

The Book of Judges

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25 Tishrei, 5787

Judges 1

שׁוֹפְטִים א

¹ AND IT came to pass after the death of Joshua, that the children of Israel asked HaShem, saying: 'Who shall go up for us first against the Canaanites, to fight against them?' ² And HaShem said: 'Judah shall go up; behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.' ³ And Judah said unto Simeon his brother: 'Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot.' So Simeon went with him. ⁴ And Judah went up; and HaShem delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they smote of them in Bezek ten thousand men. ⁵ And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek; and they fought against him, and they smote the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶ But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes. ⁷ And Adoni-bezek said: 'Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered food under my table; as I have done, so G-d hath requited me.' And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there. ⁸ And the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire. ⁹ And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites that dwelt in the hill-country, and in the South, and in the Lowland. ¹⁰ And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron — now the name of Hebron beforetime was Kiriath-arba — and they smote Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi. ¹¹ And from thence he went against the inhabitants of Debir — now the name of Debir beforetime was Kiriath-sepher. ¹² And Caleb said: 'He that smiteth Kiriath-sepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.' ¹³ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. ¹⁴ And it came to pass, when she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field; and she alighted from off her ass; and Caleb said unto her: 'What wouldest thou?' ¹⁵ And she said unto him: 'Give me a blessing; for that thou hast set me in the Southland, give me therefore springs of water.' And Caleb gave her the Upper Springs and the Nether Springs. ¹⁶ And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up out of the city of palm-trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which is in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt with the people. ¹⁷ And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they smote the Canaanites that inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah. ¹⁸ Also Judah took Gaza with the border thereof, and Ashkelon with the border thereof, and Ekron with the border thereof. ¹⁹ And HaShem was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the hill-country; for he could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. ²⁰ And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses had spoken; and he drove out thence the three sons of Anak. ²¹ And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwelt with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem, unto this day. ²² And the house of Joseph, they also went up against Beth-el; and HaShem was with them. ²³ And the house of Joseph sent to spy out Beth-el — now the name of the city beforetime was Luz. ²⁴ And the watchers saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said unto him: 'Show us, we pray thee, the entrance into the city, and we will deal kindly with thee.' ²⁵ And he showed them the entrance into the city, and they smote the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man go and all his family. ²⁶ And the man went into the land of the Hittites, and built a city, and called the name thereof Luz, which is the name thereof unto this day. ²⁷ And Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its towns, nor of Taanach and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns; but the Canaanites were resolved to dwell in that land. ²⁸ And it came to pass, when Israel was waxen strong, that they put the Canaanites to task-work, but did in no wise drive them out. ²⁹ And Ephraim drove not out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. ³⁰ Zebulun drove not out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributary. ³¹ Asher drove not out the inhabitants of Acco, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob; ³² but the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. ³³ Naphtali drove not out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-anath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became tributary unto them. ³⁴ And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the hill-country; for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley. ³⁵ But the Amorites were resolved to dwell in Harheres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributary. ³⁶ And the border of the Amorites was from the ascent of Akkrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

¹ וַיְהִי, אַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, וַיִּשְׁאָלוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּיהוָה לֵאמֹר: מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ אֶל-הַכְּנַעֲנִי בַתְּחִלָּה, לְהִלָּחֶם בּוֹ. ² וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה: הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, בְּיָדוֹ. ³ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְשִׁמְעוֹן אֲחִיו עֲלֶה אִתִּי בַגָּרִל, וְנִלְחָמָה בַּכְּנַעֲנִי, וְהִלַּכְתִּי גַם-אֲנִי אִתָּךְ, בַּגּוֹרָלְךָ; וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ, שִׁמְעוֹן. ⁴ וַיַּעַל יְהוּדָה, וַיִּמָּן יְהוָה אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי בְיָדָם; וַיַּכּוּם בְּבֶזֶק, עַשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ. ⁵ וַיִּמָּצְאוּ אֶת-אֲדֹנִי בְּבֶזֶק, בְּבֶזֶק, וַיִּלְחָמוּ, בּוֹ; וַיַּכּוּ, אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְאֶת-הַפְּרִזִּי. ⁶ וַיִּגְסוּ אֲדֹנִי בְּזָק, וַיִּרְדְּפוּ אַחֲרָיו; וַיֹּאחֲזוּ אוֹתוֹ--וַיִּקְצְצוּ, אֶת-בְּהֵמוֹת יָדָיו ורגליו. ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנִי בְּזָק, שְׂבָעִים מִלְכִּים בַּהֲנוֹת יָדֵיהֶם ורגלֵיהֶם מְקַצְצִים הָיוּ מִלְקָטִים תַּחַת שְׁלֹחֲנִי--כְּאִשֶּׁר עָשִׂיתִי, כִּן שָׁלַם-לִי אֱלֹהִים; וַיָּבִיאוּהוּ וּרְשָׁלָם, וַיִּמָּת שָׁם. ⁸ וַיִּלְחָמוּ בְנֵי-יְהוּדָה, בִּירוּשָׁלַם, וַיִּלְכְּדוּ אוֹתָהּ, וַיַּכּוּהָ לְפִי-חֶרֶב; וְאֶת-הָעִיר, שָׁלְחוּ כְּאֵשׁ. ⁹ וְאַחֵר, יָרְדּוּ בְנֵי יְהוּדָה, לְהִלָּחֶם, בַּכְּנַעֲנִי--וַיּוֹשֶׁב הָהָר, וְהַגִּבְעָה וְהַשְׁפֵּלָה. ¹⁰ וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוּדָה, אֶל-הַכְּנַעֲנִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּחֶבְרוֹן, וְשֵׁם-חֶבְרוֹן לְפָנִים, קְרִית אַרְבַּע; וַיַּכּוּ אֶת-שֵׁשִׁי וְאֶת-אֲחִימָן, וְאֶת-תִּלְמִי. ¹¹ וַיֵּלֶךְ מִשָּׁם, אֶל-יּוֹשְׁבֵי דְבִיר, וְשֵׁם-דְּבִיר לְפָנִים, קְרִית-סֹפֶר. ¹² וַיֹּאמֶר כָּלֵב, אֲשֶׁר-יָכָה אֶת-קְרִית-סֹפֶר וַיִּלְכְּדָהּ--וְנָתַתִּי לוֹ אֶת-עַכְסָה בְּתִי, לְאִשָּׁה. ¹³ וַיִּלְכְּדָה עֲתַנִּיאל בֶּן-קַנְזַן, אֶחָי כָּלֵב הַקַּטָּן מִמֶּנּוּ; וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ אֶת-עַכְסָה בְּתוּ, לְאִשָּׁה. ¹⁴ וַיְהִי בְּבוֹאָהּ, וַתְּסִיתֶהוּ לִשְׂאֵל מֵאֵת-אֲבִיהָ הַשָּׂדֶה, וַתַּצְנֶת, מֵעַל הַחֲמוֹר; וַיֹּאמֶר-לָהּ כָּלֵב, מַה-לָּךְ. ¹⁵ וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִבֵּה-לִי בְרֶכָה, כִּי אֶרֶץ הַגִּבְעָה נָתַתָּנִי, וְנָתַתָּה לִּי, גִּלְתַּי מִיָּם; וַיִּתֵּן-לָהּ כָּלֵב, אֶת גִּלְתַּי עֲלִית, וְאֶת גִּלְתַּי תַּחְתִּית. ¹⁶ וַיִּבְנֶי קִינִי חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה עֶלְיוֹ מֵעִיר הַתְּמָרִים, אֶת-בְּנֵי יְהוּדָה, מְדָבֵר יְהוּדָה, אֲשֶׁר בְּגִבְעַת עֲרָד; וַיֵּלֶךְ, וַיִּשָּׁב אֶת-הָעָם. ¹⁷ וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוּדָה, אֶת-שִׁמְעוֹן אֲחִיו, וַיַּכּוּ, אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי יוֹשֵׁב צֶפֶת; וַיַּחֲרִימוּ אוֹתָהּ, וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שֵׁם-הָעִיר חֶרְמָה. ¹⁸ וַיִּלְכְּד יְהוּדָה אֶת-עֵזָה וְאֶת-גְּבוּלָה, וְאֶת-אֲשַׁקְלוֹן וְאֶת-גְּבוּלָה, וְאֶת-עַקְרוֹן, וְאֶת-גְּבוּלָה. ¹⁹ וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת-יְהוּדָה, וַיִּרַשׁ אֶת-הָהָר: כִּי לֹא לְהוֹרִישׁ אֶת-יֹשְׁבֵי הָעֵמֶק, כִּי-רָכַב בְּרִזָּל לָהֶם. ²⁰ וַיִּתְּנוּ לְכָלֵב אֶת-חֶבְרוֹן, כְּאִשֶּׁר דָּבָר מֹשֶׁה; וַיּוֹרֶשׁ מִשָּׁם, אֶת-שְׁלֹשָׁה בְנֵי הָעֵנָק. ²¹ וְאֶת-הַיְבוּסִי יֹשֵׁב בִּירוּשָׁלַם, לֹא הוֹרִישׁוּ בְנֵי בְנִימִן; וַיּוֹשֶׁב הַיְבוּסִי אֶת-בְּנֵי בְנִימִן, בִּירוּשָׁלַם, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. ²² וַיַּעֲלוּ בֵּית-יוֹסֵף גַּם-הֵם, בֵּית-אֵל; וַיְהוָה, עִמָּם. ²³ וַתִּירֶדוּ בֵּית-יוֹסֵף, בְּבֵית-אֵל; וְשֵׁם-הָעִיר לְפָנִים, לִוִּז. ²⁴ וַיִּרְאוּ הַשְּׂמָרִים, אִישׁ, יוֹצֵא מִן-הָעִיר; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ, הֲרֹאנוּ נָא אֶת-מִבּוֹא הָעִיר, וְעַשְׂיָנוּ עִמָּךְ, חֶסֶד. ²⁵ וַיִּרְאֵם אֶת-מִבּוֹא הָעִיר, וַיַּכּוּ אֶת-הָעִיר לְפִי-חֶרֶב; וְאֶת-הָאִישׁ וְאֶת-כָּל-מִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ, שָׁלְחוּ. ²⁶ וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ, אֶרֶץ הַחֲתִים; וַיָּבֶן עִיר, וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמָהּ לִוִּז--הוּא שְׁמָהּ, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. ²⁷ וְלֹא-הוֹרִישׁ מִנְּשָׁה, אֶת-בֵּית-שָׁאֵן וְאֶת-בְּנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת-תַּעֲנָנָה וְאֶת-בְּנוֹתֶיהָ, וְאֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי דוֹר וְאֶת-בְּנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי יְבִלְעָם וְאֶת-בְּנוֹתֶיהָ, וְאֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי מִגְדוֹ וְאֶת-בְּנוֹתֶיהָ; וַיּוֹאֵל, הַכְּנַעֲנִי, לְשִׁבְתָּ, בְּאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת. ²⁸ וַיְהִי כִּי-חִזַּק יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּשָּׁם אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי לְמָס; וְהוֹרִישׁ, לֹא הוֹרִישׁוּ. ²⁹ וְאֶפְרַיִם לֹא הוֹרִישׁ, אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּגִזָּר; וַיּוֹשֶׁב הַכְּנַעֲנִי בְּקַרְבּוֹ, בְּגִזָּר. ³⁰ וְזִבּוֹלָן, לֹא הוֹרִישׁ אֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי קֶטְרוֹן, וְאֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי, נְהַלָּל; וַיּוֹשֶׁב הַכְּנַעֲנִי בְּקַרְבּוֹ, וַיְהִיוּ לְמָס. ³¹ אֲשֶׁר, לֹא הוֹרִישׁ אֶת-יֹשְׁבֵי עֶבֶן, וְאֶת-יּוֹשְׁבֵי, צִידוֹן; וְאֶת-אֲחֻלָּב וְאֶת-אֲכִזִּיב וְאֶת-חִלְבָּה, וְאֶת-אֶפְיָק וְאֶת-רַחֲב. ³² וַיִּשָּׁב, הָאֲשִׁרִי, בְּקֶרֶב הַכְּנַעֲנִי, יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ: כִּי, לֹא הוֹרִישׁוּ. ³³ נַפְתָּלִי, לֹא-הוֹרִישׁ אֶת-יֹשְׁבֵי בֵּית-שֶׁמֶשׁ וְאֶת-יֹשְׁבֵי בֵּית-עֲנָת, וַיִּשָּׁב, בְּקֶרֶב הַכְּנַעֲנִי יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ; וַיִּשָּׁב בֵּית-שֶׁמֶשׁ וּבֵית עֲנָת, הָיוּ לָהֶם לְמָס. ³⁴ וַיִּלְחָצוּ הָאֲמֹרִי אֶת-בְּנֵי-דָן, הָהָרָה: כִּי-לֹא נָתְנוּ, לָרֶדֶת לַעֲמֻקָּה. ³⁵ וַיּוֹאֵל הָאֲמֹרִי לְשִׁבְתָּ בְּהַר-חֶרֶס, בְּאִילוֹן וּבְשַׁעֲלָבִים; וַתַּכְּבֵּד יַד בֵּית-יוֹסֵף, וַיְהִיוּ לְמָס. ³⁶ וּגְבוּל, הָאֲמֹרִי, מִמִּצְרָה, עַקְרָבִים--מִהַסְּלֵעַ, וְמִצְרָה.

¹ And the angel of HaShem came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said: '... I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said: I will never break My covenant with you; ² and ye shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall break down their altars; but ye have not hearkened unto My voice; what is this ye have done? ³ Wherefore I also said: I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be unto you as snares, and their gods shall be a trap unto you.' ⁴ And it came to pass, when the angel of HaShem spoke these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there unto HaShem. ⁶ Now when Joshua had sent the people away, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. ⁷ And the people served HaShem all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of HaShem, that He had wrought for Israel. ⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of HaShem, died, being a hundred and ten years old. ⁹ And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill-country of Ephraim, on the north of the mountain of Gaash. ¹⁰ And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers; and there arose another generation after them, that knew not HaShem, nor yet the work which He had wrought for Israel. ¹¹ And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem, and served the Baalim. ¹² And they forsook HaShem, the G-d of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the peoples that were round about them, and worshipped them; and they provoked HaShem. ¹³ And they forsook HaShem, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ And the anger of HaShem was kindled against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and He gave them over into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. ¹⁵ Whithersoever they went out, the hand of HaShem was against them for evil, as HaShem had spoken, and as HaShem had sworn unto them; and they were sore distressed. ¹⁶ And HaShem raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. ¹⁷ And yet they hearkened not unto their judges, for they went astray after other gods, and worshipped them; they turned aside quickly out of the way wherein their fathers walked, obeying the commandments of HaShem; they did not so. ¹⁸ And when HaShem raised them up judges, then HaShem was with the judge, and saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for it repented HaShem because of their groaning by reason of them that oppressed them and crushed them. ¹⁹ But it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they turned back, and dealt more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to worship them; they left nothing undone of their practices, nor of their stubborn way. ²⁰ And the anger of HaShem was kindled against Israel; and He said: 'Because this nation have transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto My voice; ²¹ I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations that Joshua left when he died; ²² that by them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of HaShem to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.' ²³ So HaShem left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered He them into the hand of Joshua.

¹ וַיַּעַל מִלֶּאדֹ-יְהוָה מִן-הַגִּלְגָּל, אֶל-הַבְּכִים; וַיֹּאמֶר אֲעֲלֶה אֶתְכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְאָבִיא אֶתְכֶם אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם, וְאָמַר, לֹא-אֶפְרָ בְרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם לְעוֹלָם. ² וְאַתֶּם, לֹא-תִכְרְתוּ בְרִית לְיוֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת--מִזְבַּחֹתֵיהֶם, תִּתְצוּן; וְלֹא-שִׁמְעֶתֶם בְּקוֹלִי, מֵהַזֹּאת עֲשִׂיתֶם. ³ וְגַם אִמְרֹתִי, לֹא-אֶגְרֹשׁ אוֹתָם מִפְּנֵיכֶם; וְהָיוּ לָכֶם, לְצָדִים, וְאֱלֹהֵיהֶם, יִהְיוּ לָכֶם לְמוֹקֵשׁ. ⁴ וַיְהִי, כְּדַבֵּר מִלֶּאדֹ-יְהוָה אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֶל-כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּשְׁאוּ הָעָם אֶת-קוֹלָם, וַיִּבְכּוּ. ⁵ וַיִּקְרְאוּ שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא, בְּכִים; וַיִּזְבְּחוּ-שָׁם, לַיהוָה. ⁶ וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, אֶת-הָעָם; וַיֵּלְכוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ לַנֶּחֱלָתוֹ, לְרִשְׁתָּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ. ⁷ וַיַּעֲבְדוּ הָעָם אֶת-יְהוָה, כָּל יְמֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ; וְכָל יְמֵי הַזִּקְנִים, אֲשֶׁר הָעָרִיכוּ יָמִים אַחֲרֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ אֶת כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה הַגָּדוֹל, אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁸ וַיָּמָת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נוּן, עַבְדַּי יְהוָה, בֶּן-מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִי שָׁנִים. ⁹ וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אוֹתוֹ בְּגִבּוֹל נֶחֱלָתוֹ, בְּתִמְנַת-חָרֹס בְּהַר אֶפְרַיִם, מִצְפּוֹן, לְהַר-גִּעְשׁ. ¹⁰ וְגַם כָּל-הַדּוֹר הַהוּא, נֶאֱסָפוּ אֶל-אֲבוֹתָיו; וַיָּקָם דּוֹר אַחֵר אַחֲרֵיהֶם, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדְעוּ אֶת-יְהוָה, וְגַם אֶת-הַמַּעֲשֵׂה, אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל. ¹¹ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הָרַע, בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה; וַיַּעֲבְדוּ, אֶת-הַבַּעַלִּים. ¹² וַיַּעֲזְבוּ אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתָם, הַמוֹצִיא אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וַיֵּלְכוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים מֵאֱלֹהֵי הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבוֹתֵיהֶם, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לָהֶם; וַיִּכְעֲסוּ, אֶת-יְהוָה. ¹³ וַיַּעֲזְבוּ, אֶת-יְהוָה; וַיַּעֲבְדוּ לַבַּעַל, וְלַעֲשָׁתְרוֹת. ¹⁴ וַיַּחֲר-אָף יְהוָה, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּתְּנֵם בְּיַד-שָׁסִים, וַיִּשְׁסוּ אוֹתָם; וַיִּמְכְּרֵם בְּיַד אוֹיְבֵיהֶם, מִסְּבִיב, וְלֹא-יָכְלוּ עוֹד, לַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי אוֹיְבֵיהֶם. ¹⁵ כָּל אֲשֶׁר יֵצְאוּ, יַד-יְהוָה הִיתָה-בָּם לְרָעָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבָר יְהוָה, וְכַאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לָהֶם; וַיֵּצֵר לָהֶם, מָאֵד. ¹⁶ וַיָּקָם יְהוָה, שְׁפָטִים; וַיּוֹשִׁיעוּם, מִיַּד שָׁסִיִּהֶם. ¹⁷ וְגַם אֶל-שְׁפָטֵיהֶם, לֹא שָׁמְעוּ--כִּי זָנוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לָהֶם: סָרוּ מֵהָר, מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָלְכוּ אֲבוֹתָם לִשְׁמֹעַ מִצְוֹת-יְהוָה--לֹא-עָשׂוּ כֵן. ¹⁸ וְכִי-הָקִים יְהוָה לָהֶם, שְׁפָטִים, וְהָיָה יְהוָה עִם-הַשֹּׁפֵט, וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם מִיַּד אוֹיְבֵיהֶם כָּל יְמֵי הַשּׁוֹפֵט: כִּי-יָנַח יְהוָה מִנֶּאֱקָתָם, מִפְּנֵי לַחֲצִיָּהֶם וּדְחָקֵיהֶם. ¹⁹ וְהָיָה בָמוֹת הַשּׁוֹפֵט, יָשְׁבוּ וְהִשְׁחִיתוּ מֵאֲבוֹתָם, לְלָקֵת אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים, לַעֲבָדָם וּלְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לָהֶם: לֹא הִפִּילוּ מִמַּעַלְלֵיהֶם, וּמִדְּרָכָם הַקָּשָׁה. ²⁰ וַיַּחֲר-אָף יְהוָה, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיֹּאמֶר, יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָבְרוּ הַגּוֹי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי אֶת-אֲבוֹתָם, וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ, לְקוֹלִי. ²¹ גַּם-אֲנִי לֹא אוֹסִיף, לְהוֹרִישׁ אִישׁ מִפְּנֵיהֶם, מִן-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר-עֹזֵב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, וַיָּמָת. ²² לְמַעַן נִסּוֹת בָּם, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל: הֲשִׁמְרִים הֵם אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ יְהוָה לְלָקֵת בָּם, כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמְרוּ אֲבוֹתָם--אִם-לֹא. ²³ וַיָּנַח יְהוָה אֶת-הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה, לְבִלְתִּי הוֹרִישָׁם מֵהָר; וְלֹא נִתְּנָם, בְּיַד-יְהוֹשֻׁעַ.

¹ Now these are the nations which HaShem left, to prove Israel by them, even as many as had not known all the wars of Canaan; ² only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as beforetime knew nothing thereof; ³ namely, the five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Zidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baal-hermon unto the entrance of Hamath. ⁴ And they were there, to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of HaShem, which He commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵ And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites; ⁶ and they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods. ⁷ And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem, and forgot HaShem their G-d, and served the Baalim and the Asheroth. ⁸ Therefore the anger of HaShem was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram-naharaim; and the children of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. ⁹ And when the children of Israel cried unto HaShem, HaShem raised up a saviour to the children of Israel, who saved them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. ¹⁰ And the spirit of HaShem came upon him, and he judged Israel; and he went out to war, and HaShem delivered Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Cushan-rishathaim. ¹¹ And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died. ¹² And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem; and HaShem strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done that which was evil in the sight of HaShem. ¹³ And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek; and he went and smote Israel, and they possessed the city of palm-trees. ¹⁴ And the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. ¹⁵ But when the children of Israel cried unto HaShem, HaShem raised them up a saviour, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a man left-handed; and the children of Israel sent a present by him unto Eglon the king of Moab. ¹⁶ And Ehud made him a sword which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he girded it under his raiment upon his right thigh. ¹⁷ And he offered the present unto Eglon king of Moab — now Eglon was a very fat man. ¹⁸ And when he had made an end of offering the present, he sent away the people that bore the present. ¹⁹ But he himself turned back from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said: 'I have a secret errand unto thee, O king.' And he said: 'Keep silence.' And all that stood by him went out from him. ²⁰ And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting by himself alone in his cool upper chamber. And Ehud said: 'I have a message from G-d unto thee.' And he arose out of his seat. ²¹ And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. ²² And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, for he drew not the sword out of his belly; and it came out behind. ²³ Then Ehud went forth into the porch, and shut the doors of the upper chamber upon him, and locked them. ²⁴ Now when he was gone out, his servants came; and they saw, and, behold, the doors of the upper chamber were locked; and they said: 'Surely he is covering his feet in the cabinet of the cool chamber.' ²⁵ And they tarried till they were ashamed; and, behold, he opened not the doors of the upper chamber; therefore they took the key, and opened them; and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth. ²⁶ And Ehud escaped while they lingered, having passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirah. ²⁷ And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a horn in the hill-country of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the hill-country, and he before them. ²⁸ And he said unto them: 'Follow after me; for HaShem hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand.' And they went down after him, and took the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites, and suffered not a man to pass over. ²⁹ And they smote of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, every lusty man, and every man of valour; and there escaped not a man. ³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years. ³¹ And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who smote of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox-goad; and he also saved Israel.

¹ ואלה הגוים אשר הניח יהוה, לנסות בם את-ישראל, את כל-אשר לא-ידעו, את כל-מלחמות כנען. ² רק, למען דעת דורות בני-ישראל, ללמדם, מלחמה--רק אשר-לפנים, לא ידעום. ³ חמשת סרני פלשתים, וכל-הכנעני והצידני, והחוי, ישב הר הזבנון--מהר בעל חרמון, עד לבוא חמת. ⁴ ויהיו, לנסות בם את-ישראל--לדעת, הישמעו את-מצות יהוה, אשר-צוה את-אבותם, ביד-משעה. ⁵ ובני ישראל, ישבו בקרב הכנעני, החתי והאמרי והפרזי, והחוי והיבوسی. ⁶ וינחוו את-בנותיהם להם לנשים, ואת-בנותיהם נתנו לבניהם; ויעבדו, את-אלהיהם. ⁷ ויעשו בני-ישראל את-הרע בעיני יהוה, וישכחו את-יהוה אלהיהם; ויעבדו את-הבועלים, ואת-האשרות. ⁸ ויחר-אף יהוה, בישראל, וימכרם ביד פושן רשעתים, מלך ארם נהרים; ויעבדו בני-ישראל את-כושן רשעתים, שמנה שנים. ⁹ ויזעקו בני-ישראל אל-יהוה, ויקם יהוה מושיע לבני ישראל וישיעם--את עתניאל בן-קנז, אחי כלב הקטן ממנו. ¹⁰ ותהי עליו רוח-יהוה, וישפט את-ישראל, ויצא למלחמה, וימן יהוה בידו את-כושן רשעתים מלך ארם; ותעז ידו, על כושן רשעתים. ¹¹ ותשקט הארץ, ארבעים שנה; וימת, עתניאל בן-קנז. ¹² ויספו בני ישראל, לעשות הרע בעיני יהוה; ויחזק יהוה את-עגלון מלך-מואב, על-ישראל, על כי-עשו את-הרע, בעיני יהוה. ¹³ ויאסף אליו, את-בני עמון ועמלק; ויך את-ישראל, ויירשו, את-עיר התמרים. ¹⁴ ויעבדו בני-ישראל את-עגלון מלך-מואב, שמונה עשרה שנה. ¹⁵ ויזעקו בני-ישראל, אל-יהוה, ויקם יהוה להם מושיע את-אהוד בן-גרא בן-הימיני, איש אטר יד-ימינו; וישלחו בני-ישראל בידו מנחה, לעגלון מלך מואב. ¹⁶ ויעש לו אהוד חרב, ולח שני פיות--גמד ארפה; ויחגר אותה מתחת למדיו, על ירך ימינו. ¹⁷ ויקרב, את-המנחה, לעגלון, מלך מואב; ועגלון, איש בריא מאד. ¹⁸ ויהי כאשר כלה, להקריב את-המנחה; וישלח, את-העם, נשאי, המנחה. ¹⁹ והוא שב, מן-הפסילים אשר את-הגלגל, ויאמר, דבר-סתר לי אליך המלך; ויאמר-הס--ויצאו מעליו, כל-העמדים עליו. ²⁰ ואהוד בא אליו, והוא ישב בעלית המקרה אשר-לו לבדו, ויאמר אהוד, דבר-אלהים לי אליך; ויקם, מעל הכסא. ²¹ וישלח אהוד, את-יד שמאלו, ויקח את-החרב, מעל ירך ימינו; ויתקעה, בבטנו. ²² ויבא גם-הנצב אחר הלה, ויסגר החלב בעד הלהב--כי לא שלף החרב, מבטנו; ויצא, הפרשדנה. ²³ ויצא אהוד, המסדרונה; ויסגר דלתות העליה, בעדו--ונעל. ²⁴ והוא יצא, ועבדיו באו, ויראו, והנה דלתות העליה נעלות; ויאמרו, אף מסיך הוא את-רגליו בחדר המקרה. ²⁵ ויחילו עד-בוש, והנה איננו פתח דלתות העליה; וינקחו את-המפתח, ויפתחו, והנה אדניהם, נפל ארצה מת. ²⁶ ואהוד נמלט, עד התמהמהם; והוא עבר את-הפסילים, וימלט השעירתה. ²⁷ ויהי בבואו, ויתקע בשופר בהר אפרים; ויירדו עמו בני-ישראל מן-ההר, והוא לפניהם. ²⁸ ויאמר אלהם רדפו אחרי, כי-נתן יהוה את-איביכם את-מואב בידיכם; ויירדו אחריו, וילכדו את-מעברות הירדן למואב, ולא-נתנו איש, לעבר. ²⁹ ויכו את-מואב בעת ההיא, כעשרת אלפים איש--כל-שמן, וכל-איש חיל; ולא נמלט, איש. ³⁰ ותכנע מואב ביום ההוא, תחת יד ישראל; ותשקט הארץ, שמונים שנה. ³¹ ואחריו היה, שמגר בן-ענת, ויך את-פלשתים שש-מאות איש, במלמד הבקר; וישע גם-הוא, את-ישראל.

¹ And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem, when Ehud was dead. ² And HaShem gave them over into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth-goiim. ³ And the children of Israel cried unto HaShem; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel. ⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, she judged Israel at that time. ⁵ And she sat under the palm-tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-el in the hill-country of Ephraim; and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. ⁶ And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him: 'Hath not HaShem, the G-d of Israel, commanded, saying: Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?' ⁷ And I will draw unto thee to the brook Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thy hand. ⁸ And Barak said unto her: 'If thou wilt go with me, then I will go; but if thou wilt not go with me, I will not go.' ⁹ And she said: 'I will surely go with thee; notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thy honour; for HaShem will give Sisera over into the hand of a woman.' And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh; and there went up ten thousand men at his feet; and Deborah went up with him. ¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had severed himself from the Kenites, even from the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far as Elon-bezaananim, which is by Kedesh. ¹² And they told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. ¹³ And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth-goiim, unto the brook Kishon. ¹⁴ And Deborah said unto Barak: 'Up; for this is the day in which HaShem hath delivered Sisera into thy hand; is not HaShem gone out before thee?' So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. ¹⁵ And HaShem discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot, and fled away on his feet. ¹⁶ But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth-goiim; and all the host of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; there was not a man left. ¹⁷ Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. ¹⁸ And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him: 'Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not.' And he turned in unto her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. ¹⁹ And he said unto her: 'Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty.' And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him. ²⁰ And he said unto her: 'Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and inquire of thee, and say: Is there any man here? that thou shalt say: No.' ²¹ Then Jael Heber's wife took a tent-pin, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the pin into his temples, and it pierced through into the ground; for he was in a deep sleep; so he swooned and died. ²² And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him: 'Come, and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest.' And he came unto her; and, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the tent-pin was in his temples. ²³ So G-d subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. ²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

¹ ויספו בני ישראל, לעשות הרע בעיני יהוה; ואהוד, מת. ² וימכרם יהוה, בידי יבין מלך-חצור, אשר מלך, בחצור; ושר-צבאו, סיסרא, והוא יושב, בחרשת הגוים. ³ ויצעקו בני-ישראל, אל-יהוה: כי תשע מאות רכב-ברזל, לו, והוא לחץ את-בני ישראל בחזקה, עשרים שנה. ⁴ ודבורה אשה נביאה, אשת לפידות--היא שפטה את-ישראל, בעת ההיא. ⁵ והיא יושבת תחת-תמר דבורה, בין הרמה ובין בית-אל--בהר אפרים; ויעלו אליה בני ישראל, למשפט. ⁶ ותשלח, ותקרא לברק בן-אבינעם, מקדש, נפתלי; ותאמר אליו הלא צוה יהוה אלהי-ישראל, לך ומשכת בהר תבור, ולקחת עמך עשרת אלפים איש, מבני נפתלי ומבני זבולון. ⁷ ומשכתי אליך אל-נחל קישון, את-סיסרא שר-צבא יבין, ואת-רכבו, ואת-המונו; ונתתיהו, בידיך. ⁸ ויאמר אליה ברק, אם-תלכי עמי והלכתי; ואם-לא תלכי עמי, לא אלך. ⁹ ותאמר הלא אלך עמך, אפס כי לא תהיה תפארתך על-הדרך אשר אתה הולך--כי ביד-אשה, ימכר יהוה את-סיסרא; ותקם דבורה ותלך עם-ברק, קדשה. ¹⁰ ויזעק ברק את-זבולון ואת-נפתלי, קדשה, ויעל ברגליו, עשרת אלפי איש; ותעל עמו, דבורה. ¹¹ וחבר הקיני נפרד מקונו, מבני חלב חתן משה; ויט אהלו, עד-אילון בצענים בצעונים אשר את-קדש. ¹² ויגדו, לסיסרא: כי עלה ברק בן-אבינעם, הר-תבור. ¹³ ויזעק סיסרא את-כל-רכבו, תשע מאות רכב ברזל, ואת-כל-העם, אשר אתו--מחרשת הגוים, אל-נחל קישון. ¹⁴ ותאמר דבורה אל-ברק קום, כי זה היום אשר נתן יהוה את-סיסרא בידיך--הלא יהוה, יצא לפניך; וירד ברק מהר תבור, ועשרת אלפים איש אחרייו. ¹⁵ ויהם יהוה את-סיסרא ואת-כל-הרכב ואת-כל-המחנה, לפי-חרב--לפני ברק; וירד סיסרא מעל המרכבה, ויגס ברגליו. ¹⁶ וברק, רדף אחרי הרכב ואחרי המחנה, עד, חרשת הגוים; ויפל כל-מחנה סיסרא, לפי-חרב--לא נשאר, עד-אחד. ¹⁷ וסיסרא, גס ברגליו, אל-אהל יעל, אשת חבר הקיני: כי שלום, בין יבין מלך-חצור, ובין, בית חבר הקיני. ¹⁸ ותצא יעל, לקראת סיסרא, ותאמר אליו סורה אדני סורה אלי, אל-תירא; ויסר אליה האהלה, ותכסהו בשמיכה. ¹⁹ ויאמר אליה השקיני-נא מעט-מים, כי צמאתי; ותפתח את-נאוד החלב, ותשקהו--ותכסהו. ²⁰ ויאמר אליה, עמד פתח האהל; והיה אם-איש יבא ושאלך, ואמר היש-פה איש--ואמרתי אין. ²¹ ותקח יעל אשת-חבר את-יתד האהל ותשם את-המקבת בידה, ותבוא אליו בלאת, ותתקע את-היתד ברגלתו, ותצנח בארץ; והוא-נרדם ונעף, וימת. ²² והנה ברק, רדף את-סיסרא, ותצא יעל לקראתו, ותאמר לו לך ואראך את-האיש אשר-אתה מבקש; ויבא אליה--והנה סיסרא נפל מת, והיתד ברגלתו. ²³ ויכנע אלהים ביום ההוא, את יבין מלך-חצור, לפני, בני ישראל. ²⁴ ותלך יד בני-ישראל, הלוך וקשה, על, יבין מלך-חצור--עד אשר הכריתו, את יבין מלך-חצור.

¹ Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying: ² When men let grow their hair in Israel, when the people offer themselves willingly, bless ye HaShem. ³ Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, unto HaShem will I sing; I will sing praise to HaShem, the G-d of Israel. ⁴ HaShem, when Thou didst go forth out of Seir, when Thou didst march out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, the heavens also dropped, yea, the clouds dropped water. ⁵ The mountains quaked at the presence of HaShem, even yon Sinai at the presence of HaShem, the G-d of Israel. ⁶ In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways ceased, and the travellers walked through byways. ⁷ The rulers ceased in Israel, they ceased, until that thou didst arise, Deborah, that thou didst arise a mother in Israel. ⁸ They chose new gods; then was war in the gates; was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel? ⁹ My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye HaShem. ¹⁰ Ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit on rich cloths, and ye that walk by the way, tell of it; ¹¹ Louder than the voice of archers, by the watering-troughs! there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of HaShem, even the righteous acts of His rulers in Israel. Then the people of HaShem went down to the gates. ¹² Awake, awake, Deborah; awake, awake, utter a song; arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam. ¹³ Then made He a remnant to have dominion over the nobles and the people; HaShem made me have dominion over the mighty. ¹⁴ Out of Ephraim came they whose root is in Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy peoples; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the marshal's staff. ¹⁵ And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; as was Issachar, so was Barak; into the valley they rushed forth at his feet. Among the divisions of Reuben there were great resolves of heart. ¹⁶ Why satest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the pipings for the flocks? At the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart. ¹⁷ Gilead abode beyond the Jordan; and Dan, why doth he sojourn by the ships? Asher dwelt at the shore of the sea, and abideth by its bays. ¹⁸ Zebulun is a people that jeoparded their lives unto the death, and Naphtali, upon the high places of the field. ¹⁹ The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money. ²⁰ They fought from heaven, the stars in their courses fought against Sisera. ²¹ The brook Kishon swept them away, that ancient brook, the brook Kishon. O my soul, tread them down with strength. ²² Then did the horsehoofs stamp by reason of the prancings, the prancings of their mighty ones. ²³ 'Curse ye Meroz', said the angel of HaShem, 'Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they came not to the help of HaShem, to the help of HaShem against the mighty.' ²⁴ Blessed above women shall Jael be, the wife of Heber the Kenite, above women in the tent shall she be blessed. ²⁵ Water he asked, milk she gave him; in a lordly bowl she brought him curd. ²⁶ Her hand she put to the tent-pin, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote through his head, yea, she pierced and struck through his temples. ²⁷ At her feet he sunk, he fell, he lay; at her feet he sunk, he fell; where he sunk, there he fell down dead. ²⁸ Through the window she looked forth, and peered, the mother of Sisera, through the lattice: 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the wheels of his chariots?' ²⁹ The wisest of her princesses answer her, yea, she returneth answer to herself: ³⁰ 'Are they not finding, are they not dividing the spoil? A damsel, two damsels to every man; to Sisera a spoil of dyed garments, a spoil of dyed garments of embroidery, two dyed garments of broidery for the neck of every spoiler?' ³¹ So perish all Thine enemies, O HaShem; but they that love Him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

¹ ותָּשַׁר דְּבוֹרָה, וּבָרַק בֶּן-אֲבִינוֹעַם, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, לֵאמֹר. ² בְּפָרַע פָּרְעוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּהַתְנַדֵּב עַם, בָּרְכוּ, יְהוָה. ³ שְׁמְעוּ מַלְכִּים, הֶאֱזִינוּ רוֹזְנִים: אֲנֹכִי, לַיהוָה אֲנֹכִי אֲשִׁירָה, אֲזַמֵּר, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁴ יְהוָה, בְּצֹאתָ מִשְׁעִיר בְּצַעֲדָךְ מִשְׁדֵּה אָדָם, אֶרֶץ רַעְשָׁה, גַּם-שָׁמַיִם נָטְפוּ: גַּם-עֲבִים, נָטְפוּ מַיִם. ⁵ הָרִים נָזְלוּ, מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה: זֶה סִינִי--מִפְּנֵי, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁶ בַּיּוֹם שָׁמְגַר בֶּן-עֲנַת, בַּיּוֹם יָעַל, חָדְלוּ, אֶרְחוֹת; וְהִלְכִי נְתִיבוֹת--יִלְכוּ, אֶרְחוֹת עַקְלָקְלוֹת. ⁷ חָדְלוּ פָּרְזוֹן בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, חָדְלוּ--עַד שֶׁקָּמְתִי דְבוֹרָה, שֶׁקָּמְתִי אִם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁸ יִבְחַר אֱלֹהִים חֲדָשִׁים, אִזְ לָחֶם שְׁעָרִים; מִגֵּן אִם-נִרְאָה נִרְמַח, בְּאַרְבָּעִים אֶלֶף בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁹ לְבִי לַחֲוֹקֵקִי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַמִּתְנַדְּבִים בְּעָם; בָּרְכוּ, יְהוָה. ¹⁰ רֹכְבֵי אֲתָנוֹת צָחָרוֹת יֹשְׁבֵי עַל-מִדִּין, וְהִלְכִי עַל-דֶּרֶךְ--שִׁיחוּ. ¹¹ מְקוֹל מַחֲצָצִים, בֵּין מִשְׁאֲבִים, שֶׁם יִתְנוּ צִדְקוֹת יְהוָה, צִדְקַת פָּרְזוֹנוֹ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; אִזְ יֵרְדוּ לְשְׁעָרִים, עַם-יְהוָה. ¹² עוֹרֵי עוֹרֵי דְבוֹרָה, עוֹרֵי עוֹרֵי דְבָרִי-שִׁיר; קוֹם בָּרַק וּשְׁבָה שְׂבִיד, בֶּן-אֲבִינוֹעַם. ¹³ אִזְ יֵרֵד שָׁרִיד, לְאֲדִירִים עַם; יְהוָה, יֵרֵד-לִי בַּגְבוּרִים. ¹⁴ מִנִּי אֶפְרַיִם, שָׁרֵשׁ בַּעֲמֶלֶק, אַחֲרִיד בְּנִימִין, בַּעֲמֶמִיד; מִנִּי מְכִיר, יֵרְדוּ מַחֲקָקִים, וּמִזְבוֹל, מִשְׁכִּים בְּשֹׁבֵט סֶפֶר. ¹⁵ וְשָׁרֵי בִישָׁשְׁכָר, עַם-דְּבִרָה, וַיִּשְׁשַׁכֵּר בֶּן בָּרַק, בַּעֲמֶק שְׁלַח בְּרַגְלָיו; בַּפְּלָגוֹת רְאוּבֵן, גְּדִלִים חֲקָקִי-לִב. ¹⁶ לָמָּה יִשְׁבֶּת, בֵּין הַמִּשְׁפָּתִים, לְשִׁמְעַ, שָׁרְקוֹת עֲדָרִים; לַפְּלָגוֹת רְאוּבֵן, גְּדִלִים חֲקָרִי-לִב. ¹⁷ גִּלְעָד, בַּעֲבַר הַיַּרְדֵּן שָׁכֵן, וְדָן, לָמָּה יְגוּר אֲנִיוֹת; אֲשֶׁר, יֹשֵׁב לַחוּף יַמִּים, וְעַל מִפְּרָצֵיו, יִשְׁכֹּן. ¹⁸ זְבֻלוֹן, עַם חֲרָף נִפְשׁוֹ לְמוֹת--וְנִפְתָּלִי: עַל, מְרוֹמֵי שְׂדֵה. ¹⁹ כָּאוּ מַלְכִּים, נִלְחָמוּ, אִזְ נִלְחָמוּ מַלְכֵי כְנַעַן, בַּתְּעַנָּף עַל-מִי מַגְדוּ; בַּצַּע כֶּסֶף, לֹא לָקְחוּ. ²⁰ מִן-שָׁמַיִם, נִלְחָמוּ; הַכּוֹכְבִים, מִמְּסֻלוֹתָם, נִלְחָמוּ, עַם-סִיסְרָא. ²¹ נַחַל קִישׁוֹן גִּרְפָם, נַחַל קְדוּמִים נַחַל קִישׁוֹן; תְּדַרְכֵי נִפְשִׁי, עֹז. ²² אִזְ הֵלְמוּ, עַקְבֵי-סוּס, מִדְּהָרוֹת, דְּהָרוֹת אֲבִירָיו. ²³ אוּרוֹ מְרוֹז, אָמַר מֶלֶאֶךְ יְהוָה--אֲרוֹ אֲרוֹר, יִשְׁבִּיהָ: כִּי לֹא-כָאוּ לְעֹזְרֵת יְהוָה, לְעֹזְרֵת יְהוָה בַּגְּבוּרִים. ²⁴ תְּבָרַךְ, מְנָשִׁים--יָעַל, אֵשֶׁת חֶבֶר הַקִּינִי: מְנָשִׁים בְּאֶהֱל, תְּבָרַךְ. ²⁵ מַיִם שָׂאֵל, חֶלֶב נִתְּנָה; בִּסְפֹל אֲדִירִים, הִקְרִיבָה חֲמָאָה. ²⁶ יָדָה לִיתֵד תְּשַׁלְּחָנָה, וַיִּמְיֶנָה לְהִלְמוֹת עַמְלִים; וְהִלְמָה סִיסְרָא מַחֲקָה רָאשׁוּ, וּמַחֲצָה וַחֲלָפָה רַקְתּוֹ. ²⁷ בֵּין רַגְלֶיהָ, כָּרַע נָפֶל שָׁכָב: בֵּין רַגְלֶיהָ, כָּרַע נָפֶל, בְּאֲשֶׁר כָּרַע, שֶׁם נָפֶל שְׂדוּד. ²⁸ בְּעַד הַחֲלוֹן נִשְׁקָפָה וַתִּיבֵב אִם סִיסְרָא, בְּעַד הָאֲשָׁנָב: מִדּוּעַ, בִּשְׁשׁ רִכְבּוֹ לְבוֹא--מִדּוּעַ אַחֲרוֹ, פַּעֲמֵי מִרְכַּבוֹתָיו. ²⁹ חֲכָמוֹת שְׁרוּתֶיהָ, תַּעֲנִינָה; אֶף-הִיא, תִּשָּׁיב אֲמָרֶיהָ לָהּ. ³⁰ הֲלֹא יִמְצְאוּ יַחֲלָקוּ שָׁלָל, רַחֵם רַחֲמָתִים לְרֹאשׁ גְּבֵר--שָׁלָל צָבָעִים לְסִיסְרָא, שָׁלָל צָבָעִים רַקְמָה: צָבַע רַקְמָתִים, לְצִוְאֵרֵי שָׁלָל. ³¹ בֶּן יֶאֱבֹדוּ כָל-אוֹיְבֶיךָ, יְהוָה, וְאֶהְבִּיו, בְּצֹאת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בְּגִבְרָתוֹ; וַתִּשְׁקֹט הָאֶרֶץ, אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה.

¹ And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem; and HaShem delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. ² And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel; and because of Midian the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and the caves, and the strongholds. ³ And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east; they came up against them; ⁴ and they encamped against them, and destroyed the produce of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance in Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. ⁵ For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came in as locusts for multitude; both they and their camels were without number; and they came into the land to destroy it. ⁶ And Israel was brought very low because of Midian; and the children of Israel cried unto HaShem. ⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto HaShem because of Midian, ⁸ that HaShem sent a prophet unto the children of Israel; and he said unto them: 'Thus saith HaShem, the G-d of Israel: I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; ⁹ and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land. ¹⁰ And I said unto you: I am HaShem your G-d; ye shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but ye have not hearkened unto My voice.' ¹¹ And the angel of HaShem came, and sat under the terebinth which was in Ophrah, that belonged unto Joash the Abiezrite; and his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of HaShem appeared unto him, and said unto him: 'HaShem is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.' ¹³ And Gideon said unto him: 'Oh, my lord, if HaShem be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where are all His wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying: Did not HaShem bring us up from Egypt? but now HaShem hath cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian.' ¹⁴ And HaShem turned towards him, and said: 'Go in this thy might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian; have not I sent thee?' ¹⁵ And he said unto him: 'Oh, my lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.' ¹⁶ And HaShem said unto him: 'Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.' ¹⁷ And he said unto him: 'If now I have found favour in thy sight, then show me a sign that it is thou that talkest with me. ¹⁸ Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and lay it before thee.' And he said: 'I will tarry until thou come back.' ¹⁹ And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of meal; the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the terebinth, and presented it. ²⁰ And the angel of G-d said unto him: 'Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth.' And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of HaShem put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there went up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of HaShem departed out of his sight. ²² And Gideon saw that he was the angel of HaShem; and Gideon said: 'Alas, O L-rd GOD! forasmuch as I have seen the angel of HaShem face to face.' ²³ And HaShem said unto him: 'Peace be unto thee; fear not; thou shalt not die.' ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there unto HaShem, and called it 'Adonai-shalom'; unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. ²⁵ And it came to pass the same night, that HaShem said unto him: 'Take thy father's bullock, and the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the Asherah that is by it; ²⁶ and build an altar unto HaShem thy G-d upon the top of this stronghold, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt-offering with the wood of the Asherah which thou shalt cut down.' ²⁷ Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as HaShem had spoken unto him; and it came to pass, because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, so that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. ²⁸ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. ²⁹ And they said one to another: 'Who hath done this thing?' And when they inquired and asked, they said: 'Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.' ³⁰ Then the men of the city said unto Joash: 'Bring out thy son, that he may die; because he hath broken down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the Asherah that was by it.' ³¹ And Joash said unto all that stood against him: 'Will ye contend for Baal? or will ye save him? he that will contend for him, shall be put to death before morning; if he be a god, let him contend for himself, because one hath broken down his altar.' ³² Therefore on that day he was called Jerubbaal, saying: 'Let Baal contend against him, because he hath broken down his altar.' ³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east assembled themselves together; and they passed over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ But the spirit of HaShem clothed Gideon; and he blew a horn; and Abiezer was gathered together after him. ³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; and they also were gathered together after him; and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. ³⁶ And Gideon said unto G-d: 'If Thou wilt save Israel by my hand, as Thou hast spoken, ³⁷ behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing-floor; if there be dew on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the ground, then shall I know that Thou wilt save Israel by my hand, as Thou hast spoken.' ³⁸ And it was so; for he rose up early on the morrow, and pressed the fleece together, and wrung dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. ³⁹ And Gideon said unto G-d: 'Let not Thine anger be kindled against me, and I will speak but this once: let me make trial, I pray Thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.' ⁴⁰ And G-d did so that night; for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

¹ וַיַּעַשׂוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל הָרָע, בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה; וַיִּתֵּנֶם יְהוָה בְּיַד-מִדְיָן, שְׁבַע שָׁנִים. ² וַתְּעַז יֵד-מִדְיָן, עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל; מִפְּנֵי מִדְיָן עָשׂוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-הַמְּנַהֲרוֹת וְאֶשֶׁר בְּהָרִים, וְאֶת-הַמְּעָדוֹת. ³ וְהָיָה, אִם-זָרַע יִשְׂרָאֵל--וַעֲלָה מִדְיָן וַעֲמָלֵק וּבְנֵי-קָדָם, וְעָלוּ עָלָיו. ⁴ וַיַּחֲנוּ עָלֵיהֶם, וַיַּחֲשִׁיתוּ אֶת-יִבּוֹל הָאָרֶץ, עַד-בּוֹאָדָה, עֲזָה; וְלֹא-יִשְׁאִירוּ מִחַיָּה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, וְשָׂה נָשׁוֹר וַחֲמוֹר. ⁵ כִּי הֵם וּמִקְנֵיהֶם יַעֲלוּ וְאָחֲלֵיהֶם, יִבְאוּ וּבָאוּ כְּדִי-אַרְבֶּה לָרֹב, וְלָהֶם וּלְגַמְלֵיהֶם, אֵין מִסְפָּר; וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ, לַשְׁחָתָה. ⁶ וַיִּדַּל יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֹד, מִפְּנֵי מִדְיָן; וַיִּזְעַקוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-יְהוָה. ⁷ וַיְהִי, כִּי-זָעַקוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יְהוָה, עַל, אֲדוֹת מִדְיָן. ⁸ וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אִישׁ נָבִיא, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲנֹכִי הָעֹלִיתִי אֹתְכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְאֶצִּיא אֹתְכֶם, מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים. ⁹ וְאַצֵּל אֹתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם, וּמִיַּד כָּל-לְחָצִיכֶם; וְאֶגְרַשׁ אוֹתָם מִפְּנִיכֶם, וְאֶתְּנָה לָכֶם אֶת-אַרְצָם. ¹⁰ וְאֶמְרָה לָכֶם, אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם--לֹא תִירָאוּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי הָאֲמָרִי, אֲשֶׁר אִתָּם יוֹשְׁבִים בְּאֶרְצָם; וְלֹא שְׁמַעְתֶּם, בְּקוֹלִי. ¹¹ וַיָּבֹא מִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה, וַיֵּשֶׁב תַּחַת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר בְּעַפְרָה, אֲשֶׁר לְיוֹאָשׁ, אֲבִי הָעֹזְרִי; וַגִּדְעוֹן בְּנוֹ, חָבַט חֲטִים בַּגָּת, לְהַגִּים, מִפְּנֵי מִדְיָן. ¹² וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו, מִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, יְהוָה עֲמָד גִּבּוֹר הִתִּיל. ¹³ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו גִּדְעוֹן, בִּי אֲדֹנָי, וְנִשׁ יְהוָה עִמָּנוּ, וְלָמָּה מִצָּאֵתָנוּ כָּל-זֹאת; וְאֵיךְ כָּל-נִפְלְאוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר סָפְרוּ-לָנוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לֵאמֹר, הֲלֹא מִמִּצְרַיִם הָעֵלָנוּ יְהוָה, וְעַתָּה נִטְשָׁנוּ יְהוָה, וַיִּתְּנוּ בְּכַף-מִדְיָן. ¹⁴ וַיִּפֶן אֵלָיו, יְהוָה, וַיֹּאמֶר לָךְ בְּכַחַךְ זֶה, וְהוֹשַׁעְתָּ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכַּף מִדְיָן; הֲלֹא, שְׁלַחְתִּידָה. ¹⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בִּי אֲדֹנָי, בְּמָה אוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל; הִנֵּה אֵלֹפִי הִדַּל בְּמִנְשָׁה, וְאֲנֹכִי הַצֹּעִיר בֵּית אָבִי. ¹⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְהוָה, כִּי אֵתְהָה עִמָּךְ; וְהַכִּיתָ אֶת-מִדְיָן, כַּאֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר. ¹⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, אִם-נָא מִצָּאֵתִי חֹן בְּעֵינֶיךָ; וְעֲשִׂיתָ לִּי אוֹת, שְׂאֵתָה מְדַבֵּר עִמִּי. ¹⁸ אֶל-נָא תִמַּשׁ מִזֶּה, עַד-בֹּאִי אֵלֶיךָ, וְהִצַּאתִי אֶת-מִנְחָתִי, וְהִנַּחְתִּי לִפְנֶיךָ; וַיֹּאמֶר, אֲנֹכִי אֵשֶׁב עַד שׁוֹבֶכָה. ¹⁹ וַגִּדְעוֹן בָּא, וַיַּעַשׂ גִּדְרֵים וַאֲיִפֹת-קִמַּח מִצֹּט, הַבִּשָּׂר שֶׁם בֶּסַל, וְהַמֶּרְק שֶׁם בִּפְרוֹרִי; וַיִּצָּא אֵלָיו אֶל-תַּחַת הָאֵלֶּה, וַיִּגַּשׁ. ²⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מִלֶּאֲדָה הָאֱלֹהִים, קַח אֶת-הַבִּשָּׂר וְאֶת-הַמִּצֹּט וְהַנַּח אֶל-הַסֵּלַע הַלֵּז, וְאֶת-הַמֶּרְק, שְׁפֹד; וַיַּעַשׂ, כֵּן. ²¹ וַיִּשְׁלַח מִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה, אֶת-קָצֵה הַמִּשְׁעָנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ, וַיִּגַּע בַּבִּשָּׂר, וּבַמִּצֹּט; וַתַּעַל הָאֵשׁ מִן-הַצּוֹר, וַתֹּאכַל אֶת-הַבִּשָּׂר וְאֶת-הַמִּצֹּט, וּמִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה, הִלָּךְ מַעֲיָנוּ. ²² וַיֵּרָא גִדְעוֹן, כִּי-מִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה הוּא; וַיֹּאמֶר גִּדְעוֹן, אֵתְהָה אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה--כִּי-עַל-כֵּן רָאִיתִי מִלֶּאֲדָה יְהוָה, פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים. ²³ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יְהוָה שְׁלוֹם לָךְ, אֶל-תִּירָא: לֹא, תָמוּת. ²⁴ וַיָּבֶן שָׁם גִּדְעוֹן מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיִּקְרָא לוֹ יְהוָה שְׁלוֹם; עַד, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--עוֹדָנוּ, בְּעַפְרָת אֲבִי הָעֹזְרִי. ²⁵ וַיְהִי, בַּלִּילָה הַהוּא, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יְהוָה קַח אֶת-פֶּר-הַשּׁוֹר אֲשֶׁר לְאִבֶּיךָ, וּפֶר הַשְּׂנִי שְׁבַע שָׁנִים; וְהִרְסָתָה, אֶת-מִזְבַּח הַבַּעַל אֲשֶׁר לְאִבֶּיךָ, וְאֶת-הָאֲשֵׁרָה אֲשֶׁר-עָלָיו, תִּכְרֹת. ²⁶ וּבְנִית מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, עַל רֹאשׁ הַמַּעֲוִז הַזֶּה--בְּמַעְרַכָּה; וְלִקְחָתָה, אֶת-הַפֶּר הַשְּׂנִי, וְהָעֹלִית עוֹלָה, בְּעֻצִּי הָאֲשֵׁרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּכְרֹת. ²⁷ וַיִּקַּח גִּדְעוֹן עֲשָׂרָה אֲנָשִׁים, מִעַבְדָּיו, וַיַּעַשׂ, כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה; וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר יָרָא אֶת-בֵּית אָבִיו וְאֶת-אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר, מַעֲשׂוֹת יוֹמָם--וַיַּעַשׂ לָלֵלָה. ²⁸ וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר, בַּבֹּקֶר, וְהִנֵּה גִתָּן מִזְבַּח הַבַּעַל, וְהָאֲשֵׁרָה אֲשֶׁר-עָלָיו כְּרָתָה; וְאֵת, הַפֶּר הַשְּׂנִי, הָעֹלָה, עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ הַבְּנוּי. ²⁹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-רֵעֵהוּ, מִי עָשָׂה הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה; וַיִּדְרָשׁוּ, וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ--וַיֹּאמְרוּ, גִּדְעוֹן בֶּן-יֹאָשׁ עָשָׂה הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה. ³⁰ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר, אֶל-יֹאָשׁ, הוֹצֵא אֶת-בְּנֶךָ, וְיָמַת: כִּי נִתֵּן אֶת-מִזְבַּח הַבַּעַל, וְכִי כָרַת הָאֲשֵׁרָה אֲשֶׁר-עָלָיו. ³¹ וַיֹּאמֶר יֹאָשׁ לְכָל אֲשֶׁר-עָמְדוּ עָלָיו הָאֹתָם תִּרְיֹבוּן לַבַּעַל, אִם-אֹתָם תּוֹשִׁיעוּן אוֹתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר יָרִיב לוֹ יוֹמַת, עַד-הַבֹּקֶר; אִם-אֱלֹהִים הוּא יֵרָב לוֹ, כִּי נִתֵּן אֶת-מִזְבַּחוֹ. ³² וַיִּקְרָא לוֹ בַּיּוֹם-הַהוּא, וַיִּבְעַל לֵאמֹר: יָרֵב בּוֹ הַבַּעַל, כִּי נִתֵּן אֶת-מִזְבַּחוֹ. ³³ וְכָל-מִדְיָן וַעֲמָלֵק וּבְנֵי-קָדָם, נֶאֱסָפוּ יַחֲדָה; וַיַּעֲבְרוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ, בְּעַמְקֵי יִזְרְעֵאל. ³⁴ וַיִּרְוּ יְהוָה, לְבִשָּׂה אֶת-גִּדְעוֹן; וַיִּתְקַע, בְּשׁוֹפָר, וַיִּזְעַק אֲבִיעֶזֶר, אַחֲרָיו. ³⁵ וּמִלֶּאכִים שָׁלַח בְּכָל-מִנְשָׁה, וַיִּזְעַק גַּם-הוּא אַחֲרָיו; וּמִלֶּאכִים שָׁלַח, בַּאֲשֶׁר וּבִזְבָּלוֹ וּבִנְפֹתָלִי, וַיַּעֲלוּ, לְקִרְיָתָם. ³⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר גִּדְעוֹן, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים: אִם-תִּשָּׂא מוֹשִׁיעַ בְּיָדִי, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל--כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ. ³⁷ הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי, מַצִּיג אֶת-גִּזְתֵּי הַצֹּמֶר--בַּגִּלְוִן: אִם טַל יִהְיֶה עַל-הַגִּזָּה לְבִדְהָ, וְעַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ חֹרֵב--וַיִּדְעֵתִי כִּי-תוֹשִׁיעַ בְּיָדִי אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ. ³⁸ וַיְהִי-כֵן--וַיִּשְׁכַּם מִמְּחֹרָת, וַיִּזֹּר אֶת-הַגִּזָּה; וַיִּמָּץ טַל מִן-הַגִּזָּה, מְלֹא הַסֶּפֶל מִים. ³⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר גִּדְעוֹן, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים, אֶל-יְיָ אֱפָדָה בִּי, וְאֶדְבָּרָה אֶדְ הַפֶּעַם; וְאִנֹּסָה נָא-רֶק-הַפֶּעַם, בַּגִּזָּה--וְהִי-נָא חֹרֵב אֶל-הַגִּזָּה לְבִדְהָ, וְעַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ יִהְיֶה-טַל. ⁴⁰ וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים כֵּן, בַּלִּילָה הַהוּא; וַיְהִי-חֹרֵב אֶל-הַגִּזָּה לְבִדְהָ, וְעַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ הָיָה טַל.

¹ Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside En-harod; and the camp of Midian was on the north side of them, by Gibeath-moreh, in the valley. ² And HaShem said unto Gideon: 'The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying: mine own hand hath saved me. ³ Now therefore make proclamation in the ears of the people, saying: Whosoever is fearful and trembling, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead.' And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. ⁴ And HaShem said unto Gideon: 'The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there; and it shall be, that of whom I say to thee: This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee: This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.' ⁵ So he brought down the people unto the water; and HaShem said unto Gideon: 'Everyone that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.' ⁶ And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. ⁷ And HaShem said unto Gideon: 'By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thy hand; and let all the people go every man unto his place.' ⁸ So they took the victuals of the people in their hand, and their horns; and he sent all the men of Israel every man unto his tent, but retained the three hundred men; and the camp of Midian was beneath him in the valley. ⁹ And it came to pass the same night, that HaShem said unto him: 'Arise, get thee down upon the camp; for I have delivered it into thy hand. ¹⁰ But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Purah thy servant down to the camp. ¹¹ And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thy hands be strengthened to go down upon the camp.' Then went he down with Purah his servant unto the outermost part of the armed men that were in the camp. ¹² Now the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like locusts for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand which is upon the sea-shore for multitude. ¹³ And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man telling a dream unto his fellow, and saying: 'Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, and came unto the tent, and smote it that it fell, and turned it upside down, that the tent lay flat.' ¹⁴ And his fellow answered and said: 'This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: into his hand G-d hath delivered Midian, and all the host.' ¹⁵ And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped; and he returned into the camp of Israel, and said: 'Arise; for HaShem hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.' ¹⁶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them horns, and empty pitchers, with torches within the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said unto them: 'Look on me, and do likewise; and, behold, when I come to the outermost part of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. ¹⁸ When I blow the horn, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the horns also on every side of all the camp, and say: For HaShem and for Gideon!' ¹⁹ So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outermost part of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch, when they had but newly set the watch; and they blew the horns, and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. ²⁰ And the three companies blew the horns, and broke the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and the horns in their right hands wherewith to blow; and they cried: 'The sword for HaShem and for Gideon!' ²¹ And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran; and they shouted, and fled. ²² And they blew the three hundred horns, and HaShem set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host; and the host fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath. ²³ And the men of Israel were gathered together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after Midian. ²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill-country of Ephraim, saying: 'Come down against Midian, and take before them the waters, as far as Beth-barah, and also the Jordan.' So all the men of Ephraim were gathered together, and took the waters as far as Beth-barah, and also the Jordan. ²⁵ And they took the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb at the Rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the Winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian; and they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon beyond the Jordan.

¹ וַיִּשְׁכֶּם יִרְבֵּעֵל הוּא גִדְעוֹן, וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ, וַיַּחֲנוּ, עַל-עֵין חָרָד; וּמַחֲנֵה מִדְיָן הָיָה-לוֹ מִצְפּוֹן, מִגִּבְעַת הַמּוֹרָה בְּעֶמְקָה. ² וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-גִּדְעוֹן, רַב הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתְּךָ, מִתַּתִּי אֶת-מִדְיָן בְּיָדְךָ: פֶּן-יִתְפָּאֵר עָלַי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר, יָדִי הוֹשִׁיעָה לִּי. ³ וְעַתָּה, קְרָא נָא בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם לֵאמֹר, מִי-יָרָא וַחֲרָד, יֵשֶׁב וַיִּצְפֹּר מִהָר הַגָּלְעָד; וַיֵּשֶׁב מִן-הָעָם, עֹשִׂים וְשֹׁנִים אֵלָּה, וְעֹשֶׂת אֲלֵפִים, נִשְׁאָרוּ. ⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-גִּדְעוֹן, עוֹד הָעָם רַב, הוֹרֵד אוֹתָם אֶל-הַמַּיִם, וְאֶצְרְפוּנוּ לְךָ שָׁם; וְהָיָה אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלֶיךָ זֶה יֵלֶךְ אִתְּךָ, הוּא יֵלֶךְ אִתְּךָ, וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-אָמַר אֵלֶיךָ זֶה לֹא-יֵלֶךְ עִמָּךְ, הוּא לֹא יֵלֶךְ. ⁵ וַיּוֹרֵד אֶת-הָעָם, אֶל-הַמַּיִם; וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-גִּדְעוֹן, כָּל אֲשֶׁר-יִלֹּק בְּלִשְׁוֹנוֹ מִן-הַמַּיִם כַּאֲשֶׁר יִלֹּק הַכָּלָב תִּצְיֵג אוֹתוֹ לְבָד, וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִכְרַע עַל-בִּרְכִּיו, לִשְׁתוֹת. ⁶ וַיְהִי, מִסְפֵּר הַמִּלְקָקִים בְּיָדָם אֶל-פִּיָּהֶם--שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת, אִישׁ; וְכָל יָתֵר הָעָם, כָּרְעוּ עַל-בִּרְכֵיהֶם לִשְׁתוֹת מַיִם. ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-גִּדְעוֹן, בְּשֹׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ הַמִּלְקָקִים אוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם, וְנִתַּתִּי אֶת-מִדְיָן, בְּיָדְךָ; וְכָל-הָעָם--יִלְכּוּ, אִישׁ לְמַקְמוֹ. ⁸ וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-צִדָּה הָעָם בְּיָדָם וְאֵת שׁוֹפְרֹתֵיהֶם, וְאֵת כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁלַח אִישׁ לֹאֲהַלְיוֹ, וּבְשֹׁלֹשׁ-מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ, הִחְזִיקוּ; וּמַחֲנֵה מִדְיָן, הָיָה לוֹ מִתַּחַת בְּעֶמְקָה. ⁹ וַיְהִי, בַּלֵּילָה הַהוּא, וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְהוָה, קוּם רֵד בַּמַּחֲנֵה: כִּי נִתְּתִיו, בְּיָדְךָ. ¹⁰ וְאִם-יָרָא אִתְּךָ, לְרֹדֶת--רֵד אִתְּךָ וּפְרָה נַעֲרָךְ, אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֵה. ¹¹ וְשִׁמְעָתָּ, מִה-יִדְבְּרוּ, וְאַחַר תַּחֲזֹקְנָהּ יָדֶיךָ, וַיִּרְדָּתָּ בַּמַּחֲנֵה; וַיֵּרֶד הוּא וּפְרָה נַעֲרוֹ, אֶל-קִצְהַת הַחֲמִשִּׁים אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֵה. ¹² וּמִדְיָן וְעַמְלֵק וְכָל-בְּנֵי-קָדָם נָפְלִים בְּעֶמְקָה, כְּאֶרְבֶּה לָרֵב; וְלִגְמָלֵיהֶם אֵין מִסְפָּר, כַּחֲוֹל שְׂעֵל-שְׁפַת הַיָּם לָרֵב. ¹³ וַיָּבֹא גִדְעוֹן--וְהַנֶּה-אִישׁ, מִסְפֵּר לְרַעְהוּ חֲלוֹם; וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלוֹם חֲלַמְתִּי, וְהִנֵּה צִלִּיל לַחֵם שְׁעָרִים מִתְהַפֵּף בַּמַּחֲנֵה מִדְיָן, וַיָּבֹא עַד-הָאֵהָל וַיַּכְהוּ וַיַּפֵּל וַיַּהֲפֹכְהוּ לַמַּעֲלָה, וַנִּפֹּל הָאֵהָל. ¹⁴ וַיַּעַן רַעְהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר, אֵין זֹאת, בִּלְתִּי אִם-חָרֵב גִּדְעוֹן בֶּן-יֹדָאשׁ, אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל: נָתַן הָאֱלֹהִים בְּיָדוֹ, אֶת-מִדְיָן וְאֶת-כָּל-הַמַּחֲנֵה. ¹⁵ וַיְהִי כִשְׁמֹעַ גִּדְעוֹן אֶת-מִסְפֵּר הַחֲלוֹם, וְאֶת-שִׁבְרוֹ--וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ; וַיֵּשֶׁב, אֶל-מַחֲנֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ, כִּי-נָתַן יְהוָה בְּיָדְכֶם אֶת-מַחֲנֵה מִדְיָן. ¹⁶ וַיַּחֲץ אֶת-שְׁלֹשׁ-מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ, שְׁלֹשָׁה רִאשִׁים; וַיִּתֵּן שׁוֹפְרוֹת בְּיַד כָּלֶם וּכְדִים רִיקִים, וּלְפָדִים בְּתוֹךְ הַכְּדִים. ¹⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, מִמָּנִי תִרְאוּ וְכֵן תַּעֲשׂוּ; וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי בָּא בַקִּצְהַת הַמַּחֲנֵה, וְהָיָה כַּאֲשֶׁר-אַעֲשֶׂה בְּכֵן תַּעֲשׂוּ. ¹⁸ וְתַקְעֲתִי, בַּשּׁוֹפָר--אֲנֹכִי, וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר אִתִּי; וְתַקְעֲתֶם בַּשּׁוֹפְרוֹת גַּם-אַתֶּם, סְבִיבוֹת כָּל-הַמַּחֲנֵה, וְאַמְרַתֶּם, לַיהוָה וּלְגִדְעוֹן. ¹⁹ וַיָּבֹא גִדְעוֹן וּמֵאָה-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ בַּקִּצְהַת הַמַּחֲנֵה, רֹאשׁ הָאֲשִׁמֶרֶת הַתִּיכּוֹנָה--אֵד הַקָּם הַקִּימוּ, אֶת-הַשְּׁמָרִים; וַיַּתְקִעוּ, בַּשּׁוֹפְרוֹת, וַנִּפְּוִץ הַכְּדִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדָם. ²⁰ וַיַּתְקִיעוּ שְׁלֹשַׁת הָרִאשִׁים בַּשּׁוֹפְרוֹת, וַיִּשְׁכְּרוּ הַכְּדִים, וַיַּחֲזִיקוּ בְיַד-שְׂמֹאולָם בַּלְּפָדִים, וּבְיַד-יָמִינָם הַשּׁוֹפְרוֹת לְתַקּוֹעַ; וַיִּקְרְאוּ, חָרֵב לַיהוָה וּלְגִדְעוֹן. ²¹ וַיַּעֲמִדוּ אִישׁ תַּחֲתָיו, סְבִיב לַמַּחֲנֵה; וַיִּרְץ כָּל-הַמַּחֲנֵה וַיִּרְיִעוּ, וַיִּנְיִסוּ וַיִּגְבוּ. ²² וַיַּתְקִיעוּ, שְׁלֹשׁ-מֵאוֹת הַשּׁוֹפְרוֹת, וַיִּשְׁם יְהוָה אֶת חָרֵב אִישׁ בְּרַעְהוּ, וּבְכָל-הַמַּחֲנֵה; וַיִּנָּס הַמַּחֲנֵה עַד-בֵּית הַשָּׁטָה, צָרְרָתָהּ--עַד שְׁפַת-אֲבֵל מַחֲזִלָּה, עַל-טֶבֶת. ²³ וַיִּצְעַק אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִנִּפְתָּלִי וּמִן-אֲשֶׁר, וּמִן-כָּל-מְנַשֶּׁה; וַיִּרְדְּפוּ, אַחֲרֵי מִדְיָן. ²⁴ וּמִלְאָכִים שָׁלַח גִּדְעוֹן בְּכָל-הָר אֲפָרַיִם לֵאמֹר, רְדוּ לִקְרֹאת מִדְיָן וְלַכְדוֹ לָהֶם אֶת-הַמַּיִם, עַד בֵּית בְּרָה, וְאֵת-הַיַּרְדֵּן; וַיִּצְעַק כָּל-אִישׁ אֲפָרַיִם, וַיִּלְכְּדוּ אֶת-הַמַּיִם, עַד בֵּית בְּרָה, וְאֵת-הַיַּרְדֵּן. ²⁵ וַיִּלְכְּדוּ שְׁנֵי-שָׂרֵי מִדְיָן אֶת-עֹרֵב וְאֶת-זַאב, וַיִּהְיוּ גַם-עֹרֵב בָּצוּר-עֹרֵב וְאֶת-זַאב הָרְגוּ בְּקֶבֶב-זַאב, וַיִּרְדְּפוּ, אֶל-מִדְיָן; וְרֹאשׁ-עֹרֵב וְזַאב--הִבְיָאוּ אֶל-גִּדְעוֹן, מִעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן.

¹ And the men of Ephraim said unto him: 'Why hast thou served us thus, that thou didst not call us when thou wentest to fight with Midian?' And they did chide with him sharply. ² And he said unto them: 'What have I now done in comparison with you? Is not the gleanings of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?' ³ G-d hath delivered into your hand the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; and what was I able to do in comparison with you?' Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that. ⁴ And Gideon came to the Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing. ⁵ And he said unto the men of Succoth: 'Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they are faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.' ⁶ And the princes of Succoth said: 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thy power, that we should give bread unto thine army?' ⁷ And Gideon said: 'Therefore when HaShem hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.' ⁸ And he went up thence to Penuel, and spoke unto them in like manner; and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. ⁹ And he spoke also unto the men of Penuel, saying: 'When I come back in peace, I will break down this tower.' ¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of all the host of the children of the east; for there fell a hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword. ¹¹ And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host; for the host was secure. ¹² And Zebah and Zalmunna fled; and he pursued after them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host. ¹³ And Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle from the ascent of Heres. ¹⁴ And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him; and he wrote down for him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, seventy and seven men. ¹⁵ And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said: 'Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, concerning whom ye did taunt me, saying: Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thy power, that we should give bread unto thy men that are weary?' ¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. ¹⁷ And he broke down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city. ¹⁸ Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna: 'Where are the men whom ye slew at Tabor?' And they answered: 'As thou art, so were they; of one form with the children of a king.' ¹⁹ And he said: 'They were my brethren, the sons of my mother; as HaShem liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.' ²⁰ And he said unto Jether his first-born: 'Up, and slay them.' But the youth drew not his sword; for he feared, because he was yet a youth. ²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said: 'Rise thou, and fall upon us; for as the man is, so is his strength.' And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescents that were on their camels' necks. ²² Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon: 'Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also; for thou hast saved us out of the hand of Midian.' ²³ And Gideon said unto them: 'I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you; HaShem shall rule over you.' ²⁴ And Gideon said unto them: 'I would make a request of you, that ye would give me every man the ear-rings of his spoil.' — For they had golden ear-rings, because they were Ishmaelites. ²⁵ And they answered: 'We will willingly give them.' And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the ear-rings of his spoil. ²⁶ And the weight of the golden ear-rings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside the crescents, and the pendants, and the purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks. ²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah; and all Israel went astray after it there; and it became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house. ²⁸ So Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, and they lifted up their heads no more. And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon. ²⁹ And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house. ³⁰ And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten; for he had many wives. ³¹ And his concubine that was in Shechem, she also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech. ³² And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. ³³ And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again went astray after the Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god. ³⁴ And the children of Israel remembered not HaShem their G-d, who had delivered them out of the hand of all their enemies on every side; ³⁵ neither showed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shown unto Israel.

¹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אִישׁ אֶפְרַיִם, מַה-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה עָשִׂיתָ לָנוּ, לְבָלִיתִי קְרָאוֹת לָנוּ, כִּי הִלַכְתָּ לְהִלָּחֵם בְּמִדְיָן; וַיְרִיבוּן אֹתוֹ, בְּחִזְקָה. ² וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, מַה-עָשִׂיתִי עִתָּה כִּכֶּם: הֲלֹא, טוֹב עָלְלוֹת אֶפְרַיִם--מִבְּצִיר אֲבִיעֶזֶר. ³ בִּידְכֶם נָתַן אֱלֹהִים אֶת-שָׁרֵי מִדְיָן, אֶת-עֹרֵב וְאֶת-זַאב, וּמַה-יִּכְלִיתִי, עֲשׂוֹת כִּכֶּם; אֲזַי, רָפַתְתָּה רוּחַם מֵעָלָיו, בַּדָּבָרוֹ, הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה. ⁴ וַיָּבֹא גִדְעוֹן, הַיִּרְדְנָה; עֹבֵר הוּא, וּשְׁלֹשׁ-מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ, עֲנִיפִים, וְרֹדְפִים. ⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר, לְאֲנָשֵׁי סְכוֹת, תָּנוּ-נָא כַכְרוֹת לָחֶם, לָעָם אֲשֶׁר בְּרַגְלִי: כִּי-עֲנִיפִים הֵם--וְאֲנֹכִי רֹדֵף אַחֲרֵי זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ, מֶלֶכִּי מִדְיָן. ⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר, שָׁרֵי סְכוֹת, הִכָּף זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ עִתָּה, בַּיָּדָי: כִּי-נָתַן לְצַבָּאָה, לָחֶם. ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר גִּדְעוֹן--לָכֵן בָּתַת יְהוָה אֶת-זֶבַח וְאֶת-צַלְמֻנְעַ, בַּיָּדַי: וְדָשַׁתִּי, אֶת-בְּשָׂרְכֶם, אֶת-קוֹצֵי הַמִּדְבָּר, וְאֶת-הַבְּרֻקָּנִים. ⁸ וַיַּעַל מִשֶּׁם פְּנוּאֵל, וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם כִּזֹּאת; וַיַּעֲנוּ אוֹתוֹ אֲנָשֵׁי פְנוּאֵל, כְּאִשֶּׁר עָנוּ אֲנָשֵׁי סְכוֹת. ⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר גַּם-לְאֲנָשֵׁי פְנוּאֵל, לֵאמֹר: כְּשׁוּבִי בְשָׁלוֹם, אֶתֵּן אֶת-הַמִּגְדָּל הַזֶּה. ¹⁰ וְזֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ בְּקִרְקֹר, וּמַחְנִיָּהם עִמָּם כַּחַמְשַׁת עָשָׂר אֶלֶף--כָּל הַנוֹתָרִים, מִכָּל מַחְנֶה בְּנֵי-קֶדֶם; וְהַנִּפְלָיִם, מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אֶלֶף אִישׁ שֶׁלֶף חָרֵב. ¹¹ וַיַּעַל גִּדְעוֹן, דֶּרֶךְ הַשְּׂכּוּנֵי בְּאֵהֱלִים, מִקֶּדֶם לְנִבְחַ, וַיִּגְבְּהָה; וַיֵּד, אֶת-הַמַּחְנֶה, וְהַמַּחְנֶה, הָיָה כַּטַּח. ¹² וַיִּנָּסוּ, זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ, וַיִּרְדֹּף, אַחֲרֵיהֶם; וַיִּלְכֹּד אֶת-שְׁנֵי מֶלֶכִּי מִדְיָן, אֶת-זֶבַח וְאֶת-צַלְמֻנְעַ, וְכָל-הַמַּחְנֶה, הִחָרִיד. ¹³ וַיֵּשֶׁב גִּדְעוֹן בֶּן-יֹאשׁ, מִן-הַמִּלְחָמָה, מִלְמַעְלָה, הַחֶרֶס. ¹⁴ וַיִּלְכֹּד-נָעַר מֵאֲנָשֵׁי סְכוֹת, וַיִּשְׁאַלְהוּ; וַיַּכְתֹּב אֵלָיו אֶת-שָׁרֵי סְכוֹת, וְאֶת-זִקְנֵיהָ--שִׁבְעִים וְשִׁבְעָה, אִישׁ. ¹⁵ וַיָּבֹא, אֶל-אֲנָשֵׁי סְכוֹת, וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ: אֲשֶׁר חֲרַפְתֶּם אוֹתִי לֵאמֹר, הִכָּף זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ עִתָּה בַּיָּדָד, כִּי נָתַן לְאֲנָשִׁיד הַעֲפִיִם, לָחֶם. ¹⁶ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-זִקְנֵי הָעִיר, וְאֶת-קוֹצֵי הַמִּדְבָּר וְאֶת-הַבְּרֻקָּנִים; וַיַּדַּע בָּהֶם, אֶת אֲנָשֵׁי סְכוֹת. ¹⁷ וְאֶת-מִגְדָּל פְּנוּאֵל, נָתַן; וַיַּהַרֵג, אֶת-אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר. ¹⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶל-זֶבַח וְאֶל-צַלְמֻנְעַ, אֵיפָה הֵאָנְשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר הִרְגַתֶּם בְּתִבּוֹר; וַיֹּאמְרוּ, כְּמוֹדֵם, אֶחָד, כִּתְּאוֹר בְּנֵי הַמִּלָּד. ¹⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר, אַחֲרֵי בְנֵי-אִמִּי הֵם; חִי-יְהוָה, לוֹ הַחַיִּתִּים אוֹתָם--לֹא הִרְגַתִּי, אֶתְכֶם. ²⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר לִיתֵּר כְּכוּרוֹ, קוֹם הֲרֹג אוֹתָם; וְלֹא-שֶׁלֶף הַנָּעַר חָרְבוּ כִּי יָרָא, כִּי עוֹדְנוּ נָעַר. ²¹ וַיֹּאמֶר זֶבַח וְצַלְמֻנְעַ, קוֹם אֶתָּה וּפְגַע-בָּנוּ--כִּי כְאִישׁ, גְּבוּרָתוֹ; וַיִּקַּם גִּדְעוֹן, וַיַּהַרֵג אֶת-זֶבַח וְאֶת-צַלְמֻנְעַ, וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הַשְּׁהֲרָנִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּצִוְאָרִי גְמָלִיהֶם. ²² וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֵל-גִּדְעוֹן, מִשְׁלֵ-בָנוּ גַם-אֶתָּה, גַּם-בִּנְיָד גַּם בֶּן-בְּנָדָד: כִּי הוֹשַׁעְתָּנוּ, מִיַּד מִדְיָן. ²³ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, גִּדְעוֹן, לֹא-אֶמְשַׁל אֲנִי בָכֶם, וְלֹא-יִמְשַׁל בְּנֵי בָכֶם: יְהוָה, יִמְשַׁל בָּכֶם. ²⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם גִּדְעוֹן, אֲשַׁאֲלָה מִכֶּם שְׁאֵלָה, וְתָנוּ-לִי, אִישׁ נָזִם שֶׁלָּלוּ: כִּי-נִזְמִי זָהָב לָהֶם, כִּי יִשְׁמַעְאֲלִים הֵם. ²⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ, נָתַן נָתַן; וַיִּפְרְשׁוּ, אֶת-הַשְּׁמָלָה, וַיִּשְׁלִיכוּ שָׁמָּה, אִישׁ נָזִם שֶׁלָּלוּ. ²⁶ וַיְהִי, מִשְׁקַל נִזְמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר שָׂאֵל, אֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע-מֵאוֹת, זָהָב--לְבַד מִן-הַשְּׁהֲרָנִים וְהַנְּטִיפוֹת וּבְגָדֵי הָאֲרָגְמָן, שָׁעַל מֶלֶכִּי מִדְיָן, וַיִּלְבַּד מִן-הַעֲנָקוֹת, אֲשֶׁר בְּצִוְאָרִי גְמָלִיהֶם. ²⁷ וַיַּעַשׂ אוֹתוֹ גִּדְעוֹן לְאֶפֶוד, וַיִּצַּג אוֹתוֹ בְּעִירוֹ בַּעְפָּרָה, וַיִּזְנוּ כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אַחֲרָיו, שָׁם; וַיְהִי לְגִדְעוֹן וּלְבִיתוֹ, לְמוֹקֵשׁ. ²⁸ וַיִּפְנַע מִדְיָן, לִפְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְלֹא יָסְפוּ, לְשֹׂאת רֹאשָׁם; וַתִּשְׁקַט הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה, בִּימֵי גִדְעוֹן. ²⁹ וַיִּלְךָ יִרְבֵּעֵל בֶּן-יֹאשׁ, וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּבֵיתוֹ. ³⁰ וַיִּלְגְּדוּ, הָיוּ שִׁבְעִים בָּנִים, יִצְאִי, יִרְכוֹ: כִּי-נָשִׁים רַבּוֹת, הָיוּ לוֹ. ³¹ וַיִּפְלִגְשׁוּ אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁכֶם, יִלְדָּה-לוֹ גַם-הָיָא בֶן; וַיִּשֶׁם אֶת-שְׁמוֹ, אֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ³² וַיָּמָת גִּדְעוֹן בֶּן-יֹאשׁ, בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה; וַיִּקְבֹּר, בְּקֶבֶר יֹאשׁ אָבִיו, בַּעְפָּרָה, אָבִי הָעֶזְרִי. ³³ וַיְהִי, כְּאִשֶּׁר מָת גִּדְעוֹן, וַיָּשׁוּבוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּזְנוּ אַחֲרֵי הַבְּעָלִים; וַיִּשְׁמִי לָהֶם בַּעַל בְּרִית, לְאֱלֹהִים. ³⁴ וְלֹא זָכְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, הַמַּצִּיל אוֹתָם מִיַּד כָּל-אֹיְבֵיהֶם, מִסִּבִּיב. ³⁵ וְלֹא-עָשׂוּ חֶסֶד, עִם-בֵּית יִרְבֵּעֵל גִּדְעוֹן: כָּכָל-הַטּוֹבָה--אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

¹ And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and spoke with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying: ² 'Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem: Which is better for you, that all the sons of Jerubbaal, who are three-score and ten persons, rule over you, or that one rule over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.' ³ And his mother's brethren spoke of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words; and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said: 'He is our brother.' ⁴ And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light fellows, who followed him. ⁵ And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone; but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. ⁶ And all the men of Shechem assembled themselves together, and all Beth-millo, and went and made Abimelech king, by the terebinth of the pillar that was in Shechem. ⁷ And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them: 'Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that G-d may hearken unto you. ⁸ The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive-tree: Reign thou over us. ⁹ But the olive-tree said unto them: Should I leave my fatness, seeing that by me they honour G-d and man, and go to hold sway over the trees? ¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig-tree: Come thou, and reign over us. ¹¹ But the fig-tree said unto them: Should I leave my sweetness, and my good fruitage, and go to hold sway over the trees? ¹² And the trees said unto the vine: Come thou, and reign over us. ¹³ And the vine said unto them: Should I leave my wine, which cheereth G-d and man, and go to hold sway over the trees? ¹⁴ Then said all the trees unto the bramble: Come thou, and reign over us. ¹⁵ And the bramble said unto the trees: If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shadow; and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. ¹⁶ Now therefore, if ye have dealt truly and uprightly, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands — ¹⁷ for my father fought for you, and adventured his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian; ¹⁸ and ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maid-servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother — ¹⁹ if ye then have dealt truly and uprightly with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you. ²⁰ But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from Beth-millo, and devour Abimelech.' ²¹ And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother. ²² And Abimelech was prince over Israel three years. ²³ And G-d sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech; ²⁴ that the violence done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and that their blood might be laid upon Abimelech their brother, who slew them, and upon the men of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to slay his brethren. ²⁵ And the men of Shechem set liers-in-wait for him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them; and it was told Abimelech. ²⁶ And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went on to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their trust in him. ²⁷ And they went out into the field, and gathered their vineyards, and trod the grapes, and held festival, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech. ²⁸ And Gaal the son of Ebed said: 'Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve ye the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him?' ²⁹ And would that this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech.' And he said to Abimelech: 'Increase thine army, and come out.' ³⁰ And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled. ³¹ And he sent messengers unto Abimelech in Tormah, saying: 'Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren are come to Shechem; and, behold, they will incite the city against thee. ³² Now therefore, up by night, thou and the people that are with thee, and lie in wait in the field. ³³ And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city; and, behold, when he and the people that are with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt be able.' ³⁴ And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they lay in wait against Shechem in four companies. ³⁵ And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city; and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from the ambushment. ³⁶ And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul: 'Behold, there come people down from the tops of the mountains.' And Zebul said unto him: 'Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men.' ³⁷ And Gaal spoke again and said: 'See, there come people down by the middle of the land, and one company cometh by the way of Elon-meonenim.' ³⁸ Then said Zebul unto him: 'Where is now thy mouth, that thou saidst: Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? is not this the people that thou hast despised? go out now, I pray, and fight with them.' ³⁹ And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. ⁴⁰ And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and there fell many wounded, even unto the entrance of the gate. ⁴¹ And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah; and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem. ⁴² And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and it was told Abimelech. ⁴³ And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field; and he looked, and, behold, the people were coming forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them. ⁴⁴ And Abimelech, and the companies that were with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city; and the two companies rushed upon all that were in the field, and smote them. ⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that were therein; and he beat down the city, and sowed it with salt. ⁴⁶ And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard thereof, they entered into the hold of the house of El-berith. ⁴⁷ And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. ⁴⁸ And Abimelech got him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it up, and laid it on his shoulder; and he said unto the people that were with him: 'What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done.' ⁴⁹ And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women. ⁵⁰ Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. ⁵¹ But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, even all they of the city, and shut themselves in, and got them up to the roof of the tower. ⁵² And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went close unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. ⁵³ And a certain woman cast an upper millstone upon Abimelech's head, and broke his skull. ⁵⁴ Then he called hastily unto the young man his armour-bearer, and said unto him: 'Draw thy sword, and kill me, that men say not of me: A woman slew him.' And his young man thrust him through, and he died. ⁵⁵ And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place. ⁵⁶ Thus G-d requited the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren; ⁵⁷ and all the wickedness of the men of Shechem did G-d requite upon their heads; and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

¹ וַיֵּלֶךְ אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בֶּן-יִרְבֵּעֵל שָׁכְמָה, אֶל-אָחִי אָמוֹ; וַיְדַבֵּר אֵלֵיהֶם, וְאֶל-כָּל-מִשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית-אָבִי אָמוֹ לֵאמֹר. ² דַּבְּרוּ-נָא בְּאָזְנִי כָל-בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, מִה-טוֹב לָכֶם--הַמְשַׁל בְּכֶם שְׂבָעִים אִישׁ כָּל בְּנֵי יִרְבֵּעֵל, אִם-מְשַׁל בְּכֶם אִישׁ אֶחָד; וְיִכְרַתְכֶם, כִּי-עֲצַמְכֶם וּבְשָׁרְכֶם אֲנִי. ³ וַיַּדְּבְרוּ אִחָיו-אָמוֹ עָלָיו, בְּאָזְנֵי כָל-בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, אֵת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים, הָאֵלֶּה; וַיֵּט לָבָם אַחֲרֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, כִּי אָמְרוּ אֲחֵינוּ הוּא. ⁴ וַיִּתְּנוּ-לוֹ שְׂבָעִים כֶּסֶף, מִבֵּית בַּעַל בְּרִית; וַיִּשְׁכַּר בָּהֶם אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, אֲנָשִׁים רַיָּקִים וּפְחָזִים, וַיִּלְכּוּ, אַחֲרָיו. ⁵ וַיָּבֹא בֵּית-אֲבִיו, עֲפָרְתָהּ, וַיְהַרֵּג אֶת-אָחִיו בְּנֵי-יִרְבֵּעֵל שְׂבָעִים אִישׁ, עַל-אֶבֶן אֶחָת; וַיִּתֵּן יוֹתָם בֶּן-יִרְבֵּעֵל, הַקָּטָן--כִּי נִחָבָא. ⁶ וַיֹּאסְפוּ כָל-בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, וְכָל-בֵּית מְלוֹא, וַיִּלְכּוּ, וַיַּמְלִיכוּ אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לְמֶלֶךְ--עַם-אֲלוֹן מִצֵּב, אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁכָם. ⁷ וַיִּגְדּוּ לְיוֹתָם, וַיִּלְךְ וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּרֹאשׁ הָר-גֶּרִזִּים, וַיִּשָּׂא קוֹלוֹ, וַיִּקְרָא; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, שְׁמַעוּ אֵלַי בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, וַיִּשְׁמַע אֲלֵיכֶם, אֱלֹהִים. ⁸ הַיּוֹד הֵלְכוּ הָעֵצִים, לְמַשַּׁח עָלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לַיּוֹתָם, מְלוּכָה מֶלֶכָה עָלֵינוּ. ⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, הַיּוֹת, הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת-דִּשְׁנִי, אֲשֶׁר-בִּי וַכַּבְדּוּ אֱלֹהִים וְאָנָשִׁים; וְהִלַּכְתִּי, לְנוּעַ עַל-הָעֵצִים. ¹⁰ וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָעֵצִים, לְתַאֲנֶה: לְכִי-אִתָּה, מֶלְכִּי עָלֵינוּ. ¹¹ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, הַתַּאֲנֶה, הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת-מִתְקִי, וְאֶת-תְּנוּבַתִּי הַטּוֹבָה; וְהִלַּכְתִּי, לְנוּעַ עַל-הָעֵצִים. ¹² וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָעֵצִים, לְגֹפֶן: לְכִי-אִתָּה, מְלוּכִי מֶלְכִּי עָלֵינוּ. ¹³ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, הַגֹּפֶן, הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת-תִּירוּשִׁי, הַמְשַׁמַּח אֱלֹהִים וְאָנָשִׁים; וְהִלַּכְתִּי, לְנוּעַ עַל-הָעֵצִים. ¹⁴ וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָל-הָעֵצִים, אֶל-הָאֵשׁ: דָּךְ אִתָּה, מֶלֶךְ-עָלֵינוּ. ¹⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֵשׁ, אֵשׁ מִן-הָאֵשׁ, וְתֹאכַל אֶת-אֲרָצִי וְתִלְכְּנוּ. ¹⁶ וְאֵת, בְּאֲצִמַּת וּבִתְמִים עֲשִׂיתֶם, וְתִמְלִיכֶם, אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ; וְהָאֵשׁ, טוֹבָה עֲשִׂיתֶם עִם-יִרְבֵּעֵל וְעַם-בֵּיתוֹ, נֹאֵם כְּגִמְוִיל לְדִי עֲשִׂיתֶם לוֹ. ¹⁷ אֲשֶׁר-יִגְלַח אָבִי, עָלֵיכֶם; וַיִּשְׁלַךְ אֶת-נַפְשׁוֹ מִגֶּגֶד, וַיַּצֵּל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מֶלֶךְ. ¹⁸ וְאִתָּם קָמְתֶם עַל-בֵּית אָבִי, הַיּוֹם, וַתַּהַרְגוּ אֶת-בְּנָיו שְׂבָעִים אִישׁ, עַל-אֶבֶן אֶחָת; וְתִמְלִיכֶם אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בֶּן-אָמוֹתוֹ, עַל-בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, כִּי אֲחֵיכֶם, הוּא. ¹⁹ וְאִם-בְּאֲצִמַּת וּבִתְמִים עֲשִׂיתֶם עִם-יִרְבֵּעֵל וְעַם-בֵּיתוֹ, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--שְׁמַחוּ, בְּאֲבִימֶלֶךְ, וַיִּשְׂמַח גַּם-הוּא, בְּכֶם. ²⁰ וְאִם-אֵין--תַּצֵּא אֵשׁ מֵאֲבִימֶלֶךְ, וְתֹאכַל אֶת-בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם וְאֶת-בֵּית מְלוֹא; וְתַצֵּא אֵשׁ מִבָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, וּמִבֵּית מְלוֹא, וְתֹאכַל, אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ²¹ וַיָּנֶס יוֹתָם, וַיִּכְרַח וַיִּלְךְ בָּאֲרֶה; וַיָּשָׁב שָׁם, מִפְּנֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אַחִיו. ²² וַיִּשֶׁר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים. ²³ וַיִּשְׁלַח אֱלֹהִים, רוּחַ רָעָה, בֵּין אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, וּבֵין בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם; וַיִּכְבְּדוּ בָּעָלִי-שָׁכָם, בְּאֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ²⁴ לְבֹא, חֶמֶס שְׂבָעִים בְּנֵי-יִרְבֵּעֵל; וְדָמָם, לָשׁוּם עַל-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֲחִיָּהֶם אֲשֶׁר הִרָג אוֹתָם, וְעַל בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם, אֲשֶׁר-חָזְקוּ אֶת-דִּדְיוֹ לְהָרֵג אֶת-אָחִיו. ²⁵ וַיִּשְׁמְדוּ לוֹ בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם מְאֹרְבִּים, עַל רִאשֵׁי הָהָרִים, וַיִּגְזְלוּ, אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-יָצֵבֵר עָלֵיהֶם בְּדָרָךְ; וַיִּגְד, לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ²⁶ וַיָּבֹא גַעַל בֶּן-עֶבֶד, וְאָחִיו, וַיַּעֲבְרוּ, בְּשָׁכָם; וַיִּקְּטִי-בוֹ, בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם. ²⁷ וַיִּצְאוּ הַשָּׂדֶה וַיִּכְבְּרוּ אֶת-כַּרְמֵיהֶם, וַיִּדְרֹכּוּ, וַיַּעֲשׂוּ, הַלּוּלִים; וַיָּבֹאוּ, בֵּית אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ, וַיִּקְלְלוּ אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ²⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר גַּעַל בֶּן-עֶבֶד, מִי-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּמִי-שָׁכָם כִּי נַעֲבְדֶנּוּ--הֲלֹא בֶן-יִרְבֵּעֵל, וּזְבֹל פְּקִידוֹ; עֶבֶדוֹ, אֶת-אֲנָשֵׁי חֲמוֹר אָבִי שָׁכָם, וּמִדּוּעַ, נַעֲבְדֶנּוּ אָנָּה. ²⁹ וּמִי יִתֵּן אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה, בְּיָדִי, וְאִסִּירָהּ, אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ; וַיֹּאמֶר, לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ, רָכָה צִדְקָא, וַיֵּצֵא. ³⁰ וַיִּשְׁמַע, זְבֹל שַׂר-הָעֵיר, אֶת-דְּבָרֵי, גַּעַל בֶּן-עֶבֶד; וַיַּחַר, אַפּוֹ. ³¹ וַיִּשְׁלַח מַלְאָכִים אֶל-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, בְּתַרְמָה לֵאמֹר: הִנֵּה גַעַל בֶּן-עֶבֶד וְאָחִיו בָּאִים שָׁכְמָה, וְהִנֵּם צָרִים אֶת-הָעִיר עָלֶיךָ. ³² וַעֲתָה קוּם לִלְלָה, אִתָּה הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-אִתָּךְ; וְאָרַב, בַּשָּׂדֶה. ³³ וְהִזֵּה כְּבֹקֵר כּוֹרֵחַ הַשָּׁמַיִם, תִּשְׁכִּים וּתְשַׁטֵּף עַל-הָעִיר; וְהִנֵּה-הוּא הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, יֵצְאוּם אֵלֶיךָ, וְעִשִּׂיתִי לוֹ, כְּאֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ. ³⁴ וַיָּקָם אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-עִמּוֹ, לָלֶזְלֶה; וַיָּאֲרְבוּ עַל-שָׁכָם, אֲרַבְעָה רֵאשִׁים. ³⁵ וַיֵּצֵא, גַּעַל בֶּן-עֶבֶד, וַיַּעֲמֵד, פֶּתַח שַׁעַר הָעִיר; וַיָּקָם אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וְהָעָם אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, מִן-הַמָּאֲרָב. ³⁶ וַיַּרְג-גַּעַל, אֶת-הָעָם, וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-זְבֹל, הִנֵּה-עָם יוֹרֵד מִרְאשֵׁי הָהָרִים; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו זְבֹל, אֵת צַל הָהָרִים אִתָּה רֹאֵה כְּאֲנָשִׁים. ³⁷ וַיִּסָּף עוֹד גַּעַל, לְדַבֵּר, וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה-עָם יוֹרְדִים מֵעַם טְבוֹר הָאֶרֶץ; וְרֹאשׁ-אֶחָד בָּא, מִדְּרָךְ אֲלוֹן מְעוֹנִים. ³⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו זְבֹל, אִיזָה אֲפּוֹא פִיד אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר, מִי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ; כִּי נַעֲבְדֶנּוּ: הֲלֹא זֶה הָעָם אֲשֶׁר מֵאִסְתָּה בּוֹ, צֵא-נָא עֲתָה וְהִלַּחְתֶּם בּוֹ. ³⁹ וַיֵּצֵא גַעַל, לִפְנֵי בָּעָלִי שָׁכָם; וַיִּלְחָם, בְּאֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ⁴⁰ וַיִּדְרֹפֶהוּ אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, וַיָּנֶס מִפְּנָיו; וַיִּפְּלוּ חֲלָלִים רַבִּים, עַד-פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר. ⁴¹ וַיָּשָׁב אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, בְּאֲרוּמָה; וַיִּגְרַשׁ זְבֹל אֶת-גַּעַל וְאֶת-אָחִיו, מִשְׁכַּת בְּשָׁכָם. ⁴² וַיְהִי, מִמַּחֲרַת, וַיֵּצֵא הָעָם, הַשָּׂדֶה; וַיִּגְדוּ, לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ. ⁴³ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הָעָם, וַיַּחֲצֵם לְשָׁלֹשָׁה רֵאשִׁים, וַיֹּאֲרַב, בַּשָּׂדֶה; וַיַּרְא, וְהִנֵּה הָעָם יָצָא מִן-הָעִיר, וַיָּקָם עָלֵיהֶם, וַיָּכֶם. ⁴⁴ וְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ, וְהָרָאשִׁים אֲשֶׁר עִמּוֹ, פָּשְׁטוּ, וַיַּעֲמִדוּ שַׁעַר שַׁעַר הָעִיר; וַיִּשְׁנִי הָרָאשִׁים, וַיִּשְׁטוּ עַל-כָּל-אֶשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה--וַיָּכֹם. ⁴⁵ וְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ נִלְחָם בְּעֵיר, כָּל-הַיּוֹם הַהוּא, וַיִּלְכֹּד אֶת-הָעִיר, וְאֶת-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-הָרַג; וַיַּחֲזֵן, אֶת-הָעִיר, וַיִּזְרְעָהּ, מֶלַח. ⁴⁶ וַיִּשְׁמַעוּ, כָּל-בָּעָלִי מְגִדֵּל-שָׁכָם; וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, בֵּית אֶל בְּרִית. ⁴⁷ וַיִּגְד, לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ: כִּי הִתְקַבְּצוּ, כָּל-בָּעָלִי מְגִדֵּל-שָׁכָם. ⁴⁸ וַיַּעַל אֲבִימֶלֶךְ הַר-צֶלְמוֹן, הוּא וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, וַיִּקַּח אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֶת-הַקְּרָמֹת מִבְּיַד וַיַּכְרֹת שׁוֹכֵת עֲצִים, וַיִּשְׁאָה וַיִּשֶׁם עַל-שָׁכְמוֹ; וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-עִמּוֹ, מַה רָאִיתֶם עֲשִׂיתִי--מִהְרֹה, עָשׂו כִּמּוֹנִי. ⁴⁹ וַיִּכְרַתוּ גַם-כָּל-הָעָם אִישׁ שׁוֹכָה, וַיִּלְכּוּ אַחֲרֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁמְדוּ עַל-הָעִיר, וַיִּצִּיתוּ עָלֵיהֶם אֶת-הָעִיר, כְּאֵשׁ; וַיָּמָתוּ, גַּם כָּל-אֲנָשֵׁי מְגִדֵּל-שָׁכָם, כְּאֶלֶף--אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה. ⁵⁰ וַיִּלְךְ אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, אֶל-תִּבְבֵּץ; וַיַּחֲזֵן בְּתִבְבֵּץ, וַיִּלְכְּדָהּ. ⁵¹ וּמְגִדֵּל-עוֹ, הָיָה כְּחוֹד-הָעִיר, וַיָּנֶסוּ שָׁמָּה כָל-הָאָנָשִׁים וְהַנָּשִׁים וְכָל בָּעָלִי הָעִיר, וַיִּסְגְּרוּ בָּעֵדָם; וַיַּעֲלוּ, עַל-גֵּב הַמְּגִדֵּל. ⁵² וַיָּבֹא אֲבִימֶלֶךְ עַד-הַמְּגִדֵּל, וַיִּלְחָם בּוֹ; וַיִּגַּשׁ עַד-פֶּתַח הַמְּגִדֵּל, לְשַׁרְפוֹ כְּאֵשׁ. ⁵³ וַתִּשְׁלַךְ אִשָּׁה אֶחָת, פֶּלַח רָכָב--עַל-רֹאשׁ אֲבִימֶלֶךְ; וַתִּרְץ, אֶת-גִּלְגָּלָתוֹ. ⁵⁴ וַיִּקְרָא מִהְרָה אֶל-הַנָּעַר נִשָּׂא כִלְיוֹ, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁלַף חֲרָבְךָ וּמוֹתֵנִי--פֶּן-יֹאמְרוּ לִי, אִשָּׁה הִרְגָתֵהוּ; וַיִּדְקְרָהוּ נַעֲרוֹ, וַיָּמָת. ⁵⁵ וַיִּרְאוּ אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי מָת אֲבִימֶלֶךְ; וַיִּלְכּוּ, אִישׁ לְמִקְמוֹ. ⁵⁶ וַיָּשָׁב אֱלֹהִים, אֶת רֵצַת אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְאֲבָיו, לְהָרֵג אֶת-שְׂבָעִים אָחָיו. ⁵⁷ וְאֵת, כָּל-רֵצַת אֲנָשֵׁי שָׁכָם, הַשֹּׁבִים אֱלֹהִים, בְּרָאשֵׁם; וְתָבֵא אֱלֹהִים, קָלִילָת יוֹתָם בֶּן-יִרְבֵּעֵל.

¹ And after Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the hill-country of Ephraim. ² And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir. ³ And after him arose Jair, the Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty and two years. ⁴ And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havvoth-jair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead. ⁵ And Jair died, and was buried in Kamon. ⁶ And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem, and served the Baalim, and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook HaShem, and served Him not. ⁷ And the anger of HaShem was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the children of Ammon. ⁸ And they oppressed and crushed the children of Israel that year; eighteen years oppressed they all the children of Israel that were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. ⁹ And the children of Ammon passed over the Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was sore distressed. ¹⁰ And the children of Israel cried unto HaShem, saying: 'We have sinned against Thee, in that we have forsaken our G-d, and have served the Baalim.' ¹¹ And HaShem said unto the children of Israel: 'Did not I save you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? ¹² The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried unto Me, and I saved you out of their hand. ¹³ Yet ye have forsaken Me, and served other gods; wherefore I will save you no more. ¹⁴ Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.' ¹⁵ And the children of Israel said unto HaShem: 'We have sinned; do Thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto Thee; only deliver us, we pray Thee, this day.' ¹⁶ And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served HaShem; and His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel. ¹⁷ Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpah. ¹⁸ And the people, the princes of Gilead, said one to another: 'What man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.'

¹ וַיָּקָם אַחֲרֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, תּוֹלַע בֶּן-פּוּאָה בֶּן-דּוּדוֹ--אִישׁ יִשְׁשָׁכָר; וְהוּא-יָשָׁב בְּשָׁמִיר, בְּהַר אֶפְרַיִם. ² וַיִּשְׁפֹּט, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנָה; וַיָּמָת, וַיִּקָּבֶר בְּשָׁמִיר. ³ וַיָּקָם אַחֲרָיו, יָאִיר הַגִּלְעָדִי; וַיִּשְׁפֹּט, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁתַּיִם שָׁנָה. ⁴ וַיְהִי-לוֹ שְׁלֹשִׁים בָּנִים, רֹכָבִים עַל-שְׁלֹשִׁים עֲרִירִים, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים עֲרִירִים, לָהֶם; לָהֶם יִקְרָאוּ חוֹת יָאִיר, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, אֲשֶׁר, בְּאֶרֶץ הַגִּלְעָד. ⁵ וַיָּמָת יָאִיר, וַיִּקָּבֶר בְּקָמוֹן. ⁶ וַיְסִיפוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה, וַיַּעֲבְדוּ אֶת-הַבְּעָלִים וְאֶת-הָעֵשְׁתָרוֹת וְאֶת-אֱלֹהֵי אֲרָם וְאֶת-אֱלֹהֵי צִידוֹן וְאֶת אֱלֹהֵי בְנֵי-עַמּוֹן, וְאֶת אֱלֹהֵי פְלִשְׁתִּים; וַיַּעֲזְבוּ אֶת-יְהוָה, וְלֹא עָבְדוּהוּ. ⁷ וַיַּחֲר-אִף יְהוָה, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּמְכְּרֵם, בְּיַד-פְּלִשְׁתִּים, וּבְיַד עַמּוֹן. ⁸ וַיִּרְעֲצוּ וַיִּרְצְצוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִיא: שְׁמֹנֶה עָשָׂר שָׁנָה, אֶת-כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר בְּעֶבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן--בְּאֶרֶץ הָאֱמֹרִי, אֲשֶׁר בְּגִלְעָד. ⁹ וַיַּעֲבְרוּ בְנֵי-עַמּוֹן אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן, לְהִלָּחֵם גַּם-בִּיהוּדָה וּבְבִנְיָמִן וּבְבֵית אֶפְרַיִם; וַתֵּצֵר לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, מָאֵד. ¹⁰ וַיִּזְעֲקוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-יְהוָה לֵאמֹר: חֲטֵאנוּ לָךְ--וְכִי עֲזַבְנוּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְנַעֲבֹד אֶת-הַבְּעָלִים. ¹¹ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: הֲלֹא מִמְּצָרִים וּמִן-הָאֱמֹרִי, וּמִן-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וּמִן-פְּלִשְׁתִּים. ¹² וַצִּידוֹנִים וַעֲמֻלִּים וַיַּעֲזְבוּ, לְחַצּוֹ אֶתְכֶם; וַתַּעֲצֹקוּ אֵלַי, וְאוֹשִׁיעָה אֶתְכֶם מִיָּדָם. ¹³ וְאַתֶּם עֲזַבְתֶּם אוֹתִי, וַתַּעֲבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים; לָכֵן לֹא-אוֹסִיף, לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם. ¹⁴ לָכֵן, וַיִּזְעֲקוּ אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתֶּם, בָּם: הֲמָה יוֹשִׁיעוּ לָכֶם, בַּעַת צָרְתְּכֶם. ¹⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יְהוָה, חֲטֵאנוּ--עָשִׂה-אִתָּהּ לָנוּ, כְּכֹל-הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ: אֵךְ הֲצִילָנוּ נָא, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. ¹⁶ וַיִּסִּירוּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי הַנֶּכֶר, מִקִּרְבָּם, וַיַּעֲבְדוּ, אֶת-יְהוָה; וַתִּקְצֹר נֶפֶשׁוֹ, בַּעֲמַל יִשְׂרָאֵל. ¹⁷ וַיִּזְעֲקוּ בְנֵי עַמּוֹן, וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּגִלְעָד; וַיֹּאסְפוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיַּחֲנוּ בַּמִּצְפָּה. ¹⁸ וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָעָם שָׁרֵי גִלְעָד, אִישׁ אֶל-רֵעֵהוּ, מִי הָאִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר יַחֲלֵה לְהִלָּחֵם בְּבִנְיָ עַמּוֹן--יְהִיָּה לְרֹאשׁ, לְכָל יִשְׁבֵי גִלְעָד.

¹ Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah. ² And Gilead's wife bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove out Jephthah, and said unto him: 'Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of another woman.' ³ Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob; and there were gathered vain fellows to Jephthah, and they went out with him. ⁴ And it came to pass after a while, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel. ⁵ And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob. ⁶ And they said unto Jephthah: 'Come and be our chief, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.' ⁷ And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead: 'Did not ye hate me, and drive me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?' ⁸ And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah: 'Therefore are we returned to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight with the children of Ammon, and thou shalt be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.' ⁹ And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead: 'If ye bring me back home to fight with the children of Ammon, and HaShem deliver them before me, I will be your head.' ¹⁰ And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah: 'HaShem shall be witness between us; surely according to thy word so will we do.' ¹¹ Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before HaShem in Mizpah. ¹² And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying: 'What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come unto me to fight against my land?' ¹³ And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah: 'Because Israel took away my land, when he came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon even unto the Jabbok, and unto the Jordan; now therefore restore those cities peaceably.' ¹⁴ And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon; ¹⁵ and he said unto him: 'Thus saith Jephthah: Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon. ¹⁶ But when they came up from Egypt, and Israel walked through the wilderness unto the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh; ¹⁷ then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying: Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land; but the king of Edom hearkened not. And in like manner he sent unto the king of Moab; but he would not; and Israel abode in Kadesh. ¹⁸ Then he walked through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and they pitched on the other side of the Arnon; but they came not within the border of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab. ¹⁹ And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him: Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land unto my place. ²⁰ But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his border; but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel. ²¹ And HaShem, the G-d of Israel, delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them; so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country. ²² And they possessed all the border of the Amorites, from the Arnon even unto the Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto the Jordan. ²³ So now HaShem, the G-d of Israel, hath dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel, and shouldest thou possess them? ²⁴ Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever HaShem our G-d hath dispossessed from before us, them will we possess. ²⁵ And now art thou any thing better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them? ²⁶ While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its towns, and in Aroer and its towns, and in all the cities that are along by the side of the Arnon, three hundred years; wherefore did ye not recover them within that time? ²⁷ I therefore have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me; HaShem, the Judge, be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.' ²⁸ Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him. ²⁹ Then the spirit of HaShem came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. ³⁰ And Jephthah vowed a vow unto HaShem, and said: 'If Thou wilt indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand, ³¹ then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, it shall be HaShem'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt-offering.' ³² So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and HaShem delivered them into his hand. ³³ And he smote them from Aroer until thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto Abel-cheramim, with a very great slaughter. So the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. ³⁴ And Jephthah came to Mizpah unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances; and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. ³⁵ And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said: 'Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art become my troubler; for I have opened my mouth unto HaShem, and I cannot go back.' ³⁶ And she said unto him: 'My father, thou hast opened thy mouth unto HaShem; do unto me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as HaShem hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.' ³⁷ And she said unto her father: 'Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may depart and go down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions.' ³⁸ And he said: 'Go.' And he sent her away for two months; and she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. ³⁹ And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed; and she had not known man. And it was a custom in Israel, ⁴⁰ that the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

¹ וַיִּפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי, הָיָה גִבּוֹר חַיִל, וְהוּא, בֶּן-אִשָּׁה זוֹנָה; וַיּוֹלֵד גִּלְעָד, אֶת-יִפְתָּח. ² וַתֵּלֶד אִשָּׁת-גִּלְעָד לוֹ, בָּנִים; וַיִּגְדְּלוּ בְנֵי-הָאִשָּׁה וַיַּגְרִשׁוּ אֶת-יִפְתָּח, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא-תִנְחַל בְּבֵית-אֲבוֹנֵינוּ--כִּי בֶן-אִשָּׁה אַחֲרָת, אִתָּה. ³ וַיִּכְרַח יִפְתָּח מִפָּנָיו אֲחִיו, וַיָּשָׁב בְּאֶרֶץ טוֹב; וַיִּתְּלַקְטוּ אֶל-יִפְתָּח אֲנָשִׁים רַקִּים, וַיֵּצְאוּ עִמּוֹ. ⁴ וַיְהִי, מִיָּמִים; וַיִּלְחַמוּ בְנֵי-עַמּוֹן, עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁵ וַיְהִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר-נִלְחַמוּ בְנֵי-עַמּוֹן עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיָּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד, לְקַחַת אֶת-יִפְתָּח מֵאֶרֶץ טוֹב. ⁶ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיִפְתָּח--לָכֶה, וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין; וְנִלְחַמָּה, בְּבְנֵי עַמּוֹן. ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר יִפְתָּח, לְזִקְנֵי גִלְעָד, הֲלֹא אַתֶּם שָׂנְאֶתֶם אוֹתִי, וְתַגְרִשׁוּנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי; וַיַּמְדוּעַ בְּאַתֶּם אֵלַי, עִתָּה, כַּאֲשֶׁר, צֵר לָכֶם. ⁸ וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד אֶל-יִפְתָּח, לָכֵן עִתָּה שְׂבָנוּ אֵלֶיךָ, וְהִלַּכְתָּ עִמָּנוּ, וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בְּבְנֵי עַמּוֹן; וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְרֹאשׁ, לְכָל יְשִׁבֵי גִלְעָד. ⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר יִפְתָּח אֶל-זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד, אִם-מְשִׁיבִים אַתֶּם אוֹתִי לְהִלָּחֵם בְּבְנֵי עַמּוֹן, וְנָתַן יְהוָה אֹתָם, לְפָנֵי--אֹנְכִי, אֶהְיֶה לָכֶם לְרֹאשׁ. ¹⁰ וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי-גִלְעָד, אֶל-יִפְתָּח: יְהוָה, 'הִיָּה שֹׁמֵעַ בְּיִנּוּתֵינוּ--אִם-לֹא כַדְבָּרְךָ, כֵּן נַעֲשֶׂה. ¹¹ וַיֵּלֶךְ יִפְתָּח עִם-זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד, וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ הָעָם אוֹתוֹ עֲלֵיהֶם לְרֹאשׁ וּלְקָצִין; וַיַּדְבֵּר יִפְתָּח אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרָיו לְפָנָיו; וַיְהִי, בַּמִּצְפָּה. ¹² וַיִּשְׁלַח יִפְתָּח מַלְאָכִים, אֶל-מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹן לֵאמֹר: מַה-לִּי וְלָךְ, כִּי-בָאתָ אֵלַי לְהִלָּחֵם בְּאֶרְצִי. ¹³ וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹן אֶל-מַלְאָכָיו יִפְתָּח, כִּי-לָקַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-אֶרְצִי בְּעִלּוֹתוֹ מִמִּצְרַיִם, מֵאַרְנוֹן וְעַד-הַיַּבֵּק, וְעַד-הַיַּרְדֵּן; וְעַתָּה, הִשְׁיִבָה אֶתְהֶן בְּשׁוֹלֹם. ¹⁴ וַיֹּסֶף עוֹד, יִפְתָּח; וַיִּשְׁלַח, מַלְאָכִים, אֶל-מֶלֶךְ, בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. ¹⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, כֹּה אָמַר יִפְתָּח: לֹא-לָקַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-אֶרֶץ מוֹאָב, וְאֶת-אֶרֶץ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. ¹⁶ כִּי, בְּעִלּוֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם; וַיֵּלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִדְבָּר עַד-יָם-סוּף, וַיָּבֹא קִדְשָׁה. ¹⁷ וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל מַלְאָכִים אֶל-מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹם לֵאמֹר אֶעֱבְרָה-בָּא בְּאֶרְצְךָ, וְלֹא שָׁמַע מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹם, וְגַם אֶל-מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שָׁלַח, וְלֹא אָבָה; וַיָּשָׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּקִדְשׁ. ¹⁸ וַיֵּלֶךְ בְּמִדְבָּר, וַיָּסֹב אֶת-אֶרֶץ אֲדוֹם וְאֶת-אֶרֶץ מוֹאָב, וַיָּבֹא מִמִּזְרַח-שָׁמַשׁ לְאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב, וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֶבֶר אֲרָנוֹן; וְלֹא-בָאוּ בְּגָבּוֹל מוֹאָב, כִּי אֲרָנוֹן גְּבּוֹל מוֹאָב. ¹⁹ וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל מַלְאָכִים, אֶל-סִיחוֹן מֶלֶךְ-הָעַמְּאִרִי מֶלֶךְ חֲשָׁבוֹן; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֶבְרָה-בָּא בְּאֶרְצְךָ עַד-מְקוֹמִי. ²⁰ וְלֹא-הָאֵמִין סִיחוֹן אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עָבַר בְּגָבּוֹלוֹ, וַיֹּאסֹף סִיחוֹן אֶת-כָּל-עַמּוֹ, וַיַּחֲנוּ בִּיהֲדָה; וַיִּלָּחֶם, עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל. ²¹ וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-סִיחוֹן וְאֶת-כָּל-עַמּוֹ, בְּיַד יִשְׂרָאֵל--וַיִּכּוּם; וַיִּירֹשׁ, יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-כָּל-אֶרֶץ הָעַמְּאִרִי, וַיֹּשֶׁב הָאֶרֶץ הַהִיא. ²² וַיִּירֶשׁוּ, אֶת-כָּל-גְּבּוֹל הָעַמְּאִרִי--מֵאַרְנוֹן, וְעַד-הַיַּבֵּק, וּמִן-הַמִּדְבָּר, וְעַד-הַיַּרְדֵּן. ²³ וְעַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הוֹרִישׁ אֶת-הָעַמְּאִרִי, מִפָּנָיו, עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְאַתָּה, תִּירָשׁנוּ. ²⁴ הֲלֹא אַתָּה אֲשֶׁר יוֹרִישִׁךָ, כְּמוֹשׁ אֱלֹהֵי-יִדִּד--אוֹתוֹ תִּירֶשׁ; וְאַתָּה כָּל-אֲשֶׁר הוֹרִישׁ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִפְּנֵינוּ--אוֹתוֹ תִּירֶשׁ. ²⁵ וְעַתָּה, הַטּוֹב טוֹב אַתָּה, מִכָּלֶךְ בֶּן-צִפּוֹר, מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב; הַרּוֹב רַב עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אִם-נִלְחָם נִלָּחֵם בָּם. ²⁶ בְּשִׁבְתָּ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּחֻשְׁבוֹן וּבְכַנּוֹתֶיהָ וּבְצֶרְעוֹר וּבְכַנּוֹתֶיהָ, וּבְכָל-הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר עַל-יַד־אֲרָנוֹן, שָׁלֵשׁ מֵאוֹת, שָׁנָה--וַיַּמְדוּעַ לֹא-הִצְלַתְּם, בְּעֵת הַהִיא. ²⁷ וְאַנְכִי, לֹא-תִטָּאתִי לָךְ, וְאַתָּה עֹשֶׂה אִתִּי רָעָה, לְהִלָּחֵם בִּי: יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה הַשֹּׁפֵט, הַיּוֹם, בֵּין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּבֵין בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. ²⁸ וְלֹא שָׁמַע, מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן, אֶל-דְּבָרֵי יִפְתָּח, אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח אֵלָיו. ²⁹ וְתָהִי עַל-יִפְתָּח רוּחַ יְהוָה, וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת-הַגִּלְעָד וְאֶת-מִנְשָׁה; וַיַּעֲבֹר, אֶת-מִצְפֵּה גִלְעָד, וּמִמִּצְפֵּה גִלְעָד, עָבַר בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. ³⁰ וַיַּדְרֵךְ יִפְתָּח נָדָר לַיהוָה, וַיֹּאמֶר: אִם-נָתַן תִּתֵּן אֶת-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן, בְּיָדִי. ³¹ וְהִיָּה הַיּוֹצֵא, אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִדְּלַתִּי בֵּיתִי לְקִרְאָתִי, בְּשִׁיבֵי בְשָׁלוֹם, מִבְּנֵי עַמּוֹן--וְהָיָה, לַיהוָה, וְהַעֲלִיתִיהוּ, עֲלֶיהָ. ³² וַיַּעֲבֹר יִפְתָּח אֶל-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן, לְהִלָּחֵם בָּם; וַיִּתְּנֵם יְהוָה, בְּיָדוֹ. ³³ וַיָּכֶם מְעֹרֹעַר וְעַד-בֹּאֵף מְנִית עֲשָׂרִים עֵיר, וְעַד אָבֶל כְּרָמִים, מִכָּה, גְּדוֹלָה מְאֹד; וַיִּכְנְעוּ בְנֵי עַמּוֹן, מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. ³⁴ וַיָּבֹא יִפְתָּח הַמִּצְפָּה, אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ, וְהָיָה בֵּיתוֹ יֵצֵאת לְקִרְאָתוֹ, בְּתַפִּים וּבְמַחְלּוֹת: וְרַק הִיא יַחֲדֶיהָ, אֵין-לוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ בֶן אוֹ-בַת. ³⁵ וַיְהִי כִרְאוֹתוֹ אוֹתָהּ וַיִּקְרַע אֶת-בְּגָדָיו, וַיֹּאמֶר אֵהָה בֵּיתִי הַכָּרֵעַ הַכָּרֵעַתָּנִי, וְאַתָּה, הָיִית בְּעֶכְרִי; וְאַנְכִי, פְּצִיתִי כִּי אֶל-יְהוָה, וְלֹא אוֹכַל, לָשׁוּב. ³⁶ וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, אָבִי פְּצִיתָה אֶת-פִּידִי אֶל-יְהוָה--עֲשֵׂה לִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִפִּידִי: אֲחִירִי אֲשֶׁר עֲשֵׂה לָךְ יְהוָה נִקְמֹת, מֵאִי־יָד--מִבְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. ³⁷ וַתֹּאמֶר, אֶל-אָבִיהָ, יַעֲשֵׂה לִי, הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: אֲחִירִי מִמֶּנִּי שְׁנַיִם חֲדָשִׁים, וְאֶלְכָה וְיִרְדְּתִי עַל-הַהָרִים, וְאָבְכָה עַל-בְּתוּלִי, וְאַנְכִי וּרְעִיתִי וְרַעוּתִי. ³⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר לָכֵי, וַיִּשְׁלַח אוֹתָהּ שְׁנֵי חֲדָשִׁים; וַתֵּלֶךְ הִיא וְרַעוּתֶיהָ, וְתַבָּךְ עַל-בְּתוּלֶיהָ עַל-הַהָרִים. ³⁹ וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ שְׁנַיִם חֲדָשִׁים, וַתָּשָׁב אֶל-אָבִיהָ, וַיַּעַשׂ לָהּ, אֶת-נִדְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָדָר; וְהָיָה לֹא-יִדְעָה אִישׁ, וְתָהִי חֹק בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁴⁰ מִיָּמִים יְמִימָה, תִּלְכְּנָה בְּנוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְתַנּוֹת, לְבַת-יִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי--אַרְבַּעַת יָמִים, בַּשָּׁנָה.

¹ And the men of Ephraim were gathered together, and passed to Zaphon; and they said unto Jephthah: 'Wherefore didst thou pass over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thy house upon thee with fire.' ² And Jephthah said unto them: 'I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye saved me not out of their hand.' ³ And when I saw that ye saved me not, I put my life in my hand, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and HaShem delivered them into my hand; wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?' ⁴ Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim; and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said: 'Ye are fugitives of Ephraim, ye Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim, and in the midst of Manasseh.' ⁵ And the Gileadites took the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites; and it was so, that when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said: 'Let me go over,' the men of Gilead said unto him: 'Art thou an Ephraimite?' If he said: 'Nay'; ⁶ then said they unto him: 'Say now Shibboleth'; and he said 'Sibboleth'; for he could not frame to pronounce it right; then they laid hold on him, and slew him at the fords of the Jordan; and there fell at that time of Ephraim forty and two thousand. ⁷ And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead. ⁸ And after him Ibzan of Beth-lehem judged Israel. ⁹ And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters he sent abroad, and thirty daughters he brought in from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. ¹⁰ and Ibzan died, and was buried at Beth-lehem. ¹¹ And after him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. ¹² And Elon the Zebulunite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun. ¹³ And after him Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. ¹⁴ And he had forty sons and thirty sons' sons, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts; and he judged Israel eight years. ¹⁵ And Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died, and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill-country of the Amalekites.

¹ וַיִּצְעַק אִישׁ אֶפְרַיִם, וַיַּעֲבֹר צָפוֹנָה; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לַיִּפְתָּח מְדוּעַ עָבַרְתָּ לְהִלָּחֵם בְּבָנֵי-עַמּוֹן, וְלָנוּ לֹא קָרָאתָ לָלֶכֶת עִמָּךְ--בֵּיתְךָ, נִשְׂרָף עָלֶיךָ בָּאֵשׁ. ² וַיֹּאמֶר יִפְתָּח, אֲלֵיהֶם, אִישׁ רִיב הָיִיתִי אֲנִי וְעַמִּי וּבְנֵי-עַמּוֹן, מְאֹד; וְאִצְעַק אֶתְכֶם, וְלֹא-הוֹשַׁעְתֶּם אוֹתִי מִיָּדָם. ³ וְאָרְאָה כִּי-אֵינָה מוֹשִׁיעַ, וְאֲשִׁימָה נַפְשִׁי בְּכַפִּי וְאֶעֱבְרָה אֶל-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן, וַיִּתְּנִם יְהוָה, בְּיָדִי; וְלָמָּה עָלִיתֶם אֵלַי, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--לְהִלָּחֵם בִּי. ⁴ וַיִּקְבֹּץ יִפְתָּח אֶת-כָּל-אֲנָשֵׁי גִלְעָד, וַיִּלָּחֶם אֶת-אֶפְרַיִם; וַיָּכּוּ אֲנָשֵׁי גִלְעָד אֶת-אֶפְרַיִם, כִּי אָמְרוּ פְּלִיטֵי אֶפְרַיִם אַתֶּם--גִּלְעָד, בְּתוֹךְ אֶפְרַיִם בְּתוֹךְ מְנַשֶּׁה. ⁵ וַיִּלְכְּדוּ גִלְעָד אֶת-מַעְבְּרוֹת הַיַּרְדֵּן, לְאֶפְרַיִם; וַהֲיָה כִּי יֹאמְרוּ פְּלִיטֵי אֶפְרַיִם, אֶעֱבְרָה, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֲנָשֵׁי-גִלְעָד הֲאִפְרָתִי אַתָּה, וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא. ⁶ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אָמֵר-נָא שְׁבִלֶת וַיֹּאמֶר סְבִלֶת, וְלֹא יָכִין לְדַבֵּר כֵּן, וַיֹּאחֲזוּ אוֹתוֹ, וַיִּשְׁחָטוּהוּ אֶל-מַעְבְּרוֹת הַיַּרְדֵּן; וַיִּפֹּל בַּעֲת הַהִיא, מֵאֶפְרַיִם, אַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁנָיִם, אֶלֶף. ⁷ וַיִּשְׁפֹּט יִפְתָּח אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, שָׁשׁ שָׁנִים; וַיָּמָת, יִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי, וַיִּקְבֹּר, בְּעָרֵי גִלְעָד. ⁸ וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אַחֲרָיו אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אַבְצָן מִבֵּית לָחֶם. ⁹ וַיְהִי-לוֹ שְׁלֹשִׁים בָּנִים, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים בָּנוֹת שִׁלַּח הַחוּצָה, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים בָּנוֹת, הֵבִיא לְבָנָיו מִן-הַחוּץ; וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, שִׁבְעַ שָׁנִים. ¹⁰ וַיָּמָת אַבְצָן, וַיִּקְבֹּר בְּבֵית לָחֶם. ¹¹ וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אַחֲרָיו אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֵילֹון הַזְּבוּלֹנִי; וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים. ¹² וַיָּמָת, אֵילֹון הַזְּבוּלֹנִי; וַיִּקְבֹּר בְּאֵילֹון, בְּאֶרֶץ זְבוּלֹן. ¹³ וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אַחֲרָיו אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַבְדּוֹן בֶּן-הַלֵּל, הַפְּרָעָתוֹנִי. ¹⁴ וַיְהִי-לוֹ אַרְבָּעִים בָּנִים, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים בְּנֵי בָנִים, רֹכָבִים, עַל-שְׁבָעִים עֶזְרָם; וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, שְׁמֹנֶה שָׁנִים. ¹⁵ וַיָּמָת עַבְדּוֹן בֶּן-הַלֵּל, הַפְּרָעָתוֹנִי; וַיִּקְבֹּר בְּפְרָעָתוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ אֶפְרַיִם, בְּהַר הָעֲמָלִקִּי.

¹ And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of HaShem; and HaShem delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. ² And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bore not. ³ And the angel of HaShem appeared unto the woman, and said unto her: 'Behold now, thou art barren, and hast not borne; but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. ⁴ Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing. ⁵ For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come upon his head; for the child shall be a Nazirite unto G-d from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.' ⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, saying: 'A man of G-d came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the angel of G-d, very terrible; and I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name; ⁷ but he said unto me: Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing; for the child shall be a Nazirite unto G-d from the womb to the day of his death.' ⁸ Then Manoah entreated HaShem, and said: 'Oh, HaShem, I pray Thee, let the man of G-d whom Thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.' ⁹ And G-d hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of G-d came again unto the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰ And the woman made haste, and ran, and told her husband, and said unto him: 'Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me that day.' ¹¹ And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him: 'Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman?' And he said: 'I am.' ¹² And Manoah said: 'Now when thy word cometh to pass, what shall be the rule for the child, and what shall be done with him?' ¹³ And the angel of HaShem said unto Manoah: 'Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. ¹⁴ She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the grapevine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded her let her observe.' ¹⁵ And Manoah said unto the angel of HaShem: 'I pray thee, let us detain thee, that we may make ready a kid for thee.' ¹⁶ And the angel of HaShem said unto Manoah: 'Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wilt make ready a burnt-offering, thou must offer it unto HaShem.' For Manoah knew not that he was the angel of HaShem. ¹⁷ And Manoah said unto the angel of HaShem: 'What is thy name, that when thy words come to pass we may do thee honour?' ¹⁸ And the angel of HaShem said unto him: 'Wherefore askest thou after my name, seeing it is hidden?' ¹⁹ So Manoah took the kid with the meal-offering, and offered it upon the rock unto HaShem; and the angel did wondrously, and Manoah and his wife looked on. ²⁰ For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of HaShem ascended in the flame of the altar; and Manoah and his wife looked on; and they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ But the angel of HaShem did no more appear to Manoah or to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of HaShem. ²² And Manoah said unto his wife: 'We shall surely die, because we have seen G-d.' ²³ But his wife said unto him: 'If HaShem were pleased to kill us, He would not have received a burnt-offering and a meal-offering at our hand, neither would He have shown us all these things, nor would at this time have told such things as these.' ²⁴ And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and HaShem blessed him. ²⁵ And the spirit of HaShem began to move him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

¹ ויסיפו בני ישראל, לעשות הרע בעיני יהוה; ויתנם יהוה ביד-פלשתים, ארבעים שנה. ² ויהי איש אחד מצרעה ממשפחת הדני, ושמו מנוח; ואשתו עקרה, ולא ילדה. ³ וירא מלאך-יהוה, אל-האשה; ויאמר אליה, הנה-נא את-עקרה ולא ילדת, והרית, וילדת בן. ⁴ ועתה השמרי נא, ואל-תשתי יין ושכר; ואל-תאכלי, כל-טמא. ⁵ כי הנך הרה וילדת בן, ומורה לא-יעלה על-ראשו--כי-נזיר אלהים יהיה הנער, מן-הבטן; והוא, יחל להושיע את-ישראל--מיד פלשתים. ⁶ ותבא האשה, ותאמר לאישה לאמר, איש האלהים בא אלי, ומראהו כמראה מלאך האלהים נורא מאד; ולא שאלתיהו אי-מזה הוא, ואת-שמו לא-הגיד לי. ⁷ ויאמר לי, הנך הרה וילדת בן; ועתה אל-תשתי יין ושכר, ואל-תאכלי כל-טמאה--כי-נזיר אלהים יהיה הנער, מן-הבטן עד-יום מותו. ⁸ ויעתר מנוח אל-יהוה, ויאמר: בי אדוני--איש האלהים אשר שלחת יבוא-נא עוד אלינו, ויורנו מה-נעשה לנער היולד. ⁹ וישמע האלהים, בקול מנוח; ויבא מלאך האלהים עוד אל-האשה, והיא יושבת בשדה, ומנוח אישה, אין עמה. ¹⁰ ותמהר, האשה, ותריץ, ותגד לאישה; ותאמר אליו--הנה נראה אלי האיש, אשר-בא ביום אלי. ¹¹ ויקם וילך מנוח, אחרי אשתו; ויבא, אל-האיש, ויאמר לו האתה האיש אשר-דברת אל-האשה, ויאמר אני. ¹² ויאמר מנוח, עתה יבא דבריד: מה-יהיה משפט-הנער, ומעשהו. ¹³ ויאמר מלאך יהוה, אל-מנוח: מכל אשר-אמרתי אל-האשה, תשמר. ¹⁴ מכל אשר-יצא מגפן תיין לא תאכל, ויין ושכר אל-תשת, וכל-טמאה, אל-תאכל: כל אשר-צויתיה, תשמר. ¹⁵ ויאמר מנוח, אל-מלאך יהוה: נעצרה-נא אותך, ונעשה לפניך גדי עזים. ¹⁶ ויאמר מלאך יהוה אל-מנוח, אם-תעצרני לא-אכל בלחמך, ואם-תעשה עלה, ליהוה תעלנה: כי לא-ידע מנוח, כי-מלאך יהוה הוא. ¹⁷ ויאמר מנוח אל-מלאך יהוה, מי שמך: כי-יבא דבריד דברך, וכבדנך. ¹⁸ ויאמר לו מלאך יהוה, למה זה תשאל לשמי--והוא-פלאי. ¹⁹ ויקח מנוח את-גדי העזים, ואת-המנחה, ויעל על-הצור, ליהוה; ומפלא לעשות, ומנוח ואשתו ראים. ²⁰ ויהי בעלות הלהב מעל המזבח, השמימה, ויעל מלאך-יהוה, בלהב המזבח; ומנוח ואשתו ראים, ויפלו על-פניהם ארצה. ²¹ ולא-יסף עוד מלאך יהוה, להראה אל-מנוח ואל-אשתו; אז ידע מנוח, כי-מלאך יהוה הוא. ²² ויאמר מנוח אל-אשתו, מות נמות: כי אלהים, ראינו. ²³ ותאמר לו אשתו, לוי תפץ יהוה להמיתנו לא-לקח מידנו עלה ומנחה, ולא הראנו, את-כל-אלה; וכעת, לא השמיענו כזאת. ²⁴ ותלד האשה בן, ותקרא את-שמו שמשון; ויגדל הנער, ויברכהו יהוה. ²⁵ ותחל רוח יהוה, לפעמו במחנה-דן, בין צרעה, ובין אשתאל.

¹ And Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. ² And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said: 'I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore get her for me to wife.' ³ Then his father and his mother said unto him: 'Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?' And Samson said unto his father: 'Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.' ⁴ But his father and his mother knew not that it was of HaShem; for he sought an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines had rule over Israel. ⁵ Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnah, and came to the vineyards of Timnah; and, behold, a young lion roared against him. ⁶ And the spirit of HaShem came mightily upon him, and he rent him as one would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand; but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. ⁷ And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. ⁸ And after a while he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion; and, behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. ⁹ And he scraped it out into his hands, and went on, eating as he went, and he came to his father and mother, and gave unto them, and they did eat; but he told them not that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion. ¹⁰ And his father went down unto the woman; and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. ¹² And Samson said unto them: 'Let me now put forth a riddle unto you; if ye can declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of raiment; ¹³ but if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of raiment.' And they said unto him: 'Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.' ¹⁴ And he said unto them: Out of the eater came forth food, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days declare the riddle. ¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife: 'Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire; have ye called us hither to impoverish us?' ¹⁶ And Samson's wife wept before him, and said: 'Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not; thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and wilt thou not tell it me?' And he said unto her: 'Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell thee?' ¹⁷ And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted; and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she pressed him sore; and she told the riddle to the children of her people. ¹⁸ And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down: What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them: If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle. ¹⁹ And the spirit of HaShem came mightily upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and smote thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave the changes of raiment unto them that declared the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house. ²⁰ But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had had for his friend.

¹ וַיֵּרֶד שָׁמְשׁוֹן, תַּמְנָתָהּ; וַיֵּרָא אִשָּׁה בְּתַמְנָתָהּ, מִבְּנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים. ² וַיַּעַל, וַיִּגֵּד לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ, וַיֹּאמֶר אִשָּׁה רָאִיתִי בְּתַמְנָתָהּ, מִבְּנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים; וַעֲתָה, קָחוּ-אוֹתָהּ לִי לְאִשָּׁה. ³ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ, הֲאִין בָּבְנוֹת אַחִיד וּבְכָל-עַמִּי אִשָּׁה--כִּי-אֵתָה הוֹלֵךְ לְקַחַת אִשָּׁה, מִפְּלִשְׁתִּים הָעֶרְלִים; וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמְשׁוֹן אֶל-אָבִיו אוֹתָהּ קַח-לִי, כִּי-הִיא יִשְׁרָה בְּעֵינַי. ⁴ וְאָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ לֹא יָדְעוּ, כִּי מִיָּהוָה הִיא--כִּי-תֹאנָה הוּא-מִבְּקֶשׁ, מִפְּלִשְׁתִּים; וּבָעַת הַהִיא, פְּלִשְׁתִּים מְשָׁלִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. ⁵ וַיֵּרֶד שָׁמְשׁוֹן וְאָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ, תַּמְנָתָהּ; וַיָּבֹאוּ, עַד-כַּרְמֵי תַמְנָתָהּ, וְהִנֵּה כַפִּיר אֲרִיּוֹת, שָׁאֵג לְקִרְאָתוֹ. ⁶ וַתִּצְלַח עָלָיו רוּחַ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁסַעְהוּ כְּשֹׁסַע הַגָּדִי, וּמָאוּמָה, אֵין בָּיָדוֹ; וְלֹא הִגִּיד לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ, אֵת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. ⁷ וַיֵּרֶד, וַיְדַבֵּר לְאִשָּׁה; וַתִּישֶׁר, בְּעֵינָיו שָׁמְשׁוֹן. ⁸ וַיָּשָׁב מִיָּמִים, לְקַחְתָּהּ, וַיִּסֵּר לְרֹאוֹת, אֵת מַפְלַת הָאֲרִיָּה; וְהִנֵּה עֹדַת דְּבוּרִים בְּגוֹיֹת הָאֲרִיָּה, וּדְבָשׁ. ⁹ וַיֵּרְדֵּהוּ אֶל-כַּפְּיוֹ, וַיִּלָּךְ הַלֹּךְ וְאָכַל, וַיִּלָּךְ אֶל-אָבִיו וְאֶל-אִמּוֹ, וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם וַיֹּאכְלוּ; וְלֹא-הִגִּיד לָהֶם, כִּי מְגוֹיֹת הָאֲרִיָּה רָדָה הַדְּבָשׁ. ¹⁰ וַיֵּרֶד אָבִיהוּ, אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה; וַיַּעַשׂ שָׁם שָׁמְשׁוֹן מִשְׁתָּהּ, כִּי כֵן יַעֲשׂוּ הַבַּחֲוִירִים. ¹¹ וַיְהִי, כִּרְאוֹתָם אוֹתוֹ; וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁלֹשִׁים מִרְעִים, וַיְהִיו אִתּוֹ. ¹² וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שָׁמְשׁוֹן, אַחֲוֹדָה-נָא לָכֶם חִידָה: אִם-הִגַּד תִּגִּידוּ אוֹתָהּ לִי שְׁבַעַת יָמֵי הַמִּשְׁתָּה, וּמִצָּאתֶם--וְנִתְּתִי לָכֶם שְׁלֹשִׁים סְדִינִים, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים חֲלֻפֹת בְּגָדִים. ¹³ וְאִם-לֹא תוֹכְלוּ, לְהִגִּיד לִי--וְנִתְּתֶם אֹתָם לִי שְׁלֹשִׁים סְדִינִים, וּשְׁלֹשִׁים חֲלֻפֹת בְּגָדִים; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ--חֲוֹדָה חִידָתְךָ, וְנִשְׁמָעָנָה. ¹⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, מִהָאֵכֶל יֵצֵא מֵאֵכֶל, וּמֵעֵז, יֵצֵא מֵתוֹק; וְלֹא יָכֻלוּ לְהִגִּיד הַחִידָה, שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים. ¹⁵ וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְאִשָּׁת-שָׁמְשׁוֹן פְּתִי אֶת-אִישְׁךָ וַיִּגַּד-לָנוּ אֶת-הַחִידָה--פֶּן-נִשְׁרַף אוֹתְךָ וְאֶת-בֵּית אָבִיךָ, בָּאֵשׁ; הַלִּירְשָׁנוּ, קִרְאָתָם לָנוּ הָלֹא. ¹⁶ וַתִּבֶּךְ אִשָּׁת שָׁמְשׁוֹן עָלָיו, וַתֹּאמֶר רַק-שָׁנֵאתִנִּי וְלֹא אֶהְבֶּתִנִּי--הַחִידָה חֲדַת לְבָנִי עָמִי, וְלִי לֹא הִגַּדְתָּהּ; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ, הִנֵּה לְאָבִי וּלְאִמִּי לֹא הִגַּדְתִּי--וְלָךְ אֲגִיד. ¹⁷ וַתִּבֶּךְ עָלָיו שְׁבַעַת הַיָּמִים, אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה לָהֶם הַמִּשְׁתָּה; וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיִּגַּד-לָהּ כִּי הִצִּיקְתָּהוּ, וַתִּגַּד הַחִידָה, לְבָנִי עָמָה. ¹⁸ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, בְּטָרֶם יָבֹא הַחֲרֹסָה, מִה-מֵתוֹק מִדְּבָשׁ, וּמִה עֵז מֵאָרִי; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם--לוֹלֵא חֲרָשְׁתֶּם בְּעֵגְלָתִי, לֹא מִצָּאתֶם חִידָתִי. ¹⁹ וַתִּצְלַח עָלָיו רוּחַ יְהוָה, וַיֵּרֶד אֲשַׁקְלוֹן וַיִּךְ מֵהֶם שְׁלֹשִׁים אִישׁ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-חֲלִיצוֹתָם, וַיִּתֵּן חֲלֻפֹת, לְמַגִּידֵי הַחִידָה; וַיַּחַר אָפּוֹ, וַיַּעַל בֵּית אָבִיהוּ. ²⁰ וַתְּהִי, אִשָּׁת שָׁמְשׁוֹן, לְמִרְעָהוּ, אֲשֶׁר רָעָה לוֹ.

¹ But it came to pass after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said: 'I will go in to my wife into the chamber.' But her father would not suffer him to go in. ² And her father said: 'I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion; is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.' ³ And Samson said unto them: 'This time shall I be quits with the Philistines, when I do them a mischief.' ⁴ And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned tail to tail, and put a torch in the midst between every two tails. ⁵ And when he had set the torches on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks and the standing corn, and also the oliveyards. ⁶ Then the Philistines said: 'Who hath done this?' And they said: 'Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he hath taken his wife, and given her to his companion.' And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire. ⁷ And Samson said unto them: 'If ye do after this manner, surely I will be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.' ⁸ And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; and he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam. ⁹ Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves against Lehi. ¹⁰ And the men of Judah said: 'Why are ye come up against us?' And they said: 'To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.' ¹¹ Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson: 'Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what then is this that thou hast done unto us?' And he said unto them: 'As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.' ¹² And they said unto him: 'We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines.' And Samson said unto them: 'Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.' ¹³ And they spoke unto him, saying: 'No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand; but surely we will not kill thee.' And they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock. ¹⁴ When he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him; and the spirit of HaShem came mightily upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands dropped from off his hands. ¹⁵ And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and smote a thousand men therewith. ¹⁶ And Samson said: With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of an ass have I smitten a thousand men. ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand; and that place was called Ramath-lehi. ¹⁸ And he was sore athirst, and called on HaShem, and said: 'Thou hast given this great deliverance by the hand of Thy servant; and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?' ¹⁹ But G-d cleaved the hollow place that is in Lehi, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came back, and he revived; wherefore the name thereof was called En-hakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day. ²⁰ And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

¹ ויהי מימים בימי קציר-חטים, ויפקד שמשון את-אשתו בגדי עזים, ויאמר, אבאה אל-אשתי הקדרה; ולא-נתנו אביה, לבוא. ² ויאמר אביה, אמר אמרתי כי-שנא שנאתה, ואתננה, למרעך; הלא אחותה הקטנה טובה ממנה, תהי-נא לך תחתיה. ³ ויאמר להם שמשון, נקיתי הפעם מפלשתים: כי-עשה אני עמם, רעה. ⁴ וילך שמשון, וילכד שלש-מאות שועלים; ויקח לפדים, ויפן זנב אל-זנב, וישם לפיד אחד בין-שני הזנבות, בתוך. ⁵ ויבער-אש בלפידים, וישלח בקמות פלשתים; ויבער מגדיש ועד-קמה, ועד-כרם זית. ⁶ ויאמרו פלשתים, מי עשה זאת, ויאמרו שמשון חתן התמני, כי לקח את-אשתו ויתנה למרעהו; ויעלו פלשתים, וישרפו אותה ואת-אביה באש. ⁷ ויאמר להם שמשון, אם-תעשון כזאת: כי אם-נקמתי בכם, ואחר אחרל. ⁸ ויך אותם שוק על-ירך, מכה גדולה; ויירד וישב, בסעיף סלע עיטם. ⁹ ויעלו פלשתים, ויחנו ביהודה; וינטשו, בלחי. ¹⁰ ויאמרו איש יהודה, למה עליהם עלינו; ויאמרו, לאסור את-שמשון עלינו, לעשות לו, באשר עשה לנו. ¹¹ ויירדו שלשת אלפים איש מיהודה, אל-סעיף סלע עיטם, ויאמרו לשמשון הלא ידעת כי-משלים בנו פלשתים, ומה-זאת עשית לנו; ויאמר להם--באשר עשו לי, כן עשיתי להם. ¹² ויאמרו לו לאסרך ירדנו, לתתך ביד-פלשתים; ויאמר להם, שמשון, השבעו לי, פן-תפגעון בי אתם. ¹³ ויאמרו לו לאמר, לא כי-אסר נאסרך ונתנוך בידם, והמת, לא נמיתך; ויאסרהו, בשנים עבתיים חדשים, ויעלוהו, מן-הסלע. ¹⁴ הוא-בא עד-לחי, ופלשתים הריעו לקראתו; ויתצלח עליו רוח יהנה, ותהינה העבתיים אשר על-זרועותיו כפשתים אשר בערו באש, וימסו אסוריו, מעל ידי. ¹⁵ וימצא לחי-חמור, טריה; וישלח ידו ויקחה, ויך-בה אלף איש. ¹⁶ ויאמר שמשון--בלחי החמור, חמור חמרתים; בלחי החמור, הכיתי אלף איש. ¹⁷ ויהי ככלתו לדבר, וישלך הלחי מידו; ויקרא למקום ההוא, רמת לחי. ¹⁸ ויצמא, מאד, ויקרא אל-יהנה ויאמר, אתה נתת ביד-עבדך את-התשועה הגדלה הזאת; ועתה אמות בצמא, ונפילתי ביד הערלים. ¹⁹ ויבקע אלהים את-המכתש אשר-בלחי, ויצאו ממנו מים וישת, ותשב רוחו, ויחי; על-כן קרא שמה, עין הקורא אשר בלחי, עד, היום הזה. ²⁰ וישפט את-ישראל בימי פלשתים, עשרים שנה.

¹ And Samson went to Gaza, and saw there a harlot, and went in unto her. ² And it was told the Gazites, saying: 'Samson is come hither.' And they compassed him in, and lay in wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying: 'Let be till morning light, then we will kill him.' ³ And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and laid hold of the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and plucked them up, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of the mountain that is before Hebron. ⁴ And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. ⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her: 'Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.' ⁶ And Delilah said to Samson: 'Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.' ⁷ And Samson said unto her: 'If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that were never dried, then shall I become weak, and be as any other man.' ⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now she had liers-in-wait abiding in the inner chamber. And she said unto him: 'The Philistines are upon thee, Samson.' And he broke the bowstrings as a string of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. ¹⁰ And Delilah said unto Samson: 'Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies; now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.' ¹¹ And he said unto her: 'If they only bind me with new ropes wherewith no work hath been done, then shall I become weak, and be as any other man.' ¹² So Delilah took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him: 'The Philistines are upon thee, Samson.' And the liers-in-wait were abiding in the inner chamber. And he broke them from off his arms like a thread. ¹³ And Delilah said unto Samson: 'Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies; tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound.' And he said unto her: 'If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.' ¹⁴ And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him: 'The Philistines are upon thee, Samson.' And he awoke out of his sleep, and plucked away the pin of the beam, and the web. ¹⁵ And she said unto him: 'How canst thou say: I love thee, when thy heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.' ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, that his soul was vexed unto death. ¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said unto her: 'There hath not come a razor upon my head; for I have been a Nazirite unto G-d from my mother's womb; if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.' ¹⁸ And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying: 'Come up this once, for he hath told me all his heart.' Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought the money in their hand. ¹⁹ And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and had the seven locks of his head shaven off; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. ²⁰ And she said: 'The Philistines are upon thee, Samson.' And he awoke out of his sleep, and said: 'I will go out as at other times, and shake myself.' But he knew not that HaShem was departed from him. ²¹ And the Philistines laid hold on him, and put out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison-house. ²² Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. ²³ And the lords of the Philistines gathered them together to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice; for they said: 'Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.' ²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: 'Our god hath delivered into our hand our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, who hath slain many of us.' ²⁵ And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said: 'Call for Samson, that he may make us sport.' And they called for Samson out of the prison-house; and he made sport before them; and they set him between the pillars. ²⁶ And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand: 'Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house resteth, that I may lean upon them.' ²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. ²⁸ And Samson called unto HaShem, and said: 'O L-rd GOD, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O G-d, that I may be this once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.' ²⁹ And Samson took fast hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house rested, and leaned upon them, the one with his right hand, and the other with his left. ³⁰ And Samson said: 'Let me die with the Philistines.' And he bent with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead that he slew at his death were more than they that he slew in his life. ³¹ Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying-place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

¹ וַיֵּלֶךְ שָׁמְשׁוֹן, עֲזַתָּה; וַיֵּרָא-שָׁם אִשָּׁה זֹוֹנָה, וַיָּבֹא אֵלֶיהָ. ² לַעֲזֹתִים לֵאמֹר, בָּא שָׁמְשׁוֹן הִנֵּה, וַיִּסְבּוּ וַיֵּאָרְבוּ-לוֹ כָּל-הַלֵּילָה, בְּשַׁעַר הָעִיר; וַיִּתְחַרְשׁוּ כָל-הַלֵּילָה לֵאמֹר, עַד-אֹר הַבֹּקֶר וַהֲרִגְנָהּ. ³ וַיִּשְׁכַּב שָׁמְשׁוֹן, עַד-חֲצֵי הַלֵּילָה, וַיָּקָם בְּחֲצֵי הַלֵּילָה וַיֹּאחֲזֵ בַדְּלֹתוֹת שַׁעַר-הָעִיר וַיִּבְשְׁתִּי הַמַּזְזוֹת, וַיִּסָּעַם עִם-הַבְּרִיחַ וַיִּשָּׁם עַל-כַּתְּפָיו; וַיַּעֲלֵם אֶל-רֹאשׁ הָהָר, אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי חֲבָרוֹן. ⁴ וַיְהִי, אַחֲרֵי-כֵן, וַיֹּאֲהֵב אִשָּׁה, בְּנַחַל שָׁרְק; וּשְׁמָהּ, דִּלִּילָה. ⁵ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֵלֶיהָ סָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ פִּתִּי אוֹתוֹ וּרְאֵי בָמָּה כַּחוֹ גְדוֹל, וּבָמָּה נֹכַל לוֹ, וַאֲסָרְנוּהוּ לַעֲנוּתוֹ; וַאֲנַחְנוּ, גִּתָּ-לָךְ, אִישׁ, אֶלֶף וּמֵאָה כֶּסֶף. ⁶ וַתֹּאמֶר דִּלִּילָה, אֶל-שָׁמְשׁוֹן, הַגִּידָה-נָא לִּי, בָּמָּה כַּחַךְ גְּדוֹל; וּבָמָּה תֹאסֵר, לַעֲנוּתָךְ. ⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ, שָׁמְשׁוֹן, אִם-יֹאסְרֵנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה יָתָרִים לַחִים, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-חֲרָבוּ--וַחֲלִיתִי וְהִיתִּי, כְּאַחַד הָאָדָם. ⁸ וַיַּעֲלוּ-לָהּ סָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים, שִׁבְעָה יָתָרִים לַחִים--אֲשֶׁר לֹא-חֲרָבוּ; וַתֹּאסְרֵהוּ, בָּהֶם. ⁹ וְהָאֲרָב, יָשָׁב לָהּ בַּחֲדָר, וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, פִּלְשְׁתִּים עֲלִיד שָׁמְשׁוֹן; וַיִּנָּתֶק, אֶת-הַיָּתָרִים, כְּאֲשֶׁר נִתְּקָ פִתִּיל-הַנֶּעֱרַת בְּהִרְיָחוֹ אִשׁ, וְלֹא נֹדַע כַּחוֹ. ¹⁰ וַתֹּאמֶר דִּלִּילָה, אֶל-שָׁמְשׁוֹן, הִנֵּה תִתְּלַת בֵּי, וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלַי כֹּזְבִים; עֲתָה הַגִּידָה-נָא לִּי, בָּמָּה תֹאסֵר. ¹¹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ--אִם-אֲסוֹר יֹאסְרוּנִי בַעֲבָתִים חֲדָשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-נַעֲשֶׂה בָהֶם מִלְּאֲכָה; וַחֲלִיתִי וְהִיתִּי, כְּאַחַד הָאָדָם. ¹² וַתִּקַּח דִּלִּילָה עֲבָתִים חֲדָשִׁים וַתֹּאסְרֵהוּ בָהֶם, וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו פִּלְשְׁתִּים עֲלִיד שָׁמְשׁוֹן, וְהָאֲרָב, יָשָׁב בַּחֲדָר; וַיִּנָּתֶקֶם מֵעַל זִרְעֹתָיו, כַּחוֹט. ¹³ וַתֹּאמֶר דִּלִּילָה אֶל-שָׁמְשׁוֹן, עַד-הִנֵּה תִתְּלַת בֵּי וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלַי כֹּזְבִים--הַגִּידָה לִּי, בָּמָּה תֹאסֵר; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ--אִם-תֹּארְגִי אֶת-שִׁבְעַ מַחְלָפוֹת רֹאשִׁי, עִם-הַמַּסְּכָּת. ¹⁴ וַתִּתְּקַע, בִּיתָד, וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, פִּלְשְׁתִּים עֲלִיד שָׁמְשׁוֹן; וַיִּיקֶן, מִשְׁנָתוֹ, וַיִּסַּע אֶת-הַיָּתֵד הָאָרְג, וְאֶת-הַמַּסְּכָּת. ¹⁵ וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, אֵיד תֹּאמֶר אֶהְבֵּתִיד, וְלִבָּד, אֵין אֶתִּי; זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ פַּעַמִּים, תִּתְּלַת בֵּי, וְלֹא-הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי, בָּמָּה כַּחַךְ גְּדוֹל. ¹⁶ וַיְהִי כִּי-הִצִּיקָהּ לוֹ בַּדְּבָרֶיהָ, כָּל-הַיָּמִים--וַתֹּאמְרָהּ; וַתִּקְצַר נַפְשׁוֹ, לָמוֹת. ¹⁷ וַיִּגַּד-לָהּ אֶת-כָּל-לְבוֹ, וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מוֹרָה לֹא-עָלָה עַל-רֹאשִׁי--כִּי-נִזִּיר אֱלֹהִים אֲנִי, מִכָּטָן אֲמִי; אִם-גִּלְחֹתִי וְסָר מִמֶּנִּי כַּחַי, וַחֲלִיתִי וְהִיתִּי כְּכָל-הָאָדָם. ¹⁸ וַתֹּרָא דִּלִּילָה, כִּי-הִגִּיד לָהּ אֶת-כָּל-לְבוֹ, וַתִּשְׁלַח וַתִּקְרָא לְסָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים לֵאמֹר עֲלוּ הַפַּעַם, כִּי-הִגִּיד לָהּ לִי אֶת-כָּל-לְבוֹ; וְעָלוּ אֵלֶיהָ סָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים, וַיַּעֲלוּ הַכֶּסֶף בִּיָּדָם. ¹⁹ וַתִּשְׁנֶהּ, עַל-בִּרְכֶּיהָ, וַתִּקְרָא לְאִישׁ, וַתִּגְלַח אֶת-שִׁבְעַ מַחְלָפוֹת רֹאשׁוֹ; וַתִּחַל, לַעֲנוּתוֹ, וַיִּסֵּר כַּחוֹ, מֵעָלוּ. ²⁰ וַתֹּאמֶר, פִּלְשְׁתִּים עֲלִיד שָׁמְשׁוֹן; וַיִּקֶּן מִשְׁנָתוֹ, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲצֵא כַּפַּעַם בַּפַּעַם וַאֲנַעֲר, וְהוּא לֹא יָדַע, כִּי יִהְיֶה סֵר מֵעָלוּ. ²¹ וַיֹּאחֲזִינָהּ פִּלְשְׁתִּים, וַיִּנָּקְרוּ אֶת-עֵינָיו; וַיִּוִּרִידוּ אוֹתוֹ עֲזַתָּה, וַיֹּאסְרוּהוּ בְּנַחֲשֹׁתִים, וַיְהִי טוֹחֵן, בְּבֵית הָאֲסִירִים הָאֲסוּרִים. ²² וַיִּחַל שַׁעַר-רֹאשׁוֹ לַצִּמְחָה, כְּאֲשֶׁר גִּלַּח. ²³ וְסָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים, נֹאֲסָפוּ לִזְבַּח וְזָבַח גְּדוֹל לְדָגוֹן אֱלֹהֵיהֶם--וַיִּלְשֻׁמָּהּ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ--נָתַן אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּיָדֵנוּ, אֶת שָׁמְשׁוֹן אוֹיְבֵנוּ. ²⁴ וַיֵּרָא אוֹתוֹ הָעָם, וַיִּהְלְלוּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵיהֶם: כִּי אָמְרוּ, נָתַן אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּיָדֵנוּ אֶת-אוֹיְבֵנוּ, וְאֵת מַחְרִיב אֶרְצֵנוּ, וְאֲשֶׁר הִרְבָּה אֶת-חֲלָלֵינוּ. ²⁵ וַיְהִי, כִּי טוֹב כְּטוֹב לָבָם, וַיֹּאמְרוּ, קָרָאוּ לְשָׁמְשׁוֹן וַיִּשְׁחַק-לָנוּ; וַיִּקְרָאוּ לְשָׁמְשׁוֹן מִבֵּית הָאֲסִירִים הָאֲסוּרִים, וַיַּצְחִק לִפְנֵיהֶם, וַיַּעֲמִידוּ אוֹתוֹ, בֵּין הָעַמּוּדִים. ²⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמְשׁוֹן אֶל-הַנַּעַר הַמַּחְזִיק בְּיָדוֹ, הַיָּחִה אוֹתִי, וְהִימַשְׁנִי וְהִמְיַשְׁנִי אֶת-הָעַמּוּדִים, אֲשֶׁר הִבִּית נָכוֹן עֲלֵיהֶם; וְאֲשַׁעֵן, עֲלֵיהֶם. ²⁷ וְהִבִּית, מָלָא הָאֲנָשִׁים וְהַנְּשִׁים, וּשְׁמָהּ, כָּל סָרְנֵי פִלְשְׁתִּים; וְעַל-הַגֶּג, כִּשְׁלֹשַׁת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה, הָרָאִים, בְּשַׁחוּק שָׁמְשׁוֹן. ²⁸ וַיִּקְרָא שָׁמְשׁוֹן אֶל-יְהוָה, וַיֹּאמֶר: אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה זָכְרֵנִי נָא וַחֲזַקְנִי נָא אֵד הַפַּעַם הַזֶּה, הָאֱלֹהִים, וַאֲנַקְמָה נָקָם-אַחַת מִשְׁתִּי עֲנִי, מִפִּלְשְׁתִּים. ²⁹ וַיִּלְפַּת שָׁמְשׁוֹן אֶת-שְׁנֵי עַמּוּדֵי הַתֹּרֶד, אֲשֶׁר הִבִּית נָכוֹן עֲלֵיהֶם, וַיִּסְמֶךְ, עֲלֵיהֶם--אֶחָד בְּיָמֵינוּ, וְאֶחָד בְּשִׁמְאָלוֹ. ³⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמְשׁוֹן, תָּמוּת נַפְשִׁי עִם-פִּלְשְׁתִּים, וַיֵּט בִּכְחַ, וַיִּפֹּל הַבַּיִת עַל-הַסָּרְנִים וְעַל-כָּל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-בוֹ; וַיְהִיו הַמָּוֶתִים, אֲשֶׁר הָמִית בְּמוֹתוֹ, רַבִּים, מֵאֲשֶׁר הָמִית בְּחַיָּיו. ³¹ וַיִּרְדּוּ אֶחָיו וְכָל-בֵּית אָבִיהוּ, וַיִּשְׂאוּ אוֹתוֹ, וַיַּעֲלוּ וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אוֹתוֹ בֵּין צָרְעָה וּבֵין אֲשֶׁתָּאֵל, בְּקִבְרָ מְנוּחַ אָבִיו; וְהוּא שָׁפַט אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה.

¹ Now there was a man of the hill-country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.
² And he said unto his mother: 'The eleven hundred pieces of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou didst utter a curse, and didst also speak it in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.' And his mother said: 'Blessed be my son of HaShem.'
³ And he restored the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said: 'I verily dedicate the silver unto HaShem from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image; now therefore I will restore it unto thee.'
⁴ And when he restored the money unto his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image; and it was in the house of Micah.
⁵ And the man Micah had a house of G-d, and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.
⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes.
⁷ And there was a young man out of Beth-lehem in Judah — in the family of Judah — who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.
⁸ And the man departed out of the city, out of Beth-lehem in Judah, to sojourn where he could find a place; and he came to the hill-country of Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.
⁹ And Micah said unto him: 'Whence comest thou?' And he said unto him: 'I am a Levite of Beth-lehem in Judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.'
¹⁰ And Micah said unto him: 'Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten pieces of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals.' So the Levite went in.
¹¹ And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.
¹² And Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.
¹³ Then said Micah: 'Now know I that HaShem will do me good, seeing I have a Levite as my priest.'

¹ ויהי איש מהר-אפרים, ושמו מיכָהו. ² ויאמר לאמו אֵלֶּף וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַח-לָךְ, ואתִּי ואתִּי אֵלִית וגם אִמְרַת בְּאֲזְנִי, הִנֵּה-הַכֶּסֶף אִתִּי, אָנִי לָקַחְתִּיו; וּתְאֶמֶר אִמּוֹ, בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה. ³ ויָשָׁב אֶת-אֵלֶּף-וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף, לְאִמּוֹ; וּתְאֶמֶר אִמּוֹ הַקֹּדֶשׁ הַקֹּדֶשׁ אֶת-הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה מִיָּדִי לְבָנִי, לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה, וְעֵתָהּ, אֲשִׁיבָנוּ לָךְ. ⁴ ויָשָׁב אֶת-הַכֶּסֶף, לְאִמּוֹ; וּתְקַח אִמּוֹ מֵאֲתִים כֶּסֶף וּתְתַנְהוּ לְצֹרֶף, וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶסֶל וּמִסְכָּה, וַיְהִי, בְּבֵית מִיכָהוּ. ⁵ וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה, לוֹ בֵּית אֱלֹהִים; וַיַּעַשׂ אֲפֹד, וְתֹרֶפִים, וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת-יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו, וַיְהִי-לוֹ לַכֹּהֵן. ⁶ בְּיָמִים הֵהֵם, אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: אִישׁ הָיָשׁר בְּעֵינָיו, יַעֲשֶׂה. ⁷ וַיְהִי-נֶעֱר, מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה, מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת, יְהוּדָה; וְהוּא לֵוִי, וְהוּא גֵר-שָׁם. ⁸ וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ מִקְדָּשׁ, מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה, לְגֹר, בְּאֶשֶׁר יִמָּצָא; וַיָּבֹא הַר-אֶפְרַיִם עַד-בֵּית מִיכָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת דְּרָכּוֹ. ⁹ וַיֵּאמֶר-לוֹ מִיכָה, מֵאֵין תָּבוֹא; וַיֵּאמֶר אֵלָיו לֵוִי אֲנֹכִי, מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה, וְאֲנֹכִי הֵלֶךְ, לְגֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר אִמָּצָא. ¹⁰ וַיֵּאמֶר לוֹ מִיכָה שְׂבֵה עִמָּדִי, וְהָיָה-לִּי לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן, וְאֲנֹכִי אֶתֶּן-לָךְ עֲשָׂרַת כֶּסֶף לְיָמִים, וְעֶרֶךְ בְּגָדִים וּמִחִיתָד; וַיֵּלֶךְ, הַלֵּוִי. ¹¹ וַיּוֹאֵל הַלֵּוִי, לְשִׁכֵּת אֶת-הָאִישׁ; וַיְהִי הַנֶּעֱר לוֹ, כְּאֶחָד מִבָּנָיו. ¹² וַיִּמְלֵא מִיכָה אֶת-יָד הַלֵּוִי, וַיְהִי-לוֹ הַנֶּעֱר לַכֹּהֵן; וַיְהִי, בְּבֵית מִיכָה. ¹³ וַיֵּאמֶר מִיכָה--עֵתָה יָדַעְתִּי, כִּי-יִטִּיב יְהוָה לִּי: כִּי הָיָה-לִּי הַלֵּוִי, לַכֹּהֵן.

¹ In those days there was no king in Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day there had nothing been allotted unto them among the tribes of Israel for an inheritance. ² And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their whole number, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them: 'Go, search the land'; and they came to the hill-country of Ephraim, unto the house of Micah, and lodged there. ³ When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite; and they turned aside thither, and said unto him: 'Who brought thee hither? and what doest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?' ⁴ And he said unto them: 'Thus and thus hath Micah dealt with me, and he hath hired me, and I am become his priest.' ⁵ And they said unto him: 'Ask counsel, we pray thee, of G-d, that we may know whether our way which we are going shall be prosperous.' ⁶ And the priest said unto them: 'Go in peace; before HaShem is your way wherein ye go.' ⁷ Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt in security, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; for there was none in the land, possessing authority, that might put them to shame in any thing, and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no dealings with any man. ⁸ And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol; and their brethren said unto them: 'What say ye?' ⁹ And they said: 'Arise, and let us go up against them; for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good; and are ye still? be not slothful to go and to enter in to possess the land. ¹⁰ When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and the land is large; for G-d hath given it into your hand; a place where there is no want; it hath every thing that is in the earth.' ¹¹ And there set forth from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men girt with weapons of war. ¹² And they went up, and encamped in Kiriath-jearim, in Judah; wherefore that place was called Mahaneh-dan unto this day; behold, it is behind Kiriath-jearim. ¹³ And they passed thence unto the hill-country of Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah. ¹⁴ Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren: 'Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.' ¹⁵ And they turned aside thither, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and asked him of his welfare. ¹⁶ And the six hundred men girt with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. ¹⁷ And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image; and the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men girt with weapons of war. ¹⁸ And when these went into Micah's house, and fetched the graven image of the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image, the priest said unto them: 'What do ye?' ¹⁹ And they said unto him: 'Hold thy peace, lay thy hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest; is it better for thee to be priest unto the house of one man, or to be priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?' ²⁰ And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people. ²¹ So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the goods before them. ²² When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan. ²³ And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah: 'What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?' ²⁴ And he said: 'Ye have taken away my god which I made, and the priest, and are gone away, and what have I more? and how then say ye unto me: What aileth thee?' ²⁵ And the children of Dan said unto him: 'Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall upon you, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.' ²⁶ And the children of Dan went their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house. ²⁷ And they took that which Micah had made, and the priest whom he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people quiet and secure, and smote them with the edge of the sword; and they burnt the city with fire. ²⁸ And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no dealings with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Beth-rehob. And they built the city, and dwelt therein. ²⁹ And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel; howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first. ³⁰ And the children of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. ³¹ So they set them up Micah's graven image which he made, all the time that the house of G-d was in Shiloh.

¹ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם, אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וּבַיָּמִים הָהֵם, שָׁבַט הַדָּנִי מְבַקֵּשׁ לוֹ נַחֲלָה לְשִׁבְתָּ--כִּי לֹא-נִפְלָה לוֹ עַד-הַיּוֹם הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ-שְׁבִטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּנַחֲלָה. ² וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ בְנֵי-דָן מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתָּם חֲמִשָּׁה אַנְשִׁים מְקֻזּוֹתִים אַנְשִׁים בְּנֵי-חֵיל מְצֻרָעָה וּמֵאֲשֻׁתָּאֵל, לְרַגֵּל אֶת-הָאָרֶץ וּלְחַקְרָהּ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִלֵּיהֶם, לָכוּ חַקְרוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ; וַיָּבֹאוּ הֶר-אֶפְרַיִם עַד-בֵּית מִיכָה, וַיִּלְּינוּ שָׁם. ³ הִמָּה, עִם-בֵּית מִיכָה, וְהִמָּה הַכִּירוּ, אֶת-קוֹל הַנֶּעֶר הַלְוִי; וַיִּסּוּרוּ שָׁם, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ מִי-הִבִּיאָךְ הֵלֶם, וּמָה-אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה בָּזֶה, וּמָה-לָּךְ פֹּה. ⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר אִלֵּיהֶם--כִּזֹּה וְכִזֹּה, עֹשֶׂה לִּי מִיכָה; וַיִּשְׁפְּרֵנִי, וְאָהִי-לוֹ לְכֹהֵן. ⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ, שְׂאֵל-נָא בְּאַלֵּהִים; וְנִדְעָה--הֲתִצְלַח דְּרָכֵנוּ, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִיחֵנוּ הַלְכִים עָלֶיָּה. ⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הִכֵּהֶן, לָכוּ לְשִׁלוֹם; נִכַּח יְהוָה, דֶּרֶכְכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּלְכוּ-בָּהּ. ⁷ וַיִּלְכוּ חֲמִשַּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַיָּבֹאוּ לְיִשָּׁה; וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶת-הַעֵם אֲשֶׁר-בְּקִרְבָּהּ יוֹשְׁבֵת-לְבַטַּח כְּמִשְׁפַּט צִדִּים שְׁקֵט וּבִטָּח, וְאֵין-מְכַלִּים דָּבָר בָּאָרֶץ יוֹרֵשׁ עֶצֶר, וַיַּחְזִיקִם הִמָּה מִצִּידִּים, וְדָבָר אֵין-לָהֶם עִם-אָדָם. ⁸ וַיָּבֹאוּ, אֶל-אֲחֵיהֶם, צֹרְעָה, וּאֲשֻׁתָּאֵל; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶם אֲחֵיהֶם, מָה אַתֶּם. ⁹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ, קוּמָה וְנִעְלָה עֲלֵיהֶם, כִּי רֹאִינוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, וְהִנֵּה טוֹבָה מְאֹד; וְאַתֶּם מֹחֲשִׁים--אֶל-תַּעֲצֹלוּ, לָלֶכֶת לְבָא לְרִשְׁתָּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ. ¹⁰ כְּבֹאֲכֶם תָּבֹאוּ אֶל-עִם בִּטָּח, וְהָאָרֶץ רַחֲבַת יָדִים--כִּי-יִתְּנָה אֱלֹהִים, בְּיַדְכֶם: מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אֵין-שָׁם מַחְסוֹר, כָּל-דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ. ¹¹ וַיִּסְעוּ מִשָּׁם מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת הַדָּנִי, מְצֻרָעָה וּמֵאֲשֻׁתָּאֵל, שֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, חֲגוּר כָּלִי מִלְחָמָה. ¹² וַיַּעֲלוּ, וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּקִרְיַת יִעָרִים--בִּיהוּדָה; עַל-כֵּן קָרְאוּ לְמְקוֹם הַהוּא מְחִנֶּה-דָּן, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--הִנֵּה, אַחֲרֵי קִרְיַת יִעָרִים. ¹³ וַיַּעֲבְרוּ מִשָּׁם, הֶר-אֶפְרַיִם; וַיָּבֹאוּ, עַד-בֵּית מִיכָה. ¹⁴ וַיַּעֲנוּ חֲמִשַּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, הַהַלְכִים לְרַגֵּל אֶת-הָאָרֶץ לִישׁ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-אֲחֵיהֶם, הִידְעָתֶם כִּי יֵשׁ בְּבֵתִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲפוֹד וְתִרְפִּים וּפֶסֶל וּמִסְכָּה; וְעַתָּה, דַּעוּ מָה-תַּעֲשׂוּ. ¹⁵ וַיִּסּוּרוּ שָׁמָּה, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בֵּית-הַנֶּעֶר הַלְוִי בֵּית מִיכָה; וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ-לוֹ, לְשִׁלוֹם. ¹⁶ וְשֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, חֲגוּרִים כָּלִי מִלְחָמָתָם, נֹצְבִים, פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר--אֲשֶׁר, מִבְּנֵי-דָן. ¹⁷ וַיַּעֲלוּ חֲמִשַּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, הַהַלְכִים לְרַגֵּל אֶת-הָאָרֶץ--בָּאוּ שָׁמָּה, לְקַחוּ אֶת-הַפֶּסֶל וְאֶת-הָאֲפוֹד וְאֶת-הַתִּרְפִּים וְאֶת-הַמִּסְכָּה; וְהִכֵּהֶן, נֹצֵב פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר, וְשֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ, הַחֲגוּר כָּלִי מִלְחָמָה. ¹⁸ וְאֵלֶּה, בָּאוּ בֵּית מִיכָה, וַיַּקְחוּ אֶת-פֶּסֶל הָאֲפוֹד, וְאֶת-הַתִּרְפִּים וְאֶת-הַמִּסְכָּה; וְאֶת-הַתִּרְפִּים וְאֶת-הַפֶּסֶל וְאֶת-הַמִּסְכָּה; וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֵיהֶם הִכֵּהֶן, מָה אַתֶּם עֹשִׂים. ¹⁹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַחֲרַשׁ שִׁים-יָדָךְ עַל-פִּידְךָ, וְלֹךְ עִמָּנוּ, וְהִיָּה-לָנוּ, לָאֵב וּלְכֹהֵן: הַטוֹב הַיּוֹתֵף כֵּהֵן, לְבֵית אִישׁ אֶחָד, אוֹ הַיּוֹתֵף כֵּהֵן, לְשִׁבְטֵי וּלְמִשְׁפָּחָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. ²⁰ וַיִּיטֹב, לָב הִכֵּהֶן, וַיַּקְח אֶת-הָאֲפוֹד, וְאֶת-הַתִּרְפִּים וְאֶת-הַפֶּסֶל; וַיָּבֹא, בְּקִרְבַּ הָעָם. ²¹ וַיִּפְּנוּ, וַיִּלְכוּ; וַיִּשְׁימוּ אֶת-הַטֹּף וְאֶת-הַמִּקְלָה, וְאֶת-הַכְּבוֹדָה--לְפָנֵיהֶם. ²² הִמָּה הַרְחִיקוּ, מִבֵּית מִיכָה; וְהָאֲנָשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵתִים אֲשֶׁר עִם-בֵּית מִיכָה, נִזְעַקוּ, וַיִּדְבְּקוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי-דָן. ²³ וַיִּקְרְאוּ, אֶל-בְּנֵי-דָן, וַיִּסְבּוּ, פְּנִיָּהֶם; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְמִיכָה, מָה-לָּךְ כִּי נִזְעַקְתָּ. ²⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי אֲשֶׁר-עָשִׂיתִי לְקַחְתָּם וְאֶת-הִכֵּהֶן, וְתִלְכוּ--וּמָה-לִּי עוֹד; וּמָה-זֶּה תֹאמְרוּ אֵלַי, מָה-לָּךְ. ²⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי-דָן, אֶל-תִּשְׁמַע קוֹלְךָ עִמָּנוּ--פֶּן-יִפְּגְעוּ בְכֶם, אַנְשִׁים מְרִי נָפֶשׁ, וְאִסְפָּתָה נִפְשָׁךְ, וְנִפֶּשׁ בֵּיתְךָ. ²⁶ וַיִּלְכוּ בְּנֵי-דָן, לְדֶרֶכָם; וַיֵּרָא מִיכָה, כִּי-חֲזָקִים הִמָּה מִמָּנוּ, וַיִּנֶּן, וַיִּשָּׁב אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ. ²⁷ וְהִמָּה לְקַחוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה מִיכָה, וְאֶת-הִכֵּהֶן אֲשֶׁר הָיָה לוֹ, וַיָּבֹאוּ עַל-לִישׁ עַל-עִם שְׁקֵט וּבִטָּח, וַיִּכּוּ אוֹתָם לְפִי-חֶרֶב, וְאֶת-הָעִיר, שָׂרְפוּ בָאֵשׁ. ²⁸ וְאֵין מִצִּיל כִּי רַחוּקָה-הָיָה מִצִּידוֹן, וְדָבָר אֵין-לָהֶם עִם-אָדָם, וְהָיָא, כְּעֶמֶק אֲשֶׁר לְבֵית-רַחוֹב; וַיִּבְנוּ אֶת-הָעִיר, וַיִּשְׁבּוּ בָּהּ. ²⁹ וַיִּקְרְאוּ שֵׁם-הָעִיר, דָּן, בְּשֵׁם דָּן אֲבִיהֶם, אֲשֶׁר יוֹלֵד לְיִשְׂרָאֵל; וְאוֹלָם לִישׁ שֵׁם-הָעִיר, לְרֹאשְׁנָה. ³⁰ וַיִּקְימוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי-דָן, אֶת-הַפֶּסֶל; וַיַּהֲנִתוּ בֶן-גֵּרָשָׁם בֶּן-מְנַשָּׁה הוּא וּבְנָיו, הָיוּ כֹהֲנִים לְשִׁבְטֵי הַדָּנִי, עַד-יוֹם, גְּלוֹת הָאָרֶץ. ³¹ וַיִּשְׁימוּ לָהֶם, אֶת-פֶּסֶל מִיכָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, כָּל-יְמֵי הַיּוֹת בֵּית-הָאֱלֹהִים, בְּשִׁלֹּה.

¹ And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the farther side of the hill-country of Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem in Judah. ² And his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Beth-lehem in Judah, and was there the space of four months. ³ And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak kindly unto her, to bring her back, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses; and she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him. ⁴ And his father-in-law, the damsel's father, retained him; and he abode with him three days; so they did eat and drink, and lodged there. ⁵ And it came to pass on the fourth day, that they arose early in the morning, and he rose up to depart; and the damsel's father said unto his son-in-law: 'Stay thy heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward ye shall go your way.' ⁶ So they sat down, and did eat and drink, both of them together; and the damsel's father said unto the man: 'Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thy heart be merry.' ⁷ And the man rose up to depart; but his father-in-law urged him, and he lodged there again. ⁸ And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart; and the damsel's father said: 'Stay thy heart, I pray thee, and tarry ye until the day declineth'; and they did eat, both of them. ⁹ And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father-in-law, the damsel's father, said unto him: 'Behold, now the day draweth toward evening; tarry, I pray you, all night; behold, the day groweth to an end; lodge here, that thy heart may be merry; and to-morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.' ¹⁰ But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus — the same is Jerusalem; and there were with him a couple of asses saddled; his concubine also was with him. ¹¹ When they were by Jebus — the day was far spent — the servant said unto his master: 'Come, I pray thee, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it.' ¹² And his master said unto him: 'We will not turn aside into the city of a foreigner, that is not of the children of Israel; but we will pass over to Gibeah.' ¹³ And he said unto his servant: 'Come and let us draw near to one of these places; and we will lodge in Gibeah, or in Ramah.' ¹⁴ So they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them near to Gibeah, which belongeth to Benjamin. ¹⁵ And they turned aside thither, to go in to lodge in Gibeah; and he went in, and sat him down in the broad place of the city; for there was no man that took them into his house to lodge. ¹⁶ And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even; now the man was of the hill-country of Ephraim, and he sojourned in Gibeah; but the men of the place were Benjamites. ¹⁷ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the wayfaring man in the broad place of the city; and the old man said: 'Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou?' ¹⁸ And he said unto him: 'We are passing from Beth-lehem in Judah unto the farther side of the hill-country of Ephraim; from thence am I, and I went to Beth-lehem in Judah, and I am now going to the house of HaShem; and there is no man that taketh me into his house. ¹⁹ Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man that is with thy servants; there is no want of any thing.' ²⁰ And the old man said: 'Peace be unto thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the broad place.' ²¹ So he brought him into his house, and gave the asses fodder; and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink. ²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain base fellows, beset the house round about, beating at the door; and they spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying: 'Bring forth the man that came into thy house, that we may know him.' ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them: 'Nay, my brethren, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into my house, do not this wanton deed. ²⁴ Behold, here is my daughter a virgin, and his concubine; I will bring them out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you; but unto this man do not so wanton a thing.' ²⁵ But the men would not hearken to him; so the man laid hold on his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning; and when the day began to spring, they let her go. ²⁶ Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light. ²⁷ And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way; and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, with her hands upon the threshold. ²⁸ And he said unto her. 'Up, and let us be going'; but none answered; then he took her up upon the ass; and the man rose up, and got him unto his place. ²⁹ And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the borders of Israel. ³⁰ And it was so, that all that saw it said: 'Such a thing hath not happened nor been seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak.'

¹ וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָהֵם, וּמָלָךְ אֵין בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיְהִי אִישׁ לְוִי, גֵּר בְּיַרְכְּתֵי הַר-אֶפְרַיִם, וַיִּקַּח-לוֹ אִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁת, מִבֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה. ² וַתִּזְנֶה עָלָיו, וַתֵּלֶךְ מֵאִתּוֹ אֶל-בֵּית אָבִיהָ, אֶל-בֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה; וַתֵּהִי-שָׁם, יָמִים אַרְבָּעָה חֳדָשִׁים. ³ וַיָּקָם אִישָׁהּ וַיֵּלֶךְ אַחֲרֶיהָ, לְדַבֵּר עַל-לִבָּהּ לְהַשִּׁיבּוּ לְהִשְׁכָּבָהּ, וַיַּעֲזֹר עִמּוֹ, וַצֹּמֵד חֲמֹרִים; וַתְּבִיאֶהוּ, בֵּית אָבִיהָ, וַיִּרְאֶהוּ אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה, וַיִּשְׂמַח לִקְרֹאתוֹ. ⁴ וַיִּחְזַק-בּוֹ חֲתָנוֹ אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה, וַיִּשָּׁב אִתּוֹ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים; וַיֹּאכְלוּ, וַיִּשְׁתּוּ, וַיִּלְּנוּ, שָׁם. ⁵ וַיְהִי בַּיּוֹם הָרִבְעִי, וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ בַּבֹּקֶר וַיָּקָם לָלֶכֶת; וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה אֶל-חֲתָנוֹ, סַעֲד לָבֹד פֶּת-לָחֶם--וְאַחֵר תֵּלְכוּ. ⁶ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ, וַיֹּאכְלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו--וַיִּשְׁתּוּ; וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה, אֶל-הָאִישׁ, הוֹאֵל-נָא וְלִין, וַיִּיטֵב לָבֹד. ⁷ וַיָּקָם הָאִישׁ, לָלֶכֶת; וַיַּפְצֹר-בּוֹ, חֲתָנוֹ, וַיִּשָּׁב, וַיִּלֵּן שָׁם. ⁸ וַיִּשְׁכְּם בַּבֹּקֶר בַּיּוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי, לָלֶכֶת, וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה סַעֲד-נָא לָכֶכֶד, וְהִתְמַהֲמֶהוּ עַד-נִטּוֹת הַיּוֹם; וַיֹּאכְלוּ, שְׁנֵיהֶם. ⁹ וַיָּקָם הָאִישׁ לָלֶכֶת, הוּא וּפִילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ וַיַּעֲזְרוּ; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ חֲתָנוֹ אָבִי הַנַּעֲרָה הִנֵּה נָא רָפָה הַיּוֹם לַעֲרוֹב, לִינוּ-נָא הִנֵּה חַנוּת הַיּוֹם לִין פֹּה וַיִּיטֵב לָכֶכֶד, וְהִשְׁכַּחְתֶּם מָחָר לְדַרְכְּכֶם, וְהִלַּכְתֶּם לְאֵהָלָךְ. ¹⁰ וְלֹא-אָבָה הָאִישׁ, לָלוֹן, וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיָּבֹא עַד-נֹכַח יְבוּס, הִיא יְרוּשָׁלַם; וַעֲמֹ, צֹמֵד חֲמֹרִים חֲבוּשִׁים, וּפִילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ, עִמּוֹ. ¹¹ הֵם עַם-יְבוּס, וְהַיּוֹם רַד מָאֵד; וַיֹּאמֶר הַנַּעֲרָה אֶל-אֲדָנֶיהָ, לָכֵה-נָא וְנִסּוּרָה אֶל-עִיר-הַיְבוּסִי הַזֹּאת--וְנָלִין בָּהּ. ¹² וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֶיהָ אֲדָנֶיהָ, לֹא נִסּוּר אֶל-עִיר נָכְרִי, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הִנֵּה; וַעֲבֹרְנִי, עַד-גִּבְעָה. ¹³ וַיֹּאמֶר לַנַּעֲרָה, לֹךְ וְנִקְרָבָה בְּאֶחָד הַמְּקוֹמוֹת; וְלִנּוּ בַּגִּבְעָה, אוֹ בְּרָמָה. ¹⁴ וַיַּעֲבְרוּ, וַיֵּלְכוּ; וַתָּבֹא לָהֶם הַשָּׁמֶשׁ, אֲצֹל הַגִּבְעָה אֲשֶׁר לְבִנְיָמִן. ¹⁵ וַיִּסְרוּ שָׁם, לְבֹא לָלוֹן בַּגִּבְעָה; וַיָּבֹאוּ, וַיִּשָּׁב בְּרָחוֹב הָעִיר, וְאֵין אִישׁ מְאַסֶּף-אוֹתָם הַבֵּיתָה, לָלוֹן. ¹⁶ וְהִנֵּה אִישׁ זָקֵן, בָּא מִן-מַעֲשֵׂהוּ מִן-הַשָּׂדֶה בָּעָרֵב, וְהָאִישׁ מֵהַר אֶפְרַיִם, וְהוּא-גֵר בַּגִּבְעָה; וְאִנְשֵׁי הַמְּקוֹם, בְּנֵי יְמִינִי. ¹⁷ וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו, וַיִּרְא אֶת-הָאִישׁ הָאֶרֶץ--בְּרָחוֹב הָעִיר; וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הֲזֵקֵן אָנָּה תֵּלֶךְ, וּמֵאֵינן תְּבוּא. ¹⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֶיהָ, עֲבָרִים אֲנִי חֲנֻנִי מִבֵּית-לָחֵם יְהוּדָה עַד-יַרְכְּתֵי הַר-אֶפְרַיִם--מִשָּׁם אָנֹכִי, וְאֵלֶיךָ עַד-בֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה; וְאֵת-בֵּית יְהוָה, אֲנִי הֵלֵךְ, וְאֵין אִישׁ, מְאַסֶּף אוֹתִי הַבֵּיתָה. ¹⁹ וְגַם-תִּכְנֹן גַּם-מִסְּפוּא, יֵשׁ לְחַמּוֹרֵינוּ, וְגַם לָחֵם וַיִּין יֵשׁ-לִי וְלִאֲמָתָךְ, וְלַנַּעֲרָה עִם-עֲבָדֶיךָ; אֵין מַחְסוֹר, כָּל-דֹּבֶר. ²⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הֲזֵקֵן שְׁלוֹם לָךְ, רַק כָּל-מַחְסוֹרְךָ עָלַי; רַק בְּרָחוֹב, אֶל-תֵּלֶךְ. ²¹ וַיְבִיאֶהוּ לְבֵיתוֹ, וַיְבֹול וַיִּכֹּל לְחַמּוֹרִים; וַיִּרְחֲצוּ, רַגְלֵיהֶם, וַיֹּאכְלוּ, וַיִּשְׁתּוּ. ²² הִמָּה, מִיִּסְיָבִים אֶת-לֶבָם, וְהִנֵּה אִנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אִנְשֵׁי בְנֵי-בְלִיעֵל נִסְבוּ אֶת-הַבֵּית, מִתְדַּפְּקִים עַל-הַדֶּלֶת; וַיֹּאמְרוּ, אֶל-הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבֵּית הֲזֵקֵן לֹאמֹר, הוֹצֵא אֶת-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֶל-בֵּיתְךָ, וְנִדְעָנוּ. ²³ וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵיהֶם, הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבֵּית, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, אֵל-אֲחִי אֶל-תִּרְעֻנוּ נָא; אַחֲרֵי אֲשֶׁר-בָּא הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה, אֶל-בֵּיתִי--אֶל-תַּעֲשׂוּ, אֶת-הַנִּבְכָּלָה הַזֹּאת. ²⁴ הִנֵּה בְתִי הַבְּתוּלָה וּפִילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ, אוֹצִיאָה-נָא אוֹתָם וְעַנּוּ אוֹתָם, וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם, הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם; וְלֹאִישׁ הַזֶּה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ, דָּבָר הַנִּבְכָּלָה הַזֹּאת. ²⁵ וְלֹא-אָבוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, לַשְׂמֹעַ לוֹ, וַיִּחְזַק הָאִישׁ בְּפִילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ, וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵיהֶם הַחוּץ; וַיִּדְעוּ אוֹתָהּ וַיִּתְעַלְלוּ-בָּהּ כָּל-הַלַּיְלָה, עַד-הַבֹּקֶר, וַיִּשְׁלַחֶיהָ, בַּעֲלוֹת כַּעֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר. ²⁶ וַתָּבֹא הָאִשָּׁה, לַפְּנוֹת הַבֹּקֶר; וַתַּפֵּל פָּתַח בֵּית-הָאִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר-אֲדוֹנֶיהָ שָׁם--עַד-הָאוֹר. ²⁷ וַיָּקָם אֲדוֹנֶיהָ בַּבֹּקֶר, וַיִּפְתַּח דִּלְחוֹת הַבֵּית, וַיֵּצֵא, לָלֶכֶת לְדַרְכּוֹ; וְהִנֵּה הָאִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ, נִפְלְתָה פָּתַח הַבֵּית, וַיִּדְּהָ, עַל-הַסֶּף. ²⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהָ קוּמִי וְנִלְכְּהָ, וְאֵין עֲנָה; וַיִּקְחָהּ, עַל-הַחֲמֹר, וַיָּקָם הָאִישׁ, וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמַקְמוֹ. ²⁹ וַיָּבֹא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ, וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הַמַּאֲכָלִת וַיִּחְזַק בְּפִילְגֶשֶׁתוֹ, וַיַּנְתַּחֲהָ לַעֲצָמֶיהָ, לְשָׁנָיִם עָשָׂר נְתַחִים; וַיִּשְׁלַחָהּ, בְּכָל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. ³⁰ וְהָיָה כָּל-הָרָאָה, וְאָמַר לֹא-נִגְזַחְתָּה וְלֹא-נִרְאָתָה כְּזֹאת, לְמִיּוֹם עָלוֹת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה; שִׁימוּ-לָכֶם עָלֶיהָ, עֲצוּ וְדַבְּרוּ.

¹ Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was assembled as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto HaShem at Mizpah. ² And the chiefs of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of G-d, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword. — ³ Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpah. — And the children of Israel said: 'Tell us, how was this wickedness brought to pass?' ⁴ And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was murdered, answered and said: 'I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge. ⁵ And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night; me they thought to have slain, and my concubine they forced, and she is dead. ⁶ And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel; for they have committed lewdness and wantonness in Israel. ⁷ Behold, ye are all here, children of Israel, give here your advice and council.' ⁸ And all the people arose as one man, saying: 'We will not any of us go to his tent, neither will we any of us turn unto his house. ⁹ But now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: we will go up against it by lot; ¹⁰ and we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victuals for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the wantonness that they have wrought in Israel.' ¹¹ So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. ¹² And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying: 'What wickedness is this that is come to pass among you?' ¹³ Now therefore deliver up the men, the base fellows that are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel.' But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel. ¹⁴ And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of their cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel. ¹⁵ And the children of Benjamin numbered on that day out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred chosen men. ¹⁶ All this people, even seven hundred chosen men, were left-handed; every one could sling stones at a hair-breadth, and not miss. ¹⁷ And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword; all these were men of war. ¹⁸ And the children of Israel arose, and went up to Beth-el, and asked counsel of G-d; and they said: 'Who shall go up for us first to battle against the children of Benjamin?' And HaShem said: 'Judah first.' ¹⁹ And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah. ²⁰ And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel set the battle in array against them at Gibeah. ²¹ And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites on that day twenty and two thousand men. ²² And the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves, and set the battle again in array in the place where they set themselves in array the first day. ²³ And the children of Israel went up and wept before HaShem until even; and they asked of HaShem, saying: 'Shall I again draw nigh to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?' And HaShem said: 'Go up against him.' ²⁴ And the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day. ²⁵ And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword. ²⁶ Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto Beth-el, and wept, and sat there before HaShem, and fasted that day until even; and they offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before HaShem. ²⁷ And the children of Israel asked of HaShem — for the ark of the covenant of G-d was there in those days, ²⁸ and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days — saying: 'Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease?' And HaShem said: 'Go up; for to-morrow I will deliver him into thy hand.' ²⁹ And Israel set liers-in-wait against Gibeah round about. ³⁰ And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and set themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times. ³¹ And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite and kill of the people, as at other times, in the field, in the highways, of which one goeth up to Beth-el, and the other to Gibeah, about thirty men of Israel. ³² And the children of Benjamin said: 'They are smitten down before us, as at the first!' But the children of Israel said: 'Let us flee, and draw them away from the city unto the highways.' ³³ And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and set themselves in array at Baal-tamar; and the liers-in-wait of Israel broke forth out of their place, even out of Maareh-geba. ³⁴ And there came over against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore; but they knew not that evil was close upon them. ³⁵ And HaShem smote Benjamin before Israel; and the children of Israel destroyed of Benjamin that day twenty and five thousand and a hundred men; all these drew the sword. ³⁶ So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten. And the men of Israel gave place to Benjamin, because they trusted unto the liers-in-wait whom they had set against Gibeah. — ³⁷ And the liers-in-wait hastened, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers-in-wait drew forth, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword. ³⁸ Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers-in-wait, that they should make a great beacon of smoke rise up out of the city. — ³⁹ And the men of Israel turned in the battle, and Benjamin began to smite and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons; for they said: 'Surely they are smitten down before us, as in the first battle.' ⁴⁰ But when the beacon began to arise up out of the city in a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and, behold, the whole of the city went up in smoke to heaven. ⁴¹ And the men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were amazed; for they saw that evil was come upon them. ⁴² Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle followed hard after them; and they that came out of the city destroyed them in the midst of the men of Israel. ⁴³ They inclosed the Benjamites round about, and chased them, and overtook them at their resting-place, as far as over against Gibeah toward the sunrising. ⁴⁴ And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these were men of valour. ⁴⁵ And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon; and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and followed hard after them unto Gidom, and smote of them two thousand men. ⁴⁶ So that all who fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these were men of valour. ⁴⁷ But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon, and abode in the rock of Rimmon four months. ⁴⁸ And the men of Israel turned back upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, both the entire city, and the cattle, and all that they found; moreover all the cities which they found they set on fire.

¹ ויצאו כל-בני ישראל, ותקעהל העדה כאיש אחד למדן ועד-באר שבע, וארץ הגלעד--אל-יהנה, המצפה. ² ויתיצבו פנות כל-העם, כל שבטי ישראל--בקהל, עם האלהים; ארבע מאות אלה איש רגלי, שלף חרב. ³ וישמעו בני בנימן, כי-עלו בני-ישראל המצפה; ויאמרו, בני ישראל, דברו, איכה נהיתה הרעה הזאת. ⁴ ויצו האיש הלוי, איש האשה הנרצחה--ויאמר: הגבעתה אשר לבנימן, כאתי אני ופילגשי ללון. ⁵ ונקמו עלי בעלי הגבעה, ונסבו עלי את-הבית לילה; אותי דמו להרג, ואת-פילגשי ענו ותמתו. ⁶ ואחז בפילגשי, ואנחתה, ואשלקה, ככל-שדה נחלת ישראל: כי עשו זמה ונבלה, בישראל. ⁷ הנה כלכם, בני ישראל--הבו לכם דבר ועצה, הלא. ⁸ ונקם, כל-העם, כאיש אחד, לאמר: לא נלה איש לאהלו, ולא נסור איש לביתו. ⁹ ועתה--זה הדבר, אשר נעשה לגבעה: עליה, בגורל. ¹⁰ ולקחנו עשרה אנשים למאה לכל שבטי ישראל, ומאה לאף ואף לרובה, לקחת צדה, לצם--לעשות, לבואם לבצע בנימן, ככל-הנבילה, אשר עשה בישראל. ¹¹ ויאסף כל-איש ישראל, אל-העיר, כאיש אחד, חברים. ¹² וישלחו שבטי ישראל, אנשים, ככל-שבטי בנימן, לאמר: מה הרעה הזאת, אשר נהיתה בכם. ¹³ ועתה תנו את-האנשים בני-בליעל אשר בגבעה, ונמיתם, ונבערה רעה, מישראל; ולא אבו, בני בנימן, לשמע, בקול אחיהם בני-ישראל. ¹⁴ ויאספו בני-בנימן מן-הערים, הגבעתה, לצאת למלחמה, עם-בני ישראל. ¹⁵ ויתפקדו בני בנימן ביום ההוא, מהערים, עשרים וששה אלה איש, שלף חרב--לבד מישבי הגבעה, התפקדו, שבע מאות, איש בחור. ¹⁶ מכל העם הזה, שבע מאות איש בחור, אשר, יד-ימינו: כל-זה, קלע באבן אל-השערה--ולא יחטא. ¹⁷ ואיש ישראל התפקדו, לבד מבנימן, ארבע מאות אלה איש, שלף חרב: כל-זה, איש מלחמה. ¹⁸ ונקמו ויצלו בית-אל, וישאלו באלהים, ויאמרו בני ישראל, מי יעלה-לנו בתחלה למלחמה עם-בני בנימן; ויאמר יהוה, יהודה בתחלה. ¹⁹ ונקמו בני-ישראל בבקר; ויחנו, על-הגבעה. ²⁰ ויצא איש ישראל, למלחמה עם-בנימן; ויערכו אתם איש-ישראל מלחמה, אל-הגבעה. ²¹ ויצאו בני-בנימן, מן-הגבעה; וישחיתו בישראל ביום ההוא, שנים ועשרים אלה איש--ארצה. ²² ויתחזק העם, איש ישראל; ויספו, לערוך מלחמה, במקום, אשר-ערכו שם ביום הראשון. ²³ ויצלו בני-ישראל, ויכפו לפני-יהוה עד-הערב, וישאלו ביהוה לאמר, האוסף לגשת למלחמה עם-בני בנימן אחי; ויאמר יהוה, צלו אליו. ²⁴ ויקרבו בני-ישראל אל-בני בנימן ביום השני. ²⁵ ויצא בנימן לקראתם מן-הגבעה, ביום השני, וישחיתו בבני ישראל עוד שמנת עשר אלה איש, ארצה: כל-אלה, שלפי חרב. ²⁶ ויצלו כל-בני ישראל וכל-העם ויבאו בית-אל, ויכפו וישבו שם לפני יהוה, ויצומו ביום-ההוא, עד-הערב; ויצלו עלות ושלמים, לפני יהוה. ²⁷ וישאלו בני-ישראל, ביהוה; ושם, ארון ברית האלהים, בימים, ההם. ²⁸ ופינחס בן-אלעזר בן-אהרן עמד לפניו, בימים ההם לאמר, האוסף עוד לצאת למלחמה עם-בני-בנימן אחי, אם-אחד; ויאמר יהוה: צלו, כי מחר אתנגנו בידך. ²⁹ ושם ישראל ארבים, אל-הגבעה סביב. ³⁰ ויצלו בני-ישראל אל-בני בנימן, ביום השלישי; ויערכו אל-הגבעה, כפעם בפעם. ³¹ ויצאו בני-בנימן לקראת העם, הנתקו מן-העיר; ויחלו להכות מהעם חללים כפעם בפעם, במקלות אשר אחת עלה בית-אל וחתה גבעתה בשדה, כשלישים איש, בישראל. ³² ויאמרו בני בנימן, נגפים הם לפנינו כבדראשנה; ובני ישראל אמרו, ננוסה ונתקנוהו, מן-העיר, אל-המסלות. ³³ וכל איש ישראל, קמו ממקומו, ויערכו, כבעל תמר; וארב ישראל מגיח ממקומו, ממערה-גבע. ³⁴ ויבאו מנגד לגבעה עשרת אלפים איש בחור, מכל-ישראל, והמלחמה, כבדה; והם לא ידעו, כי-נגעת עליהם הרעה. ³⁵ ויגף יהוה את-בנימן, לפני ישראל, וישחיתו בני ישראל בבנימן ביום ההוא, עשרים וחמשה אלה ומאה איש: כל-אלה, שלף חרב. ³⁶ ויראו בני-בנימן, כי נגפו; ויתנו איש-ישראל מקום, לבנימן, כי כסחו אל-הארב, אשר-שמו אל-הגבעה. ³⁷ והארב החישו, ויפשטו אל-הגבעה; וימשד, הארב, ויד את-כל-העיר, לפי-חרב. ³⁸ והמועד, היה לאיש ישראל--עם-הארב; הרב, להעלותם משאת העין מן-העיר. ³⁹ ויהפך איש-ישראל, במלחמה; ובנימן החל להכות חללים באיש-ישראל, כשלישים איש--בי אמרו, אד נגוף נגף הוא לפנינו במלחמה הראשנה. ⁴⁰ והמשאת, החלה לעלות מן-העיר--עמוד עשן; ויסן בנימן אחריו, והנה עלה כלי-העיר השמימה. ⁴¹ ואיש ישראל הפך, ויבהל איש בנימן: כי ראה, כי-נגעה עליו הרעה. ⁴² ויפנו לפני איש ישראל, אל-דרך המדבר, והמלחמה, הדבקהו; ואשר, מהערים, משחיתים אותו, בתוכו. ⁴³ כתרו את-בנימן הרדיפהו, מנחתה הדרכהו, עד נכח הגבעה, ממזרח-שמש. ⁴⁴ ויפלו, מבנימן, שמנה-עשר אלה, איש: את-כל-אלה, אנשי-חיל. ⁴⁵ ויפנו וינסו המדברה, אל-סלע הרמון. ויעלהו במסלות, חמשת אלפים איש; וידביקו אחריו עד-גדם, ויכו ממנו אלפים איש. ⁴⁶ והיה כל-הנפלים מבנימן, עשרים וחמשה אלה איש שלף חרב--ביום ההוא: את-כל-אלה, אנשי-חיל. ⁴⁷ ויפנו וינסו המדברה, אל-סלע הרמון, שש מאות, איש; וישבו בסלע רמון, ארבעה חדשים. ⁴⁸ ואיש ישראל שבו אל-בני בנימן, ויכוס לפי-חרב, מעיר מתם עד-בהמה, עד כל-הנמצא; גם כל-הערים הנמצאות, שלחו באש.

¹ Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying: 'There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.' ² And the people came to Beth-el, and sat there till even before G-d, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore. ³ And they said: 'O HaShem, the G-d of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to-day one tribe lacking in Israel?' ⁴ And it came to pass on the morrow that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. ⁵ And the children of Israel said: 'Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up in the assembly unto HaShem?' For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up unto HaShem to Mizpah, saying: 'He shall surely be put to death.' ⁶ And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said: 'There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day. ⁷ How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by HaShem that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?' ⁸ And they said: 'What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up unto HaShem to Mizpah?' And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly. ⁹ For when the people were numbered, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there. ¹⁰ And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying: 'Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the little ones. ¹¹ And this is the thing that ye shall do: ye shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman that hath lain by man.' ¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, that had not known man by lying with him; and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. ¹³ And the whole congregation sent and spoke to the children of Benjamin that were in the rock of Rimmon, and proclaimed peace unto them. ¹⁴ And Benjamin returned at that time; and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead; and yet so they sufficed them not. ¹⁵ And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that HaShem had made a breach in the tribes of Israel. ¹⁶ Then the elders of the congregation said: 'How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?' ¹⁷ And they said: 'They that are escaped must be as an inheritance for Benjamin, that a tribe be not blotted out from Israel. ¹⁸ Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters.' For the children of Israel had sworn, saying: 'Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.' ¹⁹ And they said: 'Behold, there is the feast of HaShem from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north of Beth-el, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Beth-el to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.' ²⁰ And they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying: 'Go and lie in wait in the vineyards; ²¹ and see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. ²² And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come to strive with us, that we will say unto them: Grant them graciously unto us; because we took not for each man of them his wife in battle; neither did ye give them unto them, that ye should now be guilty.' ²³ And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they carried off; and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and built the cities, and dwelt in them. ²⁴ And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. ²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

¹ ואִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, נִשְׁבַּע בַּמִּצְפָּה לֵאמֹר: אִישׁ מִמֶּנּוּ, לֹא-יִתֵּן בָּתוּ לַבְנִימָן לְאִשָּׁה. ² וַיָּבֹא הָעָם, בֵּית-אֵל, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד-הָעֶרֶב, לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיִּשְׁאוּ קוֹלָם, וַיִּכְּבוּ בְּכִי גָדוֹל. ³ וַיֹּאמְרוּ--לָמָּה יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַיְּתֵה זֹאת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: לְהַפְקֵד הַיּוֹם מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, שְׁבֹט אֶחָד. ⁴ וַיְהִי, מִמַּחֲרָת, וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ הָעָם, וַיָּבִנוּ-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ; וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלוֹת, וַשְּׁלָמִים. ⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה בִקְהָל מִכָּל-שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-יְהוָה: כִּי הִשְׁבִּיעָה הַגְּדוּלָּה הַזֹּאת, לְאֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה לֵאמֹר--מוֹת יוּמָת. ⁶ וַיִּנָּחֲמוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-בְּנִימָן אֶחָיו; וַיֹּאמְרוּ, נִגְדַע הַיּוֹם שְׁבֹט אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל. ⁷ מֶה-נַּעֲשֶׂה לָהֶם לְנוֹתָרִים, לְנָשִׁים; וְאִנְחָנוּ נִשְׁבַּעְנוּ בַּיהוָה, לְכַלְתִּי תַת-לָהֶם מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ לְנָשִׁים. ⁸ וַיֹּאמְרוּ--מִי אֶחָד מִשְׁבֹּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה; וְהִנֵּה לֹא כָא-אִישׁ אֶל-הַמִּחְנֶה, מִיָּבִישׁ גִּלְעָד--אֶל-הַקֵּהֶל. ⁹ וַיִּתְּפָקֵד, הָעָם; וְהִנֵּה אֵין-שָׁם אִישׁ, מִיוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד. ¹⁰ וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ-שָׁם הָעֵדָה, שְׁנַיִם-עָשָׂר אֶלֶף אִישׁ--מִבְּנֵי הַחִיל; וַיִּצְווּ אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר, לָכוּ וְהַכִּיתֶם אֶת-יוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד לְפִי-חֶרֶב, וְהַנָּשִׁים, וְהַטָּף. ¹¹ וְזֶה הַדָּבָר, אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּ: כָּל-זָכָר, וְכָל-אִשָּׁה יִדְעַת מִשְׁכָּב-זָכָר--תַּחֲרִימוּ. ¹² וַיִּמָּצְאוּ מִיוֹשְׁבֵי יָבִישׁ גִּלְעָד, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת נַעֲרָה בְּתוּלָה, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדְעָה אִישׁ, לְמִשְׁכָּב זָכָר; וַיָּבִיאוּ אוֹתָם אֶל-הַמִּחְנֶה שְׁלֹה, אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן. ¹³ וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ, כָּל-הָעֵדָה, וַיַּדְּבֵרוּ אֶל-בְּנֵי בְנִימָן, אֲשֶׁר בְּסֹלֶע רְמוֹן; וַיִּקְרְאוּ לָהֶם, שְׁלוֹם. ¹⁴ וַיָּשֶׁב בְּנִימָן, בָּעֵת הַהִיא, וַיִּתְּנוּ לָהֶם הַנָּשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר חָיו מִנְּשֵׁי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד; וְלֹא-מָצְאוּ לָהֶם, כֶּן. ¹⁵ וְהָעָם נָחָם, לְבְנִימָן: כִּי-עָשָׂה יְהוָה פֶּרֶץ, בְּשַׁבֹּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. ¹⁶ וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי הָעֵדָה, מֶה-נַּעֲשֶׂה לְנוֹתָרִים לְנָשִׁים: כִּי-נִשְׁמָדָה מִבְּנִימָן, אִשָּׁה. ¹⁷ וַיֹּאמְרוּ, יִרְשֹׁת פְּלִיטָה לְבְנִימָן; וְלֹא-יִמָּחֶה שְׁבֹט, מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל. ¹⁸ וְאִנְחָנוּ, לֹא נוֹכַל לְתַת-לָהֶם נָשִׁים--מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ: כִּי-נִשְׁבַּעוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר, אֲרוּר, גֵּיתָן אִשָּׁה לְבְנִימָן. ¹⁹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנֵּה חֵג-יְהוָה בְּשָׁלוֹ מִיָּמִים יְמִימָה, אֲשֶׁר מִצְּפוֹנָה לְבֵית-אֵל מִזְרָחָה הַשָּׁמֶשׁ, לְמִסְלָה, הָעֹלָה מִבֵּית-אֵל שְׁכֶמָה--וּמִנְּגֹב, לְלִבְנוֹנָה. ²⁰ וַיִּצְוּ וַיִּצְווּ, אֶת-בְּנֵי בְנִימָן לֵאמֹר: לָכוּ, וְאָרַבְתֶּם בְּכַרְמִים. ²¹ וְרֵאִיתֶם, וְהִנֵּה אִם-יֵצְאוּ בָנוֹת-שִׁילֹו לְחוּל בְּמַחֲלוֹת, וַיִּצְאֲתֶם מִן-הַכַּרְמִים, וַחֲטַפְתֶּם לָכֶם אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ מִבָּנוֹת שִׁילֹו; וְהִלַּכְתֶּם, אֶרֶץ בְּנִימָן. ²² וְהָיָה כִּי-יָבִיאוּ אֲבוֹתָם אוֹ אֲחֵיהֶם לְרוּב לָרִיב אֲלֵינוּ, וְאָמְרָנוּ אֲלֵיהֶם חֲנוּנוּ אוֹתָם--כִּי לֹא לִקְחָנוּ אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ, בְּמִלְחָמָה: כִּי לֹא אָתָם נָתַתָּם לָהֶם, כָּעֵת תִּאֲשָׁמוּ. ²³ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ-כֵן, בְּנֵי בְנִימָן, וַיִּשְׁאוּ נָשִׁים לְמִסְפָּרָם, מִן-הַמַּחֲלָלוֹת אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ; וַיִּלְכּוּ, וַיָּשׁוּבוּ אֶל-נַחֲלָתָם, וַיָּבִינוּ אֶת-הָעָרִים, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בָהֶם. ²⁴ וַיִּתְּהִלְכוּ מִשָּׁם בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּעֵת הַהִיא, אִישׁ לְשִׁבְטוֹ וּלְמִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ; וַיִּצְאוּ מִשָּׁם, אִישׁ לְנַחֲלָתוֹ. ²⁵ בְּיָמִים הָהֵם, אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: אִישׁ הָיָשׁר בְּעֵינָיו, יַעֲשֶׂה.

Faith Symbols

- Christian✝.
- Dharmic☸.
- Jewish✡.
- Muslim: Shia☞, Sunni☞.
- Pagan: Apollo☼, Hermes☿.
- Pantheist☯.
- Atheist☒.