

*Jehovah appoints Judah to lead in conquering the land and devouring the Canaanites*

### CHAPTER 1

1 And it was, after the death of Joshua, that the children of Israel asked Jehovah, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites at the opening to devour them?

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

3 And Judah said to Simeon, his brother, Go up with me into my allotment, and we will devour the Canaanites, and I likewise will go with you into your allotment, and Simeon walked with him.

4 And Judah went up, and Jehovah gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they struck ten thousand men of them in Bezek.

5 And they found Adoni Bezek in Bezek, and they devoured him; and they struck the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 And Adoni Bezek fled; and they pursued after him, and seized him, and chopped off the big members<sup>6</sup> of his hands and his feet.

7 And Adoni Bezek said, Seventy kings, with the big members of their hands and their feet chopped off, were gathered under my table; what I have done, so God has completed to me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

8 And the children of Judah devoured Jerusalem, and captured it, and struck it with the mouth of

<sup>6</sup> 1:6 **big member**, *bohen*, the same word means the thumb on the hand and the big toe on the foot.

the sword, and sent up the city by fire.

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to devour the Canaanites dwelling in the mountain, and in the Negev, and in the coastal slopes.

10 And Judah walked against the Canaanites dwelling in Hebron (now the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba<sup>10</sup>), and they struck Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.

11 And he walked from there, walking against the inhabitants of Debir, and the name of Debir formerly was Kirjath Sepher;<sup>11</sup>

12 And Caleb said, He who strikes Kirjath Sepher and captures it, I will give to him Achsah, my daughter, as wife.

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

14 And it was, she came, and she prodded him to ask of her father a field; and she dismounted from her donkey; and Caleb said to her, What do you want?

15 And she said to him, Give me a blessing; since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me also springs of water; and Caleb gave her upper springs and lower springs.

16 And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with

<sup>10</sup> 1:10 **Kirjath Arba**, City of Four Giants.

<sup>11</sup> 1:11 **Kirjath Sepher**, City of Branches.

## JUDGES 1

*The conquest of the various tribes with Judah leading*

the children of Judah into the desert of Judah, which is in the Negev of Arad, and they walked and dwelt among the people.

17 And Judah walked with Simeon, his brother, and they struck the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it. And the name of the city was called Hormah.

18 Also Judah captured Gaza with its border, and Askelon with its border, and Ekron with its border.

19 And Jehovah was with Judah, and he possessed the mountain, but did not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because there were chariots of iron to them.

20 And they gave Hebron to Caleb, what Moses spoke, and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak.

21 And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem, and the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 And the house of Joseph also was on the go to gain Bethel, and Jehovah was with them.

23 And the house of Joseph was on the go to gain Bethel. And the name of the city formerly was Luz.

24 And the guards saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said to him, Please cause us to see the entrance into the city, and we will do mercy to you.

25 And when he caused them to see the entrance to the city, they struck the city with the mouth of the sword, and they sent the man

away and all his family.

26 And the man walked to the land of the Hittites, and built a city, and called its name Luz; this is its name to this day.

27 And Manasseh did not take possession of Beth Shean and its daughters, nor Taanach and its daughters, nor the inhabitants of Dor and its daughters, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and its daughters, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and its daughters; but the Canaanites yielded to dwell in that land. See Num 21:25

28 And it was, since Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, and driving out, did not drive them out.

29 And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer, and the Canaanites dwelt in their midst in Gezer.

30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron and the inhabitants of Nahalol, and the Canaanites dwelt in their midst, and were in servitude.

31 Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Accho, and the inhabitants of Zidon, and of Ahlab, and of Achzib, and of Helbah, and of Aphik, and of Rehob;

32 And the Asherites dwelt in the midst of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, because they did not drive them out.

33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, and the inhabitants of Beth Anath, and they dwelt in the midst of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and of Beth Anath were

in servitude to them.

34 And the Amorites pressed the children of Dan into the mountain, because they would not give them permission to come down to the valley,

35 And the Amorites yielded to dwell in Mount Heres in Aijalon and in Shaalbim; yet the hand of the house of Joseph was heavy so that they were in servitude. The Amorites were in servitude.

36 And the boundary of the Amorites was from the Steep of Scorpion, from the lofty rock and upward.

## CHAPTER 2

1 And the Messenger of Jehovah came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I caused you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers; and I said, I will not ever break my covenant with you.

2 And you shall cut no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars; but you have not attentively heard my voice; what is this you have done?

3 And also I have said, I will not drive them out from before your face, and they shall be in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.

4 And it was, when the Messenger of 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 Weepers, and they sacrificed there to Jehovah.

6 And Joshua sent the people away; the children of Israel walked every man to his inheritance to possess the land.

7 And the people served Jehovah all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders whose days were prolonged after Joshua who saw all the great works of Jehovah that he did for Israel.

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

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

10 And all that generation were also gathered to their fathers, and there arose another generation after them who did not know by seeing Jehovah, not even the works which he had done for Israel.

11 And the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and served Baals;

12 And they left Jehovah God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and walked after other gods, the gods of the people who were around them, and prostrated themselves to them, and provoked Jehovah.

13 And they left Jehovah, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

14 And the nostrils of Jehovah burned against Israel, and he gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them, and he sold them into the hands of those who hated them all around, so that

**JUDGES 3** *They relapse into idolatry, are conquered by enemies, they cry to God; He raises a judge*

they were not able any longer to stand before the face of those who hated them.

15 The hand of Jehovah was towards them for evil everywhere they went out, what Jehovah had spoken, and what Jehovah had sworn to them; and they were exceedingly distressed.

16 And Jehovah raised up those to judge, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

17 And yet they would not hear attentively the ones judging them, but they went whoring after other gods, and prostrated themselves to them; they turned quickly out of the way in which their fathers walked, hearing attentively the commandments of Jehovah; they did not so.

18 And since Jehovah raised up for them those to judge, then Jehovah was with the one who judged, and saved them out of the hand of those who hated them all the days of the judge, because Jehovah comforted himself because of their groanings before the face of them who oppressed them, and drove them.

19 And it was, at the death of the judge that they turned back and destroyed themselves more than their fathers, in walking after other gods to serve them, and to prostrate themselves to them; they did not fall away from their own doings nor from their hardened way.

20 And the nostrils of Jehovah burned against Israel, and he said, Because this people has crossed over my covenant which I

commanded their fathers, and have not attentively heard my voice,

21 I also will not any more drive out men from before the face of the peoples which Joshua left when he died,

22 So that I may prove Israel through them, if they will hedge about the way of Jehovah to walk in it as their fathers hedged it about, or not.

23 And Jehovah left those peoples without driving them out hastily, and did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

**CHAPTER 3**

1 And these are the peoples which Jehovah left to prove Israel by them, all who did not know by seeing all the wars of Canaan,

2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might have knowledge to teach them war, especially those who formerly did not know:

3 Five lords of the Palestinians, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites dwelling in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entering in of Hamath.

4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know if they would hear attentively the commandments of Jehovah, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 And the children of Israel dwelt in the midst of the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites;

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

7 And the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and forgot Jehovah, their God, and served Baals and pole images of Ashteroth.<sup>7</sup>

8 And the nostrils of Jehovah burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushan Rishathaim,<sup>8</sup> king of Mesopotamia, and the children of Israel served Chushan Rishathaim eight years.

9 And when the children of Israel cried to Jehovah, Jehovah raised up a savior to the children of Israel who saved them, Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10 And the Spirit of Jehovah was upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and Jehovah gave Chushan Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into his hand, and his hand was strong against Chushan Rishathaim.

11 And the land rested forty years, and Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died.

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

<sup>7</sup> **3:7 pole images of Ashteroth, asherah.** This word is always translated groves in KJV. It refers to the wooden poles or images made for Ashteroth, the mother of Baal, and female goddess who always appeared with Baal. These *asherah* images were always numerous at an altar to Baal and Asteroth.

<sup>8</sup> **3:8 Chushan Rishathaim.** Chushan of Double Wickedness.

13 And he gathered to him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and walked, and struck Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

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

15 And the children of Israel cried to Jehovah, and Jehovah raised them up a savior, Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man impeded in his right hand; and by his hand the children of Israel sent a present to Eglon, the king of Moab.

16 And Ehud made him a dagger with two mouths, of a cubit length, and he girded it under his clothing on his right thigh.

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

18 And it was when he had finished presenting the present, he sent away the people who bore the present.

19 And he himself turned back from the graven images that were by Gilgal, and said, There is a secret word with me for you, Oh king; who said, Keep silence; and all who stood by him went out from him.

20 And Ehud came to him, and he was sitting in a cooling parlor, which was for him separately, and Ehud said, There is a word from God with me for you, and he arose out of his covered throne.

21 And Ehud sent out his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and drove it into his belly;

**JUDGES 4** *Exploits of Ehud against Moab; the exploits of Deborah against Jabin and Sisera*

22 And the handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not pull the dagger out of his belly, and it came out through his straddle.

23 And Ehud went out through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlor covering him, and bolted them.

24 When he had gone out, his servants came, and they saw and behold, the doors of the parlor were bolted, and they said, Surely he has entwined his feet in his cooling apartment.

25 And they twisted around until they paled in shame, and lo, he did not open the doors of the parlor; and they took a key, and opened them; and lo, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

26 And Ehud escaped while they hesitated, and crossed over by the graven images, and escaped to Seirath.

27 And it was, he came, and he sounded a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim; and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before their face.

28 And he said to them, Run after me because Jehovah has given the Moabites, those who hate you, into your hand, and they went down after him, and captured the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and did not give any man permission to cross over.

29 And they struck of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all robust, and all men of resources; and not a man escaped.

30 And Moab bent the knee that day under the hand of Israel. And the land rested eighty years.<sup>30</sup>

31 And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck of the Palestinians six hundred men with an ox goad, and he also saved Israel.

**CHAPTER 4**

1 And the children of Israel again did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and Ehud was dead.

2 And Jehovah sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; and the chief ruler of his host *was* Sisera, and he dwelt in Harosheth of the peoples.

3 And the children of Israel cried to Jehovah, because to him were nine hundred chariots of iron, and he exceedingly oppressed the children of Israel twenty years.

4 And Deborah, a woman prophet, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

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

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<sup>30</sup> **3:30 eighty years.** Note the long periods of time throughout Judges when God gave Israel peace, and during which time Israel followed Jehovah God. If you read the book of Judges without noting these short statements that the land had peace for eighty years, or whatever the number is, you get the impression that they were always prostrating themselves to pagan gods, and in war, but this is not true. These periods, like this eighty years, are stated in one phrase of a sentence without elaboration. So do not think that Israel was under bondage or fighting wars during this entire four hundred years. There were long periods in which they followed God, were at peace, and prospered.

6 And she sent and called Barak, the son of Abinoam, from Kedesh Naphtali, and said to him, Has not Jehovah God of Israel commanded, Walk and draw toward Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali, and of the children of Zebulun?

7 And I will draw Sisera, the chief ruler of Jabin's host, to you, to the stream Kishon, with his chariots and his multitude, and I will give him into your hand.

8 And Barak said to her, If you will walk with me, I will walk, and if you will not walk with me, I will not walk.

9 And she said, walking, I will walk with you; however, it shall not be an ornament to you, the journey that you walk, because Jehovah shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman; and Deborah rose, and walked with Barak to Kedesh.

10 And Barak proclaimed to Zebulun and Naphtali to assemble to Kedesh, and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet, and Deborah went up with him.

11 And Heber, the Kenite, had separated from the Kenites of the children of Hobab, the father in law to Moses, and stretched out his tent near the oak in Zaanaim, which is near Kedesh.

12 And they caused to stand out boldly to Sisera that Barak, the son of Abinoam, had gone up to Mount Tabor.

13 And Sisera proclaimed to assemble all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from

Harosheth of the peoples to the stream of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said to Barak, Rise up, because this is the day in which Jehovah has given Sisera into your hand; has not Jehovah gone out before your face? And Barak went down from Mount Tabor and ten thousand men after him.

15 And Jehovah put Sisera in commotion, and all his chariots and all his army, with the mouth of the sword before the face of Barak, so that Sisera descended from his chariot, and fled on his feet.

16 And Barak ran after the chariots and after the army to Harosheth of the peoples, and all the army of Sisera fell upon the mouth of the sword, and there was not one left.

17 And Sisera fled 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 fear. And when he had turned in to her into the tent, she covered him with a quilt.

19 And he said to her, Give me, please, a little water to drink, because I am thirsty; and she opened a skin bag of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.

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

## JUDGES 5

*Jael kills Sisera in her tent; the Song of Deborah and Barak*

21 And Jael, Heber's wife, took a pin of the tent, and put a hammer in her hand; and went covertly to him, and drove the pin into his temples; and drove it through to the ground, and he was in a deep sleep, and covered, and he died.

22 And lo, Barak running after Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, Walk, and I will cause you to see the man whom you are seeking; and he came into her - behold, Sisera, fallen dead, and the pin in his temples!

23 And God caused Jabin, the king of Canaan, to bend the knee on that day before the face of the children of Israel.

24 And the hand of the children of Israel, walking, walked on, and hard against Jabin, the king of Canaan, until they had cut off Jabin, king of Canaan.

## CHAPTER 5

1 And Deborah and Barak, the son of Abinoam, sang on that day, saying,

2 For the commanders in Israel baring themselves, for the people who offered themselves willingly, kneel down with goodness to Jehovah.

3 Hear attentively, Oh kings; broaden your ear, Oh princes; I, *even* I will sing to Jehovah; I will play and sing to Jehovah God of Israel.

4 Oh Jehovah, when you went out of Seir, when you marched out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens distilled, yes, the dark clouds

dropped water.

5 The mountains flowed before the face of Jehovah, that Sinai before the face of Jehovah God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the well trod roads ceased *to be*, and those *used to* walking the roads walked winding paths.

7 Chieftains ceased in Israel; they ceased until I arose, Deborah; I arose a mother in Israel.

8 They tried new gods; then war at the gates! A shield - if one was seen - or a spear - among forty thousand in Israel!

9 My heart is toward the commanders of Israel, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless Jehovah.

10 You riders of white donkeys, you sitters in the height, and walkers by the way, ponder!

11 The voice of those who cut off *spoil* between the watering troughs - there they shall celebrate the righteousness of Jehovah, the righteousness toward his rulers in Israel; then the people of Jehovah went down to the gates.

12 Awake, awake, Deborah; awake, awake, speak a song! Arise, Barak, and lead captive your captives, son of Abinoam.

13 At that time the remnant of the lordly leaders of the people trod; Jehovah trod over the mighty for me.

14 Out of Ephraim, their root against Amalek; after you, Benjamin, among your people; out of Machir came down lawgivers, and



out of Zebulun, they who draw out the pen of those who mark the tally.

15 And my commanders in Issachar with Deborah; as Issachar, so Barak; into the valley they were sent on foot. For the divisions of Reuben, great enactments of heart.

16 Why did you sit between the cattle pens, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben, great searchings of *the* heart.

17 Gilead beyond Jordan dwelt; and Dan, why did he lodge in ships? Asher sat down in the coves of the sea, and dwelt in his ports.

18 Zebulun, a people who exposed their souls to death - and Naphtali - in the high places of the field.

19 Kings came; they devoured; then devoured the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no plunder of silver.

20 They devoured from out of the heavens; the stars in their courses devoured Sisera.

21 The stream of Kishon swept them away; ancient stream, the stream Kishon. Oh my soul, you have trodden down strength.

22 Then beat the hoofs of the horses, from the galloping, galloping of their mighty ones.

23 Curse Meroz, said the Messenger of Jehovah, cursing, curse the inhabitants, because they came not to the help of Jehovah, to the help of Jehovah, against the mighty.

24 Blessed among women, Jael, the wife of Heber, the Kenite, among women in the tent she is blessed.

25 Water he asked; milk she gave; in a large dish she brought near curdled milk.

26 Her hand to the pin she put, and her right hand to the workman's hammer; and she hammered Sisera; she crushed his head; she plunged into and passed through his temples.

27 He bent down his knees between her feet; he fell; he lay down; he bent down his knees between her feet; he fell; where he bent down his knees, there he fell down ravaged.

28 Through the window she leaned out; Yes, she cried, the mother of Sisera, through the lattice, Why does his chariot pale in shame to come? Why do the strokes of his chariot tarry?

29 Her wise ladies answered her; Yes, she turned back saying to herself,

30 Have they not found and divided the spoil? A womb, two wombs,<sup>30</sup> to the head of *every* mighty man; a spoil of dyed gar-

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<sup>30</sup> **5:30 A womb, two wombs, to the head of every mighty man.** This is the literal rendering of this sentence. The interpretation is: A woman, two women, to the head of every mighty warrior, meaning that each mighty man in a successful army always returned with female captives which he took as female servants, or concubines, or wives for himself or for his sons. In referring to them as wombs, she is simply acknowledging that those captured and kept, not killed, were females for bearing children, who could be absorbed into the tribe by marriage without danger to the tribe. God's Word is not condoning this practice, only reporting the words that Deborah sang and attributed to the mother of Sisera as the attitude of Canaanites.

**JUDGES 6** *The oppression by the Midianites; a prophet speaks; The Messenger of Jehovah to Gideon*

ments to Sisera; a spoil of dyed garments of embroidery, of two dyed garments of embroidery for the necks of the spoiler?

31 So let all those who hate you be lost, Oh Jehovah, but those who love him as the going forth of the sun in its might. And the land rested forty years.

**CHAPTER 6**

1 And the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and Jehovah gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian was strong against Israel; before the faces of Midian the children of Israel made for themselves the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strongholds.

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

4 And camped against them, and destroyed the produce of the earth, until you come to Gaza, and left nothing to preserve life for Israel, neither flock animal, nor ox, nor donkey,

5 Because they came up with their livestock and their tents, and they came as locusts for abundance; and to them and to their camels there was no number; and they came into the land to destroy it.

6 And Israel hung down very limp before the face of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried to Jehovah.

7 And it was, because the children of Israel cried to Jehovah against the turnings<sup>7</sup> of the Midianites,

8 That Jehovah sent a man, a prophet, to the children of Israel, and said to them, Thus says Jehovah God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you out of the house of bondage;

9 And I snatched you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all your oppressors, and drove them out before your face, and gave you their land;

10 And I said to you, I am Jehovah your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell, and you have not attentively heard my voice.

11 And the Messenger of Jehovah came, and sat under an oak which is in Ophrah, which was to Joash, the Abi Ezrite; and Gideon, his son, was knocking out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the face of the Midianites. Note Gen 16:17

12 And the Messenger of Jehovah appeared to him, and said to him, Jehovah is with you, mighty man of resources!

13 And Gideon said to him, Oh my lord, if Jehovah is with us, then why has all this come upon us, and where are all his wonders which our fathers tallied up to us, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? And now Jehovah has thrust us off, and given us into the palms of the Midianites.

<sup>7</sup> 6:7 **turnings**, *owdowth*, meaning the turnings of the events the Midianites caused.

14 And Jehovah<sup>14</sup> turned himself to him, and said, Walk in this your power, and you shall save Israel from the palm of the Midianites; have I not sent you?

15 And he said to him, Oh my lord, how shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is dangling in need in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

16 And Jehovah said to him, Because I am with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said to him, If now there is grace toward me in your eyes, then make me a sign that you are speaking with me.

18 Please do not withdraw from this *place*, I pray you, until I come to you, and bring forth my food offering, and deposit it before your face. And he said, I will remain until you return.

19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a young she goat, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour; he put the flesh in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out to him under the oak, and brought it near;

20 And the Messenger of God said to him, Take the flesh, and the unleavened cakes, and deposit them upon this lofty rock, and pour out the broth, and he did so.

21 And the Messenger of Jehovah put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and there rose up fire out of the

strong rock, and ate the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the Messenger of Jehovah walked from before his eyes.

22 And Gideon saw that he was the Messenger of Jehovah, and Gideon said, Alas, Oh Lord Jehovah! Because right here I have seen the Messenger of Jehovah face to face.

23 And Jehovah said to him, Peace to you; do not fear; you shall not die.

24 And Gideon built an altar there to Jehovah, and called it Jehovah Shalom; it is still in Ophrah of the Abi Ezrites to this day.

25 And it was the same night, that Jehovah said to him, Take a young bull of the bullock which is to your father, and the second bullock of seven years, and throw down the altar of Baal which is to your father, and cut down the pole images, those by it;

26 And build an altar to Jehovah, your God, upon the head of this fortress in the right arrangement, and take the second bullock, and cause a burnt sacrifice to ascend with the wood of the pole images which you cut down.

27 And Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did what Jehovah had spoken to him; and it was, since he feared his father's house and the men of the city to do it by day that he did it by night.

28 And the men of the city rose early in the dawn, and behold, the altar of Baal was torn down, and the pole images which were by it were cut down, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar

<sup>14</sup> 6:14 Note that the one who is called the Messenger of Jehovah in 6:11-12 is simply called Jehovah in 6:14,16. See Note on Gen 16:17.

**JUDGES 7** *The Midianites, Amalekites, et al gather against Israel; God gives the sign of the fleece that was built.*

29 And they said each man to his neighbor, Who has done this word? And they treaded seeking, and searched out, and said, Gideon, the son of Joash, has done this word.

30 And the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the pole images that were by it.

31 And Joash said to all who stood against him, You, will you contend<sup>31</sup> for Baal? Or you, will you save him? Whoever contends for him, will be put to death at dawn. If he is god, let him plead for himself, since one has torn down his altar.

32 And he was called Jerubaal<sup>32</sup> on that day, saying, Let Baal contend against him since one has torn down his altar.

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

34 And the Spirit of Jehovah clothed Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, and Abi Ezer was called together after him.

35 And he sent messengers to all Manasseh, and also it was called together after him; and he sent mes-

<sup>31</sup> **6:31 contend**, *riyb*, means to contend in a legal case, to sue to obtain what one needs. Joash is asking them if they are going to act as attorneys for Baal. His sarcasm to them is, Why would a god need man to act as his attorney.

<sup>32</sup> **6:32 Jerubaal**, means Baal will plead or contend (fight his own case in the court of life).

sengers to Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.

36 And Gideon said to God, If you are going to save Israel by my hand, what you have spoken,

37 Behold, I am placing a fleece of wool in the threshingfloor, and if the dew is on the fleece only, and on all the ground dryness, then I shall know by seeing, because you will save Israel by my hand, what you have spoken.

38 And it was so, and he rose early on the next day, and pressed the fleece together, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39 And Gideon said to God, Let not your nostrils burn against me, and I will speak only this stroke; let me prove, please, only this stroke with the fleece. Please, let dryness be upon the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.

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

## CHAPTER 7

1 And Jerubaal rose early - he is Gideon - and all the people who were with him, and pitched by the Fountain of Harod;<sup>1</sup> and the army of Midian was on the north of him by Mount Moreh in the valley.

2 And Jehovah said to Gideon, There are too many people, those who are with you, for

<sup>1</sup> **7:1 Fountain of Harod** means Fountain of Trembling.

me to give Midian into their hand lest Israel boast themselves against me, saying, My hand has saved me.

3 And now, please, call out in the ears of the people, saying, Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn back, and return from Mount Gilead. And twenty-two thousand of the people turned back, and there remained ten thousand.

4 And Jehovah said to Gideon, Still there are many people; bring them down to the water, and I will refine them for you there; and it shall be, whom I say to you, This one shall walk with you, he shall walk with you; and all of whom I say to you, This one shall not walk with you, he shall not walk.

5 And he brought the people down to the water, and Jehovah said to Gideon, Everyone who laps of the water with his tongue as a dog laps, you shall set him separate, and everyone who bends down on his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them who lapped, their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men, and all who were left of the people bent down on their knees to drink water.

7 And Jehovah said to Gideon, I will save you by the three hundred men who lapped, and give Midian into your hand; and all the people shall walk every man to his place.

8 And the people took food in their hand, and their trumpets, and he sent every man of Israel away to his tent, and he kept hold on the three hundred men; and the army

of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

9 And it was on that night, that Jehovah said to him, Rise up, go down into the army, because I have given it into your hand.

10 And if you are afraid to go down, you and Phurah, your servant, go down to the army;

11 And you shall attentively hear what they say, and afterward your hand shall seize strength, and you shall go down to the army. And he and Phurah, his servant, went down to the edge of the armed men who were in the army.

12 And Midian, and Amalek, and all the children of the east lay in the valley like locusts for abundance; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the lip of the sea for abundance.

13 And Gideon came, and behold, a man was tallying up to his friend a dream; and he said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread was tumbling into the army of Midian, and came to a tent, and struck it, and it fell, and turned it upside down, and the tent fell down.

14 And his friend answered and said, This is nothing other than the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the army into his hand.

15 And it was, when Gideon attentively heard the recounting of the dream, and its breaking apart, that he prostrated himself, and turned back to the army of Israel, and said, Rise up, because Jeho-

**JUDGES 8** *Gideon's 300 attack at night breaking thier pitchers and blowing trumpets*

vah has given into your hand the army of Midian.

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three heads, and he gave a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers and flaming torches within the pitchers.

17 And he said to them, Look at me, and do likewise, and behold, I am coming to the edge of the camp; it shall be, as I do, so you shall do.

18 And I will blow with a trumpet, I and all who are with me, and you shall blow with the trumpets, even you around all the camp, and you shall say, For Jehovah and for Gideon.

19 And Gideon came and the hundred men who were with him to the edge of the camp at the head of the middle watch - they had just raised the hedge<sup>19</sup> - and they blew with the trumpets, and broke the pitchers which were in their hand.

20 And the three heads blew the trumpets, and shattered the pitchers, and held in their left hands the flaming torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow; and they called out, The sword of Jehovah and of Gideon.

21 And every man stood in his place all around the army, and all the army ran, and shouted, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and Jehovah put every man's sword against his neighbor even in all the army, and the army fled as far as Beth Shittah

toward Zererath, and to the lip of Abel Meholah by Tabbath.

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

24 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hills of Ephraim, saying, Come down to meet Midian, and capture the waters as far as Beth-barah and Jordan before them. And all the men of Ephraim were called together, and captured the waters to Beth-barah and Jordan.

25 And they captured the two rulers of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, and they struck fatally Oreb at the strong rock Oreb, and Zeeb they struck fatally at the wine vat of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon across Jordan.

**CHAPTER 8**

1 And the men of Ephraim said to him, Why have you done this word to us? You failed to call us when you walked to devour Midian. And they contended with him exceedingly.

2 And he said to them, What have I done now in comparison to you? Is not the gleaning of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi Ezer?

3 God has given into your hands the rulers of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, and what was I able to do in comparison to you? Then their breathing slackened toward him when he had spoken that.

<sup>19</sup> 7:19 raised the hedge, *quwm shamar*. They had just raised the hedge, meaning that they had just set new guards for the middle watch of the night.

4 And Gideon came to Jordan, crossing over, he and the three hundred men who were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.

5 And he said to the men of Succoth, Give, please, loaves of bread to the people at my feet, because they are faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

6 And the rulers of Succoth said, Are the palms of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand that we should give food to your host?

7 And Gideon said, Therefore when Jehovah has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will thresh your flesh with the thorns of the desert and with briers.

8 And he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them this; and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.

9 And he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, When I return in peace I will tear down this tower.

10 And Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand men, all who were left of all the armies of the children of the east, and those who fell were a hundred and twenty thousand men drawing sword.

11 And Gideon went up the way of those dwelling in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and struck the army, for the army was secure.

12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and captured the two kings

of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and caused all the army to tremble.

13 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle at the rising of the heat,

14 And captured a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him, and he wrote for him the rulers of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

15 And he came in to the men of Succoth, and said, Behold, Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom you reproached me, saying, Is the palm of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand that we should give food to your weary men?

16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns and briers of the desert, and caused them, the men of Succoth, to know by seeing.

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

18 And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men were they whom you struck fatally at Tabor? And they answered, As you, so they; each one in the form of the children of a king.

19 And he said, They were my brothers, sons of my mother; as Jehovah lives, if only you had saved them alive I would not fatally strike you.

20 And he said to Jether his firstborn, Rise up and strike them fatally. And the youth did not draw his sword because he feared, because he was yet a youth.

21 And Zebah and Zalmunna said, You rise up and impinge upon us, because as the man, so his might.

**JUDGES 9** *Gideon executes two kings of the Midianites and takes their spoil; Gideon dies*

And Gideon rose up, and struck Zebah and Zalmunna fatally, and took the ornaments that *were* on their camels' necks.

22 And the men of Israel said to Gideon, You rule over us, both you, and your son, and your son's son, because you have saved us out of the hand of Midian.

23 And Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you; Jehovah shall rule over you.

24 And Gideon said to them, Let me request a petition of you, that every man give me a nose ring out of his spoil, because there were to them gold nose rings, because they were Ishmaelites.

25 And they said, Giving, we will give. And they spread out a garment, and every man threw in there the nose rings of his spoil.

26 And the weight of the gold nose rings which he requested was a thousand, seven hundred *shekels* of gold, separate from the neck pendants, and ear pendants, and purple garments that were on the kings of Midian, and separate from the necklaces which were on the necks of their camels.

27 And Gideon made an ephod of it, and put it in his city, Ophrah; and all Israel whored after it there, and it became a noose to Gideon and to his house.

28 And Midian bent the knee before the face of the children of Israel, and they did not any more lift up their heads. And the land rested forty years in the days of Gideon.

29 And Jerubaal, the son of Joash, walked, and dwelt in his own house.

30 And to Gideon were seventy children coming out of his loins, because to him were many wives.

31 And his concubine who was in Shechem, also bore to him a son, and he put his name Abimelech.

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

33 And it was, that Gideon died, and the children of Israel turned back, and whored after Baals, and put Baal Covenant as their god.

34 And the children of Israel did not remember Jehovah their God who had snatched them out of the hands of all those who hated them all around;

35 And they did not do mercy with the house of Jerubaal - Gideon - according to all the goodness which he had done with Israel.

**CHAPTER 9**

1 And Abimelech, the son of Jerubaal, walked to Shechem to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2 Speak, please, in the ears of all the lords of Shechem, What is good for you, ruling over you seventy men, all the sons of Jerubaal, or that one man rule over you? And remember that I *am* your bone, and your flesh.



3 And his mother's brothers spoke of him in the ears of all the lords of Shechem all these words, and their heart stretched out after Abimelech, because they said, He is our brother.

4 And they gave him seventy of silver out of the house of Baal Covenant, and Abimelech hired vain and malicious men, who walked after him.

5 And he went to his father's house at Ophrah, and fatally struck his brothers, the sons of Jerubaal, seventy men on one stone; and Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubaal, was left because he was hidden.

6 And all the lords of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and walked, and caused Abimelech to reign as king at the oak of the station which was in Shechem.

7 And they caused it to stand out boldly to Jotham, and he walked and stood on the head of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice, and called out, and said to them, Hear me attentively, you lords of Shechem, and God shall attentively hear you.

8 The trees walking, walked to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive, Reign over us.

9 And the olive said to them, Should I cease from my fatness, which by me they attribute heavy honor to God and man, and walk to wag back and forth over the trees?

10 And the trees said to the fig tree, You walk and reign over us.

11 And the fig tree said to them, Should I cease from my sweetness, namely my good fruit, and walk to wag back and forth over the trees?

12 And the trees said to the vine, You walk to reign over us.

13 And the vine said to them, Should I cease from my fresh grape juice, which rejoices God and men, and walk to wag back and forth over the trees?

14 Then all the trees said to the thorn tree, You walk, reign over us.

15 And the thorn tree said to the trees, If in truth you anoint me king over you, walk, flee for refuge in my shadow, and if not, let fire come out of the thorn tree, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

16 Now, if in truth, and integrity you have done, when you made Abimelech king, and if you have done good with Jerubaal, and his house, and if according to the deeds of his hands you have done to him

17 Because my father devoured for you, and threw his soul in your place, and snatched you out of the hand of Midian -

18 And you are risen against the house of my father today, and have fatally struck his sons, seventy men on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the lords of Shechem because he is your brother;

19 And if you have done truth and integrity with Jerubaal and with his house this day, you rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice

## JUDGES 9

### *Gaal conspires against Abimelech*

in you;

20 And if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the lords of Shechem and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the lords of Shechem and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

21 And Jotham ran away, and fled, and walked to Beer, and dwelt there, because of the face of Abimelech, his brother.

22 And Abimelech reigned over Israel three years,

23 And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem, and the lords of Shechem acted deceitfully with Abimelech,

24 That the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubaal might come, and their blood be put upon Abimelech, their brother, who struck them fatally, and upon the lords of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to fatally strike his brothers.

25 And the lords of Shechem put an ambush for him in the head of the mountains, and they plucked off from all that crossed over by them on the way; and it was made to stand out boldly to Abimelech.

26 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, came, and his brothers, and crossed over to Shechem; and the lords of Shechem trusted him.

27 And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trod out, and made harvest celebration, and went into the house of their god, and ate, and drank, and made light of Abimelech.

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28 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, said, Who is Abimelech,<sup>28</sup> and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubaal, and Zebul, his officer? Serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for why should we serve him?

29 And who will give this people into my hand? Then I would cause Abimelech to depart. And he said to Abimelech, Increase your host, and come out.<sup>29</sup>

30 And Zebul, the head of the city, attentively heard the words of Gaal, the son of Ebed, and his nostrils burned.

31 And he sent messengers to Abimelech deceitfully, saying, Behold, Gaal, the son of Ebed, and his brothers have come to Shechem; and behold, they are pressing on the city against you.

<sup>28</sup> **9:28** Here follows an explanation to help you understand this verse. Gaal, the son of Ebed, is a Shechemite, that is, a Caananite, over which Abimelech reigns. He asked the question rhetorically, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem? Abimelech and Shechem are the same person, because Abimelech became ruler over the Shechemites by claiming to be a Shechemite since his mother was a Shechemite. See 8:31 and 9:1. But Gaal is pointing out that Abimelech is really an Israelite, the son of Jerubaal [Gideon], and therefore not a true Shechemite. Although Zebul, his officer is a Shechemite, he simply rules for Abimelech, who is not a true Shechemite. Since the Shechemites previously served the men or house of Hamor, a true Shechemite, they should return rule to the house of Hamor, the true founder of Shechem. By receiving Gaal as their ruler, and throwing off the yoke of Abimelech they would restore their government to the rightful house in Shechem. This is to fulfill the words of Jotham, the son of Jerubaal [Gideon] for killing all his brothers, 9:7-20.

<sup>29</sup> **9:29** Gaal made the offer to the Shechemites to become their ruler. They apparently accepted his offer immediately, although the text does not inform us about this. The next sentence is Gaal's challenge to Abimelech.

32 And now rise by night, you and the people who are with you, and lay an ambush in the field;

33 And it shall be, that in the dawn, at the rising of the sun, you shall load up and spread out against the city; and behold, he and the people who are with him are coming out against you, then you shall do to them as comes forth to your hand.

34 And Abimelech arose, and all the people who were with him, by night, and they set an ambush of four heads against Shechem.

35 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, went out, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city; and Abimelech rose, and the people who were with him, out of their ambush.

36 And Gaal saw the people, and said to Zebul, Behold, people are descending from the head of the mountains. And Zebul said to him, You are seeing the shadow of the mountains as men.

37 And Gaal again still more spoke, and said, Behold, people are descending by the summit of the land, and another head are coming the way of the Oak of the Sorcerers.

38 And Zebul said to him, Now where is your mouth, with which you said, Who is Abimelech that we should serve him? Is not this the people whom you despised? Go out, please, and devour them.

39 And Gaal went out before the face of the lords of Shechem, and devoured against Abimelech.

40 And Abimelech ran after him, and he fled before his face, and many fell polluted, as far as the entrance of the gate.

41 And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers from dwelling in Shechem.

42 And it was on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they caused it to stand out boldly to Abimelech.

43 And he took the people, and divided them into three heads, and laid an ambush in the field, and looked, and behold, the people came forth out of the city; and he arose against them, and struck them.

44 And Abimelech and the head that was with him spread out, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city, and the two other heads spread out against all who were in the fields, and struck them.

45 And Abimelech devoured the city all that day, and he captured the city, and fatally struck the people who were there, and tore down the city, and sowed it with salt.

46 And all the lords of the Tower of Shechem attentively heard, and entered into the citadel of the house of the god Berith.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>46</sup> **9:46 the god Berith**, the same as Baal Berith, or Baal Covenant in 9:4. In verse 4 it is *Baal Berith*. Here it is *El Berith*. *Baal* means lord, and *el* means god. *Berith* means covenant. *El* is used of Jehovah God, and pagan gods just like our English word, god. We capitalize God to show we are speaking of the true God. There is not that distinction in Hebrew. In Hebrew you know whether it is God or god by the context.

## JUDGES 10

*Abimelech is killed by a woman throwing a millstone from the wall*

47 And it was made to stand out boldly to Abimelech that all the lords of the Tower of Shechem were assembled.

48 And Abimelech ascended to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him, and Abimelech took the axes in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and lifted it, and put it on his shoulder, and said to the people who were with him, What you have seen me do, flow like liquid and do as I.

49 And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and walked after Abimelech, and put them against the citadel, and set the citadel on fire with them; and all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

50 And Abimelech walked to Thebez, and pitched against Thebez, and captured it.

51 And a strong tower was in the midst of the city, and all the men and women fled there, and all the lords of the city, and shut themselves in, and ascended to the top of the tower.

52 And Abimelech came to the tower, and devoured it, and came near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 And one woman threw down a piece of an upper millstone on the head of Abimelech, and crushed his skull to pieces.

54 And he called out hurriedly to the young man bearing his weapons, and said to him, Draw your sword, and kill me, lest they say of me, A woman struck him fatally.

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And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

55 And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, every man walked to his place.

56 And God turned back the evil on Abimelech, which he did to his father, by fatally striking his seventy brothers;

57 And God turned back all the evil of the men of Shechem upon their heads, and the curse of Jotham, the son of Jerubaal, came on them.

## CHAPTER 10

1 And Tola, the son of Puah, arose after Abimelech to save Israel, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, and he dwelt in Shamir on 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, and judged Israel twenty-two years.

4 And to him were thirty sons who rode on thirty donkey colts, and to them *were* thirty cities; they are called the Towns of Jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

5 And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

6 And again the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and served Baals and Ashtaroths, the same gods of Syria, the same gods of Zidon, the same gods of Moab, the same gods of the children of Ammon, the same gods of the Palestinians, and left Jehovah, and did not serve him.

7 And the nostrils of Jehovah burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Palestinians and into the hands of the children of Ammon,

8 And shattered and crushed the children of Israel to pieces that year- and for eighteen years - all the children of Israel who were in the region across Jordan in the land of the Amorites which is in Gilead.

9 And the children of Ammon crossed over Jordan also to devour Judah, and Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, and Israel was exceedingly distressed.

10 And the children of Israel cried to Jehovah, saying, We have sinned against you, because we have even left our God, and also served the Baals.

11 And Jehovah said to the children of Israel, Did I not save you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Palestinians?

12 And the Sidonians, and Amalek, and Maon have oppressed you, and you cried to me, and I saved you out of their hand.

13 And you, you have forsaken me, and served other gods; therefore I did not save you any more.

14 Walk, and cry to the gods there where you have chosen; let them save you in your time of distress.

15 And the children of Israel said to Jehovah, We have sinned; you do to us all that is good in your eyes; only snatch us out this day, please.

16 And they turned away from the strange gods among them, and served Jehovah, and his soul was cut off by the wearisome toil of Israel.

17 And the children of Ammon were called together, and pitched in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together and pitched in Mizpeh.

18 And the people - the heads of Gilead - said each man to his neighbor, What man is he who will begin to devour the children of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

### **CHAPTER 11**

1 And Jephthah, the Gileadite, was a mighty man of resources, and he was the son of a woman, a harlot, and Gilead begot Jephthah.

2 And Gilead's wife bore him sons; and the sons of the wife became large, and drove Jephthah out, and said to him, You shall not inherit in the house of our father, because you are the son of another woman.

3 And Jephthah fled from the face of his brothers, and dwelt in the land of Tob; and vain men were picked up by Jephthah, and they went out with him.

4 And there was a day that the children of Ammon devoured Israel.

5 And it was, that the children of Ammon devoured Israel, and the elders of Gilead walked to take Jephthah out of the land of Tob;

## JUDGES 11

*Jephthah deals with the Ammonites and rehearses Israel's journeys*

6 And they said to Jephthah, Walk, and you shall be to us for a commander, that we may devour the children of Ammon.

7 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, Did you not hate me? Yes, you drove me out of the house of my father. Why have you come to me now when you are oppressed?

8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, So we turn back to you now, that you may walk with us, and devour the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

9 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, If you turn me back to devour the children of Ammon, and Jehovah gives them before my face, shall I be your head?

10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, Jehovah is the one who hears between us, if we do not so according to your words.

11 And Jephthah walked with the elders of Gilead, and the people put him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the face of Jehovah in Mizpeh.

12 And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What is *it* to me and to you that you have come to me to devour in my land?

13 And the king of the children of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even to Jabbok and to Jordan; and now turn back the same in peace.

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

15 And said to him, Thus says Jephthah, Israel did not take the land of Moab and the land of the children of Ammon,

16 Because when they came up out of Egypt, Israel walked through the desert as far as the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh;

17 And Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, Let me cross over, please, through your land, but the king of Edom would not hear attentively. And also Israel sent to the king of Moab, and he would not breathe in agreement with him, and Israel dwelt in Kadesh.

18 And he walked through the desert, and circled around the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the sunrise side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the region across Arnon, and 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, Let us cross over, please, through your land into my place.

20 And Sihon did not trust Israel to cross over through his border, and Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and devoured Israel.

21 And Jehovah God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them, and Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabit-

ants of that land.

22 And they possessed all the borders of the Amorites from Arnon even to Jabbok, and from the desert even to the Jordan.

23 And now Jehovah God of Israel has possessed the Amorites from before the face of his people Israel, and should you possess it?

24 What Chemosh, your god, causes you to possess, do you not possess? And everywhere Jehovah our God drives out from before our face, the same we possess.

25 And now are you at all better than Balak, the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Contending, did he contend against Israel, or devouring, did he devour them,

26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her daughters, and in Aroer and her daughters, and in all the cities that are close at hand to Arnon three hundred years, why did you not snatch them away within that time?

27 And I, I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to devour against me; Jehovah, the one who judges, judge this day between the children of Israel and between the children of Ammon.

28 And the king of the children of Ammon did not hear attentively the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

29 And the Spirit of Jehovah was on Jephthah, and he crossed over Gilead and Manasseh, and crossed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he crossed over to the children of Ammon.

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow to Jehovah, and said, If giving, you give the children of Ammon into my hands,

31 Then it shall be, that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall be Jehovah's, and I will cause it to ascend for a burnt offering.

32 And Jephthah crossed over to the children of Ammon to devour them, and Jehovah gave them into his hands.

33 And he struck them from Aroer, even until you come to Minnith, twenty cities, and to the meadow of the vineyards, a very great blow. And the children of Ammon bent the knee before the face of the children of Israel.

34 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh to his house, and behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances - and she only, she alone *was* his; there was no other son or daughter.

35 And it was when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! Bending down my knees, you have caused me to bend down my knees, and you are the one troubling the water, because I have opened my mouth to Jehovah, and I cannot turn back.

36 And she said to him, My father, you have opened your mouth to Jehovah; do to me whatever has gone out of your mouth, since Jehovah has done vengeance for you on those who hate you, on the children of Ammon.

**JUDGES 12** *Jephthah sacrifices his daughter; Jephthah fights against Ephraim; shibboleth*

37 And she said to her father, Let be done for me this word: slack off from me two new moons, that I may walk up and down upon the mountains, and weep over my virginity, I and my female companions.

38 And he said, Walk. And he sent her away for two new moons, and she walked with her female companions, and wept over her virginity upon the mountains.

39 And it was at the end of two new moons that she returned to her father, who did to her his vow which he had vowed, and she had known no man. And it was an enactment in Israel:

40 From days to days the daughters of Israel walked to honor the daughter of Jephthah, the Gileadite, four days in a year.

**CHAPTER 12**

1 And the men of Ephraim were called together, and crossed over northward, and said to Jephthah, Why did you cross over to devour the children of Ammon, and did not call us to walk with you? We will burn your house upon you with fire.

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

3 And when I saw that you did not save me, I put my soul in my hand, and crossed over to the children of Ammon, and Jehovah gave them into my palm; and why have you come up to me this day to devour me?

4 And Jephthah called together all the men of Gilead, and devoured against Ephraim; and the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, You are fugitives of Ephraim, Oh Gilead, in the midst of Ephraim, and in the midst of Manassah.

5 And Gilead captured the fords of the Jordan before Ephraim; and it was that the fugitives of Ephraim said, Let me cross over, and the men of Gilead said to them, You *are* an Ephraimite! And he said, No.

6 And they said to him, Please say, Shibboleth; and he said Sibboleth, and was not able to set up *his lips* to say *it*. And they seized him, and slaughtered him at the fords of Jordan; and there fell of Ephraim forty-two thousand at that time.

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

8 And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

9 And there were to him thirty sons; and he sent thirty daughters abroad, and thirty daughters came in from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years.

10 And Ibzan died, and was buried at Bethlehem.

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

12 And Elon, the Zebulonite, died, and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.



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

14 And to him were forty sons, and thirty sons of sons, who rode on seventy donkey colts, and he judged Israel eight years.

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

### CHAPTER 13

1 And again the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and Jehovah gave them into the hand of the Palestinians forty years.

2 And there was one man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren, and had not borne.

3 And the Messenger of Jehovah appeared to the woman, and said to her, Behold now, you are barren, and have not borne; and you shall conceive, and bear a son.

4 And now hedge yourself about, please, and do not drink wine nor hard liquor, and do not eat anything unclean,

5 Because, lo, you have conceived, and are bearing a son; and a razor shall not ascend upon his head, because the child shall be a Nazirite<sup>5</sup> to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Palestinians.

6 And the woman came and said to her husband, saying, A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance

<sup>5</sup>13:5 Nazirite, *nazyr*; separate, consecrated.

of the Messenger of God, exceedingly awesome; and I did not ask him from where he was, and he did not cause his name to stand out boldly to me;

7 And he said to me, Behold, you have conceived, and are bearing a son; and now do not drink wine or hard liquor, and do not eat anything unclean, because the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb until the day of his death.

8 And Manoah ignited a prayer as incense to Jehovah, and said, Oh my Lord, the man of God whom you sent, let him come, please, again to us, and make flow to us what we shall do to the child being born.

9 And God heard attentively the voice of Manoah, and the Messenger of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field, and Manoah, her husband, was not with her.

10 And the woman flowed like liquid, and ran, and caused to stand out boldly to her husband, and said to him, Behold, the man has appeared to me who came the other day to me.

11 And Manoah rose, and walked 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. What shall be the judged decree for the child and our action?

13 And the Messenger of Jehovah said to Manoah, let the woman hedge about all that I said to her.

**JUDGES 13** *Manoah and his wife sacrifice to The Messenger of Jehovah who is God*

14 She shall not eat all that comes from the wine vine, and she shall not drink wine or hard liquor; and she shall not eat any unclean thing; let her hedge about all that I commanded her.

15 And Manoah said to the Messenger of Jehovah, please, let us detain you, and do a young she goat before your face.

16 And the Messenger of Jehovah said to Manoah, If you detain me, I will not eat of your food, and if you do a burnt offering to Jehovah, you shall offer it; because Manoah knew not by seeing that he was the Messenger of Jehovah.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> **13:16** Verse 16 is the only part of this story that raises the question of whether or not the person appearing to Manoah and his wife is God or a messenger of God. All of the rest of the verses in this story lead us to believe that the Messenger of Jehovah is God, the same as in His appearance in Judges 2:1, 6:12 and the other places in the Bible. In verse 16 the Messenger appears to insist that the sacrifice cannot be offered to him, but to Jehovah. But if you read the verse correctly, understanding the context of Manoah's and his wife's attitude you quickly see why the Messenger of Jehovah said what He said. The wife's attitude was that he was a man of God who appeared to her, see 13:6,10. Manoah's attitude was that this messenger was a prophet, see 13:8,11. Manoah was willing to offer a sacrifice to a prophet or a human being. Manoah needed instruction that he was not speaking with a human prophet, but with God Himself, and that he must not offer sacrifice to man, but to God alone. The Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary on this passage says: "The stranger declined the intended hospitality; and intimated that if the meat were to be an offering, it must be presented to the Lord. Manoah needed this instruction, for the purpose was to offer the prepared viands to Him, not as the Lord, but as what he imagined Him to be, not even an angel (v.16), but a prophet or merely a human messenger. It was on this account, and not as rejecting divine honours, that he spoke in this manner to Manoah. The angel's language was exactly similar to that of our Lord, Matt. xix,17." The reason for God's instruction to Manoah is found in the words, "because Manoah knew

17 And Manoah said to the Messenger of Jehovah, What is your name? Because when your words come, then we shall attribute heavy honor to you?

18 And the Messenger of Jehovah said to him, Why this, you ask about my name? It is Wonderful? *Isaiah 9:6 a form of the word, miracle*

19 And Manoah took a young she goat and the food offering, and offered it on a strong rock to Jehovah; and he was doing wonderfully, and Manoah and his wife seeing.

20 And it was, as the flame was ascending from on the altar to the heavens, that the Messenger of Jehovah ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife saw, and fell on their faces to the earth.

21 And the Messenger of Jehovah no more appeared to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew by seeing that he was the Messenger of Jehovah.

22 And Manoah said to his wife, Dying, we shall die, because we have seen God.

23 And his wife said to him, If Jehovah were pleased to put us to death, he would not have received from our hands a burnt offering and a food offering, and would not have caused us to see all these, and

not by seeing that he was the Messenger of Jehovah." Manoah did not previously know that he was speaking to God. The Messenger of Jehovah instructed Manoah that for Him to receive the offering, Manoah must present the offering to Him as Jehovah. In 13:20-23 Manoah and his wife received revelation knowledge that they had seen God. So you can see that this is an appearance of THE Messenger of Jehovah to Manoah and his wife as was His appearance to Hagar and all the rest. See Gen 16:7.

would not now have caused us to attentively hear these.

24 And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the child became large, and Jehovah blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of Jehovah began to strike<sup>25</sup> him in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

<sup>25</sup> **13:25 And the Spirit of Jehovah began to strike him.** The word strike is *pa'am* meaning to tap, to beat regularly, to strike, as striking an anvil - anvil is a form of this word, as striking a bell - bell is a form of this word, and to tread with the foot or feet as the feet strike the ground in walking. *Pa'am* is used because the Holy Spirit struck Samson with great thrusts of spiritual and physical power to destroy the enemies of Israel. Let us note what the Bible has said of the Holy Spirit from the beginning to this time:

(1) In creation the Spirit **brooded** with a shaking or a push-pull movement to bring everything into its proper form and place, Gen 1:2; Dt 32:11; Jer 23:9. (2) It is in the Spirit that God **walks the earth** looking for us, Gen 3:8. (3) The Spirit **regulates and restrains** man's tendency to sin, rebellion, and violence, Gen 6:3. (4) Because of man's sin the Spirit **tares open** the forces of nature, and then **moderates and subsides** them, Gen 7:11; 8:1. (5) The Spirit is in believers to **give wisdom** for all of life, Gen 41:38. (6) The Spirit out of God's nostrils **destroys those who hate Him** and His people, and delivers His own, Ex 15:8,10. (7) What God requires of us by His Word, **His Spirit supplies** to us, Ex 28:3; 31:3; 35:31. (8) The Holy Spirit is the **righteous Spirit of jealousy**, just as an evil spirit of false accusation is the evil spirit of jealousy, Num 5:14,30. (9) The Spirit is upon God's servants to **qualify and enable** them to fulfill God's call upon their lives, Num 11:17,25-26,31, as well as in them, Num 27:18. (10) God's **Spirit gathers food for His children**, Num 11:31. (11) God's Spirit is **WITH them** who are after God to the full, Num 14:24. (12) The Spirit is sometimes **upon** those who are a mixture of the true religion and the pagan, Num 24:2; Jdgs 11:29. (13) The **Spirit will fill you with wisdom** through the laying on of hands by the man of God, Dt 34:9. (14) The **Spirit clothes us in Himself** when we step out in faith for Him and His people, Jdgs 3:10; 6:34.

The **Spirit began to strike** Samson, 13:25. The Spirit at times **pushed upon him**, and **pushed him forward**, and **prospered him** 14:6,19; 15:14. You see how rich is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, even in the first seven books of the Bible.

## CHAPTER 14

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

2 And he came up, and caused *it* to stand out boldly to his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Palestinians, and now take her to me for a wife.

3 And his father and his mother said to him, Is there not a woman among the daughters of your brothers, and among all my people, a woman so that you are walking to take of the uncircumcised Palestinians? And Samson said to his father, Take her for me because she is right to my eyes.

4 And his father and his mother did not know by seeing that it was from Jehovah, because he was searching out an opportunity against the Palestinians, for at that time the Palestinians ruled over Israel.

5 And Samson went down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and they came to the vineyards of Timnath; and behold, a young lion of the lions roared encountering him.

6 And the Spirit of Jehovah prospered upon him, and he tore him as he would have torn a young goat; and he did not have a speck of anything in his hand, and he did not cause what he had done to stand out boldly to his father or his mother.

**JUDGES 14** *Samson's marriage feast and his riddle about the honey and the lion*

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

8 And he returned after days to take her, and turned aside to see the ruin of the lion, and behold, *there was* an assembly of bees in the body of the lion and honey.

9 And he crumbled it off in his palms, and walked eating, and walked to his father and mother, and he gave to them and they ate, and he did not cause to stand out boldly to them that he had broken off the honey out of the body of the lion.

10 And his father went down to the woman, and Samson made there a feast, because so the young men did.

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

12 And Samson said to them, Please let me tie a knot to you, a riddle; if causing it to stand out boldly, you can cause it to stand out boldly to me *during* the seven days of the feast, and cause it to come forth, then I will give you thirty shirts and thirty changes of clothing;

13 And if you are not able to cause it to stand out boldly to me, then you shall give me thirty shirts and thirty changes of clothing. And they said to him, Tie the knot of your riddle, and we shall attentively hear it.

14 And he said to them, Out of the eater came forth food, and out of the forceful came forth sweetness. And *for* three days they were not able to cause the riddle

to stand out boldly.

15 And it was on the seventh day, that they said to the wife of Samson, Open up your husband that he may cause to stand out boldly to us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire; have you called us to *cause Samson* to possess us, no?

16 And Samson's wife wept upon him, and said, You only hate me, and do not love me; you have tied the knot of your riddle to the children of my people, and have not caused it to stand out boldly to me. And he said to her, Behold, I have not caused it to stand out boldly to my father and my mother, and shall I cause it to stand out boldly to you?

17 And she wept on him the seven days, which were for them the feast, and it was on the seventh day that he caused it to stand out boldly to her, because she pressed on him; and she caused the riddle to stand out boldly to the children of her people.

18 And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the heat went, What is sweeter than honey? And what is more forceful than a lion? And he said to them, If you had not plowed with my heifer, you had not caused my riddle to come forth.

19 And the Spirit of Jehovah prospered upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and struck thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave changes to them who caused the riddle to stand out boldly. And his nostrils burned, and he went up to his father's house.

20 And Samson's wife became his friend's *wife*, whom he shepherded as close.

### CHAPTER 15

1 And it was after some days *during* the days of wheat harvest, and Samson visited his wife with a young she goat, and he said, I will go into my wife's apartment; and her father would not give in for him to go in.

2 And her father said, Indeed saying, I said that hating, you hated her, and I gave her to your friend; is not her younger sister better than she? Please let her be instead of her.

3 And Samson said to them, I shall be more clean at this stroke than the Palestinians, though I am doing with them evil.

4 And Samson walked, and captured three hundred jackals, and took flaming torches, and turned tail to tail, and put one flaming torch between two tails in the middle;

5 And kindled fire on the flaming torches, and sent them out into the stalks of grain of the Palestinians, and burnt from the stacks of sheaves to the stalks of grain, with the vineyards and olives.

6 And the Palestinians said, Who has done this? And they said, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he took his wife, and gave her to his friend. And the Palestinians 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 on you, and after-

ward I will cease.

8 And he struck them hip on thigh a great blow, and he went down, and dwelt in the fissure of the lofty rock, Etam.

9 And the Palestinians went up, and pitched in Judah, and thrust out in Lehi.

10 And the men of Judah said, Why are you come up against us? And they said, We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him what he has done to us.

11 And three thousand men of Judah went down to the fissure of the lofty rock, Etam, and said to Samson, Do you not know by seeing that the Palestinians are ruling over us? What is this you have done to us? And he said to them, What they did to me, so I have done to them.

12 And they said to him, We have come down to bind you, to give you into the hands of the Palestinians. And Samson said to them, Swear to me that you will not impinge upon me yourselves.

13 And they said to him, saying, No, but binding we will bind you, and give you into their hand, but killing, we will not kill you. And they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up out of the lofty rock.

14 And he came as far as Lehi, and the Palestinians shouted encountering him; and the Spirit of Jehovah prospered upon him, and the ropes that *were* on his arms became as flax which was burnt with fire, and his bonds melted from off his hands.

**JUDGES 16** *Samson kills 1,000 Palestinians with the jawbone of a donkey; meets Delilah*

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

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey, I have struck a thousand men.

17 And it was, he ended speaking, and he threw away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place the Height of a Jawbone.<sup>17</sup>

18 And he was exceedingly thirsty, and called to Jehovah, and said, You have given this great deliverance by the hand of your servant, and now shall I die of thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19 And God broke open the hollow place that *was* in the jawbone, and water came out of it, and he drank; his spirit returned, and he revived, upon which he called its name, Fountain of One Calling, which is in Lehi to this day.

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

**CHAPTER 16**

1 And Samson walked to Gaza, and saw there a woman, a harlot, and went in to her.

2 The Gazites were saying, Samson has come here. And they surrounded him, and weaved a plot for him all night in the gate of the city, and devised all night, saying, Until the light of the dawn, then we shall kill him.

3 And Samson lay down until the middle of the night, and he rose at the middle of the night, and seized the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and pulled them up, with the bar, and put *it* on his shoulders, and ascended to the head of the mountain that is above the face of Hebron.

4 And it was afterward, that he loved a woman by the stream of Sorek, and her name was Delilah.

5 And the leaders of the Palestinians came up to her, and said to her, Make him open and see where is his great power, and how we can prevail over him that we may bind him to look down upon him with harshness, and we will give to you, each man, a thousand and one hundred of silver.

6 And Delilah said to Samson, Please cause to stand out boldly to me where is your great power, and how you can be bound for us to look down upon you with harshness.

7 And Samson said to her, If they bind me with seven fresh left over pieces which were never dried, then I shall be worn weak, and be as one man.

8 And the leaders of the Palestinians brought up to her seven fresh left over pieces which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9 And the ambush was sitting for her in the apartment. And she said to him, The Palestinians are upon you, Samson! And he tore off the left over pieces like a thread of

<sup>17</sup> 15:17 *Ramath-Lehi*

tow is torn in its smelling fire. And his power was not known by seeing.

10 And Delilah said to Samson, Behold, you have deceived me, and spoken lies to me; this time cause to stand out boldly to me, please, how you can be bound.

11 And he said to her, If binding, they bind me with new thick ropes that have not done work, then I shall be worn *weak*, and be as one man.

12 And Delilah took new thick ropes, and bound him with them, and said to him, The Palestinians are upon you, Samson! And the ambush was sitting in the apartment. And he tore them off from his arms like a thread.

13 And Delilah said to Samson, Until now you have deceived me, and spoken to me lies; cause to stand out boldly to me how you may be bound. And he said to her, If you weave the seven braids of my head with a web.

14 And she fastened it with the pin, and said to him, The Palestinians are upon you, Samson! And he awoke out of his sleep, and pulled up the pin, the loom, and the web.

15 And she said to him, How can you say, I love you, when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three strokes, and have not caused to stand out boldly to me where is your great power.

16 And it was, because she pressed him all the days with her words, and pressed upon him, and

his soul was cut off to die;

17 And he caused to stand out boldly to her all his heart, and said to her, A razor has not ascended upon my head, because I am a Nazirite to God from the womb of my mother; if I were shaved, my power would turn off from me, and I would be worn *weak*, and be like all men. Num 6:1-21

18 And Delilah saw that he had caused to stand out boldly to her all his heart, and she sent and called for the leaders of the Palestinians, saying, Come up this stroke, because he has caused to stand out boldly to me all his heart. And the leaders of the Palestinians ascended to her, and they ascended with silver 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 braids from his head; and she began to look down upon him with harshness, and his power was turned off from him.

20 And she said, The Palestinians are upon you, Samson! And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as stroke by stroke,<sup>20</sup> and shake myself. And he did not know by seeing that Jehovah had turned off from him.

21 And the Palestinians seized him, and bored out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of bronze, and he was grinding in the house of those bound.

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<sup>20</sup> 16:20 as stroke by stroke, *pa'am* *pa'am*, meaning, as I did at the other strokes, or times. **shake myself**, as a horse or other animals when they first awake to loosen their muscles.

**JUDGES 17** *Samson demolishes the temple of Dagon and slays more in his death than in his life*

22 And the hair of his head began to grow since he had been shaved.

23 And the leaders of the Palestinians gathered together to sacrifice a great sacrifice to Dagon, their god, and to rejoice; and they said, Our god has given Samson, the one hating us, into our hand.

24 And the people saw him, and boasted in their god, because they said, Our god has given him who hated us into our hands, and the destroyer of our land who polluted many of us.

25 And it was, that their hearts felt good, and they said, Call Samson, that he may cause us to laugh. And they called Samson out of the house of those bound, and he made them laugh; and they stood him between the columns.

26 And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, Place me, and I will touch the columns on which the house is set up, and I will support myself by them.

27 And the house was full of men and women, and all the leaders of the Palestinians *were* there; and upon the roof *there were* about three thousand men and women, who saw while Samson made them laugh.

28 And Samson called to Jehovah, and said, Oh Lord Jehovah, remember me, please, and strengthen me, please, only this stroke. Oh God, let me be avenged one vengeance for my two eyes upon the Palestinians.

29 And Samson bent himself to the two columns of the middle upon which the house was erected, and on which it was held, one with his right hand, and one with his left.

30 And Samson said, Let my soul die with the Palestinians. And he stretched out with his power, and the house fell on the leaders, and on all the people who were in it. And the dead whom he caused to die at his death were more than them whom he caused to die in his life.

31 And his brothers and all the house of his father came down, and lifted him up, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the sepulcher of Manoah, his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

**CHAPTER 17**

1 And there was a man of Mount Ephraim, and his name was Micah.

2 And he said to his mother, The thousand and one hundred of silver that were taken from you, and you cursed and spoke even in my ears; behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, You are blessed by Jehovah, my son.

3 And he turned back the one thousand and one hundred of silver to his mother, and his mother said, Sanctifying, I had sanctified the silver to Jehovah from my hand for my son to make a graven image and a molten image, and now I will turn it back to you.



*An Ephraimite, Micah, makes images and obtains a Levite; the Danites expand* **JUDGES 18**

4 And he turned back the silver to his mother, and his mother took two hundred of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made of it a graven image and a molten image, and they were in the house of Micah.

5 And the man Micah had a house of God, and made an ephod and family healing images, and filled the hand of one of his sons who became his priest. Gen 31:19

6 And in those days there was no king in Israel; each man did right in his eyes.

7 And there was a young man out of Bethlehem Judah of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and he lodged there.

8 And the man walked out of the city from Bethlehem Judah to turn aside wherever he could find, and he came to Mount Ephraim to the house of Micah to make his way.

9 And Micah said to him, From where do you come? And he said to him, I am a Levite of Bethlehem Judah, and I walk to lodge wherever I may find.

10 And Micah said to him, Dwell with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten of silver for the days, and a wardrobe of clothing, and your sustenance for life. And the Levite walked in.

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

12 And Micah filled the hand of the Levite, and the young man was his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

13 And Micah said, Now I know by seeing that Jehovah will be good to me, because there is to me the Levite for a priest.

## CHAPTER 18

1 In those days there was no king in Israel, and in those days the tribe of the Danites was searching for themselves an inheritance to dwell in, because to that day their inheritance had not fallen to them in the midst of the tribes of Israel.

2 And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their borders, men, sons of resources, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to walk in spying out the land, and to search it; and they said to them, Walk, search the land; and they came to Mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.

3 They were near the house of Micah, and they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite, and they turned in there, and said to him, Who caused you to come here, and what do you do in this *place*, and what *is* to you here?

4 And he said to them, This and that Micah does with me, and has hired me, and I am his priest.

5 And they said to him, Ask counsel, please, of God, that we may know by seeing if our way which we walk shall prosper.

6 And the priest said to them, Walk in peace; your way where you walk is in front of Jehovah.

7 And the five men walked, and came to Laish, and saw the people who were in the midst, dwelling, trusting, judged by the

## JUDGES 18

*The Danites take the images and the Levite from Micah*

Zidonians, at rest and trusting; and there was none to reproach them a word in occupying them with restraint; and they were far away from the Zidonians, and a word was not to them with any man.

8 And they came to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brothers said to them, What are you doing?

9 And they said, Rise up, and we will ascend up against them, because we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good; and will you keep silence? Do not be slothful to walk to go in to possess the land.

10 Going, you shall go to a trusting people, and to a land broad on both hands, because God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no want of any word that is in the earth.

11 And *some* of the family of the Danites pulled up from there out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men girded with implements of war.

12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath Je'arim, in Judah; justly so they called that place Camp of Dan to this day; behold, it is behind Kirjath-Je'arim.

13 And they crossed over there to Mount Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

14 And the five men answered, those who walked to spy out the land of Laish, and said to their brothers, Did you know by seeing that there is in these houses an ephod, and family healing images, and a graven image, and a molten image? And now you know

by seeing what you have to do.

15 And they turned in there, and came to the house of the young man, the Levite, the house of Micah, and inquired of him of peace.

16 And the six hundred men girded with their implements of war, were stationed by the entrance of the gate, who were of the children of Dan.

17 And the five men went up, those who walked to spy out the land, they came in there, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the family healing images, and the molten image; and the priest was stationed at the entrance of the gate, and the six hundred men who were girded with implements of war.

18 And these came into the house of Micah, and took the graven image, the ephod, and the family healing images, and the molten image. And the priest said to them, What are you doing?

19 And they said to him, Be silent; put your hand over your mouth, and walk with us, and be to us a father and a priest; is it better for you to be a priest for the house of one man, or for you to be a priest for a tribe and a family in Israel?

20 And it was good to the heart of the priest, and he took the ephod, and the family healing images, and the graven image, and went into the midst of the people.

21 And they faced about, and walked, and put the little ones, and the livestock, and the weighty valuables before their face.

22 They had widened the distance from the house of Micah, and the men who were in the houses which were near to the house of Micah had been called together, and overtook the children of Dan.

23 And they called to the children of Dan. And they turned about their faces, and said to Micah, What is it to you that you have been called together?

24 And he said, You have taken my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have walked; and what is left to me! What is this you say to me, What is it to you?

25 And the children of Dan said to him, Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest we, men bitter of soul, impinge upon you, and you remove your soul with the souls of your house.

26 And the children of Dan walked their way, and Micah saw that they were stronger than he, and he faced about, and turned back to his house.

27 And they took what Micah had made, and the priest who was to him, and came against Laish, against a people at rest, and trusting, and they struck them with the mouth of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.

28 And there was no one to snatch them out, because it was far from Zidon, and there was no word to them with any other humans; and it was in the valley that is by Beth Rechob. And they built a city, and dwelt in it,

29 And called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan, their father, who was born to Is-

rael; however the name of the city was Laish first.

30 And the children of Dan raised up for themselves the graven image, and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, he and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the day of the nakedness of the land.

31 And they put for themselves the graven image of Micah, which he had made, all the days that the house of God was in Shiloh.

### CHAPTER 19

1 And it was in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a man, a Levite, lodging on the backside of Mount Ephraim, and he took to himself a wife, a concubine, out of Bethlehem Judah.

2 And his concubine committed adultery against him, and walked from him to the house of her father to Bethlehem Judah, and was there four new moons of days.

3 And her husband rose up, and walked after her, to speak to her heart, and to turn her back, his servant with him and a pair of donkeys; and she brought him into the house of her father; and the father of the young woman saw him, and he was glad to meet him.

4 And his father in law, the father of the young woman, detained him, and he dwelt with him three days; and they ate, and drank, and lodged there.

5 And it was on the fourth day, that they started early in the dawn, and he rose up to walk; and

**JUDGES 19** *The story of a Levite and his concubine spending the night in Gibeah of Benjamin*

the father of the young woman said to his son in law, Refresh your heart with a morsel of food, and afterward walk on.

6 And they sat and ate, the two of them together, and drank, because the father of the young woman had said to the man, Yield *assent*, please, and stay the night, and let your heart be well.

7 And the man rose up to walk, and his father in law urged him; and he turned back, and lodged there.

8 And he rose early in the dawn on the fifth day to walk on, and the father of the young woman said, Refresh your heart, please. And they tarried until the day was stretching away, and they ate, the two of them.

9 And the man rose up to walk on, he, and his concubine, and his servant, and his father in law, the father of the young woman, said to him, Behold, please, the day has slackened toward dusk; please, stay the night; behold, the day is declining, stay the night here, and make your heart well; and rise early tomorrow for your way, and walk on to your tent.

10 And the man would not breathe in agreement with him to stay the night, and he rose up and walked on, and came as far as in front of Jebus, that is Jerusalem, and a team of donkeys bound with him, and his concubine with him.

11 And they were by Jebus, and the day was very treaded out; and the servant said to his master, Walk, please, 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 cross over as far as Gibeah.

13 And he said to his servant, Walk, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge in Gibeah or in Ramah.

14 And they crossed over and walked, and the sun went *down* upon them by Gibeah, which is to Benjamin.

15 And they turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah, and when he went in, he sat down in a wide avenue of the city; yet there was no man who received them into his house to lodge.

16 And behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at dusk, and the man was of Mount Ephraim, and he lodged in Gibeah, but the men of the place were Benjamites.

17 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw a traveling man in the wide avenue of the city, and the old man said, To where are you walking, and from where do you come?

18 And he said to him, We are crossing over from Bethlehem Judah to the backside of Mount Ephraim; I *am* from there; and I am walking to Bethlehem Judah, and I am now walking to the house of Jehovah, and no man receives me into the house.

19 And there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for your maidservant, and for

the young man who is with your servants; there is no lack of any word.

20 And the old man said, Peace to you; merely let all your wants be upon me; only do not lodge in the wide avenue.

21 And he brought him into his house, and mixed feed to the donkeys; and they washed their feet, and ate, and drank.

22 They were making their hearts well, and behold, the men of the city, men of sons of worthlessness, surrounded the house, and pressed severely on the door, and said to the old man, the master of the house, saying, Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.

23 And the man, the master of the house, went out to them, and said to them, No, my brothers, please, do not do evil, after that this man has come into my house; do not do this foolishness.

24 Behold, please let me bring out my daughter, a virgin, and his concubine, and you look down upon them with harshness, and do to them what is good in your eyes, but do not this morally wicked word to this man.

25 And the men would not breathe in agreement with him to hear him attentively, and the man seized his concubine, and brought her out to them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the dawn; and in the ascending of the dawn they sent her away.

26 And the woman came at the facing of the dawn, and fell at the door of the house of the man,

there where her master was, until the light.

27 And her master rose in the dawn, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to walk on his way; and behold, the woman, his concubine, had fallen at the door of the house, and her hands on the threshold.

28 And he said to her, Rise, and we walk, and none answered. And he took her on the donkey, and the man rose up, and walked to his place.

29 And he came into his house, and took a knife, and seized his concubine, and dismembered her with her bones, into twelve fragments, and sent her into all the borders of Israel.

30 And it was so, all who saw it said, There was not, and there was not seen like this from the day the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; put yourselves on it; consult, and speak.

## CHAPTER 20

1 And all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man from Dan even to Beer Sheba and the land of Gilead to Jehovah in Mizpeh.

2 And the chieftains of all the people, of all the tribes of Israel, stationed themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen drawing sword.

3 And the children of Benjamin heard attentively that the children of Israel ascended to Mizpeh.

## JUDGES 20

*All Israel attack Benjamin over the murder of the Levite's wife*

And the children of Israel said, Speak! How did this evil come to be?

4 And the man answered, the Levite, the husband of the woman who was brutally murdered, and said, I came into Gibeah that is to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

5 And the lords of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house against me by night, and likened to strike me fatally; and they looked down upon my concubine with harshness, and she is dead.

6 And I seized my concubine, and dismembered her, and sent her throughout all the field of the inheritance of Israel, because they have done an *evil* scheme and foolishness in Israel.

7 Behold, you are all children of Israel; give here your word and counsel.

8 And all the people rose as one man, saying, Not a man of us shall walk to his tent, and not a man of us will turn aside to his house.

9 And now this is the word which we will do against Gibeah by lot;

10 And we shall take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to take food for the people, that they may do when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the foolishness that they have done in Israel.

11 And all the men of Israel were gathered to the city, associated as one man.

12 And the tribes of Israel sent men to all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What evil *is* this which has come to be among you?

13 And now give us the men, the children of worthlessness, which are in Gibeah, and we will put them to death, and burn out evil from Israel. And the children of Benjamin would not breathe in agreement with them to attentively hear the voice of their brothers, the children of Israel;

14 And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities to Gibeah, to go out to battle with the children of Israel.

15 And the children of Benjamin were visited at that time twenty-six thousand men out of the cities who drew sword, separate from seven hundred chosen men of the inhabitants of Gibeah who were visited.

16 Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men impeded in the right hand; all of these could sling stones at a hair, and not miss.

17 And the men of Israel, separate from Benjamin, were visited four hundred thousand men who drew sword; each of these *was* a man of war.

18 And the children of Israel rose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up at the opening of the battle against the children of Benjamin? And Jehovah said, Judah at the opening.

19 And the children of Israel rose in the dawn, and pitched against Gibeah.

20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel arranged themselves to fight against them at Gibeah.

21 And the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and destroyed of Israel to the ground that day twenty-two thousand men.

22 And the people, the men of Israel, seized strength, and arranged their battle again in the place there where they arranged themselves the first day.

23 And the children of Israel went up and wept before the face of Jehovah until dusk, and asked counsel of Jehovah, saying, Shall I come near again to battle with the children of Benjamin my brother? And Jehovah said, Go up against him.

24 And the children of Israel drew near to the children of Benjamin the second day.

25 And Benjamin went out encountering them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword.

26 And all the children of Israel, even all the people, went up, and came to the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the face of Jehovah, and fasted that day until the dusk, and caused to ascend burnt offerings and peace offerings before the face of Jehovah.

27 And the children of Israel asked of Jehovah, and 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 its face in those days- saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle with the children of Benjamin, my brother, or shall I cease? And Jehovah said, Go up, because tomorrow I will give them into your hand.

29 And Israel put those lying in ambush against Gibeah all around.

30 And the children of Israel went up to the children of Benjamin on the third day, and arranged themselves near Gibeah as stroke by stroke.

31 And the children of Benjamin went out encountering the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to strike the people, and pollute *them*, stroke by stroke, in the highways, of which one goes up to the house of God and one to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

32 And the children of Benjamin said, They are struck before our face as at first. And the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city to the highways.

33 And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and arranged themselves at Baal-Tamar; and the ambush of Israel gushed forth out of their places, out of the naked plains of Gibeah.

**JUDGES 20***All Israel finally slaughter all of Benjamin except 600 men*

34 And ten thousand chosen men came opposite Gibeah out of all Israel, and the battle was heavy, and they did not know by seeing that evil was touching them.

35 And Jehovah struck Benjamin before the face of Israel, and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty-five thousand, one hundred men; all these drew the sword.

36 And the children of Benjamin saw that they were struck, and the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted in the ambush which they had put near Gibeah.

37 And the ambush hurried, and spread out toward Gibeah; and the ambush drew out, and struck all the city with the mouth of the sword.

38 And there was an appointed meeting to the men of Israel with the ambush, to make a great going up of rising smoke out of the city.

39 And the men of Israel turned about in the battle, and Benjamin began to strike, polluting the men of Israel, about thirty men, because they said, Being struck, they are struck before our face as in the first battle.

40 And the rising column of smoke began to go up out of the city, and the Benjamites faced about to the rear, and behold, the whole city ascended up to the heavens.

41 And the men of Israel turned about, and the men of Benjamin trembled, because they saw that evil had touched upon them.

42 And they faced about before the face of the men of Israel toward the way of the desert, and the battle overtook them; and those who were from the cities were destroying them in their midst.

43 They enclosed the Benjamites, and ran after them, and trod them down with ease as far as in front of Gibeah at the rising of the sun.

44 And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of resources.

45 And they faced about and fled to the desert to the lofty rock of Rimmon, and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and reached after them as far as Gidom, and struck fatally two thousand men of them.

46 And all who fell that day of Benjamin were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword; all these men of resources.

47 And six hundred men faced about, and fled to the desert to the lofty rock, Rimmon, and sat down in the lofty rock, Rimmon, four months.

48 And the men of Israel turned back again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the mouth of the sword, as well as the whole of every city, as well as the animals, and all that existed; also all the cities that were found they sent up by fire.



**CHAPTER 21**

1 And the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, Not a man of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin for a wife.

2 And the people came to the house of God, and sat there until dusk before the face of God, and lifted up their voices, and wept a great weeping;

3 And said, Oh Jehovah God of Israel, why is this come to be in Israel, to visit today from Israel one tribe?

4 And it was on the next day, that the people loaded up early, and built there an altar, and caused burnt offerings and peace offerings to ascend.

5 And the children of Israel said, Who among all the tribes of Israel did not come up with the congregation to Jehovah? Because there was a great oath concerning him who did not come up to Jehovah to Mizpeh, saying, Dying, he shall die.

6 And the children of Israel comforted themselves for Benjamin, their brother, and said, There is one branch cut down from Israel this day.

7 What shall we do for wives for them who remain? And we have sworn by Jehovah that we will not give them of our daughters for wives?

8 And they said, What one of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpeh to Jehovah? And behold, not a man came to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly.

9 And the people were visited, and behold, not a man was there of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead.

10 And the congregation sent there twelve thousand men, sons of resources, and commanded them, saying, Walk and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the mouth of the sword, with the women and the children.

11 And this is the word which you shall do; you shall devote *to destruction* every male, and every woman who has known a man *by being* in bed with a male.

12 And there was among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young women, virgins, who had not known a man *by being* in bed with a male; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

13 And the whole congregation sent and spoke to the children of Benjamin who were in the lofty rock, Rimmon, and to call out peace to them.

14 And Benjamin turned back at that time, and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet so they were not enough for them.

15 And the people comforted themselves for Benjamin, because Jehovah had made a break in the tribes of Israel.

16 And the elders of the assembly said, What shall we do for wives for them who remain, because the women are desolated out of Benjamin?

**JUDGES 21** *How the 600 men left of Benjamin obtained wives and preserved the tribe*

17 And they said, There must be a possession for the survivors of Benjamin, so that a tribe is not rubbed out of Israel.

18 And we are not able to give them wives of our daughters, because the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed is he who gives a wife to Benjamin.

19 And they said, Behold, there is a festival to Jehovah from days to days in Shiloh which is on the north side of Bethel, toward the rising of the sun by the highway which goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.

20 And they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Walk and lie in wait in the vineyards;

21 And see, and behold, when the daughters of Shiloh come out to twist around in dances, then you come out of the vineyards, and every man catch his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and walk to the land of Benjamin.

22 And it shall be, when their fathers, or their brothers come to us to contend, that we will say to them, Stoop down in grace to them, because we did not take for each man his wife in war; because if you did not give to them at this time you would be guilty.

23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and lifted wives, according to their number, of them who twisted around, whom they plucked off, and they walked, and returned to their inheritance, and built the cities, and dwelt in them.

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

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did right in his eyes.