

JUDGES

¹ After the death of Joshua the sons of Israel counselled with the Lord, and said, Who shall go up before us against Canaanites, and shall be duke of the battle? *(After Joshua's death the Israelites counselled with the Lord, and asked, Who shall go out first against the Canaanites, and shall be our leader in the battle?)*

² And the Lord said, Judah shall go up *(in the lead)*; lo! I have given the land into his hands.

³ And Judah said to Simeon, his brother, Go thou up with me *in(to)* my lot, and fight thou against Canaanites, that I go with thee in thy lot *(or and then I shall go with thee into thy lot)*. And *(so)* Simeon went with him;

⁴ and Judah went up *(in the lead)*. And the Lord betook *(the)* Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands, and they killed in Bezek ten thousand men.

⁵ And they found Adonibezek in Bezek, and they fought against him, and they overcame Canaanites, and Perizzites.

⁶ And Adonibezek fled, whom they pursued, and took *(hold of)*, and they cut off the ends of his hands and of his feet.

⁷ And Adonibezek said, Seventy kings, when the ends of their hands and of their feet were cut away, gathered remnants of meats under my board *(or gathered scraps of food under my table)*; as I have done, so God hath yielded to me. And

they brought him into Jerusalem, and there he died.

⁸ Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and they took it, and they smote it by the sharpness of sword, and they betook all the city to burning. *(Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and they took it, and they struck down the people of Jerusalem with their sharp swords, and they burned down all the city.)*

⁹ And afterward they went down, and fought against Canaanites, that dwelled in the hilly places *(or who lived in the hill country)*, and at the south, *(and)* in *[the]* wild fields.

¹⁰ And Judah went against Canaanites, that dwelled in Hebron, whose name was by eld time Kiriatharba, *(or And Judah went out against the Canaanites, who lived in Hebron, whose name in olden times was Kiriatharba)*; and Judah killed Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.

¹¹ And from thence he went forth, and he came to the dwellers of Debir, whose eld name was Kiriathsepher, *that is, the city of letters. (And from there he went forth, and he came to the inhabitants of Debir, whose old name was Kiriathsepher, that is, the City of Letters.)*

¹² And Caleb said, I shall give Achsah, my daughter, *(for a)* wife to him that shall smite Kiriathsepher, and shall waste it.

¹³ And when Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb, had taken it, Caleb gave Achsah, his daughter, *(for a)* wife to him.

14 And her husband stirred her, going in the way, that she should ask of her father a field; and when she had sighed, sitting on the ass, Caleb said to her, What hast thou? *(And her husband stirred her up, going on the way, to ask for a field from her father; and when she sighed, sitting on the donkey, Caleb said to her, What is the matter?)*

15 And she answered, Give thou [a] blessing to me, for thou hast given a dry land to me; give thou *to me* also a moist land with waters *(or now give thou also to me some land with abundant water)*. And *(so)* Caleb gave to her the moist land above, and the moist land beneath.

16 Forsooth the sons of *(the)* Kenite, the father of Moses? wife, ascended from the city of Palms with the sons of Judah, into the desert of his lot, which desert is at the south of Arad; and *[they]* dwelled with him. *(And the sons of the Kenite, Moses? father-in-law, went up from the City of Palms with the sons of Judah, into the wilderness of Judah, which wilderness is south of Arad; and they lived among the people there.)*

17 And Judah went with Simeon, his brother; and they smote altogether Canaanites, that dwelled in Zephath, and they killed him; and the name of that city was called Hormah, *that is, cursing, either perfect destroying, for that city was destroyed utterly. (And Judah went with his brother Simeon; and they struck down the Canaanites who lived in Zephath, and they killed them all; and the name of that city was called Hormah, that is, Cursed, or Completely Destroyed, for that city was utterly destroyed.)*

¹⁸ And Judah took Gaza with his coasts, and Askelon (*with his terms*), and Ekron with his terms. (*And Judah took Gaza, and Askelon, and Ekron, along with their land.*)

¹⁹ And the Lord was with Judah, and he had in possession the hilly places; and he might not do away the dwellers of the valley, for they were plenteous in iron chariots, (*full of weapons*), sharp as scythes. (*And the Lord was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not do away the inhabitants in the valley, for they had plentiful iron chariots, full of weapons, sharp as scythes.*)

²⁰ And the sons of Israel gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said, and Caleb did away from it (*the*) three sons of Anak. (*And the Israelites gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said, and Caleb did away from it the three sons of the Anakim, or of the giants.*)

²¹ But the sons of Benjamin did not (*do*) away Jebusites, the dweller(s) of Jerusalem; and Jebusites dwelled with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this present day. (*But the Benjaminites did not do away the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and so the Jebusites lived with the Benjaminites in Jerusalem unto this present day.*)

²² Also the house of Joseph went up into Bethel, and the Lord was with them.

²³ For when they besieged the city (*or And when they besieged Bethel*), that was called Luz before,

²⁴ they saw a man going out of the city, and they said to him, Show thou to us the entering of

the city (*or Show us how to enter the city*), and we shall do mercy with thee.

²⁵ And when he had showed to them, they smote the city by sharpness of sword; and they delivered that man and all his kindred. (*And when he had shown them, they struck down the people of that city with their sharp swords; and they saved that man and all his family.*)

²⁶ And when he was delivered, he went into the land of Hittites, and builded there a city, and called it Luz; which is called so till into *this present day (or which it is still called unto this present day)*.

²⁷ Also Manasseh did not away Bethshean and Taanach with their towns, and the dwellers of Dor, and Ibleam, and Megiddo, with their towns; and Canaanites began to dwell with them. (*And Manasseh did not do away Bethshean and Taanach with their towns, and the inhabitants of Dor, and Ibleam, and Megiddo, with their towns; and so the Canaanites began to live with them.*)

²⁸ Soothly after that Israel was strengthened, he made them tributaries, *either to pay tribute*, and would not do away them. (*And after that Israel was made strong, they made them all tributaries, that is, they forced them to pay tribute, or taxes, and did not do them away.*)

²⁹ Soothly Ephraim killed not Canaanites that dwelled in Gezer, but dwelled with him. (*And Ephraim did not kill the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, but they lived with them.*)

³⁰ Zebulun did not away the dwellers of Kitron, and of Nahalol; but Canaanites dwelled in the

midst of him, and was made tributary to him. (*Zebulun did not do away the inhabitants of Kitron, and of Nahalol; but the Canaanites lived in their midst, and were made to pay tribute, or taxes, to them.*)

³¹ Also Asher did not away the dwellers of Accho (*or And Asher did not do away the inhabitants of Accho*), and of Sidon, of Ahlab, and of Achzib, and of Helbah, and of Aphik, and of Rehob;

³² and Asher dwelled in the midst of Canaanites, the dweller(s) of that land, and Asher killed not him. (*and so the Asherites lived in the midst of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of that land, and they did not kill them.*)

³³ Naphtali did not away the dwellers of Bethshemesh, and of Bethanath; and he dwelled among Canaanites, the dweller(s) of the land; and Bethshemesh and Bethanath were (*made*) tributaries to him. (*And the Naphtalites did not do away the inhabitants of Bethshemesh, and of Bethanath; and they lived among the Canaanites, the people of the land; and the people of Bethshemesh and of Bethanath were made to pay tribute, or taxes, to them.*)

³⁴ And Amorites held strait the sons of Dan in the hill, and he gave not place to them to go down to [*the*] plainer places; (*And the Amorites held back the Danites in the hill country, and would not allow them to come down into the valley;*)

³⁵ and he dwelled in the hill of Heres, *which is interpreted, Witnessing, (and)* in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. And the hand of the house of Joseph was made heavy, and he was made tributary

to him. *(and they lived on Mount Heres, which is translated, Witnessing, and in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. But then the hand of the house of Joseph was made heavy upon them, and the Amorites were made to pay tribute, or taxes, to them.)*

³⁶ And the term of Amorites was from the ascending of Scorpion, and from the stone, and *[the]* higher places. *(And the border of the Amorites was from the going up of Akrabbim, and from Sela, up to the higher places.)*

CHAPTER 2

¹ And the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to the place of Weepers *(or And the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim)*, and said, I led you out of Egypt, and I brought you into the land, for which I swore to your fathers, and promised, that I

should not make void my covenant with you into without end;

² so only that ye should not smite *(a)* bond of peace with the dwellers of this land, and that ye destroy their altars; and you would not hear my voice. Why did ye *(do)* these things? *(so only that ye should not make a covenant with the people of this land, and that ye destroy their altars; but you would not listen to me. Why did ye do this?)*

³ Wherefore I would not do them away from your face *(or And so I shall not take them away from you)*, *(so)* that ye have them *(as)* enemies, and that their gods be to you into falling.

⁴ And when the angel of the Lord spake these words to all the sons of Israel, they raised *[up]*

their voice, and wept; *(And when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the Israelites, they raised up their voice, and wept;)*

⁵ and the name of the place was called, the place of Weepers, *either of tears*; and they offered there sacrifices to the Lord. *(and so the name of that place was called Bochim, or Tears; and they made sacrifices, or offerings, there to the Lord.)*

⁶ Then Joshua let go the people; and the sons of Israel went forth, each man into his possession, that they should get it. *(Then Joshua let the people go; and the Israelites went forth, each man to get, or to take, his possession.)*

⁷ And they served the Lord in all the days of Joshua, and of the elder men that lived after him long time, and knew all the great works of the Lord, which he had done with Israel. *(And they served the Lord in all the days of Joshua, and of the elders who lived a long time after him, and who knew of all the great works of the Lord, which he had done for Israel.)*

⁸ Forsooth Joshua, *[the]* son of Nun, *[the]* servant of the Lord, was dead of an hundred years and ten; *(But then Joshua, the son of Nun, the Lord's servant, died, when he was a hundred and ten years old;)*

⁹ and they buried him in the ends of his possession, in Timnath of Heres, in the hill *(country)* of Ephraim, at the north coast of the hill Gaash *(or on the north side of Mount Gaash).*

¹⁰ And all that generation was gathered to their fathers; and other men *of Israel* rose up, that

knew not the Lord, and the works which he had done with Israel. *(And all that generation died; and other men rose up, who did not know the Lord, and the works which he had done for Israel.)*

¹¹ And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they served Baalim and Ashtaroth; *(And the Israelites did evil before the Lord, and they served the Baalim and the Ashtaroth;)*

¹² and forsook the Lord God of their fathers, that led them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed alien gods, the gods of peoples, that dwelled in the compass of them, and worshipped those gods, and they stirred the Lord to great wrath, *(and deserted the Lord God of their fathers, who led them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed foreign, or other, gods, the gods of the peoples, who lived all around them, and they worshipped those gods, and they stirred the Lord to great anger;)*

¹³ and they forsook him, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

¹⁴ And the Lord was wroth against Israel, and he betook them into the hands of ravishers, the which took them, and sold them to enemies, that dwelled by compass *(or who lived all around them);* and they might not against-stand their adversaries;

¹⁵ but whither ever they would go, the hand of the Lord was on them, *that is, to torment them,* as he spake and swore to them; and they were tormented greatly. *(but wherever they went, the Lord's hand was against them, to torment them,*

as he had said, and had sworn to them, that he would do; and they were greatly tormented.)

¹⁶ And the Lord raised judges, that delivered them from the hands of destroyers, *(And then the Lord raised up judges, who delivered them from the hands of their destroyers,)*

¹⁷ but they would not hear them, and they did fornication, *that is, idolatry*, with alien gods, and worshipped them. Soon they forsook the way, by which their fathers entered; and they heard the commandments of the Lord, and did all things contrary. *(but they would not listen to them, and they did fornication, that is, idolatry, with foreign, or other, gods, and worshipped them. And soon they deserted the way, by which their fathers went; and they heard the commandments of the Lord, but they did all things to the contrary.)*

¹⁸ And when the Lord raised up judges in their days, he was bowed by mercy, and he heard the wailings of *them* that were tormented, and he delivered them from the slaying of *their* destroyers.

¹⁹ Soothly after that the judge was dead, they turned again, and did many things greater *in evil* than their fathers did; and they followed alien gods, and served them, and worshipped them; they left not their own findings, and the hardest way by which they were wont to go. *(But after that the judge died, they returned to their old ways, and did many things even greater in evil than what their fathers did; and they followed foreign, or other, gods, and served them, and worshipped them; they did not cease from doing*

whatever they wanted to do, and the stubborn, or willful, ways by which they were wont to go.)

²⁰ And the strong vengeance of the Lord was wroth against Israel, and he said, For this people hath made void my covenant which I covenanted with their fathers, and (*for they*) have despised to hear my voice;

²¹ also I shall not do away the folks, which Joshua left, and was dead; (*yea, I shall not do away the nations, which Joshua left alive, when he died;*)

²² that in them I assay Israel (*or so that through them I can test Israel*), (*to see*) whether they keep the way of the Lord, and go therein, as their fathers kept it, either nay.

²³ Therefore the Lord left *alive* all these nations, and he would not destroy them soon (*or and he would not soon destroy them*), neither he betook *them* into the hands of Joshua.

CHAPTER 3

¹ These be the folks which the Lord left *alive*, that in them he should teach Israel, and all men that knew not the battles of Canaanites; (*These be the nations which the Lord left alive, so that through them he would teach the Israelites, all those who had not been part of the battles for Canaan;*)

² and that afterward the sons of them should learn to fight with enemies, and to have custom of battle. (*and so that through them their sons would learn to fight with their enemies, and know the ways of battle.*)

³ *He left(alive the) five princes of the Philistines, and all Canaanites, and the people of Sidon, and Hivites that dwelled in the hill Lebanon, from the hill Baalhermon till to the entering of Hamath. (He left alive the five rulers of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the people of Sidon, and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baalhermon unto Hamath Pass.)*

⁴ And he left them, that in them he should assay Israel, *(to see) whether they would hear the behests of the Lord, which he commanded to their fathers by the hand of Moses, either nay. (Yea, he left them alive, so that through them he could test Israel, to see whether they would listen to the Lord's commands, which he commanded to their fathers through Moses, or not.)*

⁵ And so the sons of Israel dwelled in the midst of Canaanites, of Hittites, and of Amorites, and of Perizzites, and of Hivites, and of Jebusites, *(And so the Israelites lived in the midst of the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites,)*

⁶ and they wedded wives, the daughters of them; and the sons of Israel gave their daughters to their sons, and they served to their gods *(or and they served their gods).*

⁷ And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgot their Lord God, and served Baalim, and Asheroth. *(And the Israelites did evil before the Lord, and forgot the Lord their God, and served the Baalim, and the Asheroth.)*

⁸ And the Lord was wroth against Israel, and he betook them into the hands of Chushanr-

ishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, and they served him eight years.

⁹ And they cried to the Lord, and he raised to them a saviour, and *(he)* delivered them, that is, Othniel, the son of Kenaz, and the younger brother of Caleb. *(And they cried to the Lord, and he raised up a saviour for them, and he delivered them; that was Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.)*

¹⁰ And the spirit of the Lord was in him, and he deemed Israel. And he went out to battle, and the Lord betook into his hand Chushanrishathaim, king of Syria *(or the king of Mesopotamia)*; and Othniel oppressed him.

¹¹ And the land rested forty years; and *(then)* Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died.

¹² Forsooth the sons of Israel added to do evil in the sight of the Lord *(or And the Israelites did more evil before the Lord)*; and he strengthened against them Eglon, the king of Moab, for they did evil in the sight of the Lord.

¹³ And the Lord coupled to him the sons of Ammon and Amalek; and he went, and smote Israel, *(or and he went, and struck Israel)*, and had in possession the city of Palms.

¹⁴ And the sons of Israel served Eglon, the king of Moab, eighteen years. *(And the Israelites served Eglon, the king of Moab, for eighteen years.)*

¹⁵ And afterward they cried to the Lord; and he raised to them a saviour, Ehud by name, the son of Gera, son of Benjamin, the which Ehud used ever either hand for the right hand. And the sons

of Israel sent by him gifts, *that is, (the) tribute*, to Eglon, king of Moab; *(And they cried to the Lord; and he raised up a saviour for them, named Ehud, the son of Gera, the son of Benjamin, and he used either hand for the right hand. And the Israelites sent him to take the tribute, that is, the taxes, to Eglon, the king of Moab;)*

¹⁶ *[the] which Ehud made to him(self) a sword carving on ever either side, of the length of the palm of an hand; and he was girded therewith under the say, that is, a knight's mantle, in the right hip. (and Ehud made for himself a sword sharp on both sides, the length of the palm of a hand; and he was girded with it under his say, that is, under his knight's mantle, on the right hip.)*

¹⁷ And he brought gifts to Eglon, king of Moab; and Eglon was full fat. *(And he brought the tribute, or the taxes, to Eglon, the king of Moab; and Eglon was very fat.)*

¹⁸ And when he had given gifts to the king, he followed forth *after* his fellows that came with him; *(And when he had given the tribute to the king, he went away with his fellows who had come with him;)*

¹⁹ and he turned again from Gilgal, where *(the graven)* idols were, and he said to the king, O king, I have a privy word to thee, *(or but he turned back at Gilgal, where the carved stones were, and when he had come before the king, he said, O king, I have a private word for thee).* And the king commanded silence. And when all men were gone out, that were about him,

20 Ehud entered (*un*)to him; and the king sat alone in a summer parlour. And Ehud said, I have the word of God to thee, (*or I have a word from God for thee*). The which rose anon (*or at once*) from his throne.

21 And Ehud held forth his left hand, and took his sword from his right hip; and he put it into the king's womb so strongly,

22 that the pommel, *either hilt*, followed the iron in(*to*) the wound, and was holden strait in the thickest fatness within; and Ehud drew not out the sword, but so as he had smitten *Eglon*(*or but as he had so struck Eglon*), he left it in his body; and anon (*or at once*) by the privates of (*man*)kind, the turds of the womb burst out.

23 Forsooth when the doors of the parlour were closed most diligently, and fastened with lock, (*And when he had quietly closed the parlour doors, and fastened them with a lock,*)

24 Ehud went out by a porch (*or Ehud went out by the porch*). And (*soon after*) the king's servants entered, *not into the parlour, but into the porch*, and they saw the doors of the parlour closed, and they said, In hap he purgeth the womb in the summer parlour.

25 And they abode so long, till they were ashamed; and they saw that no man opened the door, and they took the key, and they opened (*it*), and they found their lord lying dead on the earth. (*And they waited so long for him, that they were embarrassed; and when they saw that no one opened the door, they took the key, and they*

opened it, and they found their lord lying dead on the floor.)

²⁶ And while they were troubled, Ehud fled out, and passed the place of *(the graven)* idols, from whence he turned again, *(or and passed the place of the carved stones, where he had turned back);* and he came into Seirath.

²⁷ And anon he sounded with a clarion in the hill of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came down with him, and he went in the front. *(And at once he sounded with a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came down with him, and he went at the front.)*

²⁸ Which said to them, Follow ye me, for the Lord hath betaken our enemies, *(the)* Moabites, into our hands. And they came down after him, and occupied the fords of *(the)* Jordan *(River)*, that led over into Moab. And they suffered not any man to pass *[over]*,

²⁹ but they smote in that time about ten thousand Moabites, all mighty men and strong; no man of them might escape. *(but they struck down at that time about ten thousand Moabites, all of them strong and mighty men; yea, not one of them could escape.)*

³⁰ And Moab was made low in that day under the hand of Israel, and the land rested eighty years. *(And Moab was made low on that day under the hand of Israel, and then the land rested for eighty years.)*

³¹ After him was Shamgar, the son of Anath, that smote of Philistines six hundred men with a goad of *(an)* ox *(or who struck down six*

hundred Philistines with an ox's goad); and he also defended Israel.

CHAPTER 4

¹ And the sons of Israel added to do evil in the sight of the Lord, after the death of Ehud. *(And the Israelites did more evil before the Lord, after the death of Ehud.)*

² And the Lord betook them into the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; and he had a duke of his host, Sisera by name; and he dwelled in Harosheth of heathen men. *(And the Lord delivered them into the hands of Jabin, the king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; and he had a leader of his army, who was named Sisera; and he lived in Harosheth of the heathen.)*

³ And the sons of Israel cried to the Lord; for Jabin had nine hundred iron chariots, *full of weapons*, sharp as scythes, and twenty years he oppressed Israel greatly. *(And the Israelites cried to the Lord; for Jabin had nine hundred iron chariots, full of weapons, sharp as scythes, and for twenty years he greatly oppressed Israel.)*

⁴ And Deborah was a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, the which Deborah deemed the people of Israel in that time;

⁵ and she sat under a palm tree, that was called by her name, betwixt Ramah and Bethel, in the hill of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel went up to her at each doom. *(and she sat under a palm tree, that was named after her; between Ramah and Bethel, in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites went up to her for judgements.)*

⁶ And she sent, and called Barak, the son of Abinoam, of Kedesh of Naphtali, and she said to him, The Lord God of Israel commanded to thee, *(and said)*, Go thou, and lead an host into the hill of Tabor, and thou shalt take with thee ten thousand of fighters of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun. *(And she sent, and called for Barak, the son of Abinoam, of Kedesh of Naphtali, and she said to him, The Lord God of Israel commanded to thee, and said, Go thou, and lead an army to Mount Tabor; and thou shalt take with thee ten thousand fighting men of the Naphtalites and of the Zebulunites.)*

⁷ And I shall bring to thee, in the place of the strand of Kishon, Sisera, the prince of Jabin's host, and his chariots, and all the multitude; and I shall betake them in thine hand. *(And I shall bring to thee, at the Kishon River, Sisera, the leader of Jabin's army, and his chariots, and all the multitude; and I shall deliver them into thy hands.)*

⁸ And Barak said to her, If thou comest with me, I shall go; if thou wilt not come with me, I shall not go.

⁹ And she said to him, Soothly I shall go with thee; but in this time the victory shall not be areckoned to thee; for Sisera shall be betaken into the hand of a woman *(or for Sisera shall be delivered into the hands of a woman)*. And so Deborah rose, and went with Barak into Kedesh.

¹⁰ And when Zebulun and Naphtali were called, Barak ascended with ten thousand of fighters *(or Barak went up with ten thousand fighting men)*, and had Deborah in his fellowship.

11 Forsooth Heber of *(the)* Kenites had parted *(company)* some time *(ago)* from other Kenites his brethren, *[the]* sons of Hobab, the father of Moses? wife; and he had set forth tabernacles till to the valley, which is called Zaanaim, and was beside Kedesh, *(or and he pitched his tent in the Zaanaim Valley, which was beside Kedesh).*

12 And it was told to Sisera, that Barak, the son of Abinoam, had gone up into the hill of Tabor. *(And Sisera was told that Barak, the son of Abinoam, had gone up to Mount Tabor.)*

13 And Sisera gathered nine hundred iron chariots, *full of weapons*, carving as scythes, and all the host, from Harosheth of heathen men to the strand of Kishon. *(And Sisera gathered his nine hundred iron chariots, full of weapons, sharp as scythes, and all his army, from Harosheth of the heathen unto the Kishon River.)*

14 And Deborah said to Barak, Rise thou up, for this is the day, in which the Lord hath betaken Sisera into thine hands; lo! the Lord is thy leader. And so Barak came down from the hill of Tabor, and ten thousand of fighters with him, *(or And so Barak came down from Mount Tabor, and had ten thousand fighting men with him).*

15 And the Lord made afeared Sisera, and all his chariots, and all the multitude, by the sharpness of sword, at the sight of Barak, in so much that Sisera leaped down off the chariot, and fled on foot. *(And when they saw Barak, and all of his sharp swords, the Lord made Sisera, and all those in his chariots, and all those in his*

multitude, greatly afraid, in so much that Sisera leapt down off the chariot, and fled away on foot.)

¹⁶ And Barak pursued the chariots fleeing, and the host, till to Harosheth of heathen men, *(or And Barak pursued the fleeing chariots, and the army, unto Harosheth of the heathen)*; and all the multitude of *[the]* enemies felled down till to death.

¹⁷ And Sisera fled, and came to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber *(the)* Kenite; for peace was betwixt Jabin, king of Hazor, and betwixt the house of Heber *(the)* Kenite, *(or for there was peace between Jabin, the king of Hazor, and the house of Heber the Kenite)*.

¹⁸ Therefore Jael went out into the coming of Sisera, and said to him, My lord, enter thou to me, enter thou to me; dread thou not. And he entered into her tabernacle, and he was covered of her with a mantle, *(or And he went into her tent, and she covered him with a cloak)*.

¹⁹ And he said to her, I beseech *thee*, give me a little water, for I thirst greatly *(or for I have a great thirst)*. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave *(it)* to him to drink, and *(then she)* covered him *(up again)*.

²⁰ And Sisera said to her, Stand thou before the door of the tabernacle, and when any man cometh, and asketh thee, and saith, Whether any man is here? thou shalt answer, No man is *here*. *(And Sisera said to her, Stand thou before the door of the tent, and if anyone cometh, and asketh thee, and saith, Is there anyone here? thou shalt answer, No one is here.)*

21 And so Jael, the wife of Heber, took a nail of the tabernacle, and she took also an hammer; and she entered privily, and with silence she put the nail upon the temple of his head, and she fastened *the nail* smitten with the hammer into his brain, unto the earth; and he slept, and died together, and he failed *life*, and was dead. (*And then Jael, Heber's wife, got a tent peg, and she also got a hammer; and she quietly entered, and silently put the peg on the temple of his head, and struck it with the hammer into his brain, and she fastened the other end of the peg into the ground; and so he died in his sleep, yea, his life failed, and he died.*)

22 And lo! Barak (*had*) followed Sisera, and came (*up to the tent*); and Jael went out into his coming, and said to him, Come, and I shall show to thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he had entered to her, he saw Sisera lying dead, and a nail fastened into his temples (*or and a tent peg fastened into his temple*).

23 Therefore in that day (*or And so on that day*), God made low Jabin, the king of Canaan, before the sons of Israel;

24 which increased each day, and with strong hand they oppressed Jabin, the king of Canaan, till they did him away.

CHAPTER 5

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

² Ye *men* of Israel, that have willfully offered your lives to peril (*or who have willingly offered your lives to peril*), bless ye the Lord.

³ Ye kings, hear; ye princes, perceive with ears, (*or ye princes, listen!*); I am, I am *the woman*, that shall sing to the Lord; I shall sing to the Lord God of Israel.

⁴ Lord, when thou wentest out from Seir, and passedest by the countries of Edom (*or and passedest by the countryside of Edom*), the earth was moved, and (*the*) heavens and (*the*) clouds dropped with waters;

⁵ (*the*) hills flowed from the face of the Lord, and Sinai from the face of the Lord God of Israel.

⁶ In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, [*the*] paths rested (*or the ways were empty*), and they that entered by those (*ways*), went [*away*] by paths out of the way.

⁷ Strong men in Israel ceased, and rested, till Deborah (*a*)rose, a mother in Israel.

⁸ The Lord chose new battles, and he destroyed the gates of (*their*) enemies; shield and spear appeared not in forty thousand of Israel. (*They chose new gods, and then there was war at the gates; but shields and spears did not appear among the forty thousand of Israel.*)

⁹ Mine heart loveth the princes of Israel; ye that offered you(*rselves*) to peril by your own will, bless ye the Lord; (*My heart loveth the leaders of Israel; ye who willingly offered yourselves to peril, bless ye the Lord;*)

¹⁰ speak ye, that ascend on shining asses, and sit above in doom, and go in the way. (*speak ye,*

who ride on shining donkeys, and sit in judgement, and go on the way.)

¹¹ Where the chariots were hurled down (al)together, and the host of [the] enemy's was strangled, there the Lord's rightwiseness be told out, and *his* mercy among the strong men of Israel; then the Lord's people came down to the gates, and got the princehood. *(Where the chariots were altogether hurled down, and the enemy's army was strangled, there the Lord's righteousness be told out, and his mercy among the strong men of Israel; then the Lord's people came down to the gates, and got the victory.)*

¹² Rise, rise thou, Deborah, rise thou, and speak a song; rise thou, Barak, and thou, son of Abinoam, take thy prisoners. *(Rise, rise thou, Deborah, rise thou up, and sing a song; rise thou up, Barak, thou son of Abinoam, and take thy prisoners.)*

¹³ The remnants of the people be saved; the Lord fought against strong men of Ephraim. *(The remnant of the people were saved; the Lord's people fought against the strong men.)*

¹⁴ He did away them into Amalek, and after him from Benjamin into thy peoples, thou Amalek. Princes of Machir and of Zebulun went down, that led the host to fight. *(From out of Ephraim, they came into the valley, behind the tribe of Benjamin and its people. The leaders of Machir and of Zebulun went down, they who led the army to fight.)*

¹⁵ The dukes of Issachar were with Deborah, and followed the steps of Barak, that gave

himself to peril, as into a ditch headlong, and into hell, *(or like headlong into a ditch, and down into hell)*. *(Yea)*, While Reuben was parted against himself; the strife of great hearted men was found.

¹⁶ Why dwellest thou betwixt twain ends *(or Why stayest thou by the stalls)*, *(so)* that thou *(mayest)* hear the hissings of *(the)* flocks? *(Yea)*, While Reuben was parted against himself, the strife of great hearted men was found.

¹⁷ Gilead rested beyond *(the)* Jordan, and Dan gave attention to ships. Asher dwelled in the brink of the sea, and dwelled in havens, *(or Asher stayed by the seashore, and lived in safe coves)*.

¹⁸ And Zebulun and Naphtali offered their lives to the death, in the country of Meromei, *that is interpreted, high*. *(And Zebulun and Naphtali offered their lives unto the death, in the high places of the countryside.)*

¹⁹ Kings came, and fought; kings of Canaan fought in Taanach, beside the waters of Megiddo; and nevertheless they took nothing by prey *(or but they took nothing of prey)*.

²⁰ From heaven, it was fought against them *(or They fought against them from the heavens)*; *(the)* stars dwelled in their order, and in their course, and they fought against Sisera.

²¹ The strand of Kishon drew *(away)* their dead bodies, the strand of Kedumim, the strand of Kishon. My soul, tread thou *(down the)* strong men. *(The Kishon River drew away their dead bodies, yea, the ancient river, the Kishon River. My soul, tread thou forth with strength.)*

22 The horse hoofs fell away, while the strongest of enemies fled with rush (*or while the strongest of the enemies fled away with haste*), and (*then*) felled headlong.

23 Curse ye the land of Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye the dwellers of him, for they came not to the help of the Lord, into the help of the strongest of him. (*Curse ye the land of Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye its inhabitants, for they came not to the Lord's help, nor to the help of his strongest men.*)

24 Blessed among women be Jael, the wife of Heber (*the*) Kenite; blessed be she in her tabernacle (*or blessed be she in her tent*).

25 To Sisera asking (*for*) water she gave milk, and in a basin of princes she gave him butter.

26 She put the left hand to the nail, and her right hand to *the* smith's hammer; and she smote Sisera, and sought in his head a place of wound, and she pierced strongly his temple. (*Then she put a tent peg in her left hand, and the smith's hammer in her right hand; and she sought a place on his head for the wound, and then she struck down Sisera, when she strongly pierced his temple.*)

27 He felled betwixt her feet, (*and*) he failed, and died; he was weltered before her feet, and he lay without life, and wretchedful.

28 His mother beheld by a window, and yelled (*out*); and she spake from the solar, Why tarrieth his chariot to come again? Why tarry the feet of his four-horsed carts?

29 One wiser than *[the]* other wives of him answered these words to the mother of her husband,

30 In hap now he parteth spoils, and the fairest of women is chosen to him; clothes of diverse colours be given to Sisera into prey, and diverse array of household is gathered to adorn necks. *(Perhaps now he parteth the spoils, and the fairest of the women be chosen for him; yea, clothes of diverse colours be given to Sisera for prey, and a diverse array of things be gathered to adorn the victor's neck.)*

31 Lord, all thine enemies perish so; soothly, they that love thee, shine so, as the sun shineth in his strength. And the land rested forty years. *(Lord, may all thy enemies so perish; and may they who love thee, shine like the sun shineth in its strength. And then the land rested for forty years.)*

CHAPTER 6

1 Forsooth the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and he betook them into the hand of Midian seven years. *(And the Israelites did more evil before the Lord, and he delivered them into the hands of the Midianites for seven years.)*

2 And Israel was oppressed of them greatly; and Israel made ditches, and dens to themselves in hills, and most strong places to fight against Midian. *(And Israel was greatly oppressed by them; and in the hills they made ditches, and caves, and strongholds for themselves, from which to fight against the Midianites.)*

³ And when Israel had sown, Midian ascended, and Amalek (*was with them*), and others of the nations of the east;

⁴ and they setted *their* tents beside *the sons of Israel*, and they wasted all things that were in herbs, *either green corn*, unto the entering of Gaza, and utterly they left not in Israel anything pertaining to life, not sheep, not oxen, not asses, (*or and they left not utterly any beast alive in Israel, not sheep, nor oxen, nor donkeys*).

⁵ For they and all their flocks came with their tabernacles, and at the likeness of locusts they full-filled all things, and a multitude of men and of camels was without number (*or they were a multitude without number of men and of camels*), and they wasted whatever thing(s) they touched.

⁶ And Israel was made low greatly in the sight of Midian (*or And Israel was brought greatly low before the Midianites*). And Israel cried to the Lord,

⁷ and asked (*for*) help against (*the*) Midianites;

⁸ and he sent to them a man, a prophet, and he spake to them, (*and said*), The Lord God of Israel saith these things, I made you to go up from Egypt, and I led you out of the house of servage,

⁹ and I delivered *you* from the hand of Egyptians, and of all [*the*] enemies that tormented you (*or and from all of the enemies who tormented you*); and I casted them out at your entering, and I gave to you the land of them;

¹⁰ and I said, I am the Lord your God; dread ye not the gods of Amorites, in whose land ye

dwell; and ye would not hear my voice. (*and I said, I am the Lord your God; fear ye not, or do not ye worship, the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye live; but ye would not listen to me.*)

¹¹ And (*then*) an angel of the Lord came, and sat under an oak, that was in Ophrah, and it pertained to Joash, the father of the family of Abiezrites. And when Gideon, the son of Joash, threshed, and purged wheat in a presser, that he should flee Midian, (*or And when Gideon, the son of Joash, threshed, and purged wheat in a winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*),

¹² an angel of the Lord appeared to him (*or the angel of the Lord appeared to him*), and said, The Lord be with thee, thou strongest of men.

¹³ And Gideon said to him, My lord, I beseech, if the Lord is with us, why then have all these evils taken us? Where be the marvels of him, which our fathers told, and said, The Lord hath led us out of Egypt? For now he hath forsaken us, and hath betaken us into the hand of Midian. (*And Gideon said to him, My lord, I beseech thee, if the Lord is with us, then why have all these evils overtaken us? Where be his miracles, which our fathers told us about? Yea, they said, The Lord led us out of Egypt. But now, he hath deserted us, and hath delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*)

¹⁴ And the Lord beheld to him, and said, Go thou in this strength of thee, and thou shalt deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; (*and*) know thou, that I have sent thee.

¹⁵ And Gideon answered (*to the angel*), and said, My lord, I beseech, in what thing shall I

deliver Israel? *(or My lord, I beseech thee, how can I save Israel?)* Lo! my family is the lowest in Manasseh, and I am the least in the house of my father.

¹⁶ And the Lord said to him, I shall be with thee, and thou shalt smite Midian as one man. *(And the Lord said to him, I shall be with thee, and thou shalt strike down all of the Midianites like one man.)*

¹⁷ And Gideon said, If I have found grace before thee, give to me a sign, that thou, that speakest to me, art sent of God's part; *(And Gideon said to the angel, If I have found grace before thee, give me a sign, that thou, who speakest to me, art sent from God;)*

¹⁸ go thou not away from hence, till I turn again to thee, and bring *(a)* sacrifice, and offer *(it)* to thee. Which answered, I shall abide thy coming, *(or And he answered, I shall wait for thee).*

¹⁹ And so Gideon went in, and seethed a kid, and took therf loaves of a bushel of meal, and *(he put)* the flesh in a pannier; and he put the broth of the flesh in a pot, and he bare all these things *(to)* under the oak, and offered those to him.

²⁰ To whom the angel of the Lord said, Take thou the flesh, and the therf loaves, and put them on that stone, and pour the broth above. And when he had done so, *(To whom the angel of the Lord said, Take thou the flesh, and the unleavened bread, and put them on that stone, and pour the broth upon it. And when he had done so,)*

21 the angel of the Lord held forth the end of the staff, which he held in the hand (*or which he held in his hand*), and he touched the fleshs, and the therf loaves; and fire ascended from the stone, and wasted the fleshs, and [*the*] therf loaves. And the angel of the Lord vanished from his eyes.

22 And Gideon saw that he was an angel of the Lord, and he said, Lord God, alas to me, for I saw the angel of the Lord face to face. (*And Gideon saw that he was the angel of the Lord, and he said, Lord God, alas for me, for I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.*)

23 And the Lord said to him, Peace be with thee; dread thou not (*or fear not*), thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon builded there an altar to the Lord, and he called it the Peace of the Lord, (*and it is there*) unto this present day. And when he was yet in Ophrah, which is of the family of Abiezrites, (*Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and he called it Jehovahshalom, and it is there unto this present day, in Ophrah, which is of the family of the Abiezrites.*)

25 the Lord said to him in that night, Take thou thy father's bull, and another bull of seven years, and thou shalt destroy the altar of Baal, that is thy father's, and cut thou down the wood, which is about the altar; (*And then the Lord said to him that night, Take thou thy father's bull, and another bull that is seven years old, and destroy thou the altar of Baal, that is thy father's, and cut thou down the pole of idolatry, which is beside the altar;*)

26 and thou shalt build an altar to thy Lord God in the highness of this stone, on which thou puttedest *(the)* sacrifice before; and thou shalt take the second bull, and thou shalt offer *(a)* burnt sacrifice on the heap of trees, which thou cuttedest down of the wood. *(and thou shalt build an altar to the Lord thy God on top of this stone, on which before thou hast put the sacrifice; and thou shalt take the second bull, and thou shalt offer a burnt sacrifice on the heap of wood from the pole of idolatry which thou hast cut down.)*

27 Therefore Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord commanded to him. And Gideon dreaded the house of his father *(or And Gideon feared his father's family)*, and the men of that city, and *(so)* he would not do *(it)* by day, but he fulfilled all things by night.

28 And when men of that city had risen early, they saw the altar of Baal destroyed, and the wood cut down, and the tother bull put on the altar, that was builded. *(And when the men of that city had risen in the morning, they saw that the altar of Baal had been destroyed, and the pole of idolatry had been cut down, and the other bull put on the altar that Gideon had built there.)*

29 And they said together, Who hath done this? And when they inquired *(of)* the doer of the deed, it was said, Gideon, the son of Joash, did all these things.

30 And they said to Joash, Bring forth thy son hither, that he die, for he hath destroyed the altar of Baal, and hath cut down the wood *about it*. *(And they said to Joash, Bring thy son here, so that*

we can kill him, for he hath destroyed the altar of Baal, and hath cut down the pole of idolatry that was beside it.)

³¹ To whom Joash answered, Whether ye be the vengers of Baal, that ye fight for him? he that is *(the)* adversary of him, die he, before the morrow light come; if he is God, venge he himself of him that hath cast down his altar, *(or if he is a god, avenge he himself upon him who hath thrown down his altar).*

³² From that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, for-thy that Joash had said, Baal take vengeance of him that hath cast down his altar. *(So from that day, Gideon was called Jerubbaal, or Let Baal contend, for Joash had said, Let Baal himself take vengeance upon him who hath thrown down his altar.)*

³³ Therefore all Midian, and Amalek, and the peoples of the east were gathered together, and they passed over *(the)* Jordan, and setted tents in the valley of Jezreel. *(And so all the Midianites, and the Amalekites, and the peoples of the east were gathered together, and they passed over the Jordan River to the west side, and pitched their tents in the Jezreel Valley.)*

³⁴ Forsooth the spirit of the Lord clothed, or full-filled, Gideon; and he sounded with a clarion, and called together the house of Abiezer, that it should follow him. *(And the spirit of the Lord filled Gideon full; and he sounded with a trumpet, and called out all the house of Abiezer to follow him.)*

³⁵ And he sent messengers into all Manasseh, and he followed Gideon (*or and they followed Gideon*); and he sent other messengers into Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali, and they (*also*) came to him.

³⁶ And Gideon said to the Lord, If thou makest safe Israel by mine hand, as thou hast spoken, (*And Gideon said to the Lord, If thou wilt save Israel by my hand, as thou hast said,*)

³⁷ I shall put this fleece of wool in the cornfloor; if the dew is in the fleece alone, and dryness is in all the earth, I shall know, that thou shalt deliver Israel by mine hand, as thou hast spoken. (*for me to be certain of that, I shall put this fleece of wool on the threshing floor; and tomorrow, if dew is found only on the fleece, and the ground all around it is dry, then I shall know for sure that thou shalt save Israel by my hand, just as thou hast said.*)

³⁸ And it was done so. And he rose by night (*or And he rose up early*), and when the fleece was wrung out, he (*had*) filled a basin (*full*) with dew;

³⁹ and (*then*) he said again to the Lord, Thy strong vengeance be not wroth against me, if I assay yet once (*again*), and seek a sign in the fleece (*or and seek a sign with the fleece*); I pray, that the fleece alone be dry, and that all the earth (*around it*) be moist with dew.

⁴⁰ And (*so*) the Lord did in that night, as Gideon asked; and dryness was in the fleece alone, and dew was in all the earth, (*or and the next day, the fleece was dry, but there was dew on the ground all around it*).

CHAPTER 7

¹ Then Jerubbaal, which also is Gideon, rose by night, and all the people with him, and came to the well which is called Harod. And the tents of Midian were in the valley, at the north coast of the high hill. *(Then Jerubbaal, that is Gideon, and all the people with him, rose up early, and they came to the well which is called Harod. And the tents of the Midianites were pitched in the valley to the north of Mount Moreh.)*

² And the Lord said to Gideon, *(Too)* Much people is with thee, and Midian shall not be betaken into the hands thereof, lest Israel have glory against me, and say, I am delivered by my strengths. *(And the Lord said to Gideon, Too many people be with thee, and the Midianites shall not be delivered into their hands, lest the people of Israel take the glory from me, and say, We were saved by our own strength.)*

³ Speak thou to the people, and preach thou, while all men hear, *(and say)*, He that is fearedful, and dreadful, turn again. And *(so)* they *(who were afraid)* went away from the hill of Gilead, and *(in all)* two and twenty thousand of men turned again from the people; and only ten thousand *(still)* dwelled *(there)*.

⁴ And the Lord said to Gideon, Yet the people is *(too)* much; lead thou them to the waters, and there I shall prove them, and he *(shall)* go with thee, of whom I shall say, that he *(should)* go; and turn he again, whom I shall forbid to go.

⁵ And when the people had gone down to the waters, the Lord said to Gideon, Thou shalt

separate them by themselves that lap (*up the*) waters with hand and tongue, as dogs be wont to lap (*it up*); and those, that drink with knees bowed, shall be in the tother part.

⁶ And so the number of them, that lapped (*up the*) waters, by the hand casting (*it*) to the mouth, was three hundred men; and all the tother multitude drank kneeling.

⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, In three hundred men, that lapped waters, I shall deliver you, and I shall betake Midian in thine hand; and all the tother multitude turn again into their place. (*And the Lord said to Gideon, With the three hundred men who lapped up the water, I shall save you, and I shall deliver the Midianites into thy hands; and all the other multitude should return to their homes.*)

⁸ And [*so*] when they had taken meats and trumps for the number of them, he commanded all the tother multitude to go (*back*) to their tabernacles; and Gideon, with (*those*) three hundred men, gave himself to [*the*] battle. And the tents of Midian were beneath in the valley (*or And the tents of the Midianites were pitched below him in the valley*).

⁹ In the same night the Lord said to him, Rise thou (*up*), and go down into their tents, for I have betaken them in thine hand (*or for I have delivered them into thy hands*);

¹⁰ and if thou darest to go alone, Phurah, thy servant, go down with thee. (*and if thou fearest to go down alone, let thy servant Phurah go down with thee.*)

11 And when thou shalt hear what they speak, then thine hands shall be strengthened, and thou shalt go down securer to the tents of *[the]* enemies. Therefore he went down, and Phurah, his servant, *(or And so he, and his servant Phurah, went down)*, into the part of *[the]* tents, where the watches of *(the)* armed men were.

12 And Midian, and Amalek, and all the peoples of the east lay spread abroad in the valley, as the multitude of locusts; and the camels were unnumberable, as gravel that lieth in the brink of the sea. *(And the Midianites, and the Amalekites, and all the peoples of the east lay spread abroad in the valley, like a multitude of locusts; and their camels were innumerable, like the gravel, or the sand, that lieth at the seashore.)*

13 And when Gideon had come down, a man told *(of)* a dream to his neighbour, and he told by this manner that, that he had seen, *(saying)*, I saw a dream, and it seemed to me, that as a barley loaf, baken under ashes, was wallowed, and it came down into the tents of Midian; and when it had come to a tabernacle, it smote it, and destroyed it, and made it even utterly to the earth. *(And when Gideon had come down, a man told his neighbour about a dream that he had, and he told in this manner what he had seen, saying, I had a dream, and it seemed to me, that a barley loaf, baked under ashes, was rolled down into the tents of the Midianites; and when it came to a tent, it struck it, and destroyed it, and made it utterly even to the ground.)*

14 That man answered, to whom he spake, *(or*

And that man to whom he spoke, answered), This is none other thing, no but the sword of Gideon, [the] son of Joash, a man of Israel; for the Lord God hath betaken Midian, and all [the] tents thereof, into the hands of Gideon.

¹⁵ And when Gideon had heard the dream, and the interpreting thereof, he worshipped *the Lord*, and turned again to the tents of Israel, and said, Rise ye (*up*); for the Lord hath betaken into our hands the tents of Midian, (*or for the Lord hath delivered the host, or the army, of the Midianites into our hands*).

¹⁶ And he parted the three hundred men into three parts, and he gave them trumps in their hands, and empty pots, and lamps (*or with lamps*), *that is, (with) burning brands, either torches, that might not lightly be quenched*, in the midst of the pots.

¹⁷ And he said to them, Do ye this thing which ye see me do; I shall enter into a part of the tents, and follow ye that, that I do.

¹⁸ When the trump in my hand shall sound, sound ye also all about the tents, and cry ye together, To the Lord, and to Gideon.

¹⁹ And Gideon entered, and the three hundred men that were with him, into a part of the tents, when the watches of midnight began; and when the keepers were raised, they began to sound with trumps, and to beat together the pots among themselves, (*or and after the guards had changed, they began to sound with the trumpets, and to beat the pots together*).

20 And when they sounded in three places by compass, and had broken the pots, they held *[the]* lamps in their left hands, and *[the]* sounding trumps in their right hands; and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon;

21 and they stood all in their place, about the tents of their enemies. And so all the tents were troubled; and they cried *[out]*, and yelled, and fled; *(and they all stood in their places, about the tents of their enemies. And all the army was troubled, and many of the enemies cried out, and yelled, and fled away;)*

22 and nevertheless the three hundred men continued, sounding with trumps. And the Lord sent sword in all the tents, and they killed themselves by death each other; and they *(who were left)* fled till to Bethshittah, *(in Zererath)*, and by the side, from Abelmeholah into Tabbath. *(but the three hundred men continued sounding with the trumpets. And the Lord set each man in the camp against his neighbour; and they killed each other with their swords; and those who were left fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to Abelmeholah Ridge by Tabbath.)*

23 And men of Israel cried together, of Naphtali, and of Asher, and of all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian; and the Lord gave victory to the people of Israel in that day. *(Then the men of Israel from Naphtali, and Asher, and from both parts of Manasseh, were called out, and they pursued the Midianites; and the Lord gave victory to the people of Israel on that day.)*

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers into all the hill (*country*) of Ephraim, and said, Come ye down against the coming of Midian, and occupy ye the waters till to Bethbarah and (*the*) Jordan. And all Ephraim cried (*or And all the men of Ephraim were called out*), and before-occupied the waters of the Jordan until Bethbarah.

²⁵ And *Ephraim* killed two *chief* men of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; *he killed Oreb in the stone of Oreb, and Zeeb in the presser of Zeeb; and Ephraim pursued Midian, and they bare the heads of Oreb and of Zeeb to Gideon, over the floods of Jordan. (And the Ephraimites killed the two chief men of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; they killed Oreb at the stone of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb; and they pursued the Midianites, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, on the other side of the Jordan River.)*

CHAPTER 8

¹ And the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, What is this thing, that thou wouldest do, that thou calledest not us, when thou wentest to battle against Midian? And they chided *with him* strongly, and well-nigh they did *to him* violence. (*And the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, What is this that thou hast done, that thou did not call us when thou wentest to battle against the Midianites? And they strongly complained to him, and they almost did violence to him.*)

² To whom he answered, And what such thing might I have done, what manner thing ye have

done? (*or But he answered to them, Could I have done such a thing as ye have done?*) Whether a raisin of Ephraim is not better than the vintages of Abiezer?

³ And the Lord hath betaken into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What such thing might I have done, what manner thing ye have done? (*or For the Lord hath delivered Oreb and Zeeb, the princes of the Midianites, into your hands. Could I have done such a thing as ye have done?*) And when he had spoken this thing, the spirit of them rested, by which they swelled against him.

⁴ And when Gideon had come to (*the*) Jordan, he passed it with three hundred men, that were with him; and for weariness they might not pursue *them* that fled. (*And when Gideon had come to the Jordan River, he crossed over it with the three hundred men who were with him; and for weariness they might not pursue those who had fled before them.*)

⁵ And he said to the men of Succoth, I beseech (*thee*), give ye (*some*) loaves to the people, that is with me; for they failed greatly (*or for they faint now*), (*so*) that we may *then* pursue Zebah and Zalmunna, (*the*) kings of Midian.

⁶ And the princes of Succoth answered *in scorn*, (*and said*), In hap the palms of the hands of Zebah and of Zalmunna be in thine hands, and therefore thou askest, that we give (*some*) loaves to thine host.

⁷ To whom Gideon said, Therefore, when the Lord shall betake Zebah and Zalmunna into mine

hands, and when I shall turn again (*as an*) overcomer in peace, I shall rend your flesh with thorns and briars of the desert. (*To whom Gideon said, And so, when the Lord shall deliver Zebah and Zalmunna into my hands, and when I shall return to you in victory, I shall tear, or shall cut, your flesh with thorns and briars from the desert.*)

⁸ And Gideon went up from thence, and came into Penuel; and he spake like things to men of that place, to whom also they answered, as the men of Succoth had answered, (*or and they answered him just like the men of Succoth had answered him*).

⁹ And so he said to them, When I shall turn again (*as an*) overcomer in peace (*or When I shall return to you in victory*), I shall destroy this tower.

¹⁰ Forsooth Zebah and Zalmunna rested with all their host; for fifteen thousand men (*were*) left of all the companies of the peoples of the east, when an hundred and twenty thousand of fighters and of men drawing out sword were slain. (*And Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with their army; and fifteen thousand men were all who were left of the companies of the peoples of the east, for a hundred and twenty thousand fighting men drawing out swords had been killed.*)

¹¹ And Gideon ascended by the way of them that dwelled in tabernacles at the east coast of Nobah and of Jogbehah, and smote the tents of [*the*] enemies, that were secure, and supposed not anything of adversity.

¹² And Zebah and Zalmunna fled, whom Gideon pursued, and (*he*) took (*hold of them*), when all their host was troubled.

13 And he turned again from battle before the rising of the sun, (*And Gideon returned from the battle by way of the Ascent of Heres,*)

14 and he took (*hold of*) a young man of the men of Succoth; and he asked him the names of the princes, and of the elder men of Succoth; and he described (*to Gideon*) seven and seventy men in number.

15 And he came to Succoth, and said to them, Lo, (*here be*) Zebah and Zalmunna! of which ye upbraided me (*or of whom ye upbraided me*), and said, In hap the hands of Zebah and of Zalmunna be in thine hands, and therefore thou askest, that we give (*some*) loaves to (*thy*) men, that be weary and failed.

16 Therefore Gideon took the elder men of the city, and thorns and briars of (*the*) desert, and he rent with those, and all-brake the men of Succoth; (*And so Gideon took hold of the city elders, and some thorns and briars from the desert, and he tore, or cut, them with those, and broke the men of Succoth all to pieces;*)

17 also he destroyed the tower of Penuel, when the dwellers of the city were slain. (*and he also destroyed the tower of Penuel, and killed the inhabitants of that city.*)

18 And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner men were they, that ye killed in Tabor? Which answered, *They were* like thee, and one of them was as the son of a king (*or and one of them was like a king's son*).

¹⁹ To whom Gideon said, They were (*all*) my brethren, the sons of my mother; (*as*) the Lord liveth, if ye had saved them, I would not slay you.

²⁰ And he said to Jether, his first begotten son, Rise thou (*up*), and slay them. And Jether drew not his sword; for he dreaded, for he was yet a boy, (*or But Jether would not draw out his sword; for he was afraid, for he was still a boy*).

²¹ And Zebah and Zalmunna said (*to Gideon*), Rise thou (*up thyself*), and fall on us; for thou art by the age and strength of [*a*] man. (*So*) Gideon rose (*up*), and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and (*then he*) took the ornaments, and (*the*) bells, with which the necks of (*the*) kings? camels be wont to be made fair.

²² And all the men of Israel said to Gideon, Be thou lord of us, thou, and thy son, and the son of thy son; for thou deliveredest us from the hand of Midian.

²³ To whom he said, I shall not be lord of you, neither my son shall be lord on you, but the Lord shall be lord on you. (*To whom he said, I shall not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you, but the Lord shall rule over you.*)

²⁴ And Gideon said to them, I ask one asking of you, give ye to me the earrings of your prey; for Ishmaelites were wont to have golden earrings.

²⁵ Which answered, We shall give (*you them*) most gladly. And they spreaded forth a mantle on the earth, and casted forth therein [*the*] earrings of the prey;

²⁶ and the weight of the earrings that he asked (*for*) was a thousand and seven hundred shekels

of gold, without [*the*] ornaments, and brooches, and cloth (*or cloak*) of purple, which the kings of Midian were wont to use, and besides [*the*] golden bands of camels (*or and without the gold bands for the camels*).

²⁷ And Gideon made thereof (*an*) ephod, *that is, a priest's cloth (or cloak)*, and he put it in his city (*of*) Ophrah; and all Israel did fornication, *that is, idolatry*, therein (*or therewith*); and it was made to Gideon, and to all his house, into falling.

²⁸ But Midian was made low before the sons of Israel, and they might no more raise up their nolls; and the land rested forty years, in which Gideon was sovereign.

²⁹ And so Jerubbaal, the son of Joash, went, and dwelled in his house;

³⁰ and he had seventy sons, that went out of his thigh, for he had many wives.

³¹ And a concubine, *that is, (the) secondary wife*, of him, whom he had in Shechem, engendered to him a son, Abimelech by name.

³² And Gideon, the son of Joash, died in [*a*] good eld [*age*], and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash, his father, in Ophrah, of the family of Abiezrites.

³³ And after that Gideon was dead, the sons of Israel turned away, and they did fornication, *that is, idolatry*, with Baalim; and they smote (*a*) bond of peace with Baal(*berith*), that he should be to them into God, (*or and they made a covenant with Baalberith, so that he would be their god*),

³⁴ neither Israel had mind of their Lord God, that had delivered them from the hand of all

their enemies by compass/about; *(nor did the people of Israel remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies around them;)*

³⁵ neither they did mercy to the family of Jerubbaal, that is, Gideon, after all the good things that he did to Israel. *(nor were they grateful, or loyal, to Jerubbal's family, after all the good that he had done for Israel.)*

CHAPTER 9

¹ Forsooth Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal, went into Shechem to the brethren of his mother; and he spake to them, and to all the kindred of the house of his mother, and said, *(And Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal, went into Shechem to his mother's brothers and her kinsmen; and he spoke to them, and to all the kindred of the house of his mother; and said,)*

² Speak ye to all the men of Shechem, *(and say),* What is better to you, that seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, be lords of you, whether that one man be lord to you? and also behold, that I am your bone, and your flesh. *(Say ye to all the men of Shechem, What is better for you, that seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you, or that one man rule over you? and also remember, that I am your own flesh and blood.)*

³ And the brethren of his mother spake of him all these words to all the men of Shechem; and they bowed their hearts after Abimelech, and said, He is our brother. *(And his mother's kinsmen spoke all these words about him to all*

the men of Shechem; and they turned their hearts to Abimelech, and said, He is our kinsman.)

⁴ And they gave to him seventy pieces of silver (out) of the temple of Baalberith; and he hired to him thereof men poor and having no certain dwelling, *(or and with it he hired men to join him who were poor; and who had no certain dwelling)*, and they followed him.

⁵ And he came into the house of his father in Ophrah, and killed his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. And Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, was left, and hid. *(And he came to his father's house in Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, was left alive, for he had hid himself.)*

⁶ And all the men of Shechem, and all the families of the city of Millo, were gathered together, and they went, and made Abimelech king, beside the oak that stood in Shechem.

⁷ And when this thing was told to Jotham, he went, and stood in the top of the hill Gerizim *(or and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim)*, and cried (out) with (a) voice raised [up], and said, Ye men of Shechem, hear me, so that God (may) hear you.

⁸ Trees went to anoint a king on them *(or The trees went to anoint a king over themselves)*; and they said to the olive tree, Command thou to us.

⁹ Which answered, Whether I may forsake my fatness, which both Gods and men use, and come, that I be advanced among trees? *(Which answered, Can I forsake my rich oil, which is used*

to honour both gods and men, and go that I be advanced over the other trees?)

¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and take the realm on us, *(or Come thou, and take the kingdom, and reign over us)*. Which answered to them,

¹¹ Whether I may forsake my sweetness, and my full sweet fruits, and go that I be advanced among other trees? *(Can I forsake my sweetness, and my full sweet fruits, and go that I be advanced over the other trees?)*

¹² Also the trees spake to the vine, *(and said)*, Come thou, and command to us.

¹³ Which answered, Whether I may forsake my wine, that gladdeth God and men, and be advanced among other trees? *(Which answered, Can I forsake my wine, that gladdeneth both the gods and people, and go that I be advanced over the other trees?)*

¹⁴ And all the trees said to the rhamn, *or the thief-thorn*, Come thou, and be lord on us, *(or Come thou, and be lord over us)*.

¹⁵ Which answered to them, If ye make me verily king to you, come, and rest ye under my shadow; and, if ye will not, fire go out of the rhamn, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. *(Which answered to them, If ye truly shall make me king over you, come, and rest ye under my shadow; but if ye will not, then let fire go out of the rhamn, and devour Lebanon's cedars.)*

¹⁶ Now therefore, if rightfully and without sin ye have made Abimelech king on you, and if ye have done well with Jerubbaal, and with

his house, and if ye have yielded while to the beneficences of him, *(And so now, if rightfully and without sin ye have made Abimelech king over you, and if ye have done the right thing with Jerubbaal, and with his household, and if ye have yielded to him according to his good deeds,)*

¹⁷ that fought for you, and gave his life for perils, that he should deliver you from the hand of Midian; *(yea, he who fought for you, and gave, or risked, his life to perils, so that he could save you from the hands of the Midianites;)*

¹⁸ and ye have risen now against the house of my father, and have slain his sons, seventy men, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, *[the]* son of his handmaid, king on the dwellers of Shechem, for he is your brother; *(and ye have risen up now against my father's household, or his family, and have killed his sons, seventy men, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his slave-girl, king over the inhabitants of Shechem, for he is your kinsman;)*

¹⁹ therefore if ye have done rightfully, and without sin with Jerubbaal and his house, today be ye glad in Abimelech, and be he glad in you; *(and so if ye have done rightfully, and without sin with Jerubbaal and with his household, or his family, today, then be ye happy with Abimelech, and let him be happy with you;)*

²⁰ but if ye have done waywardly, *(may)* fire go out from Abimelech, and waste the dwellers of Shechem, and the city of Millo; and *(may)* fire go out from the men of Shechem, and from the city of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

21 And when Jotham had said these things, he fled, and went into Beer, and dwelled there, for dread of Abimelech, his brother (*or in fear of his brother Abimelech*).

22 And Abimelech reigned on Israel three years. (*And Abimelech reigned over Israel for three years.*)

23 And the Lord sent the worst spirit betwixt Abimelech and the dwellers of Shechem, which began to hold him abominable, (*And the Lord sent the worst spirit between Abimelech and the inhabitants of Shechem, who began to hold him as abominable,*)

24 and to areckon the felony of [*the*] slaying of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, and the shedding out of their blood, into Abimelech their brother, and into [*the*] other princes of Shechem, that had helped him. (*and to reckon the felony of the slaughter of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, yea, the shedding out of their blood, unto their brother Abimelech, and unto those other men of Shechem, who had helped him.*)

25 And men of Shechem set ambushments against the king in the highness of hills; and while they abode his coming, they haunted thefts, and took preys of men passing thereof; and it was told to Abimelech. (*And so the men of Shechem set men in ambush against the king in the highness of the hills; and while they waited for him, they robbed, and took plunder, from those who passed by; and this was told to Abimelech.*)

26 And Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his brethren, and passed into Shechem; at whose

entering the dwellers of Shechem were raised, *(And Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his kinsmen, and went into Shechem; at whose entry, the inhabitants of Shechem were raised up, and turned to him,)*

²⁷ and went out into *[the]* fields, and wasted vineries, and trode grapes; and with companies of singers made, they entered into the temple of their God, and among meats and drinks they cursed Abimelech, *(and they went into the fields, and emptied out their vineyards, and trod down the grapes at the winepress, and made merry; and they entered into the temple of their god, and over food and drink they cursed Abimelech,)*

²⁸ while Gaal, *the son of Ebed*, cried, Who is this Abimelech? And what is Shechem, that we serve him? Whether he is not the son of Jerubbaal, and made Zebul, his servant, prince on the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem? Why therefore shall we serve him? *(while Gaal, the son of Ebed, cried, Who is this Abimelech? And why should we Shechemites serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal? Is not Zebul but his servant? Yea, we should serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem! Why do we serve him?)*

²⁹ Would God, *(that)* some man would give this people *(to be)* under mine hand, and *(then)* I should do away Abimelech from the midst of Shechem. And it was said to Abimelech, Gather thou the multitude of an host, and come thou, *(or And then he said to Abimelech, as if he were there, Gather thou the multitude of thy army, and come thou out, if thou darest).*

³⁰ For when the words of Gaal, the son of Ebed, were heard, Zebul, the prince of the city was full wroth; (*And when the words of Gaal, the son of Ebed, were heard, Zebul, the leader of the city was very angry;*)

³¹ and he sent privily messengers to Abimelech, and said, Lo! Gaal, the son of Ebed, is come into Shechem with his brethren, and he exciteth the city to fight against thee; (*and he sent messengers privately, or secretly, to Abimelech, and said, Behold! Gaal, the son of Ebed, is come into Shechem with his kinsmen, and he exciteth, or rouseth, the city to fight against thee;*)

³² therefore rise thou by night (*or and so rise thou up tonight*), with the people that is with thee, and be thou hid in the field;

³³ and first in the morrowtide, when the sun riseth, fall thou upon the city; and when Gaal goeth out with his people against thee, do thou to him that that thou mayest.

³⁴ And so Abimelech rose with all his host by night, and set ambushments beside Shechem, in four places. (*And so Abimelech and all his army rose up that night, and set men in ambush beside Shechem, in four places.*)

³⁵ And Gaal, the son of Ebed, went out (*the next morning*), and stood in the entering of the gate of the city (*or and stood at the entrance to the city gate*). And Abimelech, and all the host with him, rose (*up*) from the place of [*the*] ambushments.

³⁶ And when Gaal had seen the people, he said to Zebul, Lo! a multitude cometh down from the hills. To whom Zebul answered, Thou seest the

shadows of hills as the heads of men, and thou art deceived by this error.

³⁷ And again Gaal said, Lo! a people cometh down from the midst of the earth, and one company cometh by the way that beholdeth the oak. *(And Gaal said again, Behold! many people cometh down from the midst of the land, and one company, or one group, cometh along the road of the Soothsayers? Oak.)*

³⁸ To whom Zebul said, Where is now thy mouth, by which thou speakest, Who is Abimelech, that we serve him? *(or And then Zebul said to him, Now where is thy mouth, by which thou speakest, and saith, Who is this Abimelech, that we should serve him?)* Whether this is not the people, whom thou despisedest? Go thou out, and fight against him.

³⁹ Therefore Gaal went *(out)*, while the people of Shechem abode; and he fought against Abimelech. *(And so Gaal led out the men of Shechem; and they fought against Abimelech.)*

⁴⁰ And pursued him fleeing, and constrained him to flee into the city; and full many of the part of Gaal felled down, unto the gate of the city. *(And Abimelech fought back, and pursued after them, and sent them fleeing; and a great many of Gaal's men were killed, all the way back to the city gate.)*

⁴¹ And *(then)* Abimelech sat in Arumah; and Zebul put Gaal and his fellows out of the city of Shechem, and he suffered them not to dwell therein *(or and he did not allow them to stay there)*.

⁴² Therefore in the day following, the people went out into the field, (*or And on the following day, the people came out into the open*); and when this thing was told to Abimelech,

⁴³ he took his host, and parted it in three companies, and he set ambushments in the fields; and he saw that the people went out of the city, and he rose, and felled upon them with his company, (*he took his army, and divided it into three companies, or three groups, and he set men in ambush in the fields; and when he saw the people go out of the city, he rose up, and attacked them with his company,*)

⁴⁴ and (*he*) besieged them and fought against the (*men of the*) city. And two companies went about openly by the field (*or And the other two companies went about openly in the field*), and pursued their adversaries.

⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought against that city *all that day*, the which he took, when the dwellers thereof were slain, and that city was destroyed, so that he sprinkled abroad salt therein (*or and then he sprinkled salt on it*).

⁴⁶ And when they, that dwelled in the tower of Shechem, had heard this, they entered into the temple of their god Berith, where they had made [*a*] bond of peace with him; and of that *idol* the place took the name, the which place was full strong. (*And when they, who lived in the tower of Shechem, had heard this, they entered into the temple of their god Berith, where they had made a*

covenant with him; and that place took the name of that idol, and it was well-fortified.)

⁴⁷ And Abimelech heard that *(all)[the]* men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together *(there)*,

⁴⁸ and he went up into the hill of Zalmon with all his people *(or and so he went up to Mount Zalmon with all his people)*; and with an ax taken, he cut down a bough of a tree, and he bare it, put upon his shoulder, and he said to his fellows, Do ye anon *(or at once)* this thing, that ye see me do.

⁴⁹ Therefore with strife they cutted down boughs of the trees, and followed the duke; the which compassed the tower and burnt it up; and so it was done, that with smoke and fire a thousand men were slain, men and women together, of the dwellers of the tower of Shechem. *(And so they cut off the boughs of the trees, and then followed their leader; and they surrounded the temple, and then burned it down; and so it was, that with smoke and fire, a thousand people were killed, men and women together, all those of the tower of Shechem.)*

⁵⁰ And Abimelech went forth from thence, and came to the city of Thebez, which he compassed, and besieged with an host. *(And then Abimelech went forth from there, and came to the city of Thebez, which he surrounded, and besieged with his army.)*

⁵¹ And the tower was high in the midst of the city, to which men and women fled together, and all the princes of the city, while the gate was closed full strongly; and they stood on the roof of

the tower by *[the]* turrets. *(And the tower there was high in the middle of the city, to which all the men and women, and all the city leaders fled, and then the gate was securely closed; and they stood on the roof of the tower by the turrets.)*

⁵² And Abimelech came beside the tower, and fought strongly *against it*, and he nighed to the door, and enforced him to put fire under it, *(or and he came up to the door, and he endeavoured to put fire under it);*

⁵³ and lo! a woman casted from above a gobbet of a millstone, and hurtled to the head of Abimelech, and it brake his noll. *(and behold! a woman threw a piece of a millstone down from above, and hurtled it onto Abimelech's head, and it broke, or it cracked, his skull.)*

⁵⁴ And he called anon his squire, and said to him, Draw out thy sword, and slay me, lest peradventure it be said, that I am slain of a woman. Which performed the commandments, and killed Abimelech; *(And he called out at once to his squire, and said to him, Draw out thy sword, and kill me, lest it be said that I was killed by a woman. And he followed the order, and killed Abimelech;)*

⁵⁵ and when Abimelech was dead, all *(the)* men of Israel that were with him turned again to their places.

⁵⁶ And God yielded to Abimelech the evil that he did against his father, for he killed his seventy brethren.

⁵⁷ Also that evil was yielded to *[the]* men of Shechem, *(for)* that *(that)* they wrought, and *(so)*

the curse of Jotham, the son of Jerubbaal, came upon them.

CHAPTER 10

¹ After Abimelech rose a duke in Israel, Tola, the son of Puah, son of Dodo; *Tola was a man of Issachar, that dwelled in Shamir, of the hill of Ephraim; (After Abimelech, a leader arose in Israel, that is Tola, the son of Puah, the son of Dodo; and Tola was a man of Issachar, who lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim;)*

² and he deemed Israel three and twenty years, and *(then)* he died, and was buried in Shamir.

³ His successor was Jair, a man of Gilead, that deemed Israel two and twenty years;

⁴ and he had thirty sons, sitting upon thirty colts of she-asses, and they were princes of thirty cities, the which be called by their father's name, Havothjair, *that is, the cities of Jair*, unto this present day, in the land of Gilead.

⁵ And *(then)* Jair died, and was buried in a place that is called Camon.

⁶ Forsooth the sons of Israel joined new sins to eld sins, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served to the idols of Baalim, and to Ashtaroth, and to the gods of Syria, and of Sidon, and of Moab, and of the sons of Ammon, and of Philistines; and they left the Lord, and worshipped not him *(or and did not worship him)*.

⁷ And the Lord was wroth against them, and he betook them into the hands of Philistines, and of the sons of Ammon.

⁸ And all *the sons of Israel* that dwelled beyond *(the)* Jordan in the land of Amorites, that is, in Gilead, were tormented and oppressed greatly by eighteen years, *(And all the Israelites who lived on the eastern side of the Jordan River; in the land of Amorites, that is, in Gilead, were tormented and greatly oppressed for eighteen years,)*

⁹ in so much that the sons of Ammon, when they had passed *[over](the)* Jordan, wasted Judah, and Benjamin, and Ephraim; and Israel was tormented greatly. *(in so much that the Ammonites, when they had crossed over the Jordan River; attacked Judah, and Benjamin, and Ephraim; and so Israel was greatly tormented.)*

¹⁰ And they cried to the Lord, and said, We have sinned to thee, for we forsook our God, and served Baalim. *(And they cried to the Lord, and said, We have sinned against thee, for we deserted our God, and served the Baalim.)*

¹¹ To whom the Lord said, Whether not the Egyptians, and Amorites, and the sons of Ammon, and Philistines,

¹² and Sidonians, and Amalek, and Canaan *(or and Maonites)*, have *(all)* oppressed you, and ye cried to me, and I delivered you from their hands?

¹³ And nevertheless ye have forsaken me, and worshipped alien gods; therefore I shall not add to, that I deliver you *[any]* more *(or and so I shall not do anything more to save you again)*.

¹⁴ Go ye, and call *(on)[the]* gods which ye have chosen; deliver they you in the time of anguish *(or let them save you in your time of anguish)*.

¹⁵ And the sons of Israel said to the Lord, We have sinned; yield thou to us whatever thing pleaseth to thee; only deliver us now. *(And the Israelites said to the Lord, We have sinned; yield thou to us later whatever pleaseth thee; but right now, please save us!)*

¹⁶ And they said these things, and casted forth from their coasts all the idols of alien gods, and served the Lord; which had ruth, *either compassion*, on *(all)* the wretchednesses of them.

¹⁷ And so the sons of Ammon cried together, *each moving (the) other to battle against Israel*, and setted tents in Gilead, and the sons of Israel were gathered against them, and setted tents in Mizpeh. *(But then the Ammonites cried together, each moving the other to battle against Israel, and pitched their tents at Gilead; and the Israelites gathered themselves together against them, and pitched their tents at Mizpeh.)*

¹⁸ And the princes of Gilead said each to his neighbours, He, that beginneth first of us to fight against the sons of Ammon, shall be duke of the people of Gilead. *(And the people and the rulers of Gilead said to each other, He of us who first beginneth to fight against the Ammonites, shall be the leader of all the people of Gilead.)*

CHAPTER 11

¹ And so in that time Jephthah, a man of Gilead, was a full strong man, and a fighter, the son of a woman whore, the which Jephthah was born of Gilead. *(Now at that time Jephthah, a Gileadite,*

was a very strong man, and a fighter; the son of a whore-woman, and his father was Gilead.)

² And Gilead had a wife, of whom he had sons, which after that they increased (*or and after they had grown up*), casted out Jephthah, and said, Thou mayest not be (*an*) heir in the house of our father, for thou art born of another mother.

³ And (*so*) he fled (*from*) his brethren, and eschewed them, and dwelled in the land of Tob; and poor men were gathered to him, and followed him as a prince.

⁴ (*And*) In those days the sons of Ammon fought against Israel;

⁵ and when they continued sharply (*their enmities*), the greater men in birth of Gilead, went to take into the help of themselves Jephthah from the land of Tob; (*and when they continued their sharp enmities, the men of great age, that is, the elders, of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob to help them;*)

⁶ and they said to him, Come thou, and be our prince, and fight against the sons of Ammon.

⁷ To which he answered, Whether not ye it be, that hated me, and threw me out of the house of my father, and now ye have come to me, and were compelled by need? (*To whom he answered, Was it not ye, who hated me, and threw me out of my father's house? but now ye have come to me, yea, compelled by need!*)

⁸ And the princes of Gilead said to Jephthah, Therefore for this cause we came now to thee, that thou go with us, and fight against the sons of Ammon; and that thou be the duke of all men

that dwell in Gilead. *(And the leaders of Gilead said to Jephthah, Yea, for this reason we have now come to thee, so that thou go with us, and fight against the Ammonites; and that thou be the leader of all who live in Gilead.)*

⁹ And Jephthah said to them, Whether ye came verily, *or without fraud*, to me, that I fight for you against the sons of Ammon, and if the Lord shall betake them into mine hands, shall I be your prince? *(And Jephthah said to them, Did ye come truthfully, or without deception, to me, so that if I fight for you against the Ammonites, and if the Lord shall deliver them into my hands, then I shall be your leader?)*

¹⁰ The which answered to him, The Lord himself, that heareth these things, is mediator and witness, that we shall fulfill our promises *to thee. (And they answered to him, The Lord himself, who heareth these things, is our mediator and witness, that we shall fulfill our promises to thee.)*

¹¹ And so Jephthah went with the princes of Gilead, and all the people made him their prince; and Jephthah spake all his words *(again)* before the Lord in Mizpeh.

¹² And he sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, which messengers should say of his person *(or which messengers were to say for him)*, What is to me and to thee, for thou hast come against me to waste my land?

¹³ To the which messengers the king answered, For Israel, when he ascended from Egypt, took away my land, from the coasts of Arnon unto

Jabbok, and to *(the)* Jordan, now therefore yield it to me *again* with peace. *(To which messengers the king answered, For Israel, when they came up from Egypt, took away my land, from the Arnon River unto the Jabbok River; and unto the Jordan River; and so now peacefully, or without any need for fighting, return thou these lands to me.)*

¹⁴ By the which messengers Jephthah sent again, and commanded to them, that they should say to the king of Ammon,

¹⁵ Jephthah saith these things, Israel took not the land of Moab, neither the land of the sons of Ammon; *(Jephthah saith these things, No! Israel did not take the land of Moab, nor the land of the Ammonites;)*

¹⁶ but when they went up from Egypt, Israel went by the wilderness unto the Red Sea, and came into Kadesh;

¹⁷ and he sent messengers to the king of Edom, and said, Suffer thou me, that I go through thy land, *(or and they sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, Allow us to go through thy land);* the which king would not assent to the prayers of Israel. Also Israel sent to the king of Moab, and he despised to give Israel passage; and so Israel dwelled in Kadesh,

¹⁸ and he compassed by the side the land of Edom, and the land of Moab; and he came to the east coast of the land of Moab, and setted tents beyond Arnon, neither he would enter into the terms of Moab; for Arnon is the end of the land of Moab. *(and they went around by the borders of the land of Edom, and the land of Moab; and*

they came to the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched their tents on the other side of the Arnon River; for they would not enter into the land of Moab; for the Arnon River is the border of the land of Moab.)

¹⁹ And so Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of Amorites, that dwelled in Heshbon; and they said to him, Suffer thou, that I pass through thy land unto the river. *(And so Israel sent messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon; and they said to him, Allow us to pass through thy land to the river.)*

²⁰ And he despised the words of Israel, and suffered not him *(to)* pass by his terms, but with a multitude without number gathered together, Sihon went out against Israel *(at Jahaz)*, and against-stood him strongly. *(But he scorned Israel's request, and would not allow them to pass through his land; and with a multitude without number gathered together, Sihon went out against the people of Israel at Jahaz, and strongly stood against them.)*

²¹ And the Lord betook Sihon with all his host into the hands of Israel; and Israel smote him, and had in possession all the land of Amorites, the dweller(s) of that country, *(And the Lord delivered Sihon with all his army into the hands of Israel; and Israel struck them down, and had in possession all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country,)*

²² and all the coasts thereof, from *(the)* Arnon unto *(the)* Jabbok, and from the wilderness unto *(the)* Jordan.

23 Therefore the Lord God of Israel destroyed Amorites, fighting against him for his people Israel. And wilt thou now have in possession his land? *(And so the Lord God of Israel destroyed the Amorites, fighting against them for his people Israel. And now wilt thou take possession of their land?)*

24 Whether not those things which Chemosh, thy god, had in possession, be due to thee by right? Soothly those things which the Lord our God *(the)* overcomer hath gotten, shall fall into our possession; *(Be not those things which Chemosh, thy god, had in possession, by rights be due to thee? And likewise, those things which the Lord our God the Overcomer hath taken, they shall be ours;)*

25 but in hap thou art better than Balak, the son of Zippor, king of Moab, either thou mayest say, that Balak strived against Israel, and fought against him, *(but perhaps thou art better than Balak, the son of Zippor, the king of Moab, or thou mayest say, that Balak contended against Israel, and fought against them,)*

26 when Israel dwelled in Heshbon, and in towns thereof, and in Aroer, and in towns thereof, and in all cities beyond *(the)* Jordan, by three hundred years. Why in so much time assayed ye nothing on this asking again? *(when Israel lived in Heshbon, and its towns, and in Aroer, and its towns, and in all the cities on the eastern side of the Jordan River, for three hundred years. Why have ye done nothing to try to take them back in all this time?)*

²⁷ Therefore not I do sin against thee, but thou doest evil against me, and bringest in battles not just to me; the Lord, *(the)* judge of this day, deem betwixt the sons of Israel and betwixt the sons of Ammon. *(And so I do not sin against thee, but thou doest evil against me, and bringest in battles not just, or fair, to me; the Lord is the judge, and he shall judge this very day between the Israelites and the Ammonites.)*

²⁸ And the king of the sons of Ammon would not assent to the words of Jephthah, which he sent by the messengers.

²⁹ Therefore the spirit of the Lord was made upon Jephthah, and he compassed Gilead, and Manasseh, Mizpeh and Gilead *(or and then back to Mizpeh of Gilead)*; and he passed *(over)* from thence to the sons of Ammon,

³⁰ and he made a vow to the Lord, and said, If thou shalt betake the sons of Ammon into mine hands,

³¹ whoever goeth out first of the doors of mine house, and cometh against me turning again with peace from the sons of Ammon, I shall offer him *(up as a)* burnt sacrifice to the Lord. *(whoever first goeth out of the doors of my house, and cometh to meet me when I return in victory over the Ammonites, I shall offer him up as a burnt sacrifice to the Lord.)*

³² And Jephthah went to the sons of Ammon, to fight against them, which the Lord betook into his hands;

³³ and he smote from Aroer till that he came into Minnith, *(yea)*, twenty cities, and *(even)* unto

Abel, which is set about with vineries, with full great vengeance; and the sons of Ammon were made low of the sons of Israel. *(and he struck down, or overcame, from Aroer until that he came unto Minnith, twenty cities, and even unto Abelkeramim, with very great vengeance; and the Ammonites were made low before the Israelites.)*

³⁴ And when Jephthah turned again into Mizpeh, *(to)* his house, his one begotten daughter came to meet him with tympan, and crowds dancing; for he had not other free children. *(And when Jephthah returned to Mizpeh, to his house, his only daughter came to meet him with tambourines, and people dancing; and he had no other children.)*

³⁵ And when he saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, Alas! my daughter, thou hast troubled me, and thou art troubled; for I opened my mouth to the Lord, and I may do none other thing. *(And when he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, Alas! my daughter, thou hast brought woe upon me, and woe upon thyself; for I opened my mouth to the Lord, and I may do no other thing.)*

³⁶ To whom she answered, My father, if thou openedest thy mouth to the Lord, do to me whatever thing thou promisedest, while vengeance and victory of thine enemies be granted to thee *(or for vengeance and victory over thy enemies have been granted to thee by the Lord).*

³⁷ And she said to her father, Give thou to me only this thing, which I beseech; suffer thou me that in two months I compass *[the]* hills *(or allow*

me for two months to go about the hills), and bewail my maidenhood with my fellows.

³⁸ To whom he answered, Go thou. And he suffered her in two months (*or And he allowed her to go away for two months*). And when she had gone forth with her fellows, and her play-frères, she bewept her maidenhood in the hills.

³⁹ And when two months were fulfilled, she turned again to her father, and he did to her as he (*had*) avowed; and she knew no man *fleshly*, (*that is, she died a virgin*). From that time a custom came in Israel, and that custom is kept (*to this day*),

⁴⁰ that after the end of the year the daughters of Israel come together, and bewail the daughter of Jephthah of Gilead (*for*) four days.

CHAPTER 12

¹ And, lo! dissension (*a*)rose in Ephraim; for they, that passed toward the north (*or who crossed over to Zaphon*), said to Jephthah, Why wentest thou to battle against the sons of Ammon, and wouldest not call us, (*so*) that we should go with thee. Therefore we shall burn (*down*) thine house.

² To which he answered, Great strife was to me and to my people against the sons of Ammon, and I called you, that ye should give help to me, and you would not do so. (*To whom he answered, There was great strife between me and my people and the Ammonites, and I called on you, to give me help, but ye would not do so.*)

³ Which thing I saw, and putted my life in mine hands; and I passed (*forth*) to the sons of Ammon, and the Lord betook them into mine hands; what have I (*done that I*) deserved, that ye rise together against me into battle? (*or what have I done that I deserve that ye rise up against me in battle?*)

⁴ Therefore when all the men of Gilead were called to Jephthah, he fought against Ephraim; and [*the*] men of Gilead smote Ephraim; for he said (*or for they said*), Gilead is fugitive, *either exiled*, from Ephraim, and in the midst of Ephraim, and of Manasseh.

⁵ And the men of Gilead occupied the fords of (*the*) Jordan, by which Ephraim should turn again. And when a man, fleeing of the number of Ephraim, had come to the fords, and had said, I beseech, that ye suffer me pass; men of Gilead said to him, Whether thou art a man of Ephraim? And when he had said, I am not, (*or And when a man, fleeing from the Ephraimites, had come to the crossing, and had said, I beseech thee, that ye allow me to cross over; the men of Gilead said to him, Art thou a man of Ephraim? And when he had said, I am not,*

⁶ they asked him, Say thou therefore Shibboleth, *which is interpreted, an ear of corn*. Which answered, Sibboleth, and he might not bring forth (*the word for*) an ear of corn by the same letter. And anon they took and strangled him in that passing (*over*) of (*the*) Jordan; and two and forty thousand men of Ephraim felled down in that time. (*they said to him, Then say thou Shibboleth, which is translated, an ear of corn.*

And he answered, Sibboleth, and he could not bring forth the word for an ear of corn. And at once they took and strangled him at that crossing of the Jordan River; and forty-two thousand men of Ephraim were killed at that time.)

⁷ And so Jephthah, a man of Gilead, deemed Israel six years; and *(then)* he died, and was buried in his city *(of)* Gilead.

⁸ Ibzan of Bethlehem, that had thirty sons, and so many daughters, deemed Israel after Jephthah; *(And Ibzan of Bethlehem, who had thirty sons, and as many daughters, judged, or ruled, Israel after Jephthah;)*

⁹ which daughters he sent out, and gave *them* to husbands, and he took wives to his sons of the same number, and he brought *them* into his house; and Ibzan deemed Israel seven years; *(which daughters he sent away, and gave them to husbands, and he found the same number of wives for his sons, and he brought them into his household, or his family; and Ibzan judged Israel for seven years;)*

¹⁰ and *(then)* he died, and was buried in Bethlehem.

¹¹ Whose successor was Elon of Zebulun; and he deemed Israel ten years;

¹² and he was dead, and buried in Zebulun. *(and then he died, and was buried in Aijalon, in the land of Zebulun.)*

¹³ After him Abdon, the son of Hillel, of Pirathon, deemed Israel;

¹⁴ the which Abdon had forty sons, and of them were thirty sons, going upon seventy colts of she-asses, and Abdon deemed Israel eight years; (*and Abdon had forty sons, who in turn had thirty sons, and they all went upon seventy colts of female donkeys; and Abdon judged, or ruled, Israel for eight years;*)

¹⁵ and (*then*) he died, and was buried in Pirathon, in the land of Ephraim, in the hill (*country*) of Amalek.

CHAPTER 13

¹ And again the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and he betook them in[*to*] the hands of [*the*] Philistines (*for*) forty years.

² Forsooth a man was of Zorah, of the kindred of Dan, (*or And there was a man of Zorah, of the tribe of Dan*), Manoah by name, and he had a barren wife.

³ To which wife an angel of the Lord appeared, and said to her, Thou art barren, and without free children; but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

⁴ Therefore be thou ware, lest thou drink wine, and cider (*or cider*), neither eat thou any unclean thing;

⁵ for thou shalt conceive, and bear a son, whose head a razor shall not touch; for he shall be a Nazarite, *that is, holy* of God, from his young age, and from the mother's womb, (*or for he shall be a Nazarite, that is, holy to God, from his mother's womb*); and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of [*the*] Philistines.

⁶ And when she had come to her husband, she said to him, A man of God came to me, and he had an angel's cheer, and he was full fearedful, *(or and he had the face of an angel, and he was most frightening)*; and when I had asked him, who he was, and from whence he came, and by what name he was called, he would not say to me;

⁷ but he answered thus, Lo! thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; *(but)* be thou ware, that thou drink no wine nor cider, neither eat any unclean thing; for the child shall be a Nazarite, *that is, holy* of the Lord, from his young age, and from the mother's womb, till to the day of his death, *(or for the child shall be a Nazarite, that is, holy to the Lord, from his mother's womb, until the day of his death)*.

⁸ Therefore Manoah prayed the Lord, and said, Lord, I beseech, that the man of God, whom thou sentest, come again, and teach us, what we ought to do of the child, that shall be born, *(or what we ought to do with the child, who shall be born to us)*.

⁹ And the Lord heard Manoah praying; and the angel of the Lord appeared again to his wife sitting in the field; forsooth Manoah, her husband, was not with her.

¹⁰ And when she had seen the angel, she hasted, and ran to her husband, and told to him, and said, Lo! the man whom I saw before, *(hath)* appeared to me *(again)*.

¹¹ Which rose *(or And he arose)*, and followed his wife; and he came to the man, and said to

him, Art thou he, that hast spoken to the woman? And he answered, I am.

¹² To whom Manoah said, When thy word shall be fulfilled, what wilt thou, that the child do, either from what thing shall he keep himself? *(or and from what things should he keep himself?)*

¹³ And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, Abstain he himself from all things which I spake to thy wife. *(And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, Thy wife should abstain from all the things which I spoke to her about.)*

¹⁴ And eat he not whatever thing cometh forth of the vine, drink he not wine, and cider, eat he not any unclean thing, and fulfill he; and keep that, that I commanded to him. *(She should not eat anything that cometh forth from the vine, nor should she drink wine, or cider, or eat any unclean thing; she must fulfill, and obey what I have commanded to her.)*

¹⁵ Therefore Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, I beseech, that thou assent to my prayers, and we array to thee, *that is, make ready to meat*, a kid of the goats. *(And then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, I beseech thee, that thou assent to my prayers, and let us prepare a meal for thee, yea, a goat kid.)*

¹⁶ To whom the angel of the Lord answered, Though thou *(shalt)* constrain me, I shall not eat thy bread; but if thou wilt make *(a)* burnt sacrifice, offer thou it to the Lord. And Manoah knew not, that it was an angel of the Lord, *(or For Manoah did not know, that he was an angel of the Lord).*

17 And Manoah said to him, What name is to thee, that if thy word be fulfilled, we (*can*) honour thee?

18 To whom he answered, Why askest thou my name, which is hid, *either unknown?*

19 Therefore Manoah took a goat kid, and flowing sacrifices (*or and the proper grain offering*), and he put (*them*) upon a stone, and he offered them to the Lord that doeth wonderful things. And he and his wife beheld.

20 And when the flame of the altar ascended into heaven, the angel of the Lord ascended together in the flame (*or the angel of the Lord went up in the flame*). And when Manoah and his wife had seen this, they felled low to the earth.

21 And the angel of the Lord appeared no more to them. And anon (*or at once*) Manoah understood, that he was the angel of the Lord.

22 And he said to his wife, We shall die by death, for we have seen the Lord.

23 To whom the woman answered, If the Lord would slay us, he would not have taken of our hands burnt sacrifices, and moist sacrifices, but neither he would have showed all these things to us, neither have said to us (*of*) those things, that be to coming. (*To whom the woman answered, If the Lord intended to kill us, he would not have received out of our hands the burnt sacrifice, and the grain offering, nor would he have shown all these things to us, nor would he have told us of the things to come.*)

24 And so she childed a son, and called his name Samson; and the child increased (*in age*), and the Lord blessed him.

²⁵ And the spirit of the Lord began to be with him in the tents of Dan, betwixt Zorah and Eshtaol.

CHAPTER 14

¹ Therefore *(or And so in time, when he was a grown man)*, Samson went down into Timnath, and he saw there a woman of the daughters of *(the)* Philistines;

² and he went up, and he told this to his father and mother, and said, I saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of Philistines, and I beseech, that ye take her *(to be)* a wife to me, *(or and I beseech thee, that ye get her for a wife for me)*.

³ To whom his father and mother said, Whether there is no woman among the daughters of thy brethren, and in all my people, for thou wilt take a wife of the Philistines, that be uncircumcised? And Samson said to his father, Take thou this *(for a)* wife to me, for she hath pleased mine eyes. *(To whom his father and mother said, Is there no woman among the daughters of thy kinsmen, or among all our people, that thou must take a wife of the Philistines, yea, of those who be uncircumcised? And Samson said to his father, Get thou her for a wife for me, for she hath pleased my eyes.)*

⁴ But his father and mother knew not, that this thing was done of the Lord *(or that this thing was done by the Lord)*; and that he sought occasions against *[the]* Philistines; for in that time *(the)* Philistines were lords of Israel.

⁵ Therefore Samson went down with his father and mother into Timnath; and when they had

come to the vineries of the city, a fierce and roaring whelp of a lion appeared, and ran to Samson (*or and ran at Samson*).

⁶ And the spirit of the Lord felled into Samson, and he rent the lion into gobbets, as if he had rent a kid, and utterly he had nothing in his hand; and he would not show this to his father and mother. (*And the spirit of the Lord fell upon Samson, and he tore the lion into pieces, like tearing up a goat kid, and he had utterly nothing in his hands; but he did not tell what he had done to either his father or his mother.*)

⁷ And (*so*) he went down, and spake to the woman, that pleased his eyes.

⁸ And after some days he turned [*again*] to take her; and he went aside to see the lion's carrion (*or and he went aside to see the lion's carcass*); and lo! a swarm of bees was in the lion's mouth, and (*also*) an honeycomb.

⁹ And when Samson had taken the comb in his hands, he ate it in the way; and he came to his father and mother, and gave them part thereof, and they ate; nevertheless he would not show to them, that he had taken that honey of the lion's mouth. (*And when Samson had taken the comb in his hands, he ate some honey on the way; and he came to his father and mother, and gave them part of it, and they ate it; but he did not tell them, that he had taken the honey out of the lion's mouth.*)

¹⁰ And so his father went down to the woman, and made a feast to his son Samson; for so young men were wont to do. (*And so his father went*

down to see the woman, and Samson gave a feast there, as young men were wont to do.)

¹¹ Therefore when the citizens of that place had seen him, they gave to him thirty fellows, which should be with him.

¹² To which Samson spake, I shall put forth to you a problem, *that is, a doubtful word and privy*, and if ye solve it to me within *(the)* seven days of the feast, I shall give to you thirty linen clothes, and coats of the same number; *(To whom Samson said, I shall put forth a problem, or a riddle, to you, and if ye solve it for me within the seven days of the feast, I shall give you thirty linen clothes, and the same number of coats;)*

¹³ soothly if ye may not solve *(it)*, ye shall give to me thirty linen clothes, and coats of the same number *(or and the same number of coats)*. Which answered to him, Set forth the problem, *(so)* that we hear *it*.

¹⁴ And he said to them, Meat went out of the eater, and sweetness went out of the strong. And by three days they might not solve the proposition, *that is, the reason (ing) set forth, (or And for three days, they could not solve the riddle)*.

¹⁵ And when the seventh day came, they said to the wife of Samson, Gloss thine husband, and counsel him, that he show to thee what the problem signifieth. That if thou wilt not do it, we shall burn thee and the house of thy father. Whether therefore ye called us to *[the]* weddings, that ye should rob us? *(And when the fourth day came, they said to Samson's wife, Flatter thy husband, and counsel him, so that he show thee*

what the answer is. And if thou wilt not do this, we shall burn down thee and thy father's house as well. Or have ye only called us to the wedding, so that ye could rob us?)

¹⁶ And she shedded tears at Samson, and complained, and said, Thou hatest me, and lovest me not, therefore thou wilt not expound to me the problem, which thou hast put forth to the sons of my people. And he answered, I would not say *this thing* to my father and mother, and shall I be able to show it to thee? *(And so she shed tears before Samson, and complained, and said, Thou hatest me, and lovest me not, and so thou wilt not expound the riddle to me, which thou hast put forth to the sons of my people. And he answered, If I would not even tell it to my father or my mother, then why would I tell it to thee?)*

¹⁷ Therefore by seven days of the feast she wept upon him; and at the last in the seventh day, he told it to her clearly, when she was dis-easeful to him. And anon she told it to her citizens. *(And so for the remainder of the seven days of the feast, she wept before him; and at last on the seventh day, he told her the answer, after that she had made his life miserable. And at once she told it to her fellow citizens.)*

¹⁸ And they said to him in the seventh day before the going down of the sun, What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion? And he said to them, If ye had not eared, *or busied you, in my cow calf, that is, my wife,* ye had not found (out) my proposition. *(And so on the seventh day, before the going down of the*

sun, they said to him, What is sweeter than honey, and stronger than a lion? And he said to them, If ye had not busied yourselves with my cow calf, that is, with my wife, ye would not have solved my riddle.)

¹⁹ Therefore the spirit of the Lord felled into him; and he went down to Ashkelon, and killed there thirty men, whose clothes he took away, and he gave to them that solved the problem; and he was full wroth, and went up into his father's house. *(And then the spirit of the Lord fell upon him; and he went down to Ashkelon, and killed thirty men there, whose clothes he took away, and he gave them to those who had solved his riddle; and he was very angry, and went back to his father's house.)*

²⁰ Forsooth his wife took (as) an husband, one of the friends and privy keepers of her. *[Forsooth the wife of him took an husband, one of his friends and wooers.]*

CHAPTER 15

¹ But a little time after, when the days of wheat harvest nighed, Samson came, and would visit his wife, and he brought to her a goat kid; and when he would enter into her bed by custom, her father forbade him,

² and said, I guessed that thou haddest hated her, and therefore I gave her to thy friend; but she hath a sister, which is younger and fairer than she, be she *[a]* wife to thee for her *(or let her be your wife instead!)*.

³ To whom Samson answered, From this day forth no blame shall be in me against *[the]* Philistines, for I shall do evils to you. *(To whom Samson answered, From this day forth, none of the Philistines can blame me, though I shall do much evil to you.)*

⁴ And he went, and took three hundred foxes, and he joined together their tails to tails, *(one to one)*, and he bound fire brands in *(the)* middle of the tails*(or and he tied torches in the middle of their tails)*,

⁵ which he kindled with fire, and *(then)* let them *(go)*, that they should run about hither and thither *(or so that they would run about here and there)*; which went anon *(or at once)* into the corns of *[the]* Philistines, by which kindled, both the corns borne now together, and *(those)* yet standing in the stubble, were *(all)* burnt, in so much that the flame *(also)* wasted *(the)* vineries, and *(the)* places of *(the)* olive trees.

⁶ And the Philistines said, Who did this thing? To whom it was said, Samson, the husband of *(the)* Timnite's daughter, for he took away Samson's wife, and gave her to another man. And *(so)* the Philistines went up, and burnt *(up)* both the woman and her father.

⁷ To the which *Philistines* Samson said, Though ye have done this thing, neverthe-less yet I shall ask *and take* vengeance of you, and then I shall rest. *(To which Philistines Samson said, Because ye have done this thing, now I shall take vengeance on all of you, and then I shall rest.)*

⁸ And he smote them with great wound, so that they wondered, and *(they fled so fast, that they)* putted the hinder part of the hip on the thigh; and he went down, and dwelled in the den of the stone of Etam. *(And he struck them down, hip and thigh, with a great slaughter; and then he went, and lived in the cave in the Rock of Etam.)*

⁹ Then the Philistines went up into the land of Judah, and they setted tents in the place, that was called afterward Lehi, *that is, a cheek[bone]*, where their host was spread abroad. *(Then the Philistines went up into the land of Judah, and they pitched their tents at the place, that later was called Lehi, that is, Jawbone, where their army was spread out over all the land.)*

¹⁰ And men of the lineage of Judah said to them, Why have ye gone up against us? The which answered, We come that we bind Samson, *(or And they answered, We have come so that we can bind up Samson)*, and yield to him *(for)* those things the which he *[hath]* wrought against us.

¹¹ Therefore three thousand of men of Judah went down to the den of the flint of Etam; and they said to Samson, Knowest thou not, that *[the]* Philistines command to us, *that is, they have lordship on us?* *(or And so three thousand men of Judah went down to the cave in the Rock of Etam; and they said to Samson, Knowest thou not, that the Philistines command, or rule, over us?)* Why wouldest thou do this thing to them? To whom he said, As they did to me, so I did to them.

¹² They said, We come to bind thee, and to betake thee into the hands of Philistines. To

whom Samson answered, Swear ye, and promise ye to me, that ye slay not me. (*And they said to him, We have come to bind thee up, and to deliver thee into the hands of the Philistines. To whom Samson answered, Swear ye, and promise ye to me, that ye shall not kill me.*)

¹³ And they said, We shall not slay thee, but we shall betake *thee bound to them*. And (so) they bound him with two new cords, and took him from the stone of Etam.

¹⁴ And when they had come to the place *that is called Cheek[bone]*, and the Philistines crying high had run (*out*) to him, the spirit of the Lord felled into him, and as sticks be wont to be wasted at the hot tasting of fire, so and the bonds, with which he was bound, were scattered and loosed. (*And when they had come to the place that now is called Lehi, or Jawbone, and the Philistines came running toward him, and shouting, the spirit of the Lord fell upon him, and as sticks be wont to be wasted with the hot tasting of the fire, so the bonds, with which he was bound, were scattered and loosed from off his hands.*)

¹⁵ And when he had found a cheek[bone], *that is, the nether cheekbone*, of an ass, that *there* lay, he took it, and killed therewith a thousand men; (*And when he had found a jawbone, that is, the lower jawbone, of a donkey, that lay there, he took it, and killed a thousand men with it;*)

¹⁶ and he said, With the cheek[bone] of an ass, *that is, with the nether cheek[bone]* of a colt of she-asses, I have done away Philistines, and I have killed therewith a thousand men. (*and he said,*

With the jawbone of a donkey, that is, with the lower jawbone of the colt of a female donkey, I have done away the Philistines, and I have killed a thousand men with it.)

¹⁷ And when he had high cried these words, and had fully ended them, he threw away from his hand the nether cheekbone; and he called the name of that place Ramathlehi, *that is to say, the Raising (up) of a cheekbone.* (And after that he had sung these words, and had finished them, he threw away the lower jawbone from his hand; and he named that place Ramathlehi, *that is to say, the Raising up of a jawbone.*)

¹⁸ And (then) he thirsted greatly, and cried to the Lord, and said, Thou, Lord, hast given into the hand of thy servant this greatest health and victory, (or Thou, Lord, hast given thy servant this great victory); and lo! I die for thirst, and I shall fall into the hands of uncircumcised men.

¹⁹ Therefore the Lord opened a wang tooth in the cheekbone of the ass, and waters went out thereof, and when he had drunken he refreshed his spirit, and received strengths; therefore the name of that place was called the Well of the inwardly caller of the cheekbone, unto this present day. (And so the Lord opened a molar tooth in the jawbone of the donkey, and water went out of it, and when he had drunk, it refreshed his spirit, and he received strength; and so the name of the spring there in Lehi is called Enhakkore, or the Spring of the Caller, unto this present day.)

²⁰ And Samson deemed Israel in the days of [the] Philistines (for) twenty years.

CHAPTER 16

¹ Also Samson went into Gaza, and he saw there a woman whore, and he entered to her. *(And one day Samson went to Gaza, and he saw a whore-woman there, and he slept with her.)*

² And when the Philistines had seen this, and it was published among them, that Samson had entered into the city, they compassed him *(about)*, *(and with)* the keepers set in the gates of the city; and the Philistines *(were)* abiding there all that night privily, that in the morrowtide they should kill Samson going out. *(And when the Philistines had seen this, and it was published among them, that Samson had come into the city, they surrounded him, and had guards set at the city gates; for the Philistines had decided to secretly wait there all that night, so that in the morning they could kill Samson when he came out.)*

³ And Samson slept till to midnight *(or But Samson stayed only until midnight)*; and *(then)* he rose up to go *(from)* thence, and he took both the closings, *or the leaves*, of the *(city)* gate, with the posts and the lock; and he bare *those gates* upon his shoulders, to the top of the hill that beholdeth Hebron.

⁴ *(And)* After these things Samson loved a woman that dwelled in the valley of Sorek, and she was called Delilah.

⁵ And the princes of the Philistines came to her, and said, Deceive thou him, and learn thou of him, in what thing he hath so great strength, and how we may overcome him, and torment *him*

when he is bound; the which thing if thou doest, we shall give to thee, each man, a thousand and an hundred pieces of silver. (And the rulers of the Philistines came to her, and said, Deceive thou him, and learn thou from him, by what thing he hath so great strength, and how we can overcome him, and torment him when he is bound; and if thou doest that, each one of us shall give thee a thousand and a hundred pieces of silver.)

⁶ Then Delilah spake to Samson, *(and said)*, I beseech thee, say thou to me, wherein is thy greatest strength, and what is that thing, with which if thou were bound, thou mayest not break *(it)*?

⁷ To whom Samson answered, If I be bound with seven cords of moist sinews not yet dry, I shall be *(made as)* feeble as other men.

⁸ And the princes of *[the]* Philistines brought to her seven cords, as he had said; with which she bound him,

⁹ while ambushments were hid at her, and abided in a closet the end of the thing. And she cried to him, Samson, the Philistines be upon thee! And he brake those bonds, as if a man breaketh a thread of hards *(of flax)*, thrown with spittle, when it hath touched the heat of fire; and *(so)* it was not yet known wherein his strength was. *(while the ambushers were hid with her, and waited in a closet for the end of it all. And she cried to him, Samson, the Philistines be upon thee! And he broke those bonds, like a man breaketh a flaxen thread, thrown with spittle, when it hath*

touched the heat of the fire; and so it was not yet known where his strength lay.)

¹⁰ And Delilah said to Samson, Lo! thou hast scorned me, and thou hast spoken false(*ly*); nevertheless now show thou to me, with what thing thou shouldest be bound.

¹¹ To whom he answered, If I be bound with new cords, that were not yet in work, I shall be feeble, and like other men (*or I shall be made as feeble as other men*).

¹² With the which Delilah bound him again, and she cried, Samson, the Philistines be upon thee! the while ambushments were made ready in a closet (*or while the ambushers were waiting in the closet*). And Samson brake his bonds as (*if they were the*) threads of (*spider*) webs.

¹³ And Delilah said again to him, How long shalt thou deceive me, and speak false(*ly*)? Show thou to me, with what thing thou shalt be bound. To whom Samson answered, he said, If thou pleatest (*the*) seven gobbets of (*the*) hair of mine head with a strong bond, (*or To whom Samson answered, and said, If thou pleatest the seven braids of the hair of my head into thy loom*),

¹⁴ and fastenest (*in*)to the earth a nail bound about with these hairs, I shall be (*made*) feeble. And when Delilah had done this, she said to him, Samson, the Philistines be upon thee! And he rose from sleep, and he drew out the nail, with the hairs and a strong bond *tied thereto*. (*and tightenest the hair; bound in the loom, with a peg, I shall be made as feeble as other men. And when Delilah had done this, she said to him, Samson, the*

Philistines be upon thee! And he arose from sleep, and he drew out the peg, with his hair tightly tied to it, in a strong bond.)

¹⁵ And Delilah said to him, How sayest thou, that thou lovest me, since thine inward affection is not with me? By three times thou hast lied to me, and wouldest not say to me, wherein is thy most strength (*or where thy great strength lieth*).

¹⁶ And when she was dis-easeful to him, and cleaved to him continually by many days, and to him gave no space to rest, his life failed, and was made weary unto the death. (*And when she had made his life miserable, and continually cleaved to him for many days, and gave him no time for any rest, his strength, or his resolve, failed, and he was made weary unto the death.*)

¹⁷ (*And*) Then he opened the truth of the thing, and said to her, Iron came never yet upon mine head (*or No iron hath ever yet touched my head*), for I am a Nazarite, *that is, hallowed to the Lord*, from my mother's womb; if mine head be shaven, my strength shall go away from me, and I shall fail, and I shall be (*made as feeble*) as other men.

¹⁸ And she saw that he [*had*] acknowledged to her all his will, *either heart*; and she sent to the princes of Philistines, and commanded, Go ye up yet (*at*) once, for now he hath opened his heart to me. The which went up, the money taken *with them* that they promised. (*And she saw that he had spoken to her with all his heart; and she sent for the rulers of the Philistines, saying, Come ye up at once, for he hath now opened up all his heart to*

me. And they came to her immediately, bringing the money that they had promised.)

¹⁹ And she made him sleep upon her knees, and to lay his head in her bosom; and *(then)* she called *(for)* a barber, and he shaved *(the)* seven *(locks of the)* hairs of him; and *(then)* she began to shove him away, and to put him *(off)* from her; for anon *(or at once)* the strength went away from him.

²⁰ And she said, Samson, the Philistines be upon thee! And he rose *(up)* from sleep, and said in his soul, I shall go out, as I did before, and I shall shake me *from these bonds*; and he knew not, that the Lord had gone away from him.

²¹ And when the Philistines had taken him, anon they put out his eyes, and led *him* bound with chains to Gaza, and they closed him in prison, and made him to grind. *(And when the Philistines had taken hold of him, at once they put out his eyes, and led him bound with chains to Gaza, and there they enclosed him in prison, and made him to grind with a wheel.)*

²² And then his hairs began to grow again;

²³ and *[the]* princes of *(the)* Philistines came together to offer great sacrifices to Dagon, their god, and *they made (the) feasts* and ate, saying, Our god hath betaken Samson, our enemy, into our hands.

²⁴ And the people seeing also this thing praised their god *(or And the people seeing this thing also praised their god)*, and said the same things, *(Yea)*, Our god hath betaken our adversary into

our hands, which did away our land, and killed full many men.

²⁵ And they were glad(*dened*) by (*the*)*making of feasts*, and then when they had eaten, they commanded that Samson should be called, and (*to*) play before them; the which was led out of (*the*) prison, and played before them; and they made him stand betwixt two pillars.

²⁶ And Samson said to the boy that governed his steps, Suffer thou me, that I touch the pillars on which all the house standeth (*or Allow me to touch the pillars on which the whole house standeth*), (*so*) that I (*may*) be bowed upon those, and rest a little.

²⁷ And the house was full of men and of women, and (*all*) the princes of the Philistines were there, and about three thousand of men and of women (*or and also about three thousand men and women*), beholding from the roof, and from the solar, (*while*) Samson (*was*) playing.

²⁸ And he called inwardly the Lord, and said, My Lord God, have mind on me, and my God, yield thou now to me the former strength, that I venge me of mine enemies, and that I take one vengeance for the loss of my two eyes. (*And he inwardly called upon the Lord, and said, Lord my God, remember me, and my God, yield thou now to me the former strength, so that I can avenge myself on my enemies, and so that I can now take one vengeance for the loss of my two eyes.*)

²⁹ And he took both [*the*] pillars, on which the house stood, and he held the one of those in his right hand, and the tother in his left hand; (*And*

he took hold of both of the pillars, on which the house stood, and he held onto one of them with his right hand, and the other one with his left hand;)

³⁰ and he said, My life die with the(se) Philistines! And when the pillars were shaken (al)together strongly, the house felled upon all the princes, and upon the multitude that was there; and Samson dying killed many more, than he alive had slain before. *(and he said, Let me die with these Philistines! And when the pillars were altogether strongly shaken, the house fell on all the rulers, and on all the multitude of people who were there; and in dying, Samson killed many more than he had killed when he was alive.)*

³¹ And his brethren and all his kindred came down, and took his body, and they buried it betwixt Zorah and Eshtaol, in the sepulchre of Manoah, his father; and he deemed Israel twenty years. *(And his brothers and all his kindred came down, and took away his body, and they buried it between Zorah and Eshtaol, in the tomb of his father Manoah; and he had ruled Israel for twenty years.)*

CHAPTER 17

¹ In that time was a man, that was called Micah, of the hill of Ephraim. *(At that time there was a man, who was called Micah, of the hill country of Ephraim.)*

² And he said to his mother, Lo! I have a thousand and an hundred pieces of silver, which thou separatedest to thee, and on which thou cursedest, while I heard; and those be with me.

To whom she answered, Blessed be my son of the Lord. *(And he said to his mother; Thou haddest a thousand and a hundred pieces of silver that were taken from thee, and I heard thou curse him who robbed thee; behold! I was the one who took them. And she quickly said, May the Lord bless my son!)*

³ Therefore he yielded those to his mother; and she said to him, I hallowed and avowed this silver to the Lord, that my son receive *(it out)* of mine hand, and make *(with it)* a graven image and a molten image; and now I give it to thee. *(And so he gave the silver back to his mother; and she said, I now hallow and vow this silver to the Lord, to protect my son from the curse, and I ask that ye, my son, have a carved idol, and a cast image, made from it; and now I give it to thee.)*

⁴ Therefore he yielded to his mother; and she took two hundred pieces of *(the)* silver, and gave those to a workman of silver, that he should make of those a graven image and *(a)* molten *(image)*, that was *(to be put)* in the house of Micah. *(And so he gave the silver back to his mother; and she took two hundred pieces of the silver; and gave them to a craftsman of silver; so that he could make them into a carved idol, and a cast image; and they were put in Micah's house.)*

⁵ And Micah also separated a little house, *or an oratory*, therein to God; and made *(an)* ephod, and teraphim, *that is, a priest's cloth (or cloak), and idols*; and he filled the hand of one of his sons, and he was made a priest to him *(or and he consecrated, or dedicated, one of his sons, and he became his priest)*.

⁶ In those days was no king in Israel, but each man did that, that seemed rightful to himself. (*In those days there was no king in Israel, but each person did what seemed right to himself.*)

⁷ Also another young waxing man was of Bethlehem of Judah, of the kindred of Judah, and he was a deacon, and dwelled there. (*And there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the tribe of Judah, and he was a Levite, and lived there.*)

⁸ And he went out of the city of Bethlehem, and would be a pilgrim, wherever he found (it) profitable to himself. And when he made journey, and had come into the hill of Ephraim, and had bowed [down] a little into the house of Micah, (*And he went out of the city of Bethlehem, and would be a visitor, wherever he found it profitable for himself. And when he had made a journey, and had come to the hill country of Ephraim, and had rested a little at Micah's house,*)

⁹ Micah asked him, From whence comest thou? Which answered, I am a deacon of Bethlehem of Judah, and I go, that I dwell where I may, and where I see that it is profitable to me. (*Micah asked him, Where comest thou from? And he answered, I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I go, so that I can live where I may, and where I see that it is profitable for me.*)

¹⁰ And Micah said, Dwell thou with me, and be thou to me a father and priest; and I shall give to thee by each year ten pieces of silver, and a double clothing, and those things that be necessary to lifelode. [And] He assented, (*And*

Micah said, Stay thou with me, and be thou a father and a priest to me; and each year I shall give thee ten pieces of silver; and thy clothes, and thy food, or sustenance. And he agreed,)

¹¹ and dwelled with that man; and he was to that man as one of his sons. *(and lived with that man; and he was like one of his sons to that man.)*

¹² And Micah filled his hand *(or And Micah consecrated, or dedicated, him)*, and he had the young man *(become his)* priest, *(and abide, or dwell)*, with him,

¹³ and he said, Now I know, that God shall do well to me, having a priest of the kin of Levi. *(and he said, Now I know that God shall make things go well for me, for I have my own priest of the tribe of Levi.)*

CHAPTER 18

¹ In those days was no king in Israel; and the lineage of Dan sought *(a)* possession to itself, to dwell therein; for till to that day it had not taken heritage among other lineages. *(In those days there was no king in Israel; and the tribe of Dan sought a possession for themselves to live in; for unto that day they had not taken their inheritance among the other tribes.)*

² Therefore the sons of Dan sent five *(of)* the strongest men of their generation, and family, from Zorah and Eshtaol, that they should espy the land, and behold diligently, *(or so that they could spy out the land, and carefully look it over)*. And they said to them, Go ye, and behold the land. And when they going forth had come into

the hill (*country*) of Ephraim, and had entered into the house of Micah, they rested there.

³ And they knew the voice of the young waxing deacon; and they rested in his place, and said to him, Who brought thee hither? What doest thou here? For what cause wouldest thou come hither? (*And they knew the voice of the young Levite; and they rested there before him, and said to him, Who hath brought thee here? What doest thou here? For what reason wouldest thou come here?*)

⁴ The which answered, Micah hath given to me these things and these, and he hath hired me for meed, that I be priest to him. (*And he answered, Micah hath given these things, and other things to me, and he hath hired me for money, to be his priest.*)

⁵ And they prayed him, that he should counsel with the Lord, and that they might know (*or so that they could know*), whether they went in the way of prosperity, and that the thing *of their purpose* should have effect.

⁶ Which answered to them, Go ye with peace, the Lord beholdeth your way, and the journey whither ye go. (*And he answered to them, Go ye in peace, the Lord watcheth over your way, and the journey on which ye go or and where ye go on the journey.*)

⁷ Then those five men went forth, and came to Laish; and they saw the people dwelling therein without any dread, by the custom of Sidonians, secure and restful, for no man utterly against-stood them, and they were full rich, and

dwelled far from Sidon, and were parted from all men. (Then those five men went forth, and came to Laish; and they saw the people living there without any fear, by the custom of the Sidonians, secure and at rest, for there was utterly no one who stood against them, and they were very rich, and lived far away from Sidon, and were separated from all people.)

⁸ And they turned again to their brethren in Zorah and Eshtaol; and they answered to *(their)* brethren, asking what they had done, *(And they returned to their kinsmen in Zorah and Eshtaol; and they answered to their kinsmen, who were asking what they had done,)*

⁹ and said, Rise ye, and go we up to them of Laish, for we have seen the land full rich and plenteous; do not ye be negligent, do not ye cease, *(but)* go we forth, and have we it into possession *(or and let us take the land);*

¹⁰ no travail shall be to us; we shall enter to secure men, into a full large country; and the Lord shall betake to us a place, wherein is not poverty of anything of those things that be brought forth in *(all)[the]* earth. *(it shall not be any great effort for us; for we shall go to a people who be very complacent and naive, and into a very large country; and the Lord shall deliver a place to us, where nothing is lacking of anything, of that which be brought forth in all the earth.)*

¹¹ Therefore six hundred men girded with armours of battle went forth of the kindred of Dan, that is, from Zorah and Eshtaol. *(And so six hundred men of the Danites, girded with arms, or*

with weapons, for battle, went forth from Zorah and Eshtaol.)

¹² And they went up, and dwelled in Kiriath-jearim of Judah, the which place took from that time the name of *[the] Tents of Dan (or the which place from that time took the name of Mahanehdan)*, and it is behind the back of Kiriathjearim.

¹³ From thence they passed into the hill (*country*) of Ephraim; and when they had come to the house of Micah,

¹⁴ the five men, that were sent before to behold the land of Laish, said to their other brethren, Know ye, that ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image is in (*one of*) these houses; see ye what pleaseth you. (*the five men, who were sent before to spy out the land of Laish, said to their other kinsmen, Know ye, that an ephod, and teraphim, and a carved idol, and a cast image be in one of these houses? see ye what pleaseth you.*)

¹⁵ And when they had bowed a little *aside*, they entered into the house of the young deacon, that was in the house of Micah, (*or they entered into the young Levite's home, that is, into Micah's house*), and they greeted him with peaceable words.

¹⁶ And six hundred men stood before the door, so as they were armed. (*And the six hundred armed men stood outside, in front of the door.*)

¹⁷ And they, that entered into the house of the young man, enforced to take away the graven image, and the ephod, and teraphim, and the

molten image; and the priest stood before the door, while six hundred full strong (*armed*) men abode not far (*from*)thence. (*And they, who had entered into the young man's home, that is, into Micah's house, endeavoured to take away the carved idol, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the cast image; and the priest stood outside the door, with the six hundred very strong armed men, who waited not far fromthere.*)

¹⁸ Therefore they that entered took the graven image, ephod, and idols, and the molten image; to whom the priest said, What do ye? (*And so they who entered took the carved idol, and the ephod, and the teraphim, or the other idols, and the cast image; and the priest said to them, What be ye doing?*)

¹⁹ To whom they answered, Be thou still, and put thy finger on thy mouth, and come with us, that we have thee (*for a*) father and (*a*) priest. What is better to thee, that thou be priest in the house of one man, either (*a priest*) in a lineage and (*a*) family of Israel? (*or What is better for thee, that thou be a priest in the house of one man, or a priest in a tribe and a family of Israel?*)

²⁰ And when he had heard this, he assented to their words, and he took the ephod, and idols, and the graven image, and went forth with them. (*And when he had heard this, he agreed with what they said, and he himself took hold of the ephod, and the carved idol, and the teraphim, and the cast image, and went away with them.*)

²¹ And when they went forth, and had made their little children, and their work beasts, and

all thing that was precious, to go before them; *(And so they all went forth, and made their little children, and their work beasts, and all the things that were precious to them, to go before them;)*

²² and when they were now far from the house of Micah, *[the]* men that dwelled in the houses of Micah cried together, and followed *(after them)*, *(and when they had gone some distance from Micah's house, Micah gathered together the men who lived in the houses nearby; and they followed after the Danites,)*

²³ and began to cry after the back(s)*(of them)*. Which when they had beheld, *[they]* said to Micah, What wilt thou to thee? why criest thou? *(and shouted at them behind their backs. And when the Danites had seen them, they said to Micah, What is the matter with thee? why shoutest thou at us?)*

²⁴ Which answered, Ye have taken away my gods, which I made to me, and the priest, and what dwelleth over? and ye say, What is *(it)* to thee? *(And Micah answered, Ye have taken away my gods, which I had made for me, and my priest, and now what do I have left? and ye say, What is the matter with thee?)*

²⁵ And the sons of Dan said to him, Beware, lest thou speak *[any]* more to us, and men stirred in soul come to thee, and thou perish with all thine house.

²⁶ And so *(the sons of)* Dan went forth in the journey begun. And Micah saw, that they were stronger than he, and *[he]* turned again into his

house (*or and so he returned to his house, along with all of his neighbours*).

²⁷ Forsooth six hundred men took the priest, and the things which we before-said, and came into Laish to the people resting and secure; and they smited them by the sharpness of sword, and betook the city to burning, (*And the six hundred men took the priest, and all the things which we spoke of, and came into Laish to the people there, who were secure and at rest, yea, without a care in the world; and they struck them down with their sharp swords, and burned down the city,*)

²⁸ while no man utterly gave help (*to them*), for they dwelled far from Sidon, and had not anything of fellowship and cause with any men. And the city was set in the country(side) of Bethrehob; the which city Dan builded again, and dwelled therein; (*while utterly no one gave them any help, for they lived far from Sidon, and the city was set in the countryside of Bethrehob, and they had nothing of fellowship, or dealings, with anyone. And then the Danites rebuilt the city, and lived there;*)

²⁹ and the name of the city was called Dan, by the name of their father (*or after the name of their father*), whom Israel had begat, the which city was called Laish before.

³⁰ And Dan setted there the graven image (*or And the Danites set up Micah's idol*), and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, [*the*] son of Moses, and Jonathan's sons, (*were*) the priests, in the lineage of Dan, till into the day of their captivity.

³¹ And the idol of Micah dwelled with them, in all *[the]* time that the house of God was in Shiloh. *(And Micah's idol stayed with them, all the time that the House of God was in Shiloh.)*

CHAPTER 19

¹ In those days was no king in Israel. A man was a deacon, dwelling in the side of the hill of Ephraim, the which took a *(secondary)* wife of Bethlehem of Judah. *(In those days there was no king in Israel. And there was a man who was a Levite, living far back, or deep, in the hill country of Ephraim, who took a secondary wife, or a concubine, of Bethlehem in Judah.)*

² And she did fornication on him, and turned again into the house of her father in Bethlehem, and she dwelled at him four months. *(And she did fornication against him or And she was angry with him, and returned to her father's house in Bethlehem, and she stayed with him for four months.)*

³ And her husband followed her, and he would be reconciled to her, and to speak fair *with her*, and to lead *her* again with him; and he had in *his* company a servant, and twain asses, *(or And then her husband came to her, to be reconciled with her, and to speak kindly to her, and to bring her home again with him; and he had in his company a servant, and two donkeys).* And she received him, and brought him into her father's house; and when his wife's father had heard this, and saw him, he ran gladly to him, and embraced the man.

⁴ And the husband of the daughter dwelled in the house of his wife's father (*for*) three days, and ate and drank at home with him.

⁵ And the fourth day, the deacon rose by night, and would have gone forth; whom his wife's father held, and said to him, Taste thou first a little bread, and comfort thy stomach, and so thou shalt go forth. (*And on the fourth day, the Levite rose early, and desired to go home; but his wife's father took hold of him, and said to him, Eat thou first a little bread, and comfort thy stomach, and then thou shalt go forth.*)

⁶ And they sat together, and ate, and drank. And the father of the damsel said to his daughter's husband, I beseech thee, that thou dwell here today, (*or I beseech thee, that thou stay here today*), and that we be glad together.

⁷ And he rose, and began to desire to go; and nevertheless, his wife's father held him again meekly, and made him to dwell with him. (*And the Levite rose up, and desired to go; but his wife's father meekly held onto him again, and made him stay there with him.*)

⁸ And when the morrowtide was made, the deacon made him(*self*) ready to go (*on*) his way; to whom his wife's father said again, I beseech thee, that thou take a little meat, and make thee strong till the day increase, and afterward go thou forth. Then they ate together (*or And so they ate together again*).

⁹ And the young man rose to go forth with his wife, and with the servant; to whom the father of his wife spake again, Behold thou, that the day is

far forth gone toward the [sun] going down, and it nigheth to the eventide; dwell thou with me also today, and lead thou *with me* a glad day, and tomorrow thou shalt go forth, that thou go into thine house. (*And then the young man rose up to go forth with his concubine, and with his servant; but his wife's father spoke to him again, and said, See thou, that the day hath gone far toward the sun going down, and it nigheth to the evening; stay thou here with me also this night, and have thou a happy evening with me, and tomorrow thou shalt go forth, and go to thy house.*)

¹⁰ (But) The daughter's husband would not assent to his words; but he went forth anon (*or at once*), and came (*over*) against Jebus, which by another name is called Jerusalem; and he led with him two asses charged, and his [secondary] wife, (*or and he went with his two laden donkeys, and his concubine, and his servant*).

¹¹ And now they were beside Jebus, and the day was changed into night. And the servant said to his lord, Come thou, I beseech *thee*, bow we [down] to the city of Jebus, and dwell we therein, (*or let us turn in to the city of Jebus, and stay we there*).

¹² To whom his lord answered, I shall not enter into the city of an alien folk, which is not of the sons of Israel, but I shall pass forth into Gibeah; (*To whom his lord answered, I shall not go into the city of a foreign people, who be not Israelites, but I shall go forth to Gibeah;*)

¹³ and when I shall come thither, we shall dwell therein, or else in the city of Ramah.

14 Therefore they passed Jebus, and took the way begun. And the sun went down to them beside Gibeah, which is in the lineage of Benjamin, *(or And the sun went down on them when they reached Gibeah, which is in the tribe of Benjamin);*

15 and (so) they turned *(in)* to Gibeah, that they would dwell there. Whither when they had entered, they sat in the street of the city, and no man would receive them to harbour *(or but no one would give them any lodging).*

16 And lo! an eld man turned again from the field, and from his work in the eventide, and appeared to them, which also himself was of the hill of Ephraim, and he dwelled a pilgrim in Gibeah. And men of that country were of the sons of Benjamin. *(And behold! an old man returned from the field, from his work in the evening, and appeared before them, and he was also from the hill country of Ephraim, but now he lived in Gibeah. But men of that place were Benjaminites.)*

17 And when the eld man raised up his eyes, he saw a man sitting with his fardels in the street of the city; and he said to him, From whence comest thou? and whither goest thou?

18 Which answered to him, We went forth from Bethlehem of Judah, and we go to our place, which is in the side of the hill of Ephraim *(or which is deep in the hill country of Ephraim)*, from whence we went *(out)* to Bethlehem; and now we go to the house of God, and no man will receive us under his roof,

¹⁹ and we have provender and hay into meat of *our* asses, and bread and wine into mine uses, and of thine handmaid, and of the servant which is with me; we have no need to anything, but to harbour. (*and we have provender and hay for food for our donkeys, and bread and wine for my use, and for my concubine, and for the servant who is with me; yea, we have no need of anything, except lodging.*)

²⁰ To whom the eld man answered, Peace be with thee; I shall give (*thee*) all things, that be needful; only, I beseech, dwell thou not in the street, (*or only, I beseech thee, do not thou stay in the street.*)

²¹ And he brought him into his house, and gave meat to the asses; and after that they washed their feet, he received them into feast. (*And he brought them into his house, and gave him food for the donkeys; and after that they had washed their feet, he gave them dinner.*)

²² (*And*) While they ate, and refreshed their bodies with meat and drink after the travail of their way, men of that city came, the sons of Belial, *that is, (them) without (a) yoke*, and they compassed the old man's house (*or and they surrounded the old man's house*), and began to knock on the doors; and they cried to the lord of the house, and said, Lead out the man that entered into thine house, (*so*) that we (*can*) misuse him.

²³ And the eld man went out to them, and said, Do not ye, brethren, do not ye do this evil; for the man hath entered into mine harbour (*or for the*

man hath only entered into my house for lodging); and cease ye of this folly.

²⁴ I have a daughter (*who is a*) virgin, and this man hath a [*secondary*] wife; and I shall bring out them to you, that ye make low them, and fulfill your lust, (*or I have a daughter who is a virgin, and this man hath a concubine; and I shall bring them out to you, so that ye can make them low, and fulfill your lust*); only, I beseech you, that ye work not this cursedness against kind with this man.

²⁵ (*But*) They would not assent to his words; the which thing the man seeing, he led out his [*secondary*] wife to them, and he betook to them her to be defouled. And when they had misused her all night, they let go her in the morrowtide. (*But they would not assent to his words; and the Levite seeing that, he brought out his concubine to them, and he gave her over to them to be defiled. And when they had misused her all that night, they let her go in the morning.*)

²⁶ And when the darkneses of *night* departed, the woman came to the door of the house, where her lord dwelled, and there she felled down.

²⁷ And when the morrowtide was made, the man (*a*)rose, and opened the door, for to go forth (*on*) his journey; and lo! his [*secondary*] wife lay at the door, her hands spread abroad in the threshold, (*or and behold! his concubine lay at the door; with her hands spread abroad on the threshold*).

²⁸ And he guessed her to rest (*there*), and spake to her, (*and said*), Rise thou, and go we. And

when she answered nothing, he understood that she was dead; and he took her, and put on the ass, and turned again into his house, *(or and he took her, and put her on the donkey, and returned to his house).*

²⁹ And when he entered into that house, he took a sword, and parted into twelve parts and gobbets, the dead body of the *(secondary)* wife, *(together)[with her bones]*, and sent *(them)* into all the terms of Israel. *(And when he had entered into his house, he took a sword, or a knife, and cut the flesh and bones of the dead body of his concubine into twelve parts, or pieces, and then he sent them into all the corners of Israel.)*

³⁰ And when all men had heard this, they cried, Never such a thing was done in Israel, *(or And when all the people had heard of this, they cried, Such a thing was never done in Israel)*, from that day in which our fathers ascended from Egypt, till into *[the]* present time; say ye *(the)* sentence, and deem ye in common, what is needed to be done *(to avenge this horrible deed).*

CHAPTER 20

¹ Therefore all the sons of Israel went *[out]*, and were gathered together as one man, from Dan till to Beersheba, and *(also)* from the land of Gilead, to the Lord in Mizpeh *(or before the Lord at Mizpeh);*

² and all the corners of peoples, and all the lineages of Israel, came together into the church of the people of God, four hundred thousand of footmen fighters. *(and all the chief men of the*

people, of all the tribes of Israel, came together to a gathering of the people of God, yea, to four hundred thousand footmen who were ready to fight.)

³ And it was not hid from the sons of Benjamin, that the sons of Israel had gone up into Mizpeh.

⁴ And the deacon, *[the]* husband of the (*secondary*) wife *that was* slain, was asked, how so great felony was done; and he answered, I came with my (*secondary*) wife into Gibeah of Benjamin, and I turned thither. (*And the Levite, the husband of the concubine who was murdered, was asked, How was this great felony done? and he answered, I came with my concubine to Gibeah in Benjamin, and I turned in there.*)

⁵ And lo! *[the]* men of that city compassed in the night the house, in which I dwelled, (*or And behold! the men of that city surrounded the house where I stayed that night*), and they would slay me, and they travailed my (*secondary*) wife with unbelieveful madness of lechery; and at the last she was dead.

⁶ And I took, and cut her into gobbets, (*or And I took her, and I cut her into pieces*), and I sent those parts of her into all the terms of your possession; for so great (*a*) felony and so grievous (*a*) sin/and so great (*a*) sin was never done in Israel.

⁷ Now all ye sons of Israel (*who*) be present; deem ye, what ye ought to do.

⁸ And all the people stood, and answered as by the word of one man, (*and said*), We shall not go hence into our tabernacles (*or We shall not go*

back to our tents), neither any of us shall enter into his house;

⁹ but we shall do this thing in common against Gibeah.

¹⁰ Ten men be chosen of an hundred, of all the lineages of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand of ten thousand, that they bear meats to the host, and that we, fighting against Gibeah of Benjamin, may yield to it for the trespass that that it deserveth. *(Let ten men be chosen out of a hundred, out of all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to carry food for the army, and the rest of us, fighting against Gibeah in Benjamin, yield to them what they deserve for this trespass.)*

¹¹ And (so) all the people, as one man, came together to the city *(or came together against the city of Gibeah)*, by the same thought and (of) one counsel.

¹² And *(the sons of)* Israel sent messengers to all the lineage of Benjamin, and they said, Why so great felony is found in you? *(And the Israelites sent messengers to all the tribe of Benjamin, and they said, Why is so great a felony found among you?)*

¹³ Betake ye the men of Gibeah, that did this wickedness, that they die, and evil be done away from Israel. Which would not hear the commandment of their brethren, the sons of Israel, *(Deliver ye unto us the men of Gibeah, who did this wickedness, so that they can die, and that this evil be done away from Israel. But they would*

not listen to the command of their kinsmen, the Israelites,)

¹⁴ but men of all the cities, that were of the part of Benjamin, came together into Gibeah, to help them, and to fight against all the people of Israel.

¹⁵ And twenty-six thousand were found of Benjamin, of men drawing out sword, besides the dwellers of Gibeah, which were seven hundred strongest men, *(And there were twenty-six thousand Benjaminites, men drawing out the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who were seven hundred of the strongest men,)*

¹⁶ fighting so with the left hand as with the right hand, and casting so stones with slings at a certain thing, that they might smite also an hair, and the stroke of the stone should not be borne *[away]* into the tother part. *(fighting with their left hand like with their right hand, and throwing stones with slings with such certainty, that they could strike a hair; and yet the stroke of the stone would never be borne aside into some other place.)*

¹⁷ Also of the men of Israel, without the sons of Benjamin, were found four hundred thousand drawing out sword, and ready to battle. *(And the Israelites, without the Benjaminites, were four hundred thousand men drawing out swords, and ready for battle.)*

¹⁸ Which rose, and came into the house of God, that is in Shiloh; and they counselled with God, and said, Who shall be prince in our host of the battle against the sons of Benjamin? To whom the Lord answered, Judah be your duke. *(And they rose up, and came into the House of God,*

that was in Bethel; and they counselled with God, and said, Who should be the leader of our army in the battle against the Benjaminites? To whom the Lord answered, Judah should be your leader.)

¹⁹ And anon the sons of Israel rose early, and setted tents against Gibeah. *(And so early in the morning the Israelites rose up, and then pitched their tents opposite Gibeah.)*

²⁰ And from thence they went out to battle against Benjamin, and Israel began to fight against Gibeah.

²¹ And the sons of Benjamin went out of Gibeah, and killed of the sons of Israel in that day two and twenty thousand men.

²² And again *(the next day)*, the sons of Israel trusted in their own strength, and in *(the)* number of *(their)* people, and they dressed *[the]* battle array, in the same place in which they *(had)* fought before;

²³ so nevertheless that they went up before to the house~~(of God)~~, and they wept before the Lord unto *[the]* night, and they counselled with him, and said, Shall I go forth more to fight against the sons of Benjamin, my brethren, either nay? To whom he answered, Ascend ye to them, and begin ye the battle. *(for they had gone up the evening before to the House of God, and they had wept before the Lord into the night, and had counselled with him, and had said, Should we go forth again to fight against our kinsmen, the Benjaminites, or not? To whom he answered, Go ye up to them, and make ye the battle.)*

²⁴ And (so) when the sons of Israel had gone forth to battle in the tother day against Benjamin,

²⁵ the sons of Benjamin brake out from the gates of Gibeah, and came to *(the sons of)* Israel; *and the sons of Benjamin* were wild against Israel by so fierce slaying *(or and the Benjaminites were so wild against the Israelites with such fierce slaughter)*, that they threw down eighteen thousand men of Israel drawing out *(the)* sword.

²⁶ Wherefore all the sons of Israel came *(again)* into the house of God, and they sat, and wept before the Lord, and they fasted in that day unto the eventide; and they offered to the Lord burnt sacrifices, and peaceable sacrifices, *(or and they offered to the Lord burnt sacrifices, and peace offerings)*,

²⁷ and they asked *the Lord* of their state. In that time, the ark of the bond of peace of God was there, *(or For at that time, the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was there)*;

²⁸ and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, was sovereign of the *Lord's* house. Then they counselled *(with)* the Lord, and said, Shall we go out more to battle against the sons of Benjamin, our brethren, either shall we rest? To whom the Lord said, Go ye up against them, for tomorrow I shall betake *(the sons of)* Benjamin into your hands. *(and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, was the ruler of the Lord's House. And again they counselled with the Lord, and said, Should we go out again to do more battle against our kinsmen the Benjaminites, or should we cease? To whom the Lord said, Go*

ye up against them, for tomorrow I shall deliver the Benjaminites into your hands.)

²⁹ And the sons of Israel setted ambushments by compass of the city of Gibeah; *(And so the Israelites set men in ambush all around the city of Gibeah;)*

³⁰ and the third time, as once and twice before, they brought forth the host against *(the sons of)* Benjamin.

³¹ But also then the sons of Benjamin brake out from the city boldly, and they pursued further the adversaries fleeing, so that they wounded of Israel, as they did in the first day, and the second, and they killed by two paths Israel turning *(their)* backs; of the which paths one was straight out into Bethel, and the tother into Gibeah. And Benjamin threw down about thirty men *of Israel;* *(And then the Benjaminites broke out boldly from the city, and again they pursued their adversaries, and made them to flee; and they struck the Israelites, like they did on the first day, and on the second; and on two paths they killed the Israelites who had turned their backs to them; of the which paths one went straight out to Bethel, and the other into Gibeah. And so the Benjaminites threw down about thirty more men of Israel;)*

³² for they guessed to destroy Israel as they did before; and by craft, Israel took counsel, feigning them to flee, *(or but the Israelites had taken counsel, and by a carefully thought-out plan, feigned themselves to flee), (so)* that they should draw *(away the sons of)* Benjamin from the city,

and that they as fleeing should bring forth (*the sons of*) Benjamin to the foresaid paths.

³³ Therefore all the sons of Israel rose (*up out*) of their seats, and setted battle array in the place which is called Baaltamar. And the ambushments, that were about the city, began to open themselves little and little, and to go forth from the west part of the city. (*And so all the Israelites rose up out of their places, and made the battle array in the place which is called Baaltamar. And the men in ambush, who were all around the city, began to open themselves up little by little, and to go forth from the west part of the city.*)

³⁴ But also other ten thousand of men of all Israel excited the dwellers of the city to battles; and the battle was made grievous against the sons of Benjamin, and they understood not, that perishing nighed to them on each part. (*And another ten thousand Israelites attacked the inhabitants of the city; and the battle was made grievous, or very hard, against the Benjaminites, and they did not understand, that death nighed to them on every side.*)

³⁵ And the Lord smote Benjamin in the sight of the sons of Israel, and Israel killed of them in that day five and twenty thousand and an hundred men, and all these were warriors and men drawing out sword. (*And the Lord struck down the Benjaminites before the Israelites, and on that day the Israelites killed twenty-five thousand and a hundred men of them, and they were all warriors and men drawing out the sword.*)

³⁶ Soothly the sons of Benjamin began to flee, when they saw, that they were the lower. And the sons of Israel saw this, and gave to them place to flee, that they should come to the ambushments made ready, which they had set beside the city. *(And the Benjaminites began to flee, when they saw, that they were losing. And the Israelites saw this, and gave them a place to which to flee, so that they would come to the men who were waiting in ambush, that they had positioned outside the city.)*

³⁷ And when these ambushments had risen up suddenly from *[the]* hid places, and Benjamin gave *(their)* backs to the slayers, they entered into the city, and they smote it by sharpness of sword. *(And when those set in ambush had suddenly risen up from their hiding places, and the Benjaminites had given their backs to the killers, the Israelites entered into the city, and struck down the people with their sharp swords.)*

³⁸ Soothly the sons of Israel had given a sign to them which they had set in ambushments, that after that they had taken the city, they should kindle *(a)* fire, and that by smoke ascending on high, they should show the city *(to be)* taken. *(And the Israelites had arranged a sign, or a signal, from those whom they had set in ambush, which was that after they had taken the city, they would kindle a fire, and that by the smoke going up on high, they would show that the city had been taken.)*

³⁹ And when the sons of Israel set in that battle saw this; for the sons of Benjamin guessed

them to flee, and they followed busilier, when thirty men of their host were slain; *(And so the Israelites set in the battle saw this; but the Benjaminites guessed them to flee, and they followed them more busily, for they had already killed thirty Israelites;)*

⁴⁰ and they saw as a pillar of smoke go up from the city. And also Benjamin beholding behind, when he saw his city taken, and the flames be borne on high, *(yea, the Israelites saw the pillar of smoke go up from the city. And then the Benjaminites looking behind, also saw that their city had been taken, and the flames of it to be borne up on high.)*

⁴¹ they that feigned to flee before, turned their face to Benjamin, and more strongly withstood him. And when the sons of Benjamin had seen this thing, *(And then they who had feigned to flee before, now turned their faces to the Benjaminites or now turned to face the Benjaminites, and strongly stood against them. And when the Benjaminites had seen this,)*

⁴² they were turned into flight, and they began to go to the way of desert; while also adversaries pursued them there; but also they, that had burnt the city, came against them. *(they turned to flight, yea, to run away, and they started on the way to the wilderness; but their adversaries pursued them there; and then also they, who had burned down the city, came out against them.)*

⁴³ And so it was done, that Benjamin was slain of enemies on each part, neither there was any rest of men dying; and they felled, and were

cast down at the east coast of the city of Gibeah. *(And so it was done, that the Benjaminites were killed by their enemies on every side, nor was there any ceasing of men dying; and they fell, and were thrown down on the east side of the city of Gibeah.)*

⁴⁴ Forsooth they *(of Benjamin)*, that were slain in the same place, were eighteen thousand of men, all strongest fighters. *(And the Benjaminites, who were killed at that place, were eighteen thousand, very strong fighting men.)*

⁴⁵ And when they that *(were)* left alive of Benjamin had seen this, they fled into *(the)* wilderness, and they went to the stone, whose name is Rimmon, *(or and they went to the Rock of Rimmon)*. And in that flight *the sons of Israel* went openly *after (them)*, into diverse places *(unto Gidom)*, and they killed of them five thousand men; and when *(the sons of)* Benjamin fled further, they pursued them, and killed also of them *(an)*other two thousand men.

⁴⁶ And so it was done, that all that felled down of *(the sons of)* Benjamin in diverse places, were five and twenty thousand, fighters most ready to battles. *(And so it was done, that all of the Benjaminites who fell down in diverse places that day, were twenty-five thousand fighting men, all ready for battle.)*

⁴⁷ And so six hundred men *(were)* left of all the number of Benjamin, that might escape, and flee into wilderness; and they sat in the stone of Rimmon four months. *(And so only six hundred men escaped, and were left alive, of all the number*

of Benjamin, and they fled into the wilderness; and they sat at the Rock of Rimmon for four months.)

⁴⁸ And the sons of Israel went out, and they smote with sword all the remnants of the city, from men unto work beasts; and *(then)* devouring flame wasted all the cities and *(the)* towns of Benjamin.

CHAPTER 21

¹ Also the sons of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, and said, None of us shall give to the sons of Benjamin a wife of his daughters. *(At Mizpeh the Israelites had sworn, and said, None of us shall give any of his daughters for a wife to the Benjaminites.)*

² And all came to the house of God in Shiloh, and they sat in the sight of him till to eventide, and they raised their voice, and began to weep with great yelling, *(And now when they all came to Bethel in the presence of God, they sat before him until the evening, and they raised up their voices, and began to weep with great yelling,)*

³ and said, Lord God of Israel, why is this evil done in thy people, that today one lineage be taken away of us? *(and they said, Lord God of Israel, why is this evil done among thy people, that today one tribe was taken away from us?)*

⁴ Soothly in the tother day they rised early, and builded an altar, and offered there burnt sacrifices and peaceable sacrifices, *(And the next day they rose up early, and built an altar there, and offered burnt sacrifices, and peace offerings,)*

⁵ and said, Who of all the lineages of Israel went not up into the host of the Lord? For when they were in Mizpeh, they had bound themselves with a full great oath, that they that failed (*to go up*)thence should be (*made*) dead. (*and they said, Who out of all the tribes of Israel did not go up to the gathering unto the Lord? For when they were in Mizpeh, they had bound themselves with a very great, or a very solemn, oath, that anyone who failed to go up there should be put to death.*)

⁶ And the sons of Israel were led by penance on their brother Benjamin, and began to say, One lineage of Israel is taken away; (*And the Israelites felt great remorse,or regret, over their kinsmen the Benjaminites, and said again, Today one of Israel's tribes was taken from us;*)

⁷ whereof shall they take wives? certainly all we have sworn in common, that we shall not give our daughters to them. (*where shall they get wives? for we have all sworn in common, that we shall not give any of our daughters to them.*)

⁸ Then they said, Who is it of all the lineages of Israel, that went not up to the Lord in Mizpeh? And lo! the dwellers of Jabesh of Gilead were found, that they were not in that host. (*And again they said, Who is it out of all of Israel's tribes, who did not go up unto the Lord at Mizpeh? And behold! the inhabitants of Jabesh of Gilead were found, that they had not been in that gathering.*)

⁹ Also in that time, when they were in Shiloh, none of them was found there. (*And there at Bethel, when the men were numbered, or were*

listed, none of the sons of Jabesh of Gilead was found to be there.)

¹⁰ Therefore they sent ten thousand *(of the)* strongest men, and commanded to them, Go ye, and smite the dwellers of Jabesh of Gilead by the sharpness of sword, as well the wives as the little children of them. *(And so they sent twelve thousand of their strongest men, and commanded to them, Go ye, and strike down the people of Jabesh of Gilead with thy sharp swords, and their wives as well as their little children.)*

¹¹ And this thing shall be to you, that ye shall keep; slay ye all of male kind, and the women that have known men fleshly; reserve ye the virgins/but keep ye the maidens. *(And this word shall be to you, that ye shall obey; kill ye all the males, and the women who have fleshly known men; but reserve ye the virgins or but keep ye the maidens.)*

¹² And four hundred virgins, that knew not the bed of *(a)* man, were found *(among the people)* of Jabesh of Gilead; and they brought them to the tents in Shiloh, into the land of Canaan.

¹³ And Israel sent messengers to the sons of Benjamin, that were in the stone of Rimmon; and they commanded to them, that they should receive those women in peace. *(And then the Israelites sent messengers to the Benjaminites, who were at the Rock of Rimmon; and they agreed to make peace.)*

¹⁴ And the sons of Benjamin came *(back)* in that time, and the daughters of Jabesh of Gilead were given to them to wives; for they found none other

women, which they should give *to them* in like manner. *(And then the Benjaminites came back, and the daughters of Jabesh of Gilead were given to them for wives; but they found no other women, whom they could give to them in like manner.)*

¹⁵ And all Israel sorrowed greatly, and did penance on the slaying of one lineage of Israel. *(And all Israel greatly sorrowed, and had great remorse, or regret, over the killing of one of the tribes of Israel.)*

¹⁶ And the greater men in birth said, What shall we do to the other men, that have not taken wives? All the women in the lineage of Benjamin have fallen down, *(And the men of great age, that is, the elders, said, What shall we do for the other men who have not received wives? For all the women in the tribe of Benjamin have been killed.)*

¹⁷ and it is to us to purvey with great care and great study, that one lineage be not done away from Israel. *(and it is for us to find a way, so that one tribe be not done away from Israel.)*

¹⁸ We may not give our daughters to them, for we be bound with an oath and cursing, by which we said, Be he cursed that giveth of his daughters *(for)* a wife to Benjamin.

¹⁹ And they took counsel, and said, Lo! the solemnity of the Lord is in Shiloh, *(after)* the year's turning about, that is set at the north coast of the city of Bethel, and at the east coast of the way that goeth from Bethel to Shechem, and at the south of the city of Lebonah. *(And they took counsel, and said, Behold! the Feast of the Lord shall soon be in Shiloh, after the year's turning*

about, yea, that city which is north of the city of Bethel, and to the east on the way that goeth from Bethel to Shechem, and to the south of the city of Lebonah.)

²⁰ And they commanded to the sons of Benjamin, and said, Go ye, and be ye hid in *[the]* vineries; *(And they commanded to the Benjaminites, and said, Go ye, and be ye hid there in the vineyards;)*

²¹ and when ye see *[the]* daughters of Shiloh go forth by custom to lead dances, go ye out of the vineries suddenly, and ravish ye them, each man one wife, and go ye into the land of Benjamin. *(and when ye see the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance, quickly go ye out of the vineyards, and seize ye them, each man one wife, and then go ye back to the land of Benjamin.)*

²² And when the fathers and brethren of them shall come, and begin to complain and plead against you, we shall say to them, Have ye mercy of them; for we took not from a man his wife in battle, neither ye gave *(them)* to them, *(so)* why ye shall be blamed in time. *(And when their fathers and their brothers shall come to you, and begin to complain and plead against you, ye shall say to them, Have ye mercy on us; for we did not take a wife from any man in battle, nor did ye give them to us, and so ye shall not be blamed for breaking the oath.)*

²³ And the sons of Benjamin did as it was commanded to them, and by their number they ravished wives to them, each man one wife, of them that led *(the)* dances. And they went into

their possession, and builded cities, and dwelled in those. *(And the Benjaminites did as it was commanded to them, and by their number they seized wives for themselves, each man one wife, out of those who led the dances. And then they went back to their possessions, and builded cities, and lived in them.)*

²⁴ And the sons of Israel turned again, by their lineages and families, into their tabernacles. *(And the Israelites returned, by their tribes and families, to their inheritances, or their possessions.)*

²⁵ In those days was no king in Israel, but each man did that thing, that seemed rightful to himself. *(In those days there was no king in Israel, but each person did what seemed right to himself.)*

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