of Moab: because Arnon *was* the border of Moab.

(19) And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, We ask you to let us pass through your land into my place.

(20) But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and encamped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

(21) And the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, those who lived in that country.

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(22) And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even to the Jabbok River, and from the wilderness even to the Jordan River.

(23) So now the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel, and should you possess it?

(24) Will you not possess that which Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whomever the LORD {Jehovah} our God shall drive out from before us, them we will possess.

(25) And now *are* you anything 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 lived in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that *are* along by the coasts of Arnon, three hundred years?<sup>a</sup> why therefore 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: the LORD {Jehovah} the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

(28) However the king of the children of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

(29) Then the Spirit of the LORD {Jehovah} came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over *to* the children of Ammon.

(30) And Jephthah vowed a vow to the LORD {Jehovah}, and said, If You shall without fail deliver the children of Ammon into my hands,

(31) Then it shall be, that whatever comes 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 {Jehovah's}, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

(32) So Jephthah passed over to the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD {Jehovah} delivered them into his hands.

(33) And he struck them from Aroer, even to Minnith, *even* twenty cities, and to the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. And so the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

(34) And Jephthah came to Mizpeh to his house, and, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances: and she *was his* only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

11:26a - three hundred years - Edom refused passage to Israel in 2552 A.H./C-1490 B.C. - Jephthah begins his judgeship in 2892 A.H./C-1150 B.C. - 340 years later - the 300 years is an approximation by Jephthah – see Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History

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(35) And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! you have brought me very low, and you are one of those who trouble me: because I have opened my mouth to the LORD {Jehovah}, and I cannot go back.

(36) And she said to him, My father, *if* you have opened your mouth to the LORD {Jehovah}, do to me according to that which has proceeded out of your mouth; since the LORD {Jehovah} has taken vengeance for you of your enemies, *even* of the children of Ammon.

(37) And she said to 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 mourn my virginity, I and my friends.

(38) And he said, Go. And he sent her away *for* two months: and she went with her companions, and mourned her virginity upon the mountains.

(39) And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned to 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 mourn the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

**Chapter 12**

(1) And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said to Jephthah, Why have you passed over to fight against the children of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? we will burn your house upon you with fire.

(2) And Jephthah said to them, I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.

(3) And when I saw that you did not deliver *me*, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD {Jehovah} delivered them into my hand: why then have you come up to 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 struck Ephraim, because they said, You Gileadites *are* fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, *and* among the Manassites.

(5) And the Gileadites took the passages of the Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was *so*, that when those Ephraimites who had escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said to him, *Are* you an Ephraimite? If he said, No;

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(6) Then they said to him, Say Shibboleth:<sup>a</sup> and he said Sibboleth: because he could not pronounce *it* right. Then they took him, and killed him at the passages of the Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty-two thousand.

(7) And Jephthah judged Israel six years {2892 A.H./C-1150 B.C.}.<sup>a\*</sup> Then Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in *one of* the cities of Gilead {2898 A.H./C- 1144 B.C.}.

(8) And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

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

(10) Then Ibzan died, and was buried at Bethlehem {2905 A.H./C-1137 B.C.}.<sup>\*\*</sup>

(11) And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years.

(12) And Elon the Zebulonite died {2915 A.H./C-1127 B.C.},<sup>\*\*\*</sup> and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

(13) And after him Abdon the son of Hillel,<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> a Pirathonite, judged Israel.

(14) And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, who rode on threescore and ten {seventy} donkey colts: and he judged Israel eight years.

(15) And Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died {2923 A.H./C-1119 B.C.},<sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup> and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mount of the Amalekites.

### Chapter 13

(1) And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD {Jehovah}; and the LORD {Jehovah} 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 did not bare children.

12:7a - Jephthah begins his judgeship in 2892 A.H./C-1150 B.C. and ends after six years in 2898 A.H./C- 1144 B.C. - Izban's judgeship began the same year that Jephthah's ends.

Jephthah's judgeship begins then ends 6 years later

[\*2892 A.H./C-1150 B.C.]

Ibzan's judgeship begins then ends 7 years later

[\*\*2898 A.H./C- 1144 B.C.]

Elon's judgeship begins then ends 10 years later

[\*\*\*2905 A.H./C-1137 B.C.] – see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

Abdon's judgeship begins then ends 8 years later

[\*\*\*\*2915 A.H./C-1127 B.C.]

Philistine oppression begins[\*\*\*\*\*2923 A.H./C-1119 B.C.] – see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

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(3) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} appeared to the woman, and said to her, See now, you *are* barren, and do not bear children: but you shall conceive, and bear a son.

(4) Now therefore I ask you to beware, and do not drink wine nor strong drink, and do not eat any unclean *thing*:

(5) Because, look, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: because the child shall be a Nazarite to 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 to me, and His appearance *was* like the appearance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I did not ask Him where He *was from*, neither did He tell me His Name:

(7) But He said to me, Indeed, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean *thing*: because the child shall be a Nazarite<sup>a</sup> to God from the womb to the day of his death.

(8) Then Manoah called upon the LORD {Jehovah}, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God Whom You sent come again to us, and teach us what we shall do to the child that shall be born.

(9) And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the Angel of God came again to 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 told her husband, and said to him, See, the man has appeared to me, Who came to me the *other* day.

(11) And Manoah arose, and followed after his wife, and came to the Man, and said to Him, *Are You* the Man Who spoke to the woman? And He said, *I am*.

(12) And Manoah said, Now let Your words come to pass. How shall we train the child, and *how* shall we bring him up?

(13) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said to Manoah, *Of all that I said to the woman let her beware*.

(14) *She may not eat of anything that comes 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 to the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, I ask You, let us detain You, until we shall have made ready a kid {goat} for You.

(16) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said to Manoah, *Though you detain Me, I will not eat of your bread: and if you will offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD {Jehovah}*. Because Manoah did not know that He *was* an Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}.

13:7a – Nazarite – Num. 6:2-21

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(17) And Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, What is Your Name, that when Your sayings come to pass we may do You honor?

(18) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, **Why do you ask My Name, since it is secret?**

(19) So Manoah took a kid {goat} with a meat offering, and offered *it* upon a rock to the LORD {Jehovah}: and *the Angel* did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

(20) Because it came to pass, when the flame went up towards heaven from off the altar, that the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} 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 {Jehovah} did not again appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that He *was* an angel of the LORD {Jehovah}.

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

(23) But his wife said to him, If the LORD {Jehovah} wanted to kill us, He would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would as at this time have told us *such things* as these.

(24) And the woman gave birth to a son, and called his name Samson {strong}:<sup>b</sup> and the child grew, and the LORD {Jehovah} blessed him.

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

### Chapter 14

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

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

(3) Then his father and his mother said to him, *Is there* not a woman among the daughters of your brothers, or among all my people, that you go to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said to his father, Get her for me; because she pleases me well.

(4) But his father and his mother did not know that it *was* of the LORD {Jehovah}, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: because at that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.

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

13:24b - Samson {שמשון} - strong

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(6) And the Spirit of the LORD {Jehovah} came mightily upon him, and he tore him {the lion} as he would have torn a kid {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 well.

(8) And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the dead body of the lion: and, *there was* a swarm of bees and honey in the dead body of the lion.

(9) And he took of it in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave it to them, and they ate it: but he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the dead body of the lion.

(10) So his father went down to the woman: and Samson made there a feast; because so the young men used 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 to them, I will now put forth a riddle to you: if you can certainly declare it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find *it* out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of clothes:

(13) But if you cannot declare *it* to me, then you shall give me thirty sheets and thirty change of clothes. And they said to him, Put forth your riddle, that we may hear it.

(14) And he said to 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 to Samson's wife, Entice your husband, that he may declare to us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire: have you called us to take what we have? *is it* not so?

(16) And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, You hate me, and do not love me: you have put forth a riddle to the children of my people, and have not told *it* to me. And he said to her, Indeed, I have not told *it* my father nor my mother, and shall I tell *it* to you?

(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 pressured him greatly: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

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

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(19) And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and killed thirty of their men, and took their spoil, and gave changes of clothes to those who expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

(20) But Samson's wife was *given* to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

### Chapter 15

(1) But it came to pass within a while later, in the time of wheat harvest,<sup>a</sup> that Samson visited his wife with a kid {goat}; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not allow him to go in.

(2) And her father said, I truly thought that you had completely hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion: is not her younger sister fairer {more beautiful} than she? I ask you to take her instead.

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

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

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

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

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

(8) And he struck them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and lived in the top of the rock Etam.

(9) Then the Philistines went up, and encamped in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

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

(11) Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock 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 he said to them, As they did to me, so have I done to them.

15:1a – time of the wheat harvest – May/June – see [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#)

## {07} Judges

(12) And they said to him, We have come down to bind you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said to them, Swear to me, that you will not fall upon me yourselves.

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

(14) *And* when he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD {Jehovah} came mightily upon him, and the cords that *were* upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

(15) And he found a new jawbone of a donkey, and put forth his hand, and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

(16) And Samson said, With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of a donkey I have killed a thousand men.

(17) And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi {lifting up of the jawbone}<sup>a</sup>.

(18) And he was very thirsty, and called on the LORD {Jehovah}, and said, You have given this great deliverance into the hand of Your servant: and now I shall die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

(19) But God split a hollow place that *was* in the jaw, and water came out; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: therefore he called its name Enhakkore {the well of him who cried},<sup>b</sup> which *is* in Lehi to this day.

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

### Chapter 16

(1) Then Samson went to Gaza, and saw there a prostitute, and went in to her.

(2) *And it was told* the Gazites, saying, Samson has come here. And they surrounded *him*, 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 until 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 a hill that *is* before Hebron.

15:17a - Ramathlehi {רמת להי} - lifting up of the jawbone

15:19b - Enhakkore {עין הקורא} - the well of him who cried

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(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 to her, and said to her, Entice him, and see in what his great strength *lies*, and by what *means* we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and everyone of us will give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.

(6) And Delilah said to Samson, I ask you to tell me, in what your great strength *lies*, and with what you might be bound to afflict you.

(7) And Samson said to her, If they bind me with seven green ropes that were never dried, then I shall be weak, and be as another man.

(8) Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green ropes which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

(9) Now *there were* men lying in wait, staying with her in the chamber. And she said to him, The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson. And he broke the ropes, as a thread of tow<sup>a</sup> is broken when it touches the fire. So his strength was not known.

(10) And Delilah said to Samson, Indeed, you have mocked me, and told me lies: now I ask you tell me with what you might be bound.

(11) And he said to her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were used, then I will be weak, and be as another man.

(12) Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him with them, and said to him, The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson. And *there were* ambushers staying in the chamber. And he broke them from off his arms like a thread.

(13) And Delilah said to Samson, Up until now you have mocked me, and told me lies: tell me with what you might be bound. And he said to her, If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web.

(14) And she fastened *it* with the pin, and said to him, The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

(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 it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was troubled to death;

(17) That he told her all his heart, and said to her, There has not come a razor upon my head; because I *have been* a Nazarite to God from my mother's womb: if I am shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.

16:9a – tow – flax – actually the part of the flax that is discarded -flax is a plant that is dried and used as thread to weave cloth

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(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, because he has shown me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up to 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 *are* upon you, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he did not know that the LORD {Jehovah} had 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 ground {grain} in the prison house.

(22) However the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

(23) Then the lords of the Philistines gathered themselves together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice: because they said, Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

(24) And when the people saw him, they praised their god: because they said, Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, who killed many of us.

(25) And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make sport for us. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

(26) And Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, Allow me that I may feel the pillars upon which the house stands, that I may lean upon them.

(27) Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines *were* there; and *there were* upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that watched while Samson made sport.

(28) And Samson called to the LORD {Jehovah}, and said, O Lord GOD {Jehovah}, I ask You to remember me, and strengthen me, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

(29) And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

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(30) And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with *all his* might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that *were* in it. So the dead which he killed at his death were more than *those* which he killed in his life.

(31) Then his brothers and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought *him* up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

### Chapter 17

(1) And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name *was* Micah.

(2) And he said to his mother, The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver {about 27.5 lbs; 12.5 kg.}<sup>a</sup> that were taken from you, about which you cursed, and spoke of also in my ears, see, the silver *is* with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed are *you* of the LORD {Jehovah}, my son.

(3) And when he had restored the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver {about 27.5 lbs; 12.5 kg.} to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver to the LORD {Jehovah} from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it to you.

(4) Yet he restored the money to his mother; and his mother took two hundred *shekels* of silver {about 5 lbs; 2.3 kg.}, and gave them to the founder, who made a graven and molten image with it: and they were in the house of Micah.

(5) And the man Micah had a house of gods, and made an ephod {priestly robe}, and teraphim {idols}, 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 Bethlehem-judah of the family of Judah, who *was* a Levite, and he lived there.

(8) And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehem-judah to live where he could find *a place*: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

(9) And Micah said to him, Where have you come from? And he said to him, I *am* a Levite of Bethlehem-judah, and I go to live where I may find *a place*.

(10) And Micah said to him, Live with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten *shekels* of silver {about 4 oz.; 114 g.} each year, and a suit of clothing, and your food. So the Levite went in.

17:2a – shekel – about 0.4 ounces; 11.4 grams – see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

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(11) And the Levite was content to live with the man; and the young man was to 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 Micah said, Now know I that the LORD {Jehovah} will do me good, since I have a Levite to be *my* priest.

**Chapter 18**

(1) In those days *there was* no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought for themselves an inheritance to live in; because to that day *all their* inheritance had not come to them among the tribes of Israel.

(2) And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valor, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said to them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

(3) When they *had* come by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in there, and said to him, Who brought you here? and what do you make in this *place*? and what do you have here?

(4) And he said to them, This and this is how Micah deals with me, and has hired me, and I am his priest.

(5) And they said to him, We ask you to ask counsel of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.

(6) And the priest said to them, Go in peace: before the LORD {Jehovah} is your way in which you go.

(7) Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that *were* in it, how they lived careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and *there was* no ruler in the land, who might put *them* to shame in *anything*; and they *were* far from the Zidonians, and had no business with *any* man.

(8) And they came to their brothers to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brothers said to them, What do you have to say?

(9) And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: because we have seen the land, and, indeed, it *is* very good: and *are* you still? do not be hesitant to go, *and* to enter to possess the land.

(10) When you go, you shall come to a people secure, and to a large land: because God has given it into your hands; a place where *there is* no lack of anything that *is* in the earth.

(11) And the family of the Danites went from there, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war.

**{07} Judges**

(12) And they went up, and camped in Kirjathjearim, in Judah: therefore they called that place Mahanehdan {camp of Dan}<sup>a</sup> to this day: indeed, *it is* behind Kirjathjearim.

(13) And they passed from there to mount Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

(14) Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brothers, Do you know that there is in these houses an ephod {priestly robe}, and teraphim {idols}, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what you have to do.

(15) And they turned towards there, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, *even* to the house of Micah, and greeted him.

(16) And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, who *were* of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

(17) And the five men who went to spy out the land went up, *and* came in there, *and* took the graven image, and the ephod {priestly robe}, and the teraphim {idols}, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entrance 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 {priestly robe}, and the teraphim {idols}, and the molten image. Then the priest said to them, What are you doing?

(19) And they said to him, Hold your peace, put your hand upon your mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: *is it* better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?

(20) And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod {priestly robe}, and the teraphim {idols}, 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 Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.

(23) And they cried to the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said to Micah, What's wrong with you, that you come with such a company?

(24) And he said, You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away: and what more do I have? and what *is* this *that* you say to me, What's wrong with you?

(25) And the children of Dan said to him, Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your 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 to his house.

18:12a - Mahanehdan {מחנה דן} - camp of Dan

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(27) And they took *the things* which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came to Laish, to a people who *were* peaceful and secure: and they struck 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 *lies* by Bethrehob. And they built a city, and lived in it.

(29) And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their forefather, who was born to Israel: however 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 up for themselves Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house {tabernacle} of God was in Shiloh.<sup>b</sup>

### Chapter 19

(1) And it came to pass in those days, when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite living on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine out of Bethlehem-judah.

(2) And his concubine played the prostitute against him, and went away from him to her father's house to Bethlehem-judah, and was there four whole months.

(3) And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly to her, *and* to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of donkeys: and she brought him into her father's house: and when the father of the young woman saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.

(4) And his father-in-law, the young woman's father, retained him; and he stayed with him three days: so they ate and drank, 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 young woman's father said to his son-in-law, Comfort your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way.

(6) And they sat down, and ate and drank both of them together: because the young woman's father had said to the man, I ask you to be content and stay all night, and let your heart be merry.

(7) And when the man rose up to depart, his father-in-law urged {asked} him to stay: therefore he lodged there again.

(8) And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the young woman's father said, I ask you to comfort your heart. And they stayed until afternoon, and both of them ate.

18:31b – Shiloh – the place where the tabernacle was first set up after entering Canaan  
– Josh. 18:1; Jn. 4:20

{07} Judges

(9) And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, Indeed, now the day draws towards evening, I ask you to stay all night: see, the day grows to an end, lodge here, that your heart may be merry; and tomorrow get up early be on your way, that you may go home.

(10) But the man would not stay that night, but he rose up and departed, and came opposite Jebus, which *is* Jerusalem; and *there were* with him two donkeys saddled, his concubine also *was* with him.

(11) *And* when they *were* by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, I ask you, Come, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it.

(12) And his master said to him, We will not turn aside here into the city of a stranger, that *is* not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah.

(13) And he said to his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places 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 *belongs* to Benjamin.

(15) And they turned aside there, to go in *and* to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat himself down in a street of the city: because *there was* no man who took them into his house to lodge.

(16) And, there came an old man from his work out of the field at evening, which *was* also of mount Ephraim; and he lived in Gibeah: but the men of the place *were* Benjamites.

(17) And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a traveler in the street of the city: and the old man said, Where are you going? and where have you come from?

(18) And he said to him, We *are* passing from Bethlehem-judah towards the side of mount Ephraim; that is where I am from: and I went to Bethlehem-judah, but I *am now* going to the house of the LORD {Jehovah}; and there *is* no man who will receive me into his house.

(19) Yet there is both straw and feed for our donkeys; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for your handmaid, and for the young man *who is* with your servants: *there is* no lack of anything.

(20) And the old man said, Peace *be* with you; however *let* all your wants *lie* upon me; only do not lodge in the street.

(21) So he brought him into his house, and gave feed to the donkeys: and they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

(22) *Now* as they were making their hearts merry, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial {wickedness}, came to the house and surrounded it, *and* beat at the door, and spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man who came into your house, that we may know him {sexually}.

**{07} Judges**

(23) And the man, the master of the house, went out to them, and said to them, No, my brothers, *no*, I ask you not to do *so* wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this folly.

(24) Look, *here is* my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and you humble them, and do with them what seems good to you: but to this man do not do such a vile thing.

(25) But the men would not listen to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth to them; and they raped her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go.

(26) Then the woman came in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord *was*, until 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, the woman, his concubine had fallen down *at* the door of the house, and her hands *were* upon the threshold.

(28) And he said to her, Get up, and let us be going. But there was no answer. Then the man took her *up* upon a donkey, and the man rose up, and returned to his place.

(29) And when he had 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, that all who saw it said, No such deed has been done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt to this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak *your minds*.

**Chapter 20**

(1) Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, to the LORD {Jehovah} 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 who drew sword.

(3) (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpeh.) Then the children of Israel said, Tell *us*, what wickedness was this?

(4) And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was killed, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that *belongs* to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

**{07} Judges**

(5) And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house upon me by night, *and* thought to have killed me: and my concubine they have forced {raped}, 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: because they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel.

(7) Look, you *are* all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

(8) And all the people arose as one man, saying, None of us will go to his tent, nor will we any *of us* return 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 one hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and one hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch food for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have done 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 {wickedness}, who *are* in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers the children of Israel:

(14) But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities to 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-six thousand men who drew sword, besides those who lived in Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men.

(16) Among all this people *there were* seven hundred chosen men left-handed; everyone could sling stones at a hair *width*, and not miss.

(17) And the men of Israel, besides Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men who 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 {Jehovah} said, **Judah shall go up first.**

(19) And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.

**{07} Judges**

(20) And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Gibeah.

(21) And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty-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 {Jehovah} until evening, and asked counsel of the LORD {Jehovah}, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD {Jehovah} 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 those who drew the sword.

(26) Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came to the house {tabernacle} of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD {Jehovah}, and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD {Jehovah}.

(27) And the children of Israel inquired of the LORD {Jehovah}, (because 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 {Jehovah} said, **Go up; because tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.**

(29) And Israel set ambushers all around 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 strike of the people, *and* kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goes 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* struck down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city to the highways.

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(33) And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baaltamar: and the ambushers 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 great: but they did not know that evil *was* near them.

(35) And the LORD {Jehovah} struck Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty-five thousand one hundred men: all those who drew the sword.

(36) So the children of Benjamin saw that they were destroyed: because the men of Israel retreated from the Benjamites, because they trusted in their ambushers which they had set beside Gibeah.

(37) And the ambushers hastened, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the ambushers drew *themselves* along, and struck all the city with the edge of the sword.

(38) Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the ambushers, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city.

(39) And when the men of Israel retreated in the battle, Benjamin began to strike *and* kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: because they said, Surely they are destroyed 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, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven.

(41) And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed: because they saw that evil had come upon them.

(42) Therefore they turned *their backs* before the men of Israel to the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and those who *came* out of the cities they destroyed in their midst.

(43) So they surrounded the Benjamites, *and* chased them, *and* trampled them down with ease opposite {east of} Gibeah towards the sunrise.

(44) And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these *were* men of valor.

(45) And they turned and fled towards the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon: and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them to Gidom, and killed two thousand men of them.

(46) So that all who fell that day of Benjamin were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword; all these *were* men of valor.

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(47) But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness to the rock Rimmon, and stayed in the rock Rimmon four months.

(48) And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and struck them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of *every* city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

**Chapter 21**

(1) Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter to Benjamin to be a wife.

(2) And the people came to the house {tabernacle} of God, and stayed there until evening before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept greatly;

(3) And said, O LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be today one tribe lacking in Israel?

(4) And it came to pass in the morning, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

(5) And the children of Israel said, Who *is there* among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the congregation to the LORD {Jehovah}? Because they had made a great oath concerning anyone who did not come up to the LORD {Jehovah} to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

(6) And the children of Israel repented for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.

(7) How shall we do for wives for those who remain, since we have sworn by the LORD {Jehovah} that we will not give them of our daughters for wives?

(8) And they said, What one *is there* of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpeh to the LORD {Jehovah}? And, indeed, there was none from the camp of Jabeshgilead who came to the assembly.

(9) Because the people were numbered, and *there were* no one of those who lived in Jabeshgilead there.

(10) And the congregation sent there twelve thousand men of the most valiant, and commanded them, saying, Go and strike those who lived in Jabeshgilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children.

**{07} Judges**

(11) And this *is* what you shall do, You shall completely destroy every male, and every woman who has lain by man.

(12) And they found among those who lived in Jabeshgilead four hundred young virgins, who had not known a man by lying with any male: and they brought them to 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 who *were* in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably to 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 even so they were not sufficient.

(15) And the people repented for Benjamin, because the LORD {Jehovah} had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

(16) Then the elders of the congregation said, What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?

(17) And they said, *There must be* an inheritance for them that has escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe not be destroyed out of Israel.

(18) However we may not give them wives of our daughters: because the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed *is* he who gives a wife to Benjamin.

(19) Then they said, See, *there is* a feast of the LORD {Jehovah} in Shiloh yearly *in a place* which *is* on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.

(20) Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards;

(21) And, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then you come out of the vineyards, and each one of you catch for yourself a wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

(22) And when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, Be favorable to them for our sake: because we did not reserve to each man his wife in the war: because you did not give to them {a wife} at this time, *that* you should be guilty {of breaking your pledge}.

(23) And the children of Benjamin did so, and took for *themselves* wives, according to their number, of those who danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned to their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and lived in them.

(24) And the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance.

(25) In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.