

**Early Prophets, Book 2**

**The Book of  
Judges**



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# Judges

## Chapter 1

1. And it came to pass, after the death of Joshua, that the people of Israel asked the Lord, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?
2. And the Lord said, Judah shall go up; behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.
3. And Judah said to Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with you into your lot. So Simeon went with him.
4. And Judah went up; and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men.
5. And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek; and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites.
6. But Adoni-Bezek fled; and they pursued after him,

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and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

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

8. And the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem, and took it, and struck it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.

9. And afterwards the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, who lived in the mountain, and in the Negev, and in the valley.

10. And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron; and the name of Hebron before was Kiriath-Arba; and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi.

11. And from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir; and the name of Debir before was Kiriath-Sepher;

12. And Caleb said, He who strikes Kiriath-Sepher,

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and takes it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter for a wife.

13. And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.

14. And it came to pass, when she came to him, that she urged him to ask her father for a field; and she alighted from her ass; and Caleb said to her, What do you want?

15. And she said to him, Give me a blessing; for you have given me the land of the Negev; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

16. And the descendants of Keini, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the city of palm trees with the sons of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the south of Arad; and they went and lived among the people.

17. And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they slew the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and completely destroyed it. And the name of the city

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was called Hormah.

18. Also Judah took Gaza with its border, and Ashkelon with its border, and Ekron with its border.

19. And the Lord was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.

20. And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses said; and he expelled from there the three sons of Anak.

21. And the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites live with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22. And the house of Joseph, they too went up against Beth-El; and the Lord was with them.

23. And the house of Joseph sent to spy out Beth-El. And the name of the city before was Luz.

24. And the spies saw a man come out of the city, and they said to him, Show us, we beg you, the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy.

25. And when he showed them the entrance to the

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city, they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let go the man and all his family.

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

27. And Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-Shean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns; but the Canaanites continued to live in that land.

28. And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not completely drive them out.

29. And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer; but the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

30. And Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites lived among them, and became tributaries.

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31. And Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, nor the inhabitants of Sidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob;

32. But the sons of Asher lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

33. And Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-Shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-Anath; but he lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-Shemesh and of Beth-Anath became tributaries to them.

34. And the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the mountain; for they would not let them come down to the valley;

35. And the Amorites continued to live in Mount Heres in Ayalon, and in Shaalbim; yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries.

36. And the border of the Amorites was from the ascent to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upwards.



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## Chapter 2

1. And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you go out of Egypt, and have brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

2. And you shall make no pact with the inhabitants of this land; you shall pull down their altars; but you have not obeyed my voice; Why have you done this?

3. And I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a trap to you.

4. And it came to pass, when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the people 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 Joshua had let the people go, the people of Israel went every man to his inheritance to possess the land.

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7. And 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 Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being one hundred and ten years old.

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

10. And also all of that generation were gathered unto their fathers; and there arose another generation after them, who knew not the Lord, nor the works which he had done for Israel.

11. And the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim;

12. And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked the Lord to anger.

13. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and

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the Ashtarot.

14. And the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of destroyers who destroyed them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies around, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15. Where ever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn to them; and they were greatly distressed.

16. And the Lord raised up judges, who saved them from the hand of those who oppressed them.

17. And yet they would not listen to their judges, but they went astray after other gods, and bowed themselves to them; they turned aside quickly from the way on which their fathers had walked, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not do so.

18. And when the Lord raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge, and saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge;

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for the Lord relented because of their groaning, caused by those who oppressed them and troubled them.

19. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and became more corrupt than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down to them; they did not cease any of their practices, nor their stubborn way.

20. And the anger of the Lord burned against Israel; and he said, Because this people has transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not listened to my voice;

21. I also will not continue to drive out from before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died;

22. That through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk in it, as their fathers kept it, or not.

23. And the Lord left these nations, without driving them out hastily; nor did he deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

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## Chapter 3

1. And these are the nations which the Lord left, to test Israel by them, all those who had not known all the wars of Canaan;
2. Only that the generations of the people of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing of these matters;
3. Five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.
4. And they were to test Israel by them, to know whether they would listen to the commandments of the Lord, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.
5. And the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites;

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

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

8. Therefore the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Kushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the people of Israel served Kushan-Rishathaim eight years.

9. And when the people of Israel cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a savior to the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10. And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the Lord delivered Kushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Kushan-Rishathaim.

11. And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the

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son of Kenaz died.

12. And the people of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.

13. And he gathered to him the Ammonites and Amalek, and went and struck Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

14. So the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

15. But when the people of Israel cried to the Lord, the Lord raised them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, a son of Benjamin, a left handed man; and by him the people of Israel sent a present to Eglon the king of Moab.

16. And Ehud made for himself a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length, and he put it under his garment upon his right thigh.

17. And he brought the present to Eglon king of Moab; and Eglon was a very fat man.

18. And when he had finished offering the present, he

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sent away the people who carried the present

19. But he himself turned back after reaching the carved stones that were at Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand for you, O king; who said, Keep silence. And all who stood by him went out.

20. And Ehud came to him; and he was sitting in a cool upper chamber, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God to you. And he arose from 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 haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger from his belly; and the excrements came out.

23. Then Ehud went forth through the vestibule, and closed the doors of the chamber upon him, and locked them.

24. When he went out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the chamber



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were locked, they said, Surely he is relieving himself in his cool chamber.

25. And they waited till it was late; and, behold, he opened not the doors of the chamber; therefore they took a key, and opened them; and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

26. And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the carved stones, and escaped to Seirath.

27. And it came to pass, when he came, that he blew a shofar in the Mountain of Ephraim, and the people of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

28. And he said to them, Follow after me; for the Lord has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and did not allow any man to cross over.

29. And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valor; and not one man escaped.

30. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of

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Israel. And the land had rest eighty years.

31. And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad; and he also saved Israel.

## Chapter 4

1. And the people of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead.

2. And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-HaGoyim.

3. And the people of Israel cried to the Lord; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he strongly oppressed the people of Israel.

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

5. And she lived under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-El in Mount Ephraim; and

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the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6. And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-Naphtali, and said to him, Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and gather your men to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun?

7. And I will draw to you, to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into your hand.

8. And 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. And she said, I will surely go with you; however the journey that you take shall not be for your honor; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

10. And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet; and Deborah went up with him.

11. (K) Now Heber the Kenite, who was of the

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descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent near the terebinth in Zaanannim, 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, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth-HaGoyim to the river of Kishon.

14. And 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, and ten thousand men after him.

15. And the Lord confounded Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his army, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera alighted down from 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

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Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

17. And Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Yael 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 Yael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in to her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.

19. And he said to her, Give me, I beg you, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a skin of milk, and gave him a drink, and covered him.

20. Again he said to her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man comes and inquires of you, and says, Is there any man here? that you shall say, No.

21. Then Yael Heber's wife took a peg of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him, and struck the peg into his temples, and fastened it into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary.

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So he died.

22. And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Yael came out to meet him, and said to him, Come, and I will show you the man whom you seek. 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 people of Israel.

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

## Chapter 5

1. Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,

2. Praise you the Lord for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

3. Hear, O you kings; give ear, O you princes; I will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of

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Israel.

4. Lord, when you went out of Seir, when you marched out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

5. The mountains melted from before the Lord, that Sinai before the Lord God of Israel.

6. In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Yael, the main roads ceased, and travellers walked through crooked back roads.

7. The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until I Deborah arose, a mother in Israel.

8. They chose new gods; then was war in the gates; was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9. My heart goes out toward the rulers of Israel, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless you the Lord.

10. Speak, you who ride on tawny asses, you who sit on couches, and you who walk on the road.

11. Louder than the voice of the archers in the places

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of drawing water, there shall they recite the righteous acts of the Lord, the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel; when the people of the Lord go down to the gates.

12. Awake, awake, Deborah; awake, awake, utter a song; arise, Barak, and lead away your captives, you son of Abinoam.

13. Then he made him who remains have dominion over the nobles among the people; the Lord made me have dominion over the mighty.

14. Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after you, Benjamin with your tribes; from Machir came down leaders, of Zebulun those who handle the marshal's staff.

15. And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; Issachar, and also Barak; into the valley they rushed forth, at his feet. In the divisions of Reuben great were the resolves.

16. Why then did you sit among the sheepfolds? To hear the bleating of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.



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17. Gilead dwells beyond the Jordan; and why did Dan remain by the ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode by his bays.
18. Zebulun was a people who risked their lives to the death, and Naphtali likewise, on the high places of the field.
19. The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of silver;
20. They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.
21. The brook of Kishon swept them away, that ancient brook, the brook Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength.
22. Then did the horse hoofs beat, from the frantic galloping of his mighty ones.
23. Curse Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse bitterly its inhabitants; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty men.
24. Blessed above women shall Yael the wife of Heber

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the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

25. He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth cream in a lordly dish.

26. She put her hand to the tent peg, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she struck Sisera, she struck through his head; she crushed and pierced his temple.

27. At her feet he bent, he fell, he lay down; at her feet he bent, he fell; where he bowed, there he fell down, bereft of life.

28. The mother of Sisera looked out at the window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots tarry?

29. Her wise ladies answered her, she even answered herself,

30. Have they not found booty? Have they not divided the plunder? To every man a maiden or two; to Sisera a booty of diverse colors, a plunder of many colored needlework, dyed double worked garments

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for the necks of those who take the plunder.

31. So let all your enemies perish, O Lord; but let those who love him be as the sun when he goes forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

## Chapter 6

1. And the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel; and because of the Midianites the people of Israel made for themselves the tunnels which are in the mountains, and caves, and fortresses.

3. And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the people of the east, they came up against them;

4. And they encamped against them, and destroyed the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

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5.(K) For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as locusts for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number; and they entered into the land to destroy it.

6.And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the people of Israel cried to the Lord.

7.And it came to pass, when the people of Israel cried to the Lord because of the Midianites,

8. That the Lord sent a prophet to the people of Israel, who said to them, Thus said the Lord God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of slavery;

9.And I saved you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land;

10.And I said to you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live; but you have not obeyed my voice.

11.And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat

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under a terebinth which was in Ophrah, that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite; and his son Gideon was threshing wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor.

13. And Gideon said to him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? and where are all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites; have not I sent you?

15. And he said to him, Oh my Lord, with what shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.

16. And the Lord said to him, Surely I will be with you,

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and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.

17. And he said to him, If now I have found grace in your sight, then show me a sign that you talk with me.

18. Depart not from here, I beseech you, until I come to you, and bring forth my present, and set it before you. And he said, I will remain until you come again.

19. And Gideon went in, and prepared a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour; the meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out to him under the terebinth, and presented it.

20. And the angel of God said to him, Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour 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 there rose up fire from the rock, and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed from his sight.

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22. And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! because I have surely seen an angel of the Lord face to face.

23. And the Lord said to him, Peace be to you; fear not; you shall not die.

24. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Adonai-Shalom; till this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25. And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said to him, Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Ashera that is by it;

26. And build an altar to the Lord your God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bull, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the Ashera which you shall 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 could not do it by day, that he did it by

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night.

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

29. And they said one to another, Who has done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.

30. Then the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out your son, that he may die; because he has cast down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the Ashera 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 yet 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 Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he has thrown down his altar.

33. Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the



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people of the east were gathered together, and went over, and camped in the valley of Jezreel.

34. But the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a shofar; and Abiezer mustered behind him.

35. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also mustered behind him; and he sent messengers to Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

36. And 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; and if the dew is on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground elsewhere, then shall I 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 day, and squeezed the fleece together, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39. And Gideon said to God, Let not your anger burn against me, and I will speak but this once; let me try, I beg you, but this once with the fleece; let it now be

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dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

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

## Chapter 7

1. Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people who were with him, rose up early, and camped beside the well of Harod; so that the army of the Midianites were on their north side, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2. And the Lord said to Gideon, The people who are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, My own hand has saved me.

3. Now therefore, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Who ever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

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4. And 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 shall be, that of whom I say to you, This shall go with you, the same shall go with you; and of whom I say to you, This shall not go with you, the same shall not go.

5. So he brought down the people to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, Every one who laps the water with his tongue, like a dog laps, him shall you set by himself; likewise every one who bows down upon his knees to drink.

6. And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

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

8. So the people took provisions in their hand, and their shofarot; and he sent all the rest of Israel every

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man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men; and the army of Midian was below him in the valley.

9. And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said to him, Arise, get down to the camp; for I have delivered it into your hand.

10. But if you fear to go down, go with Phurah your servant down to the camp;

11. And you shall hear what they say; and afterwards shall your hands be strengthened to go down to the camp. Then went he down with Phurah his servant to the outside of the armed men who were in the camp.

12. And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seaside for multitude.

13. (K) And when Gideon came, behold, there was a man who told a dream to his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a slice of barley

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bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, and came to a tent, and struck it so that it fell, and overturned it, so that the tent tumbled down.

14. And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; for to his hand has God delivered Midian, and all the army.

15. And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and its interpretation, that he bowed down to the ground, and returned to the camp of Israel, and said, Arise; for the Lord has delivered to your hand the army of Midian.

16. And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a shofar in every man's hand, with empty jars, and torches inside the jars.

17. And he said to them, Look at me, and do likewise; and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall you do.

18. When I blow the shofar, I and all who are with me, then blow you the shofarot also on every side of the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of

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Gideon.

19. So Gideon, and the hundred men who were with him, came to the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had just set the watch; and they blew the shofarot, and broke the jars that were in their hands.

20. And the three companies blew the shofarot, and broke the jars, and held the torches in their left hands, and the shofarot in their right hands to blow with; and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

21. (K) And they stood every man in his place around the camp; and all the camp ran, and cried, and fled.

22. And the three hundred blew the shofarot, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, throughout all the camp; and the army fled to Beth-Shittah in Zererah, and to the border of Abel-Meholah, to Tabbath.

23. And the men of Israel gathered themselves together from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

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24. And Gideon sent messengers throughout all Mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters as far as Beth-Barah and the Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters as far as Beth-Barah and the Jordan.

25. And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

## Chapter 8

1. And the men of Ephraim said to him, Why have you served us thus, that you called us not, when you went to fight with the Midianites? And they quarrelled with him sharply.

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

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

4. And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men who were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.

5. And he said to the men of Succoth, Give, I beg you, loaves of bread to the people who follow me; for they are faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

6. And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?

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

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



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9. And he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, When I come back in peace, I will break down this tower.

10. Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand men, all who were left of all the armies of the people of the east; for there fell one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew sword.

11. And Gideon went up by the road of those who live in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and struck the camp; for the camp thought itself secure.

12. And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and the whole camp was panic stricken.

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

14. And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him; and he wrote down for him the princes of Succoth, and its elders, seventy seven men.

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15. And he came to the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna with whom you taunted me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are faint?

16. And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he chastised the men of Succoth.

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

18. Then said he to Zebah and Zalmunna, Where are the men whom you slew at Tabor? And they answered, As you are, so were they; in shape like the sons of a king.

19. And he said, They were my brothers, the sons of my mother; as the Lord lives, if you had kept them alive, I would not slay you.

20. And he said to Jether his firstborn, Get up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword; for he feared, because he was still a youth.

21. Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Arise you, and

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fall upon us; for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

22. Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, Rule over us, both you, and your son, and your grandson also; for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.

23. And Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.

24. And Gideon said to them, I would make a request of you, that you would give me every man the ear rings of his booty. For they had golden ear rings, because they were Ishmaelites.

25. And they answered, We will willingly give them. And they spread a garment, and threw in there every man the ear rings of his booty.

26. And the weight of the golden ear rings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple garments that were on the kings of Midian,

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and beside the chains that were around their camels' necks.

27. And Gideon made an ephod of it, and put it in his city, in Ophrah; and all Israel went there to play the harlot after it; and it became a snare to Gideon, and to his house.

28. Thus was Midian subdued before the people of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.

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

30. And Gideon had fathered seventy sons; for he had many wives.

31. And his concubine who was in Shechem, she also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

32. And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulcher of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33. And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the people of Israel turned again, and played the

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harlot after Baalim, and made Baal-Berith their god.

34. And the people of Israel remembered not the Lord their God, who had saved them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

35. Nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, that is Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shown to Israel.

## Chapter 9

1. And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's brothers, and talked with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2. Speak, I beg you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether it is better for you, that all the sons of Jerubbaal, who are seventy persons, should reign over you, or that only one should reign over you? Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.

3. And his mother's brothers spoke of him in the ears

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of all the men of Shechem all these words; and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother.

4. And they gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired vain and reckless persons, who followed him.

5. And he went to his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy persons, upon one stone; however Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.

6. And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem.

7. And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said to them, Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you.

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

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over us.

9. But the olive tree said to them, Should I leave my fatness, by which they honor God and man, and go to sway 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 sway over the trees?

12. (K) Then said the trees to the vine, Come, and reign over us.

13. And the vine said to them, Should I leave my wine, which cheers God and man, and go to sway over the trees?

14. Then said all the trees 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 shadow; and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

16. Now therefore, if you have done truly and

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sincerely, in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him according to the deserving of his hands;

17. For my father fought for you, and risked his life, and saved you from the hand of Midian;

18. And you have risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, seventy persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;

19. If you then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you;

20. But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

21. And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and lived there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

22. When Abimelech had reigned three years over



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Israel,

23. Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech;

24. That the cruelty done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be upon Abimelech their brother, who slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

25. And the men of Shechem put men in ambush for him at the top of the mountains, and they robbed all who came along that way; and this was told to Abimelech.

26. And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers, and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

27. And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trampled the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

28. And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech,

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and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? Serve rather the men of Hamor the father of Shechem, for why should we serve him?

29. And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I 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 sent messengers to Abimelech privately saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against you.

32. Now therefore rise up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field;

33. And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, you shall rise early, and set upon the city; and, behold, when he and the people who are with him come out against you, then may you do to them as you shall find occasion.

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34. And Abimelech rose up, and all the people who were with him, by night, and they set an ambush against Shechem in four companies.

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

36. And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said to him, You see the shadow of the mountains as if they were men.

37. And Gaal spoke again and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.

38. Then said Zebul to him, Where is now your mouth, with which you said, Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? Is not this the people whom you have despised? Go out, I beseech now, and fight with them.

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

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

41. And Abimelech lived at Arumah; and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brothers, that they should not live in Shechem.

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

43. And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and waited in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people came out of the city; and he rose up against them, and struck them.

44. And Abimelech, and the company who 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. And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people who was in there, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

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46. And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard that, they entered into the fortress of the house of the god El-Berith.

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

48. And Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him; and Abimelech took an ax in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said to the people who were with him, What you have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done.

49. And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the fortress, and set the fortress on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

50. Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.

51. But there was a strong tower in the city, and there fled all the men and women, and all those of the city,

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and shut themselves in, and went up to the top of the tower.

52. And Abimelech came to the tower, and fought against it, and approached right up to the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53. And a certain woman threw an upper millstone upon Abimelech's head, and crushed his skull.

54. Then he called hastily to the young man his armor bearer, and said to him, Draw your sword, and slay me, that men should not say of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

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

56. Thus God requited the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father, in slaying his seventy brothers;

57. And all the evil of the men of Shechem God requited upon their heads; and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

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## Chapter 10

1. And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel Tola the son of Pua the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, and he lived in Shamir in Mount Ephraim.
2. And he judged Israel twenty three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.
3. And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty two years.
4. And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havoth-Jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead.
5. And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.
6. And the people of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Sidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and did not serve him.

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7. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the sons of Ammon.

8. And that year they troubled and oppressed the people of Israel; eighteen years, all the people of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.

9. And the Ammonites passed over the Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was very distressed.

10. And the people of Israel cried to the Lord, saying, We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God, and also served the Baalim.

11. And the Lord said to the people of Israel, Did I not save you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites, and from the Philistines?

12. The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, oppressed you; and you cried to me, and I saved you from their hand.



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13. Yet you have forsaken me, and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more.

14. Go and cry to the gods which you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your tribulation.

15. And the people of Israel said to the Lord, We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you; save us only, we pray you, this day.

16. And they put away the foreign gods from among them, and served the Lord; and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

17. Then the Ammonites were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the people of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpah.

18. And the people and princes of Gilead said one to another, What man is he who will begin to fight against the Ammonites? He shall be chief over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

## Chapter 11

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1. And Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, and he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead fathered Jephthah.

2. And Gilead's wife bore him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they threw out Jephthah, and said to him, You shall not inherit in our father's house; for you are the son of a strange woman.

3. Then Jephthah fled from his brothers, and lived in the land of Tob; and there were gathered idle men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

4. And it came to pass in the course of time, that the Ammonites made war against Israel.

5. And it was so, that when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah from the land of Tob;

6. And they said to Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the Ammonites.

7. And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, Did not you hate me, and expel me from my father's house? And why have you come to me now when you are in

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distress?

8. And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to you now, that you may go with us, and fight against the Ammonites, and be our chief 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 Ammonites, and the Lord delivers them before me, shall I be your chief?

10. And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, The Lord be witness 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 chief and captain over them; and Jephthah uttered all his words before the Lord in Mizpah.

12. And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites, saying, What have you to do with me, that you come against me to fight in my land?

13. And the king of the Ammonites answered to the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away

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my land, when they came up from Egypt, from Arnon to Jabbok, and to the Jordan; now therefore give back those lands peacefully.

14. And Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the Ammonites;

15. And said to him, Thus said Jephthah, Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the Ammonites;

16. But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness to the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh;

17. Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I beseech you, pass through your land; but the king of Edom would not listen to it. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab; but he would not consent; and Israel stayed in Kadesh.

18. Then they went along through the wilderness, and around the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and camped on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab; for Arnon was the border

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of Moab.

19. And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, Let us pass, we beseech you, through your land into my place.

20. But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his border; but Sihon gathered all his people together, and camped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

21. And the Lord God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people to the hand of Israel, and they defeated them; so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

22. And they possessed all the borders of the Amorites, from Arnon to Jabbok, and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

23. So now the Lord God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and should you possess it?

24. Will not you possess that which Kemosh your god gives to you to possess? So whoever the Lord our God shall drive out from before us, them will we

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possess.

25. And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them,

26. While Israel lived in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that are along the borders of Arnon, for three hundred years? Why therefore did you not recover them during that time?

27. Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to war against me; the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the people of Israel and the Ammonites.

28. And the king of the Ammonites listened not to the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

29. Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed over to the Ammonites.

30. And Jephthah vowed a vow to the Lord, and said, If you shall without fail deliver the Ammonites into

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my hands,

31. Then it shall be, that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the Ammonites, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

32. So Jephthah passed over to the Ammonites to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

33. And he struck them from Aroer, till you come to Minnith, twenty cities, and to the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

34. And Jephthah came to Mizpah to his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances; and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

35. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! you have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of trouble to me; for I have opened my mouth

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to the Lord, and I cannot go back.

36. And she said to him, My father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord, do to me according to that which has come from your mouth; seeing that the Lord has taken vengeance for you of your enemies, of the Ammonites.

37. (K) And she said to her father, Let this thing be done for me; let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail 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 for her virginity upon the mountains.

39. And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed; and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,

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



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## Chapter 12

1. And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said to Jephthah, Why did you pass over to fight against the Ammonites, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house upon you with fire.

2. And Jephthah said to them, I and my people were at great strife with the Ammonites; and when I called you, you did not save me from their hands.

3. And when I saw that you did not save me, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the Ammonites, 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 struck Ephraim, because they said, You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, and among the Manassites.

5. And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan

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before the Ephraimites; and it was so that when those Ephraimites who had escaped said, Let me cross over; that the men of Gilead said to him, Are you an Ephraimite? If he said, No;

6. Then said they to him, Say now Shibboleth; and he said Sibboleth; for he could not pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan; and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty two thousand.

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

8. And after him Ibzan of Beth-Lehem judged Israel.

9. And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, whom he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years.

10. Then died Ibzan, and was buried at Beth-Lehem.

11. And after him Elon, a Zebulunite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years.

12. And Elon the Zebulunite died, and was buried in

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Ayalon in the country of Zebulun.

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

14. And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, who rode on seventy donkeys; and he judged Israel eight years.

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

## Chapter 13

1. And the people of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

2. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bore not.

3. And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, Behold now, you are barren, and

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bear not; but you shall conceive, and bear a son.

4. Now therefore beware, I beseech you, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing;

5. For, behold, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head; for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

6. Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very awesome; but I asked him not from where he was, nor did he tell me his name;

7. But he said to me, Behold, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and now do not drink wine nor strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

8. Then Manoah entreated the Lord, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God whom you sent come back

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to us, and teach us what we shall do with the child who shall be born.

9. And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came back to the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her.

10. And the woman made haste, and ran, and told her husband, and said to him, Behold, the man, who came to see me the other day, has appeared to me.

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

12. And Manoah said, Now let your words come to pass. What shall be the rule for the child, and what shall be done with him?

13. And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, Of all that I said to the woman let her beware.

14. She may not eat of any thing that comes of the vine, nor let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded her let her observe.

15. And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, I

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beseech you, let us detain you, until we shall have prepared a kid 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 will offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the Lord.

17. (K) And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, What is your name, that when your sayings come to pass we may do you honor?

18. And the angel of the Lord said to him, Why ask you thus after my name, seeing it is hidden?

19. So Manoah took a kid with a meal offering, and offered it upon a rock to the Lord; and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

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

21. But the angel of the Lord did no more appear to

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Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the Lord.

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

23. But his wife said to him, If the Lord would have been pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meal offering from our hands, nor would he have shown us all these things, nor would he have told us, at this time, such things as these.

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

25. And the spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

## Chapter 14

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

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2. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore get her for me as my wife.

3. Then his father and his mother said to him, Is there no woman among the daughters of your brothers, or among all my people, that you must take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said to his father, Get her for me; for she pleases me well.

4. But his father and his mother knew not that it was from the Lord, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines; for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

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

6. And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore him as he would have torn a kid, and he had nothing in his hand; but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.



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

8. And 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. And he took of it in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they ate; but he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

10. So his father went down to the woman; and Samson made there a feast; for the young men used to do so.

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

12. And Samson said to them, I will now put a riddle to you; if you can tell me what it is within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments;

13. But if you cannot tell me what it is, then shall you give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments.

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And they said to him, Put your riddle, that we may hear it.

14. And he said to them, Out of the eater came food, and out of the strong came sweetness. And they could not in three days tell what the riddle was.

15. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said to Samson's wife, Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire; Have you called us to take possession of our goods?

16. And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, You hate me, and love me not; you have put a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me. And he said to her, Behold, I have not told it to my father nor to my mother, and shall I tell it to you?

17. And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted; and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she pressed him hard; and she told the riddle to her people.

18. And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than

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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 the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their booty, and gave change of garments to those who had told the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

20. And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who was his friend.

## Chapter 15

1. But it came to pass after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not allow him to go in.

2. And her father said, I truly thought that you greatly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister fairer than she? Take her, I beg you, instead of her.

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3. And Samson said to them, Now shall I be blameless in regard to the Philistines, when I do them mischief.

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

5. And when he had set the torches on fire, he let them go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks, and also the standing grain, as well as the olive trees.

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

7. And Samson said to them, If this is what you have done, I will be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.

8. And he struck them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived on top of the rock Etam.

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9. Then the Philistines went up, and camped in Judah, and made a raid on Lehi.

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

11. Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers 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. And they said to him, We have come down to bind you, that we may deliver you to the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said to them, Swear to me, that you will not fall upon me yourselves.

13. And they spoke to him, saying, No; but we will bind you fast, and deliver you to their hand; but surely we will not kill you. And they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock.

14. And when he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily

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upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms became as flax that was burned with fire, and his bands melted from off his hands.

15. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men with it.

16. And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

17. And it came to pass, when he had finished speaking, that he threw away the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath-Lehi.

18. And he was very thirsty, and called on the Lord, and said, You have given this great deliverance o the hand of your servant; and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19. But God split a hollow place that was in Lehi, and water came out; and when he drank, his spirit was restored and he revived; therefore he called its name Ein-Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

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

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twenty years.

## Chapter 16

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

2. And it was told the Gazatites, saying, Samson has come here. And they surrounded him, and waited in ambush for him all night at the gate of the city, and were quiet all night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

3. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of a hill that is before Hebron.

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

5. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and

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said to her, Entice him, and see where does his great strength lie, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to subdue him; and we will give you every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

6. And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I beg you, where does your great strength lie, and with what you might be bound to subdue you.

7. And Samson said to her, If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that are not yet dried, then shall I be weak, and be as any other man.

8. Then the lords of the Philistines brought to her seven fresh bowstrings which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9. And there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said to him, The Philistines are upon you, Samson. And he broke the bowstrings, as a thread of tow is broken when it touches the fire. So his strength was not known.

10. And Delilah said to Samson, Behold, you have mocked me, and told me lies; now tell me, I beg you,



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with what might you be bound.

11. And he said to her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were used, then shall I be weak, and be as any other man.

12. Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him with them, and said to him, The Philistines are upon you, Samson. And there were men waiting in the chamber. And he broke them from off his arms like a thread.

13. And Delilah said to Samson, Until now you have mocked me, and told me lies; tell me with what might you be bound. And he said to her, If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web.

14. 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 loom, and with the web.

15. And she said to him, How 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 does your great strength lie.

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16. And it came to pass, when she harassed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was troubled to death;

17. That he told her all his heart, and said to her, There has not come a razor upon my head; for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb; if I am shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

18. (K) And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he has told me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and brought money in their hand.

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

20. And she said, The Philistines are upon you, Samson. And he awoke from his sleep, and said, I will go out like other times before, and shake myself

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free. And he knew not that the Lord had departed from him.

21. (K) But the Philistines took him, and took out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of bronze; and he ground at the mill of the prison house.

22. And the hair of his head began to grow back after he was shaven.

23. And the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice; for they said, Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

24. And when the people saw him, they praised 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. (K) And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make sport for us. And they called Samson out of the prison house; and he made sport for them; and they set him between the pillars.

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26. (K) And Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, Leave me alone, and let me feel the pillars on which the house is fixed, that I may lean upon them.

27. And the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, who looked while Samson made sport.

28. And Samson called to the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray you, and strengthen me, I pray you, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

29. And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and he supported himself on them, on one with his right hand, and on the other with his left.

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

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31. And his brothers and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

## Chapter 17

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

2. (K) And he said to his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, about which you cursed, and spoke of it also in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be 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 consecrate the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son, to make an engraved image and a molten image; now therefore I will restore it to you.

4. And when he had given back the money to his

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mother, his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the silversmith, who made an engraved image of it and a molten image; and they were in the house of Micahyehu.

5. And the man Micah had a house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

6. In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

7. And there was a young man from Beth-Lehem of Judah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.

8. And the man departed from the city from Beth-Lehem of Judah to sojourn where he could find a place; and he came to Mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

9. And Micah said to him, Where do you come from? And he said to him, I am a Levite of Beth-Lehem of Judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.

10. And Micah said to him, Live with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten shekels

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of silver a year, and a suit of apparel, and your provisions. So the Levite went in.

11. And the Levite was content to live with the man; and the young man was to him like one of his sons.

12. And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

13. Then said Micah, Now know I that the Lord will do me good, seeing I have a Levite as my priest.

## Chapter 18

1. In those days there was no king in Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought for itself an inheritance to live in; for till that day all their inheritance had not yet fallen to them among the tribes of Israel.

2. And the sons of Dan sent of their family five men from their borders, men of valor, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said to them, Go, search the land; who

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when they came to Mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

3. When they were by the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man the Levite; and they turned aside, and said to him, Who brought you here? and what do you do in this place? and what have you here?

4. And he said to them, Thus and thus deals Micah with me, and has hired me, and I am his priest.

5. And they said to him, Ask counsel, we pray you, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.

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

7. Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people who were there, how they lived in safety, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no one in the land that put them to shame in any thing, such a hereditary ruler; and they were far from the Sidonians, and had no business with any man.



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8. And they came to their brothers to Zorah and Eshtaol; and their brothers said to them, What do you say?

9. And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them; for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good; and are you idle? Do not be slow to go, and to enter to possess the land.

10. When you go, you shall come to an unsuspecting people, and to a large land; for God has given it to your hands; a place where there is no lack of any thing that is in the earth.

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

12. And they went up, and camped in Kiriath-Jearim, in Judah; therefore they called that place Mahaneh-Dan till this day; behold, it is behind Kiriath-Jearim.

13. And they passed from there to Mount Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

14. Then answered the five men who went to spy out

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the country of Laish, and said to their brothers, Do you know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and an engraved 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, to the house of Micah, and greeted him.

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

17. And the five men who went to spy out the land went up, and came in there, and took the engraved 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 girded 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 said the priest to them, What are you doing?

19. And they said to him, Hold your peace, lay your

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hand upon your mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest; Is it better for you to be a priest in the house of one man, or that you should 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 engraved image, and went in the midst of the people.

21. So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

22. And when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near to Micah's house were called out, and overtook the sons of Dan.

23. And they shouted to the sons of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said to Micah, What ails you, that you come with such a company?

24. And he said, You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you go away; and what have I more? and how then do you say to me, What ails you?

25. And the sons of Dan said to him, Do not raise your

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voice among us, lest angry fellows run upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household.

26. And the sons 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. And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came to Laish, to a people who were quiet and unsuspecting; and they struck them with the edge of the sword, and burned the city with fire.

28. And there was no savior, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with any man; and it was in the valley that lies by Beth-Rehob. And they built a city, and lived there.

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

30. And the sons of Dan set up the engraved image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe

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of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

31. And they set up for themselves Micah's engraved image, which he had made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

## Chapter 19

1. And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of Mount Ephraim, who took for himself a concubine from Beth-Lehem of Judah.

2. And his concubine played the harlot to him, and went away from him to her father's house to Beth-Lehem of Judah, and was there four whole months.

3. (K) And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak kindly to her, and to bring her back, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses; and she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the girl saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.

4. And his father-in-law, the girl's father, made him

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stay; and he remained with him three days; so they did eat and drink, and lodged there.

5. And it came to pass on the fourth day, when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart; and the maiden's father said to his son-in-law, Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterwards go your way.

6. And they sat down, and ate and drank together; for the girl's father had said to the man, Be content, I beseech you, and remain all night, and let your heart be merry.

7. And when the man rose up to depart, his father-in-law urged him; therefore he lodged there again.

8. And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart; and the girl's father said, Refresh your heart, I beseech you, and delay until the afternoon; and they ate both of them.

9. And 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

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toward evening, I beg you remain the night; behold, the day grows to an end, stay here, that your heart may be merry; and tomorrow get early on your way, that you may go home.

10. But the man would not remain that night, but he rose up and departed, and came opposite Jebus, which is Jerusalem; and there were with him two asses saddled, his concubine also was with him.

11. And when they were by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, Come, I beg you, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it.

12. And his master said to him, We will not turn aside here into a foreign city, that is not of the people of Israel; we will pass over to Geba.

13. And he said to his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Geba, or in Ramah.

14. And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them when they were by Geba, which belongs to Benjamin.

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15. And they turned aside there, to go in and to lodge in Geba; and when he went in, he sat down in a street of the city; for there was no man who took them into his house to lodging.

16. And, behold, there came an old man from his work from the field at evening, who was from Mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Geba; and the men of the place were sons of Benjamin.

17. And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a traveller in the street of the city; and the old man said, Where are you going? and where do you come from?

18. And he said to him, We are passing from Beth-Lehem of Judah toward the far side of Mount Ephraim; from there am I; and I went to Beth-Lehem of Judah, but I am now going to the house of the Lord; and there is no man who receives me in his house.

19. Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for your maidservant, and for the young man who is



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with your servants; there is no lack of any thing.

20. And the old man said, Peace be with you; I will care for all your wants; only do not lodge in the street.

21. (K) So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the asses; and they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

22. Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless men, surrounded the house, and beat at the door, and spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.

23. And the man, the master of the house, went out to them, and said to them, No, my brothers, no, I beg you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing.

24. Behold, here is my daughter a virgin, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, ravish them, and do with them what seems good to you; but to this man do not do so vile a thing.

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25. (K) But the men would not listen to him; so the man took his concubine, and brought her out to them; and they knew her, and abused her all night until the morning; and when the day began to dawn, they let her go.

26. Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light.

27. And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way; and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold.

28. And he said to her, Arise, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and went to his place.

29. And when he came to his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

30. And it was so, that all who saw it said, No such

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deed was done nor seen from the day that the people of Israel came up from the land of Egypt to this day; consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.

## Chapter 20

1. Then all the people of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, to the Lord in Mizpah.

2. And the chiefs of all the people, of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen who drew sword.

3. And the sons of Benjamin heard that the people of Israel had gone to Mizpah. Then said the people of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness?

4. And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was slain, answered and said, I came to Geba that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

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5. And the men of Geba rose against me, and beset the house around upon me by night, intending to kill me; and they ravished my concubine and she is dead.

6. And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel; for they have committed wantonness and vileness in Israel.

7. Behold, you are all people of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

8. And all the people arose as one man, saying, None of us will go to his tent, nor will any of us turn to his house.

9. But now this shall be the thing which we will do to Geba; we will go up by lot against it;

10. And we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand from ten thousand, to fetch provisions for the people, that they may do, when they come to Geba of Benjamin, according to all the vileness that they have done in Israel.

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

12. And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you?

13. (K) therefore deliver us the worthless men, who are in Geba, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. And the sons of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers the people of Israel;

14. And the sons of Benjamin gathered themselves together from the cities to Geba, to go out to battle against the people of Israel.

15. And the sons of Benjamin numbered at that time, from the cities, twenty six thousand men who drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Geba, who numbered seven hundred chosen men.

16. Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen left handed men; every one could sling stones at a hair, and not miss.

17. And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, numbered

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four hundred thousand men who drew sword; all these were men of war.

18. And the people of Israel arose, and went up to Beth-El, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the sons of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up first.

19. And the people of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Geba.

20. And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Geba.

21. And the sons of Benjamin came out from Geba, and laid low that day twenty two thousand men of the people of Israel.

22. And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day.

23. And the people of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until evening, and asked counsel of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the

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sons of Benjamin my brother? And the Lord said, Go up against him.

24. And the people of Israel came near against the sons of Benjamin the second day.

25. And Benjamin went forth against those from Geba the second day, and laid low eighteen thousand men of the people of Israel; all these drew the sword.

26. Then all the people of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came to Beth-El, and wept, and sat there before the Lord, and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

27. And the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

28. And Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days, saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle against the sons of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the Lord said, Go up; for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.

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29. And Israel set men in ambush around Geba.

30. And the people of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Geba, as at other times.

31. And the sons of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to strike the people, and kill, as at other times, in the highways, from which one ascends to the Beth-El, and the other to Geba in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

32. And the sons of Benjamin said, They are beaten before us, as at the first. But the people of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city to the highways.

33. And all the men of Israel rose up from their place, and put themselves in array at Baal-Tamar; and the men in ambush of Israel came out from their places, from the plain of Geba.

34. And there came against Geba ten thousand chosen men from all Israel, and the battle was hard; but they did not know that disaster was close upon



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them.

35. And the Lord struck Benjamin before Israel; and the people of Israel destroyed of the sons of Benjamin that day twenty five thousand and a hundred men; all these drew the sword.

36. So the people of Benjamin saw that they were beaten; for the men of Israel gave ground to the sons of Benjamin, because they trusted to the men in ambush whom they had set beside Geba.

37. And the men in ambush hurried, and rushed upon Geba; and the men in ambush drew themselves along, and struck 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 flame with smoke rise up from the city.

39. And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to strike and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons; for they said, Surely they are beaten down before us, as in the first battle.

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40. But when the flame began to arise up from the city with a pillar of smoke, the sons of Benjamin looked behind them, and, behold, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven.

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

42. And they turned their backs before the men of Israel to the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and those who came out of the cities destroyed them in their midst.

43. Thus they surrounded the sons of Benjamin, and chased them, and trampled them down with ease opposite Geba toward the sunrise.

44. And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these were men of valor.

45. And they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them to Gidom, and slew two thousand men of them.

46. So that all who fell that day of Benjamin were

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twenty five thousand men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor.

47. But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness to the rock Rimmon, and remained in the rock Rimmon four months.

48. And the men of Israel turned again upon the sons of Benjamin, and struck them with the edge of the sword, the men of every city as well as the beast, and all who came to hand; also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

## Chapter 21

1. And the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying, None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin to wife.

2. And the people came to Beth-El, and remained there till evening before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept bitterly;

3. And said, O Lord God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that there should be today one tribe

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lacking in Israel?

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

5. And the people of Israel said, Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the congregation to the Lord? For they had made a great oath concerning him who came not up to the Lord to Mizpah, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

6. And the people of Israel repented themselves for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.

7. What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the Lord that we will not give them of our daughters for wives?

8. And they said, Which one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpah to the Lord? And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-Gilead to the assembly.

9. For the people were counted, and, behold, there

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were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead there.

10. And the congregation sent there twelve thousand men of the bravest, and commanded them, saying, 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 shall do, You shall completely destroy every male, and every woman who has lain with man.

12. And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead four hundred young virgins, who had known no man by lying with any male; and they brought them to the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

13. And the whole congregation sent some to speak to the sons of Benjamin who were in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably to them.

14. And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-Gilead; and still they did not suffice for them.

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

16. And the elders of the congregation said, What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?

17. And they said, There must be an inheritance for those of Benjamin who escaped, that a tribe should not be destroyed out of Israel.

18. And we may not give them wives of our daughters; for the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin.

19. And they said, Behold, there is a feast of the Lord in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Beth-El, on the east side of the highway that ascends from Beth-El to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.

20. Therefore they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;

21. And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of

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the vineyards, and catch every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

22. (K) And it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, Grant them graciously to us, because we did not take a wife for every man in the war; for you did not give to them willingly, else you should now be guilty.

23. And the sons of Benjamin did so, and took their wives, according to their number, of those who danced, whom they caught; and they went and returned to their inheritance, and rebuilt the cities, and lived in them.

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

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