

Judges

Chapter 1

- ¶1. Now it came to pass after the death of Joshua that the children of Israel asked Jehovah, saying, “Who shall go up for us first against the Canaanites to fight against them?”
2. And Jehovah said, “Judah shall go up. Behold, I have given the land into his hand.”
3. Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me in my lot, and let us fight the Canaanites, and I will also go with you in your lot.” And so, Simeon went with him.
4. Then Judah went up, and Jehovah gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they killed of them 10,000 men at Bezek.
5. And in Bezek, they found Adoni-Bezek and fought against him, and they attacked the Canaanites and the Perizzites.
6. And Adoni-Bezek fled, but they pursued after him and caught him, and they cut off his thumbs and big toes.
7. Then Adoni-Bezek said, “Seventy kings, with their thumbs and big toes cut off, used to gather *scraps* under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.
8. And the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it, and they smote it with the edge of the sword and destroyed the city with fire.
9. Afterward, the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill-country, and the Negev, and the Shephelah.
10. And Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (The former name of Hebron was Kirjath-Arbah.) And they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.
11. And from there, he went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The former name of Debir was Kirjath-Sepher.)
12. And Caleb said, “Whoever strikes Kirjath-Sepher and takes it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter as a wife.”
13. And Othniel ben-Kenaz, the young brother of Caleb, took it. So, he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.
14. And came to pass that when she came, she got him to ask her father for the field. And she came down from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What would you have?”
15. And she said to him, “Give me a present, for you gave me land in the Negeb. Now, give me sources of water.” And Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.”
16. And then sons of the Kenite, Moses’ father-in-law, came up from the City of Palms with the sons of Judah *to the* Judean wilderness, which is south of Arad, and they went and dwelt with the people.
17. And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites dwelling in Zephath and exterminated them, and the name of the city was called Hormah.¹

¹ Extermination.

18. Judah also took Gaza and its border, and Ashkelon and its border, and Ekron and its border.
19. And Jehovah was with Judah, and he possessed the hill-country, though he did not dispossess the inhabitants of the valley because they had a chariot of iron.
20. And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said, and he dispossessed three sons of Anak.
21. And the Jebusites that live in Jerusalem, the sons of Benjamin did not dispossess, but the Jebusites dwell in Jerusalem with sons of Benjamin to this day.
22. And as for the house of Joseph, they also went up *against* Bethel. And Jehovah was with them.
23. And the house of Joseph reconnoitered Bethel. (The name of the city before this time was Luz.)
24. And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "If you will show us a way into the city, then we will show you mercy."
25. And he showed them a way into the city, and they destroyed the city with the edge of the sword, but the man and all his family, they let go.
26. And the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city, and he named it Luz. (This is the name of it until this day.)
27. And Manasseh did not dispossess Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites wanted to live in these areas.
28. And it came to pass when Israel was strong, he put the Canaanites under tribute, but as for taking possession, they did not do so.
29. And Ephraim did not dispossess the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer, but the Canaanites dwelt in his midst, in Gezer.
30. Zebulun did not dispossess the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, but the Canaanites dwell in his midst, though he did put them under tribute.
31. Asher did not dispossess the inhabitants of Accho, or the inhabitants of Zidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob,
32. but the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, because they did not dispossess them.
33. Naphtali did not dispossess the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-Anath, but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, even the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-Anath. Yet, they had them under tribute.
34. And the Amorites pressed the children of Dan toward the hill-country, for they did not allow him to come down into the valley,
35. but the Amorites were determined to dwell on the hill of Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. Still, the hand of the house of Joseph was strong, and they were forced into labor.

36. And the border of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akkribim, from the Rock, and upward.

Chapter 2

- ¶1. Now, a messenger from Jehovah went up from Gilgal to Bochim, and he said, "I brought you up from Egypt, and I led you to the land which I promised to your fathers. And I said, 'I will not break my covenant with you forever!
2. Do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of this land! Tear down their altars!' But you did not heed my voice. What have you done?
3. So, I also said, 'I will not drive them out from before you, but they will be in your midst, and their gods will be a snare to you.'
4. And it came to pass when the messenger from Jehovah spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice and wept.
5. And they called the name of that place Bochim, and they made sacrifice there to Jehovah.
6. And Joshua sent the people away, and the children of Israel went, each one, 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 who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of Jehovah which He wrought for Israel.
8. And Joshua ben Nun, the servant of Jehovah, died, being one hundred and ten years old.
9. And they buried him within the border of his inheritance, in Timnath-heres in Mount Ephraim, on the north of the hill Gaash.
10. And all that generation was also gathered to its fathers, and there arose another generation after them that did not know Jehovah, nor yet the work which He had wrought for Israel.
11. And the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and served the Baals.
12. And they forsook Jehovah, God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they went after other gods, gods of the nations around them, and they worshipped them, and they provoked Jehovah to anger.
13. And they forsook Jehovah and did service to Baal and the Ashteroth.
14. The did Jehovah's wrath burn against Israel to plunderers, and they plundered them, and He sold them into the hand of their enemies all around, so that they were no longer able to withstand their enemies.
15. Wherever they went out, the hand of Jehovah was against them for evil, according to what Jehovah had spoken, and according to what Jehovah had promised them, and He distressed them greatly.
16. And Jehovah raised up judges, and they delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.
17. And yet, they would need listen to their judges, for they played the harlot in going after other gods, and bowed themselves to them. They quickly turned from the way which

their fathers walked who obeyed the commandments of Jehovah. They did not do the like.

18. And when Jehovah raised up judges for them, then was Jehovah with that judge, and He rescued them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of that judge. For Jehovah relented because of their groaning before those who abused them and oppressed them.
19. Then, when the judge died, they turned again and acted more corruptly than their fathers in going after another gods, to serve them and to bow down to them. They did not keep from their deeds or from their stubborn way.
20. And then the anger of Jehovah burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to my voice,
21. I will no more drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,
22. in order to prove Israel by them, those who keep the way of Jehovah while walking among them, as their fathers kept *it*, or not."
23. And so, Jehovah gave these nations rest and would not quickly disinherit them; nor did He give them into the hand of Joshua.

Chapter 3

- ¶1. Now, these are the nations that Jehovah left, by whom He would try Israel, as many as did not go through all the wars for Canaan
2. (only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them of war, that is, as many as had not previously known of such things):
3. Five Philistine lords, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.
4. And they remained to test Israel by them, to make known whether they would heed the commandments of Jehovah, who gave their fathers commandments by the hand of Moses.
5. And so, the children of Israel dwelt in the midst of the Canaanites: the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
6. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and they gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.
7. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of Jehovah, and they forgot Jehovah their God, and served the Baals and the Asherahs.
8. And the anger of Jehovah burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim, King of Aram-Naharim, and the children of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.
9. And the children of Israel cried out to Jehovah, and Jehovah raised up a savior for the children of Israel, Othniel ben-Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb, and he saved them.

10. And the Spirit of Jehovah was upon him, and he judged Israel and went out to battle, and Jehovah gave Cushan-rishathaim, King of Aram, into his hand, and his hand prevailed against Cushan-rishathaim,
11. and the land had rest forty years. And Othniel ben-Kenaz died.
12. And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of Jehovah, and Jehovah strengthened Eglon, the King of Moab, against Israel because they had done what was evil in the sight of Jehovah.
13. And he gathered to him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and he went and attacked Israel and took possession of the city of palm trees.²
14. And the children of Israel served Eglon, King of Moab, eighteen years.
15. And the children of Israel cried to Jehovah, and Jehovah raised up a savior, Ehud ben-Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. And the children of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon, King of Moab.
16. But Ehud made himself a sword, and it was double-edged, a cubit in length, and he girded it underneath his garment on his right thigh.
17. And he presented the tribute to Eglon, King of Moab. (Now, Eglon was a very fat man.)
18. And it came to pass that when he finished presenting the tribute that he sent away the people who had borne the tribute,
19. but he, himself, turned back from the idols that are at Gilgal, and he said, "I have a secret message for you, O King." And he said, "Silence!" And all that stood by him left him.
20. And Ehud came to him. Now, he was sitting in an upper chamber for coolness, which was apart by itself. And Ehud said, "I have a word from God for you." And he rose from his seat.
21. And Ehud reached with his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.
22. And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed in over the blade so that he could not draw the sword out of his belly, and excrement came out *of him*.
23. And Ehud went out to the vestibule³ and closed the doors of the upper chamber upon him, and he locked them.
24. And when he was gone out, his servants went in and saw that, behold, the doors of the upper chamber were locked. And they said, "Surely, he is relieving himself in his cool room."
25. And they waited until they were ashamed, for behold, no one open the doors of the upper chamber. So, they took the key and opened them, and behold, their lord was fallen to the earth, dead.

² That is, Jericho (Dt. 34:3).

³ Hebrew uncertain.

26. But Ehud had slipped away while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols, and escaped to Seirath.
27. And it came to pass that when he arrived, he blew a shofar in Mount Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountain, and he was in front of them.
28. And he said to them, "Follow after me! For Jehovah has given your enemies, the Moabites, into your hand!" And they followed after him and took the fords of the Jordan against Moab, and allowed no one to cross.
29. And they killed of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all of them stout, and all men of valor. And not one escaped.
30. So, Moab was humbled that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest eighty years.
31. And after him was Shamgar ben-Anath, and he killed six hundred Philistine men with a oxgoad, and he also delivered Israel.

Chapter 4

- ¶1. And when Ehud died, the children of Israel again did what was evil in the eyes of Jehovah.
2. And so, Jehovah sold them into to hand of Jabin, King of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. And the leader of his army was Sisera, and he lived in Horesheth of the Gentiles.
3. And the children of Israel cried out, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and he cruelly oppressed the children of Israel twenty years.
4. Now, a woman, Deborah the prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.
5. And Deborah sat under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in Mount Ephraim, and the children of Israel went up to her for judgment.
6. And she sent and called Barak ben Abinoam from Kedesh-Naphtali, and she said to him, "Has not Jehovah, God of Israel, commanded, 'Go, and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun.
7. And I will draw to you, at the river Kishon, Sisera the leader of Jabin's army, with his chariot and multitude, and I will deliver him into your hand.
8. And Barak said to her, "If you go with me, then I will go, but if you do not go with me, I will not go."
9. And she said, "I will certainly go with you; howbeit, the journey you take will not at all be for your glory, for Jehovah will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.
10. And at Kedesh, Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and at his feet went up ten thousand men, and Deborah went up with him.

11. Now, Heber the Kenite was separated from the Kenites, the children of Hobab, Moses' father-in-law, and he pitched his tent as far as Oak of Zaananim, which is near Kedesh.
12. And they reported to Sisera that Barak ben Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.
13. And Sisera summoned all his chariots, nine hundred iron chariots, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles to Kishon River.
14. And Deborah said to Barak, "Rise up! For this is the day that Jehovah has given Sisera into your hand! Has not Jehovah gone before you?" And so, Barak went down from Mount Tabor and ten thousand men after him.
15. And Jehovah discomfited Sisera before Barak, and all his chariots, and all his army, by the edge of the sword, and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled on foot.
16. But Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth of the Gentiles, and all the host of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword, and not a one was left.
17. And Sisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Weber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin, King of Hazor, and the house of Heber the Kenite.
18. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and she said to him, "Turn in, my lord! Turn in to me! Don't be afraid!" And so, he turned in to her, into the tent, and she covered him with the rug.
19. And he said to her, "Please. Give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." And she opened the skin-bottle of milk and gave him a drink, and covered him up.
20. And he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent, and it shall be that if any man comes and asks you and says, 'Is there a man here?' then you say, 'There is not.'"
21. Then Jael, wife of Heber, took a peg of the tent, and took the hammer in her hand, and went softly in to him, and drove the tent-peg
22. And behold, Barak pursued Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him, and she said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man that you are looking for." And he went in to her, and behold, Sisera was fallen down dead, with the tent-peg in his temple.
23. And so, on that day, God subdued Jabin, King of Canaan, before the children of Israel.
24. And the hand of the children of Israel went harder and harder against Jabin, King of Canaan, until they cut off Jabin, King of Canaan.

Chapter 5

NOTE: There are a bunch of "dubious", "uncertain", "obscure", "possibly", "probably", and "perhaps" words in this chapter, and "only usage" words.

- ¶1. And Deborah sang with Barak ben Abinoam on that day, saying,
2. "For that the leaders of Israel acted like leaders, for that the people freely offered themselves, bless the LORD!
3. Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I will sing to Jehovah. I will play music to Jehovah, the God of Israel.

4. O Jehovah, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the country of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, and the dark clouds poured down water.
5. The mountains melted at the presence of Jehovah, the *God* of Sinai, at the presence of Jehovah, the God of Israel.
6. In the days of Shamgar ben Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were empty, and travelers took to the crooked paths.
7. The countryfolk ceased in Israel; they ceased until I, Deborah, arose. I arose as a mother to Israel.
8. They had chosen new gods for themselves. Then war was at the gates, but neither shield nor spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

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9. Commanders among the people gave themselves willingly to me. Bless the LORD!
10. You who ride tawny donkeys! You who sit on carpets! And you who walk on the road! Tell it
11. to the tune of musicians between the watering places! There, recount the righteous acts of Jehovah and the righteous acts of the villagers in Israel.
12. Awake, O Deborah! Awake! Awake! Awake! Sing a song! Rise, Barak! Lead your captive away, O son of Abinoam!
13. Then the remnant of noble men went down; the people of Jehovah went down for me against the mighty,
14. from Ephraim downward against the Amalekite. After you, Benjamin, with your kinsmen! From Machir went the leaders down, and from Zebulun, marching with the tribe of the scribe.
15. The rulers of Issachar were also with Deborah, and Issachar was thus with Barak. Into the valley, at his heels, were they sent. The clans of Reuben had great resolutions of heart.
16. Why did you tarry among the campfires, to hear the whistling for the flocks? The clans of Reuben had great searchings of heart.
17. Gilead stayed over beyond the Jordan. And O Dan! Why did he remain in ships? Asher sat on the seashore and stayed by his landings.
18. Zebulun is a people that despised his life in the face of death, as well as Naphtali, on the heights of the field.
19. Kings came; they joined in battle. Yea, kings of Canaan fought at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo. They took no spoil of silver.
20. The stars of heaven fought; from their courses they fought against Sisera.
21. The Brook Kishon swept them away, the brook of ancient times. O Brook Kishon, my soul walks in strength.
22. How the horse hooves pounded at the gallop, the galloping of his powerful *horses*!

23. Let them curse Meroz, says the messenger of Jehovah! Let them curse its inhabitants bitterly because they did not come to the help of Jehovah, to the help of Jehovah against the mighty!
24. Blessed be the woman Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite! She is most blessed of tent-dwelling women.
25. He asked for water; she gave him milk. She brought *him* curds in a bowl fit for nobles.
26. She stretched out her *left* hand for the stake and her right hand for the workmen's hammer. Then she struck Sisera; she destroyed his head, and struck through and pierced his temple.
27. Between her feet, he bowed down; he fell; he lay at her feet. He bowed down; he fell where he bowed. There he fell, destroyed.
28. Through the window, she peered; the mother of Sisera wailed through the lattice. Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why is the rumble of his chariots delayed?
29. Her cunning noblewomen replied (indeed, she said to herself),
30. "Are they not finding and dividing spoil? A girl – two girls! – for every man; spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera; spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered; two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as a spoil."
31. Thus may all your enemies perish, O Jehovah! But may those who love you be as the sun rising in its strength!

Chapter 6

- ¶1. Then the children of Israel did what was evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and Jehovah gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.
2. And the hand of Midian prevailed over Israel. Because of Midian, the children of Israel made for themselves hiding places in the mountains, caves and strongholds.
3. And it came to pass, when Israel sowed seed, Midian, and Amalek, and the sons of the east would come up for it.
4. And they would encamp against them and destroy the crops of the land to the entrance of Gaza, and they would leave no sustenance in Israel; neither sheep, ox, or ass.
5. For they and their ——— would come up, and they would come with their tents, like a massive swarm of locusts; there was no numbering of them and their camels. And they came into the land to destroy.
6. And Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the children ion Israel cried out to Jehovah.
7. And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to Jehovah on account of Midian,
8. that Jehovah sent a prophet to the children of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says Jehovah, God of Israel: I led you up out of Egypt, and brought you out of the hose of slaves.

9. And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the the hand of all who opposed you. And I drove them out from before you and gave you their land.
10. And I said too you, 'I am Jehovah your God. Do not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But you would not heed my voice!'
11. And an angel of Jehovah came and sat under the terebinth which is in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. And his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, so as to hide from Midian.
12. And an angel of Jehovah appeared to him, and he said to him, "Jehovah is with you, O mighty man of valor!"
13. And Gideon said to him, "But, sir, if Jehovah is with us, then why has all this befallen us? Where are all His miraculous works which our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not Jehovah bring us up out of Egypt?' But now, Jehovah has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."
14. And Jehovah turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours, and you will deliver Israel out of the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?"
15. But he said to Him, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."
16. And Jehovah said to him, "*You can* because I will be with you, and you will strike down Midian as one man."
17. And he said to Him, "If I have now found favor in your eyes, then give me a sign that you have spoken with me.
18. Don't leave this place, please, until I come to you and bring out my gift and set it before you." And He said, "I will stay until you return."
19. And Gideon went in and prepared a kid of the goats, and with an ephah of flour, unleavened cakes. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth in a pot. Then he went out to him, beneath the terebinth tree, and presented it.
20. And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the cakes, and place them on that rock. And pour out the broth." And he did so.
21. And the angel of Jehovah reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the cakes, and fire came up out of the stone and consumed the flesh and the cakes, and the angel of Jehovah vanished from his sight.
22. And Gideon perceived that he was an angel of Jehovah, and Gideon said, "Alas, my Lord Jehovah, for I have actually seen an angel of Jehovah face-to-face!"
23. But Jehovah said to him, "Shalom to you. Don't be afraid. You are not going to die."
24. And Gideon built there an altar to Jehovah, and he called it, "Jehovah Shalom". To this day, it stands in Ophrath of the Abiezrites.
25. And it came to pass during that night, that Jehovah said to him, "Take the young bull from the ox that belongs to your father, even the second bull seven years old, and tear down your father's altar of Baal. And cut down the Asherah that is alongside it.

26. And build an altar to Jehovah your God atop this citadel, in the order, and take the second bull and offer it up, a whole burnt offering, with the wood of the Asherah that you cut down.
27. And Gideon took ten men from among his slaves and did just as Jehovah said. But because he was afraid of his father's house and the men of the city to do it by day; so, he did it by night.
28. And the men of the city arose in the morning, and, behold, the altar of Baal was torn down, and the Asherah that was by it was cut down, and the second bull had been offered up on the altar that was built.
29. And the men of the city said to one another, "Who did this thing!" And they made search and inquired, and they said, "Gideon ben Joash did this deed!"
30. And the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring your son out, that he died, for he tore down the altar of Baal, and because he cut down that Asherah that was beside it.
31. But Joash said to all who challenged him, "Are you pleading for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoso pleads for him, let him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, he will plead his own case, since it was his altar he tore down."
32. And he was called in that day, "Jerubaal", meaning, "Let Baal contend with him," since he tore down his altar.
33. And all Midian, and Amalek, and the sons of the east gathered together, and they crossed over and made camp in the Valley of Jezreel.
34. But the Spirit of the LORD covered Gideon, and he gave a blast with the shophar, and Abiezer was summoned to follow him.
35. And he sent messengers to all Manasseh, and he, too, was summoned to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, and to Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.
36. And Gideon said to God, "If you are going to deliver Israel by your hand, as you said,
37. behold, I am placing a woolen fleece on the threshing floor. If dew is only on the fleece, and all the ground is dry, then will I know that you will deliver Israel by your hand, as you said."
38. And it was so. When he rose early the next day, he squeezed the fleece, and drained dew from the fleece a bowl full of water.
39. And Gideon said to God, "Do not let your anger burn against me, and I will speak only this once. Let me, please, only this once make trial with the fleece. Let it be, if you please, dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground, let there be dew."
40. And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground, there was dew.

- ¶1. And Jerubaal (that is, Gideon) rose early, and all the people who were with him, and they camped by the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of that, near the Hill of Moreh, in the valley.
2. And Jehovah said to Gideon, “There are too many people with you for me to give Midian into your hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, ‘My own hand has brought me deliverance.’
3. So, if you will, declare this now, in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him turn back and depart from Mount Gilead!’” And 22,000 of he people turned back, and 10,000 were left.
4. And Jehovah said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will try them for you there. And it will be that when I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ then that one shall go with you. And every one of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”
5. And so, the people went down to the water. And Jehovah said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps up the water with his tongue the way a dog laps *it*, set him to the side by himself. Likewise, everyone who kneels down on his knees to drink.”
6. And the number of those who lapped up *the water*, with his hand to his mouth, was 300 men. But all the rest of the people knelt down on their knees to drink water.
7. Then Jehovah said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped will I deliver you and give Midian into your hand. And let all the people go, each man, to his place.”
8. Then the people took provisions in their hands, and their shofars, and he sent the men of Israel away to their tents. But he retained the three hundred men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.
9. And it came to pass that same night that Jehovah said to him, “Get up! Go down into the camp, for I have given it into your hand!
10. But if you are afraid to go down alone, go down with your servant Purah to the camp,
11. and you will hear what they say, and after that, your hands will be strengthened so that you attack the camp.” And he went down with Purah his servant to an outpost of soldiers who were in the camp.
12. And Midian, and Amalek, and all the children of the east were sprawled out in the valley like a swarm of locusts for multitude, and their camels were beyond counting, like the sand that is on the seashore for multitude.
13. And Gideon went in, and behold, a man was telling his companion a dream. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread came tumbling into the camp of Midian, and when it reached the tent, it struck it, and it fell, and it turned upside down. And so, the tent fell down.”
14. And his friend answered and said, “This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon ben Joash, a man of Israel. That God has given Midian and this whole camp into his hand.”

15. And it came to pass when Gideon hear the telling of the dream and its interpretation that he worshipped, and then returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Get up! For Jehovah has given the camp of Midian into your hand!"
16. And he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put shofars in the hand of them all, and empty water-jars with torches inside the jars.
17. And he said to them, Watch me, and you do as *I do*. It behold, I myself will go to the edge of the camp, when that is done, you do just as I do.
18. And when I blow on the shofar, I and all who are with me, then you men blow on the shofars all around the camp and say, "For Jehovah and for Gideon!"
19. Then Gideon and the hundred men who were with him went to the edge of the camp at the start of middle watch; they had just set the watch. Then they blew the shofars and smashed the water-jars that were in their hand.
20. So, the three companies blew on the shofars and shattered their jars. And they held the torches in their left hand, and in their right hand were the shofars to blow. And they cried out, "A sword for Jehovah and for Gideon!"
21. And they stood, every man, in his place around the camp. And the whole camp started running, and raised a shout, and fled.
22. And they blew the 300 shofars, and Jehovah set each man's sword against his neighbor throughout the camp. And the camp fled to Beth-shittah, toward Zererah, to the borders of Abel-meholah, above Tabbath.
23. And the men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian.
24. And Gideon sent messengers through all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Go down and engage Midian, and take the waters before them, as afar as Beth-barah and the Jordan. And all the men of Ephraim were summoned, and the took the waters at Beth-barah and the Jordan.
25. And they captured two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And they killed Oreb at the Rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. Then they pursued after Midian. And they brought the head of Oreb and the head of Zeeb across the Jordan to Gideon.

Chapter 8

- ¶1. And the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this thing you have done to us, failing to call us when you went to fight with Midian!" And they strove bitterly with him."
2. But he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of Ephraim better than the harvest of Abiezer?
3. God has given into your hand the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb! So, what can I do in comparison to you?" At that, their fury against him subsided, when he made this statement.

4. Then Gideon went to the Jordan, and crossing over, he and the 300 men who were with him, weary but pursuing,
5. and he said to the men of Succoth, "Please, give loaves of bread to the people who are following me, for they are weary, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, Kings of Midian.
6. But the rulers of Succoth said, "Is the power of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give the loaves to your army?"
7. And Gideon said to them, "When Jehovah has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will flail your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness, and with the briars."
8. And he went on up from there to Penuel, and asked this same of them, and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had done.
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 Zalmunnah were in Karkor, along with their army was with them, about 15,000 – all who were left of all the army of the children of the east, for there had fallen 120,000 men who drew the sword.
11. And Gideon went up by way of the tent-dwellers, east of Nobah and Jogbehah. And they struck the camp, though the army felt secure.
12. And Zebah and Zalmunna fled, and he pursued after them. And he captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the army.
13. And Gideon ben Joash returned from the battle by the Ascent of Heres,
14. and he caught a young man, of the men of Succoth, and he questioned him, and he wrote down for him *the names of* the rulers of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.
15. Then he went to the men of Succoth and said, "Behold, Zeba and Zalmunna, concerning whom you mocked me, saying, 'Is the power of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give your weary men bread?'"
16. And he took the elders of the city, and *he took* thorns of the wilderness, and briars, and with them, he taught the men of Succoth.
17. And he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.
18. And he said to Zeba and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they that you killed at Tabor?" And they say, "As you are, so were they. Each of them resembled sons of a king."
19. And he said, "They were my brothers, sons of my mother. As Jehovah lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you."
20. And he said to Jether, his firstborn, "Get up and kill *them*." But the young man did not draw his sword because he was afraid, for he was still a youth.
21. And Zeba and Zalmunna said, "You get up and fall upon us, for as a man is, so is his strength." Then Gideon rose and killed Zeba and Zalmunna. And he took the precent-shaped ornaments that were on the necks of their camels.

22. And the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Be our ruler, you and your sons, and your sons’ sons, because you have delivered us out of the hand of Midian.”
23. And Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you. Jehovah will rule over you.”
24. And Gideon said to them, “Let me ask for something from you. Let each of you give me an earring from his spoil.” (They had earrings of gold because they were Ishmaelites.)
25. And they said, “We will gladly give them!” And they spread out a cloak, and each man threw a ring from his spoil onto it.
26. And the weight of the earrings of gold for which he asked came to be 1,700 *shekels* of gold, besides that from the ornaments, and pendants, and purple garments that were on the kings of Midian, and besides that from the necklaces that were on the necks of their camels.
27. And from it, Gideon made an ephod, and set it up in his city, in Ophrah, and all Israel committed whoredom with it there, and it became a snare for Gideon and for his house.
28. So, Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift their head again. And the land was at peace forty years in the days of Gideon.
29. And Jerubbaal ben Joash went and dwelt in his own house.
30. And Gideon had seventy sons who came out of his loins, for he had many wives.
31. And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.
32. And Gideon ben Joash died in a good old age and was buried in a tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
33. And it came to pass when Gideon died that the children of Israel turned and went whoring after the Baalim, and made Baal of the Covenant their God,
34. and the children of Israel did not remember Jehovah, their God, who had delivered them from all their enemies round about.
35. Nor did they deal faithfully with the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) for all the good that he had done in Israel.

Chapter 9

- ¶1. And Abimelech ben Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother’s kinsmen, and said to them and to the whole clan of the house of his mother’s father, saying,
2. “Say in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, ‘What will be better for you? That seventy men should rule over you, all the sons of Jerubbaal, or that one man should reign over you? And remember that I am your bone and your flesh.’”
3. And his mother’s kinsmen spoke all these words on his behalf in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, and their hearts were inclined to go after Abimelech because, they said, “He is our kinsman.”

4. And they gave him seventy pierces of silver out of the house of Baal of the Covenant, with which he hired worthless and wanton men, and they followed him.
5. And he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, upon a single rock. But Jotham, youngest son of Jerubbaal, survived, for he hid himself.
6. Then all the leaders of Shechem and all of Beth-millo assembled, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth palisade that was in Shechem.
7. And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and he lifted up his voice and cried out, and said to them, "Hear me, you leaders of Shechem, and God will listen to you!
8. The trees set out to anoint a king for themselves, and they said to the olive, 'Reign over us!'
9. But the olive said to them, 'Should I cease from my fatness, in which gods and men glory, and go sway over the trees?'
10. So the trees said to the fig-tree, 'You come reign over us!'
11. But the fig-tree said to them, 'Should I leave my sweetness and my wonderful fruit, and go sway over the trees?'
12. So the trees said to the vine, 'You come reign over us!'
13. But the vine said to them, 'Should I leave my new wine, which cheers gods and men, and come sway over the trees?'
14. So the trees said to the bramble, 'You come reign over us!'
15. And the bramble said to the trees, 'If you are really anointing me to be king over you, then come take refuge in my shade. But if not, let fire come out from the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon!'
16. So then, if you acted in good faith and integrity when you made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and if you have done to him as his deeds deserve –
17. for my father fought for you, and risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian,
18. but you have risen up today against the house of my father and have killed his sons – seventy men on one stone! – and have made Abimelech, the son of his woman, king of the leaders of Shechem because he is your kinsman –
19. if, then, you have dealt in good faith and integrity this day with Jerubbaal and his house, then rejoice in Abimelech, as he rejoices in you!
20. But if not, then let a fire come out of Abimelech and devour the leaders of Shechem and Beth-millo! And let a fire come out from the leaders of Shechem and Beth-millo and devour Abimelech!"
21. Then Jotham escaped and fled, and he went to Beer and dwelt there, away from Abimelech his brother.
22. And Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

23. Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem began to deal treacherously with Abimelech,
24. so that the violence that befell the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, even their murder, might come upon their brother Abimelech who killed them, and upon the leaders of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.
25. And the leaders of Shechem set ambushes on the tops of mountains, and they robbed whoever passed by them on the road. And it was reported to Abimelech.
26. And Gaal ben Ebed and his kinsmen passed over into Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem put their trust in him.
27. And they went out into the field and harvested their vineyards, and made feasts. And they went into the house of their gods and ate and drank, and they made fun of Abimelech.
28. And Gaal ben Ebed said, “Who is Abimelech! And who is Shechem, that we should serve *him*!
29. Did not Jerubbaal and Zebul his deputy serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem? Why, then, should we serve *him*?”
30. Would that this people were under my hand! I would remove Abimelech! I would say to Abimelech, ‘Muster⁴ your army, and come out!’”
31. And Zebul, ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal ben Ebed, and his anger was kindled, and he secretly sent messengers to Abimelech, saying, “Behold, Gaal ben Ebed and his brothers are come to Shechem, and they are turning the city against you.
32. So then, come up at night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field.
33. Then, in the morning about when the sun comes up, you rise early and attack the city, and behold, when he and the people with him come out against you, you may deal with him as you are able.”
34. And Abimelech rose by night, and all the people with him, and they lay in wait against Shechem in four companies.
35. And Gaal ben Ebed went out and stood at the opening of the gate of the city, and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from the ambushment.
36. When Gaal ben Ebed saw them, he said to Zebul, “Behold! People are coming down from the top of the mountains!” And Zebul said to him, “The shadow on the mountains is looking like people to you.”
37. And once again, Gaal ben Ebed spoke, saying, “Behold, people are coming down from the middle of the land, and one company is coming by way of the Diviners’ Oak.”
38. Then Zebul said to him, “Where is your mouth now, who said, ‘Who is Abimelech, that we should serve *him*?’ Isn’t this the company you made light of? Go out now, I pray, and fight against them!”

⁴ Literally, “Increase”.

39. And Gaal went out before the leaders of Shechem, and fought against Abimelech.
40. And Abimelech pursued him, and he fled from his face. And many fell down dead, to the entrance of the gate.
41. And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah. And Zebul drove Gaal and his kinsmen away from dwelling in Shechem.
42. And it came to pass the next day that the people went out into the field. And they reported it to Abimelech.
43. And he took the men *with him* and divided them into three companies, and he lay wait in the field. And he looked, and behold, he people came out from the city, and he rose up against them and struck them down.
44. And Abimelech and the company that was with him had rushed forward and were standing at the entrance of the gate of the city while two of the companies attacked and killed all those in the field.
45. And Abimelech fought against the city all that day, and he took the city and slew all who were in it. And he razed the city and sowed it with salt.
46. And when all the men of Migdol-Shechem heard of it, they entered into a hewn-out chamber at the temple of El-berith,
47. and it was told Abimelech that all the men of Migdol-Shechem were gathered together.
48. So Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people with him, and he took axes in his hand, and he cut a stack of wood, and picked it up, and laid it on his shoulder, and said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, do likewise, quickly."
49. And all the people, each man, also cut a stack, and followed after Abimelech, and they laid them on the chamber, and with them, set fire to the stronghold over them so that all the men of Migdol-Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.
50. Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.
51. But there was a strong tower in the midst of the city, and all the men and women fled there, with all the leaders of the city, and they closed the doors behind them. And they went up on the roof of the tower.
52. And Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and he drew near the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire.
53. But a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, and it crushed his skull.
54. And immediately, he called the young man who bore his armor and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest it be said of me 'A woman killed him!'" So the young man ran him through, and he died.
55. When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they went each on to his own abode.

56. So, God replied Abimelech for the evil which he had done, in murdering his seventy brothers
57. and all the evil of the men of Shechem did God cause to return upon their own heads, so that upon them came the curse of Jotham ben Jerubbaal.

Chapter 10

- ¶1. And after Abimelech arose Tola ben Puah ben Dodo, a man of Issachar, to save Israel, and he lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim.
2. And he judged Israel twenty-three years, and he died and was buried at Shamir.
3. And after him rose Jair the Gileadite, and he judged Israel twenty-two years.
4. And he had thirty sons, who rode on thirty mules, and they had thirty villages which are in the territory of Gilead. They are called Havvoth-Jair to this day.
5. And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.
6. Then again, the children of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah, and they served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and gods of Syria, and gods of Sidon, and gods of Moab, and gods of Ammon, and gods of Philistia. And they forsook Jehovah, and would not serve Him.
7. And Jehovah's anger was kindled against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the children of Ammon,
8. and beginning that year, they crushed and oppressed the children of Israel eighteen years, along with all the children of Israel who were beyond Jordan in the land of Ammon, which is Gilead.
9. And the children of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, and Israel was greatly distressed.
10. And the children of Israel cried out to Jehovah, saying, "We have sinned against you, in that we have forsaken our God and served the Baals!"
11. And Jehovah said to the children of Israel, "Did *I* not *deliver you* from Egypt, and from the Amorites, and from there children of Ammon, and from Philistines?"
12. And when the Zidonians, and Amalek, and Maon oppressed you, and you cried out to me, I delivered you out of their hand.
13. Yet you have forsaken me and worshipped other gods. Therefore, I will not deliver you again!
14. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen! Let them save you in the time of your distress."
15. And the children of Israel said to Jehovah, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems good to you. Only deliver us, we pray, this day!"
16. And they put away the foreign gods from their midst, and served Jehovah. And His soul could hardly bear Israel's misery.
17. And the children of Ammon were mustered, and they encamped in Gilead, and the children of Israel came together and camped in Mizpah.

18. And the people, the princes of Gilead, said one to another, “Whoever it is who first fights with the sons of Ammon will be ruler over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

Chapter 11

- ¶1. Now, Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, and he was the son of a harlot, and Gilead had fathered Jephthah.
2. Gilead’s wife also bore him sons, and when the wife’s sons were grown, they drown Jephthah away, saying, “You have no inheritance in the house of our father, for you are the son of a foreign woman.”
3. So, Jephthah fled from the face of his brothers, and he dwelt in the region of Tob. And idle men gathered themselves to Jephthah, and they went out with him.
4. But it happened after those days that the sons of Ammon fought with Israel,
5. and it came to pass that when the sons of Ammon fought with Israel that the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah back from the territory of Tob.
6. And they said to Jephthah, “Come be our leader, and fight against the sons of Ammon!”
7. But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not hate me and drive me out of any father’s house! So, why do you come to me now, when you are in trouble?”
8. And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “This is why we have come back to you now, that you might go with us and fight against the sons of Ammon, and be head over us and over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”
9. And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “If you are going to bring me back to fight against the sons of Ammon, and Jehovah gives them over to me, then I will be your head.”
10. And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Jehovah is witness! *Let us be damned* if we do not do as you say.”
11. And so, Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head over them and commander, and Jephthah spoke all his words before Jehovah in Mizpah.
12. And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon, saying, “What is there between me and you, that you have come to me to fight in my land?”
13. And the king of the children of Ammon said to Jephthah’s messengers, “*I am come* because Israel took my land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan, when they came up from Egypt. So, return them peacefully, now!”
14. Then, once more, Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon,
15. and he said to him, “Thus says Jephthah: Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the children of Ammon,
16. for when Israel went up from Egypt, they went by way of the desert to the Red Sea and then came to Kadesh.
17. And Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, ‘Let us, we beg you, pass through your land.’ But the king of Edom would not hear of it. And *Israel* also sent to the king of Moab, but he was unwilling. So Israel sat in Kadesh.

18. They they walked through the desert and went around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and they came in on the east side of the land of Moab and camped on there other side of Moab, and they did not come within the border of Moab (for Arnon is the border of Moab).
19. And Israel sent messengers to Sihon, King of the Amorites, King of Heshbon, and said to him, 'Let Israel pass through your land, we beg you, to our country.'
20. But Sihon did not trust Israel to cross his border, and Sihon gathered all his people and camped a Jahaz, and he fought with Israel.
21. So, Jehovah, Israel's God, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them down. So, Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites who dwelt in that land.
22. They took possession of all the territory belonging to the Amorites, from the Arnon to the Jabbok, and from the wilderness to there Jordan.
23. So then, Jehovah, the God of Israel, dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel, and you would dispossess [us??]!
24. Why not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess, and all whom Jehovah our God dispossesses before us will we take possession of?
25. So now, are you any better than Balak ben Zippor? Did he ever contend with Israel or go to war against them?
26. All the while Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cites that are along the Arnon – 300 years! – how is it that you did not try to recover them during that time?
27. I have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong in making war against me. Jehovah, the Judge, be judge today between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon!"
28. But the king of the children of Ammon would not hear the words of Jephthah that he sent to him.
29. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead, he passed over to the children of Ammon.
30. And Jephthah made a vow to Jehovah, "If you indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand,
31. then whosoever comes out the door of my house to meet me whenI return in peace shall be Jehovah's, and I will offer him as a whole burnt offering."
32. Then Jephthah passed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them, and Jehovah gave them into his hand,
33. and he struck them down from Aroer until you come into Minnith, twenty towns, even to Abel-keramim, a very great slaughter, and he subdued the children of Ammon to the children of Israel.

34. Then Jephthah came to Mizpah, to his house, and behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and dancing, and she was his only child; he had no other, neither son nor daughter.
35. And it came to pass when he saw her that he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low – you! You have brought calamity upon me! I have opened my mouth before Jehovah, and I cannot undo it!”
36. But she said to him, “My father, you have opened your mouth before Jehovah. Do to me according to what came forth from your mouth, since Jehovah has wrought vengeance for you upon your enemies, upon the sons of Ammon.”
37. And she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me. Leave me alone two months so that I may go and descend on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my friends.”
38. And he said, “Go.” And he sent her away for two months, and she went, she and her friends, and she wept on the mountains for her virginity.
39. And it came to pass at the end of two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her according to his oath which he had made, and she had not known a man. And it became a statute in Israel
40. that over a period of days, the daughters of Israel should go out and rehearse *the story* of the Jephthah’s daughter, for four days each year.

Chapter 12

- ¶1. And the army of Ephraim was summoned, and it crossed over to Zaphon, and they said to Jephthah, “Why did you cross over to fight against the sons of Ammon without calling us to come with you? We will burn down your house with fire on top of you!”
2. And Jephthah said to them, “I had a great dispute, I and my people, with the sons of Ammon, and I called for you, but you did not rescue me from their hand.
3. And I saw that you would provide no deliverance, I took my life into my own hand and crossed over to the sons of Ammon, and Jehovah gave them into my hand. So, why have you come up to me this day to fight against me?”
4. Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought Ephraim, and the men of Gilead struck Ephraim down because they had said, “You Gileadites are renegades from Ephraim and from Manasseh.”
5. And the Gileadites took the fords of Jordan belonging to Ephraim. And it came to pass when the fugitives of Ephraim would say, “Let me go over,” then the men of Gilead would say to him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” And he would say, “No.”
6. And they would say, “Say ‘shibboleth’.” And he would say, “sibboleth,” (not being able to say it rightly). Then they would seize him and slaughter him at the fords of Jordan. And there fell at that time 42,000 men from Ephraim.
7. And Jephthah judged Israel six years. And Jephthah the Gileadite died, and he was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

8. And after him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.
9. And he had sixty sons. And he sent sixty daughters abroad, and brought in from abroad sixty daughters for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years.
10. And Ibzan died, and he was buried in Bethlehem.
11. And after him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. And he judged Israel then years.
12. And Elon the Zebulunite died, and he was buried in Aijalon in the territory of Zebulun
13. And after him, Abdon ben Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel.
14. And he had forty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys. And he judged Israel eight years.
15. And Abdon ben Hillel the Pirathonite died, and he was buried in Pirathon in the territory of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

Chapter 13

- ¶1. And the children of Israel again did evil in the eyes of Jehovah, and He gave them over into the hand of the Philistines.
2. And there was a certain man from Zorah, from a family of Danites, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and could not bear *children*.
3. And an angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and do not bear. But you have conceived[?] and will bear a son.
4. So, beware now, I beg you, and do not drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unlearn thing,
5. for behold, you will be with child and you will bear a son, and a razor shall not come up on his head, but the boy will be a nazirite of God from the womb, and he will begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.
6. And the woman went and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of an angel of God, very fearsome, but I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name.
7. And he said to me, ‘Behold, you have conceived[?] and will bear a son. So, do not drink wine or strong drink now, nor eat anything unclean, because the young man will be a nazirite of God from the womb to the day of his death.’”
8. And Manoah made entreaty to Jehovah, and he said, “[?] O my Lord, let the man of God you sent come again, I pray, to us and show us how we are to deal with the child that will be born.”
9. And God heard the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.
10. And the woman made haste and ran, and she told her husband, and said to him, “Behold, he has appeared to me, the man who came to me that day!”
11. And Manoah rose up and followed his wife and came to the man, and he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I *am*.”

12. And Manoah said, "May your words now come to pass. What will the boy's rule and work be?"
13. And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Let the woman observe all that I said to her.
14. She may not eat anything that comes from the vineyard; nor shall she drink either wine or strong drink. Neither shall she eat anything unclean."
15. And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Let us detain you, if you will, while we prepare a kid of the goats before you."
16. And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to Jehovah."
17. And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that when your sayings come to pass, we may do you honor?"
18. And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask for my name, seeing it is secret?"
19. Then Manoah took a kid of the goats, and the grain offering, and made an offering on the rock to Jehovah, and he began to acts wondrously as Manoah and his wife looked on.
20. And it happened that as the flame from the altar went up toward heaven, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. And when mania and his wife saw *that*, they fell on their faces to the earth.
21. (And the angel of Jehovah did not again appear to Manoah or to his wife). Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD.
22. And Manoah said to his wife, "We are doomed to die because we have seen God!"
23. And his wife said to him, "*If* it pleased Jehovah to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnet offering and grain offering from our hand, and He would not have shown us all these things, and He would not now have made us hear such a thing."
24. And his wife gave birth to a son, and she called his name Sampson. And the boy grew, and Jehovah blessed him.
25. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move on him in Mahaneh-Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Chapter 14

- ¶1. And Sampson went down to Timnah, and he saw a woman in Timnah among the daughters of the Philistines.
2. Then he went up and told his father and his mother *of her*, and said, "I have seen a woman from among the daughter of the Philistines in Timnah; so, get her for me to wife, now!"
3. And his father (and his mother) said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your kinsmen or any of my people, that you would go to take a wife from uncircumcised Philistines?" But Sampson said to his father and mother, "Get her for me! For she is right in my eyes."

4. Now, his father and his mother did not know that it was of the LORD, for He was setting up a situation with the Philistines. (Now, at that time, the Philistines ruled over Israel.)
5. And Sampson went down with his father and his mother to Timnah. And when he came to the vineyards of Timnah, a young lion roared, coming at him.
6. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he tore him apart, the one might tear a young goat, and there was nothing in his hand. And he did not tell his father or his mother what had happened.
7. So he went on down and spoke to the woman, and she pleased Sampson.
8. And after some days, he returned to take her, but he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, bees and honey were within the lion's dead body.
9. And he scraped some into his hands, and then went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and his mother and gave some to them, and they ate it. But he did not tell them he scraped the honey *out of* the lion.
10. And his father went down to the woman, and Sampson made a feast there (for young men used to do that).
11. And it came to pass that when they saw him, they brought thirty attendants so that they might be with him.
12. And Sampson said to them, "Let me, now, put a riddle to you. If you explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, and solve it, then I will give you thirty linen coats and thirty changes of raiment.
13. But if you are not able to declare it to me, then you must give the same to me thirty linen coats and thirty changes of raiment." And they said to him, "Put forth your riddle, and let us hear it!"
14. And he said, "From the eater came forth food, and from the powerful came forth sweetness." And for three days, they were not able to explain the riddle.
15. And it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Sampson's wife, "Seduce your husband to explain the riddle for us, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Haven't you invited us in order to plunder us? Haven't *you*?"
16. And Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You just hate me instead of loving me! You put forth a riddle to the children of my people, but to me, you have not explained it." And he said to her, "Behold, I haven't explained it to my father or my mother. But I will explain it to you."
17. And she kept weeping before him the seven days during which the feast continued. And it came to pass on the seventh day that he explained it to her, because she pressed him, and then she told it to the sons of her people.
18. And the men of the city told him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "Had you not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

19. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and he killed thirty of them, and stripped them, and gave the garments to the men who explained the riddle, but his anger was burning. And he went up to his father's house.
20. But Sampson's wife was *given* to a companion of his, who had been Samson's friend.

Chapter 15

- ¶1. And it came to pass after some days, during the days of wheat harvest⁵, that Sampson went to visit his wife with a kid of the goats, for he said, "I will go in to my wife, in her chamber." But he father would not allow him to go in.
2. And her father said, "I really thought that you had utterly hated her, and so I gave her to your companion. Why not *take* her younger sister? She is prettier than she is. Let her be yours instead."
3. And Sampson said to them, "I will be blameless this time regarding the Philistines when I do them damage."
4. And Sampson went and captured 300 foxes, and he took torches, turned *the foxes* tail to tail, and put one torch in between two tails.
5. Then he set the torches on fire and sent the foxes into the Philistines' fields of standing grain, and he burned up both the stacks of grain and the olive orchards.
6. And the Philistines said, "Who did this!" And they said, "Sampson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." And the Philistines went up and burned her and her father with fire.
7. Then Sampson said to them, "Since you have done such thing, I will surely avenge myself of you, and after that, I will stop."
8. And he struck them down, hip and thigh, with a great slaughter, and then went down to Etam and sat in a cleft of a rock.
9. And the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and they made raids in Lehi.
10. And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" And they said, "To bind Sampson. We have come up to do to him as he did to us."
11. And thirty chiefs, men of Judah, went down to the cleft of the rock in Etam and said to Sampson, "Do you not know that the children of the Philistines are rulers *over us*? Now, what is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them."
12. And they said to him, "We have come down to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." And Sampson said to them, "Swear to me that you, yourselves, will not harm me."
13. And they said to him, "No. But we will tie you up tight and give you into their hand so that we ourselves will not die." And they bound him with two new cords and brought him up from the rock.

⁵ Late April into May.

14. He came to Lehi, and the Philistines shouted when they saw him, but the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and the cords that were on his arms became like flax burning in a fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.
15. And he found a fresh jawbone of an ass, and he stretched out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.
16. And Sampson said, "With the jawbone of the ass, heap upon heaps, with the jawbone of the ass have I slain a thousand men!"
17. And it came to pass when he had ceased speaking that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place "Heights of Lehi".
18. Then he grew very thirsty, and he called on Jehovah, and said, "You gave a great salvation by the hand of your servant, and now this, that I should die and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"
19. And God split open a hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out of it. And he drank, and his spirit revived, and he lived. Therefore, he call its name, "Spring of Korei". It is in Lehi to this day.
20. And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

Chapter 16

- ¶1. Then Sampson went to Gaza, and he saw there a woman prostitute and went to her.
2. And one told the Gazaites, "Sampson has come here!" So, they encircled him and lay in wait all that night at the city gate. And they stayed quiet all that night, thinking, "At morning light, we will kill him."
3. And Sampson lay until the middle of the night, and rose at midnight and took hold of the doors of the city gate, and pulled up the two doorposts with the bar, and put it on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the hill that is before Hebron.
4. And it came to pass after this that he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek, and her name was Delilah.
5. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him and find out wherein his great strength lies and how we may overpower him and bind him and humble him, and each one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."
6. So Delilah said to Sampson, "Tell me, honey brain, wherein your great strength lies, and how you might be bound and humbled."
7. And Sampson said, "If men bind me with seven damp cords that have not been dried, then I will become weak, and be like any other man."
8. And the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them,
9. and she had an ambush waiting in the chamber. Then she said, "Philistines are upon you, Sampson!" And he tore off the cords as a thread of tow snaps when it is brought near a fire. So, he did not reveal *the secret of his strength*.

10. And Delilah said to Sampson, “Behold, you deceived me and told me lies. Please, tell me now how you might be bound.”
11. And he said to her, “If men bind me tightly with new ropes that have not been used for work, then I will become weak, and be like any other man
12. So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and she said to Sampson, “Philistines are upon you, Sampson!” And the ambush was waiting in the chamber. But he snapped the ropes from off his arms like a thread.
13. And Delilah said to Sampson, “Until now you have deceived me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound.” And he said to her, “If you weave together the seven locks of my head with the web, *I will become weak.*”
14. Then she *did so*, and tightened it with the pin, and said to him, “Philistines are upon you, Sampson!” And he awoke from his sleep and took off with the pin of the loom and the web.
15. And she said to him, “How can you say you love me when your heart is not with me? These three times, you have deceived me and not told me wherein your great strength lies.”
16. And so it happened that because she pressed him with her words every day, and hounded him, and vexed his soul to death,
17. that he revealed to her his whole heart and said to her, “A razor has never come upon my head because I am a nazirite of God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me and I will become weak, and be like any other man.”
18. And when Delilah saw that he had divulged to her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines and said, “Come once more! For he has divulged to her all his heart.” And the lords of the Philistines brought her the silver in their hand.
19. And she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and then summoned the man, and shaved *the* seven locks of his head. Thus she began his humiliation, for his strength had left him.
20. And she said, “Philistines are upon you, Samson!” Then he woke up from his sleep, and he said, “I will go out like before and shake myself *free.*” But he did not know that Jehovah had left him.
21. And the Philistines seized him, and they bore out his eyes, and they led him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he was a grinder in the house of prisoners.
22. But the hair of his head began to grow out after it was shaved.
23. And the lords of the Philistines were gathered to gather to make a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to celebrate. And they said, “Our god had given Sampson our great enemy into our hand!”
24. And when the people saw him and praised their god because they said, “Our god has given our great enemy into our hand, the ravager of our land, and the one who slew so many of us!”

25. And then, when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Sampson! Let him entertain us!” So, they called Sampson from the prison-house, and he performed before them. Then they made him stand between the pillars.
26. And Sampson said to the young man who was holding his hand, “Let go of me so that I can feel the pillars that this building rests upon, so I can lean on them.”
27. Now, the building was filled with men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And on the roof were about 3,000 men and women who had been looking on while Sampson made *them* laugh.
28. And Sampson call on Jehovah, and said, “My Lord Jehovah! Remember me, I beseech you, and strengthen me, I beseech you, just this once, O God, that I may carry out this one act of vengeance against the Philistines for my two eyes!
29. Then Sampson grasped the two middle pillars upon which the building rested, and he braced himself against them, one to his right, and one to his left.
30. And Sampson said, “Let me die with the Philistines! And he pushed out with all his might, and the building collapsed upon the lords and upon all the people that were in it. And so it was that the dead that he killed when he died were many more than the ones he killed while he lived.
31. And his father, and all the house of his father, went down and took him, and they brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol, in the burial place of Manoah his father. And he had judged Israel twenty years.

Chapter 17

- ¶1. Then there was a man from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Micaiah.
2. And he said to his mother, the 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, and in my presence you uttered a curse and also spoke in my hearing – behold, the silver is with me. I took it,” And his mother said, “Blessed be my son of Jehovah!”
3. And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, “I had wholly dedicated the silver to Jehovah, from my hand for my son, to make a *carved* idol and a metal image, and then I will bring it back to you.”
4. And he returned the silver to his mother, and his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, and he made it into a graven image and a molten image. And it was in the house of Micaiah.
5. Now, the man Micah had a house of gods, and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and he consecrated one of his sons, and he became his priest.
6. (In those days, there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.)
7. And there was a young man from Bethlehem-Judah, and he was a Levite, and he was sojourning there.
8. And the man went from the city, from Bethlehem-Judah, to sojourn wherever he could find *a place*, and as he was making his way, he came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah.

9. And Micah said to him, "Where'd you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem-Judah, and I am going to sojourn wherever I can find a *place*."
10. And Micah said, "Live here with me, and be my father and priest! And I will give you ten silver pieces a year, and a set of clothes, and food. So, the Levite went *with him*."
11. And the Levite agreed to dwell with the man, and the young man was to him as one of his sons.
12. And Micah consecrated the Levite, and the Levite became his priest, and he was in the house of Micah.
13. And Micah said, "Now I know that Jehovah will do me good, because I have a Levite for a priest."

Chapter 18

- ¶1. In those days, there was no king in Israel. And in those days, the tribe of Dan was searching for an inheritance for them to live in because, until that day, their inheritance had not fallen to them among the tribes of Israel.
2. So, the children of Dan sent from their family five men beyond their borders, mighty men, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to explore the land and make search. And they said to them, "Go spy out the land." And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and the Levite was there.
3. When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite, and they turned in there. And they said to him, "Who brought you here?" and "What are you doing in this place?" and "What do you have here?"
4. And he told them, "Micah has done (this and that) for me, and he hired me to be his father and priest."
5. And they said to him, "Inquire of God, if you will, that we may know if the journey on which we go will prosper."
6. And he said to them, "Go in peace! Before Jehovah is your way in which you go."
7. Then the five men went away, and they came to Laish. And they observed how the people in it were living confidently, after the custom of the Sidonians, undisturbed and unsuspecting, and no one lacking anything on earth, possessing wealth. Moreover, they were far from the Zidonians, and had no dealings with anyone.
8. And they went in to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brothers said to them, "What did you *find*?"
9. And they said, "Get up, and let us go up against them! For we saw the land, that, behold, it is very good. You are doing nothing! Do not be slow to go and move in to possess the land!"
10. When you go, you will enter a land that spreads out like hands, for God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything on earth!"
11. So, some of the family of Dan set out from there, for Zorah and Eshtaol, girt with weapons of war.

12. And when they went up, they camped in Kirjath-jearim in Judah. That is why they called that place “Camp Dan” to this day. Behold, it is to the west of Kirjath-jearim.
13. And they passed on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and they came to the house of Micah.
14. Then the five men who had gone up to spy out the territory of Laish spoke up and said to their kinsmen, “Did you know that among these buildings is an ephod and teraphim, and a graven image and a molten image? So now, think about what you should do.”
15. And they turned aside to that place and entered the house of the young man, the Levite, the house belonging to Micah. And they asked him of his welfare.
16. Now, the 600 men who were of the sons of Dan, girt with weapons of war, stood at the entrance of the gate
17. while the five men who went to spy out the land went in there to take the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. And the priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the 600 men girt with weapons of war.
18. But those men went in Micah’s house and took the graven image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and molten image. And the priest said to them, “What are you doing?”
19. And they said to him, “Shut up! Pit your hand over your mouth and come with us and be our father and priest. Is it better for you to be priest for one man’s house or to be priest for a tribe, and for a family in Israel?”
20. And the priest’s heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the company.
21. So, they turned and went away, putting the children, and the cattle, and the goods ahead of them.
22. They were a good distance from Micah’s house when the men who were in the houses close to Micah’s house were called out, and they overtook the children of Dan.
23. And they called to the children of Dan, and they turned around and said to Micah, “What’s with you, that you formed this posse?”
24. And he said, “My gods that I made, and the priest, you took and went away! And what is left to me! So, how is it that you say to me, ‘What’s with you?’”
25. And the sons of Dan said to him, “Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest hot-tempered men may fall upon you, and destroy you and your house.”
26. Then the children of Dan went on their way, once Micah saw that they were too strong for him. And he returned to his house.
27. And they took what Micah had made, and the priest that was his, and they moved in on Laish, on a people undisturbed and unsuspecting, and they smote them with the edge of the sword and burned their city with fire.
28. There was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone. And it was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob that they rebuilt the city and began living in it.

29. And they Calle the name of the city “Dan”, after the name of Dan, their father, who was born to Israel. However, “Laish” was name of the city at the first.
30. And the children of Dan set up for themselves the graven image, and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Moses,⁶ he and his sons, were priests for the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.
31. And they set up for themselves Micah’s graven image that he made all the days the house of God was in Shiloh.

Chapter 19

- ¶1. Now, it came to pass in those days when there was no king in Israel that a certain Levite, while sojourning in farther parts of the hill country of Ephraim, took for himself a woman from Bethlehem-Judah as a concubine.
2. But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father’s house, to Bethlehem-Judah. And she was there the space of four months.
3. Then her husband arose and went after her, to bring what was his back, and with him were his servant and a couple of asses. So, she brought him to the house of her father, and when the girl’s father saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.
4. And his father-in-law, the girl’s father, compelled him to stay with him three days, and so, they ate and drank and spent the nights there.
5. And it came to pass on the fourth day, early in the morning, that they rose up to go, but the girl’s father said to his son-in-law, “Strengthen your heart with a bit of bread, and afterward, you may go.”
6. So, they both sat down together and ate and drank, and then the girl’s father said to the man, “Be content, I beg you, to stay tonight and let your heart be merry.”
7. And the man rose up to leave, but his father-in-law urged him. So, he sat down and stayed there that night.
8. And he rose early in the morning of the fifth day to go, but the girl’s father said to him, “Strengthen your heart, I beseech you, and tarry until the day declines, and so the two of them ate.
9. Then the man rose up to go, he and his concubine and his servant, but his father-in-law, the girl’s father, said to him, “Behold now, the day is fading away to evening. Stay here tonight, I beg you. Behold, the day is drawing to a close. Send the night here and let your heart be merry. Then you can get up early tomorrow for your journey and go to your tent.”
10. But the man was unwilling to spend the night, but rose up and went. And he arrived opposite Jebus (the same is Jerusalem), and with him were a pair of asses saddled, and his concubine was with him.

⁶ Many manuscripts have “Gershom, the son of Manasseh”.

11. When they were close to Jebus, the day was far gone, and his servant said to his master, "Come now, and let's turn aside to this city, Jebus, and spend the night in it."
12. But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside there, into a city of foreigners who are not of the children of Israel. But let's pass over to Gibeah."
13. Then he said to his servant, "Come on! Let's draw near one of these places and spend the night in Gibeah, or Ramah."
14. So, they passed on and went their way, and the sun went down on them *as they drew* near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin.
15. So, they turned in there to go in to spend the night in Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the city's open square, for there was no man to take them into his house to spend the night.
16. And behold, at evening an old man came in from his work in the field. Now, the man hailed from the hill country of Ephraim and was sojourning in Gibeah, but the men of that place were Benjaminites.
17. And he lifted up his eyes and saw the man who was a traveler in the city square, and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where did you come from?"
18. And he said to him, "We're passing over from Bethlehem-Judah to the farther parts of the Ephraim hill country. I am from there, but I went to Bethlehem-Judah. Moreover, I travel with the house of Jehovah, yet there is no man to take me into his house."
19. Yet there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and there is bread and wine for me, and for your handmaid, and for the servant with your servants. There is no lack of anything."
20. And the old man said, "Shalom to you! Those things notwithstanding, all your needs *will be* on me. Only, you must not spend the night in the square."
21. So, he brought him to his house, and gave provender to the asses, and washed their feet, and then they ate and drink.
22. They were making the hearts merry when, behold, men of the city, men who were sons of Belial, surrounded the house, pounding on the door and they spoke to the man, the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him."
23. And the man, the master of there house, went out and said to them, "Do not, my brothers, do not do this wickedness, I beg you. After all, this is a man who has come into my house! Do not do this disgraceful folly!
24. Behold, my virgin daughter and his concubine. I will bring out, if you please, and you may humble them and do to them whatever seems good in your eyes, but to this man, you must not do this disgraceful thing!"
25. But the men would not listen to him. Then the man grabbed his concubine and brought her outside to them, and they knew her and abused her all night until morning, and let her go when day broke.

26. And as morning was dawning, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her husband was, until it was light.
27. And her husband arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go on his way. And behold, the woman, his concubine, was fallen down at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold.
28. And he said to her, "Get up and let's go." So he But there was no response. Then he took her up on the donkey, and the man got up and went to his place.
29. Then he went into his house and took a knife, and then he took hold of his concubine and divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces and sent her into every district in Israel.
30. And it came to pass that everyone who saw it said, "Such as this has not happened or been seen since the day the children of Israel came up out of there land of Egypt until this day! Think about it; take counsel; and then speak out!"

Chapter 20

- ¶1. Then all the children of Israel came out and the congregation, from Dan to Beersheba, and the land of Gilead, assembled as one man before the LORD at Mizpeh.
2. And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 men, footmen who drew the sword.
3. (Now, the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.). And the children of Israel said, "How did this wickedness happen?"
4. And the man, the Levite, husband of the murdered woman answered and said, "I came to Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night.
5. And the rulers of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house about me. Me, they thought to have killed, and my concubine they humbled and she died.
6. Then I cut her into pieces and sent her throughout the extent of the inheritance of Israel because they have committed lewdness and a disgraceful act in Israel.
7. Behold, all you sons of Israel, and give your advice and counsel here!"
8. Then all the people rose up as one man saying, "Not one of us will go to his tent, and not one of us one will turn aside to his house,
9. but this is the thing we will do to Gibeah now: we will go up against it by lot
10. and we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand of ten thousand, to take provisions to the people, that they may prepare to go to Gibeah of Benjamin to deal with all the disgrace it had done in Israel.
11. And all the army of Israel gathered against the city, united as open man.
12. And the tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this evil that was done among you?"

13. Hand over those men of Belial who are in Gibeah now, so that we may put them to death and rid Israel of evil!” But Benjamin would not heed the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel.
14. And the sons of Benjamin came together out of their cities to Gibeah, to go out and do battle with the sons of Israel.
15. And from their cities, the sons of Benjamin mustered 26,000 men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah.
16. Among all this company were 700 chosen men, left-handed, each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.
17. And the army of Israel mustered, excluding Benjamin, 400,000 men who drew the sword, each one a man of war.
18. Then they arose and went up to Bethel so they might inquire of God. And the sons of Israel said, “Who shall lead us up to the battle with the sons of Benjamin?” And Jehovah said, “Judah shall be first.”
19. So the sons of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.
20. And the army of Israel went out to do battle with Benjamin, and the army of Israel set the battle in order against them at Gibeah.
21. And the sons of Benjamin went out from Gibeah, and of Israel, they destroyed down to the earth that day twenty-two thousand of the army.
22. But the people, the army of Israel, strengthened itself to set the battle in order again in the place where it was set the first day.
23. However, the sons of Israel did go up and weep before Jehovah, and they enquired of Jehovah, saying, “Am I again to draw near for battle with the sons of Benjamin my brother?” And Jehovah said, “Go up against him.”
24. So, the sons of Israel drew near the sons of Benjamin on the second day.
25. And Benjamin went out from Gibeah to meet them the second day, and once more they destroyed to the earth 18,000 men, all of them men who drew the sword.
26. And all the sons of Israel went up, and all the people, and they came to Bethel and wept, and sat there before Jehovah, and they fasted that day until evening, and they offered whole burnt offerings and peace offerings before Jehovah,
27. and the sons of Israel enquired of Jehovah (the ark of the covenant of God was there during those days,
28. and Phinehas ben-Eleazar ben-Aaron stood before it in those days), saying, “Am I to go out yet again to the battle with the sons of Benjamin my brother, or shall I desist?” And Jehovah said, “Go! For tomorrow, I will give him into your hand.”
29. And Israel set ambushments all around Gibeah.
30. Then the sons of Israel went up to the sons of Benjamin the third day and set *the battle* in order as before.
31. When the sons of Benjamin came out to meet the people, they were drawn away from the city, and they began to strike some of the people, killing them as before (about

- thirty of the army of Israel) in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel, and one, to Gibeah) and in the field.
32. And the sons of Benjamin said, "They are smitten down before us as at the first!" But the sons of Israel had said, "Let's flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."
 33. Then all the army of Israel rose from his place and got in battle order at Baal-tamar, while Israel's ambush burst of its place, from Maareh-geba.
 34. And 10,000 chosen men from all Israel came over against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But they did not know that destruction was closing in on them.
 35. And Jehovah struck Benjamin down before Israel, and the sons of Israel that day destroyed of Benjamin 25,100 men, they all men who drew the bow.
 36. Then the sons of Benjamin saw that they were smitten and that the army of Israel had given way to Benjamin (because they were relying on the ambush they set against Gibeah).
 37. But the ambushers hurried and rushed to Gibeah, and they spread out and struck down the whole city with the edge of the sword.
 38. Now, the signal for the army of Israel from *that in* ambush was to send up a great cloud of smoke from the city.
 39. So, the army of Israel turned back in the battle when Benjamin started to strike, killing of the army of Israel about thirty men, for they thought, "Suirely, they are uttered smitten, as in the first battle."
 40. But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, turned and looked behind them, and behold, the entire city was going top toward heaven!
 41. Then the army of Israel turned, and the army of Benjamin was dismayed when it saw that destruction had come upon it.
 42. So they turned away from the army of Israel toward the Wilderness Road, but the battle overtook *Benjamin*, and those from the cities began destroying him, he being in the middle.
 43. They enclosed Benjamin; they pursued him; they tread him down as far as in front of Gibeah, on the east.
 44. And there fell of Benjamin 18,000 men, mighty men, all of them.
 45. And they turned and fled toward the wilderness, to the Rock of Rimmon, but on the highways, they gleaned of them 5,000 men, and then pressed hard after them to Gidom and of them, they killed two thousand men.
 46. And so it was that all who fell that day from Benjamin we're twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword. These were all mighty men.
 47. And 600 men had turned and fled ti the Rock of Rimmon, and they lived at the Rock of Rimmon four months.
 48. Then the army of Israel returned to the children of Benjamin and slew them with the edge of the sword, from the innocent one in the city [or, the entire city], to the beast, to everything found in it, and all the villages as well.

Chapter 21

- ¶1. Now, the army of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying, “Not one of us will give his daughter to Benjamin for a wife.”
2. And the people went to Bethel, and they stayed there before God until evening, and they lifted up their voice and wept very bitterly.
3. And then said, “Why, O Jehovah, God of Israel, has this happened in Israel, that there should be one tribe lost to Israel?”
4. And it came to pass the next day that the people rose early and built an altar there, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
5. And the children of Israel said, “Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up in the assembly to Jehovah?” For they had taken a great oath concerning whoever would not come up to Jehovah at Mizpah, saying, “He shall surely die!”
6. And the children of Israel felt compassion toward Benjamin their brother, and they said, “Today, one tribe has been cut out of Israel.
7. What shall be done for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn before Jehovah not to give our daughters to them for wives?”
8. And they said, “What one is there of the tribes of Israel that did not go up to Jehovah at Mizpah?” And behold, no one came to the camp from Jabesh-gilead, to the assembly.
9. For when the people were mustered, behold, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there.
10. And so, the congregation sent there twelve thousand men from the most valiant, and they commanded them, saying, “Go smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and the children.
11. And this is the thing which you are to do: every male, and every woman who has known a man’s bed-chamber, you are to devote to destruction.
12. And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known a man by lying with him, and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which was in the land of Israel.
13. And all the congregation sent and spoke to the sons of Benjamin who were at the Rock of Rimmon, and they spoke peaceably to them.
14. And Benjamin returned then, and they gave them the women whom they had kept alive from the women of Jabesh-gilead, and yet they did not find enough for them.
15. And the people were moved with pity for Benjamin because Jehovah had made a breach among the tribes of Israel.
16. Then the elders of the congregation said, “What are we to do for wives for those who remain, for the women of Benjamin are completely gone?”
17. And they said, “*There must be* an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be wiped out of Israel.

18. And we ourselves cannot give them wives from our daughters.” (For the children of Israel had sworn, saying, “Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin!”)
19. Then they said, “Behold, there is a yearly feast to Jehovah at Shiloh (which is north of Bethel, to the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem and southward toward Lebonah).
20. And they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards,
21. and watch. And behold, when the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then you come out of the vineyards and seize for yourselves, each one, a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh, and then go to the land of Benjamin.
22. And it will be that, when their fathers or brothers come to complain to us, we will say to them, “Show mercy to them, for we did not take for each one his wife during the war. Furthermore, you did not give them to them; so, you are not guilty in this.”
23. And there sons of Benjamin did so, and took wives according to their number of those who were dancing, whom they abducted. And they went to their inheritance and lived, and they built cities, and lived in them.
24. And the children of Israel scattered from there at that time, each to his own tribe and to his own family, and each went to His own inheritance.
25. In those days there was no king in Israel. Every man did what was right in his own eyes.