



JUDGES

Chapter 1

Wars Against Remaining Canaanites

1 ¶ Now after the ^adeath of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel ^basked the LORD, saying, “Who will go up for us first against the ^cCanaanites in order to fight against them?”

2 Then the LORD said, ^d“Judah will go up. Behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.”

3 And Judah said to ^eSimeon his brother, “Come up with me into my allotted territory so that we may fight against the Canaanites. Then ^fI will likewise go with you into your allotted territory.” So Simeon went with him.

4 And Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands. And in ^gBezek they slew ten thousand men of them.

5 And they found Adonibezek in Bezek. And they fought against him and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 But Adonibezek fled. And they pursued after him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes.

7 And Adonibezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off have picked up scraps under my table. ^hAs I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem and there he died.

8 ¶ Now the ⁱchildren of Judah had fought against Jerusalem and had taken it. And they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

9 And ^jafterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the hill country and in the Negev and in the valley.

10 And Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in ^kHebron. (Now the name of Hebron before *was* ^lKirjath Arba.) And they slew Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.

11 ^mThen from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir. (And the name of Debir before *was* Kirjath Sepher.)

12 ⁿAnd Caleb said, “He who smites Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter for a wife.”

13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, ^oCaleb’s younger brother, took it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.

14 ^pNow it came to pass when she came *to him* that she persuaded him to ask for a field from her father. When she got off *her* donkey, Caleb said to her, “What do you want?”

15 And she said to him, ^q“Give me a blessing. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water.” And Caleb gave

Chapter 1: a Ja 24:29 b Nm 27:21 c Ja 17:12,13 d Gn 49:8,9 e Ja 19:1 f Jg 1:17 g 1 Sm 11:8 h Lv 24:19 i Ja 15:63 j Ja 10:36; 11:21; 15:13 k Ja 15:13-19 l Ja 14:15 m Ja 15:15 n Ja 15:16,17 o Jg 3:9 p Ja 15:18,19 q Gn 33:11

her the upper springs and the lower springs.

16 ¶^r And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up out of the ^scity of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which *lies* in the Negev of 'Arad. ^uAnd they went and dwelt among the people.

17 ^vThen Judah went with Simeon his brother and they slew the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath. And they utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called ^wHormah.

18 Judah also took ^xGaza with its territory and Askelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory.

19 So the LORD was with Judah. And he drove out *the inhabitants of the hill* ^ycountry. But he could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had chariots of iron.

20 ^zThen they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said. And he expelled from there the ^athree sons of Anak.

21 ^bBut the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem. So the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 ¶ And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel. ^cAnd the LORD *was* with them.

23 And the house of Joseph ^dsent to spy out Bethel. (Now the name of the city before *was* ^eLuz.)

24 And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance

into the city and ^fwe will see that you are treated kindly."

25 And when he showed them the entrance into the city, they smote the city with the edge of the sword. But they let go the man and all his family.

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

27 ^gBut Manasseh did not drive out *the inhabitants of* Beth Shean and its towns, nor ^hTaanach and its towns, nor the inhabitants of ⁱDor and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns. But the Canaanites continued dwelling in that land.

28 Now it came to pass when Israel was strong that they put the Canaanites to forced labor and did not utterly drive them out.

29 ¶^j Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer, but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

30 ¶ Neither did ^kZebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol, but the Canaanites dwelt among them and became forced labor.

31 ¶^l Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Sidon nor of Ahlab nor of Achzib nor of Helbah nor of Aphik nor of Rehob.

32 But the Asherites ^mdwelt among

r Nm 10:29-32 s Dt 34:3 t Ja 12:14 u 1 Sm 15:6 v Jg 1:3 w Nm 21:3 x Ja 11:22 y Ja 17:16,18 z Ja 14:9,14 a Ja 15:14 b Ja 15:63 c Jg 1:19 d Ja 2:1; 7:2 e Gn 28:19 f Ja 2:12,14 g Ja 17:11-13 h Ja 21:25 i Ja 17:11 j Ja 16:10 k Ja 19:10-16 l Ja 19:24-31 m Ps 106:34,35

the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, because they did not drive them out.

33 ¶ Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Bethanath. But he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. However, the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and of Beth Anath became forced labor for them.

34 ¶ And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain because they would not allow them to come down to the valley.

35 But the Amorites continued to dwell in Mount Heres in °Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. But the hand of the house of Joseph increased so that they became tributaries.

36 And the border of the Amorites was ^pfrom the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

Chapter 2

The Angel of the Lord

1 ¶ Now an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, ^a“I brought you up out of Egypt and have ^bled you to the land that I swore to your fathers. And ^cI said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.

2 ‘And ^dyou will make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land. ^eYou will tear down their altars.’ ^fBut you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

3 “Therefore, I also said, ‘I will not drive them out from before you. But

they will be ^gas ^hthorns in your sides and ⁱtheir gods will be a ^jsnare to you.’”

4 Now it came to pass when the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel that the people lifted up their voice and wept.

5 And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

6 And when ^jJoshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man to his inheritance to possess the land.

Disobedience and Defeat

7 ¶ ^kAnd the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD that He did for Israel.

8 And ^lJoshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* one hundred and ten years old.

9 ^mAnd they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in ⁿTimnath Heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

10 And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them that ^odid not know the LORD, nor the works that He had done for Israel.

11 ¶ And the children of Israel did ^pevil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.

12 And they ^qforsook the LORD God

n Ja 19:32-39 o Ja 19:42 p Ja 15:3 Chapter 2: a Ex 20:2 b Dt 1:8 c Gn 17:7,8 d Dt 7:2 e Dt 12:3 f Ps 106:34 g Ja 23:13 h Jg 3:6 i Ps 106:36 j Ja 22:6; 24:28-31 k Ja 24:31 l Ja 24:29 m Ja 24:30 n Ja 19:49,50 o 1 Sm 2:12 p Jg 3:7,12; 4:1; 6:1 q Dt 31:16

of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed ^rother gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* around them. And they ^sbowed themselves to them and provoked the LORD to anger.

13 And they forsook the LORD and ^tserved Baal and Ashtaroth.

14 ^uSo the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel and ^vHe delivered them into the hands of raiders who raided them. And ^wHe sold them into the hands of their enemies around *them* so that they ^xcould no longer stand before their enemies.

15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said and as the LORD had ^ysworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

16 ¶ Nevertheless, ^zthe LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who raided them.

17 And yet they would not hearken to their judges. But ^athey prostituted themselves after other gods and bowed to them. They turned quickly out of the way that their fathers walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD. They did not do *as their fathers*.

18 Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, then ^bthe LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge, ^cfor the LORD was moved with compassion because of their groanings under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

19 Now it came to pass ^dwhen the judge was dead, *that* they returned and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers in following other gods to serve them and to bow down to them. They did not cease from their own practices or from their stubborn way.

20 ¶ So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. And He said, “Because this people have ^etransgressed My covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not hearkened to My voice,

21 “I also will no longer drive out any of the nations from before them whom Joshua ^fleft when he died,

22 “in order ^gthat through them I may ^htest Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not.”

23 Therefore, the LORD left those nations, without driving them out quickly. Neither did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

Chapter 3

1 ¶ Now these *are* ^athe nations whom the LORD left to test Israel by them, who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan.

2 (He only *did this* so that the generations of the children of Israel who had not formerly experienced war might be taught warfare.)

3 *The nations are:* ^bfive lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from

r Dt 6:14 s Ex 20:5 t Jg 10:6 u Dt 31:17 v 2 Kg 17:20 w Is 50:1 x Lv 26:37 y Lv 26:14-26 z Ps 106:43-45 a Ex 34:15 b Ja 1:5 c Gn 6:6 d Jg 3:12 e Ja 23:16 f Ja 23:4,5,13 g Jg 3:1,4 h Dt 8:2,16; 13:3 **Chapter 3:** a Jg 1:1; 2:21,22 b Ja 13:3

Mount Baal Hermon to as far as Lebo Hamath.

4 And He left them to test Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken to the commandments of the LORD that He commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 ¶^cAnd the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites and Amorites and Perizzites and Hivites and Jebusites.

6 And ^dthey took their daughters to be their wives and gave their daughters to their sons. And they served their gods.

Othniel

7 So the children of Israel did ^eevil in the sight of the LORD. And they ^fforgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroths.

8 Therefore, the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel and He ^gsold them into the hand of ^hCushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

9 And when the children of Israel ⁱcried out to the LORD, the LORD ^jraised up a deliverer for the children of Israel who delivered them, *even* ^kOthniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10 ^lAnd the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel and went out to war. And the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia 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.

Ehud

12 ¶^mThen again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. And the LORD strengthened ⁿEglon the king of Moab against Israel because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

13 So he gathered to himself the children of Ammon and ^oAmalek, and went and smote Israel. And they possessed the ^pcity of palm trees.

14 So the children of Israel ^qserved Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

15 ¶ But when the children of Israel ^rcried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a ^slefthanded man. And by him the children of Israel sent a present to Eglon the king of Moab.

16 But Ehud made himself a dagger that had two edges, a cubit in length. And he strapped it under his clothing on his right thigh.

17 Then he brought a present to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon *was* a very fat man.

18 So when he had finished offering the present, he sent away the people who carried the present.

19 But he himself turned back from the ^tidols that *were* by Gilgal and said, "I have a secret errand for you, O king." And he said, "Keep silence." And all who stood by him went out from him.

c Ps 106:35 d Ex 34:15,16 e Jg 2:11 f Dt 32:18 g Jg 2:14 h Hk 3:7 i Jg 3:15 j Jg 2:16 k Jg 1:13 l Nm 27:18 m Jg 2:19 n 1 Sm 12:9 o Jg 5:14 p Jg 1:16 q Dt 28:48 r Ps 78:34 s Jg 20:16 t Ja 4:20

20 So Ehud came to him while he was sitting alone in a summer chamber that he had for himself. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose out of *his* seat.

21 And Ehud put forth his left hand and took the dagger from his right thigh and thrust it into his belly.

22 And the handle also went in after the blade. And the fat closed upon the blade so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly. And the entrails came out.

23 Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the chamber behind him and locked them.

24 ¶ When he was gone, his servants came. And when they saw that the doors of the chamber *were* locked, they said, "Surely He is only "relieving himself in the cool room."

25 So they waited until they ^vbecame anxious. And behold, he did not open the doors of the chamber. Therefore, they took a key and opened *them*. And behold, their lord *had* fallen down dead on the floor.

26 ¶ Now Ehud escaped while they waited. And he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirath.

27 Now it came to pass when he had come, that ^whe blew a trumpet in the ^hhill country of Ephraim. And the children of Israel went down with him from the hill country and he befrore them.

28 Then he said to them, "Follow after me, for ^vthe LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into

your hand. And they went down after him and took the ²fords of the Jordan toward Moab. And they did not allow a man to pass over.

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

30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And ^athe land had rest eighty years.

Shamgar

31 ¶ Now after him was ^bShamgar the son of Anath, who slew six hundred men of the Philistines with an ^cox goad. ^dAnd he also delivered ^eIsrael.

Chapter 4

Deborah and Barak

1 ¶ Now the ^achildren of Israel again did ^bevil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud was dead.

2 And the LORD ^csold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan who reigned in ^dHazor. The captain of his army *was* ^eSisera who dwelt in ^fHarosheth Hagoyim.

3 So the children of Israel cried to the LORD because he had nine hundred ^gchariots of iron. And ^hhe mightily oppressed the children of Israel for twenty years.

4 ¶ And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, judged Israel at that time.

5 ⁱAnd she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and

u 1 Sm 24:3 v 2 Kg 2:17; 8:11 w 1 Sm 13:3 x Ja 17:15 y Jg 7:9,15 z Ja 2:7 a Jg 3:11 b Jg 5:6 c 1 Sm 17:47 d Jg 2:16 e 1 Sm 4:1 **Chapter 4:** a Jg 2:19 b Jg 2:11 c Jg 2:14 d Ja 11:1,10 e 1 Sm 12:9 f Jg 4:13,16 g Jg 1:19 h Ps 106:42 i Gn 35:8

Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 Now she sent and called ^jBarak the son of Abinoam out of ^kKedesh in Naphtali. And she said to him, "The LORD God of Israel has commanded, *saying*, 'Go and march toward ^lMount Tabor and take with you ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun.

7 'And ^mI will draw out to you Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops, at the ⁿRiver Kishon. And I will deliver him into your hand.'"

8 Then Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go. But if you will not go with me, *then* I will not go."

9 So she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the journey that you take will not be for your honor, for the LORD will ^osell Sisera into the hand of a woman." And Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 And Barak called ^pZebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And he went up with ten thousand men ^qat his feet. And Deborah went up with him.

11 ¶ Now Heber the ^rKenite, *who was* of the children of ^sHobab the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent as far away as the plain of Zaanaim, *which is* by Kedesh.

12 And they told Sisera that Barak

the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, *even* nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who *were* with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the river of Kishon.

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Arise, for this *is* the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. "Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

15 And the LORD routed Sisera and all *his* chariots and all *his* army with the edge of the sword before Barak. And Sisera abandoned *his* chariot and fled away on foot.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots and after the army to Harosheth Hagoyim. And all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. *And* there was not a man ^vleft.

17 ¶ However, Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of ^wJael 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 she said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me. Do not fear." And when he had turned aside to her into the tent, she covered him with a rug.

19 And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." And she opened a ^xjug of milk and gave him a drink. And she covered him.

j Hb 11:32 k Ja 19:37; 21:32 l Jg 8:18 m Ex 14:4 n Ps 83:9,10 o Jg 2:14 p Jg 5:18 q 1 Kg 20:10 r Jg 1:16 s Nm 10:29 t Jg 4:6 u Dt 9:3; 31:3 v Ex 14:28 w Jg 5:6 x Jg 5:24-27

20 Again he said to her, “Stand in the door of the tent, and it will be if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, ‘Is there any man here?’ that you will say, ‘No.’”

21 But Jael, Heber’s wife, ^ytook a peg of the tent and a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temples and into the ground, for he was fast asleep and exhausted. So he died.

22 And behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him and said to him, “Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.” And when he came into her *tent*, behold, Sisera lay dead and the peg was in his temples.

23 ¶ So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

24 So the hand of the children of Israel prospered and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

Chapter 5

The Song of Deborah

1 ¶ Then on that day Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam ^asang, saying,

2 “Praise the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when leaders ^blead in Israel *and* when the people ^cwillingly offered themselves.

3 “Hear, ^dO you kings. Give ear, O you princes. I, *even* ^eI, will sing to the LORD. I will sing *praise* to the LORD God of Israel.

4 “LORD, ^fwhen You went out of Seir; when You marched out of the ^gfield of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens dripped, the clouds also dripped water.

5 ^h“The mountains quaked before the LORD, *even* ⁱ‘Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.

6 “In the days of ^jShamgar the son of Anath, in the days of ^kJael, the ^lhighways were deserted. And the travellers walked through winding paths.

7 “*The inhabitants of the villages* ceased. They ceased in Israel until I, Deborah, arose. Until I arose a mother in Israel.

8 “They chose ^mnew gods. Then war was in the gates. Was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 “My heart *goes out* to the governors of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Praise the LORD.

10 “Speak you who ride on white ⁿdonkeys, you who sit in judgment and walk by the way.

11 “*They who are delivered* from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there they will recount the righteous acts of the LORD, *even* the righteous acts *toward the inhabitants* of His villages in Israel. Then will the people of the LORD go down to the gates.

12 “Awake, ^oawake, Deborah. Awake, awake, utter a song. Arise, Barak, and lead your captivity captive, you son of Abinoam.

y Jg 5:24-27 Chapter 5: a Jg 4:4 b Ps 18:47 c 2 Ch 17:16 d Dt 32:1,3 e Ps 27:6 f Dt 33:2 g Ps 68:8 h Ps 97:5 i Ex 19:18 j Jg 3:31 k Jg 4:17 l Is 33:8 m Dt 32:17 n Jg 10:4, 12:14 o Ps 57:8

13 “Then those who remained came down to the nobles. The people of the LORD came down to me as warriors.

14 “Out of Ephraim those whose root is in ^pAmalek *came down*, following you, Benjamin, among your people. Out of Machir came down governors and out of Zebulun those who handle the pen of the writer.

15 “And the princes of Issachar *were* with Deborah, even Issachar and also Barak. He was sent on foot into the valley. Among the divisions of Reuben *there were* great resolves of heart.

16 “Why did you stay among the sheepfolds to hear the bleatings of the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben *there were* great searchings of heart.

17 ^q“Gilead remained beyond the Jordan. And why did Dan remain in ships? ^rAsher continued on the seashore, and remained in its coves.

18 ^s“Zebulun and Naphtali *were* a people *who* risked their lives to the death in the high places of the field.

19 “The kings came *and* fought, then the kings of Canaan fought in ^tTaanach by the waters of Megiddo. They took no gain of money.

20 “They fought from heaven, from their courses they fought against Sisera.

21 ^u“The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the River Kishon. O my soul, you have trodden down strength.

22 “Then were the horses’ hoofs bro-

ken from the dashing, the dashing of their mighty ones.

23 ‘Curse you Meroz,’ said the angel of the LORD. ‘Curse utterly its inhabitants, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.’

24 “Blessed above women will Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be. ^vBlessed she will be above women in the tent.

25 “He asked water, *and* she gave *him* milk. She brought forth butter in a magnificent dish.

26 “She put her hand to the peg and her right hand to the workmen’s hammer. And with the hammer she smote Sisera. She smashed his head when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

27 “At her feet he bowed. He fell. He lay down. At her feet he bowed, he fell. Where he bowed, there he fell down ^wdead.

28 “The mother of Sisera looked out through a window. And she cried out through the lattice, ‘Why is his chariot *so* long in coming? Why do the wheels of his chariots tarry?’

29 “Her wise ladies answered her. Indeed, she repeats her words to herself,

30 ‘Are they not finding and dividing the spoils, to every man a damsel *or* two; to Sisera a spoil of many colors, a spoil of many colors of needlework, of many colors of needlework on both sides, *suitable* for the necks of *those who take* the spoil?’

31 “So let all your enemies ^xperish, O LORD. But *let* those who love him *be* ^yas the ^zsun when he goes forth in his ^amight.” And the land had rest forty years.

Chapter 6

Gideon

1 ¶ Again the children of Israel did ^aevil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of ^bMidian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens that *are* in the mountains and ^ccaves and strongholds.

3 And *so* it was that when Israel had sown, the Midianites came up with the Amalekites and the ^dsons of the east. And they came up against them.

4 And they camped against them and ^edestroyed the increase of the earth as far as Gaza. And they left no sustenance for Israel, nor sheep nor ox nor ^fdonkey.

5 For they came up with their livestock and their tents, and they came as locusts in number, both they and their camels were without number. And they entered into the land to destroy it.

6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites. And the children of Israel ^gcried out to the LORD.

7 ¶ Now it came to pass when the children of Israel cried out to the

LORD because of the Midianites, **8** that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel who said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you forth out of the ^hhouse of bondage.

9 ‘And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you. And ⁱI drove them out from before you and gave you their land.

10 ‘And I said to you, “*I am* the LORD your God. ^jDo not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My ^kvoice.”

11 ¶ Then there came an angel of the LORD and sat under an oak that *was* in Ophrah, that *belonged* to Joash the ^lAbiezrite. And his son ^mGideon threshed wheat by the winepress in order to hide *it* from the Midianites.

12 Then the ⁿangel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD *is* ^owith you, you mighty valiant man.”

13 And Gideon said to him, “Oh my Lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this befallen us? ^pAnd where *are* all His miracles ^qthat our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has ^rforsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

14 Then the LORD looked on him and said, ^s“Go in this your strength

x Ps 92:9 y 2 Sm 23:4 z Ps 37:6; 89:36,37 a Ps 19:5 **Chapter 6:** a Jg 2:11 b Nm 22:4; 31:1-3 c 1 Sm 13:6 d Jg 7:12 e Lv 26:16 f Dt 28:31 g Hs 5:15 h Ja 24:17 i Ps 44:2,3 j 2 Kg 17:35,37,38 k Jg 2:1,2 l Ja 17:2 m Hb 11:32 n Jg 13:3 o Ja 1:5 p Is 59:1 q Ps 44:1 r Ps 44:9-16 s 1 Sm 12:11

and you will save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. 'Have I not sent you?"

15 Then he said to him, "Oh my Lord, how will I save Israel? Behold, "my family *is* poor in Manasseh and I *am* the least in my father's house."

16 And the LORD said to him, "'Surely I will be with you, and you will smite the Midianites as one man."

17 And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then "show me a sign that You are speaking with me.

18 ^x"Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring my offering and set *it* before you." And He said, "I will wait until you come again."

19 ¶ ^ySo Gideon went in and made ready a young goat and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket and he put the broth in a pot. And he brought *it* out to him under the oak and presented *it*.

20 Then the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes and ^zlay *them* on this rock, and ^apour out the broth." And he did so.

21 ¶ Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that *was* in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And ^bthere arose fire out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

22 And when Gideon ^cperceived that he *was* an angel of the LORD, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! ^dFor now I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face."

23 And the LORD said to him, ^e"Peace *be* to you. Do not fear. You will not die."

24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it Jehovah Shalom. To this day it *is* still in ^fOphrah of the Abiezrites.

25 ¶ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, even the second bull of seven years old, and ^gthrow down the altar of ^hBaal that your father has, and ⁱcut down the Asherah that *is* by it.

26 "And build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of this rock in an orderly manner, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the Asherah that you will cut down."

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. And *so* it was, because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, that he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

28 ¶ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold the altar of Baal was cast down. And the Asherah was cut down that *was* by it and the second bull was offered on the altar *that was* built.

29 And they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they inquired and asked, they

t Ja 1:9 u 1 Sm 9:21 v Ex 3:12 w Jg 6:36,37 x Gn 18:3,5 y Gn 18:6-8 z Jg 13:19 a 1 Kg 18:33,34 b Lv 9:24 c Jg 13:21,22 d Gn 16:13 e Dn 10:19 f Jg 8:32 g Jg 2:2 h Jg 3:7 i Ex 34:13

said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."

30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son so that he may die, because he has cast down the altar of Baal and because he has cut down the Asherah that *was* by it."

31 And Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you plead for Baal? Will you save him? He who will plead for him, let him be put to death while *it is still* morning. If he *is* a god, let him plead for himself because *one* has cast down his altar."

32 Therefore, on that day he called him ^jJerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him," because he has thrown down his altar.

33 ¶ Then all the ^kMidianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east gathered together. And they went over and camped in the ^lvalley of Jezreel.

34 But the ^mSpirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he ⁿblew a trumpet. And Abiezer was gathered to follow him.

35 Then he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also was gathered to follow him. And he sent messengers to ^oAsher and to ^pZebulun and to Naphtali. And they came up to meet them.

36 ¶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have said,

37 "behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If the dew is on the fleece only, and *it is* dry on all the ground, then I will know that

You will save Israel by my hand as You have said."

38 And it was so. For he rose up early on the next morning and squeezed the fleece together and wrung a bowl full of water out of the fleece.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let Your anger be hot against me, and I will speak but once more. Let me test, I beg you, but once more with the fleece. Let it now be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew."

40 And God did so that night. And it was dry on the fleece only and there was dew on all the ground.

Chapter 7

Gideon Defeats the Midianites

1 ¶ Then ^aJerubbaal, who *is* Gideon, and all the people who *were* with him, rose up early and camped beside the well of Harod. And the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

2 ¶ Then the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, ^blest Israel exalt themselves against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

3 "Now therefore *go and* proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, '^cWhoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead.'" And there returned of the people, 22,000. And there remained 10,000.

4 ¶ Then the LORD said to Gideon,

“The people *are* still *too* many. Bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there. And it will be *that* he of whom I say to you, ‘This *one* will go with you,’ the same will go with you. And of whomever I say to you, ‘This *one* will not go with you,’ the same will not go.”

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “You will set by himself everyone who laps the water with his tongue as a dog laps, as well as everyone who bows down on his knees to drink.”

6 And the number of those who lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men. But all the rest of the people bowed down on their knees to drink water.

7 And the LORD said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you and deliver the Midianites into your hand. So let all the *other* people go every man to his place.”

8 So the people took provisions in their hand and their trumpets. And Gideon sent all the *other* men of Israel, each to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. And the army of Midian was below him in the valley.

9 ¶ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, “Arise, get down to the army, for I have delivered it into your hand.

10 “But if you fear to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the army.

11 “And you will ^fhear what they say, and afterward your hands will be strengthened to go down to the army.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outside of the armed men who *were* in the army.

12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and ^gall the sons of the east lay along in the valley ^hlike locusts in number. And their camels *were* without number, as numerous as the sand by the seashore.

13 And when Gideon had come, behold, *there was* a man who told a dream to his fellow. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the army of Midian. And it came to a tent and smote it so that it fell. And it overturned it so that the tent lay flat.”

14 And his fellow answered and said, “This *is* nothing else except the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. Into his hand ⁱGod has delivered Midian and all the army.”

15 ¶ And *so* it was that Gideon worshiped when he heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation. And he returned to the army of Israel. And he said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered into your hand the army of Midian.”

16 So he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies. And he put a trumpet in every man’s hand, with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers.

17 Then he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outside of the

camp, it will be *that* as I do, so will you do.

18 “When I blow with a trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *‘The sword of the LORD and of Gideon.’*”

19 ¶ So Gideon and the hundred men who *were* with him came to the outside of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch when they had just posted the watch. And they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands.

20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers. And they held the lamps in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing. And they cried out, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon.”

21 And ^jevery man stood in his place around the camp. And ^kall the army ran and cried out and fled.

22 And the three hundred ^lblew the trumpets. And the ^mLORD set ⁿevery man’s sword against his fellow, even throughout all the army. And the army fled to Beth Shittah in Zererath and to the border of ^oAbel Meholah near to Tabbath.

23 And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of ^pNaphtali and out of Asher and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

24 ¶ And Gideon sent messengers throughout all the ^qhill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down

against the Midianites and take before them the waters to Beth Barah and the Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together and ^rtook the waters to ^sBeth Barah and the Jordan.

25 And they took ^ttwo princes of the Midianites, ^uOreb and Zeeb. And they slew Oreb on the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb. And they pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the ^vother side of the Jordan.

Chapter 8

Zebah and Zalmunna

1 ¶ Then the ^amen of Ephraim said to him, “Why have you served us this way, that you did not call us when you went to fight with the Midianites?” And they contended with him sharply.

2 So he said to them, “What have I done now in comparison with you? *Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of ^bAbiezer?*”

3 ““God has delivered into your hands, Oreb and Zeeb, the princes of Midian. And what was I able to do in comparison to you?” Then their ^danger was abated toward him when he had said that.

4 ¶ And Gideon came ^eto the Jordan and passed over, he and the ^fthree hundred men who *were* with him, weary yet pursuing *them*.

5 And he said to the men of ^gSuccoth,

j 2 Ch 20:17 k 2 Kg 7:7 l Ja 6:4,16,20 m Is 9:4 n 1 Sm 14:20 o 1 Kg 4:12 p Jg 6:35 q Jg 3:27 r Jg 3:28 s Jn 1:29 t Jg 8:3 u Ps 83:11 v Jg 8:4 **Chapter 8:** a Jg 12:1 b Jg 6:11 c Jg 7:24,25 d Pv 15:1 e Jg 7:25 f Jg 7:6 g Gn 33:17

“Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they *are* weary and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.”

6 And the princes of Succoth said, ^h“*Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that ^kwe should give bread to your army?”

7 And Gideon said, “Therefore, when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, ^jthen I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.”

8 And he went up from there to ^kPenuel and spoke to them likewise. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.

9 So he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, “When I ^lcome again in peace, I will ^mbreak down this tower.”

10 ¶ Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their armies with them, about 15,000 *men*, all who were left of ⁿall the armies of the sons of the east; for there fell ^o120,000 men who drew sword.

11 So Gideon went up by the way of those who dwelt in tents on the east of ^pNobah and Jogbehah. And he smote the army, for the army ^qwas unsuspecting.

12 Now when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them. And ^rhe took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed all the army.

13 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun *was up*.

14 And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and questioned him. And he described to him the princes of Succoth and its elders, *even* seventy-seven men.

15 Then he came to the men of Succoth, and said, “Behold Zebah and Zalmunna with whom you ^staunted me, saying, ‘*Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand so that we should give bread to your men *who are* weary?’”

16 ^tThen he took the elders of the city and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he punished the men of Succoth.

17 ^uThen he beat down the tower of ^vPenuel and slew the men of the city.

18 ¶ Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, “What kind of men did you slay at ^wTabor?” And they answered, “As you *are*, so *were* they. Each one resembled the son of a king.”

19 And he said, “They *were* my brothers, *even* the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if you had saved them alive, I would not slay you.”

20 And he said to Jether his first-born, “Arise *and* slay them.” But the youth did not draw his sword, for he was afraid because he *was* still a youth.

21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, “Arise and fall on us, for as the man *is*, so *is* his strength.” And Gideon arose and ^xslew Zebah and Zalmunna. And he took away the ornaments that *were* on their camels’ necks.

h Jg 8:15 i 1 Sm 25:11 j Jg 8:16 k Gn 32:30,31 l 1 Kg 22:27 m Jg 8:17 n Jg 7:12 o Jg 6:5 p Nm 32:35,42 q Jg 18:27 r Ps 83:11 s Jg 8:6 t Jg 8:7 u Jg 8:9 v 1 Kg 12:25 w Jg 4:6 x Ps 83:11

Gideon's Ephod

22 ¶ Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ³“Rule over us, both you and your son, and your son’s son also, for you have ²delivered us from the hand of Midian.”

23 And Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The ^aLORD will rule over you.”

24 Then Gideon said to them, “I would request of you that every man give me the earrings of his spoil.” (For they had golden earrings, ^bbecause they *were* Ishmaelites.)

25 And they answered, “We will willingly give *them*.” And they spread a garment, and each one of them cast an earring there from his spoil.

26 And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was 1,700 *shekels* of gold, besides ornaments and pendants and purple robes that *were* on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that *were* around their camels’ necks.

27 And Gideon ^cmade an ephod of it and put it in ^dOphrah, his city. And all Israel ^eplayed the harlot by worshipping it. And it became ^fa snare to Gideon and to his house.

28 Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And ^gthe country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

Gideon's Death

29 ¶ Then ^hJerubbaal the son of Joash

went and dwelt in his own house.

30 Now Gideon had ⁱseventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives.

31 ^jAnd his concubine who *was* in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

32 Then Gideon the son of Joash died in a ^kgood old age. And he was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, ^lin Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33 ¶ Now it came to pass ^mas soon as Gideon was dead that the children of Israel turned again and ⁿplayed the harlot after Baalim. And they ^omade Baal Berith their god.

34 So the children of Israel ^pdid not remember the LORD their God who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side.

35 ^qNeither did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, *namely*, Gideon, according to all the goodness that he had shown to Israel.

Chapter 9

Abimelech

1 ¶ Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to ^ahis mother’s brethren and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother’s father, saying,

2 “Please speak in the ears of all the men of Shechem, ‘Which *is* better for you, that all the sons of Jerubbaal, *who are* ^bseventy persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you?’ Remember also that I *am* your ^cbone and your flesh.”

y Jg 9:8 z Jg 3:9; 9:17 a 1 Sm 8:7; 10:19; 12:12 b Gn 37:25,28 c Jg 17:5 d Jg 6:11,24 e Ps 106:39 f Dt 7:16 g Jg 5:31 h Jg 6:32; 7:1 i Jg 9:2,5 j Jg 9:1 k Gn 25:8 l Jg 6:24; 8:27 m Jg 2:19 n Jg 2:17 o Jg 9:4,46 p Dt 4:9 q Jg 9:16-18 Chapter 9: a Jg 8:31,35 b Jg 8:30; 9:5,18 c Gn 29:14

- 3** Then his mother's relatives spoke all these words of his in the ears of all the men of Shechem. And their hearts were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He *is* our ^dbrother."
- 4** So they gave him seventy *pieces* of silver out of the house of ^eBaal Berith, with which Abimelech hired ^fvain and reckless people who followed him.
- 5** Then he went to his father's house at ^gOphrah and ^hslew on one stone his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy people. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.
- 6** Then all the men of Shechem and all the house of Millo gathered together and went and made Abimelech king by the plain of the pillar that *was* in Shechem.
- 7** ¶ Now when they told *it* to Jotham, he went and stood on top of ⁱMount Gerizim and lifted up his voice. And he cried out and said to them, "Hearken to me you men of Shechem, so that God may hearken to you.
- 8** "The ^jtrees went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, ^k"Reign over us."
- 9** "But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I leave my fatness ^lwith which God and men are honored, and go to wave over the trees?'
- 10** "And the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come *and* reign over us.'
- 11** "But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I forsake my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?'
- 12** "Then the trees said to the vine, 'Come *and* reign over us.'
- 13** "Then the vine said to them, 'Should I leave my wine ^mthat cheers God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?'
- 14** "Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'Come *and* reign over us.'
- 15** "And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you anoint me king over you, *then* come *and* put your trust in my ⁿshadow. And if not, ^olet fire come out of the bramble and devour the ^pcedars of Lebanon.'
- 16** ¶ "Now therefore, if you have dealt in truth and sincerity in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him ^qas he deserves—
- 17** "for my ^rfather fought for you and risked his life ^tto rescue you from the hand of Midian;
- 18** "but you have risen up against my father's house this day and have slain upon one stone his sons, seventy people, and have made Abimelech the son of his ^umaidservant king over the men of Shechem, because he *is* your brother—
- 19** "if you then have dealt in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, *then* ^vrejoice in Abimelech and let him also rejoice in you.
- 20** "But if not, ^wlet fire come out

d Gn 29:15 e Jg 8:33 f Jg 11:3 g Jg 6:24 h 2 Kg 11:1,2 i Dt 11:29; 27:12 j 2 Kg 14:9 k Jg 8:22,23 l Jn 5:23 m Ps 104:15 n Is 30:2 o Nm 21:28 p 2 Kg 14:9 q Jg 8:35 r Jg 7 s Jg 8:22 t Jg 8:30,35; 9:2,5,6 u Jg 8:31 v Is 8:6 w Jg 9:15,45,56,57

from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and the house of Millo. And let fire come out from the men of Shechem and from the house of Millo and devour Abimelech.”

21 Then Jotham ran away and fled. And he went to ³Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

22 ¶ Now Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel.

23 Then ³God sent an evil ²spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem, and the men of Shechem ^adealt treacherously with Abimelech,

24 ^bso that the cruelty *done* to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their ^cblood be laid on Abimelech their brother who slew them, and on the men of Shechem who aided him in killing his brothers.

25 Now the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the top of the mountains. And they robbed all who came along that way by them. And it was told Abimelech.

26 ¶ Then Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren and went over to Shechem. And the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

27 Then they went out into the fields and gathered their vineyards and trode *the grapes* and made merry. And they went into ^dthe house of their god and ate and drank and cursed Abimelech.

28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, “Who *is* Abimelech and who *is* Shechem that we should serve him? *Is he* not the son of Jerubbaal? And

is Zebul his officer? Serve the men of ^hHamor the father of Shechem, but why should we serve him?”

29 ^g“Would, therefore, that this people were under my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech.” And he said to Abimelech, “Increase your 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 secretly sent messengers to Abimelech, saying, “Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren have come to Shechem, and behold, they fortify the city against you.

32 “Now therefore arise by night, you and the people who *are* with you, and lie in wait in the field.

33 “And it will be in the morning as soon as the sun is up, you will rise early and rush on the city. And behold, *when* he and the people who *are* with him come out against you, then you may do to them whatever you can.”

34 ¶ So Abimelech and all the people who *were* with him rose up by night. And they laid in wait near Shechem in four companies.

35 Now Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city. And Abimelech and the people who *were* with him rose up from the ambush.

36 And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, “Behold, people are coming down from the top of the mountains.” And Zebul said to him, “You are seeing the shadow of the

x Nm 21:16 y Is 19:14 z 1 Sm 16:14; 18:9,10 a Is 33:1 b 1 Kg 2:32 c Nm 35:33 d Jg 9:4 e 1 Sm 35:10 f Gn 34:2,6 g 2 Sm 15:4

mountains as *if they were* men.”

37 Then Gaal spoke again and said, “See there, people are coming down by the center of the land and another company is coming along by the plain of the soothsayers’ tree.”

38 Then Zebul said to him, “Where is your boasting now by which you ^hsaid, ‘Who *is* Abimelech that we should serve him?’ *Is* not this the people whom you have despised? Go out and fight with them.”

39 So Gaal went out before the men of Shechem and fought with Abimelech.

40 And Abimelech chased him. And he fled before him and many were overthrown *and* wounded, *even* to the entrance of the gate.

41 So Abimelech dwelt at Arumah. And Zebul drove out Gaal and his relatives so that they could not dwell in Shechem.

42 ¶ Now it came to pass on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech.

43 So he took the people and divided them into three companies. And he laid an ambush in the field. When he looked, behold, the people *were* coming out of the city. And he rose up against them and smote them.

44 Then Abimelech and the company that *was* with him rushed forward and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city. And the two *other* companies ran upon all *the people* who *were* in the fields and slew them.

45 So Abimelech fought against the city all that day and ^hhe took the city.

And he slew the people who *were* in it and ^tore down the city. Then he sowed it with salt.

46 ¶ Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard *what happened*, they entered into the inner chamber of the temple of the ^hgod El-Berith.

47 Now it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

48 So Abimelech went up to Mount ^lZalmon, he and all the people who *were* with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a branch from the trees. And he took it and laid *it* on his shoulder. Then he said to the people who *were* with him, “What you have seen me do, hurry *and* do as I *have done*.”

49 So all the people likewise cut down every man his branch and followed Abimelech. And they put *them* on the inner chamber and set the inner chamber on fire over those *inside*, so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

50 ¶ Then Abimelech went to Thebez and camped against Thebez. And he took it.

51 But there was a strong tower in the middle of the city, and all the men and women with all the leaders of the city fled there. And they locked themselves in and climbed up on the roof of the tower.

52 And Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it. And he approached the entrance of the tower

to burn it with fire.

53 Then a certain woman ^mcast a piece of a millstone on Abimelech's head, and cracked his skull.

54 Then ⁿhe called hastily to the young man his armorbearer. And he said to him, "Draw your sword and slay me so that men not say of me, 'A woman slew him.'" So his young man thrust him through and he died.

55 So when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man to his place.

56 ¶ ^oThus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech that he did to his father in slaying his seventy brothers.

57 And God returned all the wickedness of the men of Shechem on their heads, and the ^pcurse of Jotham son of Jerubbaal came on them.

Chapter 10

Tola and Jair

1 ¶ Now after Abimelech there ^aarose to defend 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-three years. And he died and was buried in Shamir.

3 ¶ Then after him arose Jair, a Gileadite. And he judged Israel twenty-two years.

4 Now he had thirty sons who ^brode on thirty donkeys. And they had thirty cities ^cthat are called Havoth Jair to this day, which *are* in the land of Gilead.

5 Now Jair died and was buried in Camon.

Jephthah

6 ¶ Then the ^dchildren of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD and ^eserved the Baals and the Ashtaroath, and the ^fgods of Syria, and the gods of ^gSidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

7 So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. And He ^hsold them into the hands of the ⁱPhilistines and into the hands of the children of ^jAmmon.

8 And that year they afflicted and oppressed the children of Israel. For eighteen years they *afflicted* all the children of Israel who *were* on the other side of the Jordan in the ^kland of the Amorites, which *is* in Gilead.

9 Moreover, 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 greatly distressed.

10 ¶ Then the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have ^msinned against you, both because we have forsaken our God and also served the Baals."

11 So the LORD said to the children of Israel, "*Did not I deliver you* ⁿfrom the Egyptians and ^ofrom the Amorites, ^pfrom the children of Ammon and ^qfrom the Philistines?"

12 "Also when the ^rSidonians and

m 2 Sm 11:21 n 1 Sm 31:4 o Jb 31:3 p Jg 9:20 Chapter 10: a Jg 2:16 b Jg 5:10; 12:14 c Dt 3:14 d Jg 2:11; 3:7; 6:1; 13:1 e Jg 2:13 f Jg 2:12 g 1 Kg 11:33 h 1 Sm 12:9 i Jg 13:1 j Jg 3:13 k Nm 32:33 l 1 Sm 12:10 m Dt 1:41 n Ex 14:30 o Nm 21:21,24,25 p Jg 3:12,13 q Jg 3:31 r Jg 1:31; 5:19

the ^sAmalekites and the Maonites [']oppressed you, and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you out of their hand.

13 ^u“Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore, I will deliver you no more.

14 “Go and ^vcry out to the gods that you have chosen. Let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.”

15 ¶ Then the children of Israel said to the LORD, “We have sinned. ^wDo to us whatever seems good to You. Only deliver us, we beg You, this day.”

16 ^xSo they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And ^yHis soul was grieved because of the misery of Israel.

17 ¶ Then the children of Ammon were gathered together and camped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together and camped in ^zMizpeh.

18 And the people *and* princes of Gilead said one to another, “What man *is he* who will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? He will ^abecome head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

Chapter 11

1 ¶ Now ^aJephthah the Gileadite was a ^bmighty warrior, but he *was* the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

2 And Gilead's wife bore him sons. And *when* his wife's sons grew up,

they thrust out Jephthah and said to him, “You will [']not inherit in our father's house, for you *are* the son of another woman.”

3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of ^dTob. And there were ^eworthless men gathered to Jephthah and they went out with him.

4 ¶ Now it came to pass in the process of time that the ^fchildren 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 to Jephthah, “Come and be our captain so that we may fight against the children of Ammon.”

7 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, ^g“Did not you hate me and expel me out of my father's house? And why have you come to me now when you are in distress?”

8 ^hThen the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Nevertheless, we are ⁱturning to you now so that you may go with us and fight against the children of Ammon and be ^jour head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

9 And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “If you bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them before me, will I become your head?”

10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, ^k“The LORD be witness

s Jg 6:3; 7:12 t Ps 106:42:43 u Jr 2:13 v Dt 32:37,38 w 1 Sm 3:18 x Jr 18:7,8 y Is 63:9 z Jg 11:11,29
a Jg 11:8,11 **Chapter 11:** a Hb 11:32 b 2 Kg 5:1 c Gn 21:10 d 2 Sm 10:6,8 e 1 Sm 22:2 f Jg 10:9,17
g Gn 26:27 h Jg 10:18 i Lk 17:4 j Jg 10:18 k Jr 29:23; 42:5

between us, if we do not so according to your words.”

11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words ^mbefore the LORD in Mizpeh.

12 ¶ And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon, saying, ⁿ“What have you to do with me that you have come against me to fight in my land?”

13 And the king of the children of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, ^o“Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from ^pArnon even to ^qJabbok and to the Jordan. Now, therefore, restore those *lands* again peaceably.”

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

15 And said to him, “Thus says Jephthah, ^r“Israel did not take away the land of Moab nor the land of the children of Ammon.

16 ^s“But when Israel came up from Egypt and walked through the wilderness to the Red Sea and ^tcame to Kadesh,

17 ^u“then ^vIsrael sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Let me, I beg you, pass through your land,” ^w“But the king of Edom would not listen. And in like manner they sent to the ^xking of Moab. But he would not *listen*. So Israel ^yabode in Kadesh.

18 ^z“Then they ^awent along through the wilderness and ^bbypassed the land

of Edom and the land of Moab. And they came by the east side of the land of Moab and pitched on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not come within the territory of Moab, for the Arnon *was* the border of Moab.

19 ^c“And ^dIsrael sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon. And Israel said to him, “Please ^elet us pass through your land into my place.”

20 ^f“But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together and pitched in Jahaz and fought against Israel.

21 ^g“And the LORD God of Israel ^hdelivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they ⁱsmote them. So Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

22 ^j“And they possessed ^kall the territory of the Amorites, from Arnon even to Jabbok, and from the wilderness even to the Jordan.

23 ^l“So now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel, and should you *now* possess it?

24 ^m“Do you not possess that which ⁿChemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the ^oLORD our God has given us, we will possess.

25 ^p“And now *are* you anything better than ^qBalak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them

I Jg 11:8 m Jg 10:17; 20:1 n 2 Sm 16:10 o Nm 21:24-26 p Ja 13:9 q Gn 32:22 r Dt 2:9,19 s Nm 13:26; 20:1 t Nm 20:14 u Nm 20:14-21 v Ja 24:9 w Nm 20:1 x Dt 2:9,18,19 y Nm 21:4 z Nm 21:21 a Dt 2:27 b Dt 2:27 c Ja 24:8 d Nm 21:24,25 e Dt 2:36,37 f Nm 21:29 g Dt 9:4,5 h Nm 22:2

26 'while Israel dwelt in ^hHeshbon and her towns and in ^jAroer and her towns, and in all the cities that *are* along the banks of the Arnon, three hundred years? Therefore, why did you not recover *them* within that time?

27 'Therefore, I have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong to war against me. The LORD, ^kthe Judge, ^ldecide this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.'"

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

29 ¶ Then the ^mSpirit of the LORD came on Jephthah and he passed over Gilead and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead. And from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over *to* the children of Ammon.

30 Then Jephthah ⁿvowed a vow to the LORD, and said, "If you will without fail deliver the children of Ammon into my hands,

31 "then it will be that whatever comes forth from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, ^owill surely be the LORD'S and ^pI will offer it up for a burnt offering."

32 ¶ So Jephthah passed over to the children of Ammon to fight against them. And the LORD delivered them into his hands.

33 And he smote them with a very great slaughter from Aroer even to the regions of ^qMinnith, twenty cit-

ies, and to the plain of the vineyards. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

34 ¶ Then Jephthah came to ^rMizpeh to his house, and behold, ^shis daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances. And she *was his* only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

35 Now it came to pass when he saw her that he ^ttore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low and you are one of those who trouble me, for ^uI have opened my mouth to the LORD and ^vI cannot go back."

36 And she said to him, "My father, *if* you have opened your mouth to the LORD, ^wdo to me according to that which has proceeded out of your mouth, since the ^xLORD has avenged you of your enemies, the children of Ammon."

37 So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me. Let me alone two months so that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep because of my virginity, I and my friends."

38 And he said, "Go." And he sent her away *for* two months. And she went with her companions and wept on the mountains because of her virginity.

39 Now it came to pass at the end of two months that she returned to her father ^ywho did with her *according* to his vow that he had vowed. And she knew no man. And thus it was a custom in Israel

i Nm 21:25,26 j Dt 2:36 k Gn 18:25 l Gn 16:5; 31:53 m Jg 3:10 n Gn 28:20 o Lv 27:2,3,28 p Ps 66:13 q Ez 27:17 r Jg 10:17; 11:1 s Ex 15:20 t Gn 37:29,34 u Ec 5:2,4,5 v Nm 30:2 w Nm 30:2 x 2 Sm 18:19,31 y Jg 11:31

40 *that* the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

Chapter 12

Jephthah and Ephraim

1 ¶ Then ^athe men of Ephraim gathered themselves together and went northward. And they said to Jephthah, “Why did you pass over to fight against the children of Ammon and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house upon you with fire.”

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

3 “And when I saw that you did not deliver *me*, I ^bput my life in my hands and passed over against the children of Ammon. And the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to 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, “You Gileadites *are* ^cfugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites *and* in the midst of Manasseh.”

5 Then the Gileadites took the ^dfords of the Jordan before Ephraim. And it was *so* that when those Ephraimites who had escaped said, “Let me go over,” that the men of Gilead said to him, “*Are* you an Ephraimite?” If he

said, “No,”

6 then they said to him, “Say now, “Shibboleth.”” And he said “Sibboleth,” for he could not pronounce it correctly. Then they took him and slew him at the fords of the Jordan. And there fell at that time 42,000 of Ephraim.

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

Ibzan, Elon and Abdon

8 ¶ Then after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

9 And he had thirty sons and thirty daughters. He gave his daughters away in marriage to those outside his *family*. And for his sons he brought in thirty young women as wives from outside his *family*. And he judged Israel seven years.

10 Then Ibzan died and he was buried in Bethlehem.

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

12 Then Elon the Zebulonite died and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

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

14 And he had forty sons and thirty nephews who ^frode on seventy donkeys. And he judged Israel eight years.

15 Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the ^ghill country of the Amalekites.

Chapter 12: a Jg 8:1 b 1 Sm 19:5; 28:21 c 1 Sm 25:10 d Ja 22:11 e Ps 69:2,15 f Jg 5:10; 10:4 g Jg 3:13,27; 5:14

Chapter 13

Birth of Samson

1 ¶ Then the children of Israel ^adid evil again in the sight of the LORD. And the LORD delivered them ^binto the hand of the Philistines forty years.

2 ¶ Now there was a certain man of ^cZorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah. And his wife *was* barren and did not bare *children*.

3 Then the ^dangel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you *are* barren and have borne no *children*. But you will conceive and bear a son.

4 “Now therefore beware, be careful ^enot to drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean *thing*.

5 “For behold, you will conceive and bear a son. And ^fno razor will come on his head, for the child will be a ^gNazarite to God from the womb. And he will ^hbegin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

6 ¶ Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, ⁱ“A man of God came to me and his countenance *was* like the ^jcountenance of an angel of God, very awesome. But ^kI did not ask him where he *came from*, nor did he tell me his name.

7 But he said to me, “Behold, you will conceive and bear a son. And now, drink no wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean *thing*, for the child will be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.”

8 ¶ Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, let the man of God whom you sent come

again to us and teach us what we will do to the child who will be born.”

9 And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah. And the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband *was* not with her.

10 So the woman made haste, and ran and showed her husband. And she said to him, “Behold, the man who came to me the *other* day has appeared to me.”

11 So Manoah arose and went after his wife. And he came to the man and said to him, “*Are* you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “*I am*.”

12 Then Manoah said, “Now let your words come to pass. What will be the rule for the child and *what* will we do to him?”

13 And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.

14 “She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine. ^lNeither let her drink wine, nor strong drink, nor eat any unclean *thing*. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

15 ¶ Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, ^m“Please let us detain you until we have prepared a young goat for you.”

16 And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat of your bread. And if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.” For Manoah did not know that he *was* an angel of the LORD.

Chapter 13: a Jg 2:11 b 1 Sm 12:9 c Ja 19:41 d Jg 6:12 e Nm 6:2,3,20 f Nm 6:5 g Nm 6:2 h 1 Sm 7:13 i Gn 32:24-30 j Mt 28:3 k Jg 13:17,18 l Nm 6:3,4 m Gn 18:5

17 Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What *is* your name, so that when your sayings come to pass we may give you honor?”

18 But the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask for my name, seeing it *is* beyond understanding?”

19 So Manoah took a young goat with a grain offering and ^ooffered it on a rock to the LORD. And *the angel* worked wonders. And Manoah and his wife looked on.

20 Now it came to pass when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on *it* and ^ffell on their faces to the ground.

21 But the angel of the LORD did not appear again to Manoah and to his wife. “Then Manoah knew that he *was* an angel of the LORD.

22 Then Manoah said to his wife, “We will surely die, because we have seen God.”

23 But his wife said to him, “If the LORD were pleased to kill us, He would not have received a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have showed us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time.”

24 ¶ So the woman bore a son and called his name ^sSamson. And ^the child grew and the LORD blessed him.

25 ^uAnd the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan ^vbetween Zorah and ^wEshtaol.

Chapter 14

Samson's Marriage

1 ¶ Then Samson went down to ^aTimnath and ^bsaw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

2 And he came back and told his father and his mother and said, “I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. Now therefore, ^cget her for me as a wife.”

3 Then his father and his mother said to him, “*Is there* not a woman among the daughters of ^dyour brethren or among all my people, that you go to take a wife from the ^euncircumcised Philistines?” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.”

4 But his father and his mother did not know that it *was* ^fof the LORD that He sought an occasion against ^gthe Philistines, for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

5 ¶ Then Samson went down to Timnath with his father and his mother. And he came to the vineyards of Timnath, and behold, a young lion roared against him.

6 And ^hthe Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him and he tore him as he would have torn a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

n Gn 32:29 o Jg 6:19-21 p Ez 1:28 q Jg 6:22 r Dt 5:26 s Hb 11:32 t 1 Sm 3:19 u Jg 3:10 v Jg 18:11 w Jg 16:31 **Chapter 14:** a Ja 15:10,57 b Gn 34:2 c Gn 21:21 d Gn 24:3,4 e Gn 34:14 f Ja 11:20 g Dt 28:48 h Jg 3:10

7 And he went down and talked with the woman. And she pleased Samson well.

8 Now after a time he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, *there was* a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

9 Then he took of it in his hands and went on eating. And he came to his father and mother and he gave to them and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the ⁱcarcass of the lion.

10 ¶ So his father went down to the woman. And Samson made there a feast, for so was the custom of the young men.

11 Now it came to pass when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

12 Then Samson said to them, "I will now ^jput forth a riddle to you. If you can give me the answer ^kwithin the seven days of the feast and find *it* out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty ^lchanges of clothes.

13 "But if you cannot give the answer to me, then you will give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, ^m"Tell us your riddle so that we may hear it."

14 Then he said to them, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." And they could not in three days give an answer to the riddle.

15 ¶ Now it came to pass on the sev-

enth day that they said to Samson's wife, ⁿ"Entice your husband so that he may declare to us the riddle, ^olest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Did you invite us here to rob us? Is this not *so*?"

16 Then Samson's wife wept before him, and said, ^p"You hate me and you do not love me. You have put forth a riddle to the children of my people and have not told *it to me*." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told *it to my father or my mother*. So should I tell *it to you*?"

17 Now 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 on him. And she told the riddle to the children of her people.

18 Then the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What *is* sweeter than honey? And what *is* stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

19 ¶ And ^qthe Spirit of the LORD came upon him and he went down to Ashkelon. And he slew thirty of their men and took their spoil and gave changes of clothes to them who explained the riddle. And his anger was kindled and he went up to his father's house.

20 But Samson's wife ^rwas given to his companion who had been ^shis friend.

i Lv 11:27 j Ez 17:2 k Gn 29:27 l 2 Kg 5:22 m Ez 17:2 n Jg 16:5 o Jg 15:6 p Jg 16:15 q Jg 3:10; 13:25 r Jg 15:2

Chapter 15

Samson's Vengeance on the Philistines

1 ¶ But it came to pass later on after the time of wheat harvest that Samson visited his wife with a ^ayoung goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife into the room." But her father would not allow him to go in.

2 And her father said, "I actually thought that you utterly ^bhated her. Therefore, I gave her to your companion. *Is not her younger sister fairer than she? Please take her instead.*"

3 Then Samson said concerning them, "Now I will be more blameless than the Philistines when I do them harm."

4 So Samson went and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail. And he tied a torch in the middle between every pair of tails.

5 And when he had set the torches on fire, he let *them* go into the standing grain of the Philistines. And he burnt up both the shocks and also the standing grain, with the vineyards *and* olive groves.

6 Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." ^cAnd the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire."

7 Then Samson said to them, "Though you have done this, I will surely take vengeance on you, and after that I will cease."

8 So he smote them viciously with a

great slaughter. And he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock of ^dEtam.

9 ¶ Then the Philistines went up and pitched in Judah, and spread out themselves ^eagainst Lehi.

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

11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines *are* ^frulers over us? What *is* this *that* you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them."

12 Then they said to him, "We have come down to bind you so that we may deliver you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not fall on me yourselves."

13 So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will bind you securely and deliver you into their hands. But surely we will not kill you." And they bound him with two ^gnew cords and brought him up from the rock.

14 ¶ *Now* when he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him. And ^hthe Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him. And the cords that *were* upon his arms became as flax that was burned with fire, and his bonds fell from off his hands.

15 Then he found a new jawbone of a donkey and put forth his hand and

s Jn 3:29 **Chapter 15:** a Gn 38:17 b Jg 14:20 c Jg 14:15 d 2 Ch 11:6 e Jg 15:19 f Jg 13:1; 14:4 g Jg 16:11,12 h Jg 3:10; 14:6

took it. And he ⁱslew a thousand men with it.

16 Then Samson said, “With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps. With the jaw of a donkey I have slain a thousand men.”

17 Now it came to pass when he had finished speaking that he threw away the jawbone out of his hand and called that place Ramath Lehi.

18 ¶ Now he was very thirsty. And he called on the LORD and said, ^j“You have given this great deliverance into the hand of your servant, and now will I die because of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?”

19 But God split a hollow place in Lehi so that water came out of it. And when he drank, ^khis spirit came again and he revived. Therefore, he called the name of it En Hakkore, which *is* in Lehi to this day.

20 And he ^ljudged Israel ^mtwenty years ⁿin the days of the Philistines.

Chapter 16

Samson and Delilah

1 ¶ Then Samson went to ^aGaza and saw there a harlot. And he went in to her.

2 *Now it was told* to the Gazites, saying, “Samson has come here.” And they ^bsurrounded *him* and laid in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept quiet all night, saying, “In the morning when it is day, we will kill him.”

3 Now Samson lay until midnight, and arose at midnight. And he took

the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all. And he put *them* on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of a hill that *is* before Hebron.

4 ¶ Now it came to pass afterward that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek whose name *was* Delilah.

5 And the ^clords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, ^d“Entice him and see wherein his great strength *lies*, and by what *means* we may overpower him so that we may bind him to afflict him. And each one of us will give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.”

6 ¶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength *lies*, and how you might be bound and afflicted.”

7 And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven green cords that have never dried, then I will be weak and be as another man.”

8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9 Now she had men lying in wait in an inner chamber. And she said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson.” And he broke the cords as a thread of tow snaps is broken when it touches the fire. So his strength was not known.

10 ¶ Then Delilah said to Samson, “Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now please tell me how you might be bound.”

i Lv 26:8 j Ps 3:7k Is 40:29 l Jg 10:2; 12:7-14 m Jg 16:31 n Jg 13:1 **Chapter 16:** a Ja 15:47 b 1 Sm 23:26 c Ja 13:3 d Jg 14:15

11 And he said to her, "If they bind me securely with ^enew ropes that have never been used, then I will be weak and be as another man."

12 Delilah then took new ropes and bound him with them. And she said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson." And *there were men* lying in wait in the inner room. And he broke them from off his arms like a thread.

13 ¶ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the fabric *on a loom* and tighten them with the pin, I will become as weak as any other man."

14 So while he slept, Delilah took the seven braids of his hair and wove them into the fabric. And she fastened *it* with the pin, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson." And he awoke from his sleep and went away with the pin of the beam and with the web.

15 ¶ Then she said to him, "^fHow can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart *is* not with me? You have mocked me these three times and have not told me where your great strength *lies*."

16 Now it came to pass when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death.

17 So he ^gtold her all his heart and said to her, "There ^hhas not come a razor upon my head, for *I have been*

a Nazarite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will go from me and I will become weak and be like any *other* man."

18 ¶ Now when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has showed me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought money in their hands.

19 ⁱSo she made him sleep on her knees, and she called for a man. And she had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20 Then she said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson." And he awoke out of his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times before and free myself." And he did not know that the ^jLORD had departed from him.

21 ¶ But the Philistines took him and put out his ^keyes. And they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with chains of brass. And he was a grinder in the prison house.

22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaved.

23 ¶ Then the lords of the Philistines gathered themselves together in order to offer a great sacrifice to ^lDagon their god and to rejoice, for they said, "Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hands."

24 And when the people saw him,

they ^mpraised their god, for they said, "Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy and the destroyer of our country who slew many of us."

25 Now it came to pass when their hearts were ^mmerry that they said, "Call for Samson so that he may entertain us." And they called for Samson out of the prison house. And he entertained them. And they set him between the pillars.

26 Then Samson said to the boy who held him by the hand, "Allow me to feel the pillars on which the house stands so 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 on the ^rroof *there were* about three thousand men and women who looked on while Samson amused *them*.

28 ¶ Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please ^premember me and please strengthen me only once more, so that I may at this time be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

29 Then Samson took hold of the two middle pillars on which the house stood and on which it was held up, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." And he bowed himself with *all his* might, and the house fell upon the lords and on all the people who *were* in it. So the dead whom he slew at his death were more than *those* whom he slew in his life.

31 Then his brethren and all the

house of his father came down and took him. And they brought *him* up and ^qburied him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel ^ttwenty years.

Chapter 17

Micah's Idols

1 ¶ Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was ^aMicah.

2 And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver that were taken from you, about which you ^buttered a curse in my ears, behold, the silver *is* with me. I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed *are you* of the LORD, my son."

3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver to the LORD from my hand for my son to ^dmake a graven image and a molten image. Now therefore, I will restore it to you."

4 So he restored the money to his mother. And his mother ^etook two hundred *shekels* of silver and gave them to the silversmith, who made from it a graven image and a molten image. And they were in the house of Micah.

5 Now the man Micah had a ^fhouse of gods. And he made an ^gephod and ^hhousehold idols, and consecrated one of his sons who became his priest.

6 ⁱIn those days *there was* no king in

m Dn 5:4 n Jg 9:27 o Dt 22:8 p Jr 15:15 q Jg 13:25 r Jg 15:20 Chapter 17: a Jg 18:2 b Lv 5:1 c Gn 14:19 d Ex 20:4,23; 34:17 e Is 46:6 f Jg 18:24 g Jg 8:27; 18:14 h Gn 31:19,30 i Jg 18:1; 19:1

Israel, *but* every man did *what was* right in his own eyes.

7 ¶ And there was a young man out of ^hBethlehem in Judah of the family of Judah, who *was* a Levite. And ^hhe sojourned there.

8 And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn where he could find *a home*. And as he journeyed he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.

9 And Micah said to him, “From where do you come?” And he said to him, “*I am* a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah and I am going to stay where I might find *a home*.”

10 Then Micah said to him, “Dwell with me and ^mbe to me a ^ffather and a priest. And I will give you ten *shekels* of silver a year and a suit of clothes, and your food.” So the Levite went in.

11 Now the Levite was content to dwell with the man. And the young man was to him as one of his sons.

12 So Micah ^oconsecrated the Levite. And the young man ^bbecame his priest and was in the house of Micah.

13 Then Micah said, “Now I know that the LORD will do good *to me*, seeing I have a Levite as *my* ^apriest.”

Chapter 18

Danites Settle in Laish

1 ¶ ^aIn those days *there was* no king in Israel. And in those days the ^btribe of the Danites sought for themselves an inheritance in which to dwell, for

to that day *all their* inheritance had not been allotted to them among the tribes of Israel.

2 So the children of Dan sent of their family five valiant men from ^cZorah and Eshtaol ^dto spy out the land and explore it. And they said to them, “Go, search the land.” And when they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the ^ehouse of Micah, they lodged there.

3 When they *were* by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man, the Levite. And they turned in there and said to him, “Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this *place*? And why are you here?”

4 And he said to them, “In this manner Micah deals with me. And ^hhe has hired me and I am his priest.”

5 Then they said to him, “Please ^gask counsel ^hof God so that we may know whether our way that we go will be prosperous.”

6 And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval.”

7 ¶ Then the five men departed and came to ^lLaish. And they saw the people who *were* in it, ^hhow they dwelt securely after the manner of the Sidonians, unsuspecting and secure. And *there were* no rulers in the land who might deprive them of anything. And they *were* far from the ^lSidonians and had no business with *any* man.

8 Then they came to their brethren

j Dt 12:8 k Mt 2:1,5,6 l Dt 18:6 m Jg 18:19 n Gn 45:8 o Jg 17:5 p Jg 18:30 q Jg 18:4 Chapter 18: a Jg 17:6; 19:1; 21:25 b Ja 19:40-48 c Jg 13:25 d Nm 13:17 e Jg 17:1 f Jg 17:10,12 g Hs 4:12 h Jg 1:1; 17:5; 18:14 i 1 Kg 22:6 j Ja 19:47 k Jg 18:27-29 l Jg 10:12

to ^mZorah and Eshtaol. And their brethren said to them, “What *say* you?”

9 And they said, ^m“Arise, so that we may go up against them, for we have seen the land. And behold, it *is* very good. And do ^oyou *sit* still? Do not be slothful to go *and* enter to possess the land.

10 “When you go, you will come to a ^punsuspecting people and to a large land, for God has given it into your hands, ^aa place where *there is* no lack of anything that *is* in the earth.”

11 ¶ And there went from there of the family of the Danites out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war.

12 And they went up and pitched in ^rKirjath Jearim in Judah. Therefore, they called that place ^sMahaneh Dan to this day. Behold, *it is* behind Kirjath Jearim.

13 And they passed from there to the hill country of Ephraim and came to the ^thouse of Micah.

14 ¶ ^uThen the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, “Do you know that ^vthere is in these houses an ephod and teraphim and a graven image and a molten image? Now therefore, consider what you have to do.”

15 And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young man, the Levite, *even* to the house of Micah, and saluted him.

16 And the ^wsix hundred men appointed with their weapons of war,

who *were* of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

17 And the ^xfive men who went to spy out the land went up *and* came in there *and* took the ^ygraven image and the ephod and the teraphim and the molten image. And the priest stood in the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men *who were* appointed with weapons of war.

18 And these went into Micah’s house and fetched the carved image, the ephod and the teraphim and the molten image. Then the priest said to them, “What are you doing?”

19 And they said to him, “Hold your peace. ^zPut your hand on your mouth and go with us, and ^abe to us a father and a priest. *Is it* better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or that you be a priest to 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 among the people.

21 So they turned and departed. And they put the little ones and the livestock and the possessions before them.

22 ¶ When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who *were* in the houses near to Micah’s house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan.

23 And they cried out to the children of Dan. And they turned around and said to Micah, ^b“What is the matter with you that you come with such a company?”

m Jg 18:2 n Nm 13:30 o 1Kg 22:3 p Jg 18:7,27 q Dt 8:9 r Ja 15:60 s Jg 13:25 t Jg 18:2 u 1Sm 14:28 v Jg 17:5 w Jg 18:11 x Jg 18:2,14 y Jg 17:4,5 z Jb 21:5; 29:9; 40:4 a Jg 17:10 b 2Kg 6:28

24 And he said, ““You have taken away my gods that I made, and the priest, and have gone away. And what have I left? And what *is* this *that* you say to me, ‘What is the matter with you?’”

25 And the children of Dan said to him, “Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon you and you lose your life, with the lives of your household.”

26 So the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they *were* too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.

27 ¶ So they took *the things* that Micah had made, and the priest whom he had. And they came to Laish, to a people *who were* quiet and secure. And ⁴they smote them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

28 And *there was* no one to deliver *them*, because it *was* ⁵far from Sidon. And they had no business with *any* man, and it was in the valley that *lies* ⁶by Beth Rehob. And they built a city and dwelt in it.

29 Then ⁷they called the name of the city ⁸Dan after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city *was* Laish at the first.

30 ¶ And the children of Dan set up the graven image. And Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan ⁹until the day of the captivity of the land.

31 And they set up for themselves

Micah’s graven image that he made, ¹⁰all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Chapter 19

A Levite and His Concubine

1 ¶ Now it came to pass in those days ¹¹when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim, who took a concubine out of ¹²Bethlehem in Judah.

2 And his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father’s house to Bethlehem in Judah. And she was there four whole months.

3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to ¹³speak friendly to her, *and* to bring her back, taking his servant with him and a couple of donkeys. So she brought him into her father’s house. And when the father of the girl saw him, he was glad to meet him.

4 So his father-in-law, the girl’s father, detained him. And he remained with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.

5 ¶ Now it came to pass on the fourth day when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart. And the girl’s father said to his son-in-law, ¹⁴“Comfort your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way.”

6 And they sat down and ate and drank, both of them together, for the damsel’s father had said to the man, “Please be content and stay all night,

and let your heart be merry.”

7 And when the man rose up to depart, his father-in-law urged him, so he stayed there that night.

8 And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart. And the girl's father said, “Please comfort your heart.” And they stayed until afternoon, and they both ate together.

9 Now when the man rose up to depart, he and his concubine and his servant, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, “Behold, now the day draws toward evening. Please stay all night. Behold, the day grows to an end. Lodge here so that your heart may be merry, and tomorrow leave early on your way in order that you may go home.”

10 ¶ But the man would not tarry that night, so he rose up and departed. And he came over opposite ^eJebus, which *is* Jerusalem. And *there were* with him two saddled donkeys. His concubine also *was* with him.

11 When they *were* by Jebus, the day was almost gone. And the servant said to his master, “Please come and let us turn aside into this city of the ^fJebusites and lodge in it.”

12 Then his master said to him, “We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners who *are* not of the children of Israel. We will pass over to ^gGibeah.”

13 And he said to his servant, “Come and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night in Gibeah or in ^hRamah.”

14 So they passed on and went their

way. And the sun went down on them *when they were* by Gibeah which *belongs* to Benjamin.

15 So they turned aside there in order to go in *and* to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city, for *there was* no man who ⁱtook them into his house to lodge.

16 ¶ And behold, there came an old man from ^jhis work out of the field at evening, who *was* also from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was staying in Gibeah. But the men of the place *were* Benjamites.

17 And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a traveling man in the street of the city. And the old man said, “Where are you going? And from where did you come?”

18 And he said to him, “We *are* passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the side of the hill country of Ephraim, from where I *live*. And I went to Bethlehem in Judah, but I *am now* going to the ^khouse of the LORD. And there *is* no man who receives me into *his* house,

19 “although there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys. And there is bread and wine also for me and for your maidservant, and for the young man *who is* with your servants. *There is* no lack of anything.”

20 And the old man said, ^l“Peace be with you. Only let me *take care of* all your needs and ^mdo not lodge in the street.”

21 ⁿSo he brought him into his house and gave fodder to the donkeys. ^oAnd

e 1 Ch 11:4,5 f Ja 15:8,63 g Ja 18:28 h Ja 18:25 i Mt 25:43 j Ps 104:23 k Ja 18:1 l Gn 43:23 m Gn 19:2 n Gn 24:32; 43:24 o Jn 13:5

they washed their feet and ate and drank.

22 ¶ Now as ^pthey were making their hearts merry, behold, the ^qmen of the city, ^rcertain sons of Belial, surrounded the house and beat at the door. And they spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came into your house so that we may know him.”

23 And ^tthe man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brethren, please do not act so wickedly, seeing that this man has come into my house. ^uDo not do this folly.

24 ^v“Behold, *here is* my virgin daughter and his concubine. I will bring them out now, and you can ^whumble them and do with them what seems good to you. But to this man do not do so vile a thing.”

25 But the men would not hearken to him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they ^xraped her and abused her all night until the morning. And at dawn they let her go.

26 Then the woman came at the dawn of the day and fell down at the door of the man’s house where her lord *was*, until 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, had fallen down *at* the door of the house and her hands *were* on the threshold.

28 And he said to her, “Get up and let us be going.” But ^ythere was no answer. Then the man took her *up* on a donkey and rose up and went to his place.

29 ¶ Now when he had come to his house, he took a knife and laid hold on his concubine and ^zdivided her, *together* with her bones, into twelve pieces. And he sent her into all the territory of Israel.

30 Now everyone who saw it said, “There has never been such a deed done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt to this day. ^aConsider it, take advice and speak *your minds*.”

Chapter 20

Israel Fights Against Benjamin

1 ¶ Then ^aall the children of Israel from ^bDan even to ^cBeersheba went out, and the assembly was gathered together as one man to the LORD at ^dMizpeh, including the land of Gilead.

2 And the chief of all the people, *even* of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 foot soldiers ^ewho drew the sword.

3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpeh.) Then the children of Israel said, “Tell *us*, how did this wickedness take place?”

4 And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was slain, answered and

p Jg 16:25; 19:6,9 q Js 9:9; 10:9 r Dt 13:13 s Rm 1:26,27 t Gn 19:6,7 u 2 Sm 13:12 v Gn 19:8 w Gn 34:2 x Gn 4:1 y Jg 20:5 z 1 Sm 11:7 a Jg 20:7 **Chapter 20:** a Ja 22:12 b 2 Sm 3:10; 24:2 c Ja 19:2 d 1 Sm 7:5 e Jg 8:10

said, "I and my concubine came to ^flodge in Gibeah that *belongs* to Benjamin.

5 ^g"And the men of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to slay me. And ^hthey raped my concubine and she died.

6 "And ⁱI took my concubine and cut her in pieces. Then I sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel, for they have ^jcommitted lewdness and folly in Israel.

7 "Behold, you *are* all children of Israel. ^kGive here your advice and counsel."

8 ¶ And all the people arose as one man, saying, "Not one *of us* will go to his tent, nor will any *of us* return into his house.

9 "But now this *will be* the thing that we will do to Gibeah. *We will go up* ^lby lot against it.

10 "And we will take ten men out of one hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and one hundred out of one thousand, and one thousand out of ten thousand, in order to fetch provisions for the people. Then when the army comes to Gibeah of Benjamin, it can give them what they deserve for all this folly done in Israel."

11 So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.

12 ¶ ^mAnd the tribes of Israel sent men throughout all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What wickedness *is* this that is done among you?

13 "Now therefore, deliver *to us* the men, the ⁿchildren of Belial, who *are* in Gibeah, so that we may put them to death and ^oput away evil from Israel." But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel.

14 But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities to Gibeah in order to go out to battle against the children of Israel.

15 And the ^pchildren of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities 26,000 men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah who were numbered 700 chosen men.

16 Among all this people *there were* 700 chosen men *who were* ^qleft-handed. Each one could sling stones at a hair and not miss.

17 And the men of Israel, besides Benjamin, were numbered 400,000 men who drew the sword. All these *were* men of war.

18 ¶ And the children of Israel arose and ^rwent up to the house of God and ^sasked counsel of God. And they said, "Who of us will go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Judah *will go up* first."

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

20 Then the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin. And the men of Israel took up battle positions against them at Gibeah.

f Jg 19:15 g Jg 19:22 h Jg 19:25,26 i Jg 19:29 j Ja 7:15 k Jg 19:30 l Jg 1:3 m Dt 13:14 n Dt 13:13 o Dt 17:12 p Nm 1:36,37; 2:23; 26:41 q 1 Ch 12:2 r Jg 20:23,26 s Nm 27:21 t Jg 1:1,2

21 And the ^uchildren of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and felled to the ground of the Israelites that day 22,000 men.

22 And the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves. And again they took up their positions where they had stationed themselves the first day.

23 ^vAnd the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening. And they asked counsel of the LORD, saying, "Will I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him."

24 ¶ And the children of Israel came against the children of Benjamin the second day.

25 So ^wBenjamin went out against them from Gibeah the second day, and felled down to the ground of the children of Israel again 18,000 men. All these drew the sword.

26 ¶ Then all the children of Israel and all the people ^xwent up and came to the house of God. And they wept and sat there before the LORD. And they fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

27 And the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (for the ^yark of the covenant of God *was* there in those days,

28 ^zand Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ^astood before it in those days), saying, "Will I go out again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or will I

cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

29 ¶ So Israel ^bset men in ambush around Gibeah.

30 Then the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day and put themselves in battle positions against Gibeah as at other times.

31 And the children of Benjamin went out against the people. They were drawn away from the city and began to strike *and* kill some of the people as at other times on the highways, ^cone of which goes up to the house of God and the other to Gibeah. About thirty men of Israel *fell* in the field.

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

33 So all the men of Israel rose up out of their place and took up positions at Baal Tamar. And the men in ambush of Israel came out of their places, *even* out of the meadows of Gibeah.

34 And there came against Gibeah 10,000 chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore. ^dBut they did not know that disaster was near them.

35 So the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day 25,100 men. All these drew the sword.

36 ¶ So the children of Benjamin

u Gn 49:27 v Jg 20:26,27 w Jg 20:21 x Jg 20:18,23; 21:2 y Ja 18:1 z Ja 24:33 a Dt 10:8; 18:5 b Ja 8:4 c Jg 21:19 d Ja 8:14

saw that they were smitten. ^cNow the men of Israel had given way before the Benjamites because they trusted the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah.

37 ^fSo the men in ambush hurried and rushed upon Gibeah. And the men in ambush deployed *themselves* 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 men in ambush, that they should make a great cloud of ^gsmoke rise up out of the city.

39 And when the men of Israel turned in the battle, Benjamin began to smite *and* kill about thirty men of Israel, for they said, “Surely they are smitten down before us as *in* the first battle.”

40 But when the cloud began to arise up out of the city with a column of smoke, the Benjamites ^hlooked behind them, and behold, the cloud of the city ascended up to heaven.

41 And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed because they saw that evil had come upon them.

42 Therefore, they turned *their backs* before the men of Israel to the way of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them. And whoever *came* out of the cities they destroyed in their midst.

43 *Thus* they surrounded the Benjamites *and* chased them. They trod them down with ease opposite Gibeah toward the east.

44 So there fell of Benjamin 18,000 men. All these *were* valiant men.

45 Then the rest turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of ⁱRimmon. But they caught 5,000 of them on the highways and overtook them at Gidom and slew 2,000 of them.

46 So all who fell that day of Benjamin were 25,000 men who drew the sword. All these *were* valiant men.

47 ^jBut 600 men turned and fled to the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. And they remained in the rock of Rimmon four months.

48 Then the men of Israel turned again on the children of Benjamin and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well as the men of *every* city, with the livestock and all that they found. They also set on fire all the cities to which they came.

Chapter 21

Wives for the Benjaminites

1 ¶ Now the ^amen of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, “None of us will give his daughter to Benjamin in marriage.”

2 And the people came ^bto the house of God and remained there before God until evening. And they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly.

3 And they said, “O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel that there should be today one tribe missing in Israel?”

4 Now it came to pass on the next day that the people rose early and

built there an altar. And they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

5 Then the children of Israel said, "Who *is there* among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" ^dFor they had made a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpeh, saying, "He will surely be put to death."

6 And the children of Israel were sorry for Benjamin their brother and said, "There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.

7 "What will we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters in marriage?"

8 ¶ So they said, "What tribe *is there* of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpeh to the LORD?" And behold, there came no one to the camp from ^eJabesh Gilead to the assembly.

9 For the people were numbered, and behold, *there were* none of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead there.

10 And the assembly sent 12,000 of the valiant warriors there and commanded them, saying, ^f"Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children.

11 "And this *is* the thing that you will do: ^gyou will utterly destroy every male and every woman who has lain with a man."

12 And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead 400 young

virgins who had not known a man by lying with any male. And they brought them to the camp to ^hShiloh, which *is* in the land of Canaan.

13 ¶ Then the whole assembly sent *word* to speak to the children of Benjamin ⁱwho *were* in the rock of Rimmon, and proclaimed peace to them.

14 So Benjamin came again at that time. And they gave them wives whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead. And yet they were not enough for them.

15 And the people ^jwere sorry for Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

16 ¶ Then the elders of the assembly said, "What will we do for wives for them who remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?"

17 And they said, "*There must be* an inheritance for them who have escaped of Benjamin in order that a tribe be not blotted out of Israel.

18 "However, we may not give them wives from our daughters." For the ^kchildren of Israel had sworn, saying, "Cursed *be* he who gives a wife to Benjamin."

19 Then they said, "Behold, *there is* a yearly ^lfeast of the LORD in ^mShiloh *in a place that is* on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the ⁿhighway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah."

20 Therefore, they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go

c 2 Sm 24:25 d Jg 20:1-3 e 1 Sm 11:1; 31:11 f Nm 31:17 g Nm 31:17 h Ja 18:1 i Jg 20:47 j Jg 21:6 k Jg 11:35; 21:1 l Lv 23:2 m 1 Sm 1:3 n Jg 20:31

and lie in wait in the vineyards,

21 “and see, and behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to °dance in dances, then come out of the vineyards and catch every man for himself his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

22 “And it will be when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, we will say to them, ‘Be favorable to them for our sakes, because we did not take for each man a wife in battle, and you are innocent, since you did not give your daugh-

ters to them.’”

23 ¶ And the children of Benjamin did so, and took wives according to their number of those who danced, whom they caught. And they went and returned to their inheritance and ¶prepared the cities and dwelt in them.

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

25 ¶In those days *there was* no king in Israel. ¶Every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

o Jg 11:34 p Jg 20:48 q Jg 17:6; 18:1; 19:1 r Jg 17:6