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Open English Translation of the Bible

The accounts of

Various Heroes and Guides

commonly called 'Judges'

Introduction

This document commonly called '*Judges*', contains a collection of accounts of '*Various Heroes and Guides/Leaders*' who helped to rescue the Israeli people from their oppressors. It covers the times from their invasion of Kena'an through to just before their first king. Most of these heroes or guides were actually warriors. Shimshon (commonly called 'Samson') is the best-known of all of them, and his story can be read in chapters 13–16.
From this document we can learn that Yisrael ('Israel' in older English translations) prospered when they obeyed Yahweh's instructions, but when they disobeyed, then God allowed other peoples and nations to oppress them. However, God is always ready and prepared to save his people whenever they turn away from their disobedience and return again to obeying the instructions that he'd given them.
The previous book was named after the main character Yehoshua (Joshua) and the following books (Ruth and 1 Shmuel/Samuel) are named after their main characters, but this document with somewhere around a dozen important characters, has no single prominent character that it could be named after. Instead it's traditionally named 'Judges' in English because of around twenty uses of the Hebrew root '**שָׁפַט**' (shafat) often in roots normally translated as 'judged'. Despite that, there's not a single account in this document of these leaders judging the cases and conflicts of the common people. This dilemma offers two possible interpretations: 1/ that these leaders (often military leaders) did judge cases for the common people, but those details aren't recorded, or 2/ (which we've leaned more towards) that this Hebrew word has a wider range of meaning, and so we've leaned towards the English word 'guided' or 'led' in these contexts.

Main components of this account

The events up until Yehoshua's death *1:1–2:10*
The various heroes/guides of Yisrael *2:11–16:31*
Various other events *17:1–21:25*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Yehudah and Shim'on capture Adoni-Vezek

1:1 After Yehoshua's (Joshua's) death, the Israelis asked Yahweh, "Which tribe should go first to attack the Kena'anim (Canaanites)?" **2** "Yehudah (Judah) will go first," Yahweh answered. "Listen, I've already determined that they'll conquer the land."

3 Then the Yehudah leaders said to the tribe of Shim'on (Simeon), "Come with us into the region that we've been allocated and we can fight together against the Kena'anim. Then we'll do the same in your area." So the warriors from the two tribes worked together. **4** When they attacked, Yahweh gave them victory over the Kena'anim and the Perizim and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek. **5** They confronted Adoni-Vezek in Bezek and fought against him (then eventually defeating the Kena'anim and the Perizim). **6** Adoni-Vezek tried to flee but they chased him and captured him, cutting off his thumbs and big toes. **7** "Seventy kings had their thumbs and big toes chopped off," Adoni-Vezek said, "and were gathering scraps of food beneath my table. Just as I have done, so God has repaid to me." Then they took him to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and he died there.

The capture of Yerushalem and Hevron

8 The warriors from Yehudah (Judah) attacked Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and captured the city, killing the inhabitants and setting the city on fire. **9** Then they fought against the Kena'anim (Canaanites) who lived in the hill country, in the southern wilderness, and in the western foothills. **10** They also fought the Kena'anim in Kiryat-Arba (now known as Hevron) and killed Sheshay, Ahiman, and Talmay.

Otniel captures Devir[1]

11 From there they fought against Kiryat-Sefer (now known as Devir). **12** Kalev (Caleb) had said, "The one who attacks Kiryat-Sefer and captures it can marry my daughter Aksah." **13** Otniel (son of Kalev's younger brother Kenaz) captured it so Kalev gave his daughter Aksah to him to become his wife. **14** After the wedding, she urged Otniel to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Kalev asked her, "What can I do for you?" **15** "Give me a blessing," she requested. "Although you've given me land in the southern wilderness, give me some springs of water as well." So Kalev gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

The victory of descendants of Yehudah and Benyamin

16 The Keynim (descendants of Mosheh's (Moses') father-in-law), left the city of palm trees (Yeriho (Jericho)) and went with Yehudah's (Judah's) descendants to the southern wilderness near Arad and lived with the people there. **17** Then the warriors of Yehudah and Shim'on (Simeon) conquered the Kena'anim (Canaanites) living at Tsefat and destroyed the city. Now it's called Hormah

Literal Version

1:1 And_he/it_was after the_death_of Yəhōshūʻa/(Joshua) and_ the_people_of Yisrāʼēl/(Israel) _they_enquired by_ _**YHWH** to_say who will_he_go_up to/for_ourselves against the_Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] at_first to_engage_in_battle in/on/over_him/it. **2** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_said Yəhūdāh/(Judah) he_will_go_up HERE I_have_given ÐOM the_ _earth/land in_his/its_hand. **3** And_ Yəhūdāh _he/it_said to_ _Shimʻōn his/its_brother come_up with_me in_lot_of_my so_ _that_we_may_fight against_Kəna'ₐnī[s] and_ also I _I_will_go with_you in_lot_of_your and_he/it_went with_him/it Shimʻōn. **4** And_ Yəhūdāh _he/it_ascended and_ **YHWH** _ _he/it_gave ÐOM the_Kəna'ₐnī and_the_Pərizzī[s] in_hand_of_ _their and_they_defeated_them at_Bezeq ten_of thousand(s) man. **5** And_they_found ÐOM Adoni- Bezeq at_Bezeq and_ _they_fought in/on/over_him/it and_they_defeated ÐOM the_ _Kəna'ₐnī[s] and_ÐOM the_Pərizzī[s]. **6** And_ Adoni- Bezek _he_ _fled and_they_pursued after_him and_they_seized ÐOM_ _him/it and_they_cut_off ÐOM the_thumbs_of his_hands_of_ _his and_feet_of_his. **7** And_ Adoni- Bezek _he/it_said seventy kings the_thumbs_of their_hands_of_their and_feet_of_their cut_off they_were gathering_up under table_of_my just_as I_ _have_done so he_has_repaid to_me god and_they_brought_ _him Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_he/it_died there.

8 And_ the_descendants_of Yəhūdāh _they_fought against_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_they_captured it and_they_ _struck_it_down to_the_mouth_of the_sword and_ÐOM the_ _city they_sent in_fire. **9** And_after the_descendants_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) they_went_down to_fight against_ _Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] who_was_dwelling the_hill_country and_the_Negeʼ and_the_Shephelah. **10** And_ Yəhūdāh _he/it_ _went against the_Kəna'ₐnī[s] who_was_dwelling in_Ḫevrōn and_name_of Ḫevrōn formerly_formerly was_Qiryat ʼArbaʻ and_they_defeated ÐOM Shēshay and_ÐOM ʼAḫīman and_ÐOM Talmay.

11 And_he/it_went from_there against the_inhabitants_of Dəvīr and_name_of Dəvīr formerly_formerly was_Qiryat Sepher. **12** And_ Kālēvʼ/(Caleb) _he/it_said the_one_who he_ _will_attack ÐOM Qiryat Sepher and_he_will_capture_it and_I_ _will_give to_him/it ÐOM ʻAkşāh daughter_of_my to/for_(a)_ _woman. **13** And_he_captured_it ʻOtnīʼēl the_son_of Qənaz the_brother_of Kālēvʼ the_small(sg) from_him/it and_he_gave to_him/it ÐOM ʻAkşāh daughter_of_his to/for_(a)_woman. **14** And_he/it_was when_came_she and_she_incited_him to_ _ask from_with father_of_her the_field and_she_went_down from_under the_donkey and_he/it_said to/for_her/it Kālēvʼ what is_to_you. **15** And_she/it_said to_him/it come_NOW to/for_me a_blessing if/because the_land_of the_Negeʼ you_ _have_given_to_me and_you(ms)_will_give to_me springs_of water and_he_gave to/for_her/it Kālēvʼ ÐOM springs_of upper and_ÐOM springs_of lower.

16 And_the_sons the_Qēynī the_father-in-law_of Mosheh they_went_up from_the_city_of the_palm_trees with the_ _descendants_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) the_wilderness_of Yəhūdāh which is_in_the_Negeʼ_of ʻArād and_he/it_went and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived with the_people. **17** And_ Yəhūdāh _he/it_went with Shimʻōn his/its_brother and_they_attacked ÐOM the_Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] who_ _was_dwelling Tsəfat/(Zephath) and_they_totally_destroyed it and_he/it_called ÐOM the_name_of the_city Ḫormāh.

1 **RV 1:11 · Parallel** Josh. 15:13-19

Literal Version

18 And_ Yəhūdāh _he_captured ÐOM ʻAzzāh and_ÐOM territory_of_its and_ÐOM ʾAshqəlōn and_ÐOM territory_of_its and_ÐOM ʻEqrōn and_ÐOM territory_of_its. **19** And_he/it_was **YHWH** with Yəhūdāh[456] and_it_took_possession_of ÐOM the_ _hill_country if/because not to_dispossess ÐOM the_ _inhabitants_of the_valley if/because chariotry_of iron to/for_them. **20** And_people_gave to_Kālēv/(Caleb) ÐOM Ḥevrōn just_as Mosheh he_had_said and_he_dispossessed from_there ÐOM three the_sons_of (the)_ʻĀnāq. **21** And_ÐOM the_Yəvūşī who_was_dwelling Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) not the_descendants_of Binyāmīn they_dispossessed and_ the_ _Yəvūşī _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived with the_ _descendants_of Binyāmīn in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) until the_day (the)_this.

22 And_ the_house_of Yōşēf/(Joseph) also they _they_went_ _up Bēyt-ʾēl and_**YHWH** was_with_them. **23** And_ the_house_ _of Yōşēf _they_caused_to_spy_out in_house_of ʾēl and_name_ _of the_city formerly_formerly was_Lūz. **24** And_ those_who_ _watched _they_saw a_man coming_out from the_city and_ _they_said to_him/it show_us please ÐOM the_entrance_of the_city and_we_will_do with_you loyalty. **25** And_he_ _showed_them ÐOM the_entrance_of the_city and_they_ _struck_down ÐOM the_city to_the_mouth_of the_sword and_ _ÐOM the_man and_ÐOM all_of family_of_his they_let_go. **26** And_ the_man _he/it_went the_land_of the_Ḥittiy and_ _he/it_built a_city and_he/it_called his/its_name Lūz that his/its_name until the_day (the)_this.

27 And_not Mənashsheh it_took_possession_of ÐOM Bēyt Shan and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM Taʻanāk and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of[9] of_Dōr and_ _ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Yivləʻām/(Ibleam) and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_ _inhabitants_of Məgiddōn and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ the_Kənaʻanī/(Canaanite)[s] _it_was_determined to_dwell on_ _the_earth (the)_this. **28** And_he/it_was if/because Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) it_became_strong and_he/it_assigned ÐOM the_Kənaʻanī[s] into_forced_labour and_completely_ _(dispossess) not it_dispossessed_him. **29** And_ʾEfrayim not it_dispossessed ÐOM the_Kənaʻanī[s] who_was_dwelling in_ _Gezer and_ the_Kənaʻanī[s] _he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived in_midst_of_its in_Gezer. **30** Zəvulun not it_dispossessed ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Qiṭrōn and_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Nahalāl and_ the_ _Kənaʻanī[s] _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_midst_of_ _its and_they_were (into)_forced_labour. **31** ʾĀshēr not it_ _dispossessed ÐOM the_inhabitants_of ʻAkkō and_ÐOM the_ _inhabitants_of Tsīdōn/(Sidon) and_ÐOM ʾAḥlāv and_ÐOM ʾAkzīv and_ÐOM Ḥelbāh and_ÐOM ʾAfēq and_ÐOM Rəḥov. **32** And_ the_Asherite[s] _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_the_midst_of the_Kənaʻanī[s] the_inhabitants_of the_ _earth/land if/because not it_dispossessed_it. **33** Naftālī not it_dispossessed ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Bēyt Shemesh and_

Readers' Version

(which means 'complete destruction'). **18** They also captured Azah (Gaza), Ashkelon, and Ekron and all their surrounding territories. **19** Yahweh helped Yehudah and they took possession of the hill country, although they weren't able to conquer the people living down in the plains because they had iron on their chariots. **20** They gave Hevron to Kalev (Caleb) just as Mosheh had directed, and he dispossessed the three sons of the Anak from there.[2] **21** However Benyamin's descendants didn't drive the Yevusim living in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) out, so they have lived among the Benyamites in Yerushalem to this day.[3]

Efrayim and Menasheh conquer Beyt-El

22 Also Yosef's (Joseph's) descendants attacked Beyt-El (Bethel), and Yahweh helped them. **23** They sent spies out to Beyt-El (previously called Luz) **24** and they saw a man coming out of the city and told him, "Please show us an entrance into the city, and we'll be kind to you." **25** So he showed them an entrance, and their warriors attacked and killed the inhabitants, but they let the man and his family go free. **26** The man went to the land of the Hitim and founded a city and called it Luz (which it's still called to this day).

The locals not driven out by the Israelis

27 However Menasheh's (Manasseh's) descendants didn't drive out those living in Beyt-Shean, Ta'anak, Dor, Yivleam, or Megidon, because the Kena'anim (Canaanites) were determined to keep living there.[7] **28** (Later, the Israelis became stronger and they forced the Kena'anim to work for them as their slaves, but they didn't drive them out.) **29** Nor did Efrayim's (Ephraim's) descendants drive the Kena'anim out of Gezer, so they continued to live among them.[8]

30 Zevulun's descendants didn't drive the Kena'anim out of Kitron or Nahalal, so they continued to live among them and were forced to work as slaves.

31 Asher's descendants didn't drive out those who were living in Ako, Tsidon (Sidon), Ahlav, Akziv, Helbah, Afek, or Rehov, **32** So Asher's descendants lived with the Kena'anim who still lived in the region because they didn't drive them out.

33 Naftali's (Naphtali's) descendants didn't drive out those who were living in Beyt-Shemesh (Heliopolis) or Beyt-Anat, so they continued to live among them and were forced to work as slaves.

34 The Amorim forced Dan's descendants to live in the hill country, because they didn't allow them to come down to the

2 **RV 1:20 · Cross-ref.** Josh 15:13-14.

3 **RV 1:21 · Cross-ref.** Josh 15:63; 2Sam 5:6; 1Ch 11:4.

4 **LV 1:19 · Note** OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

5 **LV 1:19 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

6 **LV 1:19 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

7 **RV 1:27-28 · Cross-ref.** Josh 17:11-13.

8 **RV 1:29 · Cross-ref.** Josh 16:10.

9 **LV 1:27 · Note** OSHB variant note: בשי: (x-qere) יְבֻשִׁי׳: lemma_3427 morph_HVqrmpc id_07Xh9 יְבֻשִׁי׃

Readers' Version

plains. **35** The Amorim were determined to live at Mt. Heres, in Ayalon and Sha'alvim (but when Yosef's (Joseph's) descendants became stronger, they forced the Amorim to work as slaves). **36** The Amorim border went from the Scorpion Pass through Sela and upward from there.

God's messenger comes to Bokim

2:1 Then Yahweh's messenger went from Gilgal to Bokim and told the Israelis, "I brought you all out of Mitsrayim (Egypt) and led you here to this land that I promised to your ancestors. I had said that I wouldn't ever break my agreement with you all, **2** but that you mustn't form treaties with the peoples who lived here, rather you must tear down their altars.[10] But you all haven't obeyed what I said. What have you gone and done? **3** So I'm telling you that I won't drive your enemies out ahead of you, but they'll be like thorns in your sides and you'll all end up being enslaved to their idols." **4** When Yahweh's messenger finished saying that, the people wept loudly, **5** so they called that place Bokim (which means 'weeping') and they offered sacrifices to Yahweh there.

The death of Yehoshua

6 Then Yehoshua (Joshua) dismissed the people and the tribes went to their various regions to take possession of the land. **7** The people obeyed Yahweh as long as Yehoshua and the elders who had seen the great things that Yahweh had done for Yisrael (Israel), were alive. **8** Then Yahweh's servant Yehoshua (son of Nun) died at the age of 110 **9** and they buried him in his allocated land at Timnat-Heres, inside Efrayim's (Ephraim's) hill country territory north of Mt. Ga'ash.[11]

Yisrael (Israel) turns from Yahweh

10 When all of that generation had passed away, the next generation didn't know Yahweh or even know about what he'd done for the Israelis. **11** They did things that Yahweh considered evil and worshipped Ba'al idols **12** and abandoned the god of their ancestors, Yahweh, the one who brought them out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). Instead they went after other gods—the gods of the people around them. They worshipped them and that made Yahweh angry. **13** They abandoned Yahweh and worshipped the Ba'al and Ashtarot idols. **14** So Yahweh got angry with Yis-

Literal Version

_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Bēyt Anath and_he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived in_the_midst_of the_Kəna'ₐnī[s] the_inhabitants_of the_earth/land and_the_inhabitants_of Bēyt Shemesh and_Bēyt- anath they_became to/for_them (into)_forced_labour. **34** And_ the_'Amorī _they_pressed ÐOM the_descendants_of Dān to_the_hill_country if/because not it_permitted_it to_go_down to_valley. **35** And_ the_'Amorī _it_ _was_determined to_dwell in_the_mountain_of Ḥereş in_ _'Ayyālōn and_in_Sha'alvīm and_ the_hand_of the_house_of Yōşēf/(Joseph) _it_was_heavy and_they_were (into)_forced_ _labour. **36** And_the_border_of the_'Amorī was_from_the_ _ascent_of scorpions from_(the)_Sela and_upward_upwards.

2:1 And_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _he/it_ascended from (the)_Gilgāl to (the)_Bokim and_he/it_said I_brought_up you(pl) from_Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_I_brought you(pl) into the_earth/land which I_swore to_ancestors_of_your(pl) and_ _I_said not I_will_break covenant_of_my with_you(pl) forever_perpetuity. **2** And_you(pl) not you(pl)_must_make a_ _covenant to_the_inhabitants_of the_earth/land (the)_this altars_of_their you(pl)_will_pull_down and_not you(pl)_have_ _listened to_voice_of_my what this have_you(pl)_done. **3** And_also I_say not I_will_drive_out them from_before_of_ _you(pl) and_they_will_be to/for_you(pl) (into)_sides and_ _gods_of_their they_will_become to/for_you(pl) (into)_a_ _snare. **4** And_he/it_was just_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _as_ _spoke ÐOM the_words/messages the_these to all_of the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_ the_people _they_lifted_up ÐOM voice_of_their and_they_wept. **5** And_they_called the_ _name_of the_place (the)_that Bokim and_they_sacrificed there to/for_**YHWH**.

6 And_ Yəhōshūʻa/(Joshua) _he_sent_away ÐOM the_people and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_went everyone to_ _his_own_of_inheritance to_take_possession_of ÐOM the_ _earth/land. **7** And_ the_people _they_served ÐOM **YHWH** all_ _of the_days_of Yəhōshūʻa and_all/each/any/every the_days_ _of the_old_men who they_made_long days after Yəhōshūʻa who they_had_seen ÐOM all_of the_work_of **YHWH** (the)_ _great which he_had_done for_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **8** And_ Yəhōshūʻa the_son_of Nun the_servant_of **YHWH** _he/it_died a_son_of a_hundred and_ten years. **9** And_people_buried him in_the_territory_of his_inheritance_of_his in_Timnath- heres in_the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim from_the_north_of the_ _mountain_of Gaʻash.

10 And_also all_of the_generation (the)_that they_were_ _gathered to_ancestors_of_its and_ a_generation another after_them which not they_knew ÐOM **YHWH** and_also ÐOM the_work which he_had_done for_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_ _rose_up. **11** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_made ÐOM the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_they_served ÐOM the_Baʻal. **12** And_they_abandoned ÐOM **YHWH** the_god_ _of their_ancestors_of_their who_brought_out them from_ _the_land_of Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_they_went after_gods other some_of_the_gods_of the_peoples which were_around_ _of_them and_they_bowed_down to/for_them and_they_ _provoked_to_anger ÐOM **YHWH**.[1314] **13** And_they_abandoned

10 **RV 2:2 · Cross-ref.** Exo 34:12-13; Deu 7:2-5.

11 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Josh 19:49-50.

13 **LV 2:12 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

14 **LV 2:12 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Literal Version

ᴅᴏᴍ **YHWH** and_they_served (to)_Ba´al and_(to)_´Ashtārōt.
14 And_ the_anger of_**YHWH** _it_glowed/burnt on_
_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he_gave_them in_the_hand_of
plunderers and_they_plundered them and_he_sold_them in_
_the_hand_of their_enemies_of_their from_round_about and_
_not they_were_able still to_stand to_(the)_face_of/in_front_
_of/before enemies_of_their. **15** In_every where they_went_
_out the_hand_of **YHWH** it_was on_them for_harm just_as
YHWH he_had_spoken and_as_which **YHWH** he_had_sworn
to/for_them and_it_was_distress to/for_them exceedingly.
16 And_ **YHWH** _he_raised_up judges and_they_delivered_
_them from_the_hand_of their_plunderers. **17** And_also to
judges_of_their not they_listened if/because they_acted_as_
_prostitutes after gods other and_they_bowed_down to/for_
_them they_turned_aside quickly from the_way which
fathers_of_their they_had_walked to_obey the_commands_of
YHWH not they_did so. **18** And_because/when **YHWH** he_
_raised_up to/for_them judges and_it_was **YHWH** with the_
_judge and_he_delivered_them from_the_hand_of their_
_enemies_of_their all_of the_days_of the_judge if/because
YHWH he_had_compassion from_groaning_of_their from_
_face/in_front_of those_of_who_oppressed_them and_those_
_of_who_oppressed_them. **19** And_it_was when_died_of the_
_judge they_returned and_they_acted_corruptly more_than_
_of_their_fathers to_go after gods other to_serve_them and_
_to_bow_down to/for_them not they_let_drop any_of_their_
_deeds and_any_of_their_way (the)_stubborn. **20** And_ the_
anger of**YHWH** _it_glowed/burnt on_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_
_he/it_said because that the_nation the_this they_have_
_transgressed ᴅᴏᴍ covenant_of_my which I_commanded ᴅᴏᴍ
ancestors_of_their and_not they_have_listened to_voice_of_
_my. **21** Also I not I_will_increase to_dispossess anyone from_
_their_face/front of the_nations which Yəhōshūʻa/(Joshua)
he_left and_he/it_died. **22** So_as to_put_to_the_test by_them
ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) be_ will_they _keeping ᴅᴏᴍ the_way_of
YHWH to_go in_them just_as ancestors_of_their they_kept_it
or not. **23** And_ **YHWH** _he_left ᴅᴏᴍ the_nations the_these to_
_not to_dispossess_them quickly and_not he_gave_them in_
_the_hand_of Yəhōshūʻa.
3:1 And_these the_nations which **YHWH** he_left to_put_to_
_the_test by_them ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) ᴅᴏᴍ all_of those_who
not they_had_known ᴅᴏᴍ all_of the_wars_of
Kənaʻan/(Canaan). **2** Only so_as the_generations_of the_
_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_know to_teach_them war only
which formerly_previously not they_had_known_them.
3 The_five_of the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy and_all the_
_Kənaʻₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] and_the_Sidonian[s] and_the_Ḫiūī[s]
who_was_dwelling of_the_mount_of of_(the)_Ləvānōn from_
_hill of Baʻal to Ləvō' Ḥₐmāt. **4** And_they_were to_put_to_the_
_test by_them ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_know will_they_obey
ᴅᴏᴍ the_commands_of **YHWH** which he_had_commanded
ᴅᴏᴍ ancestors_of_their by_the_hand_of Mosheh. **5** And_the_
_sons of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_dwelt in_the_midst_of the_
_Kənaʻₐnī[s] the_Ḫittiy[s] and_the_'Amorī[s] and_the_
_Pərizzī[s] and_the_Ḫiūī[s] and_the_Yəvūşī/(Jebusite)[s].
6 And_they_took ᴅᴏᴍ daughters_of_their to/for_them to_
_wives and_ᴅᴏᴍ daughters_of_their they_gave to_sons_of_

Readers' Version

rael (Israel) so he caused raiders to come and take their property and he allowed their enemies to become more powerful so they could no longer stand against them. **15** Whenever the Israelis went into battle, Yahweh worked against them just like he'd said he would and they became very distressed.

16 Then Yahweh gave them leaders[12] to save them from the raiders. **17** However they wouldn't listen to those leaders either—continuing to prostitute themselves to other gods and bowing down to idols. They rapidly turned away from their ancestors' ways and showed no interest in obeying Yahweh's instructions. **18** Whenever Yahweh gave them a leader, he would support that leader and would save them from their enemies during that leader's life, because he pitied the people when they groaned from being tormented and oppressed. **19** But then at the death of that leader, they would turn back and behave more corruptly than their ancestors—following other gods and bowing down to idols. They didn't stop any of their evil activities or their shameless behaviour **20** so Yahweh was very angry at Yisrael and said, "This nation has broken the agreement that I made with their ancestors and haven't done what I told them to. **21** I won't keep driving the people groups away that remained when Yehoshua (Joshua) died, **22** so as to use them to test Yisrael to see whether the Israelis will obey my instructions like their ancestors did, or not. **23** So Yahweh allowed those people groups to stay on, and hence they hadn't been handed over to Yehoshua.

The remaining kingdoms in Kena'an

3:1 The following are the kingdoms which Yahweh allowed to remain so as to test the newer generations of Yisrael (Israel) who hadn't experienced the battles in Kena'an (Canaan) **2** (if only for the sake of teaching warfare to those generations who hadn't experienced it): **3** the five Pelishti rulers and the Kena'anim (Canaanites), the Tsidonim (Sidonians), the Hivim that live on Mt. Levanon between Mt. Ba'al-Hermon and Levo-Hamat.[15] **4** They were left to test Yisrael to find out if they would obey Yahweh's instructions that had been given through Mosheh (Moses) to their ancestors, **5** and so the Israelis lived among the Kena'anim, the Hitim, the Amorim, the Perizim, the Hivim, and the Yevusim. **6** They took their daughters as wives, and gave their own daughters to be married to their sons, and they worshipped their gods.

12 RV 2:16 · Note Traditionally called 'judges' in most English translations, but that modern term doesn't fit their various functions in this account at all well. ('Leaders' isn't perfect either but it's generic enough to cover most of their roles.)

15 RV 3:3 · Note Or, 'the entrance to Hamat'.

Readers' Version

Otniel

7 So the Israelis did things considered evil by Yahweh and they forgot about their god Yahweh, instead serving the Ba'al and Asherot idols. **8** Because of that, Yahweh was very angry with Yisrael (Israel), so he handed them over to King Kushan-Rish'atayim of Aram-Naharayim. The Israelis served him for eight years **9** but when they cried out to Yahweh, he sent them a leader to rescue them: Otniel, son of Kalev's (Caleb's) younger brother Kenaz. **10** Yahweh's spirit empowered him and he led Yisrael. He led them into battle against King Kushan-Rish'atayim of Aram (Syria), and Yahweh helped them defeat him. **11** So the region had peace for forty years, and then Otniel (Kenaz's son) died.

Ehud

12 Once again the Israelis started doing things considered evil by Yahweh, so because of that, he strengthened King Eglon of Moav (Moab) against Yisrael (Israel). **13** King Eglon enlisted warriors from the Amonim and the Amalekim, and they attacked Yisrael and captured Yeriho (Jericho), the city of palm trees, **14** so the Israelis served him for eighteen years.

15 But the Israelis cried out to Yahweh, he sent them a leader to rescue them: the left-hander Ehud, son of Gera the Benyamite. The Israelis sent him to carry the tribute payment to King Eglon of Moav. **16** Now Ehud had made himself a double-edged sword—a short one about half a metre long—and he strapped it to his right thigh beneath his clothes. **17** Then he presented the tribute to King Eglon of Moav, who was a very fat man, **18** and after leaving for home, he sent off the people who'd actually carried it all. **19** Then from the stone quarries that they'd reached near Gilgal, he returned and told the king that he had a private message for him. The king told his attendants to be quiet then sent them out of the room.

20 So Ehud approached where the king was sitting alone in the coolness of his upper room and told him, "I have a message for you from God." The king stood up from his seat **21** and then Ehud reached with his left hand and pulled the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king's belly. **22** Even the handle went in after the blade and the fat closed up over the handle because Ehud didn't pull the sword out of his belly. Then he went out to the passage[16] **23** and closed and locked the rooms of the upper room and exited through the porch.[17] **24** After he'd left, the servants came and found the doors locked, so they thought the king must be relieving himself in there. **25** They waited until they became worried that he hadn't opened the doors, so they got a key and opened them, only to find their master lying dead on the floor.

Literal Version

_their and_they_served ÐOM gods_of_their.

7 And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_made ÐOM the_ _evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_they_forgot ÐOM **YHWH** god_of_their and_they_served ÐOM the_Ba'al and_ÐOM the_ _'Ashērāh_poles. **8** And_ the_anger of_**YHWH** _it_ _glowed/burnt on_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he_sold_them in_the_ _hand_of Cushan- Rishathaim the_king_of 'Arām and_ the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_served ÐOM Cushan-Rishathaim eight years. **9** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_cried_out to **YHWH** and_ **YHWH** _he_raised_up a_ _deliverer for_the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he_ _delivered_them ÐOM 'Otnī'ēl the_son_of Qənaz the_brother_of Kālēv/(Caleb) the_small(sg) more_than_him. **10** And_it_ _became on/upon/above_him/it the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_ _he_judged ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he/it_went_out to_war and_ **YHWH** _he/it_gave in_his/its_hand ÐOM Cushan-Rishathaim the_king_of 'Arām and_ his/its_hand _it_ _prevailed over Cushan- Rishathaim. **11** And_ the_earth/land _it_was_at_peace forty year[s] and_ 'Otnī'ēl the_son_of Qənaz _ _he/it_died.

12 And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_repeated for_ _doing the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_ **YHWH** _he_ _strengthened ÐOM 'Eglōn the_king_of Mō'āv over Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) on if/because they_did ÐOM the_evil in/on_ _both_eyes_of **YHWH**. **13** And_he_gathered to_him/it ÐOM the_people_of 'Ammōn and_'Amālēq and_he/it_went and_he_ _defeated ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_they_took_possession_of ÐOM the_city_of the_palm_trees. **14** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_served ÐOM 'Eglōn the_king_of Mō'āv eight- teen year[s]. **15** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _ _they_cried_out to **YHWH** and_ **YHWH** _he_raised_up to/for_ _them a_deliverer ÐOM 'Ēhūd the_son_of Gērā' the_Ben-_of (the)_jaminite a_man impeded_of the_hand_of his_right_ _side_of_his and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_sent in_his/its_hand tribute to_'Eglōn the_king_of Mō'āv. **16** And_ _he/it_made to_him/it 'Ēhūd a_sword and_belonged_to_it two_of mouths was_a_cubit length_of_its and_he_girded it from_under to_garments_of_his on the_thigh_of his_right_ _side_of_his. **17** And_he_brought_near ÐOM the_tribute to_ _'Eglōn the_king_of Mō'āv and_'Eglōn was_a_man fat very. **18** And_he/it_was just_as he_had_finished to_bring_near ÐOM the_tribute and_he_sent_away ÐOM the_people who_had_ _carried_of (of)_the_tribute. **19** And_he he_returned from the_idols which were_with (the)_Gilgāl and_he/it_said a_ _message_of secrecy to_me to_you the_king and_he/it_said hush and_they_went_out from_with_him all_of those_who_ _stood on/upon/above_him/it. **20** And_'Ēhūd he_came to_ _him/it and_he was_sitting in_the_roof_chamber_of (the)_ _coolness which to_him/it for_him/it_being_alone and_ 'Ēhūd _he/it_said a_message_of god to_me to_you and_he/it_ _rose_up from_under the_seat. **21** And_ 'Ēhūd _he_stretched_ _out ÐOM the_hand_of his_left_hand_of_his and_he/it_took ÐOM the_drought//sword/knife from_under the_thigh_of his_right_side_of_his and_he_thrust_it in_belly_of_his. **22** And_ also the_hilt _it_went after the_blade and_ the_fat _ _he/it_closed_up behind the_blade if/because not he_drew_ _out the_drought//sword/knife from_belly_of_his and_he/it_

16 RV 3:22 · Note The meaning of the last word in the Hebrew here is uncertain, so other translations might differ.

17 RV 3:23 · Note Again, the Hebrew meaning of the last word here is uncertain, so other translations might differ.

Literal Version

_went_out to_the_hole. **23** And_ ʾĒhūd _he/it_went_out to_ _the_porch and_he/it_closed_up the_doors_of the_roof_ _chamber behind_him and_he_locked_them. **24** And_he he_ _went_forth and_servants_of_his they_came and_they_saw and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_doors_of the_roof_chamber were_ _locked and_they_said surely he is_covering ÐOM feet_of_his in_the_chamber_of (the)_coolness. **25** And_they_writhed until were_ashamed and_THERE[181920] not_he was_opening the_ _doors_of the_roof_chamber[2122] and_they_took ÐOM the_key and_they_opened_them and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE master(s)_of_ _their was_lying towards_land dead. **26** And_ʾĒhūd he_ _escaped until delayed_they and_he he_passed_by ÐOM the_ _idols and_he_escaped to_(the)_Sēʿīrah. **27** And_he/it_was when_came_he and_he_gave_a_blast on_horn in_the_hill_ _country_of ʾEfrayim and_they_went_down with_him/it the_ _people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) from the_hill_country and_he was_before_of_them. **28** And_he/it_said to_them pursue after_me if/because **YHWH** he_has_given ÐOM enemies_of_ _your(pl) ÐOM Mōʾāv in_hand_of_your(pl) and_they_went_ _down after_him and_they_captured ÐOM the_fords_of the_ _Yardēn/(Jordan) to_Mōʾāv and_not they_permitted anyone to_pass_over. **29** And_they_struck_down ÐOM Mōʾāv at_time (the)_that about_ten_of thousand(s) man every_of stout_ _person and_all man_of strength and_not anyone he_ _escaped. **30** And_ Mōʾāv _it_was_subdued in_the_day (the)_ _that under the_hand_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_ the_earth/land _it_was_at_peace eighty year[s].

31 And_after_him Shamgar the_son_of ʿAnāt he_was and_he_ _struck_down ÐOM the_Pəlishtiy six hundred(s) man with_ _the_goad_of (the)_cattle and_ also he _he_delivered ÐOM Yisrāʾēl/(Israel).

4:1 And_ the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_repeated for_ _doing the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_ʾĒhūd he_ _had_died. **2** And_he_sold_them **YHWH** in_the_hand_of Yāvīn/(Jabin) the_king_of Kənaʿan/(Canaan) who he_reigned in_Ḥātsōr and_the_commander_of his_army_of_his was_ _Ṣīṣərāʾ and_he was_dwelling in_Harosheth Haggoyim. **3** And_ the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_cried_out to **YHWH** if/because nine hundred(s) chariot[s]_of iron to_ _him/it and_he he_oppressed ÐOM the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) by_force twenty year[s]. **4** And_Dəbōrāh was_ _a_woman a_prophetess the_wife_of Lappidōt she was_ _judging ÐOM Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) at_time (the)_that. **5** And_she was_dwelling under the_palm_tree_of Dəbōrāh between (the)_Rāmāh and_between Bēyt-ʾēl in_the_hill_country_of ʾEfrayim and_they_went_up to_her/it the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) for_judgement. **6** And_she_sent and_she/it_ _called/named (to)_Bārāq the_son_of ʾAvīnoʿam from_ _Qedesh Naftālī and_she/it_said to_him/it not has_he_ _commanded **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) go and_you_ _will_march at_the_mountain_of Tāvōr and_you_will_take with_you ten_of thousand(s) man from_(the)_sons of_Naftālī and_of_the_descendants_of Zəvulun. **7** And_I_will_draw to_ _you to the_wadi_of Qīshōn ÐOM Ṣīṣərāʾ the_commander_of the_army_of Yāvīn/(Jabin) and_ÐOM chariotry_of_his and_

Readers' Version

26 While the servants had been waiting, Ehud had escaped and passed beyond the quarries, then fleeing to Se'irah. **27** When he got there, he blew a trumpet throughout the Efrati hill country, and so the Israelis assembled under his direction down in the valley. **28** "Follow after me," he told them, "because Yahweh will enable you all to defeat your enemies, the Moavim." So they followed him down to the Yarden (Jordan) river and captured the fords opposite Moav (Moab), thus preventing anyone from crossing. **29** Then they attacked Moav and killed around ten thousand men—all strong and capable yet none of them escaped. **30** So Moav was subdued that day by the Israelis, and there was peace in the region for eighty years.

Shamgar

31 After Ehud came Shamgar (Anat's son), and he rescued Yisrael (Israel) by killing six hundred Pelishtim with a cattle prod.

Deborah and Barak

4:1 After Ehud died, the Israelis again started doing things considered evil by Yahweh, **2** so he handed them over to King Yavin of Kena'an (Canaan) who reigned in Hatsor. Sisera was the commander of his army, and he lived in Haroshet-Hagoyim. **3** The Israelis cried out to Yahweh because Sisera had nine hundred chariots with iron on them, and he cruelly oppressed them for twenty years.

4 Now the prophetess Deborah (Lapidot's wife) was leading Yisrael (Israel) at that time. **5** She would sit under the palm tree between Ramah and Beyt-El (Bethel) (in the Efrati hill country), and people would come to her to have their disputes settled. **6** One day she summoned Barak (Avinoam's son from Kedesh in Naftali (Naphtali)) and told him, "Yisrael's god, Yahweh commands you to draft ten thousand men from Naftali and Zevulun and assemble at Mt. Tavor. **7** Yahweh will lure King Yavin's army commander, Sisera bring his warriors and chariots to the Kishon river, and Yahweh will enable you to defeat them there."

8 "I'll go if you'll come with me," replied Barak, "but if you won't come with me, I won't go."

9 "I'll certainly go with you," she said, "but it won't be you

18 LV 3:25 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

19 LV 3:25 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

20 LV 3:25 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

21 LV 3:25 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

22 LV 3:25 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Readers' Version

that's honoured afterwards, but rather Yahweh will use a woman to defeat Sisera." So Deborah accompanied Barak to Kedesh. **10** There he summoned warriors from Zevulun and Naftali and ten thousand men came, and they all went together with Deborah to Mt. Tavor.

11 Now Hever had moved with his wife Ya'el and their family away from the other Keynim (and from Mosheh's (Moses') father-in-law Hovav's descendants) and set up his tent by the oak tree at Tsa'ananim near Kedesh.

12 When Sisera was told that Barak (Avinoam's son) had gone to Mt. Tavor, **13** he assembled his warriors and their nine hundred chariots (with iron on them) and went from Haroshet-Hagoyim to the Kishon riverbed.

14 "Get going," Deborah told Barak, "because it's today that Yahweh has gone ahead of you and will help you defeat Sisera." So Barak led his ten thousand warriors down from Mt. Tavor. **15** Then Yahweh caused Sisera and all his warriors and chariots to be confused as Barak advanced, so Sisera jumped down from his chariot and took off on foot. **16** Barak pursued the men and chariots as far as Haroshet-Hagoyim and they killed them all—not a single one survived.

17 But Sisera had fled on foot and ran to Ya'el's tent (Hever the Keyni's wife) because there was peace between King Yavin of Hatsor and the house of Hever the Keyni. **18** Ya'el went out to meet Sisera and told him, "Stop and rest, my master. Stop and rest here. Don't be afraid." So he turned and went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

19 "I'm thirsty," he said. "Could you get me a little water to drink." Ya'el opened a goatskin container and gave him milk to drink, then she covered him again. **20** "Stand at the tent doorway," he said, "and if anyone comes and asks you if you've seen a man, say, 'No.' "

21 Then Hever's wife Ya'el got a hammer and a tent peg and crept in silently, driving the peg through his temple and pounding it into the ground,. He'd been tired and was sleeping soundly, and it killed him. **22** Meanwhile Barak had been searching for Sisera, and Ya'el went out to meet him. "Come in here," she told him, "and I'll show you the man you've been searching for." He followed her into the tent and wow—Sisera was lying there dead with the peg still through his temple.

23 So that day God defeated Kena'ani (Canaanite) King Yavin's army in front of the Israelis, **24** and as they became stronger against him, they destroyed King Yavin of Kena'an (Canaan).

Literal Version

_~~ḎOM~~ multitude_of_his and_I_will_give_him in_hand_of_your. **8** And_he/it_said to_her/it Bārāq if you_will_go with_me and_ _I_will_go and_if not you_will_go with_me not I_will_go. **9** And_she/it_said certainly_(go) I_will_go with_you nevertheless if/because not it_will_be honour_of_your on the_way which you are_going if/because in_the_hand_of a_ _woman **YHWH** he_will_sell ~~ḎOM~~ Ṣīṣərā' and_ Dəbōrāh _ _she/it_arose and_she_went[232425] with Bārāq to_Qedesh. **10** And_ Bārāq _he_summoned ~~ḎOM~~ Zəvulun and_~~ḎOM~~ Naftālī to_Qedesh and_he/it_ascended at_feet_of_his ten_of thousand(s)_of man and_she_went_up with_him/it Dəbōrāh. **11** And_Ḥever the_Qēynī was_separated from_the_Qēynī[s] from_(the)_sons of_Ḥovāv the_father-in-law_of Mosheh and_ _he_had_pitched tent_of_his to the_great_tree in/on/at/with[26] which is_with Qedesh. **12** And_people_told to_Ṣīṣərā' if/because_that Bārāq the_son_of 'Avīnno'am he_ _had_gone_up the_mountain_of Tāvōr. **13** And_ Ṣīṣərā' _he_ _summoned ~~ḎOM~~ all_of chariotry_of_his nine hundred(s) chariot[s]_of iron and_~~ḎOM~~ all_of the_people which with_ _him/it from_Harosheth Haggoyim to the_wadi_of Qīshōn. **14** And_ Dəbōrāh _she/it_said to Bārāq arise if/because this the_day which **YHWH** he_has_given ~~ḎOM~~ Ṣīṣərā' in_hand_of_ _your not **YHWH** has_he_gone_out to_your_face and_ Bārāq _ _he/it_descended from_hill of_Tāvōr and_ten_of thousand(s) man were_after_him. **15** And_ **YHWH** _he_confused ~~ḎOM~~ Ṣīṣərā' and_~~ḎOM~~ all_of the_chariotry and_~~ḎOM~~ all_of the_army to_the_mouth_of the_sword to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before Bārāq and_ Ṣīṣərā' _he/it_descended from_under the_chariot and_he_fled on_feet_of_his. **16** And_Bārāq he_ _pursued after the_chariotry and_after the_army to Harosheth Haggoyim and_ all_of the_army_of Ṣīṣərā' _it_fell to_the_mouth_of the_sword not up_to one it_was_left. **17** And_Ṣīṣərā' he_fled on_feet_of_his to the_tent_of Yā'ēl/(Jael) the_wife_of[272829] of_Ḥever the_Qēynī if/because peace was_between Yāvīn/(Jabin) the_king_of Ḥātsōr and_ _between the_house_of Ḥever the_Qēynī. **18** And_ Yā'ēl _she_ _went_out to_meet Ṣīṣərā' and_she/it_said to_him/it turn_ _aside my_master turn_aside to_me do_not be_afraid and_he_ _turned_aside to_her/it to_the_tent and_she_covered_him with_covering. **19** And_he/it_said to_her/it give_me_to_drink please a_little_of water if/because I_am_thirsty and_she_ _opened ~~ḎOM~~ the_skin-bottle_of (the)_milk and_she_gave_ _him_a_drink and_she_covered_him. **20** And_he/it_said to_ _her/it stand the_opening_of the_tent and_it_was if anyone he_will_come and_he_will_ask_you and_saying(ms) is_there here anyone and_you_will_say there_is_not. **21** And_ Yā'ēl the_wife_of Ḥever _she/it_took ~~ḎOM~~ the_peg_of the_tent and_she_put ~~ḎOM~~ the_hammer in_hand_of_her and_she_went to_him/it in_secrecy and_she_drove ~~ḎOM~~ the_peg in_temple_ _of_his and_it_went_down on_the_earth and_he was_sleeping and_he_was_weary and_he/it_died. **22** And_BEHOLD/LO/SEE Bārāq was_pursuing ~~ḎOM~~ Ṣīṣərā' and_ Yā'ēl/(Jael) _she_went_ _out to_meet_him and_she/it_said to_him/it come and_I_

23 LV 4:9 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

24 LV 4:9 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

25 LV 4:9 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

26 LV 4:11 · Note OSHB variant note: **ם֭ינעצ/ב**: (x-qere) '**ם֫יְנַנְּעַצ/ב**': lemma_b/6815 n_0.0 morph_HR/Np id_07aFY **ם֫יְנַנְּעַצ/ב**

27 LV 4:17 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

28 LV 4:17 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

29 LV 4:17 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

_will_show_you ᴅᴏᴍ the_man whom you are_seeking and_he_ _went to_her/it and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE Ṣīṣərā' was_lying dead and_the_peg was_in_temple_of_his. **23** And_ god _he_subdued in_the_day (the)_that ᴅᴏᴍ Yāvīn/(Jabin) the_king_of Kəna'an/(Canaan) to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **24** And_ the_hand_of the_people_ _of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_went going and_hard on Yāvīn the_ _king_of Kəna'an/(Canaan) until that they_cut_off ᴅᴏᴍ Yāvīn the_king_of Kəna'an/(Canaan).

5:1 And_ Dəbōrāh and_Bārāq the_son_of 'Avīnno'am _she_ _sang in_the_day (the)_that to_say. **2** When_ leaders _acted_ _as_leaders in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) when_ a_people _volunteers bless **YHWH**. **3** Hear Oh_kings give_ear Oh_rulers I to/for_ _**YHWH** I I_will_sing I_will_sing_praises to/for_**YHWH** the_ _god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **4** Oh_**YHWH** when_you_went_out from_Sē'īr when_marched_you from_the_region_of 'Edōm the_earth it_shook both the_heavens they_dropped as_well_ _as the_clouds they_dropped water. **5** The_mountains they_ _flowed from_face/in_front_of **YHWH** this Ṣīnay from_ _face/in_front_of **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **6** In_ _the_days_of Shamgar the_son_of 'Anāt in_the_days_of Yā'ēl/(Jael) roads they_ceased and_walkers_of paths they_ _walked roads twisting. **7** Rural_people they_ceased in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_ceased until that_ Dəbōrāh _I_arose that_ a_mother in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _I_arose. **8** It_chose gods new then war was_in_the_gates a_shield if and_a_spear it_ _was_seen among_forty thousand in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **9** Heart_ _of_my is_to_the_commanders_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) those_who_ _volunteered among_people bless **YHWH**. **10** Oh_riders_of female_donkeys tawny Oh_you(pl)_who_sit_of on garments and_Oh_walkers_of on the_road tell_out. **11** From_the_sound_ _of those_who_divide between the_places_for_drawing_water there they_will_recount the_righteousness(es)_of **YHWH** the_righteousness(es)_of his_rural_people_of_his in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) then they_went_down to_gates the_people_ _of **YHWH**. **12** Awake awake Oh_Dəbōrāh awake awake speak a_song arise Oh_Bārāq and_take_captive captive[s]_of_your Oh_son_of 'Avīnno'am. **13** Then the_survivor[s] of_the_nobles he_went_down the_people **YHWH** he_went_down to_me among_ones. **14** From 'Efrayim who_their_root_of_those was_ _in_'Amālēq after_you Binyāmīn among_people(s)_of_your from Mākīr commanders they_came_down and_from_ _Zəvulun those_who_march with_the_rod_of a_ _muster-officer. **15** And_princes_of_my in_Issachar were_with Dəbōrāh and_Issachar so Bārāq in_valley he_was_sent at_ _feet_of_his among_the_divisions_of Rə'ūvēn were_great resolves_of heart. **16** To/for_what did_you_sit between the_ _two_saddlebaskets to_hear the_whistling_of the_flocks to_ _the_divisions_of Rə'ūvēn were_great searchings_of heart. **17** Gil'ād on_the_other_side_of the_Yardēn/(Jordan) he_dwelt and_Dān to/for_what did_he_sojourn ships 'Āshēr he_ _remained to_the_coast_of the_seas and_at places_of_his_ _landing he_dwelt. **18** Zəvulun was_a_people which_it_ _despised life_of_its to_die and_Naftali was_on the_heights_of the_field. **19** kings they_came they_fought then the_kings_of Kəna'an/(Canaan) they_fought at_Ta'ₐnāk at the_waters_of Məgiddōn profit_of silver not they_took. **20** From heaven the_ _stars they_fought from_highways_of_their they_fought with Ṣīṣərā'. **21** The_wadi_of Qīshōn it_swept_them_away a_wadi_

Readers' Version

Deborah and Barak sing together

5:1 That day, Deborah and Barak sang this song:

2 "When the leaders take the lead in Yisrael (Israel),
when the people offer themselves willingly,
Yahweh be blessed.
3 Listen you kings.
Pay attention you rulers.
I will sing to Yahweh, yes, even me.
I will make music for Yisrael's god Yahweh.
4 Yahweh, you left Se'ir.
You marched out of the Edom region.
The earth quaked.
The heavens also dropped.
And the clouds poured down rain.
5 Mountains melted in Yahweh's presence,
Yes, Mt. Sinay shook in front of Yisrael's god, Yahweh.[30]
6 In the days of Anat's son Shamgar,
in the days of Ya'el,
main roads were abandoned,
and travellers walked twisting trails.
7 Israeli villages were abandoned.
No one lived there until I, Deborah, became their leader.
I became one of Yisrael's (Israel's) mothers.
8 When Yisrael chose new gods,
then enemies attacked the city gates.
No shield or spear could be found
among forty thousand in Yisrael.
9 I'm thankful to Yisrael's commanders
who volunteered to help the people.
Yahweh be blessed.
10 You riders of white donkeys,
you who sit on saddle blankets,
you who are walking on the road,
tell about this.
11 From the sounds of conflict over the watering places
they recount ≈Yahweh's righteousness
and about his righteous warriors in Yisrael (Israel).
Then Yahweh's people went down to the city gates.
12 Wake up, Deborah, wake up.
Wake up, wake up, sing a song.
Barak, get moving and capture your prisoners,
you son of Avinoam.
13 Then the survivor went down to the leading citizens.
Yahweh's people went down to the mighty. ???
14 From Efrayim (Ephraim) their root was with Amalek.

30 RV 5:5 · Cross-ref. Exo 19:18.

Readers' Version

After you, Benyamin, among your people.
From Makir (in Menasheh's (Manasseh's) tribe), the commanders came down.
And from Zevulun, those who march carrying an officer's staff.
15 My princes in Yisakar (Issachar) were with Deborah.
And Yisakar was also with Barak.
He was sent into a valley on his heels.
There was intense heart searching among the clans of Re'uven.
16 Why did you sit between the sheep pens?
To hear the whistling for the flocks?
There was intense heart searching among the clans of Re'uven.
17 Gilead settled east of the Yarden (Jordan).
But, Dan, why does he stay on ships?
Asher stayed at the sea coast
and lives by his jetties.
18 Zevulun were a tribe that devotedly risked losing their lives.
And Naftali (Naphtali) was at their heights on the battlefield.
19 Kings came and made war.
Then the Kena'ani (Canaanite) kings fought at Ta'anak,
at the Megidon springs.
But they weren't able to plunder any silver.
20 From the sky, the stars battled.
From their courses, they fought against Sisera.
21 The Kishon river swept them away.
An ancient river that Kishon river.
March on with strength, my soul.
22 Then the horses' hooves struck.
His galloping stallions charging.
23 'Curse that Meroz place,' said Yahweh's messenger.
'You shall certainly curse its inhabitants
because they didn't come and help Yahweh—
to help Yahweh against the mighty ones.'
24 Ya'el will be an honoured woman.
The wife of Hever the Keyni.
She deserves the most praise out of all women who live in tents.
25 He asked for water—she gave him milk,
Yogurt in a bowl suitable for the leading citizens.
26 Her hands reached out for the tent peg,
and her right hand for the workman's hammer.
She hammered Sisera—shattering his head—
shattering and piercing his temple.
27 He bowed down between her feet—he fell—he lay down.
He bowed down between her feet—where he bowed down, there he fell—destroyed.
28 Sisera's mother looked out the window.
She peered through the lattice, crying out,
'Why is his chariot so slow to return?
Why are the hoofbeats of his chariots delayed?'
29 Her wise ladies answered her.
Indeed, she keeps telling herself
30 'Won't they be gathering and dividing the plunder?
A woman or two for each warrior to bear children.

Literal Version

_of ancient_times the_wadi_of Qīshōn you_will_march my_ _self_of_my strength. **22** Then the_heels_of horse[s] they_ _struck from_the_galloping the_galloping_of his_mighty_ _horses. **23** Curse Mērōz the_messenger_of **YHWH** he_says curse certainly_(curse) inhabitants_of_its if/because not they_came to_the_help_of **YHWH** to_the_help_of **YHWH** on_ _ones. **24** She_will_be_blessed more_than_women Yā'ēl/(Jael) the_wife_of Ḥevʿer the_Qēynī more_than_women in_tent she_ _will_be_blessed. **25** Water he_asked milk she_gave in_a_ _bowl_of nobles she_brought_near curd[s]. **26** Hand_of_her to_peg they_stretched_out and_her_right_of_hand to_a_ _hammer_of labourers and_she_struck Ṣīṣərā' she_shattered his/its_head and_she_smashed and_she_pierced temple_of_ _his. **27** Between feet_of_her he_bowed_down he_fell he_lay_ _down between feet_of_her he_bowed_down he_fell at_where he_bowed_down there he_fell destroyed. **28** Through the_ _window she_looked_down and_ the_mother_of Ṣīṣərā' _she_ _lamented through the_window-lattice why chariot_of_his has_it_delayed to_come why the_hoof-beats_of his_chariots_ _of_his have_they_delayed. **29** The_wise_women_of her_ _noble_ladies_of_her they_answered also she she_brought_ _back words/messages_of_her to/for_her/it. **30** Not are_they_ _finding are_they_dividing_up plunder a_womb two_wombs for_the_head_of a_man plunder_of coloured_cloth(s) for_ _Ṣīṣərā' plunder_of coloured_cloth(s) multicoloured_material coloured_cloth_of multicoloured_material(s) for_the_necks_ _of plunder. **31** So all_of enemies_of_your may_they_perish Oh_**YHWH** and_those_of_who_love_him be_as_ of_the_sun _ _the_going_out in_strength_of_its and_ the_earth/land _it_ _was_at_peace forty year[s].

Literal Version

6:1 And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_made the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_he_gave_them **YHWH** in_ _the_hand_of Midyān seven years. **2** And_ the_hand_of Midyān _it_prevailed over Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) from_face/in_ _front_of Midyān they_made to/for_them the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) ~~ḎOM~~ the_dens which are_in_mountains and_ _~~ḎOM~~ the_caves and_~~ḎOM~~ the_strongholds. **3** And_it_was if Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) it_sowed and_ Midyān and_ʿAmālēq and_the_ _sons the_east _he/it_would_go_up and_they_went_up on/upon/above_him/it. **4** And_they_encamped on_them and_they_destroyed ~~ḎOM~~ the_produce_of the_earth/land until come_you ʿAzzāh and_not they_left sustenance in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_a_sheep and_an_ox and_a_donkey. **5** If/because they livestock_of_their they_came_up and_ _tents_of_their and_they_came[32] according_to_the_ _abundance_of locust[s] to_increase_in_number and_to_them and_to_camels_of_their there_was_not number and_they_ _came in/on_the_earth to_destroy_it. **6** And_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_became_low very from_face/in_front_of Midyān and_ the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_cried_out to **YHWH**. **7** And_ _he/it_was if/because the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_ _cried_out to **YHWH** on the_causes_of Midyān. **8** And_ **YHWH** _he_sent a_man a_prophet to the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he/it_said to/for_them thus he_says **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) I I_brought_up you(pl) from_ _Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_I_brought_out you(pl) from_a_ _house_of slaves. **9** And_I_delivered you(pl) from_the_hand_of Mitsrayim and_from_the_hand_of all_of those_of_who_ _oppressed_you(pl) and_I_drove_out them from_before_of_ _you(pl) and_I_gave to/for_you(pl) ~~ḎOM~~ land_of_their. **10** And_ _I_said to/for_you(pl) I am_**YHWH** god_of_your(pl) not you(pl)_must_fear ~~ḎOM~~ the_gods_of the_'Amorī whom you(pl) are_dwelling in_land_of_their and_not you(pl)_have_listened to_voice_of_my. **11** And_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _he_came and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived under the_terebinth which was_in_ʿOfrāh which belonged_to_Yō'āsh/(Joash) the_ _Abi- ezrite and_Gidʿōn his/its_son was_beating_out wheat(s) in_winepress to_hide_it from_face/in_front_of Midyān. **12** And_he_appeared to_him/it the_messenger_of[333435] of_ _**YHWH** and_he/it_said to_him/it **YHWH** is_with_you Oh_ _mighty_man_of (the)_strength. **13** And_he/it_said to_him/it Gidʿōn pardon_me my_master and_(there) **YHWH** is_with_us and_for_what has_it_found_us all_of this and_where are_all_ _of wonders_of_his which they_recounted to/for_us fathers_ _of_our to_say not from_Mitsrayim/(Egypt) did_he_bring_us_ _up **YHWH** and_now he_has_abandoned_us **YHWH** and_he_ _has_given_us in_the_palm_of Midyān. **14** And_he_turned to_ _him/it **YHWH** and_he/it_said go in_strength_of_your this and_you_will_deliver ~~ḎOM~~ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) from_the_palm_of

Readers' Version

Finding some colourful material for Sisera.
Taking some embroidered fabrics.
Dyed scarves as plunder.'
31 May all your enemies perish like that, Yahweh.
But may those who love you shine like the sun rising in its strength."
Then that region had peace for forty years.

Gid'on

6:1 The Israelis did things that Yahweh considered evil so he handed them over to the Midyan for seven years **2** and the Midyanites oppressed them badly. It was so bad that the Israelis made dens for themselves up in the hills, in caves, and in small, fortified settlements. **3** Whenever the Israelis planted a crop, the Midyanites or the Amalekim, or eastern groups would attack them. **4** They would set up their camps around them and destroy the crops as far away as Azah (Gaza)—they left nothing for the Israelis to eat, and no sheep, cattle, or donkeys. **5** It was like a swarm of locusts when they'd all come with their tents and their livestock—you couldn't even count their camels! They entered the region to totally ravage it. **6** Thus Yisrael (Israel) was severely weakened by Midyan, and the Israelis cried out to Yahweh.

7 When the Israelis cried out to Yahweh concerning Midyan, **8** Yahweh sent a prophet to them and he told them, "Yisrael's god Yahweh says, 'I myself brought you all out of slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt)— **9** rescuing you from the Mitsrim (Egyptians) who were oppressing you all. I drove them out when you all entered and I've certainly given their land to you. **10** I told you all that I'm your god Yahweh and that when you live in the Amori regions, you all mustn't worship their gods. But you didn't listen to what I said.' "

11 One day Yahweh's messenger came and sat beneath the oak tree in the town of Ofrah. (The tree belonged to the Aviezri, Yoash.) Yoah's son Gid'on was beating wheat down in a wine-pressing pit to hide it from the Midyanites **12** when Yahweh's messenger appeared to him and said, "Yahweh is with you, you powerful warrior."

13 "With me, my master?" Gid'on asked. "If Yahweh is with us, then why's all of this happened to us? Where are all of the miracles that our ancestors told us about, saying, 'Didn't Yahweh bring us up out of Mitsrayim?' But now Yahweh has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midyanites."

14 Then Yahweh turned to him and said, "Use your strength to set Yisrael (Israel) free from the grasp of Midyan. Haven't I sent you to do that?"

15 "Please, my master," Gid'on replied, "how could *I* save Yisrael? Look, my clan is the weakest in Menasheh (Manasseh) and on top of that, I'm the youngest in my family."

16 "I'll help you," said Yahweh, "and you'll strike down all the Midyanites as easily as battling just one man."

17 "If indeed I've found favour in your eyes," Gid'on requested, "then show me a miracle so I'll know that it's God

32 LV 6:5 · Note OSHB variant note: **וְאֵבִי**: (x-qere) **וְיָאֵב/וּ**: lemma_c/935 morph_HC/Vqq3cp id_07XWV **וְיָאֵב/וּ**

33 LV 6:12 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

34 LV 6:12 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

35 LV 6:12 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

speaking to me. **18** Please wait here while I go and prepare my gift for you and bring it back here for you."

"Okay, I'll stay here until you get back," he said.

19 Then Gid'on went a prepared a young goat and unrisen bread. He put the meat in a basket and the soup in a pot and brought them out to the oak tree and offered them to him. **20** Then God's messenger said, "Take the meat and the flat bread and put them on this rock, then pour the soup out over it." So Gid'on did that **21** and Yahweh's messenger stretched out the staff that he was holding and touched the meat and bread with the end of it. A fire flamed up from the rock and burnt up the meat and bread, then Yahweh's messenger went out of his sight.[31]

22 When Gid'on realised that it really had been Yahweh's messenger, he was upset and said, "Oh no, my master Yahweh, what will happen now that I've seen Yahweh's face to face?" **23** But Yahweh replied to him, "Peace to you. Don't be afraid—you won't die." **24** So Gid'on built an altar there to sacrifice to Yahweh and named it 'Yahweh is peace'. (It still stands there at Ofrah of the Aviezri to this day.)

25 That same night, Yahweh told him, "Take the young bull that belongs to your father, and the second bull seven years old. Break the altar of Ba'al into pieces that belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah pole that's beside it. **26** Build a regular altar to your god Yahweh on top of this fortress, then take the second bull and offer a whole burnt offering using the Asherah pole that you cut down for firewood." **27** So Gid'on took ten of his servants and did what Yahweh had instructed him to, but he did it at night because he was afraid to do it in the daytime—fearing the anger of his father's household and the men of the city.

28 When the men of the city got up early the next morning, wow, the Ba'al's altar had been torn down, the Asherah pole that was beside it had been cut down, and the second bull had been offered on a new altar that had been built. **29** So people started asking each other, "Who did this?" After some investigation, they said, "Yoash's son Gid'on did it." **30** Then the men of the city told Yoash, "Bring your son out here to be executed, because he tore down the Ba'al's altar and cut down the Asherah pole that was beside it."

31 "Are you all really fighting Ba'al's battle for him?" Yoash replied to those standing against him. "Are you all really helping him? Anyone who fights on his behalf should be put to death while it is still the morning. If Ba'al is a god, then let him stand up for himself when someone tears down his altar." **32** So after that, he called Gid'on 'Yeruba'al' to say 'Let Ba'al defend himself,' because he had torn down Ba'al's altar.

33 Meanwhile all the Midyanite and Amaleki warriors and others from the east, assembled together. Then they crossed the Yarden (Jordan) and set up camp in the Yizre'el (Jezreel) valley. **34** But Yahweh's spirit enabled Gid'on, and he blew a trumpet and called the men of Aviezer to follow him. **35** Then he sent messengers throughout all of the regions of Menasheh (Manasseh), Asher, Zevulun, and Naftali (Naphtali), and sum-

Literal Version

Midyān not have_I_sent_you. **15** And_he/it_said to_him/it pardon_me my_master how will_I_deliver ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) HERE family_of_my is_the_weak in_ _Mənashsheh and_I am_the_insignificant in_house_of my_ _father_of_my. **16** And_he/it_said to_him/it **YHWH** if/because I_will_be with_you and_you_will_defeat ÐOM Midyān like_a_man one. **17** And_he/it_said to_him/it if please I_have_found favour in_eyes_of_your and_you_will_do to/for_ _me a_sign that_you are_speaking with_me. **18** Do_not please depart from_here until come_I to_you and_I_will_bring_out ÐOM gift_of_my and_I_will_set_it to_your_face and_he_said I I_ _will_remain until return_you. **19** And_Gid'ōn he_went and_ _he/it_made a_kid_of goats and_an_'ēyfāh_of flour_of unleavened_bread(s) the_meat he_put in_basket and_the_ _broth he_put in_pot and_he_brought_them_out to_him/it to under the_terebinth and_he_brought_them_near. **20** And_ _he/it_said to_him/it the_messenger_of the_'Elohīm take ÐOM the_meat and_ÐOM the_unleavened_bread(s) and_set_them to the_rock this and_ÐOM the_broth pour_out and_he/it_made so. **21** And_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _he_stretched_out ÐOM the_end_of the_staff which in_his/its_hand and_he_touched (in)_meat and_(in)_the_bread(s) and_ the_fire _it_went_up from the_rock and_she/it_ate ÐOM the_meat and_ÐOM the_ _unleavened_bread(s) and_the_messenger_of **YHWH** he_went from_eyes_of_his. **22** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_saw if/because_that was_the_messenger_of **YHWH** it and_ Gid'ōn _he/it_said alas my_master **YHWH** if/because therefore yes/correct/thus/so I_have_seen the_messenger_of **YHWH** face to face. **23** And_ _he/it_said to_him/it **YHWH** peace to/for_yourself(m) do_ _not be_afraid not you_will_die. **24** And_he/it_built there Gid'ōn an_altar to/for_**YHWH** and_he/it_called to_him/it **YHWH** is_peace until the_day the_this still_it is_in_'Ofrāh of_ _the_Abi- ezrite[s]. **25** And_he/it_was in_night (the)_that and_ _he/it_said to_him/it **YHWH** take ÐOM the_young_bull_of the_ox[en] which belongs_to_father_of_your and_the_young_ _bull_of the_second seven years and_you_will_tear_down ÐOM the_altar_of (the)_Ba'al which belongs_to_father_of_your and_ÐOM the_'Ashērāh_pole which on/upon/above_him/it you_will_cut_down. **26** And_you_will_build an_altar to/for_ _**YHWH** god_of_your on the_top_of the_place_of_refuge the_ _this in_row and_you_will_take ÐOM the_young_bull the_ _second and_you_will_offer_up a_burnt_offering with_the_ _wood(s)_of the_'Ashērāh_pole which you_will_cut_down. **27** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_took ten men of_servants_of_his and_ _he/it_made just_as he_had_spoken to_him/it **YHWH** and_ _he/it_was just_as he_feared ÐOM the_household_of his/its_ _father and_ÐOM the_men_of the_city from_acting by_day and_he/it_made night. **28** And_ the_men_of the_city _they_ _rose_early in_morning and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_altar_of (the)_Ba'al it_had_been_pulled_down and_the_'Ashērāh_pole which on/upon/above_him/it it_had_been_cut_down and_ _ÐOM the_young_bull the_second it_had_been_offered_up on the_altar which_had_been_built. **29** And_they_said each to his/its_neighbour who has_he_done the_thing the_this and_ _they_investigated and_they_searched and_they_said Gid'ōn the_son_of Yō'āsh/(Joash) he_has_done the_thing (the)_this. **30** And_ the_men_of the_city _they_said to Yō'āsh bring_out ÐOM son_of_your so_that_he_may_die if/because he_has_ _torn_down ÐOM the_altar_of (the)_Ba'al and_because/when he_has_cut_down the_'Ashērāh_pole which on/upon/above_

31 RV 6:21 · Note It's unclear from the text, whether he just got up and walked away, or if he vanished in a more miraculous fashion.

Literal Version

him/it. **31** And Yō'āsh _he/it_said to_all/each/any/every those_who they_stood on/upon/above_him/it you(pl) will_ _you_conduct_a_case for_Ba'al or you(pl) will_you_deliver him the_one_who he_will_conduct_a_case to_him/it he_will_ _be_put_to_death until the_morning if is_a_god he let_him_ _conduct_a_case to_him/it if/because someone_has_torn_ _down ÐOM altar_of_his. **32** And_he/it_called to_him/it on_ _day (the)_that Jerub-Ba'al to_say let_him_conduct_a_case in/on/over_him/it (the)_Ba'al if/because he_has_torn_down ÐOM altar_of_his. **33** And_all Midyān and_'Amālēq and_the_ _sons the_east they_gathered together and_they_passed_over and_they_encamped in_the_valley_of Yizrə'ēl/(Jezreel). **34** And_spirit of_**YHWH** it_clothed ÐOM Gid'ōn and_he_gave_ _a_blast on_horn and_it_was_called_together[363738] 'Avī'ezer after_him. **35** And_messengers he_sent in_all Mənashsheh and_it_was_called_together[394041] also it after_him and_ _messengers he_sent in_'Āshēr and_in_Zəvulun and_in_ _Naftālī and_they_went_up to_meet_them. **36** And_ Gid'ōn _ _he/it_said to the_'Elohīm if (there)_you will_be_delivering by_hand_of_my ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) just_as you_have_spoken. **37** HERE I am_placing ÐOM the_fleece_of (the)_wool on_floor if dew it_will_be on the_fleece it_alone and_will_be_on all_of the_earth/land dryness and_I_will_know if/because_that you_will_deliver by_hand_of_my ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) just_as you_have_spoken. **38** And_he/it_was so and_he_rose_early from_the_next_day and_he_squeezed_out ÐOM the_fleece and_he_drained dew from the_fleece the_fullness_of the_ _bowl water. **39** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_said to the_'Elohīm not anger_of_your let_it_burn on_me and_let_me_speak only this_time let_me_put_to_the_test please only the_time//this_ _time by_fleece let_it_be please dryness to the_fleece it_alone and_on all_of the_earth/land let_it_be dew. **40** And_ god _ _he/it_made so in_night (the)_that and_he/it_was dryness to the_fleece it_alone and_on all_of the_earth/land it_was dew.

7:1 And_ Jerub-Ba'al that is_Gid'ōn and_all the_people which with_him/it _he_rose_early and_they_encamped at En Harod and_the_camp_of Midyān it_was to_him/it from_the_north from_the_hill_of (the)_Mōreh in_valley. **2** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_ _said to Gid'ōn is_too_numerous the_people which is_with_ _you for_giving_my ÐOM Midyān in_hand_of_their lest it_ _should_glorify_itself over_me Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_say hand_ _of_my_own it_has_delivered to/for_me. **3** And_now proclaim please in_the_ears_of the_people to_say who is_fearful and_ _trembling let_him_go_back and_let_him_go from_hill of_ _(the)_Gil'ād and_it_returned of the_people twenty and_two thousand and_ten_of thousand(s) they_remained. **4** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_said to Gid'ōn still the_people is_numerous bring_down them to the_waters so_that_I_may_test_it to/for_ _yourself(m) there and_it_was the_one_whom I_will_say to_ _you this_one he_will_go with_you he he_will_go with_you and_all/each/any/every one_whom I_will_say to_you this_ _one not he_will_go with_you he not he_will_go. **5** And_he_ _brought_down ÐOM the_people to the_waters and_ **YHWH** _

Readers' Version

moned their warriors to come and join with them.

36 Then Gid'on said to God, "If it's really you rescuing Yisrael (Israel) through me like you said, **37** I'll put this woollen fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If there's dew on the fleece in the morning, but it's dry around it, then I'll know that you'll rescue Yisrael through me just as you said." **38** And that's what happened—he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece and wrung out a bowl full of water from the dew.
39 Then Gid'on said to God, "Don't be angry with me, but can I ask one more thing. Let me put the fleece out this time, and let the fleece be dry, but wet all around it with dew." **40** So God did it that night, and the next morning only the fleece was dry, but everywhere around was covered with dew.

Gid'on defeats the Midyanites

7:1 Then Gid'on (also known as Yeruba'al) and the warriors with him got up early and went to Harod spring. The Midyanite camp was north of them in the valley below the Moreh hill.

2 Then Yahweh told Gid'on, "You've got too many warriors with you for me to give victory over the Midyanites, because what if Yisrael (Israel) takes the glory for themselves thinking that their own strength saved them. **3** So tell the men that anyone who's afraid or trembling can leave Mt. Gilead and go back home."[42] Twenty-two thousand of them went back, leaving only ten thousand.

4 "That's still too many," Yahweh told Gid'on. "Bring them down to the spring and I'll short-list them there. Anyone I tell you to go with you, can do so, but anyone that I say won't go with you, won't go." **5** So he took them down to the water and Yahweh told him, "Separate out those who lap up the water with their tongues like a dog would, along with those who

36 LV 6:34 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
37 LV 6:34 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.
38 LV 6:34 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.
39 LV 6:35 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
40 LV 6:35 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.
41 LV 6:35 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.
42 RV 7:3 · Cross-ref. Deu 20:8.

Readers' Version

kneel down to drink." **6** It turned out that only three hundred men used their hands to bring water to their mouths, and all the rest knelt down to drink the water. **7** "I'll rescue you all from Midyan with the three hundred men who lapped the water from their hands," Yahweh told Gid'on. "Let all the others go back to their homes." **8** Then the three-hundred warriors collected the food and ram's horns from the others before Gid'on sent the others back to their own homes.

The Midyan camp was below them down in the valley **9** and during the night Yahweh told Gid'on, "Get ready and lead them down into the camp, because I have made you victorious. **10** But if you're afraid to attack, take your servant Purah down to their camp **11** and you'll hear what they're saying, then you'll have the courage to go down and attack the camp." So Gid'on and his servant Purah went quietly down to the unit at the edge of the camp.

12 The Midyanites and Amalekim and others from the east covered the valley like a swarm of locusts. Even their camels were as numerous as sand grains on the beach. **13** When Gid'on got close, a man was telling his companion about his dream. "Listen," he said, "I had a dream and wow, a round loaf of barley bread was tumbling into our camp. It came as far as the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, and collapsed completely."

14 "That could only be the sword of Yoash's son Gid'on from Yisrael (Israel)," the other man replied. "The true God has caused Midyan and all of the camp to be defeated by him."

15 When Gid'on heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he thanked God, then they returned to their camp and commanded, "Get ready to go because Yahweh has given you all victory over the Midyanite camp." **16** Then he divided the three hundred men into three units, and gave each of them rams' horns and clay jars with burning torches inside them, **17** and instructed them, "Watch me and do what I do. See, when I get to the edge of their camp, do the same as me. **18** When I blow the ram's horn trumpet, all of you with horns should blow them and everyone will shout, 'For Yahweh and for Gid'on!' "

19 When Gid'on and the hundred men with him got to the edge of the camp, it was the beginning of the middle night-watch and the fresh guards had just gotten into their places. Gid'on and his unit blew their trumpets and smashed the jars that they were carrying. **20** Then all three units blew the trumpets and smashed their jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands, and they shouted out, "A sword for Yahweh and for Gid'on." **21** Then everyone stood in their place around the camp, but the Midyanite army cried out in alarm and took off. **22** When the three hundred ram's horns sounded, Yahweh caused the Midyanite army to start fighting each other with their swords, and the army fled as far as Beyt-Hashitah (towards Tsererah) and towards the border of Avel-Meholah (towards Tabat).

23 Then the warriors from Naftali (Naphtali), Asher, and from all of Menasheh (Manasseh) were summoned to help with pur-

Literal Version

_he/it_said to Gid'ōn every one_who he_will_lap_up with_ _tongue_of_his some_of the_waters just_as the_dog it_laps_up you_will_set him alone_one_side and_all/each/any/every one_who he_will_bow_down on knees_of_his to_drink. **6** And_ _he/it_was the_number_of those_who_lapped with_hand_of_ _their to mouth_of_their three hundred(s) man and_ _all/each/any/every the_remainder_of the_people they_ _bowed_down on knees_of_their to_drink water. **7** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_said to Gid'ōn by_three hundred(s) the_man who_lapped I_will_deliver you(pl) and_I_will_give ĐOM Midyān in_hand_of_your and_all the_people let_them_go each to_his_own_of_place. **8** And_ the_people _they_took ĐOM provision[s] in_hand_of_their and_ĐOM trumpets_of_their and_ĐOM every_of (the)_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_sent_away each to_tents_of_his and_on_three hundred(s) the_man he_ _kept_hold and_the_camp_of Midyān it_was to_him/it from_ _under in_valley. **9** And_he/it_was in_night (the)_that and_ _he/it_said to_him/it **YHWH** arise go_down in_camp if/because I_have_given_it in_hand_of_your. **10** And_if are_ _afraid you to_go_down you and_Purāh servant_of_your go_ _down to the_camp. **11** And_you_will_hear what will_they_ _speak and_after hands_of_your they_will_be_strong and_ _you_will_go_down in_camp and_ he and_Purāh servant_of_ _his _he/it_descended to the_edge_of those_arrayed_for_ _battle who were_in_camp. **12** And_Midyān and_ʿAmālēq and_ _all the_people_of the_east were_lying in_valley like_locust[s] to_increase_in_number and_to_camels_of_their there_was_ _not number like_sand which_is_on the_shore_of the_sea to_ _increase_in_number. **13** And_ Gid'ōn _he_came and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE a_man was_recounting to_neighbour_of_ _his a_dream and_he/it_said HERE a_dream I_have_dreamed and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE a_round_loaf_of[43] of_bread_of barley(s) was_tumbling in_the_camp_of Midyān and_it_came to the_ _tent and_it_struck_it and_it_fell and_it_overturned_it (to)_ _upwards_on and_ the_tent _it_fell. **14** And_ his/its_ _neighbour _he_answered and_he/it_said is_not this except (if) the_sword_of Gid'ōn the_son_of Yō'āsh/(Joash) the_man_ _of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) the_'Elohīm he_has_given in_his/its_hand ĐOM Midyān and_ĐOM all_of the_army. **15** And_he/it_was just_ Gid'ōn _as_heard ĐOM the_recounting_of the_dream and_ĐOM interpretation_of_its and_he_bowed_down and_he_returned to the_camp_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he/it_said arise if/because **YHWH** he_has_given in_hand_of_your(pl) ĐOM the_camp_of Midyān. **16** And_he_divided ĐOM three hundred(s) the_man three companies and_he/it_gave trumpets in_the_hand_of all_of_them_of_their and_jars empty and_torches in_the_middle of_the_jars. **17** And_he/it_ _said to_them from_me you(pl)_will_see and_thus/so/as_ _follows you(pl)_will_do and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE I will_be_ _coming in_the_edge_of the_camp and_it_was just_as I_will_ _do so you(pl)_will_do. **18** And_I_will_give_a_blast on_ _trumpet I and_all those_who are_with_me and_you(pl)_will_ _give_a_blast on_trumpets also you(pl) all_around_of all_of the_camp and_you(pl)_will_say to/for_**YHWH** and_for_ _Gid'ōn. **19** And_ Gid'ōn and_one_hundred man who with_ _him/it _he_went in_the_edge_of the_camp the_beginning_of the_watch (the)_middle just just_(station) they_had_ _stationed ĐOM the_watchmen and_they_gave_a_blast on_ _trumpets and_they_smashed the_jars which were_in_hand_ _of_their. **20** And_ the_three_of the_companies _they_gave_a_

43 LV 7:13 · Note OSHB variant note: לוּלֵצ: (x-qere) לֵילֵצ': lemma_6742 n_0.1.1.0 morph_HNcmsc id_07vwy לֵילֵצ

Literal Version

_blast on_trumpets and_they_broke the_jars and_they_took_ _hold in_the_hand_of their_left_of_their[44] on_torches and_ _in_the_hand_of their_right_side_of_their the_trumpets to_ _give_a_blast and_they_called_out a_sword to/for_**YHWH** and_for_Gid'ōn. **21** And_they_stood everyone in_his_place round_about (to)_camp and_ all_of the_army _it_ran and_ _they_shouted_in_distress and[45]. **22** And_they_gave_a_blast the_three (the)_hundred(s) the_trumpets and_ **YHWH** _he/it_ _assigned ḌǪM the_sword_of each on_neighbour_of_his and_ _on/over_all the_army and_ the_army _it_fled to Bēyt Shittah towards_Tsərērāh/(Zererah) to the_border_of Abel at Ṭabat. **23** And_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_was_summoned from_Naftālī and_from 'Āshēr and_from all_of Mənashsheh and_they_pursued after Midyān. **24** And_messengers Gid'ōn he_sent in_all the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim to_say come_ _down to_meet Midyān and_capture to/for_them ḌǪM the_ _waters to Bēyt Barah and_ḌǪM the_Yardēn/(Jordan) and_ every_of (the)_man_of 'Efrayim _he_was_summoned and_ _they_captured ḌǪM the_waters to Bēyt Barah and_ḌǪM the_ _Yardēn. **25** And_they_captured the_two_of the_ _commanders_of Midyān ḌǪM ʻOrēv and_ḌǪM Zə'ēv and_ _they_killed ḌǪM ʻOrēv at_the_rock_of ʻOrēv and_ḌǪM Zə'ēv they_killed at_winepress_of Zə'ēv and_they_pursued (to) Midyān and_the_head_of ʻOrēv and_Zə'ēv they_brought to Gid'ōn from_the_other_side of_Yardēn.

8:1 And_they_said to_him/it the_man_of 'Efrayim what is_ _the_thing the_this which_you_have_done to/for_ourselves to_not to_summon to/for_us if/because you_went to_fight against_Midyān and_they_quarrelled with_him/it with_force. **2** And_he/it_said to_them what have_I_done now like_you(pl) am_not good are_the_gleanings_of 'Efrayim more_than_the_ _grape_harvest_of 'Avī'ezer. **3** In_hand_of_your(pl) god he_ _has_given ḌǪM the_commanders_of Midyān ḌǪM ʻOrēv and_ _ḌǪM Zə'ēv and_what have_I_been_able to_do like_you(pl) then spirit_of_their it_relaxed from_on_him when_said_he the_message (the)_this. **4** And_ Gid'ōn _he_came to_the_ _Yardēn he and_three hundred(s) the_man who with_him/it was_passing_over exhausted and_pursuing. **5** And_he/it_said to_the_people_of Ṣukkōt give please round_loaves_of bread to_people which is_at_feet_of_my if/because are_exhausted they and_I am_pursuing after Zevaḥ and_ _Tsalmunnā'/(Zalmunna) the_kings_of Midyān. **6** And_ the_ _officials_of Ṣukkōt _he/it_said is_the_palm_of Zevaḥ and_ _Tsalmunnā' now in_hand_of_your that/for/because/then/when we_will_give to_army_of_your bread. **7** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_said for_so/thus/hence when_ **YHWH** _gives ḌǪM Zevaḥ and_ḌǪM Tsalmunnā' in_hand_of_ _my and_I_will_thresh ḌǪM flesh_of_your(pl) with (the)_ _thorns_of the_wilderness and_ḌǪM (the)_briers. **8** And_ _he/it_ascended from_there Pənū'ēl and_he/it_spoke to_them like_this and_ the_men_of Pənū'ēl _they_answered him just_as the_men_of Ṣukkōt they_had_answered. **9** And_he/it_said also to_the_men_of Pənū'ēl to_say when_return_I in_peace I_ _will_tear_down ḌǪM the_tower (the)_this. **10** And_Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnā' were_in_Qarqor and_armies_of_their were_ _with_them about_fif-_of teen thousand all_of those_who_ _remained from_all the_army_of the_people_of the_east and_ _those_who_fell were_one_hundred and_twenty thousand

Readers' Version

suing the Midyanites. **24** Gid'on also sent messengers through Efrayim's (Ephraim's) hill country to tell them, "Go down to the Yarden (Jordan) river opposite Midyan and take control of the crossings to capture them between as far as Beyt-Barah." So all the men of Efrayim were summoned and they commandeered the Yarden crossings as far as Beyt-Barah. **25** They chased after the Midyanites and captured their two princes, Orev and Ze'ev. They killed Orev at the rock now called 'Orev's rock', and they killed Ze'ev in a wine-pressing pit now called 'Ze'ev's wine-press', and they brought their heads back across the Yarden to Gid'on.

The final defeat of the Midyanites

8:1 But then the Efrati men challenged Gid'on, "Why have you side-tracked us? Why didn't you call us when you went to battle against the Midyanites?" And they severely rebuked him.

2 "What have I achieved compared to you guys?" answered Gid'on. "Aren't the seconds of Efrayim's (Ephraim's) grapes better than the whole grape harvest of Aviezer? **3** God helped you all defeat Orev and Ze'ev, the princes of Midyan.[46] What did I do compared to that?" After he said that, they all calmed down again.

4 Then Gid'on and his three hundred warriors crossed the Yarden (Jordan) going east. They were all exhausted, but continued the pursuit. **5** When they arrived at the town of Sukot, Gid'on asked the leaders, "Please give my men some bread to eat because they're exhausted, but we're chasing Zevah and Tsalmuna, the Midyanite kings."

6 However, the Sukot officials asked cautiously, "Do you already have Zevah and Tsalmuna in your grasp that we should give food to *your* army?"

7 "Let me assure you all," Gid'on responded, "that when Yahweh has helped us capture Zevah and Tsalmuna, I will rip off your flesh with the wilderness thorns and briers."

8 From there they climbed up to Penuel, and he asked them for food in a similar manner, and the leaders there responded similarly to the leaders of Sukot. **9** So he said to the men of Penuel as well, "When I return safely, I'll tear down this tower."

10 Now Zevah and Tsalmuna were in Karkor with around fifteen thousand warriors—all that remained out of all of that al-

44 LV 7:20 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

45 LV 7:21 · Note OSHB variant note: וסיני/ו: (x-qere) וסנָיָ/ו: lemma_c/5127 n_0 morph_HC/Vqw3mp id_07f82 וסנָיָ/ו

46 RV 8:3-5 · Cross-ref. Psa 83:11.

Readers' Version

lied Midyanite camp of eastern people, because one hundred and twenty thousand of their warriors had already been killed.
11 Gid'on approached them unexpectedly via the caravan route east of Novah and Yagebehah, and struck their camp when they were feeling secure. **12** Zevah and Tsalmuna fled, but they chased after those two Midyanite kings and captured them, thus defeating their entire army.

13 The Gid'on (Yoash's son) and his warriors returned from battle, going through the Heres pass. **14** He captured a young man from Sukot and questioned him—writing down the names of the seventy-seven leaders and elders of Sukot.
15 Then he returned to Sukot and told them, "Look here at Zevah and Tsalmuna—the ones you taunted me about when you asked, 'Do you already have Zevah and Tsalmuna in your grasp that we should give food to your weary men.' " **16** He took the city elders and had them punished with wilderness thorns and briers to teach them a lesson, **17** then they went to Penuel and tore down the tower and executed the city leaders.

18 Then Gid'on asked Zevah and Tsalmuna, "What were the men like that you killed at Tavor?"

"They were just like you," they replied. "They seemed like they could have been a king's sons."

19 "They were my brothers—the sons of my mother," he said. "As Yahweh lives, if only you had let them live, I wouldn't have killed you." **20** Then he ordered Yeter, his oldest son, "Go and kill them." But Yeter didn't pull out his sword because he was afraid—he was still a youth.

21 Then Zevah and Tsalmuna said, "Come and kill us yourself—be a man and use your own strength." So Gid'on went over and killed Zevah and Tsalmuna, and then he took the crescent-shaped ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

22 Then a group of Israeli men said to Gid'on, "We want you and your sons and your future descendants to rule over us, because you have saved us from the Midyanites."

23 But Gid'on answered, "No, I won't rule over you myself, nor will my son rule over you. Yahweh will rule over you."
24 However, he continued, "Let me ask you all for something: that each man give me the earrings from his spoil." (The enemies had gold earrings because they were Yishmaelim (Ishmaelites).)

25 "We can certainly do that for you," they replied. So they spread out a garment and each man threw the earrings from his spoil onto it. **26** Now the weight of the gold earrings of gold came to twenty kilograms, and then there were the crescent-shaped ornaments, the pendants, the dyed purple garments that the Midyanite kings had been wearing, as well as the collars that had been around their camels' necks. **27** Then Gid'on made the gold into an idol[47] and placed it in his home city of Ofrah, and the Israelis prostituted themselves to it there, and so it became like a trap for Gid'on and his household.

Literal Version

man who_drew the_sword. **11** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_ascended the_direction_of those_who_dwell_of in_tents from_east of_ _Novʿaḥ and_Yogbəhāh/(Jogbehah) and_he_attacked ~~ḎOM~~ the_ _army and_the_army it_was security. **12** And_ Zevʿaḥ and_ _Tsalmunnāʿ/(Zalmunna) _they_fled and_he_pursued after_ _them and_he_captured ~~ḎOM~~ the_two_of the_kings_of Midyān ~~ḎOM~~ Zevʿaḥ and_~~ḎOM~~ Tsalmunnāʿ and_all the_army he_routed. **13** And_ Gid'ōn the_son_of Yō'āsh/(Joash) _he_returned from the_battle from_to_the_ascent_of (the)_Heres. **14** And_he_ _captured a_young_man one_of_the_men_of Ṣukkōt and_he_ _enquired_of_him and_he_wrote_down to_him/it ~~ḎOM~~ the_ _officials_of Ṣukkōt and_~~ḎOM~~ its_of_elders seventy and_seven man. **15** And_he_came to the_men_of Ṣukkōt and_he/it_said HERE Zevʿaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʿ whom you(pl)_taunted me to_ _say is_the_palm_of Zevʿaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʿ now in_hand_of_ _your that/for/because/then/when we_will_give to_men_of_ _your (the)_weary bread. **16** And_he/it_took ~~ḎOM~~ the_elders_ _of the_city and_~~ḎOM~~ the_thorns_of the_wilderness and_~~ḎOM~~ the_briers and_he_taught (is)_in_them ~~ḎOM~~ the_men_of Ṣukkōt. **17** And_~~ḎOM~~ the_tower_of Pənū'ēl he_tore_down and_ _he_killed ~~ḎOM~~ the_men_of the_city. **18** And_he/it_said to Zevʿaḥ and_near/to Tsalmunnāʿ where are_the_men whom you(pl)_killed at_Tāvōr and_they_said[484950] like_you like_ _them one was_like_the_appearance_of the_sons_of the_king. **19** And_he_said brothers_of_were_my the_sons_of my_ _mother_of_my they by_the_life of_**YHWH** if you(pl)_had_let_ _live them not I_killed you(pl). **20** And_he/it_said to_ _Yeter/(Jether) firstborn_of_his arise kill them and_not the_ _young_man he_drew sword_of_his if/because he_was_afraid if/because still_he was_a_young_man. **21** And_ Zevʿaḥ and_ _Tsalmunnāʿ/(Zalmunna) _he/it_said you arise and_fall on_us if/because is_like_man strength_of_his and_ Gid'ōn _he/it_ _rose_up and_he_killed ~~ḎOM~~ Zevʿaḥ and_~~ḎOM~~ Tsalmunnāʿ and_ _he/it_took ~~ḎOM~~ the_ornaments which were_on_the_necks_of their_camels_of_their. **22** And_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _ _they_said to Gid'ōn rule over_us both you as_well_as son_of_ _your as_well_as the_son_of your_son_of_your if/because you_have_delivered_us from_the_hand_of Midyān. **23** And_ _he/it_said to_them Gid'ōn not I I_will_rule over_you(pl) and_ _not son_of_my he_will_rule over_you(pl) **YHWH** he_will_rule over_you(pl). **24** And_he/it_said to_them Gid'ōn let_me_ask from_you(pl) a_petition and_give to_me everyone (the)_ _earring_of his_plunder_of_his if/because earrings_of gold to/for_them if/because were_Yishmāʿēlī they. **25** And_they_ _said indeed_(give) we_will_give_them and_they_spread_out ~~ḎOM~~ the_garment and_they_threw to_(to) everyone (the)_ _earring_of his_plunder_of_his. **26** And_he/it_was the_ _weight_of the_earrings_of the_gold which he_asked_for one_ _thousand and_seven hundred(s) gold apart_apart from the_ _ornaments and_the_pendants and_the_garments_of (the)_ _purple which_were_on the_kings_of Midyān and_apart from the_necklaces which were_on_the_necks_of their_camels_of_ _their. **27** And_ Gid'ōn _he/it_made it into_an_ephod and_he_ _placed it in_city_of_his in_ʿOfrāh and_ all_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_acted_as_prostitutes after_it there and_he/it_was for_ _Gid'ōn and_for_household_of_his (into)_a_snare. **28** And_

47 **RV 8:27 · Note** We don't really know what 'efod' means in this context. (It was also used to refer to priestly clothing.)

48 **LV 8:18 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

49 **LV 8:18 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

50 **LV 8:18 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

Midyān _it_was_subdued to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_not they_repeated to_lift_ _up head_of_their and_ the_earth/land _it_was_at_peace forty year[s] in_the_days_of Gid'ōn.

29 And_ Jerub-Ba'al the_son_of Yō'āsh/(Joash) _he/it_went and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_his_own_of_house. **30** And_to_Gid'ōn seventy sons who_came_out_of his_thigh_ _of_his they_belonged if/because wives many they_belonged to_him/it. **31** And_concubine_of_his who was_in_Shəkem she_bore for_him/it also she a_son and_he/it_assigned ~~ĐØM~~ his/its_name 'Avīmelek. **32** And_ Gid'ōn the_son_of Yō'āsh _ _he/it_died in_old_age good and_he_was_buried in_the_ _tomb_of Yō'āsh his/its_father in_'Ofrāh of_the_Abi- ezrite[s]. **33** And_he/it_was when_just_as Gid'ōn he_had_died and_ the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_turned_back and_they_ _acted_as_prostitutes after the_Ba'al and_they_made to/for_ _them Ba'al- Berith into_god. **34** And_not the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_remembered ~~ĐØM~~ **YHWH** god_of_their who_had_delivered them from_the_hand of_all_of enemies_ _of_their from_round_about. **35** And_not they_did loyalty with the_house_of Jerub-Ba'al Gid'ōn according_to_all_of the_ _good which he_had_done with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel).

9:1 And_ 'Avīmelek the_son_of Jerub-Ba'al _he/it_went to_ _Shəkem to the_brothers_of his/its_mother and_he/it_spoke to_them and_near/to all_of the_clan_of the_house_of the_ _father_of his/its_mother to_say. **2** Speak please in_the_ears_ _of all_of the_citizens_of Shəkem what is_good to/for_you(pl) to_rule over_you(pl) seventy man all_of the_sons_of Jerub-Ba'al or to_rule over_you(pl) a_man one and_you(pl)_ _will_remember if/because_that bone_of_am_your(pl)[52535455] and_flesh_of_your(pl) I.[56] **3** And_ the_brothers_of his/its_ _mother _they_spoke on/upon/above_him/it in_the_ears_of all_of the_citizens_of Shəkem ~~ĐØM~~ all_of the_words/messages the_these and_ heart_of_their _it_turned_aside after 'Avīmelek if/because they_said brother_of_is_our he. **4** And_ _they_gave to_him/it seventy silver from_the_house_of[575859] of_Ba'al-[606162] Berith and_he_hired (is)_in_them 'Avīmelek men worthless and_undisciplined and_they_went after_him. **5** And_he_went the_house_of his/its_father to_'Ofrāh and_he_ _killed ~~ĐØM~~ brothers_of_his the_sons_of Jerub-Ba'al seventy[636465] man on stone one and_ Yōtām/(Jotham) the_ _son_of Jerub-Ba'al the_small(sg) _he_was_left if/because he_ _hid_himself. **6** And_ all_of the_citizens_of Shəkem and_all Bēyt Millō' _they_gathered and_they_went and_they_made_

Readers' Version

28 So Midyan was kept under control by the Israelis and they didn't continue to oppress the people, and there was peace in the region for forty years during Gid'on's time.

The death of Gid'on

29 Then Gid'on (Yoash's son, also known as Yeruba'al) went back and lived in his house, **30** and he fathered seventy sons because he had many wives. **31** He also had a mistress in Shekem—she also bore him a son that he named Avimelek. **32** Gid'on died at a good old age and was buried in the tomb of Yoash his father, at Ofrah of the Abiezerites.

33 However after Gid'on had died, the Israelis turned away again from Yahweh and prostituted themselves to the Baals—making Ba'al-Berit for themselves as a god. **34** They forgot about their god Yahweh—the one who had rescued them from the clutch of all of their enemies all around. **35** They didn't show lasting loyalty to Gid'on's family, despite all the good that he'd done within Yisrael (Israel).

Avimelek snatches the kingship

9:1 Now Gid'on's son Avimelek went to Shekem to his mother's brothers and spoke to those uncles and to all the extended family of his mother's father, saying, **2** "Please ask around all the citizens of Shekem: 'What is better for you: Gid'on's seventy sons ruling over you, or having a single man in charge?' Remember that I'm your flesh and bone." **3** So his uncles working on his behalf, passed that onto all the citizens of Shekem, and they became convinced in Avimelek, because they said, "He's our brother." **4** Then they gave him seventy silver coins from the temple of Ba'al-Berit, and Avimelek used them to entice some rough lay-abouts to work for him. **5** Then they went to his father's house at Ofrah, and he killed his seventy half-brothers (Gid'on's sons) there on one stone. But Gid'on's youngest son Yotam (Jotham) survived because he had hidden from them. **6** Then all of the prominent citizens of Shekem and all of Beyt-Milo assembled themselves, and they went and installed Avimelek as king beside an oak tree near the standing pillar[51] that was in Shekem.

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51 RV 9:6 · Note Likely connected with idol worship.

52 LV 9:2 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

53 LV 9:2 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

54 LV 9:2 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

55 LV 9:2 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

56 LV 9:2 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

57 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

58 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

59 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

60 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

61 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

62 LV 9:4 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

63 LV 9:5 · Note OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

64 LV 9:5 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

65 LV 9:5 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

Yotam's tree parable

7 When they told Yotam (Jotham), he went and stood on the top of Mt. Gerizim and shouted out to them all in a loud voice, "Listen to me, citizens of Shekem, so God will listen to all of you. 8 Once the trees went about in order to appoint a king for themselves, So they said to the *olive tree*, 'Reign over us.' 9 But the olive tree replied to them, 'Have I stopped producing my valuable oil used to honour gods and men, that I should go to sway above the other trees?' 10 So the trees said to the *fig tree*, 'You come and reign over us.' 11 But the fig tree answered them, 'Have I stopped producing my sweetness and my good fruit, that I should go to sway above the other trees?' 12 Then the trees said to the grapevine, 'You come and reign over us.' 13 But the vine replied, 'Have I stopped producing my new wine, which cheers gods and man, that I should go to sway over the other trees?' 14 Then all the trees said to the thornbush, '*You* come and reign over us!' 15 The thornbush told the trees, 'If you all are really wanted to anoint me as king over you, come and take refuge in *my* shade. But if you all don't, may the thornbush send out fire to burn up Levanon's cedar forests.'

16 "Therefore did you all act with honesty and integrity when you installed Avimelek as king? Did you all treat Gid'on's family well, and did you all repay him appropriately for what he did for you all? 17 My father fought on your behalf, and even risked his life out front when he rescued you all from the Midyanites, 18 but today you've all risen up against my father's family and killed his sons—seventy men on one stone. Then you've installed Avimelek, the son of his female servant, as king over the citizens of Shekem because he's your brother. 19 Now if you've all acted with honesty and integrity with towards Gid'on and his family today, be happy with Avimelek, and he'll also be happy with all of you, 20 but if not, then fire will come out of Avimelek and destroy the citizens of Shekem and Beyt-Milo. Fire will also come out from the Shekem's citizens and from Beyt-Milo, and it'll destroy Avimelek." 21 Then Yotam (Jotham) fled away and escaped and went to Be'er and settled there away from the presence of his half-brother Avimelek.

22 Avimelek ruled over Yisrael (Israel) for three years, 23 then God sent an evil spirit between him and the citizens of Shekem, so the citizens there dealt treacherously with Avimelek. 24 The violent treatment of Gid'on's seventy sons kept getting brought up, and by it was all blamed on their brother Avimelek who had killed them, and on those of Shekem's citizens who assisted him in the killing of his brothers. 25 So the Shekem citizens placed men in ambush along the tops of the hills to get him, but they robbed everyone who went passed them along the road, and so it was reported to Avimelek.

26 Then Ga'al (Eved's son) came along with his brothers and

Literal Version

_king ĐƟM 'Avīmelek to_king near the_great_tree_of which_ _had_been_set_up which was_in_Shəkem.

7 And_people_told to_Yōtām and_he/it_went and_he_stood on_the_top_of the_mountain_of Gərizīm and_he_lifted_up voice_of_his and_he/it_called and_he/it_said to/for_them listen to_me Oh_citizens_of Shəkem so_that_he_may_listen to_you(pl) god. 8 Indeed_(go) the_trees they_went to_anoint over_them a_king and_they_said to_tree mmm[67] over_us. 9 And_he/it_said to/for_them the_olive_tree will_I_cease ĐƟM fatness_of_my which by_me people_honour gods and_men and_will_I_go to_sway over the_trees. 10 And_ the_trees _ _they_said to_tree you come reign over_us. 11 And_she/it_ _said to/for_them the_fig_tree will_I_cease ĐƟM sweetness_ _of_my and_ĐƟM fruit_of_my (the)_good and_will_I_go to_ _sway over the_trees. 12 And_ the_trees _they_said to_vine you come reign[68] over_us. 13 And_she/it_said to/for_them the_vine will_I_cease ĐƟM wine_of_my_new which_makes_ _glad gods and_men and_will_I_go to_sway over the_trees. 14 And_ all_of the_trees _they_said to the_thorn_bush you come reign over_us. 15 And_ the_thorn_bush _he/it_said to the_trees if in_truth you(pl) are_anointing ĐƟM_me to_king over_you(pl) come take_refuge in_shade_of_my and_if not a_ _fire let_it_go_out from the_thorn_bush and_let_it_consume ĐƟM the_cedars_of (the)_Ləvānōn. 16 And_now if in_ _faithfulness and_in_integrity you(pl)_have_acted and_ _you(pl)_have_made_king ĐƟM 'Avīmelek and_if good you(pl)_have_done with Jerub-Ba'al and_with house_of_his and_if according_to_the_dealing_of his_hands_of_his you(pl)_ _have_done to_him/it. 17 That father_of_my he_fought on_ _you(pl) and_he_threw ĐƟM life_of_his from_in_front and_he_ _delivered you(pl) from_the_hand_of Midyān. 18 And_you(pl) you(pl)_have_risen_up on the_house_of my_father_of_my the_day and_you(pl)_have_killed ĐƟM sons_of_his seventy man on stone one and_you(pl)_have_made_king ĐƟM 'Avīmelek the_son_of his_female_slave_of_his over the_ _citizens_of Shəkem if/because brother_of_is_your(pl) he. 19 And_if in_faithfulness and_in_integrity you(pl)_have_acted with Jerub-Ba'al and_with house_of_his the_day the_this rejoice in_'Avīmelek and_ also he _let_him_rejoice in_you(pl). 20 And_if not a_fire let_it_go_out from_'Avīmelek and_let_it_ _consume ĐƟM the_citizens_of Shəkem and_ĐƟM Bēyt Millō' and_ a_fire _let_it_go_out from_the_citizens_of Shəkem and_ _from_household millo and_let_it_consume ĐƟM 'Avīmelek. 21 And_ Yōtām/(Jotham) _he_fled and_he_ran_away and_ _he/it_went to_Bə'ēr and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived there from_face/in_front_of 'Avīmelek his/its_brother. 22 And_ 'Avīmelek _he_ruled over Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) three years. 23 And_ god _he_sent a_spirit evil between 'Avīmelek and_between the_citizens_of Shəkem and_ the_citizens_of Shəkem _they_dealt_treacherously with_'Avīmelek. 24 To_ the_violence_of seventy the_sons_of Jerub-Ba'al _come and_ _blood_of_their to_put on 'Avīmelek brother_of_their who he_killed them and_on the_citizens_of Shəkem who they_ _strengthened ĐƟM hands_of_his to_kill ĐƟM brothers_of_his. 25 And_they_set to_him/it the_citizens_of Shəkem ambushers on the_tops_of the_mountains and_they_robbed ĐƟM every_of one_who he_passed_by on_them on_road and_ _it_was_told to_'Avīmelek. 26 And_ Ga'al the_son_of 'Eved

67 **LV 9:8 · Note** OSHB variant note: הכולמ/: (x-qere) הֻכְלָמּ': lemma_4427 a morph_HVqv2ms/Sh id_07UZY הֻכְלָמּ

68 **LV 9:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: יכולמ/: (x-qere) יְכֻלָמּ': lemma_4427 a morph_HVqv2fs id_07Euf יְכֻלָמּ

Literal Version

and_brothers_of_his _he_came and_they_passed_on in_
_Shəkem and_they_trusted in_him/it the_citizens_of Shəkem.
27 And_they_went_out the_field and_they_gathered_grapes
ÐOM vineyards_of_their and_they_trod_them and_they_made
rejoicings and_they_came the_house_of their_god_of_their
and_they_ate and_they_drank and_they_cursed ÐOM
'Avīmelek. **28** And_he/it_said Ga'al the_son_of 'Evˇed who is_
_'Avīmelek and_who is_Shəkem
that/for/because/then/when we_will_serve_him not is_he_
_the_son_of Jerub-Ba'al and_is_Zəvˇul deputy_of_his serve
ÐOM the_men_of Ḥ$_a$mōr the_father_of Shəkem and_why will_
_we_serve_him we. **29** And_who will_he_give ÐOM the_people
the_this in_hand_of_my and_I_will_remove ÐOM 'Avīmelek
and_he/it_said of_'Avīmelek make_numerous army_of_your
and_come_out. **30** And_ Zəvˇul the_official_of the_city _he/it_
_listened ÐOM the_words/messages_of Ga'al the_son_of 'Evˇed
and_ anger_of_his _it_glowed/burnt. **31** And_he_sent
messengers to 'Avīmelek in_treachery to_say HERE Ga'al the_
_son_of 'Evˇed and_brothers_of_his are_coming to_Shəkem
and_HERE_they are_shutting_up ÐOM the_city on_you.
32 And_now arise night you and_the_people which is_with_
_you and_lie_in_wait in_field. **33** And_it_was in_morning just_
the_sun _as_rises you_will_rise_early and_you_will_make_a_
_raid on the_city and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE he and_the_people
which with_him/it are_going_out against_you and_you_will_
_do for_him/it just_as hand_of_your it_will_find. **34** And_
'Avīmelek and_all the_people which with_him/it _he/it_
_rose_up night and_they_lay_in_wait on Shəkem four
companies. **35** And_ Ga'al the_son_of 'Evˇed _he/it_went_out
and_he_stood the_entrance_of the_gate_of the_city and_
'Avīmelek and_the_people which with_him/it _he/it_rose_up
from the_ambush. **36** And_ Ga'al _he/it_saw ÐOM the_people
and_he/it_said to Zəvˇul THERE a_people is_coming_down
from_the_tops_of the_mountains and_he/it_said to_him/it
Zəvˇul ÐOM the_shadow_of the_mountains you are_seeing
like_men. **37** And_he_repeated again Ga'al to_speak and_
_he/it_said THERE a_people are_coming_down from_with
the_center_of the_earth/land and_a_company one is_coming
from_the_direction_of the_great_tree_of the_soothsayer.
38 And_he/it_said to_him/it Zəvˇul where then mouth_of_is_
_your Oh_you_who you_said who is_'Avīmelek
that/for/because/then/when we_will_serve_him not is_this
the_people which you_rejected in/on/over_him/it go_out
please now and_fight in/on/over_him/it. **39** And_ Ga'al _
_he/it_went_out to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_
_citizens_of Shəkem and_he_fought against_'Avīmelek.
40 And_he_pursued_him 'Avīmelek and_he_fled from_before_
_of_him and_ those_fatally_wounded many _they_fell to the_
_entrance_of the_gate. **41** And_ 'Avīmelek _he/it_sat_
down//remained//lived at(the)_Arumah and_ Zəvˇul _
_he/it_drove_out ÐOM Ga'al and_ÐOM brothers_of_his from_
_dwelling at_Shəkem. **42** And_he/it_was from_the_next_day
and_ the_people _he/it_went_out the_field and_people_told
to_'Avīmelek. **43** And_he/it_took ÐOM the_people and_he_
_divided_them into_three companies and_he_lay_in_wait in_
_the_field and_he/it_saw and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_people
was_going_out from the_city and_he/it_rose_up on_them
and_he_attacked_them. **44** And_'Avīmelek and_the_
_companies which with_him/it they_made_a_raid and_they_
_stood the_entrance_of the_gate_of the_city and_the_two_of
the_companies they_made_a_raid on all_of those_who in_
_the_field and_they_attacked_them. **45** And_'Avīmelek was_

Readers' Version

moved into Shekem, and the citizens there began to trust them. **27** They went out into the field, and they picked grapes from their vineyards and pressed them. They celebrated harvest festivals and they went into the house of their gods, then they ate and drank, and they cursed Avimelek. **28** Then Ga'al (Eved's son) said, "Who's Avimelek, and who's Shekem, that we should serve him? Isn't Avimelek Gid'on's son, and Zevul is his deputy? Serve the descendants of Shekem's father Hamor, but why should we serve Avimelek? **29** Who will fight with me to defeat those people and depose Avimelek? Then he said to Avimelek, 'Gather your army and come and fight.' "

30 When Zevul, the prince of the city, heard what Ga'al (Eved's son) had said, he got very angry **31** and he sent messengers to Avimelek in secret, saying, "Listen, Eved's son Ga'al and his brothers are coming to Shekem, and wow, they're inciting the city against you. **32** You and the people who are with you should go out at night and lie in ambush in the countryside. **33** Then when the sun rises in the morning, you all should set out early and spread out in an attack against the city. Keep watch, then when Ga'al and the people with him are coming out toward you to fight, then you can overpower them and treat him however you think fit."

34 So Avimelek and all the people with him went out in the night and they set up four units in an ambush against Shekem. **35** In the morning, Ga'al (Eved's son) went out and he stood at the entrance of the city gate. Then Avimelek and his men stood up from their hiding places. **36** When Ga'al saw the people, he said to Zevul, "Look, a group of people is coming down from the tops of the hills!"

"You are seeing the shadow of the hills as men," Zevul responded.

37 But Ga'al said again, "Look, groups of people are coming down from beside the top of the hill, and another group is coming from the way of the 'oak of the diviners'."

38 Then Zevul said to him, "Well, you were the one who said, 'Who is Avimelek that we should serve him?' Aren't these the people who you were scorning? Indeed now, go out and fight against them." **39** So Ga'al went out in front of Shekem's citizens and fought against Avimelek. **40** Avimelek pursued him, and he had to flee away from him. Many of their men fell fatally wounded as far as the entrance of the city gate. **41** Then Avimelek settled in Arumah, but Zevul drove Ga'al and his brothers away from living in Shekem.

42 Now it so happened that the next day, the people of Shekem went out into the countryside, and it was reported to Avimelek. **43** So he took his men and split them into three units. Then he waited in ambush in the countryside. When he saw and wow, the people were going out of the city, then he attacked and killed them. **44** Avimelek and the units that were with him had spread out and they stood at the entrance of the city gate, and two units spread out against everyone who was in the field and killed them. **45** Avimelek spent that whole day attacking Shekem. He captured the city and they killed the people who were in it. Then he tore it down, and scattered salt on the land.

46 When all the lords of the tower of Shekem heard, they

Readers' Version

went into the citadel of the temple for El-Berit, **47** but it was reported to Avimelek that all the lords of the Shekem tower had gathered there. **48** So Avimelek and all the people with him, went up to Mt. Tsalmon. He took axes and cut a branch down from the trees, then lifted it onto his shoulder and said to the people who were with him, "What I just did, you all quickly do the same." **49** So all the people also each cut off a branch and then followed Avimelek. They piled them on top of the underground chamber, and that's how they burnt out the underground chamber. As a result, all the distinguished people in the tower of Shekem also died—about a thousand men and women.

50 Then Avimelek went to Tevets and set up camp around the city and captured it. **51** But there was a strong tower in the middle of the city, so all of the men and the women and all the prominent citizens fled to it. Once they were all in, they barricaded it up and they went up onto the tower roof. **52** Then Avimelek and his men approached the tower and fought against it, and he came in as close as the tower entrance in order to set fire to it, **53** but a woman threw an upper millstone down onto Avimelek's head and it crushed his skull.[66] **54** Then he cried out hurriedly to the young man bearing his armour, "Draw out your sword and put me to death, because I don't want it to be said afterwards that I was killed by a woman." So his young man stabbed him so that he died. **55** When the Israeli warriors saw that Avimelek was dead, they all returned to their own homes.

56 Thus God avenged the evil of Avimelek that he had done to his father Gid'on by killing his seventy brothers, **57** and God caused all the evil done by Shekem's men to return back onto their own heads, and the curse of Gid'on's youngest son Yotam (Jotham), came true on them.

Tola

10:1 Now after Avimelek, Tola (the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, from the tribe of Yisakar (Issachar)) came on the scene to rescue Yisrael (Israel). He settled in Shamir, in the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim). **2** He led Yisrael for twenty-three years, then he died and was buried in Shamir.

Yair

3 After him, Yair the Giladi led Yisrael (Israel) for twenty-two years. **4** He had thirty sons that rode on thirty donkeys. There were thirty cities for them in the Gilead region which they call Yair's villages to this day. **5** Then Yair died and he was buried in Kamon.

The making again of bad of Israelis

6 The Israelis continued to do what Yahweh considered evil: they wor-

Literal Version

_fighting against_city all_of the_day (the)_that and_he_ _captured ÐOM the_city and_ÐOM the_people which was_in_it he_killed and_he_pulled_down ÐOM the_city and_he_sowed_it salt. **46** And_ all_of the_citizens_of the_tower_of Shəkem _ _they_heard and_they_came into the_underground_ _chamber_of the_house_of 'Ēl- Berith. **47** And_it_was_told to_ _'Avīmelek if/because_that all_of the_citizens_of the_tower_ _of Shəkem they_had_gathered_together. **48** And_he/it_ _ascended 'Avīmelek the_mountain_of Tsalmōn/(Zalmon) he and_all the_people which with_him/it and_ 'Avīmelek _ _he/it_took ÐOM the_axes in_his/its_hand and_he_cut_off a_ _branch_of wood(s) and_he_lifted_it_up and_he/it_assigned on shoulder_of_his and_he/it_said to the_people which with_ _him/it whatever you(pl)_have_seen I_have_done hurry do like_me. **49** And_ also all_of the_people _they_cut_off everyone branch_of_his_own and_they_went after 'Avīmelek and_they_put_them over the_underground_chamber and_ _they_set_on_fire over_them ÐOM the_underground_chamber with_fire and_ also all_of the_men_of the_tower_of Shəkem _ _they_died about_a_thousand man and_woman. **50** And_ 'Avīmelek _he/it_went to Tēvēts and_he_encamped at_ _Tēvēts and_he_captured_it. **51** And_a_tower_of strength it_ _was in_the_middle_of the_city and_they_fled to_(to) all_of the_men and_the_women and_all/each/any/every the_ _citizens_of the_city and_they_shut_the_door behind_them and_they_went_up on the_roof the_tower. **52** And_ 'Avīmelek _he_came to the_tower and_he_fought in/on/over_him/it and_he_drew_near to the_entrance_of the_tower to_burn_it with_fire. **53** And_ a_woman one _she_threw a_mill-stone_of an_upper_mill-stone on the_head_of 'Avīmelek and_she_ _crushed ÐOM skull_of_his. **54** And_he/it_called quickly to the_young_man the_bearer_of his_armour(s)_of_his and_ _he/it_said to_him/it draw sword_of_your and_kill_me lest people_should_say to_me a_woman she_killed_him and_he_ _pierced_him_through man_of_his_young and_he/it_died. **55** And_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_saw if/because_ _that 'Avīmelek he_was_dead and_they_went everyone to_ _his_own_of_place. **56** And_ god _he_repaid ÐOM the_evil_of 'Avīmelek which he_had_done to_father_of_his by_killing ÐOM seventy brothers_of_his. **57** And_ÐOM all_of the_evil_of the_men_of Shəkem god he_repaid on_head_of_their and_it_ _came to_them the_curse_of Yōtām/(Jotham) the_son_of Jerub-Ba'al.

10:1 And_he/it_rose_up after 'Avīmelek to_deliver ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) Tōlā' the_son_of Pū'āh the_son_of Dōdō (the)_ _man_of Issachar and_he was_dwelling in_Shāmīr in_the_hill_ _country_of 'Efrayim. **2** And_he_judged ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) twenty and_three year[s] and_he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_Shāmīr.

3 And_he/it_rose_up after_him Yā'īr/(Jair) the_Gil'ādite and_ _he_judged ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) twenty and_two year[s]. **4** And_he/it_was to_him/it thirty sons who_rode on thirty male_donkeys and_thirty cities to/for_them to/for_them people_call the_villages_of Yā'īr until the_day the_this which in_land of_(the)_Gil'ād. **5** And_ Yā'īr _he/it_died and_he_was_ _buried in_Qāmōn.

6 And_they_repeated the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) for_doing the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_they_served ÐOM the_Ba'al and_ÐOM the_'Ashtārōt and_ÐOM the_gods_of 'Arām

66 **RV 9:53 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 11:21.

Literal Version

and_ĐOM the_gods_of Tsīdōn/(Sidon) and_ĐOM the_gods_of Mō'āv and_ĐOM the_gods_of the_people_of ´Ammōn and_ĐOM the_gods_of the_Pəlishtiy and_they_abandoned ĐOM **YHWH** and_not they_served_him. **7** And_ the_anger of_**YHWH** _it_ _glowed/burnt on_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he_sold_them in_the_ _hand_of the_Pəlishtiy and_in_the_hand_of the_people_of ´Ammōn. **8** And_they_shattered and_they_crushed ĐOM the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) in_year (the)_that eight- teen year[s] ĐOM all_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) who were_ _on_the_other_side_of the_Yardēn/(Jordan) in_land the_ _'Amorī which is_in_Gil´ād. **9** And_ the_people_of ´Ammōn _ _they_passed_over ĐOM the_Yardēn to_fight also against_ _Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_against_Binyāmīn and_against_the_ _house_of 'Efrayim and_it_was_distress to_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) exceedingly. **10** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ _cried_out to **YHWH** to_say we_have_sinned to/for_you(fs) and_because/when we_have_abandoned ĐOM god_of_our and_we_have_served ĐOM the_Ba´al. **11** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_ _said to the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) not from_ _Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_from the_'Amorī and_from the_ _people_of ´Ammōn and_from the_Pəlishtiy. **12** And_the_ _Tsīdonī/(Sidonians) and_´Amālēq and_Mā´ōn they_ _oppressed you(pl) and_you(pl)_cried_out to_me and_I_ _delivered you(pl) from_hand_of_their. **13** And_you(pl) you(pl)_have_abandoned me and_you(pl)_have_served gods other for_so/thus/hence not I_will_repeat to_deliver you(pl). **14** Go and_cry_out to the_'Elohīm which you(pl)_have_chosen (in)_them they let_them_deliver to/for_you(pl) at_the_time_ _of your_distress_of_your(pl). **15** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_said to **YHWH** we_have_sinned you do to/for_us according_to_all_of the_good in_eyes_of_your only deliver_us please the_day (the)_this. **16** And_they_removed ĐOM the_gods_of (the)_foreignness from_midst_of_their and_ _they_served ĐOM **YHWH** and_ self_of_his _it_was_short at_ _the_trouble_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **17** And_ the_people_of ´Ammōn _they_were_summoned and_they_encamped in_ _Gil´ād and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_gathered and_they_encamped at_Mitspāh. **18** And_ the_people the_ _leaders_of Gil´ād _they_said each to his/its_neighbour who the_man who he_will_begin to_fight against_the_people_of ´Ammōn he_will_become (into)_chief to_all/each/any/every the_inhabitants_of Gil´ād.

11:1 And_Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) the_Gil´ādite he_was a_mighty_ _man_of strength and_he was_the_son_of a_woman a_ _prostitute and_ Gil´ād _he/it_fathered ĐOM Yiftāḥ. **2** And_ the_wife_of Gil´ād _she/it_gave_birth to_him/it sons and_ the_sons_of the_woman _they_grew_up and_they_drove_out ĐOM Yiftāḥ and_they_said to_him/it not you_will_have_an_ _inheritance in_house_of our_father_of_our if/because are_ _the_son_of a_woman another you. **3** And_ Yiftāḥ _he_fled from_face/in_front_of brothers_of_his and_he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived in_land of_Ṭōv and_they_joined_ _themselves to Yiftāḥ men worthless and_they_went_out with_him/it. **4** And_he/it_was from_days and_ the_people_of ´Ammōn _they_fought with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **5** And_he/it_was just_as the_people_of ´Ammōn they_fought with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_ the_elders_of Gil´ād _they_went to_ _take/accept/receive ĐOM Yiftāḥ from_the_land_of Ṭōv. **6** And_they_said to_Yiftāḥ come and_you_will_become to/for_ourselves (into)_a_commander so_that_we_may_fight against_the_people_of ´Ammōn. **7** And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_said to_

Readers' Version

shipped the Ba'als, the Ashtarot, the gods of Aram (Syria), the gods of Tsidon (Sidon), the gods of Moav (Moab), the gods of the sons of Amon, and the gods of the Pelishtim. They forsook Yahweh and didn't serve him. **7** Yahweh was very angry with Yisrael (Israel), so he allowed the Pelishtim and the Amonim to harass them. **8** They shattered and oppressed the Israelis that year, but it went on for eighteen years for all the Israelis who were on the opposite side of the Yarden (Jordan) in the land of the Amorim, which is in the Gilead. **9** Then the Amonim also crossed over the Yarden to fight against Yehudah (Judah), against Benyamin, and against the half-tribe of Efrayim (Ephraim).

This caused incredible distress for the Israelis **10** so they cried out to Yahweh, "We have sinned against you, because we have abandoned our god and we have served the Ba'als."

11 "Wasn't it from the Mitsrim (Egyptians)," Yahweh responded, "from the Amorim, from the Amonim, from the Pelishtim, **12** the Tsidonim (Sidonians) and Amalek and Maeon, when they oppressed you that you cried out to me, and I rescued you all from them? **13** Yet you've all abandoned me and served other gods. Therefore, I won't not continue to rescue you. **14** Go and cry out to the gods that you've all chosen for yourselves. They should deliver you all at the time of your distress."

15 Then the Israelis said to Yahweh, "We've sinned. You do to us according to all that is good in your eyes. Only please rescue us today." **16** They removed the foreign gods from among them, and they worshipped Yahweh and so he became concerned with Yisrael's (Israel's) suffering.

17 Now the Amonim had assembled and were camped in Gilead. So the Israelis gathered together and they camped at Mitspah. **18** Then the princes of Gilead said to each other, "Who will lead us to fight against the Amonim? He can become the leader over all of us who live in Gilead."

Yiftah

11:1 Now Yiftah (Jephthah) the Giladi was a fierce warrior, but he was a prostitute's son and his father was Gilead. **2** Gilead's wife also gave birth to sons for him, and when those sons of the wife grew up, they drove Yiftah out and told him, "You won't get any inheritance from our father's estate because you're a son of another woman." **3** So Yiftah fled from the presence of his half-brothers and he settled in the Tov region. Unprincipled men associated around Yiftah and went around with him.

4 Some time later, the Amonim battled against Yisrael (Israel). **5** and that was when the elders of Gilead went to summon Yiftah from the Tov region. **6** Then requested Yiftah, "Come and be our commander so we can fight against the Amonim."

7 "Don't you all hate me? Yiftah asked them. "Didn't you yourselves drive me out of my father's house? So why have you all come to me now when you have troubles?"

Readers' Version

8 "Well, true," the Gilead elders replied, "But now we've turned back to you. So join with us and fight against the Amonim, and you'll become commander over all of who lives in Gilead."
9 "If you bring me back to fight against the Amonim," Yiftah asked them, "and if Yahweh helps me defeat them, is it correct that I'll actually become your leader?"
10 "Yahweh will be a witness between us," the Gilead elders responded, "that we'll most certainly do what you just said."
11 So Yiftah went with the Gilead elders, and the people set him as commander and leader over themselves. (Yiftah had spoken all those words before Yahweh at Mitspah.)
12 Then Yiftah sent messengers to the Amoni king, demanding, "What's happened with respect to me and to you, that you've come against me to fight over my land?"
13 The Amoni king responded to Yiftah's messengers, "Because the Israelis seized my land when they came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). It went from the Arnon river up to the Yabok river, and over to the Yarden (Jordan) river. Now return the land peaceably."
14 Then Yiftah sent messengers back to the Amoni king **15** to tell him, "Yiftah wants you to know that Yisrael (Israel) didn't take land from Moav (Moab) nor from you Amonim. **16** However in their coming up from Mitsrayim, Yisrael went through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea until arriving at Kadesh. **17** When Yisrael sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please may we pass through your land,' the king of Edom wouldn't listen.[69] Yisrael likewise sent to the king of Moav, but he wasn't willing either, so Yisrael stayed at Kadesh. **18** Then we went through the wilderness and turned away from the land of Edom[70] and the land of Moav, then went the long way around the eastern border of Moav. They camped on the other side of the Arnon river, but they didn't go within Moav's borders, because the Arnon was the border of Moav. **19** Yisrael sent messengers to the Amori King Sihon, the king of Heshbon and asked him, 'Please, let us pass through your land as far as our place.'[71] **20** But King Sihon didn't trust Yisrael passing through within his border, so he assembled all of his people together and they camped at Yahats, and he battled with Yisrael. **21** Then Yisrael's god, Yahweh, handed King Sihon and all his people over to Yisrael and we defeated them. Thus Yisrael took possession of all of the land of the Amorim inhabiting that region— **22** everything within the Amori territory from the Arnon river to the Yabok, and from the wilderness as far as the Yarden (Jordan). **23** So since it was Yisrael's god Yahweh that expelled the Amorim out of the presence of his people Yisrael, do you actually think that you can take it now? **24** Wouldn't you take possession if your god Kemosh, allowed you to? So too all that our god Yahweh has dispossessed ahead of us, we'll possess that. **25** Are you really better now than Tsipor's son, King Balak of Moav?[72] Did he dare contend with Yis-

Literal Version

_the_elders_of Gil'ād not you(pl) did_you(pl)_hate me and_ _did_you_drive_me_out from_the_house_of my_father_of_my and_why have_you(pl)_come to_me now just_as it_is_distress to_you(pl). **8** And_ the_elders_of Gil'ād _they_said to Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) for_so/thus/hence now we_have_returned to_you and_you_will_come with_us and_you_will_fight against_the_people_of ʼAmmōn and_you_will_become to/for_ _ourselves (into)_chief to_all/each/any/every the_ _inhabitants_of Gil'ād. **9** And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_said to the_ _elders_of Gil'ād if you(pl) are_bringing_back me to_fight against_the_people_of ʼAmmōn and_ **YHWH** _he/it_gave them before_me I I_will_become to/for_you(pl) (into)_chief. **10** And_ the_elders_of Gil'ād _they_said to Yiftāḥ **YHWH** he_ _will_be hearing between_us if not according_to_of_your_ _message so we_will_do. **11** And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_went with the_elders_of Gil'ād and_ the_people _they_made him over_ _them into_chief and_into_commander and_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_ _spoke ᴅᴏᴍ all_of words/messages_of_his to_(the)_face_ _of/in_front_of/before **YHWH** in_Mitspāh. **12** And_ Yiftāḥ _ _he_sent messengers to the_king_of the_people_of ʼAmmōn to_say what to/for_me and_to_you that/for/because/then/when you_have_come to_me to_ _wage_war against_land_of_my. **13** And_ the_king_of the_ _people_of ʼAmmōn _he/it_said to the_messengers_of Yiftāḥ if/because Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) it_took ᴅᴏᴍ land_of_my when_it_ _came_up from_Mitsrayim/(Egypt) from_the_'Arnōn and_ _unto the_Yaboq/(Jabbok) and_unto the_Yardēn/(Jordan) and_now restore them in_peace. **14** And_he_repeated again Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) and_he_sent messengers to the_king_of the_people_of ʼAmmōn. **15** And_he/it_said to_him/it thus Yiftāḥ he_says not Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) it_has_taken ᴅᴏᴍ the_ _land_of Mō'āv and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of the_people_of ʼAmmōn. **16** If/because when_they_came_up from_Mitsrayim and_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_went in_wilderness to the_sea_of reed[s] and_it_came to_Qādēsh. **17** And_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_ _sent messengers to the_king_of 'Edōm to_say let_me_pass please in_land_of_your and_not the_king_of 'Edōm he_ _listened and_also to the_king_of Mō'āv it_sent and_not he_ _was_willing and_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived at_Qādēsh. **18** And_he/it_went in_ _wilderness and_it_went_around ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of 'Edōm and_ _ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of Mō'āv and_it_came from_the_rising_of the_ _sun of_the_land_of of_Mō'āv and_they_encamped on_the_ _other_side_of the_'Arnōn and_not they_went in_the_ _territory_of Mō'āv if/because the_'Arnōn was_the_border_ _of Mō'āv. **19** And_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_sent messengers to Ṣīḥōn the_king_of the_'Amorī the_king_of Ḥeshbōn and_ _he/it_said to_him/it Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) let_us_pass please in_ _land_of_your to place_of_my_own. **20** And_not Ṣīḥōn he_ _trusted ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_pass in_territory_of_his and_ Ṣīḥōn _he_gathered ᴅᴏᴍ all_of people_of_his and_they_ _encamped at_Yahats/(Jahaz) and_he_fought with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **21** And_ **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _ _he/it_gave ᴅᴏᴍ Ṣīḥōn and_ᴅᴏᴍ all_of people_of_his in_the_ _hand_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_they_defeated_them and_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_took_possession_of ᴅᴏᴍ all_of the_land_of the_'Amorī who_was_dwelling the_earth/land (the)_that.

69 RV 11:17 · Cross-ref. Num 20:14-21.
70 RV 11:18 · Cross-ref. Num 21:4.
71 RV 11:19-22 · Cross-ref. Num 21:21-24.
72 RV 11:25 · Cross-ref. Num 22:1-6.

Literal Version

22 And_they_took_possession_of ÐOM all_of the_territory_of the_'Amorī from_the_'Arnōn and_unto the_Yaboq/(Jabbok) and_from the_wilderness and_unto the_Yardēn/(Jordan). 23 And_now **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_has_ _dispossessed ÐOM the_'Amorī from_face/in_front_of people_ _of_his Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_you(ms) will_you_take_ _possession_of_it. 24 Not ÐOM that_which he_will_cause_you_ _to_possess Kəmōsh/(Chemosh) god_of_your it will_you_ _take_possession_of and_ÐOM all_of that **YHWH** god_of_our he_has_dispossessed from_before_of_us it we_will_take_ _possession_of. 25 And_now really_(good) are_you_good you more_than_Bālāq the_son_of Tsipōr/(Zippor) the_king_of Mō'āv ever_(quarrel) did_he_quarrel with Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) or ever_(wage_war) did_he_wage_war against_them. 26 When_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _dwelt in_Ḥeshbōn and_in_daughters_of_its and_in_ʿArōʿēr and_in_daughters_of_its and_on/over_all the_ _cities which were_on the_sides_of the_'Arnōn three hundred(s) year[s] and_why not did_you(pl)_recover_them at_time (the)_that. 27 And_I not I_have_sinned to/for_you(fs) and_you(ms) are_doing with_me evil by_waging_war against_ _me **YHWH** the_judge may_he_judge the_day between the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_between the_people_of ʿAmmōn. 28 And_not the_king_of the_people_of ʿAmmōn he_ _listened to the_words/messages_of Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) which he_sent to_him/it. 29 And_it_became on Yiftāḥ the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_he/it_passed_through ÐOM (the)_Gilʿād and_ÐOM Mənashsheh and_he_passed_through ÐOM Mitspāh of_Gilʿād and_from_Mitspāh of_Gilʿād he_passed_on the_people_of ʿAmmōn. 30 And_ Yiftāḥ _he_vowed a_vow to/for_**YHWH** and_he_said if really_(give) you_will_give ÐOM the_people_of ʿAmmōn in_hand_of_my. 31 And_it_was that_which_comes_ _out which it_will_come_out from_the_doors_of my_house_ _of_my to_meet_me when_return_I in_peace from_(the)_sons of_ʿAmmōn and_it_was to/for_**YHWH** and_I_will_offer_it_up a_burnt_offering. 32 And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_passed_through to the_people_of ʿAmmōn to_fight against_them and_he_gave_ _them[737475] **YHWH** in_his/its_hand. 33 And_he_defeated_ _them from_ʿArōʿēr and_unto come_you[7677] Minnit twenty citi[es] and_unto Abel Keramim a_defeat great very and_ the_ _people_of ʿAmmōn _they_were_subdued from_face/in_ _front_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel).

34 And_ Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) _he_came (the)_Mitspāh to house_ _of_his and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE daughter_of_his was_coming_ _out to_meet_him with_tambourines and_with_dancing(s) and_only she was_an_only_child there_belonged_not to_ _him/it from_him/it a_son or a_daughter. 35 And_he/it_was just_as_he_saw her and_he_tore ÐOM clothes_of_his and_ _he/it_said alas my_daughter_of_my exceedingly_(bring_low) you_have_brought_me_low and_you you_are[78] among_those_ _of_who_trouble_me and_I I_have_opened mouth_of_my to **YHWH** and_not I_am_able to_turn_back. 36 And_she/it_said to_him/it my_father_of_my you_have_opened ÐOM mouth_of_ _your to **YHWH** do to_me just_as it_has_come_out from_

Readers' Version

rael or did he ever wage war against them? 26 Yisrael lived in Heshbon and in its villages for three hundred years, and in Aroer and in its villages, and in all the cities that are along the banks of the Arnon—so why didn't you repossess them during that time? 27 I haven't done anything wrong to you, but you're doing wrong in dealing with me by fighting against me. Yahweh, the judge, will decide today between the Israelis and the Amonim." 28 But the Amoni king didn't take any notice of Yiftah's message to him.

29 Then Yahweh's spirit empowered Yiftah (Jephthah), and he passed through the Gilead and Menasheh (Manasseh), and through Mitspah of Gilead, and from there he passed through the Amoni region, 30 and he made a promise to Yahweh, "If you really give me victory over the Amonim, 31 then whoever's the first person to come out of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the battle against the Amonim, that person will belong to Yahweh, and I will offer him up as a whole burnt offering." 32 So Yiftah went to the Amoni territory to fight against them, and Yahweh enabled them to defeat them. 33 Then he attacked them from Aroer and as far as the entrance to Minit, twenty cities, and then up to Avel-Keramim, slaughtering a huge number. So the Amonim were subdued by the presence of the Israelis.

Yiftah's daughter

34 When Yiftah (Jephthah) got back to his house in the Mitspah area, look, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. She was their only child—he didn't have any son or daughter apart from her. 35 When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Oh no! My daughter! Indeed, you've made me bow in grief, and you're among those who cause me pain, because I made a vow to Yahweh and I can't go back on it."

36 Then she said to him, "My father, you've made a vow to Yahweh. Do to me whatever you promised, after what Yahweh

73 LV 11:32 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

74 LV 11:32 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

75 LV 11:32 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

76 LV 11:33 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

77 LV 11:33 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

78 LV 11:35 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

Readers' Version

has done for you—total vengeance against your Amoni enemies." **37** But she asked her father, "Just do this one thing for me: release me for two months, so I can go away and take some companions. I'll fall prostrate on the hills and I'll weep because I'll never have a chance to marry." **38** He agreed and then sent her away for two months. She went with some companions, and she wept on the hills because she'd never be a mother. **39** Then at the end of the two months, she returned to her father and he carried out his vow with respect to her so indeed she never had a chance to marry.

After that, it became a custom in Yisrael (Israel) **40** that the young women of Yisrael go to commemorate the daughter of Yiftah the Giladi for four days during the year.

Yiftah and the Efrayimim

12:1 Now the men of Efrayim (Ephraim) were summoned and they passed northward and they said to Yiftah (Jephthah), "Why did you pass through in order to fight against the Amonim, but you didn't call us to go with you? We're going to burn your house down over you!"

2 "I've been involved in very intense disputes—my people against the Amonim," Yiftah told them. "When I summoned you all, you didn't come and rescue me from them. **3** When I could see that you weren't coming to assist, I took my life into my own hands. I advanced against the Amonim, and Yahweh gave me victory over them. So why then have you all come here to fight against me today?" **4** Then Yiftah assembled all of the men of Gilead and they battled against Efrayim. The men of Gilead struck Efrayim because they had said, "You Gilead people are just fugitives from Efrayim—living here in the middle of Efrayim, in the middle of Menasheh (Manasseh)." **5** The Giladim captured the crossing places of the Yarden (Jordan) along Efrayim. Then when any of the survivors from Efrayim would say, "May I cross over," the men of Gilead would ask, "Are you an Efrati?" If he said, "No," **6** then they'd demand, "Now say: Shibboleth." But if he said "Sibboleth" because he didn't have time to think to pronounce it correctly, they would seize him and would slaughter him at those crossing places of the Yarden. Forty-two thousand from Efrayim fell at that time.

7 Yiftah the Giladi led Yisrael (Israel) for six years, then he died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.

Ivtsan, Eylon, and Avdon

8 Then after him, Ivtsan of Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) led Yisrael (Israel). **9** Now he had thirty sons. He gave away thirty daughters to be married to outsiders, and he brought in thirty daughters for his sons from the outside. Ivtsan led Yisrael for seven years, **10** and when he died, he was buried in Beyt-Lehem.

11 After him, Eylon the Zevuluni led Yisrael for ten years. **12** When he died, he was buried in Ayalon in the land of Zevu-

Literal Version

_mouth_of_your after that he_did to/for_yourself(m) **YHWH** vengeance(s) from_enemies_of_your from_(the)_sons of_ _ʿAmmōn. **37** And_she/it_said to father_of_her let_it_be_done to/for_me the_thing the_this refrain from_me two months so_that_I_may_go and_I_will_go_down on the_mountains and_so_that_I_may_weep on virginiti(es)_of_my I my[79]. **38** And_he/it_said go and_he_sent_away her two_of months and_ she and_companions_of_her _she_went and_she_wept on virginiti(es)_of_her on the_mountains. **39** And_he/it_was from_the_end/extremity two months and_she_returned to father_of_her and_he/it_made to/for_her/it ᴅᴏᴍ vow_of_his which he_had_vowed and_she not she_had_known a_man and_it_became a_custom in_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **40** From_days to_ _days the_daughters_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) they_go to_recount for_the_daughter_of Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) the_Gilʿādite four_of days in_year.

12:1 And_ the_man_of ʾEfrayim _it_was_summoned and_it_ _passed_over northward_to and_they_said to_Yiftāḥ why did_ _you_pass_over to_wage_war against_the_people_of ʿAmmōn and_(to)_us not you_summoned to_go with_you house_of_ _your we_will_burn over_you with_fire. **2** And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_ _said to_them a_man_of strife I and_people_of_my and_the_ _sons of_ʿAmmōn I_was exceedingly and_I_summoned you(pl) and_not you(pl)_delivered me from_hand_of_their. **3** And_I_saw if/because_that not_you were_a_deliverer[808182] and_I_put life_of_my in_palm_of_my and_I_passed_over against the_people_of ʿAmmōn and_he_gave_them **YHWH** in_ _hand_of_my and_why have_you(pl)_come_up to_me the_day the_this to_fight against_me. **4** And_ Yiftāḥ _he_gathered ᴅᴏᴍ all_of the_men_of Gilʿād and_he_fought with ʾEfrayim and_ the_men_of Gilʿād _they_defeated ᴅᴏᴍ ʾEfrayim if/because they_had_said are_fugitives_of ʾEfrayim you(pl) Oh_Gilʿād in_ _the_middle of_ʾEfrayim in_the_middle of_Mənashsheh. **5** And_ Gilʿād _it_captured ᴅᴏᴍ the_fords_of the_ _Yardēn/(Jordan) to_ʾEfrayim and_it_was if/because the_ _fugitives_of ʾEfrayim they_said let_me_pass_over and_they_ _said to_him/it the_men_of Gilʿād an_ʾEfrātī are_you and_he_ _said no. **6** And_they_said to_him/it say please Shibboleth and_he/it_said Sibboleth and_not he_gave_attention to_ _speak right and_they_seized him and_they_slaughtered_him to the_fords_of the_Yardēn and_it_fell at_time (the)_that of_ _ʾEfrayim forty and_two thousand. **7** And_ Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) _he_judged ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) six years and_ Yiftāḥ the_ _Gilʿādite _he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_the_cities_of Gilʿād.

8 And_he_judged after_him ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) ʾIvtsān from_ _Bēyt- leḥem. **9** And_he/it_was to_him/it thirty sons and_ _thirty daughters he_sent_away to_the_outside and_thirty daughters he_brought for_sons_of_his from the_outside and_ _he_judged ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) seven years. **10** And_ ʾIvtsān _ _he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_house_of leḥem. **11** And_ _he_judged after_him ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) ʾĒylōn the_ _Zəvulunite and_he_judged ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) ten years. **12** And_ ʾĒylōn the_Zəvulunite _he/it_died and_he_was_

79 LV 11:37 · Note OSHB variant note: יִתּוֹעַר/ו/יתיער: (x-qere) יִתְּוֹעָר/ו/יתוער: lemma_c/7464 n_0 morph_HC/Ncfpc/Sp1cs id_07gHx

80 LV 12:3 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

81 LV 12:3 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

82 LV 12:3 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

buried in'Ayyālōn in_land of_Zəvulun. **13** And_he_judged after_him ĐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) ´Avdōn the_son_of Hillēl the_ _Pir´ātōnī. **14** And_he/it_was to_him/it forty sons and_thirty sons_of sons who_rode on seventy male_donkeys and_he_ _judged ĐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) eight years. **15** And_ ´Avdōn the_ _son_of Hillēl the_Pir´ātōnī _he/it_died and_he_was_buried at_Pir´ātōn in_land of_'Efrayim in_the_hill_country_of the_ _´Amālēqite[s].

13:1 And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_repeated for_ _doing the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_he_gave_ _them **YHWH** in_the_hand_of the_Pəlishtiy forty year[s]. **2** And_he/it_was a_man one from_Tsor´āh/(Zorah) from_the_ _clan_of the_Danite[s] and_his/its_name was_Mānōaḥ and_ _his/its_woman/wife was_barren and_not she_had_borne_ _children. **3** And_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _he_appeared to the_woman and_he/it_said to_her/it HERE please you are_ _barren and_not you_have_borne_children and_you_will_ _conceive and_you_will_bear a_son. **4** And_now take_care please and_do_not drink wine and_strong_drink and_do_not eat any_of unclean_thing. **5** If/because HERE_you will_be_ _pregnant and_you_will_bear a_son and_(a)_razor not it_will_ _go_up on his/its_head if/because a_Nāzīr_of god he_will_be the_lad from the_womb and_he he_will_begin to_deliver ĐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) from_the_hand_of the_Pəlishtiy. **6** And_ the_ _woman _she_went and_she/it_said to/for_her/its_ _man/husband to_say (the)_man_of the_'Elohīm he_came to_ _me and_appearance_of_his was_like_the_appearance_of (the)_messenger_of the_'Elohīm awesome very and_not I_ _asked_him where from_this was_he and_ĐOM his/its_name not he_told to_me. **7** And_he/it_said to_me HERE_you will_ _be_pregnant and_you_will_bear a_son and_now do_not drink wine and_strong_drink and_do_not eat any_of uncleanness if/because a_Nāzīr_of god he_will_be the_lad from the_womb until the_day_of his_death_of_his. **8** And_ Mānōaḥ _he_prayed to **YHWH** and_he_said pardon_me master_of_my the_man_of the_'Elohīm whom you_sent let_ _him_come please again to_us so_that_he_may_teach_us what will_we_do for_lad is]_about_to_be_born. **9** And_ the_ _'Elohīm _he/it_listened to_the_voice_of Mānōaḥ and_ the_ _messenger_of the_'Elohīm _he_came again to the_woman and_she was_sitting in_the_field and_Mānōaḥ her/its_ _husband/man not with_her/it. **10** And_ the_woman _she_ _made_haste and_she_ran and_she_told to/for_her/its_ _man/husband and_she/it_said to_him/it HERE he_has_ _presented_himself to_me the_man who he_came on_day to_ _me. **11** And_he/it_rose_up and_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_went after his/its_wife/woman and_he_came to the_man and_he/it_said to_him/it are_you the_man who you_spoke to the_woman and_he/it_said I. **12** And_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_said now words/messages_of_your it_will_come what will_it_be the_ _manner_of the_lad and_work_of_his. **13** And_ the_ _messenger_of **YHWH** _he/it_said to Mānōaḥ from_all that I_ _said to the_woman she_will_take_care. **14** From_all that it_ _comes_forth from_the_vine_of the_wine not she_will_eat and_wine and_strong_drink not let_her_drink and_all uncleanness not let_her_eat all that I_commanded_her she_ _will_keep. **15** And_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_said to the_messenger_of **YHWH** let_us_detain please you so_that_we_may_prepare to_ _your_face a_kid_of goats. **16** And_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _ _he/it_said to Mānōaḥ if you_will_detain_me not I_will_eat

Readers' Version

lun. **13** After him, Avdon, the son of Hilel the Pireatoni led Yisrael. **14** He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young male donkeys. He led Yisrael for eight years. **15** Then Avdon (the son of Hilel the Pireatoni) died, and he was buried in Pireaton in the land of Efrayim (Ephraim), in the hill country of the Amalekim.

Shimshon's birth

13:1 The Israelis continued to do what Yahweh considered as evil, so he allowed the Pelishtim to oppress them for forty years. **2** Now there was a man named Manoah from Tsor'ah, of the families of the Danim. His wife was barren so they had no children. **3** One day, Yahweh's messenger appeared to the wife and told her, "Listen, please, you are barren and have never given birth, but you will conceive and have a son. **4** Now take care that you surely don't drink wine or strong drink, and that you don't eat anything prohibited by our rules, **5** because you'll definitely become pregnant and will give birth to a son. His hair must never be cut because he'll be a Nazirite to God from his conception.[83] He will begin to rescue Yisrael (Israel) from the oppression of the Pelishtim."

6 Then the woman went and explained to her husband, "A man of God came to me. He looked like one of God's messengers—extremely terrifying—so I didn't like to ask him where he'd come from, and he didn't tell me his name. **7** Then he told me, 'You're definitely pregnant and you'll give birth to a son. So now, you mustn't drink wine or strong drink, and you mustn't eat anything prohibited by our rules, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from conception until the day of his death.' "

8 Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh, "Oh please, my master, please let the man of God that you sent before, come back to us again so he can instruct us about what we must do for this boy who's going to be born." **9** The true God listened to Manoah's request, and God's messenger came to the woman again when she was sitting out in the field, but her husband Manoah wasn't with her, **10** so she quickly ran and told her husband, "Look. The man has appeared again who came to me that day." **11** So Manoah followed his wife, and when he came to the man, he asked him, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife before?"

"Yes, it was me," he replied.

12 "Now may your words come true," said Manoah. "How should we bring up the boy, and what will his work be?"

13 "Your wife must carefully follow everything I told her," Yahweh's messenger replied. **14** "She mustn't eat or drink anything that comes from the grapevine. She mustn't drink wine or strong drink, and she mustn't eat anything prohibited by our rules. She must do everything that I've instructed her."

15 "Please stay a little longer," Manoah asked Yahweh's messenger, "so that we can prepare a meal of tender goat meat to honour your presence."

16 "Even if I stayed longer, I wouldn't eat your food," Yah-

83 RV 13:5 · Cross-ref. Num 6:1-5.

Readers' Version

weh's messenger replied. "But if you wanted to prepare a burnt offering for Yahweh, you may offer it." (Because Manoah didn't know that the messenger had come from Yahweh.)
17 "What's your name," Manoah asked, "so that we can honour you when your words come true?"
18 "Why are you asking about my name," Yahweh's messenger replied. "You simply couldn't understand."
19 Then Manoah got their young goat and the other requirements for the offering, and he presented a sacrifice to Yahweh on the rock. Then an amazing thing happened[84] while Manoah and his wife watched— **20** when the flames went up into the sky from the altar, Yahweh's messenger went up in the flames while Manoah and his wife were watching. When they saw that, they quickly bowed right down to the ground. **21** After that, Manoah and his wife never saw him again, but now Manoah knew that he was Yahweh's messenger.
22 Manoah said to his wife, "We'll definitely die now because we've seen God!"
23 But his wife replied to him, "If Yahweh had wanted to kill us, he wouldn't have accepted the entire burnt offering and the grain offering. He wouldn't have shown us all those things, and he wouldn't have given us those instructions."
24 In due course, the woman gave birth to a son and she named him Shimshon (Samson). The boy grew up and Yahweh blessed him, **25** and then Yahweh's spirit began to stir him when he was in Mahaneh Dan—between Tsor'ah and between Eshtaol.

Shimshon and the woman from Timnah

14:1 One time when Shimshon (Samson) went to Timnah, he noticed a young, Pelishti woman there, **2** and he went back home and he reported to his parents, "I saw a Pelishti woman in Timnah that I'd like you to get for me as my wife."
3 "Isn't there a woman among your relatives?" his parents asked him, "Or among all of our people? Why take a wife from the uncircumcised Pelishtim?"
"Get her for me," Shimshon said to his father, "because I feel she's right for me."
4 Now his parents didn't know that Yahweh was arranging this, because he was seeking an opportunity against the Pelishtim who were oppressing Yisrael (Israel) at that time.
5 Then Shimshon went to Timnah with his parents and when they got to the vineyards there, wow, a young lion roared

Literal Version

in_food_of_your and_if you_will_make a_burnt_offering to/for_**YHWH** you_will_offer_it_up if/because not Mānōaḥ he_knew if/because_that was_the_messenger_of **YHWH** it. **17** And_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_said to the_messenger_of **YHWH** who your(ms)_name if/because it_will_come mmm[85] and_we_ _will_honour_you. **18** And_he/it_said for_him/it[868788] the_ _messenger_of **YHWH** to/for_what this are_you_asking to_ _name_of_my and_he is_incomprehensible.[899091] **19** And_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_took ~~DOM~~ the_kid_of the_goats and_~~DOM~~ the_ _grain_offering and_he/it_ascended on the_rock to/for_ _**YHWH** and_he_was_acting_wonderfully for_doing and_ _Mānōaḥ and_his/its_woman/wife were_looking. **20** And_ _he/it_was when_ the_flame _went_up from_under the_altar to_the_heavens and_ the_messenger_of **YHWH** _he/it_ _ascended in_the_flame_of the_altar and_Mānōaḥ and_ _his/its_woman/wife were_looking and_they_fell on faces_ _of_their ground_to_the. **21** And_not he_repeated again the_ _messenger_of **YHWH** to_appear to Mānōaḥ and_near/to his/its_wife/woman then Mānōaḥ he_knew if/because_that was_the_messenger_of **YHWH** it. **22** And_ Mānōaḥ _he/it_said to his/its_wife/woman surely_(die) we_will_die if/because god we_have_seen. **23** And_she/it_said to_him/it his/its_ _wife/woman if **YHWH** he_had_desired to_kill_us not he_ _accepted from_hand_of_our a_burnt_offering and_a_grain_ _offering and_not he ~~DOM~~ all_of these_things and_about_time not he like_this. **24** And_ the_woman _she/it_gave_birth a_ _son and_she/it_called/named ~~DOM~~ his/its_name Shimshvōn/(Samson) and_ the_lad _he_grew_up and_he_ _blessed_him **YHWH**. **25** And_ the_spirit_of **YHWH** _it_began to_stir_him in_Mahaneh- dan between Tsor'āh/(Zorah) and_ _between 'Eshtā'ol.

14:1 And_ Shimshvōn _he/it_descended to_Timnāh and_ _he/it_saw a_woman in_Timnāh one_of_the_daughters_of the_Pəlishtiy. **2** And_he/it_ascended and_he_told to_father_ _of_his and_to_mother_of_his and_he/it_said a_woman I_ _have_seen in_Timnāh one_of_the_daughters_of the_Pəlishtiy and_now get her to/for_me to/for_(a)_woman. **3** And_he/it_ _said to_him/it his/its_father and_mother_of_his is_there_ _not among_the_daughters_of your(pl)_brothers_of_your and_on/over_all people_of_my a_woman that/for/because/then/when you are_going to_ _take/accept/receive a_wife from_the_Pəlishtiy (the)_ _uncircumcised and_ Shimshvōn _he/it_said to his/its_father her get to_me if/because she she_is_pleasing in_eyes_of_my. **4** And_father_of_his and_mother_of_his not they_knew if/because_that was_from_**YHWH** it if/because an_occasion he was_seeking from_the_Pəlishtiy and_at_time (the)_that the_Pəlishtiy were_ruling over_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **5** And_ Shimshvōn/(Samson) and_father_of_his and_mother_of_his _

84 RV 13:19 · Note We've changed this to a passive construction here, because it's not specified whether it was Yahweh himself or his messenger who did the miracle.
85 LV 13:17 · Note OSHB variant note: יִרְבַּד/דְּ֫רָבְּד: (x-qere) דְּ֫רָבְּד; lemma_1697 n_0.0 morph_HNcmsc/Pp2ms id_07LNG דְּ֫רָבְּד
86 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
87 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.
88 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.
89 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
90 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.
91 LV 13:18 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

Literal Version

_he/it_descended to_Timnāh and_they_came to the_ _vineyards_of (to)_Timnāh and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE a_young_ _lion_of lions was_roaring to_meet_him. **6** And_it_rushed on/upon/above_him/it the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_he_tore_it_ _apart as_tears_apart (the)_kid and_anything there_was_not in_his/its_hand and_not he_told to_father_of_his and_to_ _mother_of_his ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ that_which he_had_done. **7** And_he/it_ _descended and_he/it_spoke to/for_the_woman/wife and_ _she_was_pleasing in/on_both_eyes_of Shimshvōn. **8** And_ _he_returned from_days to_take_her and_he_turned_aside to_see ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ the_carcass_of the_lion and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE a_ _swarm_of bees was_in_the_carcass_of the_lion and_honey. **9** And_he_scraped_it_out into palms_of_his and_he/it_went going and_eating and_he/it_went to his/its_father and_ _near/to his/its_mother and_he/it_gave to/for_them and_ _they_ate and_not he_told to/for_them if/because_that from_the_carcass_of the_lion he_had_scraped_out the_honey. **10** And_ father_of_his _he/it_descended to the_woman and_ _he/it_made there Shimshvōn a_feast if/because thus the_ _young_men they_did. **11** And_he/it_was just_as_they_saw him and_they_took thirty close_friends and_they_were with_ _him/it. **12** And_he/it_said to/for_them Shimshvōn/(Samson) let_me_ask_a_riddle please to/for_ _you(pl) a_riddle if actually_(tell) you(pl)_will_tell it to_me the_seven_of the_days_of the_feast and_you(pl)_will_find_it_ _out and_I_will_give to/for_you(pl) thirty linen_garments and_thirty changes_of garments. **13** And_if not you(pl)_will_ _be_able to_announce to_me and_ you(pl) _you(pl)_will_give to_me thirty linen_garments and_thirty changes_of garments and_they_said to_him/it ask_the_riddle riddle_of_your so_ _that_we_may_hear_it. **14** And_he/it_said to/for_them from_ _eater food it_came_out and_from_a_strong_one a_sweet_ _thing it_came_out and_not they_were_able to_announce the_riddle three_of days. **15** And_he/it_was in_the_day the_ _seventh and_they_said to_the_wife_of Shimshvōn entice ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ your(fs)_man/husband so_that_he_may_tell to/for_us ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ the_riddle lest we_should_burn you and_~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ the_house_ _of your_father_of_your with_fire to_impoverish did_you(pl)_ _invite to/for_us is_it_not_so. **16** And_ the_wife_of Shimshvōn _she_wept on/upon/above_him/it and_she/it_said only you_ _hate_me and_not you_love_me the_riddle you_have_asked_ _the_riddle to_the_sons_of my_people_of_my and_to_me not you_have_told and_he/it_said to/for_her/it HERE to_father_ _of_my and_to_mother_of_my not I_have_told and_to_you will_I_tell. **17** And_she_wept on/upon/above_him/it the_ _seven_of the_days which it_belonged to/for_them the_feast and_he/it_was in_the_day the_seventh and_he_told to/for_ _her/it if/because she_pressed_him and_she_told the_riddle to_the_sons_of her_people_of_her. **18** And_they_said to_ _him/it the_men_of the_city in_the_day the_seventh before_ _before (to)_the_sun it_went what is_sweet more_than_honey and_what is_strong more_than_a_lion and_he/it_said to/for_ _them if_not you(pl)_had_plowed with_heifer_of_my not you(pl)_found_out riddle_of_my. **19** And_it_rushed on/upon/above_him/it the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_he/it_ _descended 'Ashqəlōn and_he_struck_down from_them thirty man and_he/it_took ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ spoil(s)_of_their and_he/it_gave

Readers' Version

when it saw him. **6** Yahweh's spirit rose up in Shimshon, and he tore the lion to pieces with his bare hands like butchering a young goat, but he didn't mention to his parents what he'd done.

7 Then he continued on and talked with the woman, and he really liked her. **8** Some time later when he returned for the wedding, he turned off the path to look for the lion's carcass, and to his surprise, a swarm of bees had nested in the carcass and there was honey there. **9** He filled his cupped hands with honey, and continued along—walking and eating as he went to where his parents were. He even gave some to them to try, but he didn't tell them that he had scooped it out of the carcass of a dead lion. **10** Then his father went to visit the woman, and in the custom of the young men of the time, Shimshon held a party there. **11** When they saw him, they brought thirty close friends to join him.[92] **12** Shimshon said to them, "Let me suggest a riddle for you all. If you're able to explain it to me during the seven days of the party and you've worked it out correctly, I'll give you all thirty linen coats and thirty sets of clothes. **13** But if you all can't explain it to me, then you yourselves must give me thirty linen coats and thirty sets of clothes."

"Okay, we're listening. Tell us the riddle." they answered.

14 So he said,

"Food came out of the eater,
and sweetness came out of the strong one."

But three days later, they still couldn't solve his riddle.

15 Then on the seventh day,[93] they pressured Shimshon's wife, "Get your husband to tell you the answer of the riddle, otherwise we'll burn down your father' house and you as well. Did you invite us to the party just to impoverish us?"

16 Then Shimshon's wife put on a crying act and said, "You must hate me—you don't love me because you've created a riddle for my relatives, yet you haven't even told me the answer."

"Listen," he replied, "I haven't even told my own parents. Should I tell you?" **17** She continued to cry beside him throughout the seven-day party, and then finally on the seventh day, he gave in and told her because she kept nagging him, so in the end she was able to reveal the answer to her relatives. **18** Then the men of the city said to Shimshon before the sun went down on the seventh day,

"What is sweeter than honey?
And what's stronger than a lion?"

So he said to them,

"If you all hadn't ploughed with my heifer,
you wouldn't have been able to solve my riddle."

19 Then Yahweh's spirit rose up in him, and he went to Ashkelon and killed thirty men there. He took their possessions, and he gave the changes of clothes for the riddle. But he was very angry, so he went back to his parent's home. **20** Then

92 RV 14:11 · Note Although we can understand the words here, we're not certain of the implications, or perhaps the cultural traditions. Did Shimshon appear too alone? Too intimidating? Or was it just bringing more friends for good food and drink?

93 RV 14:15 · Note The Greek Septuagint translation says 'the *fourth* day', which perhaps might fit better into the narrative, but 'seventh' is in the Hebrew that we have and not necessarily incorrect.

Readers' Version

(unknown to Shimshon), his wife was given to the man who'd been his close friend and companion.

15:1 Some days later during the wheat harvest, Shimshon visited his wife with a young goat as a present for the family, because he said, "I'll go into the bedroom with my wife." But her father wouldn't allow him to go in, **2** and pleaded, "Truly, I thought that you must hate her, so I gave her to your close friend. But wouldn't her younger sister be better anyway? Please, would you take her instead."

3 Shimshon responded, "This time I'm blameless concerning the Pelishtim when I cause trouble for them." **4** Then he went and captured three hundred foxes and tied them in pairs—tail to tail. He took torches, and tied one torch between the tails of each pair. **5** He lit the torches and let the foxes loose into the grain crops of the Pelishtim. As a result, he burnt both the standing grain plants and also the harvested stacks of sheaves, and even a vineyard and an olive orchard. **6** So the Pelishtim asked, "Who did this?"

"Shimshon," they replied, "the son-in-law of the man from Timnah, because he took Shimshon's wife and gave her to his close friend." As a result, the Pelishtim went to Timnah and they burnt both the woman and her father. **7** Then Shimshon told them, "Since you actually did that horrible thing, I certainly won't stop until I've avenged myself against you all." **8** Then he attacked the Pelishtim and crippled many of them, before going to Eytam's rock where he lived in a cave.

Shimshon defeats the Pelishtim

9 However, the Pelishti warriors went and camped in Yehudah (Judah), and spread out around the town of Lehi. **10** But the men of Yehudah asked them, "Why have you all come here to attack us?"

"We've come to capture Shimshon (Samson)," they replied. "To give him some of his own back." **11** Then three thousand men from Yehudah went down to the crevice in Eytam's rock, and told Shimshon, "Don't you realise that the Pelishtim are ruling over us? Why are you causing more trouble for us?"

"Just as they've done to me," he replied, "so I've done to them."

12 "We've come here to tie you up so we can hand you over to the Pelishtim," they said.

"Okay," Shimshon responded. "But promise me that you all won't injure me yourselves."

13 "No, however, we'll certainly tie you up," they replied, "and we'll hand you over to them. But truly we won't kill you."

Literal Version

the_changes to_those_who_told_of (of)_the_riddle and_ anger_of_his _it_glowed/burnt and_he/it_ascended the_ _house_of his_father_of_his. **20** And_it_became the_wife_of Shimshvōn/(Samson) to_his_close_of_friend who he_was_a_ _special_friend to_him/it.

15:1 And_he/it_was from_days in_the_days_of the_harvest_of wheat(s) and_ Shimshvōn _he_visited ÐOM his/its_ _wife/woman with_a_kid_of goats and_he/it_said let_me_go into wife_of_my to_the_chamber and_not he_permitted_him father_of_her to_go. **2** And_ father_of_her _he/it_said really_ _(think) I_thought if/because_that utterly_(hate) you_hated_ _her and_I_gave_her to_your_close_of_friend not sister_of_is_ _her (the)_young good from_her/it let_her_belong please to/for_yourself(m) in_place_of_her. **3** And_he/it_said to/for_ _them Shimshvōn I_will_be_free the_time//this_time from_ _the_Pəlishtiy if/because I am_about_to_do with_them harm. **4** And_ Shimshvōn _he/it_went and_he_captured three hundred(s) foxes and_he/it_took torches and_he_turned tail to tail and_he/it_assigned a_torch one between the_two_of the_tails in_middle. **5** And_he_kindled fire on_torches and_ _he_sent_them among_the_standing_grain(s)_of the_Pəlishtiy and_it_burnt_up from_the_stack_of_sheaves and_unto the_ _standing_grain and_unto the_vineyard_of olive_tree[s]. **6** And_ the_Pəlishtiy _they_said who did_he_do this_thing and_they_said Shimshvōn/(Samson) the_son-in-law_of the_ _Timnite if/because he_has_taken ÐOM his/its_wife/woman and_he_has_given_her to_his_close_of_friend and_ the_ _Pəlishtiy _they_went_up and_they_burnt her and_ÐOM father_of_her with_fire. **7** And_he/it_said to/for_them Shimshvōn if you(pl)_will_do like_this if/because if I_have_ _avenged_myself on_you(pl) and_after I_will_cease. **8** And_ _he_defeated them leg with thigh a_defeat great and_he/it_ _descended and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_the_ _cleft_of the_rock_of ʿĒyṭām.

9 And_ the_Pəlishtiy _they_went_up and_they_encamped in_ _Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_they_were_spread_out at_Leḥī. **10** And_ the_man_of Yəhūdāh _they_said why have_you(pl)_ _come_up on_us and_they_said to_bind ÐOM Shimshvōn we_ _have_come_up for_doing to_him/it just_as he_did to/for_us. **11** And_ three_of thousand(s) man of_Yəhūdāh _they_went_ _down to the_cleft_of the_rock_of ʿĒyṭām and_they_said to_ _Shimshvōn not do_you_know if/because_that are_ruling over_us the_Pəlishtiy and_what this have_you_done to/for_ _ourselves and_he/it_said to/for_them just_as they_did to_ _me so I_have_done to/for_them. **12** And_they_said to_him/it to_bind_you we_have_come_down to_give_you in_the_hand_ _of the_Pəlishtiy and_he/it_said to/for_them Shimshvōn/(Samson) swear to_me lest you(pl)_should_fall on_me you(pl). **13** And_they_said to_him/it to_say no[9495] if/because only_(bind) we_will_bind_you and_we_will_give_ _you in_hand_of_their and_certainly_(kill) not we_will_kill_ _you and_they_bound_him with_two ropes new and_they_ _brought_him_up from the_rock. **14** He was_coming to Leḥī

94 **LV 15:13 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

95 **LV 15:13 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Literal Version

and_the_Pəlishtiy[969798] they_shouted to_meet_him and_it_
_rushed on/upon/above_him/it the_spirit_of **YHWH** and_
the_ropes which were_on arms_of_his _they_became like_
_flax(es) which people_have_burnt with_fire and_ fetters_of_
_his _they_dropped_off from_under hands_of_his. **15** And_he_
_found a_jawbone_of a_donkey fresh and_he_stretched_out
his/its_hand and_he_took_it and_he_struck_down with_it a_
thousand man. **16** And Shimshvōn _he/it_said with_the_
_jawbone_of the_donkey a_heap two_heaps with_the_
_jawbone_of the_donkey I_struck_down a_thousand man.
17 And_he/it_was just_as_he_finished to_speak and_he_threw
the_jawbone from_hand_of_his and_he/it_called (to)_place
(the)_that Ramath Leḥī. **18** And_he_was_thirsty very and_
_he/it_called to **YHWH** and_he_said you you_have_given by_
_the_hand_of your_servant_of_your ~~ḎOM~~ the_victory the_
_big/large/great(fs) (the)_this and_now I_will_die with_thirst
and_I_will_fall in_the_hand_of the_uncircumcised_men.
19 And_ god _he_split_open ~~ḎOM~~ the_hollow_place which is_
_at_Leḥī and_they_went_out from_him/it waters and_he_
drank and his/its_breath/wind/spirit _it_returned and_he_
_lived therefore yes/correct/thus/so he_called his/its_name
En Hakkore which is_at_Leḥī until the_day (the)_this. **20** And_
_he_judged ~~ḎOM~~ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) in_the_days_of the_Pəlishtiy
twenty year[s].

16:1 And_ Shimshvōn/(Samson) _he/it_went to_ʹAzzāh and_
_he/it_saw there a_woman a_prostitute and_he_went into_
_her. **2** To_Gazites to_say Shimshvōn he_has_come here and_
_they_surrounded and_they_lay_in_wait to_him/it all_of the_
_night at_the_gate_of the_city and_they_were_silent all_of
the_night to_say until the_light_of the_morning and_we_
_will_kill_him.[99] **3** And_ Shimshvōn _he_lay_down until the_
_middle_of the_night and_he/it_rose_up in_the_middle_of
the_night and_he_took_hold on_the_doors_of the_gate_of
the_city and_on_the_two_of the_doorposts and_he_pulled_
_them_up with the_bar and_he/it_assigned on shoulders_of_
_his and_he_carried_them_up to the_top_of the_mountain
which is_on the_face_of Ḫevrōn.

4 And_he/it_was after thus and_he_loved a_woman in_the_
_valley_of Sōrēq and_name_of_her was_Dilīlāh. **5** And_they_
_went_up to_her/it the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy and_they_said
to/for_her/it entice him and_see how strength_of_is_his
great and_how will_we_prevail to_him/it and_we_will_bind_
_him to_humble_him and_we we_will_give to/for_you(fs)
each one_thousand and_one_hundred silver. **6** And_ Dilīlāh _
_she/it_said to Shimshvōn/(Samson) tell please to_me how
strength_of_is_your great and_how will_you_be_bound to_
_humble_you. **7** And_he/it_said to_her/it Shimshvōn if
people_will_bind_me with_seven cords fresh which not they_
_have_been_dried[100101] and_I_will_be_weak and_I_will_be
like_one the_humankind. **8** And_they_brought_up to/for_

Readers' Version

Then they tied him up with two new ropes and brought him up from the rocks.

14 When they'd taken him as far as Lehi, the Pelishtim shouted triumphantly when they saw him. Then Yahweh's spirit rose in Shimshon and the ropes around his arms just seemed as weak as burnt flax stalks when he simply snapped them off him. **15** He saw a fresh donkey's jawbone lying on the ground, and he reached out his hand and grabbed it, and he slaughtered a thousand Pelishti men with it. **16** Then Shimshon declared,

"With a donkey's jawbone, one heap, two heaps,
with a donkey's jawbone, I've slaughtered a thousand men."

17 When he finished reciting that, he hurled the jawbone away, and he called that place 'Ramat-Lehi' (which means 'jawbone hill').

18 Then he was very thirsty and cried out to Yahweh, "You yourself have given your servant this great victory, but now must I die with this thirst and get captured by those uncircumcised Pelishtim?" **19** So God split open the little hollow that's at Lehi, and water came out of it. When he drank, his strength returned and he revived. Because of that, he called it 'Eyn-Hakore' (which means 'the fountain of the one who called out'), which is in Lehi to this day. **20** And so Shimshon led Yisrael (Israel) for twenty years at the time of the Pelishti oppression.

Shimshon carries away the gates

16:1 Shimshon (Samson) went to Azah (Gaza) city and he saw a prostitute woman there so he went in to spend the night with her. **2** But the Gazim passed around the news, "Shimshon's in town." So they encircled the city gate and they laid in wait for him all night. They stayed quiet the whole night, saying, "We'll kill him when it gets light." **3** Shimshon stayed with her until the middle of the night, then he got up. He picked up both the gates including the cross-bar and their posts, and hoisted them up onto his shoulders, and he carried them up to the top of the hill which is in front of Hevron.

Shimshon and Dililah

4 Sometime after that, Shimshon (Samson) fell in love with a Pelishti woman named Dililah who lived in the Sorek valley. **5** The Pelishti leaders came to her and requested, "Make him open up. Find out what makes him strong, and how we can beat him, so that we can tie him up to keep him in our power. Then we'll each give you one thousand one hundred silver coins."

6 So Dililah asked Shimshon, "Please, tell me what makes you so strong, and how could someone tie you up to keep you in their power?"

7 "If they'd tie me up with seven green cords that haven't

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96 LV 15:14 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

97 LV 15:14 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

98 LV 15:14 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

99 LV 16:2 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

100 LV 16:7 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

101 LV 16:7 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Readers' Version

been dried," he replied, "then I'd become weak and be just like any other man."

8 So the Pelishti leaders brought her seven green cords that hadn't been dried, and she tied him up with them. **9** Now she had an ambush group ready in the next room when she said to him, "The Pelishtim are here to get you, Shimshon!" But he tore the cords to shreds just like a strip of flax fiber is torn to shreds when the fire reaches it, thus they didn't find out the secret of his strength. **10** Then Dililah said to him, "Listen, you deceived me and lied to me. Now tell me, please, how could someone tie you up?"

11 "Actually, if they would tie me with new ropes which have never been used," he replied, "I'd become weak and be just like any other man."

12 So Dililah took new cords and tied him up with them. She said to him, "The Pelishtim are here to get you, Shimshon!" with the ambush group staying in the next room. But he flicked them off his arms like they were just thread.

13 Then Dililah said to Shimshon, "So far you've just been deceitful to me and told me lies. Now Tell me how you can be tied up."

So he told her, "It's if you just weave seven locks of my hair into the loom."

14 So she did it and fastened it with the pin, and called out, "The Pelishtim are here to get you, Shimshon!" Then he woke up and ripped out the pin, the loom, and his hair from the fabric.

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart isn't with me? You've been deceitful to me three times now, and you haven't revealed to me the secret of your amazing strength." **16** Day after day she nagged and pestered him until he was sick to death of hearing it. **17** So finally he told her his secret, "My hair has never been cut because I've been a Nazirite to God since my birth. If my head would be shaved, then my strength would leave me, and I'd become weak—I'd be just like any other man."

18 When Dililah perceived that he'd told her his deepest secret, she summoned the Pelishti leaders, "Come here one more time, because he's told me his secret." So the Pelishti leaders came, bringing the silver coins with them. **19** Then she made him fall asleep on her knees, and she called in a man to shave off his seven locks of hair, causing him to start to weaken, and his additional strength left him. **20** Then she said, "The Pelishtim are here to get you, Shimshon!" He woke up and thought to himself, "I'll escape like all the other times and I'll shake myself loose." But he didn't know that Yahweh had left him. **21** So the Pelishtim seized him, and they gouged out his eyes. They brought him to Azah (Gaza) and chained him with a pair of bronze shackles, then they put him to work in prison grinding grain. **22** However, over time his hair began to grow back again.

Literal Version

_her/it the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy seven cords fresh which not they_had_been_dried and_she_bound_him with_them. **9** And_the_ambusher was_sitting to/for_her/it in_chamber and_she/it_said to_him/it the_Pəlishtiy are_on_you Oh_ _Shimshvōn and_he_tore_apart ~~ḎOM~~ the_cords just_as (the)_ _cord_of (the)_tow it_is_torn_apart when_smells_it fire and_ _not strength_of_his it_was_known. **10** And_ Dilīlāh _she/it_ _said to Shimshvōn HERE you_have_deceived (in)_me and_ _you_have_spoken to_me lies now tell please to_me how will_ _you_be_bound. **11** And_he/it_said to_her/it if indeed_(bind) they_will_bind_me with_ropes new which not it_has_been_ _done in/among_them work and_I_will_be_weak and_I_will_ _be like_one the_humankind. **12** And_ Dilīlāh _she/it_took ropes new and_she_bound_him in/among_them and_she/it_ _said to_him/it the_Pəlishtiy are_on_you Oh_ _Shimshvōn/(Samson) and_the_ambusher was_sitting in_ _chamber and_he_tore_them_apart from_under arms_of_his like_thread. **13** And_ Dilīlāh _she/it_said to Shimshvōn until now you_have_deceived (in)_me and_you_have_spoken to_me lies tell to/for_me how will_you_be_bound and_he/it_said to_ _her/it if you_will_weave ~~ḎOM~~ seven the_plaits_of my_head with the_web. **14** And_she_thrust with_pin and_she/it_said to_him/it the_Pəlishtiy are_on_you Oh_Shimshvōn and_he_ _awoke from_sleep_of_his and_he_pulled_out ~~ḎOM~~ the_pin the_loom and_~~ḎOM~~ the_web. **15** And_she/it_said to_him/it how will_you_say I_love_you and_heart_of_your not is_with_ _me this three times you_have_deceived (in)_me and_not you_have_told to/for_me how strength_of_is_your great. **16** And_he/it_was if/because she_pressed for_him/it with_ _words/messages_of_her all_of the_days and_she_urged_him and_ self_of_his _it_was_short to_die. **17** And_he_told to/for_ _her/it ~~ḎOM~~ all_of his/its_heart and_he/it_said to/for_her/it a_razor not it_has_come_up on my_head if/because am_a_ _Nāzīr_of god I from_the_womb_of my_mother_of_my if I_ _was_shaved and_it_will_depart from_me strength_of_my and_I_will_be_weak and_I_will_be like_every_of the_ _humankind. **18** And_ Dilīlāh _she/it_saw[102][103] if/because_ _that he_had_told to/for_her/it ~~ḎOM~~ all_of his/its_heart and_ _she_sent and_she/it_called/named (to)_the_rulers_of the_ _Pəlishtiy to_say come_up the_time//this_time if/because he_has_told mmm[104] ~~ḎOM~~ all_of his/its_heart and_they_ _came_up to_her/it the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy and_they_ _brought_up the_silver in_hand_of_their. **19** And_she_made_ _him_sleep on knees_of_her and_she/it_called/named (to)_ _man and_she_shaved_off ~~ḎOM~~ seven the_plaits_of his/its_ _head and_she_began to_humble_him and_ strength_of_his _ _it_departed from_on_him. **20** And_she/it_said the_Pəlishtiy are_on_you Oh_Shimshvōn/(Samson) and_he_awoke from_ _sleep_of_his and_he/it_said I_will_go_out as_time on_time and_I_will_shake_myself_free and_he not he_knew if/because_that **YHWH** he_had_departed from_with_him. **21** And_they_seized_him the_Pəlishtiy and_they_gouged_out ~~ḎOM~~ eyes_of_his and_they_brought_down him to_ʿAzzāh and_ _they_bound_him with_(the)_fetters and_he/it_was grinding in_house_of the[105]. **22** And_ the_hair_of his/its_head _it_ _began to_grow_back just_as it_had_been_shaved.

102 **LV 16:18 · Note** OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

103 **LV 16:18 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

104 **LV 16:18 · Note** OSHB variant note: ה/ל: (x-qere) יָ֫לִ֥ל: lemma_l n_1.0 morph_HR/Sp1cs id_07TmX יָ֫לִ֥ל

105 **LV 16:21 · Note** OSHB variant note: סִירִיסָ֫א/ה: (x-qere) סִֽירוּסָ֫א/ה: lemma_d/631 n_0 morph_HTd/Vqsmpa id_07oxz סִֽירוּסָ֫א/ה

Literal Version

23 And_the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy they_gathered[106] to_ _sacrifice a_sacrifice great to_Dāgōn god_of_their and_for_joy and_they_said god_of_our he_has_given in_hand_of_our ÐOM Shimshvōn enemies_of_our. **24** And_ the_people _they_saw ÐOM_him/it and_they_praised ÐOM god_of_their if/because they_said god_of_our he_has_given in_hand_of_our ÐOM enemy_of_our and_ÐOM the_one_who_desolates_of land_of_ _our and_which he_has_multiplied ÐOM our_slain_of_ones. **25** And_he/it_was wwww wwww[107] heart_of_their and_they_ _said summon (to)_Shimshvōn/(Samson) so_that_he_may_ _make_sport to/for_us and_they_summoned (to)_Shimshvōn from_the_house_of the[108] and_he_made_sport before_them and_they_made_stand him between pillars. **26** And_he/it_said Shimshvōn to the_young_man who_kept_hold in_his/its_ _hand permit me and[109] ÐOM the_pillars which the_house is_ _established on_them so_that_I_may_lean on_them. **27** And_ _the_house was_full (the)_men and_(the)_women and_were_ _there_(to) all_of the_rulers_of the_Pəlishtiy and_were_on the_roof about_three_of thousand(s) man and_woman who_ _were_looking when_ Shimshvōn _sported. **28** And_ Shimshvōn _he/it_called to **YHWH** and_he_said my_master **YHWH** remember_me please and_strengthen_me please only the_time//this_time the_this the_'Elohīm so_that_I_may_ _avenge_myself vengeance_of one of_the_two_of eyes_of_my from_the_Pəlishtiy. **29** And_ Shimshvōn _he_twisted ÐOM the_ _two_of the_pillars_of the_middle which the_house was_ _established on_them and_he_supported_himself on_them one was_in_his_right_of_hand and_one was_in_his_left_of_ _hand. **30** And_ Shimshvōn/(Samson) _he/it_said life_of_my let_it_die with the_Pəlishtiy and_he_stretched_out with_ _strength and_ the_house _it_fell on the_rulers and_on all_of the_people which in/on/over_him/it and_ the_dead whom he_killed in_death_of_his _they_were many more_than_ _those_whom he_had_killed in_life_of_his. **31** And_ brothers_ _of_his and_all the_household_of his_father_of_his _they_ _went_down and_they_carried ÐOM_him/it and_they_ _brought_him_up and_they_buried him between Tsor'āh/(Zorah) and_between 'Eshtā'ol in_the_tomb_of Mānōaḥ his/its_father and_he he_had_judged ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) twenty year[s].

17:1 And_he/it_was a_man from_hill of_'Efrayim and_his/its_ _name was_Mīkāhū. **2** And_he/it_said to_mother_of_his one_ _thousand and_one_hundred the_silver which it_was_taken to/for_you(fs) and[111] you_uttered_a_curse and_also you_said in_ears_of_my HERE the_silver is_with_me I I_took_it and_ his/its_mother _she/it_said son_of_my be_blessed to/for_ _**YHWH**. **3** And_he_brought_back ÐOM the_one_thousand and_ _one_hundred the_silver to_mother_of_his and_ his/its_ _mother _she/it_said surely_(consecrate) I_consecrate ÐOM the_silver to/for_**YHWH** from_hand_of_my for_son_of_my to_make a_carved_image and_a_molten_image and_now I_ _will_return_it to/for_you(fs). **4** And_he_brought_back ÐOM the_silver to_mother_of_his and_ his/its_mother _she/it_took two_hundred silver and_she_gave_it to_silversmith and_he_ _made_it a_carved_image and_a_molten_image and_he/it_ _was in_house_of Mīkāhū. **5** And_the_man Mīkāh to_him/it a_

Readers' Version

Shimshon's death

23 Some time later, the Pelishti leaders gathered together for a celebration and to offer a large sacrifice to their god Dagon, saying, "Our god has helped us capture our terrible enemy, Shimshon (Samson)." **24** When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has helped us capture our enemy—the devastator of our region who killed so many of us." **25** Later in the celebration when the drink had liberated their thinking, they said, "Call for Shimshon so he can entertain us." So they brought Shimshon in from the prison and taunted him to get them all laughing. They made him stand among the pillars of the building **26** and he asked the servant who was guiding him by the hand, "Place my hands against the two pillars holding up the building so I can lean on them." **27** The building was full of the men and the women, including the Pelishti leaders. On the roof there were about three thousand men and women watching the entertainment with Shimshon.

28 Then Shimshon called out to Yahweh, "My master Yahweh, please remember me. Strengthen me please, just this time, oh God, so that I can avenge myself by one last act of vengeance on the Pelishtim to make them pay for my two eyes." **29** Then he took hold of the two centre pillars on which the building depended, and pressed out against them—one in his right hand and one in his left. **30** Then he exclaimed, "Let me die with the Pelishtim!" He stretched out with his strength and the building fell on their leaders and all of the people in it. So he killed more people at his death than he had killed during his life.

31 Then his brothers and all his father's household went to Azah (Gaza) and carried his body back. They buried him between Tsor'ah and Eshtaol in the burial place of his father Manoah. He had helped Yisrael (Israel) for twenty years.

The false gods of Mikiyas

17:1 Now there was a man named Mikah from the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim) **2** who admitted to his mother, "Those eleven hundred silver coins that were taken from you—when you made a curse, and even said it when I was listening, well listen, I've got it all—I took it myself."

His mother said, "May Yahweh bless you, my son." **3** Then he brought back the eleven hundred silver coins to his mother and she declared, "I will certainly consecrate the money to Yahweh for my son's benefit. Take it and we'll use it to have one statue carved and another cast." **4** So after the money had been returned, his mother gave two hundred silver coins to a silversmith. He made a carved figure and one cast from a mould, and they were placed in Mikah's house.

106 LV 16:23 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

107 LV 16:25 · Note OSHB variant note: **בוט יכ**: (x-qere) 'בֻּוֹט/כְ': lemma_k/2896 a morph_HR/Vqc id_07URH בֻּוֹט/כְ

108 LV 16:25 · Note OSHB variant note: **מיריסא/ה**: (x-qere) 'מְ֭יִרוֹסֶאָ/ה': lemma_d/631 n_0.1.1 morph_HTd/Vqsmpa id_07yyH מְ֭יִרוֹסֶאָ/ה

109 LV 16:26 · Note OSHB variant note: **ינ/שמיה/ו**: (x-qere) 'וְ֭יִנָ/שְׁמֶהָ': lemma_c/4184 n_1.1.0 morph_HC/Vhv2ms/Sp1cs id_07nfk וְ֭יִנָ/שְׁמֶהָ

111 LV 17:2 · Note OSHB variant note: **יתא/ו**: (x-qere) 'וְתָ֭אָ/וְ': lemma_c/859 c morph_HC/Pp2fs id_07bTH וְתָ֭אָ/וְ

Readers' Version

5 Now that Mikah had a shrine with gods in it, he made some priestly robes and some household gods, and consecrated one of his sons as his priest. 6 In those days, Yisrael (Israel) didn't have a king—each person would do whatever seemed right to them.

7 Now there was a young Levite man from the family of Yehudah (Judah)[110] who'd been staying in Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) (in Yehudah). 8 He left Beyt-Lehem to find another place to say, and on his way, he ended up arriving at Mikah's place in the Efrati hill country. 9 "Where have you come from?" Mikah asked him.

"I'm a Levite from Beyt-Lehem in Yehudah," he replied, "and I'm trying to find a good place to stay a while."

10 "Stay with me," said Mikah, "and be like a father and a priest to me. I'll give you ten silver coins a year as well as board and clothing." So the Levite man went in 11 and agreed to stay with Mikah, eventually becoming like one of Mikah's own sons. 12 Mikah ordained the Levite, and the young man became like a priest to him, and lived in his house. 13 "Now I know that Yahweh will make everything go well for me," Mikah said, "because I have this Levite as a priest."

The Danim settle in Layish

18:1 In those days, Yisrael (Israel) didn't have a king. The tribe of Dan was looking for land to settle in, because up until then, they hadn't been able to claim their allocated region among the Israeli tribes. 2 So the Danim sent out five capable men (from Tsor'ah and from Eshtaol) to scout out the region and explore it. They had told them, "Go and explore the area." They came to the Efrati hill country, as far as Mikah's house, and spent the night there. 3 They'd been near Mikah's house when they recognized the voice of the young Levite man. So they'd gone in there and they asked him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you get here?"

4 Then he told them what Mikah had done for him, and how he'd hired him to be like his priest.

5 So they asked him, "Please find out from God if we'll have success on this expedition we're on."

6 "Continue on in peace," the priest said. "Yahweh has prepared everything ahead of you all."

7 Then the five men left and went on to Layish. They saw that the people there were living in confidence just like the Tsidonim (Sidonians) were—peacefully and feeling secure. No one in the region was causing trouble for them and they were very settled. They were far away from the Tsidonim and didn't interact with others. 8 Then they went back to their relatives in Tsor'ah and Eshtaol, who asked them, "How did it go?"
9 "Get ready immediately," they said, "so that we can go to battle against them! Because we've seen the land and listen, it's incredibly good. Don't just stay still here—you all need to take action to go in to take possession of the land.

10 When you go, you'll all come to a people living without

Literal Version

_house_of god and_he/it_made an_ephod and_teraphim and_ _he_filled ᴅᴏᴍ the_hand_of one of_sons_of_his and_he/it_was to_him/it (into)_a_priest. 6 In_the_days the_those there_was_ _not a_king in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) everyone the_right in_eyes_of_ _his he_did. 7 And_he/it_was a_young_man from_Bēyt-food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh/(Judah) from_the_tribe_of Yəhūdāh and_he was_a_Lēviyyiy and_he was_sojourning there. 8 And_ the_man _he/it_went from_the_city from_Bēyt-food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh to_sojourn in_where he_will_find and_he_came the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim to the_house_of Mīkāh for_doing its_road/course. 9 And_he/it_said to_him/it Mīkāh from_where do_you_come and_he/it_said to_him/it am_a_Lēviyyiy I from_Bēyt- food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh and_I am_going to_sojourn in_where I_will_find. 10 And_he/it_said to_him/it Mīkāh remain with_me and_become to_me (into)_ _a_father and_(into)_a_priest and_I I_will_give to/for_ _yourself(m) ten_of silver to_days and_an_order_of garments and_sustenance_of_your and_ the_Lēviyyiy _he/it_went. 11 And_ the_Lēviyyiy _he_was_willing to_dwell with the_man and_ the_young_man _he/it_was to_him/it like_one of_sons_ _of_his. 12 And_ Mīkāh _he_filled ᴅᴏᴍ the_hand_of the_ _Lēviyyiy and_he/it_was to_him/it the_young_man (into)_a_ _priest and_he/it_was in_house_of Mīkāh. 13 And_ Mīkāh _ _he/it_said now I_know if/because_that **YHWH** he_will_do_ _good to_me if/because he_has_become to_me the_Lēviyyiy (into)_a_priest.

18:1 In_the_days the_those there_was_not a_king in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_in_days the_those the_tribe_of the_ _Danite[s] was_seeking to_him/it an_inheritance to_dwell_in if/because not it_had_fallen for_him/it until the_day (the)_ _that in_the_middle the_tribes_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) (in)_an_ _inheritance. 2 And_ the_descendants_of Dān _they_sent from_tribe_of_their five men from_ends_of_their men sons_ _of strength from_Tsor'āh/(Zorah) and_from_'Eshtā'ol to_ _spy_out ᴅᴏᴍ the_earth/land and_to_explore_it and_they_ _said to_them go explore ᴅᴏᴍ the_earth/land and_they_came the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim to the_house_of Mīkāh and_ _they_spent_the_night there. 3 They were_near the_house_of Mīkāh and_they they_recognized ᴅᴏᴍ the_voice_of the_ _young_man the_Lēviyyiy and_they_turned_aside there and_ _they_said to_him/it who did_he_bring_you here and_what are_you doing in_this_place and_what belongs_to_you here. 4 And_he/it_said to_them like_this and_like_this he_has_done to_me Mīkāh and_he_has_hired_me and_I_have_become to_ _him/it (into)_a_priest. 5 And_they_said to_him/it enquire please by_god so_that_we_may_know will_ journey_of_our which we are_going on_it _it_succeed. 6 And_he/it_said to/for_them the_priest/officer go to_peace is_in_front_of **YHWH** way_of_your(pl) which you(pl)_go in_it. 7 And_ the_ _five_of the_men _they_went and_they_came to_Layish and_ _they_saw ᴅᴏᴍ the_people which was_in_midst_of_its dwelling to_security according_to_the_custom_of the_ _Tsīdonī/(Sidonians) at_peace and_secure and_there_was_ _not one_who_put_to_shame anything on_the_earth one_ _who_possessed oppression and_were_far they from_the_ _Tsīdonī and_anything there_was_not to/for_them with anyone. 8 And_they_came to brothers_of_their Tsor'āh/(Zorah) and_'Eshtā'ol and_they_said to/for_them brothers_of_their what you(pl). 9 And_they_said arise and_ _let_us_go_up on_them if/because we_have_seen ᴅᴏᴍ the_

110 RV 17:7 · Note Maybe one parent was from the tribe of Levi and one from Yehudah?

Literal Version

_earth/land and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE it_is_good very and_
_you(pl) are_being_inactive do_not hesitate to_go to_go to_
_take_possession_of ᴅᴏᴍ the_earth/land. **10** Just_as_you(pl)_
_go you(pl)_will_come to a_people secure and_the_earth is_
_broad_of both_sides if/because he_has_given_it god in_
_hand_of_your(pl) a_place where there_is_not there lack_of
any_of thing which on_the_earth. **11** And_they_set_out from_
_there of_the_tribe_of of_the_Danite[s] from_Tsor'āh and_
from'Eshtā'ol six hundred(s) man girded weapons_of war.
12 And_they_went_up and_they_encamped at_Qiryat-
yə'ārīm/(jearim) in_Yəhūdāh/(Judah) therefore
yes/correct/thus/so they_called (to)_place (the)_that
Mahaneh Dān until the_day the_this THERE behind Qiryat
Yə'ārīm/(Jearim). **13** And_they_passed_through from_there
the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim and_they_came to the_house_of
Mīkāh. **14** And_ the_five_of the_men who_had_gone to_spy_
_out ᴅᴏᴍ the_earth/land Layish _they_answered and_they_
_said to brothers_of_their do_you(pl)_know if/because_that
there_are in_houses the_these an_ephod and_teraphim a_
_carved_image and_a_molten_image and_now consider what
will_you(pl)_do. **15** And_they_turned_aside there_(to) and_
_they_came to the_house_of the_young_man the_Lēviyyiy
the_house_of Mīkāh and_they_asked to_him/it to_welfare.
16 And_six hundred(s) man girded the_weapons_of their_
_war_of_their were_standing the_entrance_of the_gate who
from_(the)_sons of_Dān. **17** And_ the_five_of the_men who_
_had_gone to_spy_out ᴅᴏᴍ the_earth/land _they_went_up
they_went there_(to) they_took ᴅᴏᴍ the_carved_image and_
_ᴅᴏᴍ the_ephod and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_teraphim and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_
_molten_image and_the_priest was_standing the_entrance_of
the_gate and_six hundred(s) the_man (the)_girded the_
_weapons_of (the)_war. **18** And_these they_went the_house_
_of Mīkāh and_they_took ᴅᴏᴍ the_carved_image_of the_
_ephod and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_teraphim and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_molten_image
and_he/it_said to_them the_priest/officer what are_you(pl)
doing. **19** And_they_said to_him/it keep_quiet put hand_of_
_your over mouth_of_your and_come with_us and_become
to/for_us (into)_a_father and_(into)_a_priest good is_your_
_being a_priest of_the_house_of a_man one or being_your a_
_priest of_a_tribe and_of_a_clan in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **20** And_
the_heart_of the_priest/officer _it_was_good and_he/it_took
ᴅᴏᴍ the_ephod and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_teraphim and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_carved_
_image and_he_went in_the_midst_of the_people. **21** And_
_they_turned and_they_went and_they_put ᴅᴏᴍ the_little_
_one[s] and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_livestock and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_valuable[s]
before_them. **22** They they_had_gone_far_away from_the_
_house_of Mīkāh and_the_men who were_in_houses which
were_near the_house_of Mīkāh they_were_called_together
and_they_overtook ᴅᴏᴍ the_descendants_of Dān. **23** And_
_they_called_out to the_descendants_of Dān and_they_turned
faces_of_their and_they_said to_Mīkāh what is_to_you
that/for/because/then/when you_have_been_called_
_together. **24** And_he/it_said ᴅᴏᴍ gods_of_my which I_made
you(pl)_have_taken and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_priest/officer and_you(pl)_
_have_gone and_what to/for_me still and_why this are_
_you(pl)_saying to_me what is_to_you. **25** And_they_said to_
_him/it the_descendants_of Dān do_not make_heard voice_
_of_your with_us lest they_should_fall on_you(pl) men bitter_
_of self and_you_will_gather life_of_your and_the_life_of
your_household_of_your. **26** And_ the_descendants_of Dān _
_they_went to_way_of_their and_ Mīkāh _he/it_saw
if/because_that were_too_strong they from_him/it and_he_

Readers' Version

suspicion of attack, and the land is spacious in all directions, because God will hand it over to you—a place where there's no lack of anything that's on the earth."

11 So six hundred Dani warriors left Tsor'ah and Eshtaol, carrying their weapons. **12** They set off and camped at Kiryat-Yearim in Yehudah (Judah). That's why they call that place Mahaneh-Dan (meaning 'Dan's camp') to this day—it's back behind Kiryat-Yearim. **13** From there, they crossed over into the Efrati hill country, eventually arriving near Mikah's house.

14 Then the five men who had been here previously scouting out the land said to their group, "Do you know that there's a house here with a gear for priests, family idols, a carved image, and a cast image? So now, consider what you should do." **15** So they turned off the main path and they came to the place with the young Levite man in Mikah's house, and they asked about his welfare. **16** The six hundred Dani men stayed outside at the gate, holding their weapons.

17 The five men who'd gone to scout out the land went in around the back. They took the carved image, the priest's gear, the family idols, and the cast image, while the priest was standing at the entrance of the gate along with the six hundred armed men. **18** When the priest saw them bringing out all the religious objects, he demanded, "What's going on?"

19 "Stay quiet," they told him. "Put your hand over your mouth and come with us, and be like a father and a priest for us. Is it better to be a priest for only one household, or to be a priest for a whole related tribe in Yisrael (Israel)?" **20** The priest liked that idea, so he went along with them—taking the priestly gear and the household idols, and the carved image.

21 Then they went back to the main path and continued on their way with the children, animals, and those carrying the valuable property going in front. **22** When they'd already gone quite some distance from Mikah's house, Mikah and his neighbours gathered together, then the men ran in a group and caught up with the Danim. **23** They called out to the Danim who turned around to face them and asked Mikah, "What's the matter? Why has this group come together?" **24** "You all took my gods that I made," Mikah replied, "And the priest. Then you disappeared and I had nothing left. So how can you all ask me what the matter is!"

25 "I wouldn't say too much if I was you," he was told. "Otherwise some of our more fiery men might start to get a bit hostile, then you'd bring about your own death, and that of your companions!" **26** Then Mikah realised that they were too strong for them, so they turned back around and went home.

So the Danim continued onward, **27** taking with them the things that Mikah had made, as well as his priest. They came to Layish where the unsuspecting people were living peaceably, and they slaughtered them with their swords and burnt down the city. **28** No one came to rescue them because it was a long way from Tsidon (Sidon) and they did have much involvement with them anyway. (Layish was in the valley near Beyt-Rehov.) They rebuilt the city and then moved into it. **29** They named the rebuilt city Dan (instead of Layish) in honour of their ancestor Dan who was one of Yisrael's (Israel's)

Readers' Version

sons. 30 The Danim mounted the carved image for themselves to worship. Yonatan (Jonathan) (Gereshom's son from Menasheh (Manasseh)) became the priest for the Danim (and then his descendants until when the people were eventually exiled from the region). 31 So they set up the carved image that Mikah had made and worshipped it the whole time that God's tent was at Shiloh.

The Levite and his slave-wife

19:1 In those days when there was no king over Yisrael (Israel), there was a Levite man who was staying in the remotest parts of the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim). He took a slave-wife for himself from Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) in Yehudah (Judah). 2 However, she started sleeping around, and then she left him and went to her father's house in Beyt-Lehem where she ended up staying for four months. 3 Then her husband got organised and went after her—to sweet-talk her and persuade her to return with him. He took a young servant man and a team of donkeys. She invited her husband into her father's house, and when her father saw him, he was glad to meet him. 4 His father-in-law (her father) insisted on offering hospitality, so they ate and drank, and he stayed the night, and ended up staying for three days. 5 Then on the fourth day, they got up early and the Levite prepared to leave, but his father-in-law urged him to eat before they left.

6 So the two of them ate and drank together, and then the woman's father said, "Please stay another night. Relax and have a good time."

7 The man got ready to leave, however his father-in-law persisted, so he stayed another night there. 8 He got up early in the morning on the fifth day to get ready to leave, but the father of the young woman said, "Get some energy first." So they waited until later in the day, and then the two of them ate.

9 When the man stood up to go with his slave-wife and his young man, his father-in-law said, "Listen, the day's coming to an end soon. Please stay the night. See, it'll be getting dark soon. Spend the night here and be happy. Then make an early start tomorrow for your journey home."

10 But the man from the tribe of Levi didn't want to stay another night. He put saddles on his two donkeys, and started to go with his slave-wife and his servant toward Yevus city (now

Literal Version

_turned and_he_returned to house_of_his. 27 And_they they_ _took ÐOM that_which Mīkāh he_had_made and_ÐOM the_ _priest/officer who he_belonged to_him/it and_they_came to Layish to a_people at_peace and_secure and_they_struck_ _down them to_the_mouth_of the_sword and_ÐOM the_city they_burnt with_fire. 28 And_there_was_not a_deliverer if/because was_far it from_Tsīdōn/(Sidon) and_anything there_belonged_not to/for_them with anyone and_she was_ _in_valley which belongs_to_Bēyt- rehob and_they_rebuilt ÐOM the_city and_they_lived in_it. 29 And_they_called the_ _name_of the_city Dān in/on_name_of Dān ancestor_of_their who he_was_born to_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_but was_Layish the_name_of the_city to_time. 30 And_they_set_up to/for_ _them the_descendants_of Dān ÐOM the_carved_image and_ _Yōnātān/(Jonathan) the_son_of Gērəshom the_son_of wwww[112] he and_sons_of_his they_were priests of_the_tribe_ _of_of_the_Danite[s] until the_day_of the_earth/land went_ _into_exile. 31 And_they_set_up to/for_them ÐOM the_carved_ _image_of Mīkāh which he_had_made all_of the_days_of the_ _being of_the_house_of the_'Elohīm in_Shiloh.

19:1 And_he/it_was in_the_days the_those and_a_king there_ _was_not in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_he/it_was a_man a_Lēviyyiy sojourning in_the_the_remotest_parts_of the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim and_he/it_took to_him/it a_woman a_concubine from_Bēyt- food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh/(Judah). 2 And_she_ _was_angry on/upon/above_him/it concubine_of_his and_ _she_went from_with_him to the_house_of her_father_of_her to Bēyt- leḥem Yəhūdāh and_it_became there days four months. 3 And_ her/its_husband/man _he/it_rose_up and_ _he/it_went after_her to_speak to her/its_heart mmm[115] and_servant_of_his with_him/it and_a_pair_of donkeys and_ _she_brought_him the_house_of her_father_of_her and_he_ _saw_him the_father_of the_young_woman and_he_rejoiced to_meet_him. 4 And_he_took_hold in/on/over_him/it father-in-law_of_his the_father_of the_young_woman and_ _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived with_him/it three_of days and_they_ate and_they_drank and_they_spent_the_ _night there. 5 And_he/it_was in_the_day the_fourth and_ _they_rose_early in_morning and_he/it_rose_up to_go and_ the_father_of the_young_woman _he/it_said to son-in-law_ _of_his sustain heart_of_your a_piece_of bread and_after you(pl)_will_go. 6 And_they_lived and_ both_of_them _they_ _ate together and_they_drank and_ the_father_of the_young_ _woman _he/it_said to the_man be_willing please and_ _spend_the_night and_ heart_of_your _let_it_be_good. 7 And_ the_man _he/it_rose_up to_go and_he_urged in/on/over_ _him/it father-in-law_of_his and_he_returned and_he_spent_ _the_night there. 8 And_he_rose_early in_morning in_the_ _day (the)_fifth to_go and_he/it_said the_father_of the_ _young_woman sustain please heart_of_your and_delay until the_day declines and_ the_two_of_of_them _they_ate. 9 And_ _he/it_rose_up the_man to_go he and_concubine_of_his and_ _servant_of_his and_he/it_said to_him/it father-in-law_of_ _his the_father_of the_young_woman HERE please the_day it_ _is_sinking to_become_evening spend_the_night please HERE the_day to_decline spend_the_night here and_ heart_of_your _let_it_be_good and_you(pl)_will_rise_early tomorrow for_ _journey_of_your(pl) and_you_will_go to_tent_of_your.

112 LV 18:30 · Note OSHB note: Suspended letter(s). Shown as suspended letters without a superscript note number.
115 LV 19:3 · Note OSHB variant note: ו/בישה/ל: (x-qere) ה/בִישָׁה/ל': lemma_l/7725 n_1.1 morph_HR/Vhc/Sp3fs id_079hY ה/בִישָׁה/ל

Literal Version

10 And_not the_man he_was_willing to_spend_the_night and_ _he/it_rose_up and_he/it_went and_he_came to opposite Yəvūş/(Jebus) that is_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_were_ _with_him a_pair_of donkeys saddled and_concubine_of_his with_him/it. **11** They were_near Yəvūş/(Jebus) and_the_day it_had_gone_down exceedingly and_ the_servant _he/it_said to master(s)_of_his come please and_let_us_turn_aside to the_city_of the_Yəvūşī (the)_this and_let_us_spend_the_ _night in_it. **12** And_he/it_said to_him/it master(s)_of_his not we_will_turn_aside to a_city foreign who not from_(the)_sons of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they and_we_will_pass_on to Giv'āh. **13** And_he/it_said to_servant_of_his come[116][117] and_let_us_ _drew_near at_one_of the_places and_we_will_spend_the_ _night in_Giv'āh or in_Rāmāh. **14** And_they_passed_on and_ _they_went and_it_went to/for_them the_sun beside (the)_ _Giv'āh which belongs_to_Binyāmīn. **15** And_they_turned_ _aside there to_go to_spend_the_night in_Giv'āh and_he_ _went and_he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_the_open_ _square_of the_city and_there_was_not anyone who_was_ _receiving them to_the_house to_spend_the_night. **16** And_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE a_man old was_coming from work_of_his from the_field in_evening and_the_man from_hill of_'Efrayim and_he was_sojourning in_Giv'āh and_the_men_of the_place were_Ben-_of jaminites. **17** And_he_lifted_up eyes_of_his and_ _he/it_saw ~~ĐOM~~ the_man who_was_travelling in_the_open_ _square_of the_city and_he/it_said the_man[118][119] (the)_old where are_you_going and_from_where are_you_coming. **18** And_he/it_said to_him/it we are_passing from_Bēyt-food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh/(Judah) to the_remotest_parts_of the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim from_there I and_I_went to Bēyt- leḥem Yəhūdāh and_~~ĐOM~~ the_house_of **YHWH** I am_ _going and_there_was_not anyone who_was_receiving me to_ _the_house. **19** And_also straw as_well_as fodder there_are for_donkeys_of_our and_also food and_wine there_are to_me and_for_maidservant_of_your and_for_servant with your_ _servants there_is_not lack_of any_of thing. **20** And_ the_man (the)_old _he/it_said peace to/for_you(fs) certainly all_of lack_of_your is_on_me only in_square do_not spend_the_ _night. **21** And_he_brought_him to_house_of_his and_he_ _fed[120][121][122] (to)_donkeys and_they_washed feet_of_their and_they_ate and_they_drank. **22** They were_making_good ~~ĐOM~~ heart_of_their and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_men_of the_ _city men_of sons_of worthlessness they_surrounded ~~ĐOM~~ the_house beating_violently on the_door and_they_said to the_man the_master_of the_house (the)_old to_say bring_out ~~ĐOM~~ the_man who he_came to house_of_your so_that_we_ _may_know_him. **23** And_he/it_went_out to_them the_man the_master_of the_house and_he/it_said to_them no my_ _brothers_of_my do_not do_evil please after that the_man

Readers' Version

called Yerushalem (Jerusalem)).

11 They got close to Yevus and the daylight had mostly gone, so the young man said to his master, "Come, please, we should turn aside into this city of the Yevusim so we can spend the night there." **12** "We won't go into a city of foreigners," his master replied. "There's no Israelis there. Better to keep going until we reach Giveah." **13** Then he added, "Yes, let's keep going to reach either Giveah or Ramah to spend the night in." **14** So they passed Yevus and went on, but the sun went down as they neared Giveah (in Benyamite territory) **15** so they went into Giveah to spend the night there. They went and sat in the open plaza of the city, but no one invited them into their home for the night.

16 But then in late evening, an old man came in from his work in the field. He was from the Efrati hill country but currently staying in the Giveah area where the residents were Benyamites. **17** He looked up and noticed them in the open plaza of the city and asked the man, "Where are you going, and where have you come from?"

18 "We're passing through from Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) in Yehudah (Judah)," the Levite replied. "Going to the remote parts of the Efrati hill country where I'm from. I went to Beyt-Lehem, and I'm going to Shiloh where Yahweh's house is. However, no one here has invited us into their home. **19** We have our own food and straw for our donkeys, and enough food and wine for the three of us so we don't need anything else.

20 "Peace to you all," said the old man. "Let me supply everything you need—only don't spend the night here in the square." **21** Then he took them to his house and fed their donkeys. They washed their feet, and they all ate and drank. **22** They were having a good time, but suddenly the men of the city—wicked men—had surrounded the house—pounding repeatedly on the door. They called out to the old man who owned the house, "Hey, bring out the man who came to your place, so we can have fun with him."[113][114] **23** The man who owned the house went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, please you mustn't act wickedly. That man is a guest in my house—you all mustn't do this disgraceful thing. **24** My virgin daughter and his slave-wife are here. Please let me bring *them* out so you can ravish them and do whatever you want to them. But don't do that wicked thing to that man." **25** But the men weren't willing to listen to him, so the man pushed his slave-wife out to them and they raped her and

113 RV 19:22 · Note Of course, everyone understood that their aim was to sodomise him.

114 RV 19:22-24 · Cross-ref. Gen 19:5-8.

116 LV 19:13 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

117 LV 19:13 · Note OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.

118 LV 19:17 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

119 LV 19:17 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

120 LV 19:21 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

121 LV 19:21 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

122 LV 19:21 · Note OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.

Readers' Version

abused her the whole night until the morning, when they discarded her as it began to dawn.

26 The woman managed to get herself back to the house where her master was, and collapsed at the entrance until it got light. **27** When her master got up and he opened the door to go and continue on his trip, look, his slave-wife had fallen at the entrance and her hands were on the threshold. **28** "Get up," he told her. "Let's go." But she didn't answer, so he put her on his donkey and headed home. **29** When he arrived, he got a knife and hacked his wife's body into twelve pieces (including the bones), and he sent them to various places spread across all of Yisrael's (Israel's) territory. **30** Then everyone who saw a piece said, "Nothing has ever happened like this before—we've never seen anything like this from the time that the Israelis left Mitsrayim (Egypt) until now. What do we need to do about it? Speak up and make a plan."

The preparation of Israelis of war

20:1 Then all the Israelis from Dan in the north to Be'er-Sheva (Beersheba) in the south, and even from Gilead across the Yarden (Jordan), came and assembled before Yahweh at Mitspah with one single, united purpose. **2** The leaders of all the Israeli tribes also came out to show their agreement with the assembly of the people of the true God: four hundred thousand warriors all carrying swords.

3 Meanwhile, the Benyamites had heard that the Israelis had gathered at Mitspah, and everyone asked, "Explain how this wicked thing came to happen."

4 So the Levite man (the husband of the woman who had been murdered) answered, "I went to the Giveah region (in Benyamin) with my slave-wife to spend the night. **5** The citizens of Giveah conspired together against me. They surrounded the house at night because of me, intending to kill me. Instead, they assaulted and abused my slave-wife so that she died. **6** I took my slave-wife's body back home and cut her in pieces, and I sent them out into every section of the territory that God gave Yisrael (Israel), because they've committed a heinous crime, and a disgrace to Yisrael. **7** Listen, all of you Israelis, what's your advice? What should we do about it?."

8 All the people agreed together and started saying, "We won't go back to our families. We won't return to our houses.

Literal Version

the_this he_has_come not house_of_my[123] do_not do ÐOM the_disgraceful_folly (the)_this. **24** HERE daughter_of_my the_virgin and_concubine_of_his let_me_bring_out please them and_afflict them and_do to/for_them the_good in_eyes_ _of_your(pl) and_to_man the_this not you(pl)_must_do the_ _thing_of (the)_disgraceful_folly (the)_this. **25** And_not the_ _men they_were_willing to_listen to_him/it and_ the_man _ _he_took_hold on_concubine_of_his and_he_brought_her_out to_them (the)_outside and_they_knew her and_they_abused (in)_her all_of the_night until the_morning and_they_let_ _her_go in/on/at/with[124] the_dawn. **26** And_ the_woman _ _she_came to_ of_the_morning _the_turning and_she_fell the_entrance_of the_house_of the_man where master(s)_of_ _her was_there until the_light. **27** And_ master(s)_of_her _ _he/it_rose_up in_morning and_he_opened the_doors_of the_ _house and_he/it_went_out to_go to_way_of_his and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_woman concubine_of_his was_falling the_entrance_of the_house and_hands_of_her were_on the_ _threshold. **28** And_he/it_said to_her/it get_up and_let_us_go and_there_was_not one_who_answered and_he_took_her on the_donkey and_ the_man _he/it_rose_up and_he/it_went to_ _place_of_his. **29** And_he_came to_house_of_his and_he/it_ _took ÐOM the_knife and_he_took_hold on_concubine_of_his and_he_cut_her_in_pieces to_bones_of_her into_two_plus ten pieces and_he_sent_her_out in_all_of the_territory_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **30** And_it_was every_of (the)_one_who_saw and_saying(ms) not it_has_occurred and_not like_this it_has_ _been_seen (to)_from_the_day_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) came_up from_the_land_of Mitsrayim/(Egypt) until the_day the_this set to/for_you(pl) on/upon_it(f) make_ _a_plan and_speak.

20:1 And_ all_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_went_ _out and_ the_congregation _it_was_assembled like_a_man one (to)_from_Dān and_unto Bə'ēr Shevʿa´ and_the_land_of (the)_Gil´ād to **YHWH** (the)_Mitspāh. **2** And_ the_corners_of all_of the_people all_of the_tribes_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ _presented_themselves in_the_assembly_of the_people_of the_'Elohīm four hundred(s) thousand man on_foot who_ _drew a_sword. **3** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_ _heard if/because_that the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_ _had_gone_up (the)_Mitspāh and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_said speak how the_evil (the)_this did_ _it_occur. **4** And_ the_man the_Lēviyyiy the_husband_of the_ _woman (the)_murdered _he_answered and_he_said to_(the)_ _Giv´āh which belongs_to_Binyāmīn I and_concubine_of_my I_came to_spend_the_night. **5** And_they_rose_up on_me the_ _citizens_of (the)_Giv´āh and_they_surrounded on_me ÐOM the_house night me they_intended to_kill and_ÐOM concubine_of_my they_abused and_she_died. **6** And_I_took_ _hold on_concubine_of_my and_I_cut_her_in_pieces and_I_ _sent_her_off in_all the_land_of the_inheritance_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) if/because they_have_done wickedness and_ _disgraceful_folly in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **7** HERE of_you_of_all Oh_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) give to/for_you(pl) a_message and_counsel here. **8** And_ all_of the_people _he/it_rose_up like_a_man one to_say not we_will_go anyone to_tent_of_his and_not we_will_depart anyone to_house_of_his. **9** And_now this is_the_thing which we_will_do to_Giv´āh on/upon_it(f)

123 LV 19:23 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

124 LV 19:25 · Note OSHB variant note: תולע/ב: (x-qere) 'תוֹלֵעַ/כ': lemma_k/5927 morph_HR/Vqc id_07mev תוֹלֵעַ/כ

Literal Version

by_lot. **10** And_we_will_take ten men to_hundred to_ _all/each/any/every the_tribes_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_one_ _hundred to_thousand and_one_thousand to_thousand to_ _take/accept/receive provision[s] for_people for_doing to_ _coming_their to_Gev'a´ of_Binyāmīn according_to_all_of the_ _disgraceful_folly which it_did in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **11** And_ every_of (the)_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_gathered to the_ _city like_a_man one united. **12** And_ the_tribes_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_sent men in_all the_tribes_of Binyāmīn to_say what is_the_evil (the)_this which it_has_happened among_you(pl). **13** And_now give_up ~~DOM~~ the_men sons_of worthlessness who are_in_Giv'āh so_that_we_may_put_ _them_to_death and_so_that_we_may_remove evil from_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_not they_were_willing[125][126] of_ _Binyāmīn to_listen to_the_voice_of their_brothers_of_their the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **14** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_gathered from the_cities to_(the)_Giv'āh to_ _go_out for_battle with the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **15** And_they_were_mustered the_descendants_of Binyāmīn in_the_day (the)_that from_the_cities twenty and_six thousand man who_drew a_sword apart_aside from_the_ _inhabitants_of (the)_Giv'āh who_they_were_mustered seven hundred(s) man chosen. **16** From_all the_people the_this seven hundred(s) man chosen impeded_of the_hand_of his_ _right_side_of_his all_of this was_slinging with_stone to the_ _single_hair and_not he_missed. **17** And_the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_were_mustered apart_apart from_ _Binyāmīn four hundred(s) thousand man who_drew a_sword all_of this was_man_of war.

18 And_they_arose and_they_went_up Bēyt-'ēl and_they_ _enquired by_god and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ _said who will_he_go_up to/for_ourselves at_first to_battle with the_descendants_of Binyāmīn and_ **YHWH** _he/it_said Yəhūdāh/(Judah) will_at_the_first. **19** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_arose in_morning and_they_encamped on (the)_Giv'āh. **20** And_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_ _went_out to_battle with Binyāmīn and_they_deployed with_ _them the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) battle to (the)_Giv'āh. **21** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_went_out from (the)_Giv'āh and_they_destroyed among_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) in_ _the_day (the)_that two and_twenty thousand man ground_ _to_the. **22** And_ the_people the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_ _showed_itself_strong and_they_repeated to_deploy battle in_place where they_had_deployed there in_the_day (the)_ _first. **23** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_went_up and_they_wept to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before **YHWH** until the_evening and_they_enquired by_**YHWH** to_say will_ _I_repeat to_draw_near for_battle with the_descendants_of Binyāmīn my_brother/kindred and_ **YHWH** _he/it_said go_ _up to_him/it. **24** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ _drew_near to the_descendants_of Binyāmīn in_the_day the_ _second. **25** And_ Binyāmīn _he/it_went_out to_meet_them from (the)_Giv'āh in_the_day the_second and_they_ _destroyed among_the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) again eight-_of teen thousand man ground_to_the all_of these were_drawers_of a_sword. **26** And_ all_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_all the_people _they_went_up and_they_ _came Bēyt-'ēl and_they_wept and_they_lived there to_(the)_

Readers' Version

9 rather this is what we must do to Giveah: choose by lot who will fight against them. **10** Choose a tenth of our men to go and get supplies for the other warriors to travel to Giveah in Benyamin after what they did that outraged Yisrael. **11** So all Yisrael was united together against that city.

12 Then the Israeli tribes sent men across the Benyamite region to ask, "What's this evil thing that's been done among you? **13** So now, hand over those worthless men from the Giveah region so that we can put them to death and purge Yisrael of that evil." But the Benyamites weren't willing to take the advice of their Israeli relatives. **14** They came out of their cities and assembled at Giveah to the battle against the Israelis. **15** The Benyamites mobilised together twenty-six thousand men from their cities on that day, all carrying swords. In addition, seven hundred chosen men had been mobilised from the Giveah region. **16** Among all of those people were seven hundred chosen left-handers, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair without missing. **17** The Israelis (excluding Benyamites) mustered up for themselves four hundred thousand men—all expert warriors and all carrying swords.

The war to punish the Benyamites

18 The Israelis got ready and went to Beyt-El (Bethel) and asked God, "Who should lead us into battle with the Benyamites?"

"It should be Yehudah (Judah) out front," Yahweh responded.

19 So the Israelis set out in the morning and made camp near Giveah. **20** Then they went out to battle against the Benyamites—setting themselves up for the battle against them at Giveah.

21 But the Benyamites led a surprise attack out of Giveah and killed twenty-two thousand of the Israeli warriors. **22** However the Israelis strengthened themselves and they continued to set up for battle the next day at the same place.

23 Then the Israelis assembled and wept before Yahweh until evening. They asked him, "Should we continue to attack and battle against our cousins the Benyamites?"

"Go back against them," Yahweh replied. **24** So the Israelis went back to battle against the Benyamites again on the second day. **25** Again the Benyamites came out from Giveah, and this time they killed eighteen thousand Israeli swordsmen. **26** Then the Israeli warriors and all the people went back to Beyt-El (Bethel). They wept, and they sat there before Yahweh. They fasted that day until the evening, then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to Yahweh. **27** They asked Yahweh (because the box containing the agreement with the true God was there in those days **28** and Pinhas (son of

125 LV 20:13 · Note OSHB variant note: (x-qere) 'יְנֵבּ': lemma_1121 a morph_HNcmpc id_07Kvd יְנֵבּ

126 LV 20:13 · Note OSHB note: Adaptations to a Qere which L and BHS, by their design, do not indicate.

Readers' Version

Aharon's (Aaron's) son Eleazar) was serving before it in those days), "Should we continue to go to the battle once more against the our cousins the Benyamites, or should we stop?"

"Go back again, because tomorrow I'll give you victory over them," Yahweh responded.

29 So the Israelis placed groups of warriors in ambush all around Giveah. **30** Then they took their positions now for the third day against the Benyamites in Giveah. **31** When the Benyamites came out from the city, they were lured away as they began to strike down their enemies like the time before. Around thirty Israelis were killed on the two roads—one going to Beyt-El and the other to Giveah through the countryside. **32** Then the Benyamites said, "We're starting to defeat them, just like before."

But the Israelis had said, "Let's flee so that we can draw them away from the city and onto the roads." **33** Then the main group of Israelis retreated and set up battle lines at Ba'al-Tamar, as the ones hiding in ambush made a surprise attack from their places in Ma'areh-Geva. **34** Ten thousand chosen Israeli warriors came out in the sight of the Giveah region, and the battle was fierce, but the Benyamites hadn't yet realised that disaster was about to hit them. **35** Yahweh helped the Israelis to defeat the Benyamites that day, and over twenty-five thousand Benyamite swordsmen were killed **36** and they saw that they were defeated.

The Israelis had given ground to the Benyamites because they had relied on the ambush placed around Giveah. **37** Then the group hiding in ambush had rushed out and spread out around Giveah, then had gone in and attacked the entire city with their swords. **38** Then they started a fire as the prearranged signal was to be the rising column of smoke up out of the city.

39 Meanwhile the main Israeli force had retreated, and the Benyamites had attacked and killed around thirty men, thinking that they were winning like they'd done twice before. **40** But when the pillar of smoke began to rise from the city, the Benyamites looked behind them and were shocked to see their city going up in smoke. **41** Then the main Israeli force stopped retreating and turned back to attack again. The Benyamites were horrified because they now saw that disaster had struck them. **42** They retreated away from the Israelis into the wilderness, but the battle overtook them, plus the Israelis were coming back out of the cities getting right in amongst them to fight. **43** They surrounded the Benyamites as they tried to flee, and easily ran them down as they tried to escape from the Giveah region towards the east. **44** Eighteen thousand strong Benyamite warriors were killed, **45** and the rest turned and fled into the wilderness towards the Rimon rock. Another five thousand men were killed along the trails. They chased them all the way to Gideom, and killed another two thousand men, **46** so the total number of Benyamite swordsmen who were killed came to twenty-five thousand—all strong warriors.

47 But six hundred men made it to Rimon rock, and they stayed there for four months. **48** Meanwhile, the Israelis went back to the Benyamite region and killed the people with their swords—entire cities including cattle and everything

Literal Version

_face_of/in_front_of/before **YHWH** and_they_fasted on_day (the)_that until the_evening and_they_offered_up burnt_ _offerings and_peace_offerings to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before **YHWH**. **27** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _ _they_enquired by_**YHWH** and_there the_box_of the_ _covenant_of the_'Elohīm in_the_days the_those. **28** And_ _Piṇḥāṣ the_son_of 'El'āzār the_son_of 'Ah$_a$ron was_standing before_it in_the_days the_those to_say will_I_repeat again to_ _go_out for_battle with the_descendants_of Binyāmīn my_ _brother/kindred or will_I_cease and_ **YHWH** _he/it_said go_ _up if/because tomorrow I_will_give_him in_hand_of_your. **29** And_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_assigned ambushers to (the)_ _Giv'āh round_about. **30** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _ _they_went_up against the_descendants_of Binyāmīn in_the_ _day the_third and_they_deployed against (the)_Giv'āh as_ _time on_time. **31** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_ _went_out to_meet the_people they_were_drawn_away from the_city and_they_began to_strike_down some_of_the_people fatally_wounded as_time on_time in_highways which one is_ _going_up Bēyt-'ēl and_one to_Giv'āh in_the_field about_ _thirty man in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **32** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_said they are_defeated before_us as_at_time and_the_sons of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_said let_us_flee and_ _we_will_draw_him_away from the_city to the_highways. **33** And_all/each/any/every (the)_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_rose from_place_of_his and_they_deployed at_Ba'al-tamar and_the_ambusher_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) was_bursting_ _forth from_place_of_his from_the_open_place_of Gev'a'. **34** And_they_came from_before to_Giv'āh ten_of thousand(s) man chosen from_all Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_the_battle it_was_ _heavy and_they not they_knew if/because_that was_about_ _to_touch to_them (the)_calamity. **35** And_ **YHWH** _he_ _defeated ᴅᴏᴍ Binyāmīn to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ _destroyed among_Binyāmīn in_the_day (the)_that twenty and_five thousand and_one_hundred man all_of these was_ _one_who_drew a_sword. **36** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_saw if/because_that they_were_defeated and_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_gave place to_ _Binyāmīn if/because they_trusted to the_ambusher whom they_had_set against (the)_Giv'āh. **37** And_the_ambusher they_made_haste and_they_made_a_raid against (the)_Giv'āh and_ the_ambusher _he_marched and_he_struck_down ᴅᴏᴍ all_of the_city to_the_mouth_of the_sword. **38** And_the_ _appointed_signal which_it_belonged to_the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) with the_ambusher was_do_much they_to_ _cause_to_go_up the_rising_of the_smoke from the_city. **39** And_ the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he_turned in_battle and_Binyāmīn it_began to_strike_down fatally_wounded among_the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) about_thirty man if/because they_said surely totally_(defeated) it is_defeated before_us like_battle (the)_first. **40** And_the_rising it_began to_go_up from the_city a_pillar_of smoke and_ Binyāmīn _it_ _turned behind_it and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_entirety_of the_ _city it_went_up to_the_heavens. **41** And_the_man_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_turned and_ the_man_of Binyāmīn _he_ _was_terrified if/because he_saw if/because_that it_had_ _touched on/upon/above_him/it (the)_calamity. **42** And_ _they_turned to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_man_ _of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to the_way_of the_wilderness and_the_ _battle it_overtook_him and_which were_from_the_cities were_destroying him in_the_midst_of_of_him. **43** They_ _surrounded ᴅᴏᴍ Binyāmīn they_pursued_him rest they_

Literal Version

_trod_him_down to opposite (the)_Giv˝āh from_the_rising_of the_sun. **44** And_they_fell of_Binyāmīn eight- teen thousand man ᴅᴏᴍ all_of these were_men_of strength. **45** And_they_ _turned and_they_fled to_the_wilderness to the_rock_of (the)_Rimmōn and_they_gleaned_him in_highways five_of thousand(s) man and_they_pursued_closely after_him to Gid˝om and_they_struck_down from_him/it two_thousand man. **46** And_ all_of those_who_fell of_Binyāmīn _he/it_was were_twenty and_five thousand man who_drew a_sword in_ _the_day (the)_that ᴅᴏᴍ all_of these were_men_of strength. **47** And_they_turned and_they_fled to_the_wilderness to the_ _rock_of (the)_Rimmōn six hundred(s) man and_they_lived at_the_rock_of Rimmōn four months. **48** And_the_man_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) they_turned_back against the_descendants_of Binyāmīn and_they_struck_them_down to_the_mouth_of the_sword from_a_city_of soundness unto animal unto every_of (the)_thing_which_was_found also all_of the_cities which_were_found they_sent in_fire.

21:1 And_the_man_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) he_had_sworn at_ _Mitspāh to_say anyone from_him/it not he_will_give daughter_of_his to_Binyāmīn to/for_(a)_woman. **2** And_ the_ _people _it_came Bēyt- ˙ēl and_they_lived there until the_ _evening to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_'Elohīm and_they_lifted_up voice_of_their and_they_wept weeping great. **3** And_they_said why Oh_**YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) this_thing has_it_happened in_ _Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) to_be_missing the_day from_Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) a_tribe one. **4** And_he/it_was from_the_next_day and_ the_ _people _they_rose_early and_they_built there an_altar and_ _they_offered_up burnt_offerings and_peace_offerings. **5** And_ the_people_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) _they_said who is_the_ _one_who not he_went_up in_assembly from_all the_tribes_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) to **YHWH** if/because the_oath (the)_great it_ _was to_the_one_who not he_went_up to **YHWH** (the)_ _Mitspāh to_say surely_(die) he_will_be_put_to_death. **6** And_ the_people_of Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) _they_had_compassion to Binyāmīn his/its_brother and_they_said it_has_been_cut_off the_day a_tribe one from_Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel). **7** What will_we_do to/for_them for_who]_remain for_wives and_we we_have_ _sworn by_**YHWH** to_not to_give to/for_them any_of_our_ _daughters to_wives. **8** And_they_said who is_the_one of_the_ _tribes_of of_Yisrā˙ēl/(Israel) which not it_went_up to **YHWH** (the)_Mitspāh and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE not anyone he_had_ _come to the_camp from_Yāvēsh/(Jabesh)- gil˝ād to the_ _assembly. **9** And_ the_people _it_was_mustered and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE there_was_not there anyone of_the_ _inhabitants_of of Yāvēsh. **10** And_they_sent there the_ _congregation two_plus ten thousand man from_(the)_sons of_(the)_strength and_they_commanded them to_say go and_ _you(pl)_will_strike_down ᴅᴏᴍ the_inhabitants_of Yāvēsh to_ _the_mouth_of the_sword and_the_women and_the_little_ _one[s]. **11** And_this is_the_thing which you(pl)_will_do every_of male and_all woman who_has_known lying_of a_ _male you(pl)_will_totally_destroy. **12** And_they_found of_ _the_inhabitants_of of Yāvēsh four hundred(s) young_ _woman virgin[s] who not she_had_known a_man to_lying_of a_male and_they_brought them to the_camp Shiloh which in_land of_Kəna˝an/(Canaan). **13** And_ all_of the_ _congregation _they_sent and_they_spoke to the_ _descendants_of Binyāmīn who were_at_the_rock_of Rimmōn and_they_proclaimed to/for_them peace. **14** And_ Binyāmīn _ _it_returned at_time (the)_that and_they_gave to/for_them

Readers' Version

else—then the cities were set on fire.

Wives for the Benyamites

21:1 Now back in Mitspah, the Israeli men had promised never to allow their daughters to marry a Benyamite man. **2** But now the Israelis went to Beyt-El (Bethel) and sat there before God until evening—calling out and crying loudly, **3** asking, "Oh Yahweh, God of Yisrael (Israel), why has this happened to Yisrael—for one tribe to be missing from Yisrael now?"

4 The next day, the people got up early and built an altar there, and they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings. **5** Then the Israelis asked, "Among all the Israeli tribes serving Yahweh, was there any group who didn't join the battle?" (They asked that because they had previously decided that anyone who didn't go to Mitspah to fight for Yahweh would be put to death.) **6** Now the Israelis felt sorry for their Benyamite cousins, saying, "An entire tribe has been hacked off Yisrael today. **7** How can we find wives for any Benyamite men that are left because we've promised to Yahweh not to give our daughters to them to marry?

8 So they asked, "Is there any from our tribes who didn't show up for Yahweh at Mitspah?" Then listen, no one from Yavesh-Gilead had joined their assembly there. **9** (When the people had checked around themselves, they'd realised that no one from Yavesh-Gilead was there.) **10** So the Israelis sent twelve thousand warriors there, commanding them to use their swords to kill the inhabitants of Yavesh-Gilead, including married women and children— **11** specifically they had to kill every male, and every woman who's slept with a male. **12** That way they discovered four hundred young virgin women among the inhabitants of Yavesh-Gilead, and brought them back to their camp at Shiloh (in the Kena'an (Canaan) region).

13 Then the entire assembly sent a message to the Benyamites at Rimon rock, saying that they were now ready for peace. **14** So the Benyamites returned and were given the young women from Yavesh-Gilead, but there wasn't enough of them.

15 The people still felt sorry for the Benyamites, because Yahweh had caused a gap among Yisrael's (Israel's) tribes, **16** so the leaders asked, "How can we provide wives for the remaining Benyamite men since the other Benyamite women

Readers' Version

were wiped out?" **17** Because they said, "They must be able to procreate so that an entire Israeli tribe isn't blotted out. **18** But we can't be the ones to give our daughters to them to marry because we made an oath that anyone who did that would be cursed."

19 They said, "Listen, there's a celebration for Yahweh from time to time at Shiloh, which is on the north of Beyt-El (Bethel), east of the road that goes from Beyt-El uphill to Shekem, and on the south of Levonah." **20** So they told the Benyamites, "Go and hide in those vineyards **21** and watch. When the Shiloh girls come out to perform in the dances, come out of the vineyards and you can each catch a wife for yourselves, then go back home to Benyamin. **22** When their fathers or brothers complain to us, we'll tell them, "Let them have them since we didn't find you for them. And you all won't be guilty of giving them to the Benyamites because they stole them.

23 So that's what the Benyamites did—they grabbed enough dancing girls to be their wives, then they returned to their allocated land and rebuilt their cities and lived in them. **24** The other Israelis went back to their tribes and their families in the areas that had been allocated to them.

25 In those days, there was no king in Yisrael (Israel)—everyone would just do what seemed right to them.[127]

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Literal Version

the_women whom they_had_preserved_alive from_the_ _women_of Yāvēsh and_not they_found to/for_them so. **15** And_the_people it_had_compassion to_Binyāmīn if/because **YHWH** he_had_made a_breach in_the_tribes_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **16** And_ the_elders_of the_congregation _ _they_said what will_we_do for_who]_remain for_wives if/because she_is_destroyed from_Binyāmīn woman. **17** And_ _they_said a_possession_of the_escaped_remnant belongs_to_ _Binyāmīn and_not a_tribe it_will_be_wiped_out from_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **18** And_we not we_are_able to_give to/for_ _them wives any_of_our_daughters if/because the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_had_sworn to_say one_who_gives a_wife to_Binyāmīn be_cursed. **19** And_they_said HERE the_festival_ _of **YHWH** is_in_Shiloh from_days to_days which is_from_ _northward of_Bēyt-'ēl the_rising_of_towards of_the_sun of_ _the_highway which_goes_up from_Bēyt-'ēl to_Shəkem and_ _from_the_Negeʿ to_Ləvō'nah. **20** And[128][129] ~~ḎǾM~~ the_ _descendants_of Binyāmīn to_say go you(pl)_will_lie_in_wait in_vineyards. **21** And_you(pl)_will_see and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE if the_daughters_of Shiloh they_will_come_out to_dance with_dancing(s) and_you(pl)_will_go_out from the_vineyards and_you(pl)_will_seize to/for_you(pl) each_man his/its_ _wife/woman from_the_daughters_of Shiloh and_you(pl)_ _will_go the_land_of Binyāmīn. **22** And_it_was if/because fathers_of_their or brothers_of_their they_will_come mmm[130] to_us and_we_will_say to_them show_favour_for_us_ _to them if/because not we_took each_man his/its_ _wife/woman in_battle if/because not you(pl) you(pl)_gave_ _them to/for_them about_time you(pl)_will_be_guilty. **23** And_they_did thus the_descendants_of Binyāmīn and_ _they_carried_off wives to_number_of_their from the_ _dancers whom they_seized and_they_went and_they_ _returned to inheritance_of_their and_they_rebuilt ~~ḎǾM~~ the_ _cities and_they_lived in_them. **24** And_they_dispersed from_ _there the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) at_time (the) each_man to_tribe_of_his and_to_clan_of_his and_they_went_out from_ _there each_man to_inheritance_of_his. **25** In_the_days the_ _those there_was_not a_king in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) each_man the_right in_his_own_of_eyes he_will_do.

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127 RV 21:25 · Cross-ref. Jdg 17:6.

128 LV 21:20 · Note OSHB variant note: וּ/וצִי: (x-qere) וּ/וַּצִי: lemma_c/6680 n_1.1 morph_HC/Vpw3mp id_07VKr וּ/וַּצִי

129 LV 21:20 · Note OSHB note: Adaptations to a Qere which L and BHS, by their design, do not indicate.

130 LV 21:22 · Note OSHB variant note: ל/בור: (x-qere) ל/בֵּיר: lemma_l/7378 n_1.1.1.0 morph_HR/Vqc id_0752H ל/בֵּיר