

Judges

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

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

³ And Judah said to his brother Simeon, Come up with me into my lot, and let us array ourselves against the Canaanites, and I also will go with thee into thy lot: and Simeon went with him.

⁴ And Judah went up; and the Lord delivered the Canaanite and the Perizzite into their hands, and they smote them in Bezek to *the number of* ten thousand men.

⁵ And they overtook Adoni-bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they smote the Canaanite and the Perizzite.

⁶ And Adoni-bezek fled, and they pursued after him, and took him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

⁷ And Adoni-bezek said, Seventy kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered *their food* under my table: as I therefore have done, so God has recompensed me: and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

⁸ And the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and they burned the city with fire.

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight with the Canaanite dwelling in the hill country, and the south, and the plain country.

10 And Judah went to the Canaanite who dwelt in Hebron; and Hebron came out against him; and the name of Hebron before was Kiriath-arba-sepher: and they smote Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, children of Anak.

11 And they went up thence to the inhabitants of Debir; but the name of Debir was before Kiriath-sepher, the city of Letters.

12 And Caleb said, Whosoever shall smite the city of Letters, and shall first take it, I will give to him Achsah my daughter to wife.

13 And Othniel the younger son of Kenaz the brother of Caleb took it; and Caleb gave him his daughter Achsah to wife.

14 And it came to pass as she went in, that Othniel urged her to ask a field of her father; and she murmured and cried from off her ass, Thou hast sent me forth into a south land: and Caleb said to her, What is thy request?

15 And Achsah said to him, Give me, I pray thee, a blessing, for thou hast sent me forth into a south land, and thou shalt give me the ransom of water: and Caleb gave her according to her heart the ransom of the upper *springs* and the ransom of the low *springs*.

16 And the children of Jethro the Kenite the father-in-law of Moses went up from the city of palm trees with the children of Judah, to the wilderness that is in the south of Judah, which

is at the descent of Arad, and they dwelt with the people.

¹⁷ And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and smote the Canaanite that inhabited Zephath, and they utterly destroyed them; and they called the name of the city Anathema.

¹⁸ But Judah did not inherit Gaza nor her coasts, nor Ashkelon nor her coasts, nor Ekron nor her coasts, *nor* Ashdod nor the lands around it.

¹⁹ And the Lord was with Judah, and he inherited the mountain; for they were not able to destroy the inhabitants of the valley, for Rechab prevented them.

²⁰ And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said; and thence he inherited the three cities of the children of Anak.

²¹ But the children of Benjamin did not take the inheritance of the Jebusite who dwelt in Jerusalem; and the Jebusite dwelt with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem until this day.

²² And the sons of Joseph, they also went up to Bethel; and the Lord was with them.

²³ And they encamped and surveyed Bethel: and the name of the city before was Luz.

²⁴ And the spies looked, and behold, a man went out of the city, and they took him; and they said to him, Show us the way into the city, and we will deal mercifully with thee.

²⁵ And he showed them the way into the city; and they smote the city with the edge of the sword; but they let go the man and his family.

²⁶ And the man went into the land of *the* Hittites, and built there a city, and called the name of it Luz; this *is* its name until this day.

²⁷ And Manasseh did not drive out *the inhabitants of* Beth-shean, which is a city of Scythians, nor her towns, nor her suburbs; nor Taanach, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor her towns; nor the inhabitant of Balac, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Megiddo, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Ibleam, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; and the Canaanite began to dwell in this land.

²⁸ And it came to pass when Israel was strong, that he made the Canaanite tributary, but did not utterly drive them out.

²⁹ And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanite that dwelt in Gezer; and the Canaanite dwelt in the midst of him in Gezer, and became tributary.

³⁰ And Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Domana: and the Canaanite dwelt in the midst of them, and became tributary to them.

³¹ And Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, and *that people* became tributary to him, nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor the inhabitants of Sidon, nor the inhabitants of Ahlab, nor Achzib, nor Helbah, nor Nai, nor Rehob.

³² And Asher dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite who inhabited the land, for he could not drive him out.

³³ And Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-anath; and Naphtali dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite who inhabited the land: but the

inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became tributary to them.

³⁴ And the Amorite drove out the children of Dan into the mountain, for they did not suffer them to come down into the valley.

³⁵ And the Amorite began to dwell in the mountain of shells, in which *are* bears, and foxes, in Myrsinon, and in Shaalbim; and the hand of the house of Joseph was heavy upon the Amorite, and he became tributary to them.

³⁶ And the border of the Amorite *was* from the going up of Akrabbim, from the rock and upward.

2

¹ And an angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to the *place of* weeping, and to Bethel, and to the house of Israel, and said to them, Thus says the Lord, I brought you up out of Egypt, and I brought you into the land which I swore to your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant that I have made with you.

² And ye shall make no covenant with them that dwell in this land, neither shall ye worship their gods; but ye shall destroy their graven images, ye shall pull down their altars: but ye hearkened not to my voice, for ye did these things.

³ And I said, I will not drive them out from before you, but they shall be for a distress to you, and their gods shall be to you for an offense.

⁴ And it came to pass when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of

Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

⁵ And they named the name of that place Weepings; and they sacrificed there to the Lord.

⁶ And Joshua dismissed the people, and they went every man to his inheritance, to inherit the land.

⁷ And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that lived many days with Joshua, as many as knew all the great work of the Lord, what things he had wrought in Israel.

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

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

¹⁰ And all that generation were laid to their fathers: and another generation rose up after them, who knew not the Lord, nor yet the work which he wrought in Israel.

¹¹ And the children of Israel wrought evil before the Lord, and served Baalim.

¹² And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and walked after other gods, of the gods of the nations round about them; and they worshiped them.

¹³ And they provoked the Lord, and forsook him, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.

¹⁴ And the Lord was very angry with Israel; and he gave them into the hands of the spoilers, and they spoiled them; and he sold them into the

hands of their enemies round about, and they could not any longer resist their enemies,

¹⁵ among whomsoever they went; and the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord spoke, and as the Lord swore to them; and he greatly afflicted them.

¹⁶ And the Lord raised up judges, and the Lord saved them out of the hands of them that spoiled them: and yet they hearkened not to the judges,

¹⁷ for they went a-whoring after other gods, and worshiped them; and they turned quickly out of the way in which their fathers walked to hearken to the words of the Lord; they did not so.

¹⁸ And because the Lord raised them up judges, so the Lord was with the judge, and saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved at their groaning by reason of them that besieged them and afflicted them.

¹⁹ And it came to pass when the judge died, that they went back, and again corrupted *themselves* worse than their fathers to go after other gods to serve them and to worship them: they abandoned not their devices nor their stubborn ways.

²⁰ And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and said, Forasmuch as this nation has forsaken my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not hearkened to my voice,

²¹ therefore I will not anymore cast out a man of the nations from before their face, which

Joshua the son of Nun left in the land. And *the Lord left them,*

²² to prove Israel with them, whether they would keep the way of the Lord, to walk in it, as their fathers kept it, or no.

²³ So the Lord will leave these nations, so as not to cast them out suddenly; and he delivered them not into the hand of Joshua.

3

¹ And these *are* the nations which the Lord left to prove Israel with them, all that had not known the wars of Canaan.

² Only for the sake of the generations of Israel, to teach them war; only the men before them knew them not.

³ The five lordships of the Philistines, and every Canaanite, and the Sidonian, and the Hivite who dwelt in Lebanon from the mount of Hermon to Lebo-hamath.

⁴ And *this* was done in order to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commands of the Lord, which he charged their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵ And the children of Israel dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

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

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

⁸ And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Syria of the rivers: and the children of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.

⁹ And the children of Israel cried to the Lord; and the Lord raised up a savior to Israel, and he saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb younger than himself.

¹⁰ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel; and he went out to war against Cushan-rishathaim: and the Lord delivered into his hand Cushan-rishathaim king of Syria of the rivers, and his hand prevailed against Cushan-rishathaim.

¹¹ And the land was quiet forty years; and Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹² And the children of Israel continued to do evil before the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil before the Lord.

¹³ And he gathered to himself all the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and took possession of the city of Palm trees.

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

¹⁵ And the children of Israel cried to the Lord; and he raised up to them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera a son of Jamin, a man who used both hands alike: and the children of Israel sent gifts by his hand to Eglon king of Moab.

¹⁶ And Ehud made himself a dagger of two edges, of a span long, and he girded it under his cloak upon his right thigh.

17 And he went, and brought the presents to Eglon king of Moab, and Eglon *was* a very handsome man.

18 And it came to pass when Ehud *had* made an end of offering his gifts, that he dismissed those that brought the gifts.

19 And he himself returned from the quarries that are by Gilgal; and Ehud said, I have a secret errand to thee, O king! and Eglon said to him, Be silent: and he sent away from his presence all who waited upon him.

20 And Ehud went in to him; and he sat in his own upper summer chamber quite alone; and Ehud said, I have a message from God to thee, O king: and Eglon rose up from his throne near him.

21 And it came to pass as he arose, that Ehud stretched forth his left hand, and took the dagger off his right thigh, and plunged it into his belly;

22 and drove in also the haft after the blade, and the fat closed in upon the blade, for he drew not out the dagger from his belly.

23 And Ehud went out to the porch, and passed out by the appointed *guards*, and shut the doors of the chamber upon him, and locked *them*.

24 And he went out: and Eglon's servants came, and saw, and behold, the doors of the upper chamber *were* locked; and they said, Does he not uncover his feet in the summer chamber?

25 And they waited till they were ashamed, and, behold, there was no one that opened the doors of the upper chamber; and they took the key, and

opened them; and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead upon the earth.

²⁶ And Ehud escaped while they were in a tumult, and no one paid attention to him; and he passed the quarries, and escaped to Seirah.

²⁷ And it came to pass when Ehud came into the land of Israel, that he blew the horn in Mount Ephraim, and the children of Israel came down with him from the mountain, and he *was* before them.

²⁸ And he said to them, Come down after me, for the Lord God has delivered our enemies, even Moab, into our hand; and they went down after him, and seized on the fords of Jordan before Moab, and he did not suffer a man to pass over.

²⁹ And they smote Moab on that day about ten thousand men, every lusty *person* and every mighty man; and not a man escaped.

³⁰ So Moab was humbled in that day under the hand of Israel, and the land had rest eighty years; and Ehud judged them till he died.

³¹ And after him rose up Shamgar the son of Anath, and smote the Philistines to the number of six hundred men with a plowshare *such as is drawn by oxen*; and he too delivered Israel.

4

¹ And the children of Israel continued to do evil against the Lord; and Ehud was dead.

² And the Lord sold the children of Israel into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who ruled in Hazor; and the chief of his host was Sisera, and he dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

³ And the children of Israel cried to the Lord, because he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and he mightily oppressed Israel twenty years.

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

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

⁶ And Deborah sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and she said to him, Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded thee? and thou shalt depart to Mount Tabor, and shalt take with thyself ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun.

⁷ And I will bring to thee to the torrent of Kishon Sisera the captain of the host of Jabin, and his chariots, and his multitude, and I will deliver them into thy hands.

⁸ And Barak said to her, If thou wilt go with me, I will go; and if thou wilt not go, I will not go; for I know not the day on which the Lord prospers his messenger with me.

⁹ And she said, I will surely go with thee; but know that thy honor shall not attend on the expedition on which thou goest, for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hands of a woman; and Deborah arose, and went with Barak out of Kedesh.

¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali out of Kedesh, and there went up at his feet ten thousand men, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ And Heber the Kenite had removed from Caina, from the sons of Jobab the father-in-law

of Moses, and pitched his tent by the oak of the covetous ones, which is near Kedesh.

¹² And it was told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to Mount Tabor.

¹³ And Sisera summoned all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron and all the people with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles to the brook of Kishon.

¹⁴ And Deborah said to Barak, Rise up, for this is the day on which the Lord has delivered Sisera into thy hand, for the Lord shall go forth before thee: and Barak went down from Mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

¹⁵ And the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his army, with the edge of the sword before Barak: and Sisera descended from off his chariot, and fled on his feet.

¹⁶ And Barak pursued after the chariots and after the army, into Harosheth of the Gentiles; and the whole army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword, there was not one left.

¹⁷ And Sisera fled on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite his friend: 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 said to him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me, fear not: and he turned aside to her into the tent; and she covered him with a mantle.

¹⁹ And Sisera said to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty: and she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him to drink, and covered him.

²⁰ And Sisera said to her, Stand now by the door of the tent, and it shall come to pass if any man come to thee, and ask of thee, and say, Is there *any* man here? then thou shalt say, There is not.

²¹ And Jael the wife of Heber took a pin of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand, and went secretly to him, and fastened the pin in his temple, and it went through to the earth, and he fainted away, and darkness fell upon him and he died.

²² And, behold, Barak *was* pursuing Sisera: and Jael went out to meet him, and she said to him, Come, and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest: and he went in to her; and, behold, Sisera was fallen dead, and the pin *was* in his temple.

²³ So God routed Jabin king of Canaan in that day before the children of Israel.

²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin king of Canaan, until they utterly destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

5

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

² A revelation was made in Israel
When the people were made willing: Praise ye
the Lord.

³ Hear, ye kings, and hearken, rulers:
I will sing, it is I *who will sing* to the Lord, it is I,
I will sing a psalm to the Lord the God of Israel.

⁴ O Lord, in thy going forth on Seir,
When thou wentest forth out of the land of Edom,

The earth quaked and the heaven dropped dews,
And the clouds dropped water.

⁵ The mountains were shaken before the face of
the Lord Eloi,
This Sinai before the face of the Lord God of
Israel.

⁶ In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days
of Jael,

They deserted the ways, and went in byways;
They went in crooked paths.

⁷ The mighty men in Israel failed,
They failed until Deborah arose,
Until she arose a mother in Israel.

⁸ They chose new gods;
Then the cities of rulers fought;
There was not a shield or spear seen
Among forty thousand in Israel.

⁹ My heart *inclines* to the orders given in Israel;
Ye that are willing among the people, bless the
Lord.

¹⁰ Ye that mount a she-ass at noonday,
Ye that sit on the judgment seat,
And walk by the roads of them that sit in
judgment by the way;

Declare

¹¹ *ye that are delivered* from the noise of dis-
turbance

Among the drawers of water;
There shall they relate righteous acts:
O Lord, increase righteous acts in Israel:
Then the people of the Lord went down to the
cities.

¹² Awake, awake, Deborah;

Awake, awake, utter a song:
Arise, Barak,
And lead thy captivity captive, son of Abinoam.
13 Then went down the remnant to the strong,
The people of the Lord went down for him
among the mighty ones from me.

14 Ephraim rooted them out in Amalek,
Behind thee was Benjamin among thy people:
The inhabitants of Machir came down with me
searching out the enemy,
And from Zebulun came they that draw with the
scribe's pen of record.

15 And princes in Issachar were with Deborah
and Barak,
Thus she sent Barak on his feet in the valleys
Into the portions of Reuben;
Great *pangs* reached to the heart.

16 Why did they sit between the sheepfolds
To hear the bleating of flocks
For the divisions of Reuben?
There were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead *is* on the other side of Jordan where he
pitched his tents;
And why does Dan remain in ships?
Asher sat down on the seacoasts,
And he will tabernacle at his ports.

18 The people Zebulun exposed their soul to
death,
And Naphtali came to the high places of their
land.

19 Kings set themselves in array,

Then the kings of Canaan fought
In Taanach at the water of Megiddo;
They took no gift of money.

²⁰ The stars from heaven set themselves in array,
They set themselves *to fight* with Sisera out of
their paths.

²¹ The brook of Kishon swept them away,
The ancient brook, the brook Kishon:
My mighty soul will trample him down.

²² When the hoofs of the horse were entangled,
His mighty ones earnestly hastened

²³ To curse Meroz: Curse ye *it*, said the angel of
the Lord;

Cursed *is* everyone that dwells in it,
Because they came not to the help of the Lord,
To his help among the mighty.

²⁴ Blessed among women be Jael
Wife of Heber the Kenite;
Let her be blessed above women in tents.

²⁵ He asked for water, she gave him milk in a
dish;

She brought butter of princes.

²⁶ She stretched forth her left hand to the nail,
And her right hand to the workman's hammer,
And she smote Sisera with it, she nailed through
his head and smote him;
She nailed through his temples.

²⁷ He rolled down between her feet;
He fell and lay between her feet;
He bowed and fell:
Where he bowed, there he fell dead.

- 28 The mother of Sisera looked down through the window out of the loophole,
Saying, Why was his chariot ashamed?
Why did the wheels of his chariots tarry?
- 29 Her wise ladies answered her,
And she returned answers to herself, *saying*,
- 30 Will they not find him dividing the spoil?
He will surely be gracious to every man:
There are spoils of dyed garments for Sisera,
Spoils of various dyed garments,
Dyed embroidered garments, they *are* the spoils
for his neck.
- 31 Thus let all thine enemies perish, O Lord:
And they that love him shall be as the going forth
of the sun in his strength.
And the land had rest forty years.

6

- 1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.
- 2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and the children of Israel made for themselves because of Midian the caves in the mountains, and the dens, and the holes in the rocks.
- 3 And it came to pass when the children of Israel sowed, that Midian and Amalek went up, and the children of the east went up together with them.
- 4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed their fruits until they came to Gaza; and they left not the support of life in the land of Israel, not even ox or ass among the herds.

⁵ For they and their stock came up, and their tents were with them, as the locust in multitude, and there was no number to them and their camels; and they came to the land of Israel, and laid it waste.

⁶ And Israel was greatly impoverished because of Midian.

⁷ And the children of Israel cried to the Lord because of Midian.

⁸ And the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel; and he said to them, Thus says the Lord God of Israel, I am he that brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and I brought you up out of the house of your bondage.

⁹ And I delivered you out of the hand of Egypt, and out of the hand of all that afflicted you, and I cast them out before you; and I gave you their land.

¹⁰ And I said to you, I *am* the Lord your God: ye shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but ye hearkened not to my voice.

¹¹ And an angel of the Lord came, and sat down under the fir tree, which was in Ophrah in the land of Joash father of Ezer; and Gideon his son *was* threshing wheat in a winepress in order to escape from the face of Midian.

¹² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, The Lord *is* with thee, thou mighty in strength.

¹³ And Gideon said to him, *Be gracious* with me, my Lord: but if the Lord is with us, why have these evils found us? and where are all his miracles, which our fathers have related to us, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up out of

Egypt? and now he has cast us out, and given us into the hand of Midian.

¹⁴ And the angel of the Lord turned to him, and said, Go in this thy strength, and thou shalt save Israel out of the hand of Midian: behold, I have sent thee.

¹⁵ And Gideon said to him, *Be gracious* with me, my Lord: whereby shall I save Israel? behold, my thousand is weakened in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

¹⁶ And the angel of the Lord said to him, The Lord shall be with thee, and thou shalt smite Midian as one man.

¹⁷ And Gideon said to him, If now I have found mercy in thine eyes, and thou wilt do this day for me all that thou hast spoken of with me,

¹⁸ depart not hence until I come to thee, and I will bring forth an offering and offer it before thee: and he said, I will remain until thou return.

¹⁹ And Gideon went in, and prepared a kid of the goats, and an ephah of fine flour unleavened; and he put the flesh in the basket, and poured the broth into the pot, and brought them forth to him under the turpentine tree, and drew nigh.

²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and put them on that rock, and pour out the broth close by: and he did so.

²¹ And the angel of the Lord stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened bread; and fire came up out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened bread, and the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.

²² And Gideon saw that he was an angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, Ah, ah, Lord my God! for I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.

²³ And the Lord said to him, Peace be to thee, fear not, thou shalt not die.

²⁴ And Gideon built there an altar to the Lord, and called it The peace of the Lord, until this day, as it is still in Ophrah of the father of Ezer.

²⁵ And it came to pass in that night, that the Lord said to him, Take the young bullock which thy father has, even the second bullock of seven years old, and thou shalt destroy the altar of Baal which thy father has, and the grove which is by it thou shalt destroy.

²⁶ And thou shalt build an altar to the Lord thy God on the top of this Maozi in the ordering *it*, and thou shalt take the second bullock, and shalt offer up whole burnt offerings with the wood of the grove, which thou shalt destroy.

²⁷ And Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord spoke to him: and it came to pass, as he feared the house of his father and the men of the city if he should do it by day, that he did it by night.

²⁸ And the men of the city rose up early in the morning; and behold, the altar of Baal had been demolished, and the grove by it had been destroyed; and they saw the second bullock, which Gideon offered on the altar that had been built.

²⁹ And a man said to his neighbor, Who has done this thing? and they inquired and searched,

and learned that Gideon the son of Joash had done this thing.

³⁰ And the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out thy son, and let him die, because he has destroyed the altar of Baal, and because he has destroyed the grove that is by it.

³¹ And Gideon the son of Joash said to all the men who rose up against him, Do ye now plead for Baal, or will ye save him? whoever will plead for him, let him be slain this morning: if he be a god let him plead for himself, because *one* has thrown down his altar.

³² And he called it in that day Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead thereby, because his altar has been thrown down.

³³ And all Midian, and Amalek, and the sons of the east gathered themselves together, and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew with the horn, and Abiezer came to help after him.

³⁵ And *Gideon* sent messengers into all Manasseh, and into Asher, and into Zebulun, and into Naphtali; and he went up to meet them.

³⁶ And Gideon said to God, If thou wilt save Israel by my hand, as thou hast said,

³⁷ behold, I put the fleece of wool in the threshing floor: if there be dew on the fleece only, and drought on all the ground, I shall know that thou wilt save Israel by my hand, as thou hast said.

³⁸ And it was so: and he rose up early in the morning, and wrung the fleece, and dew

dropped from the fleece, a bowl full of water.

³⁹ And Gideon said to God, Let not, I pray thee, thine anger be kindled with me, and I will speak yet once; I will even yet make one trial more with the fleece: let now the drought be upon the fleece only, and let there be dew on all the ground.

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

7

¹ And Jerubbaal rose early, the same is Gideon, and all the people with him, and encamped at the fountain of Arad; and the camp of Midian was to the north of him, *reaching* from Gibeath-moreh, in the valley.

² And the Lord said to Gideon, The people with thee *are* many, so that I may not deliver Midian into their hand, lest at any time Israel boast against me, saying, My hand has saved me.

³ And now speak in the ears of the people, saying, Who *is* afraid and fearful? let him turn and depart from Mount Gilead: and there returned of the people twenty-two thousand, and ten thousand were left.

⁴ And the Lord said to Gideon, The people is yet numerous; bring them down to the water, and I will purge them there for thee: and it shall come to pass that of whomsoever I shall say to thee, This one shall go with thee, *even* he shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I shall say to thee, This one shall not go with thee, *even* he shall not go with thee.

⁵ And he brought the people down to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, Whosoever shall lap of the water with his tongue as if a dog should lap, thou shalt set him apart, and *also* whosoever shall bow down upon his knees to drink.

⁶ And the number of those that lapped with their hand to their mouth was three hundred men; and all the rest of the people bowed upon their knees to drink water.

⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, I will save you by the three hundred men that lapped, and I will give Midian into thy hand; and all the *rest of the* people shall go every one to his place.

⁸ And they took the provision of the people in their hand, and their horns; and he sent away every man of Israel each to his tent, and he strengthened the three hundred; and the army of Midian were beneath him in the valley.

⁹ And it came to pass in that night that the Lord said to him, Arise, go down into the camp, for I have delivered it into thy hand.

¹⁰ And if thou art afraid to go down, go down thou and thy servant Purah into the camp.

¹¹ And thou shalt hear what they shall say, and afterward thy hands shall be strong, and thou shalt go down into the camp: and he went down and Purah his servant to the extremity of the *companies of fifty*, which were in the camp.

¹² And Midian and Amalek and all the children of the east *were* scattered in the valley, as the locust for multitude; and there was no number to their camels, but they were as the sand on the seashore for multitude.

13 And Gideon came, and behold a man *was* relating to his neighbor a dream, and he said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread rolling into the camp of Midian, and it came as far as a tent, and smote it, and it fell, and it turned it up, and the tent fell.

14 And his neighbor answered and said, This is none other than the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, a man of Israel: God has delivered Midian and all the host into his hand.

15 And it came to pass when Gideon heard the account of the dream and the interpretation of it, that he worshiped the Lord, and returned to the camp of Israel, and said, Rise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into our hand.

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and put horns in the hands of all, and empty pitchers, and torches in the pitchers:

17 and he said to them, Ye shall look at me, and so shall ye do; and behold, I will go into the beginning of the host, and it shall come to pass *that* as I do, so shall ye do.

18 And I will sound with the horn, and all ye with me shall sound with the horn round about the whole camp, and ye shall say, For the Lord and Gideon.

19 And Gideon and the hundred men that were with him came to the extremity of the army in the beginning of the middle watch; and they completely roused the guards, and sounded with the horns, and they broke the pitchers that were in their hands,

²⁰ and the three companies sounded with the horns, and broke the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and in their right hands their horns to sound with; and they cried out, A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.

²¹ And *every* man stood in his place round about the host; and all the host ran, and sounded *an alarm*, and fled.

²² And they sounded with the three hundred horns; and the Lord set *every* man's sword in all the host against his neighbor.

²³ And the host fled as far as Beth-shittah Zererah Abel-meholah to Tabbath; and the men of Israel from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from all Manasseh, came to help, and followed after Midian.

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers into all Mount Ephraim, saying, Come down to meet Midian, and take to yourselves the water as far as Beth-barah and Jordan: and every man of Ephraim cried out, and they took the water beforehand unto Beth-barah and Jordan.

²⁵ And they took the princes of Midian, even Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb in Sur Oreb, and they slew Zeeb in Jakeph-zeeb; and they pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from beyond Jordan.

8

¹ And the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, What *is this that* thou hast done to us, in that thou didst not call us when thou wentest to fight with Midian? and they chided with him sharply.

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

³ The Lord has delivered into your hand the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; and what could I do in comparison of you? Then was their spirit calmed toward him, when he spoke this word.

⁴ And Gideon came to Jordan, and went over, himself and the three hundred with him, hungry, yet pursuing.

⁵ And he said to the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, bread to feed this people that follow me; because they are faint, and behold, I am following after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

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

⁷ And Gideon said, Therefore when the Lord gives Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then will I tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness, and the Barkenim.

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

⁹ And Gideon said to the men of Penuel, When I return in peace, I will break down this tower.

¹⁰ And Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their host *was* with them, about fifteen thousand, all that were left of all the host of the aliens; and they that fell *were* a hundred and twenty thousand men that drew the sword.

11 And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents, eastward of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he smote the host, and the host was secure.

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

13 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle, down from the battle of Heres.

14 And he took prisoner a young lad of the men of Succoth, and questioned him; and he wrote to him the names of the princes of Succoth and of their elders, seventy-seven men.

15 And Gideon came to the princes of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom ye reproached me, saying, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thy hand, that we should give bread to thy men that are faint?

16 And he took the elders of the city with the thorns of the wilderness and the Barkenim, and with them he tore the men of the city.

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

18 And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, Where *are* the men whom ye slew in Tabor? and they said, As thou, so *were* they, according to the likeness of the son of a king.

19 And Gideon said, They were my brethren and the sons of my mother: *as* the Lord lives, if ye had preserved them alive, I would not have slain you.

20 And he said to Jether his firstborn, Rise and slay them; but the lad drew not his sword, for he

was afraid, for he was yet very young.

²¹ And Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou and fall upon us, for thy power is as that of a man; and Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna; and he took the round ornaments that were on the necks of their camels.

²² And the men of Israel said to Gideon, Rule, my lord, over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son; for thou hast saved us out of the hand of Midian.

²³ And Gideon said to them, I will not rule, and my son shall not rule among you; the Lord shall rule over you.

²⁴ And Gideon said to them, I will make a request of you, and do ye give me every man an earring out of his spoils: for they had golden earrings, for they were Ishmaelites.

²⁵ And they said, We will certainly give them: and he opened his garment, and each man cast therein an earring of his spoils.

²⁶ And the weight of the golden earrings which he asked, was a thousand and seven hundred pieces of gold, besides the crescents, and the chains, and the garments, and the purple cloths that were on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that were on the necks of their camels.

²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod of it, and set it in his city in Ophrah; and all Israel went thither a-whoring after it, and it became a stumbling block to Gideon and his house.

²⁸ And Midian was straitened before the children of Israel, and they did not lift up their head anymore; and the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.

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

³⁰ And Gideon had seventy sons begotten of his body, for he had many wives.

³¹ And his concubine was in Shechem, and she also bore him a son, and gave him the name Abimelech.

³² And Gideon son of Joash died in his city, and was buried in the sepulcher of Joash his father in Ophrah of Abiezer.

³³ And it came to pass when Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned, and went a-whoring after Baalim, and made for themselves a covenant with Baal that he should be their god.

³⁴ And the children of Israel remembered not the Lord their God who had delivered them out of the hand of all that afflicted them round about.

³⁵ And they did not deal mercifully with the house of Jerubbaal (the same is Gideon), according to all the good which he did to Israel.

9

¹ And Abimelech son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's brethren; and he spoke to them and to all the kindred of the house of his mother's father, saying,

² Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, saying, Which is better for you, that seventy men, even all the sons of Jerubbaal, should reign over you, or that one man should reign over you? and remember that I am your bone and your flesh.

³ And his mother's brethren spoke concerning him in the ears of all the men of Shechem

all these words; and their heart turned after Abimelech, for they said, He is our brother.

⁴ And they gave him seventy *pieces* of silver out of the house of Baal-berith; and Abimelech hired for himself vain and cowardly men, and they went after him.

⁵ And he went to the house of his father to Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men upon one stone; but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.

⁶ And all the men of Shechem, and all the house of Beth-millo, were gathered together, and they went and made Abimelech king by the oak of Sedition, which was at Shechem.

⁷ And it was reported to Jotham, and he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and wept, and said to them, Hear me, ye men of Shechem, and God shall hear you.

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

⁹ But the olive said to them, Shall I leave my fatness, with which men shall glorify God, and go to be promoted over the trees?

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

¹¹ But the fig tree said to them, Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruits, and go to be promoted over the trees?

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

¹³ And the vine said to them, Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men, and go to be

promoted over the trees?

¹⁴ Then all the trees said to the bramble, Come thou *and* reign over us.

¹⁵ And the bramble said to the trees, If ye in truth anoint me to reign over you, come, stand under my shadow; and if not, let fire come out from me and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

¹⁶ And now, if ye have done it in truth and integrity, and have made Abimelech king, and if ye have wrought well with Jerubbaal, and with his house, and if ye have done to him according to the reward of his hand,

¹⁷ as my father fought for you, and put his life in jeopardy, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;

¹⁸ and ye are risen up this day against the house of my father, and have slain his sons, being seventy men, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech the son of his bondwoman king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother:

¹⁹ if then ye have done truly and faithfully with Jerubbaal, and with his house this day, rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice over you:

²⁰ but if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem and from the house of Beth-millo, and devour Abimelech.

²¹ And Jotham fled, and ran away, and went as far as Beer, and dwelt there out of the way of his brother Abimelech.

²² And Abimelech reigned over Israel three years.

²³ And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with the house of Abimelech:

²⁴ to bring the injury done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, and to lay their blood upon their brother Abimelech, who slew them, and upon the men of Shechem, because they strengthened his hands to slay his brethren.

²⁵ And the men of Shechem set liers in wait against him on the top of the mountains, and robbed everyone who passed by them on the way; and it was reported to the King Abimelech.

²⁶ And Gaal son of Ebed came, and his brethren, and passed by Shechem, and the men of Shechem trusted in him.

²⁷ And they went out into the field, and gathered their grapes, and trod them, and made merry; and they brought *the grapes* into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

²⁸ And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is the son of Shechem, that we should serve him? *Is he* not the son of Jerubbaal, and *is not* Zebul his steward, his servant with the son of Hamor the father of Shechem? and why should we serve him?

²⁹ And would that this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech, and I would say to him, Multiply thy host, and come out.

³⁰ And Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, and he was very angry.

³¹ And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren are come to Shechem; and behold, they have besieged the city against thee.

³² And now rise up by night, thou and the people with thee, and lay wait in the field.

³³ And it shall come to pass in the morning at sunrising, thou shalt rise up early and draw toward the city; and behold, he and the people with him will come forth against thee, and thou shalt do to him according to thy power.

³⁴ And Abimelech and all the people with him rose up by night, and formed an ambuscade against Shechem in four companies.

³⁵ And Gaal the son of Ebed went forth, and stood by the door of the gate of the city: and Abimelech and the people with him rose up from the ambuscade.

³⁶ And Gaal the son of Ebed saw the people, and said to Zebul, Behold, a people comes down from the top of the mountains: and Zebul said to him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as men.

³⁷ And Gaal continued to speak and said, Behold, a people comes down westward from the part bordering on the middle of the land, and another company comes by the way of Helon Maonenim.

³⁸ And Zebul said to him, And where is thy mouth as thou spoked, Who is Abimelech that we should serve him? *Is not this the people whom thou despisedst?* go forth now, and set the battle in array against him.

39 And Gaal went forth before the men of Shechem, and set the battle in array against Abimelech.

40 And Abimelech pursued him, and he fled from before him; and many fell down slain as far as the door of the gate.

41 And Abimelech entered into Arema, and Zebul cast out Gaal and his brethren, so that they should not dwell in Shechem.

42 And it came to pass on the second day that the people went out into the field, and *one* brought word to Abimelech.

43 And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and formed an ambush in the field; and he looked, and, behold, the people went forth out of the city, and he rose up against them, and smote them.

44 And Abimelech and the chiefs of companies that were with him rushed forward, and stood by the door of the gate of the city; and the two *other* companies rushed forward upon all that were in the field, and smote them.

45 And Abimelech fought against the city all that day, and took the city, and slew the people that were in it, and destroyed the city, and sowed it with salt.

46 And all the men of the tower of Shechem heard, and came to the gathering of Beth-el-berith.

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

48 And Abimelech went up to the mount of Zalmon, and all the people that were with him;

and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a branch of a tree, and took it, and laid it on his shoulders; and said to the people that were with him, What ye see me doing, do quickly as I.

⁴⁹ And they cut down likewise even every man a branch, and went after Abimelech, and laid them against the place of gathering, and burned the place of gathering over them with fire; and they died, even all the men of the tower of Shechem, about a thousand men and women.

⁵⁰ And Abimelech went out of Beth-el-berith, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.

⁵¹ And there was a strong tower in the midst of the city; and thither all the men and the women of the city fled, and shut *the door* without them, and went up on the roof of the tower.

⁵² And Abimelech drew near to the tower, and they besieged it; and Abimelech drew near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

⁵³ And a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon the head of Abimelech, and broke his skull.

⁵⁴ And he cried out quickly to the young man his armor bearer, and said to him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, lest at any time they should say, A woman slew him: and his young man thrust him through and he died.

⁵⁵ And the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead; and they went each to his place.

⁵⁶ So God requited the wickedness of Abimelech, which he wrought against his father, in slaying his seventy brethren.

⁵⁷ And all the wickedness of the men of Shechem God requited upon their head; and the

curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal came upon them.

10

¹ And after Abimelech Tola the son of Puah rose up to save Israel, *being* the son of his father's brother, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in Mount Ephraim.

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

³ And after him arose Jair of Gilead, and he judged Israel twenty-two years.

⁴ And he had thirty-two sons riding on thirty-two colts, and they had thirty-two cities; and they called them Jair's towns until this day in the land of Gilead.

⁵ And Jair died, and was buried in Kamon.

⁶ And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Sidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord, and did not serve him.

⁷ And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and sold them into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the children of Ammon.

⁸ And they afflicted and bruised the children of Israel at that time eighteen years, all the children of Israel beyond Jordan in the land of the Amorite in Gilead.

⁹ And the children of Ammon went over Jordan to fight with Judah, and Benjamin, and with

Ephraim; and the children of Israel were greatly afflicted.

¹⁰ And the children of Israel cried to the Lord, saying, We have sinned against thee, because we have forsaken God, and served Baalim.

¹¹ And the Lord said to the children of Israel, Did I not *save you* from Egypt and from the Amorite, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines,

¹² and from the Sidonians, and Amalek, and Midian, who afflicted you? and ye cried to me, and I saved you out of their hand?

¹³ Yet ye forsook me and served other gods; therefore I will not save you anymore.

¹⁴ Go, and cry to the gods whom ye have chosen to yourselves, and let them save you in the time of your affliction.

¹⁵ And the children of Israel said to the Lord, We have sinned: do thou to us according to all *that is good* in thine eyes; only deliver us this day.

¹⁶ And they put away the strange gods from the midst of them, and served the Lord only, and his soul was pained for the trouble of Israel.

¹⁷ And the children of Ammon went up, and encamped in Gilead; and the children of Israel were gathered together and encamped on the hill.

¹⁸ And the people the princes of Gilead said every man to his neighbor, Who *is he* that shall begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall even be head over all that dwell in Gilead.

11

¹ And Jephthah the Gileadite *was* a mighty man; and he *was* the son of a harlot, who bore Jephthah to Gilead.

² And the wife of Gilead bore him sons; and the sons of his wife grew up, and they cast out Jephthah, and said to him, Thou shalt not inherit in the house of our father, for thou art the son of a concubine.

³ And Jephthah fled from the face of his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob; and vain men gathered to Jephthah, and went out with him.

⁴ And it came to pass when the children of Ammon prepared to fight with Israel,

⁵ that the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶ And they said to Jephthah, Come, and be our head, and we will fight with the sons of Ammon.

⁷ And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, Did ye not hate me, and cast me out of my father's house, and banish me from you? and wherefore are ye come to me now when ye want me?

⁸ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, Therefore have we now turned to thee, that thou shouldest go with us, and fight against the sons of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

⁹ And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, If ye turn me back to fight with the children of Ammon, and the Lord should deliver them before me, then will I be your head.

¹⁰ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, The Lord be witness between us, if we shall not do according to thy word.

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

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

¹³ And the king of the children of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took my land when he went up out of Egypt, from Arnon to Jabbok, and to Jordan: now then return them peaceably and I will depart.

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

¹⁵ and said to him, Thus says Jephthah, Israel took not the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon;

¹⁶ for in their going up out of Egypt Israel went in the wilderness as far as the Sea of Siph, and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷ And Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, I will pass, if it please thee, by thy land: and the king of Edom complied not: and *Israel* also sent to the king of Moab, and he did not consent; and Israel sojourned in Kadesh.

¹⁸ And *they* journeyed in the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab: and they came by the east of the land of Moab, and encamped in the country beyond

Arnon, and came not within the borders of Moab, for Arnon *is* the border of Moab.

¹⁹ And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, Let us pass, we pray thee, by thy land to our place.

²⁰ And Sihon did not trust Israel to pass by his coast; and Sihon gathered all his people, and they encamped at Jahaz; and he set the battle in array against Israel.

²¹ And the Lord God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote him; and Israel inherited all the land of the Amorite who dwelt in that land,

²² from Arnon and to Jabbok, and from the wilderness to Jordan.

²³ And now the Lord God of Israel has removed the Amorite from before his people Israel, and shalt thou inherit his *land*?

²⁴ Wilt thou not inherit those possessions which Chemosh thy god shall cause thee to inherit; and shall not we inherit the *land of* all those whom the Lord our God has removed from before you?

²⁵ And now art thou any better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he indeed fight with Israel, or indeed make war with him,

²⁶ when *Israel* dwelt in Heshbon and in its coasts, and in the land of Aroer and in its coasts, and in all the cities by Jordan, three hundred years? and wherefore didst thou not recover them in that time?

²⁷ And now I have not sinned against thee, but thou wrongest me in preparing war against

me: may the Lord the Judge judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

²⁸ But the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not to the words of Jephthah, which he sent to him.

²⁹ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed by the watchtower of Gilead to the other side of the children of Ammon.

³⁰ And Jephthah vowed a vow to the Lord, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand,

³¹ then it shall come to pass that whosoever shall first come out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, he shall be the Lord's: I will offer him up for a whole burnt offering.

³² And Jephthah advanced to meet the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hand.

³³ And he smote them from Aroer till *one* comes to Arnon, in number twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a very great destruction: and the children of Ammon were straitened before the children of Israel.

³⁴ And Jephthah came to Mizpah to his house; and behold, his daughter came forth to meet him with timbrels and dances; and she was his only child, he had not another son or daughter.

³⁵ And it came to pass when he saw her, that he rent his garments, and said, Ah, ah, my daughter, thou hast indeed troubled me, and thou wast the cause of my trouble; and I have opened my

mouth against thee to the Lord, and I shall not be able to return from it.

³⁶ And she said to him, Father, hast thou opened thy mouth to the Lord? Do to me accordingly as *the word* went out of thy mouth, in that the Lord has wrought vengeance for thee on thine enemies of the children of Ammon.

³⁷ And she said to her father, Let my father now do this thing: let me alone for two months, and I will go up and down on the mountains, and I will bewail my virginity, I and my companions.

³⁸ And he said, Go: and he sent her away for two months; and she went, and her companions, and she bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

³⁹ And it came to pass at the end of the two months that she returned to her father; and he performed upon her his vow which he vowed; and she knew no man:

⁴⁰ and it was an ordinance in Israel, *That* the daughters of Israel went from year to year to bewail the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite for four days in a year.

12

¹ And the men of Ephraim assembled *themselves*, and passed on to the north, and said to Jephthah, Wherefore didst thou go over to fight with the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thy house over thee with fire.

² And Jephthah said to them, I and my people and the children of Ammon were very much engaged in war; and I called for you, and ye did not save me out of their hand.

³ And I saw that thou wert no helper, and I put my life in my hand, and passed on to the sons of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand: and wherefore are ye come up against me this day to fight with me?

⁴ And Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim; and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they that were escaped of Ephraim said, Ye *are* of Gilead in the midst of Ephraim and in the midst of Manasseh.

⁵ And Gilead took the fords of Jordan before Ephraim; and they that escaped of Ephraim said to them, Let us go over: and the men of Gilead said, Art thou an Ephraimite? and he said, No.

⁶ Then they said to him, Say now Stachys; and he did not rightly pronounce it so: and they took him, and slew him at the fords of Jordan; and there fell at that time of Ephraim two and forty thousand.

⁷ And Jephthah judged Israel six years; and Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in his city Gilead.

⁸ And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹ And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, whom he sent forth; and he brought in thirty daughters for his sons from without; and he judged Israel seven years.

¹⁰ And Ibzan died, and was buried in Bethlehem.

¹¹ And after him Elon of Zebulun judged Israel ten years.

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

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

¹⁴ And he had forty sons, and thirty grandsons, that rode upon seventy colts: and he judged Israel eight years.

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

13

¹ And the children of Israel yet again committed iniquity before the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

² And there was a man of Zorah, of the family of the kindred of Dan, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren, and bore not.

³ And an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, Behold, thou art barren and hast not born; yet thou shalt conceive a son.

⁴ And now be very cautious, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing;

⁵ for behold, thou art with child, and shalt bring forth a son; and there shall come no razor upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

⁶ And the woman went in, and spoke to her husband, saying, A man of God came to me, and his appearance *was as* of an angel of God, very dreadful; and I did not ask him whence he was, and he did not tell me his name.

⁷ And he said to me, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bring forth a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing; for the child shall be holy to God from the womb until the day of his death.

⁸ And Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, I pray thee, O Lord my Lord, *concerning* the man of God whom thou sentest; let him now come to us once more, and teach us what we shall do to the child about to be born.

⁹ And the Lord heard the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came yet again to the woman; and she sat in the field, and Manoah her husband was not with her.

¹⁰ And the woman hastened, and ran, and brought word to her husband, and said to him, Behold the man who came in *the other* day to me has appeared to me.

¹¹ And Manoah arose and followed his wife, and came to the man, and said to him, Art thou the man that spoke to the woman? and the angel said, I *am*.

¹² And Manoah said, Now shall *thy* word come to pass: what shall be the ordering of the child, and our dealings with him?

¹³ And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, Of all things concerning which I spoke to the woman, she shall beware.

¹⁴ She shall eat of nothing that comes of the vine yielding wine, and let her not drink wine or strong liquor, and let her not eat anything unclean: all things that I have charged her she shall observe.

15 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, Let us detain thee here, and prepare before thee a kid of the goats.

16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, If thou shouldest detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wouldest offer a whole burnt offering, to the Lord thou shalt offer it: for Manoah knew not that he *was* an angel of the Lord.

17 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, What is thy name, that *when* thy word shall come to pass, we may glorify thee?

18 And the angel of the Lord said to him, Why dost thou thus ask after my name; whereas it is wonderful?

19 And Manoah took a kid of the goats and its meat offering, and offered it on the rock to the Lord; and *the angel* wrought a distinct work, and Manoah and his wife were looking on.

20 And it came to pass when the flame went up above the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord went up in the flame; and Manoah and his wife were looking, and they fell upon their face to the earth.

21 And the angel appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife: then Manoah knew that this *was* an angel of the Lord.

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

23 But his wife said to him, If the Lord were pleased to slay us, he would not have received of our hand a whole burnt offering and a meat offering; and he would not have shown us all

these things, neither would he have caused us to hear all these things as at this time.

²⁴ And the woman brought forth a son, and she called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

²⁵ And the Spirit of the Lord began to go out with him in the camp of Dan, and between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14

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

² And he went up and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; and now take her to me for a wife.

³ And his father and his mother said to him, Are there no daughters of thy brethren, and *is there not* a woman of all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?

And Samson said to his father, Take her for me, for she *is* right in my eyes.

⁴ And his father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought to be revenged on the Philistines: and at that time the Philistines lorded it over Israel.

⁵ And Samson and his father and his mother went down to Timnah, and he came to the vineyard of Timnah; and behold, a young lion roared in meeting him.

⁶ And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him, and he crushed him as he would have crushed a kid of the goats, and there was nothing

in his hands: and he told not his father and his mother what he had done.

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

⁸ And after some time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees, and honey *were* in the mouth of the lion.

⁹ And he took it into his hands, and went on eating, and he went to his father and his mother, and gave to them, and they did eat; but he told them not that he took the honey out of the mouth of the lion.

¹⁰ And his father went down to the woman, and Samson made there a banquet for seven days, for so the young men are used to do.

¹¹ And it came to pass when they saw him, that they took thirty guests, and they were with him.

¹² And Samson said to them, I propound you a riddle: if ye will indeed tell it me, and discover it within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of raiment.

¹³ And if ye cannot tell it me, ye shall give me thirty napkins and thirty changes of apparel: and they said to him, Propound thy riddle, and we will hear it.

¹⁴ And he said to them,
Meat came forth of the eater,
And sweetness out of the strong;
and they could not tell the riddle for three days.

¹⁵ And it came to pass on the fourth day, that they said to the wife of Samson, Deceive now thy husband, and let him tell thee the riddle, lest we

burn thee and thy father's house with fire: did ye invite us to do us violence?

¹⁶ And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not; for the riddle which thou hast propounded to the children of my people, thou hast not told me: and Samson said to her, If I have not told it to my father and my mother, shall I tell it to thee?

¹⁷ And she wept before him the seven days, during which their banquet lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she troubled him; and she told it to the children of her people.

¹⁸ And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day, before sunrise,
What is sweeter than honey?
And what is stronger than a lion?
and Samson said to them,
If ye had not plowed with my heifer,
Ye would not have known my riddle.

¹⁹ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him powerfully, and he went down to Ashkelon, and destroyed of the inhabitants thirty men, and took their garments, and gave the changes of raiment to them that told the riddle; and Samson was very angry, and went up to the house of his father.

²⁰ And the wife of Samson was *given* to one of his friends, with whom he was on terms of friendship.

15

¹ And it came to pass after a time, in the days of

wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid, and said, I will go in to my wife even into the chamber: but her father did not suffer him to go in.

² And her father spoke, saying, I said that thou didst surely hate her, and I gave her to one of thy friends: is not her younger sister better than she? let her be to thee instead of her.

³ And Samson said to them, Even for once am I guiltless with regard to the Philistines, in that I do mischief among them.

⁴ And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned tail to tail, and put a torch between two tails, and fastened it.

⁵ And he set fire to the torches, and sent *the foxes* into the corn of the Philistines; and everything was burned from the threshing floor to the standing corn, and even to the vineyard and olives.

⁶ And the Philistines said, Who *has done* these things? and they said, Samson the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife, and given her to one of his friends; and the Philistines went up, and burned her and her father's house with fire.

⁷ And Samson said to them, Though ye may have dealt thus with her, verily I will be avenged of you, and afterward I will cease.

⁸ And he smote them leg on thigh *with* a great overthrow; and went down and dwelt in a cave of the rock Etam.

⁹ And the Philistines went up, and encamped in Judah, and spread themselves abroad in Lehi.

¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? and the Philistines said, We are come up to bind Samson, and to do to him as he has done to us.

¹¹ And the three thousand men of Judah went down to the hole of the rock Etam, and they said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines rule over us? and what *is* this *that* thou hast done to us? and Samson said to them, As they did to me, so have I done to them.

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

¹³ And they spoke to him, saying, Nay, but we will only bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand, and will by no means slay thee: and they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him from that rock.

¹⁴ And they came to Lehi: and the Philistines shouted, and ran to meet him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms became as tow which is burned with fire; and his bonds were consumed from off his hands.

¹⁵ And he found the jawbone of an ass that had been cast away, and he put forth his hand and took it, and smote with it a thousand men.

¹⁶ And Samson said,
With the jawbone of an ass I have utterly
destroyed them,
For with the jawbone of an ass I have smitten a
thousand men.

17 And it came to pass when he ceased speaking, that he cast the jawbone out of his hand; and he called that place the Lifting of the jawbone.

18 And he was very thirsty, and wept before the Lord, and said, Thou hast been well pleased to grant this great deliverance by the hand of thy servant, and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19 And God broke open a hollow place in the jaw, and there came thence water, and he drank; and his spirit returned and he revived: therefore the name of the fountain was called, The well of the invoker, which is in Lehi, until this day.

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

16

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

2 And it was reported to the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither: and they compassed him and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and they were quiet all the night, saying, Let us wait till the dawn appear, and we will slay him.

3 And Samson slept till midnight, and rose up at midnight, and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city with the two posts, and lifted them up with the bar, and laid them on his shoulders, and he went up to the top of the mountain that is before Hebron, and laid them there.

4 And it came to pass after this that he loved a woman in Al-sorek, and her name was Delilah.

⁵ And the princes of the Philistines came up to her, and said to her, Beguile him, and see wherein his great strength *is*, and wherewith we shall prevail against him, and bind him to humble him; and we will give thee each eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.

⁶ And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein *is* thy great strength, and wherewith thou shalt be bound that thou mayest be humbled.

⁷ And Samson said to her, If they bind me with seven moist cords that have not been spoiled, then shall I be weak and be as one of ordinary men.

⁸ And the princes of the Philistines brought to her seven moist cords that had not been spoiled, and she bound him with them.

⁹ And the liers in wait remained with her in the chamber; and she said to him, The Philistines *are* upon thee, Samson: and he broke the cords as if anyone should break a thread of tow when it has touched the fire, and his strength was not known.

¹⁰ And Delilah said to Samson, Behold, thou hast cheated me, and told me lies; now then tell me wherewith thou shalt be bound.

¹¹ And he said to her, If they should bind me fast with new ropes with which work has not been done, then shall I be weak, and shall be as another man.

¹² And Delilah took new ropes, and bound him with them, and the liers in wait came out of the chamber, and she said, The Philistines *are* upon thee, Samson: and he broke them off his arms like a thread.

¹³ And Delilah said to Samson, Behold, thou hast deceived me, and told me lies; tell me, I entreat thee, wherewith thou mayest be bound: and he said to her, If thou shouldest weave the seven locks of my head with the web, and shouldest fasten them with the pin into the wall, then shall I be weak as another man.

¹⁴ And it came to pass when he was asleep, that Delilah took the seven locks of his head, and wove them with the web, and fastened them with the pin into the wall, and she said, The Philistines *are* upon thee, Samson: and he awoke out of his sleep, and carried away the pin of the web out of the wall.

¹⁵ And Delilah said to Samson, How sayest thou, I love thee, when thy heart is not with me? this third time thou hast deceived me, and hast not told me wherein *is* thy great strength.

¹⁶ And it came to pass as she pressed him sore with her words continually, and straitened him, that his spirit failed almost to death.

¹⁷ Then he told her all his heart, and said to her, A razor has not come upon my head, because I have been a holy *one* of God from my mother's womb; if then I should be shaven, my strength will depart from me, and I shall be weak, and I shall be as all *other* men.

¹⁸ And Delilah saw that he told her all his heart, and she sent and called the princes of the Philistines, saying, Come up yet this once; for he has told me all his heart. And the chiefs of the Philistines went up to her, and brought the money in their hands.

19 And Delilah made Samson sleep upon her knees; and she called a man, and he shaved the seven locks of his head, and she began to humble him, and his strength departed from him.

20 And Delilah said, The Philistines *are* upon thee, Samson: and he awoke out of his sleep and said, I will go out as at former times, and shake myself; and he knew not that the Lord was departed from him.

21 And the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he ground in the prison house.

22 And the hair of his head began to grow as before it was shaven.

23 And the chiefs of the Philistines met to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon, and to make merry; and they said, God has given into our hand our enemy Samson.

24 And the people saw him, and sang praises to their god; for our god, *said they*, has delivered into our hand our enemy, who wasted our land, and who multiplied our slain.

25 And when their heart was merry, then they said, Call Samson out of the prison house, and let him play before us: and they called Samson out of the prison house, and he played before them; and they smote him with the palms of their hands, and set him between the pillars.

26 And Samson said to the young man that held his hand, Suffer me to feel the pillars on which the house *rests*, and I will stay myself upon them.

27 And the house *was* full of men and women,

and there *were* all the chiefs of the Philistines, and on the roof *were* about three thousand men and women looking at the sports of Samson.

²⁸ And Samson wept before the Lord, and said, O Lord, my Lord, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, O God, yet this once, and I will requite one recompense to the Philistines for my two eyes.

²⁹ And Samson took hold of the two pillars of the house on which the house stood, and leaned on them, and laid hold of one with his right hand, and the other with his left.

³⁰ And Samson said, Let my life perish with the Philistines: and he bowed himself mightily; and the house fell upon the princes, and upon all the people that were in it: and the dead whom Samson slew in his death were more than those whom he slew in his life.

³¹ And his brethren and his father's house went down, and they took him; and they went up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the sepulcher of his father Manoah; and he judged Israel twenty years.

17

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

² And he said to his mother, The eleven hundred pieces of silver which thou tookest to thyself, and *about which* thou cursedst me, and spokest in my ears, behold, the silver *is* with me; I took it: and his mother said, Blessed *be* my son of the Lord.

³ And he restored the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother; and his mother said, I had wholly consecrated the money to the Lord out of my hand for my son, to make a graven and a molten *image*, and now I will restore it to thee.

⁴ But he returned the silver to his mother, and his mother took two hundred pieces of silver, and gave them to a silversmith, and he made it a graven and a molten image; and it was in the house of Micah.

⁵ And the house of Micah *was* to him the house of God, and he made an ephod and teraphim, and he consecrated one of his sons, and he became to him a priest.

⁶ And in those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

⁷ And there was a young man in Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah, and he *was* a Levite, and he was sojourning there.

⁸ And the man departed from Bethlehem the city of Judah to sojourn in whatever place he might find; and he came as far as Mount Ephraim, and to the house of Micah to accomplish his journey.

⁹ And Micah said to him, Whence comest thou? and he said to him, I am a Levite of Bethlehem Judah, and I go to sojourn in any place I may find.

¹⁰ And Micah said to him, Dwell with me, and be to me a father and a priest; and I will give thee ten pieces of silver by the year, and a change of raiment, and thy living.

¹¹ And the Levite went and began to dwell with

the man; and the young man was to him as one of his sons.

¹² And Micah consecrated the Levite, and he became to him a priest, and he was in the house of Micah.

¹³ And Micah said, Now I know that the Lord will do me good, because a Levite has become my priest.

18

¹ In those days there was no king in Israel; and in those days the tribe of Dan sought for itself an inheritance to inhabit, because no inheritance had fallen to it until that day in the midst of the tribes of the children of Israel.

² And the sons of Dan sent from their families five men of valor, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it; and they said to them, Go and search out the land. And they came as far as the mount of Ephraim to the house of Micah and they lodged there,

³ in the house of Micah, and they recognized the voice of the young man the Levite, and turned in thither; and said to him, Who brought thee in hither? and what doest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?

⁴ And he said to them, Thus and thus did Micah to me, and he hired me, and I became his priest.

⁵ And they said to him, Inquire now of God, and we shall know whether our way will prosper, on which we are going.

⁶ And the priest said to them, Go in peace; your way in which ye go, is before the Lord.

⁷ And the five men went on, and came to Laish; and they saw the people in the midst of it dwelling securely, at ease as *is* the manner of the Sidonians, and there is no one perverting or shaming a matter in the land, no heir extorting treasures; and they are far from the Sidonians, and they have no intercourse with anyone.

⁸ And the five men came to their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol, and said to their brethren, Why sit ye here *idle*?

⁹ And they said, Arise, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and, behold, *it is* very good, yet ye are still: delay not to go, and to enter in to possess the land.

¹⁰ And whensoever ye shall go, ye shall come in upon a people secure, and the land *is* extensive, for God has given it into your hand; a place where there is no want of anything that the earth affords.

¹¹ And there departed thence of the families of Dan, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, six hundred men, girded with weapons of war.

¹² And they went up, and encamped in Kiriath-jearim in Judah; therefore it was called in that place the camp of Dan, until this day: behold, *it is* behind Kiriath-jearim.

¹³ And they went on thence to the mount of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

¹⁴ And the five men who went to spy out the land of Laish answered, and said to their brethren, Ye know that there is in this place an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven and a molten image; and now consider what ye shall do.

15 And they turned aside there, and went into the house of the young man, the Levite, *even* into the house of Micah, and asked him how he was.

16 And the six hundred men of the sons of Dan who were girded with their weapons of war stood by the door of the gate.

17 And the five men who went to spy out the land went up, and entered into the house of Micah, and the priest stood.

18 And they took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image; and the priest said to them, What are ye doing?

19 And they said to him, Be silent, lay thy hand upon thy mouth, and come with us, and be to us a father and a priest: *is it* better for thee to be the priest of the house of one man, or to be the priest of a tribe and house for a family of Israel?

20 And the heart of the priest was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and the molten image, and went in the midst of the people.

21 So they turned and departed, and put their children and their property and their baggage before them.

22 They went some distance from the house of Micah, and, behold, Micah and the men in the houses near Micah's house, cried out, and overtook the children of Dan.

23 And the children of Dan turned their face, and said to Micah, What is the matter with thee that thou hast cried out?

24 And Micah said, Because ye have taken my graven image which I made, and my priest, and

are gone; and what have I remaining? and what *is this that* ye say to me, Why criest thou?

²⁵ And the children of Dan said to him, Let not thy voice be heard with us, lest angry men run upon thee, and take away thy life, and the lives of thy house.

²⁶ And the children of Dan went their way; and Micah saw that they were stronger than himself, and he returned to his house.

²⁷ And the children of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest that he had, and they came to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burned the city with fire.

²⁸ And there was no deliverer, because *the city* is far from the Sidonians, and they have no intercourse with men, and it *is* in the valley of the house of Rehob; and they built the city, and dwelt in it.

²⁹ And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel; and the name of the city was Laish before.

³⁰ And the children of Dan set up the graven image for themselves; and Jonathan son of Gershom son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan till the time of the carrying away of the nation.

³¹ And they set up for themselves the graven image which Micah made, all the days that the house of God was in Shiloh; and it was so in those days *that* there was no king in Israel.

19

¹ And there was a Levite sojourning in the sides of Mount Ephraim, and he took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem Judah.

² And his concubine departed from him, and went away from him to the house of her father to Bethlehem Judah, and she was there four months.

³ And her husband rose up, and went after her to speak kindly to her, to recover her to himself; and he had his young man with him, and a pair of asses; and she brought him into the house of her father; and the father of the damsel saw him, and was well pleased to meet him.

⁴ And his father-in-law, the father of the damsel, constrained him, and he stayed with him for three days; and they ate and drank, and lodged there.

⁵ And it came to pass on the fourth day that they rose early, and he stood up to depart; and the father of the damsel said to his son-in-law, Strengthen thy heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward ye shall go.

⁶ So they two sat down together and ate and drank; and the father of the damsel said to her husband, Tarry now the night, and let thy heart be merry.

⁷ And the man rose up to depart; but his father-in-law constrained him, and he stayed and lodged there.

⁸ And he rose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart; and the father of the damsel said,

Strengthen now thy heart, and quit thyself as a soldier till the day decline; and the two ate.

⁹ And the man rose up to depart, he and his concubine, and his young man; but his father-in-law the father of the damsel said to him, Behold now, the day has declined toward evening; lodge here, and let thy heart rejoice; and ye shall rise early tomorrow for your journey, and thou shalt go to thy habitation.

¹⁰ But the man would not lodge there, but he arose and departed, and came to the part opposite Jebus (this is Jerusalem), and *there was* with him a pair of asses saddled, and his concubine *was* with him.

¹¹ And they came as far as Jebus: and the day had far advanced, and the young man said to his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites, and let us lodge in it.

¹² And his master said to him, We will not turn aside to a strange city, where there is not one of the children of Israel, but we will pass on as far as Gibeah.

¹³ And he said to his young man, Come, and let us draw nigh to one of the places, and we will lodge in Gibeah or in Ramah.

¹⁴ And they passed by and went on, and the sun went down upon them near to Gibeah, which is in Benjamin.

¹⁵ And they turned aside thence to go in to lodge in Gibeah; and they went in, and sat down in the street of the city, and there was no one who conducted them into a house to lodge.

¹⁶ And behold, an old man came out of the field

from his work in the evening; and the man was of Mount Ephraim, and he sojourned in Gibeah, and the men of the place *were* sons of Benjamin.

¹⁷ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw a traveler in the street of the city; and the old man said to him, Whither goest thou, and whence comest thou?

¹⁸ And he said to him, We are passing by from Bethlehem Judah to the sides of Mount Ephraim: I am from thence, and I went as far as Bethlehem Judah, and I am going home, and there is no man to take me into his house.

¹⁹ Yet is there straw and food for our asses, and bread and wine for me and my handmaid and the young man with thy servants; there is no want of anything.

²⁰ And the old man said, Peace *be* to thee; only be every want of thine upon me, only do thou by no means lodge in the street.

²¹ And he brought him into his house, and made room for his asses; and they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² And they *were* comforting their heart, when, behold, the men of the city, sons of transgressors, compassed the house, knocking at the door: and they spoke to the old man the owner of the house, saying, Bring out the man who came into thy house, that we may know him.

²³ And the master of the house came out to them, and said, Nay, brethren, do not ye wrong, I pray you, after this man has come into my house; do not ye this folly.

²⁴ Behold my daughter a virgin, and the man's

concubine: I will bring them out, and humble ye them, and do to them that which is good in your eyes; but to this man do not this folly.

²⁵ But the men would not consent to hearken to him; so the man laid hold of his concubine, and brought her out to them; and they knew her, and abused her all night till the morning, and let her go when the morning dawned.

²⁶ And the woman came toward morning, and fell down at the door of the house where her husband was, until it was light.

²⁷ And her husband rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went forth to go on his journey; and, behold, the woman his concubine had fallen down by the doors of the house, and her hands were on the threshold.

²⁸ And he said to her, Rise, and let us go; and she answered not, for she was dead: and he took her upon his ass, and went to his place.

²⁹ And he took his sword, and laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve parts, and sent them to every coast of Israel.

³⁰ And it was so, that everyone who saw it said, *Such a day* as this has not happened nor has been seen from the day of the going up of the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt until this day: take ye counsel concerning it, and speak.

20

¹ And all the children of Israel went out, and all the congregation was gathered as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, and in the land of Gilead, to the Lord at Mizpah.

² And all the tribes of Israel stood before the Lord in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.

³ And the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpah: and the children of Israel came and said, Tell us, where did this wickedness take place?

⁴ And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I and my concubine went to Gibeah of Benjamin to lodge.

⁵ And the men of Gibeah rose up against me, and compassed the house by night against me; they wished to slay me, and they have humbled my concubine, and she is dead.

⁶ And I laid hold of my concubine, and divided her in pieces, and sent *the parts* into every coast of the inheritance of the children of Israel; for they have wrought lewdness and abomination in Israel.

⁷ Behold, all ye *are* children of Israel; and consider and take counsel here among yourselves.

⁸ And all the people rose up as one man, saying, No one of us shall return to his tent, and no one of us shall return to his house.

⁹ And now *this is* the thing which shall be done in Gibeah; we will go up against it by lot.

¹⁰ Moreover we will take ten men for a hundred for all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred for a thousand, and a thousand for ten thousand, to take provision, to cause them to come to Gibeah of Benjamin, to do to it according to all the abomination, which they wrought in Israel.

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

12 And the tribes of Israel sent men through the whole tribe of Benjamin, saying, What is this wickedness that has been wrought among you?

13 Now then give up the men the sons of transgressors that are in Gibeah, and we will put them to death, and purge out wickedness from Israel: but the children of Benjamin consented not to hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel.

14 And the children of Benjamin were gathered from their cities to Gibeah, to go forth to fight with the children of Israel.

15 And the children of Benjamin from their cities were numbered in that day, twenty-three thousand, *every* man drawing a sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who were numbered seven hundred chosen men of all the people, able to use both hands alike;

16 all these could sling with stones at a hair, and not miss.

17 And the men of Israel, exclusive of Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword; all these *were* men of war.

18 And they arose and went up to Bethel, and inquired of God: and the children of Israel said, Who shall go up for us first to fight with the children of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up first as leader.

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

20 And they went out, all the men of Israel, to fight with Benjamin, and engaged with them at Gibeah.

21 And the sons of Benjamin went forth from Gibeah, and they destroyed in Israel on that day two and twenty thousand men down to the ground.

22 And the men of Israel strengthened themselves, and again engaged in battle in the place where they had engaged on the first day.

23 And the children of Israel went up, and wept before the Lord till evening, and inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall we again draw nigh to battle with our brethren the children of Benjamin? and the Lord said, Go up against them.

24 And the children of Israel advanced against the children of Benjamin on the second day.

25 And the children of Benjamin went forth to meet them from Gibeah on the second day, and destroyed of the children of Israel yet further eighteen thousand men down to the ground: all these drew sword.

26 And the children of Israel and all the people went up, and came to Bethel; and they wept, and sat there before the Lord; and they fasted on that day until evening, and offered whole burnt offerings and perfect sacrifices, before the Lord,

27 for the ark of the Lord God *was* there in those days,

28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron stood before it in those days; and the children of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall we yet again go forth to fight with our brethren the sons of Benjamin? and the Lord said, Go up, tomorrow I will give them into your hands.

29 And the children of Israel set an ambush against Gibeah round about *it*.

30 And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and arrayed themselves against Gibeah as before.

31 And the children of Benjamin went out to meet the people, and were all drawn out of the city, and began to smite and slay the people as before in the roads, whereof one goes up to Bethel, and one to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

32 And the children of Benjamin said, They fall before us as at the first: but the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them out from the city into the roads; and they did so.

33 And all the men rose up out of their places, and engaged in Baal-tamar; and the liers in wait of Israel advanced from their place from Maareh-geba.

34 And there came over against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel; and the fight *was* severe; and they knew not that evil was coming upon them.

35 And the Lord smote Benjamin before the children of Israel; and the children of Israel destroyed of Benjamin in that day a hundred and twenty-five thousand men: all these drew sword.

36 And the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten; and the men of Israel gave place to Benjamin, because they trusted in the ambuscade which they had prepared against Gibeah.

³⁷ And when they retreated, then the liers in wait rose up, and they moved on toward Gibeah, and the whole ambush came forth, and they smote the city with the edge of the sword.

³⁸ And the children of Israel had a signal of battle with the liers in wait, that they should send up a signal of smoke from the city.

³⁹ And the children of Israel saw that the liers in wait had seized Gibeah, and they stood in line of battle; and Benjamin began to smite down wounded ones among the men of Israel about thirty men; for they said, Surely they fall again before us, as in the first battle.

⁴⁰ And the signal went up increasingly over the city as a pillar of smoke; and Benjamin looked behind him, and behold the destruction of the city went up to heaven.

⁴¹ And the men of Israel turned back, and the men of Benjamin hastened, because they saw that evil had come upon them.

⁴² And they turned to the way of the wilderness from before the children of Israel, and fled: but the battle overtook them, and they from the cities destroyed them in the midst of them.

⁴³ And they cut down Benjamin, and pursued him from Nohah closely till they came opposite Gibeah on the east.

⁴⁴ And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men: all these *were* men of might.

⁴⁵ And the rest turned, and fled to the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and the children of Israel picked off of them five thousand men; and the children of Israel went down after them

as far as Gidom, and they smote of them two thousand men.

⁴⁶ And all that fell of Benjamin were twenty-five thousand men that drew sword in that day: all these were men of might.

⁴⁷ And the rest turned, and fled to the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, *even* six hundred men; and they sojourned four months in the rock of Rimmon.

⁴⁸ And the children of Israel returned to the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword from the city of Methla, even to the cattle, and everything that was found in all the cities: and they burned with fire the cities they found.

21

¹ Now the children of Israel swore in Mizpah, saying, No man of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin for a wife.

² And the people came to Bethel, and sat there until evening before God: and they lifted up their voice and wept with a great weeping;

³ and said, Wherefore, O Lord God of Israel, has this come to pass, that today one tribe should be counted *as missing* from Israel?

⁴ And it came to pass on the morrow that the people rose up early, and built there an altar, and offered up whole burnt offerings and peace offerings.

⁵ And the children of Israel said, Who of all the tribes of Israel, went not up in the congregation to the Lord? for there was a great

oath concerning those who went not up to the Lord to Mizpah, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

⁶ And the children of Israel relented toward Benjamin their brother, and said, Today one tribe is cut off from Israel.

⁷ What shall we do for wives for the rest that remain? whereas we have sworn by the Lord, not to give them of our daughters for wives.

⁸ And they said, What one *man is there* of the tribes of Israel, who went not up to the Lord to Mizpah? and, behold, no man came to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.

⁹ And the people were numbered, and there was not there a man from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead.

¹⁰ And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the strongest, and they charged them, saying, Go ye and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword.

¹¹ And this shall ye do: every male and every woman that has known the lying with man ye shall devote *to destruction*, but the virgins ye shall save alive: and they did so.

¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, who had not known man by lying with him; and they brought them to Shiloh in the land of Canaan.

¹³ And all the congregation sent and spoke to the children of Benjamin in the rock Rimmon, and invited them to *make peace*.

¹⁴ And Benjamin returned to the children of Israel at that time, and the children of Israel gave

them the women whom they *had* saved alive of the daughters of Jabesh-gilead; and they were content.

¹⁵ And the people relented for Benjamin, because the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶ And the elders of the congregation said, What shall we do for wives for them that remain? for the women have been destroyed out of Benjamin.

¹⁷ And they said, *There must be* an inheritance of them that are escaped of Benjamin; and *so* a tribe shall not be destroyed out of Israel.

¹⁸ For we shall not be able to give them wives of our daughters, because we swore among the children of Israel, saying, Cursed *is* he that gives a wife to Benjamin.

¹⁹ And they said, Lo! now *there is* a feast of the Lord from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north of Bethel, eastward on the way that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and from the south of Lebonah.

²⁰ And they charged the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;

²¹ and ye shall see; and lo! if there come out the daughters of the inhabitants of Shiloh to dance in dances, then shall ye go out of the vineyards and seize for yourselves every man a wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go ye into the land of Benjamin.

²² And it shall come to pass, when their fathers or their brethren come to dispute with us, that we will say to them, Grant them freely to us,

for we have not taken every man his wife in the battle: because ye did not give to them according to the occasion, ye transgressed.

²³ And the children of Benjamin did so; and they took wives according to their number from the dancers whom they seized: and they went and returned to their inheritance, and built the cities, and dwelt in them.

²⁴ And the children of Israel went thence at that time every man to his tribe and his kindred; and they went thence every man to his inheritance.

²⁵ And in those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own sight.

**Updated Brenton English Septuagint
Spelling and formatting update of the Brenton
English Septuagint with Apocrypha**

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