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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 '<u>שָׁפַט</u>' (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

Literal Version

1:1 And_he/it_was after the_death_of Yəhōshū'a/(Joshua) and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(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_ _Shim'ōn 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 Shim'ōn. **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_Negev and_the_Shephelah. **10** And_ Yəhūdāh _he/it_ _went against the_Kəna'ₐnī[s] who_was_dwelling in_Ḥevrōn and_name_of Ḥevrōn formerly_formerly was_Qiryat 'Arba' and_they_defeated ÐOM Shēshay and_ÐOM 'Aḥīman 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_ Kālēv/(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 'Akşāh daughter_of_my to/for_(a)_ _woman. **13** And_he_captured_it 'Otnī'ēl the_son_of Qənaz the_ _brother_of Kālēv the_small(sg) from_him/it and_he_gave to_ _him/it ÐOM 'Akşāh 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 Kālēv 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_Negev you_have_given_to_me and_ _you(ms)_will_give to_me springs_of water and_he_gave to/for_ _her/it Kālēv 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_Negev_of 'Arād and_he/it_went and_he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived with the_people. **17** And_ Yəhūdāh _ _he/it_went with Shim'ōn his/its_brother and_they_attacked

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

Literal Version

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 Ḥormāh. **18** And_ Yəhūdāh _ _he_captured ÐOM ´Azzāh and_ÐOM territory_of_its and_ÐOM ʾAshqəlōn and_ÐOM territory_of_its and_ÐOM ´Eqrōn 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)_ _´Ānāq. **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 Ta´ₐnāk and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of[9] of_Dōr and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_inhabitants_of Yivlə´ām/(Ibleam) and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ÐOM the_ _inhabitants_of Məgiddōn and_ÐOM daughters_of_its and_ the_ _Kəna´ₐnī/(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_Kəna´ₐnī[s] into_ _forced_labour and_completely_(dispossess) not it_ _dispossessed_him. **29** And_ʾEfrayim not it_dispossessed ÐOM the_Kəna´ₐnī[s] who_was_dwelling in_Gezer and_ the_ _Kəna´ₐnī[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_ _Kəna´ₐnī[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 ´Akkō and_ÐOM the_

Readers' Version

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 (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.

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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

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 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 Is-

Literal Version

_inhabitants_of Tsīdōn/(Sidon) and_ĐOM 'Aḥlāv and_ĐOM 'Akzīv and_ĐOM Ḥelbāh and_ĐOM 'Afēq and_ĐOM Rəḥov. 32 And_ the_Asherite[s] _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_the_ _midst_of the_Kəna'ₐnī[s] the_inhabitants_of the_earth/land if/because not it_dispossessed_it. 33 Naftālī not it_dispossessed ĐOM the_inhabitants_of Bēyt Shemesh and_ĐOM 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 ĐOM 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 ĐOM the_ _words/messages the_these to all_of the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_ the_people _they_lifted_up ĐOM 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 ĐOM the_people and_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_went everyone to_his_ _own_of_inheritance to_take_possession_of ĐOM the_ _earth/land. 7 And_ the_people _they_served ĐOM **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 ĐOM 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 ĐOM **YHWH** and_also ĐOM the_ _work which he_had_done for_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _he/it_rose_up.

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

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

Literal Version

11 And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_made ĐOM the_evil in/on_both_eyes_of **YHWH** and_they_served ĐOM the_Ba'al. **12** And_they_abandoned ĐOM **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 ĐOM **YHWH**.[1314] **13** And_they_abandoned ĐOM **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 ĐOM covenant_of_my which I_commanded ĐOM 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 ĐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) be_ will_they _keeping ĐOM the_way_of **YHWH** to_go in_them just_ _as ancestors_of_their they_kept_it or not. **23** And_ **YHWH** _he_ _left ĐOM 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 ĐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) ĐOM all_of those_who not they_had_known ĐOM 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_

Readers' Version

raelis. **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 Yisrael (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

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.)

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.

Readers' Version

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.

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

Literal Version

_Pəlishtiy and_all the_Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] and_the_ _Sidonian[s] and_the_Ḥiūī[s] who_was_dwelling of_the_mount_ _of of_(the)_Ləvānōn from_hill of Ba'al to Ləvō' Ḥₐmāt. 4 And_ _they_were to_put_to_the_test by_them ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_ _know will_they_obey ÐOM the_commands_of **YHWH** which he_ _had_commanded ÐOM ancestors_of_their by_the_hand_of Mosheh. 5 And_the_sons of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_dwelt in_the_ _midst_of the_Kəna'ₐnī[s] the_Ḥittiy[s] and_the_'Amorī[s] and_ _the_Pərizzī[s] and_the_Ḥiūī[s] and_the_Yəvūṣī/(Jebusite)[s]. 6 And_they_took ÐOM daughters_of_their to/for_them to_wives and_ÐOM daughters_of_their they_gave to_sons_of_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_

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

Literal Version

_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_ʾĒhūd 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_ ʾĒhūd _he/it_said a_message_of god to_me to_you and_he/it_rose_up from_under the_seat. **21** And_ ʾĒhūd _he_stretched_out ᴅᴏᴍ the_hand_of his_left_hand_of_his and_he/it_took ᴅᴏᴍ 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_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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ enemies_of_your(pl) ᴅᴏᴍ Mōʾāv in_ _hand_of_your(pl) and_they_went_down after_him and_they_ _captured ᴅᴏᴍ the_fords_of the_Yardēn/(Jordan) to_Mōʾāv and_not they_permitted anyone to_pass_over. **29** And_they_ _struck_down ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_Pəlishtiy six hundred(s) man with_the_ _goad_of (the)_cattle and_ also he _he_delivered ᴅᴏᴍ 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 Kəna ʿan/(Canaan) who he_reigned in_Ḥātsōr and_the_commander_of his_army_of_his was_Ṣīṣərāʾ

Readers' Version

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.

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

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.

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

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 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

Literal Version

and_he was_dwelling in_Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 And_ the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(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 Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) by_force twenty year[s]. 4 And_Dəbōrāh was_a_woman a_prophetess the_wife_of Lappidōt she was_judging ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) at_ _time (the)_that. 5 And_she was_dwelling under the_palm_tree_ _of Dəbōrāh between (the)_Rāmāh and_between Bēyt-'ēl in_ _the_hill_country_of 'Efrayim and_they_went_up to_her/it the_ _people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) for_judgement. 6 And_she_sent and_ _she/it_called/named (to)_Bārāq the_son_of 'Avīnno'am from_ _Qedesh Naftālī and_she/it_said to_him/it not has_he_ _commanded **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(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 Ṣīṣərā' the_commander_of the_ _army_of Yāvīn/(Jabin) and_ÐOM chariotry_of_his and_ÐOM 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 ÐOM Ṣīṣərā' and_ Dəbōrāh _she/it_arose and_she_went[232425] with Bārāq to_Qedesh. 10 And_ Bārāq _he_summoned ÐOM Zəvulun and_ÐOM 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 ÐOM all_of chariotry_of_his nine hundred(s) chariot[s]_of iron and_ÐOM 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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM Ṣīṣərā' and_ _ÐOM all_of the_chariotry and_ÐOM 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

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: **מִינְּנֻעַצ/ב**: (x-qere) '**מִינְּנֻעַצ/ב**': lemma_b/6815 n_0.0 morph_HR/Np id_07aFY **מִינְּנֻעַצ/ב**

Literal Version

to the_tent_of Yā·ʿēl/(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·ʿēl _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 ~~DOM~~ 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·ʿēl the_
_wife_of Ḥever _she/it_took ~~DOM~~ the_peg_of the_tent and_she_
_put ~~DOM~~ the_hammer in_hand_of_her and_she_went to_him/it
in_secrecy and_she_drove ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ Ṣīṣərā' and Yā·ʿēl/(Jael) _she_went_out to_meet_
_him and_she/it_said to_him/it come and_I_will_show_you ~~DOM~~
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
~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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·ʿēl/(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_

Readers' Version

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).

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.

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.

30 **RV 5:5 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:18.

Readers' Version

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.
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.

Literal Version

_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_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 Ḥevər 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) ~~DOM~~ the_ _dens which are_in_mountains and_~~DOM~~ the_caves and_~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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)

Readers' Version

'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.
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 en-

32 LV 6:5 · Note OSHB variant note: וְאָבִי: (x-qere) וְאָבֶו/וְ': lemma_c/935 morph_HC/Vqq3cp id_07XWV וְאָבֶו/וְ

Readers' Version

tered 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 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.

Literal Version

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) ~~ÐOM~~ land_of_their. **10** And_I_said to/for_you(pl) I am_**YHWH** god_of_your(pl) not you(pl)_must_fear ~~ÐOM~~ 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 ~~ÐOM~~ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) from_the_ _palm_of 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_Gidʿōn 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_ Gidʿōn _he/it_ _saw if/because_that was_the_messenger_of **YHWH** it and_ Gidʿōn _he/it_said alas my_master **YHWH** if/because therefore yes/correct/thus/so I_have_seen the_messenger_of **YHWH** face

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.

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.

Literal Version

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_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'ē[l]/(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_'Ělohīm if (there)_you will_be_

Readers' Version

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 summoned 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.

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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.

Readers' Version

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 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

Literal Version

_delivering by_hand_of_my ~~DOM~~ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) just_as you_ _have_spoken. **37** HERE I am_placing ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ the_people to the_waters and_ **YHWH** _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 ~~DOM~~ Midyān in_hand_of_your and_all the_people let_them_go each to_his_own_of_place. **8** And_ the_people _they_took ~~DOM~~ provision[s] in_hand_of_their and_~~DOM~~ trumpets_of_their and_ _~~DOM~~ 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

42 RV 7:3 · Cross-ref. Deu 20:8.

Literal Version

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_ʼAmālēq 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_ Gidʻōn _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 Gidʻōn the_son_of Yōʼāsh/(Joash) the_man_of Yisrāʼēl/(Israel) the_ʼElohīm he_has_given in_his/its_hand ÐǾM Midyān and_ _ÐǾM all_of the_army. **15** And_he/it_was just_ Gidʻōn _as_heard ÐǾM the_recounting_of the_dream and_ÐǾM interpretation_of_ _its and_he_bowed_down and_he_returned to the_camp_of Yisrāʼēl/(Israel) and_he/it_said arise if/because **YHWH** he_has_ _given in_hand_of_your(pl) ÐǾM the_camp_of Midyān. **16** And_ _he_divided ÐǾM 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_Gidʻōn. **19** And_ Gidʻōn 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 ÐǾM 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_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_Gidʻōn. **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 ÐǾM 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 Yisrāʼēl/(Israel) _ _it_was_summoned from_Naftālī and_from ʼĀshēr and_from all_ _of Mənashsheh and_they_pursued after Midyān. **24** And_ _messengers Gidʻōn he_sent in_all the_hill_country_of ʼEfrayim to_say come_down to_meet Midyān and_capture to/for_them ÐǾM the_waters to Bēyt Barah and_ÐǾM the_Yardēn/(Jordan) and_ every_of (the)_man_of ʼEfrayim _he_was_summoned and_

Readers' Version

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 nightwatch 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 pursuing 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.

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43 LV 7:13 · Note OSHB variant note: **לולצ**: (x-qere) **ʼלִילְצ**: lemma_6742 n_0.1.1.0 morph_HNcmsc id_07vwy **לִילְצ**

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) **ʼוסִוָנְי/ו**: lemma_c/5127 n_0 morph_HC/Vqw3mp id_07f82 **וסִוָנְי/ו**

Readers' Version

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 allied 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

Literal Version

_they_captured ÐOM the_waters to Bēyt Barah and_ÐOM the_
_Yardēn. **25** And_they_captured the_two_of the_commanders_
_of Midyān ÐOM ʹOrēv and_ÐOM Zaʾēv and_they_killed ÐOM
ʹOrēv at_the_rock_of ʹOrēv and_ÐOM Zaʾēv they_killed at_
_winepress_of Zaʾēv and_they_pursued (to) Midyān and_the_
_head_of ʹOrēv and_Zaʾēv they_brought to Gidʹōn from_the_
_other_side of_Yardēn.
8:1 And_they_said to_him/it the_man_of ʾEfrayim 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 ʾEfrayim more_than_the_grape_
_harvest_of ʾAvīʹezer. **3** In_hand_of_your(pl) god he_has_given
ÐOM the_commanders_of Midyān ÐOM ʹOrēv and_ÐOM Zaʾēv
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_ Gidʹōn _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_Tsalmunnāʹ/(Zalmunna) the_kings_
of Midyān. **6** And the_officials_of Ṣukkōt _he/it_said is_the_
_palm_of Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʹ now in_hand_of_your
that/for/because/then/when we_will_give to_army_of_your
bread. **7** And_ Gidʹōn _he/it_said for_so/thus/hence when_
YHWH _gives ÐOM Zevaḥ and_ÐOM Tsalmunnāʹ in_hand_of_my
and_I_will_thresh ÐOM flesh_of_your(pl) with (the)_thorns_of
the_wilderness and_ÐOM (the)_briers. **8** And_he/it_ascended
from_there Pənūʾēl and_he/it_spoke to_them like_this and_ the_
_men_of Pənūʾēl _they_answered him just_as the_men_of
Ṣukkōt they_had_answered. **9** And_he/it_said also to_the_men_
_of Pənūʾēl to_say when_return_I in_peace I_will_tear_down ÐOM
the_tower (the)_this. **10** And_Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʹ 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 man who_drew the_sword.
11 And_ Gidʹōn _he/it_ascended the_direction_of those_who_
_dwell_of in_tents from_east of_Novaḥ and_
_Yogbəhāh/(Jogbehah) and_he_attacked ÐOM the_army and_
_the_army it_was security. **12** And_ Zevaḥ and_
_Tsalmunnāʹ/(Zalmunna) _they_fled and_he_pursued after_
_them and_he_captured ÐOM the_two_of the_kings_of Midyān
ÐOM Zevaḥ and_ÐOM Tsalmunnāʹ and_all the_army he_routed.
13 And_ Gidʹōn the_son_of Yōʾāsh/(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 ÐOM the_
_officials_of Ṣukkōt and_ÐOM its_of_elders seventy and_seven
man. **15** And_he_came to the_men_of Ṣukkōt and_he/it_said
HERE Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʹ whom you(pl)_taunted me to_say
is_the_palm_of Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʹ now in_hand_of_your
that/for/because/then/when we_will_give to_men_of_your

46 RV 8:3-5 · Cross-ref. Psa 83:11.

Literal Version

(the)_weary bread. **16** And_he/it_took ÐOM the_elders_of the_ _city and_ÐOM the_thorns_of the_wilderness and_ÐOM the_ _briers and_he_taught (is)_in_them ÐOM the_men_of Ṣukkōt. **17** And_ÐOM the_tower_of Pənūʾēl he_tore_down and_he_killed ÐOM the_men_of the_city. **18** And_he/it_said to Zevaḥ and_ _near/to Tsalmunnāʹ 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_ Zevaḥ and_Tsalmunnāʹ/(Zalmunna) _he/it_said you arise and_fall on_us if/because is_like_man strength_of_his and_ Gidʹōn _he/it_rose_up and_he_killed ÐOM Zevaḥ and_ÐOM Tsalmunnāʹ and_he/it_took ÐOM the_ornaments which were_ _on_the_necks_of their_camels_of_their. **22** And_ the_man_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_said to Gidʹōn 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 Gidʹōn 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 Gidʹōn 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_Yishmāʹēlī they. **25** And_they_said indeed_(give) we_will_give_them and_they_spread_out ÐOM 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_ Gidʹōn _ _he/it_made it into_an_ephod and_he_placed it in_city_of_his in_ʹOfrāh and_ all_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_acted_as_prostitutes after_it there and_he/it_was for_Gidʹōn and_for_household_of_ _his (into)_a_snare. **28** And_ Midyān _it_was_subdued to_(the)_ _face_of/in_front_of/before the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(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 Gidʹōn.

29 And_ Jerub-Baʹal the_son_of Yōʾāsh/(Joash) _he/it_went and_ _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived in_his_own_of_house. **30** And_to_Gidʹōn 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 ÐOM his/its_name ʾAvīmelek. **32** And_ Gidʹōn the_son_of Yōʾāsh _ _he/it_died in_old_age good and_he_was_buried in_the_tomb_ _of Yōʾāsh his/its_father in_ʹOfrāh of_the_Abi- ezrite[s]. **33** And_

Readers' Version

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.

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

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.

Readers' Version

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.

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

Literal Version

_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 ~~DOM~~ **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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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_king ~~DOM~~ '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_

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.

Literal Version

_king and_they_said to_tree mmm[67] over_us. 9 And_he/it_said to/for_them the_olive_tree will_I_cease ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ sweetness_of_my and_ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ_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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_cedars_of (the)_Ləvānōn. 16 And_now if in_faithfulness and_in_integrity you(pl)_have_acted and_ _you(pl)_have_made_king ᴅᴏᴍ '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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ sons_of_his seventy man on stone one and_you(pl)_have_made_king ᴅᴏᴍ '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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_citizens_of Shəkem and_ᴅᴏᴍ Bēyt Millō' and_ a_fire _let_it_go_out from_the_ _citizens_of Shəkem and_from_household millo and_let_it_ _consume ᴅᴏᴍ '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 ᴅᴏᴍ hands_of_his to_kill ᴅᴏᴍ brothers_of_his. 25 And_they_set to_him/it the_citizens_of Shəkem ambushers on the_tops_of the_mountains and_they_ _robbed ᴅᴏᴍ 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 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 ᴅᴏᴍ vineyards_of_their and_they_trod_them and_they_made rejoicings and_they_came the_house_of their_god_of_their

Readers' Version

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 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

67 LV 9:8 · Note OSHB variant note: המ/כולמ: (x-qere) המָּכְלָמ': lemma_4427 a morph_HVqv2ms/Sh id_07UZY המָּכְלָמ

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

Readers' Version

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 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

Literal Version

and_they_ate and_they_drank and_they_cursed ~~ĐOM~~ 'Avīmelek. **28** And_he/it_said Ga'al the_son_of 'Eved 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_Zəvul deputy_of_his serve ~~ĐOM~~ the_men_of Ḥₐmōr the_father_of Shəkem and_why will_we_serve_him we. **29** And_who will_he_ _give ~~ĐOM~~ the_people the_this in_hand_of_my and_I_will_ _remove ~~ĐOM~~ 'Avīmelek and_he/it_said of_'Avīmelek make_ _numerous army_of_your and_come_out. **30** And_ Zəvul the_ _official_of the_city _he/it_listened ~~ĐOM~~ the_words/messages_ _of Ga'al the_son_of 'Eved and_ anger_of_his _it_glowed/burnt. **31** And_he_sent messengers to 'Avīmelek in_treachery to_say HERE Ga'al the_son_of 'Eved and_brothers_of_his are_coming to_Shəkem and_HERE_they are_shutting_up ~~ĐOM~~ 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 'Eved _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 ~~ĐOM~~ the_people and_he/it_said to Zəvul THERE a_ _people is_coming_down from_the_tops_of the_mountains and_ _he/it_said to_him/it Zəvul ~~ĐOM~~ 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 Zəvul 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_ Zəvul _he/it_drove_out ~~ĐOM~~ Ga'al and_ _~~ĐOM~~ 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 ~~ĐOM~~ 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_fighting against_city all_of the_day (the)_that and_he_captured ~~ĐOM~~ the_city and_~~ĐOM~~ the_people which was_ _in_it he_killed and_he_pulled_down ~~ĐOM~~ the_city and_he_ _sowed_it salt. **46** And_ all_of the_citizens_of the_tower_of

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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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 Tēvēṭs and_he_ _encamped at_Tēvēṭs 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_evil_of ’Avīmelek which he_ _had_done to_father_of_his by_killing ᴅᴏᴍ seventy brothers_of_ _his. **57** And_ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_ _Ba´al and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_´Ashtārōt and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_gods_of ’Arām and_ _ᴅᴏᴍ the_gods_of Tsīdōn/(Sidon) and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_gods_of Mō’āv

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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 worshipped the Ba’als, the Ashtarot, the gods of Aram (Syria), the gods of Tsidon

66 RV 9:53 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 11:21.

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(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."

11:1 Now Yiftah (Jephthah) the Giladi was **Yiftah**
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

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and_DOM the_gods_of the_people_of ʻAmmōn and_DOM the_ _gods_of the_Pəlishtiy and_they_abandoned DOM **YHWH** and_ _not they_served_him. **7** And_ the_anger of_**YHWH** _it_ _glowed/burnt on_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_he_sold_them in_the_ _hand_of the_Pəlishtiy and_in_the_hand_of the_people_of ʻAmmōn. **8** And_they_shattered and_they_crushed DOM the_ _people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) in_year (the)_that eight- teen year[s] DOM all_of the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) who were_on_the_ _other_side_of the_Yardēn/(Jordan) in_land the_'Amorī which is_in_Gilʻād. **9** And_ the_people_of ʻAmmōn _they_passed_over DOM the_Yardēn to_fight also against_Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_ _against_Binyāmīn and_against_the_house_of 'Efrayim and_it_ _was_distress to_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) exceedingly. **10** And_ the_ _people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_cried_out to **YHWH** to_say we_have_sinned to/for_you(fs) and_because/when we_have_ _abandoned DOM god_of_our and_we_have_served DOM the_ _Baʻal. **11** And_ **YHWH** _he/it_said to the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) not from_Mitsrayim/(Egypt) and_from the_ _'Amorī and_from the_people_of ʻAmmōn and_from the_ _Pəlishtiy. **12** And_the_Tsīdonī/(Sidonians) and_ʻAmālēq and_ _Māʻōn 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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 DOM the_gods_of (the)_foreignness from_midst_of_their and_they_ _served DOM **YHWH** and_ self_of_his _it_was_short at_the_ _trouble_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **17** And_ the_people_of ʻAmmōn _ _they_were_summoned and_they_encamped in_Gilʻād and_ the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_gathered and_they_ _encamped at_Mitspāh. **18** And_ the_people the_leaders_of Gilʻād _they_said each to his/its_neighbour who the_man who he_will_begin to_fight against_the_people_of ʻAmmōn he_will_ _become (into)_chief to_all/each/any/every the_inhabitants_of Gilʻād.

11:1 And_Yiftāḥ/(Jephthah) the_Gilʻādite he_was a_mighty_ _man_of strength and_he was_the_son_of a_woman a_ _prostitute and_ Gilʻād _he/it_fathered DOM Yiftāḥ. **2** And_ the_ _wife_of Gilʻād _she/it_gave_birth to_him/it sons and_ the_ _sons_of the_woman _they_grew_up and_they_drove_out DOM 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 ʻAmmōn _they_fought with Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **5** And_he/it_was just_as the_people_of ʻAmmōn they_fought with Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_ the_elders_of Gilʻād _they_went to_ _take/accept/receive DOM Yiftāḥ from_the_land of_Ṭōv. **6** And_ _they_said to_Yiftāḥ come and_you_will_become to/for_

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_ourselves (into)_a_commander so_that_we_may_fight against_ _the_people_of ʼAmmōn. **7** And_ Yiftāḥ _he/it_said to_the_ _elders_of Gilʼād 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 Gilʼād _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 Gilʼād. **9** And_ Yiftāḥ _ _he/it_said to the_elders_of Gilʼād 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 Gilʼād _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 Gilʼād 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_Miṣpāh. **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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) it_took ᴅᴏᴍ land_of_my when_it_came_up from_Miṣrayim/(Egypt) from_the_ʼArnōn 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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) it_has_taken ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of Mōʾāv and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of the_people_of ʼAmmōn. **16** If/because when_they_came_up from_Miṣrayim and_ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _he/it_went in_wilderness to the_sea_of reed[s] and_it_came to_Qādēsh. **17** And_ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _it_sent messengers to the_king_of ʾEdōm to_say let_me_pass please in_ _land_of_your and_not the_king_of ʾEdōm he_listened and_also to the_king_of Mōʾāv it_sent and_not he_was_willing and_ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _he/it_sat_down//remained//lived at_Qādēsh. **18** And_he/it_went in_wilderness and_it_went_around ᴅᴏᴍ the_ _land_of ʾEdōm and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_land_of Mōʾāv and_it_came from_ _the_rising_of the_sun of_the_land_of of_Mōʾāv and_they_ _encamped on_the_other_side_of the_ʼArnōn and_not they_ _went in_the_territory_of Mōʾāv if/because the_ʼArnōn was_ _the_border_of Mōʾāv. **19** And_ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _it_sent messengers to Ṣīḥōn the_king_of the_ʼAmorī the_king_of Ḥeshbōn and_he/it_said to_him/it Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) let_us_pass please in_land_of_your to place_of_my_own. **20** And_not Ṣīḥōn he_trusted ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) to_pass in_territory_of_his and_ Ṣīḥōn _he_gathered ᴅᴏᴍ all_of people_of_his and_they_ _encamped at_Yahaṣ/(Jahaz) and_he_fought with Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **21** And_ **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _ _he/it_gave ᴅᴏᴍ Ṣīḥōn and_ᴅᴏᴍ all_of people_of_his in_the_

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come to me now when you have troubles?"

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 dis-

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.

Readers' Version

possessed 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 Yisrael 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

Literal Version

_hand_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_they_defeated_them and_ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _it_took_possession_of ĐOM all_of the_land_of the_'Amorī who_was_dwelling the_earth/land (the)_that. **22** And_they_took_possession_of ĐOM 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 ĐOM the_'Amorī from_face/in_front_of people_ _of_his Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_you(ms) will_you_take_possession_ _of_it. **24** Not ĐOM that_which he_will_cause_you_to_possess Kəmōsh/(Chemosh) god_of_your it will_you_take_possession_of and_ĐOM 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 ĐOM (the)_Gilʿād and_ĐOM Mənashsheh and_he_passed_through ĐOM 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 ĐOM 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 ĐOM clothes_of_his and_he/it_said alas my_ _daughter_of_my exceedingly_(bring_low) you_have_brought_

72 **RV 11:25 · Cross-ref.** Num 22:1-6.

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.

Literal Version

_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 ᴅᴏᴍ mouth_of_your to **YHWH** do to_me just_as it_has_come_out from_mouth_of_your after that he_did to/for_yourself(m) **YHWH** vengeance(s) from_enemies_of_your from_(the)_sons of_ʼAmmōn. **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_Gilʼādite 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 ʼAmmōn 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_ _ʼAmmōn 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 ʼAmmōn 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 Gilʼād and_he_fought with ʾEfrayim and_ the_men_of Gilʼād _ _they_defeated ᴅᴏᴍ ʾEfrayim if/because they_had_said are_ _fugitives_of ʾEfrayim you(pl) Oh_Gilʼād in_the_middle of_ _ʾEfrayim in_the_middle of_Mənashsheh. **5** And_ Gilʼād _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 Gilʼād 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_Gilʼādite _he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_ _the_cities_of Gilʼād.

Readers' Version

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 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.

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

79 LV 11:37 · Note OSHB variant note: יִ/תִּיעַר/וּ: (x-qere) יִ/תּוֹעֲרוּ: lemma_c/7464 n_0 morph_HC/Ncfpc/Sp1cs id_07gHx יִ/תּוֹעֲרוּ

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.

Readers' Version

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 Zevulun. **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," Yah-

Literal Version

8 And_he_judged after_him ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) 'Ivtsān 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 ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) seven years. **10** And_ 'Ivtsān _he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_house_of leḥem. **11** And_he_judged after_him ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) 'Ēylōn the_Zəvulunite and_he_ _judged ÐOM Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) ten years. **12** And_ 'Ēylōn the_ _Zəvulunite _he/it_died and_he_was_buried in_'Ayyālōn in_ _land of_Zəvulun. **13** And_he_judged after_him ÐOM 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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM 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_ÐOM 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

83 RV 13:5 · Cross-ref. Num 6:1-5.

Literal Version

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 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_ _kid_of the_goats and_ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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

Readers' Version

weh'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," Yahweh'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."

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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: ד/ירבד: (x-qere) ה֫/רָבְּד֫: lemma_1697 n_0.0 morph_HNcmsc/Pp2ms id_07LNG ה֫/רָבְּד֫

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.

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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 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

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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_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **5** And_ Shimshvōn/(Samson) and_father_of_his and_mother_of_his _ _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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ your(fs)_man/husband so_that_he_may_tell to/for_us ~~DOM~~ the_riddle lest we_should_ _burn you and_~~DOM~~ 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

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.

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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 ~~DOM~~ spoil(s)_of_their and_he/it_ _gave 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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~ 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_~~DOM~~ 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 ´Ēyṭām.

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 ~~DOM~~ 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 ´Ēyṭām 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

Readers' Version

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 (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?"

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"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." 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

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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 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) in_the_days_ _of the_Pəlishtiy twenty year[s].

16:1 And_ Shimshvōn/(Samson) _he/it_went to_ʿAzzāh 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 Ḥevrōn.
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_

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.
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.

Literal Version

_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[100][101]
and_I_will_be_weak and_I_will_be like_one the_humankind.
8 And_they_brought_up to/for_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
ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_pin the_loom
and_ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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] ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ seven the_plaits_of his/its_head and_

Readers' Version

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 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

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.

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: ל/ה: (x-qere) לִי: lemma_l n_1.0 morph_HR/Sp1cs id_07TmX לִי

Readers' Version

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.

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.

Literal Version

_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 ~~DOM~~ 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.

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 ~~DOM~~ Shimshvōn enemies_of_our. **24** And_ the_people _they_saw ~~DOM~~_him/it and_they_praised ~~DOM~~ god_of_their if/because they_said god_of_our he_has_given in_hand_of_our ~~DOM~~ enemy_of_our and_~~DOM~~ the_one_who_desolates_of land_of_our and_which he_has_multiplied ~~DOM~~ 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] ~~DOM~~ 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_ʾElohīm so_that_I_may_avenge_ _myself vengeance_of one of_the_two_of eyes_of_my from_the_ _Pəlishtiy. **29** And_ Shimshvōn _he_twisted ~~DOM~~ 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 ~~DOM~~_ _him/it and_they_brought_him_up and_they_buried him between Tsorʿāh/(Zorah) and_between ʾEshtāʾol in_the_tomb_ _of Mānōaḥ his/its_father and_he he_had_judged ~~DOM~~ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) twenty year[s].

105 LV 16:21 · Note OSHB variant note: יריסא/ה: (x-qere) 'סֵירוֹאָ֫ה': lemma_d/631 n_0 morph_HTd/Vqsmpa id_07oxz סֵירוֹאָ֫ה

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) 'בֹּוטְכִ': lemma_k/2896 a morph_HR/Vqc id_07URH בֹּוטְכִ

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

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

Literal Version

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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_one_thousand and_ _one_hundred the_silver to_mother_of_his and_ his/its_mother _she/it_said surely_(consecrate) I_consecrate ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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_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_

Readers' Version

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.

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?"

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

111 LV 17:2 · Note OSHB variant note: וְתֹאמֶר: (x-qere) וְתֹאמֶר׃; lemma_c/859 c morph_HC/Pp2fs id_07bTH וְתֹאמֶר׃

Readers' Version

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 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

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_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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM the_ _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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM the_earth/land _they_went_up they_went there_(to) they_took ÐOM the_carved_image and_ _ÐOM the_ephod and_ÐOM the_teraphim and_ÐOM 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 ÐOM the_carved_image_of the_ephod and_ÐOM the_ _teraphim and_ÐOM 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_

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_was_good and_he/it_took ÐOM the_ephod and_ÐOM the_ _teraphim and_ÐOM the_carved_image and_he_went in_the_ _midst_of the_people. **21** And_they_turned and_they_went and_ _they_put ÐOM the_little_one[s] and_ÐOM the_livestock and_ÐOM 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 ÐOM 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 ÐOM gods_of_my which I_made you(pl)_have_ _taken and_ÐOM 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_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_

Readers' Version

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) 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) in-

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/בִיתָֽה/ל': lemma_l/7725 n_1.1 morph_HR/Vhc/Sp3fs id_079hY ה/בִיתָֽה/ל

Readers' Version

sisted 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 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 every-

Literal Version

_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. **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 ~~DOM~~ 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-

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.

Literal Version

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[120121122] (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 the_this he_has_come not house_of_ _my[123] do_not do ĐOM 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 ĐOM 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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(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.

Readers' Version

thing 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 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."

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.

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.

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) תוֹלֵלַע/כ': lemma_k/5927 morph_HR/Vqc id_07mev תוֹלֵלַע/כ

Readers' Version

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. **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.

Literal Version

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)_Gilʿād 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)_Givʿāh 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)_Givʿāh and_ _they_surrounded on_me ~~DOM~~ the_house night me they_ _intended to_kill and_~~DOM~~ 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_Givʿāh on/upon_ _it(f) 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_Gevʿa´ 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_Givʿāh 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)_Givʿāh 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)_Givʿāh 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.

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

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

Literal Version

18 And_they_arose and_they_went_up Bēyt-ʾēl and_they_ _enquired by_god and_ the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_arose in_morning and_they_encamped on (the)_Giv˝āh. **20** And_ the_man_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _he/it_ _went_out to_battle with Binyāmīn and_they_deployed with_ _them the_man_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) battle to (the)_Giv˝āh. **21** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_went_out from (the)_Giv˝āh and_they_destroyed among_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) in_ _the_day (the)_that two and_twenty thousand man ground_to_ _the. **22** And_ the_people the_man_of Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_all the_people _they_went_ _up and_they_came Bēyt-ʾēl and_they_wept and_they_lived there to_(the)_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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _they_enquired by_**YHWH** and_there the_box_of the_covenant_ _of the_ʾElohīm in_the_days the_those. **28** And_Pinḥāṣ the_son_ _of ʾEl˝āzār the_son_of ʾAhₐron 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_ Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) _he/it_assigned ambushers to (the)_Giv˝āh round_about. **30** And_ the_people_of Yisrāʾēl/(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-ʾēl and_one to_Giv˝āh in_the_field about_thirty man in_ _Yisrāʾēl/(Israel). **32** And_ the_descendants_of Binyāmīn _they_ _said they are_defeated before_us as_at_time and_the_sons of_ _Yisrāʾēl/(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 Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) they_rose from_place_of_his and_they_deployed at_Ba˝al- tamar and_the_ _ambusher_of Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) was_bursting_forth from_place_ _of_his from_the_open_place_of Ge˝a˝. **34** And_they_came from_before to_Giv˝āh ten_of thousand(s) man chosen from_all Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) and_the_battle it_was_heavy and_they not

Readers' Version

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 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

Readers' Version

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 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?"

Literal Version

they_knew if/because_that was_about_to_touch to_them (the)_ _calamity. 35 And_ **YHWH** _he_defeated ᵭᵒᵐ 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 ᵭᵒᵐ 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 ᵭᵒᵐ Binyāmīn they_pursued_him rest they_trod_him_down to opposite (the)_Giv˝āh from_the_rising_ _of the_sun. 44 And_they_fell of_Binyāmīn eight- teen thousand man ᵭᵒᵐ 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 ᵭᵒᵐ 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_

Literal Version

_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 ~~ḥōm~~ 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 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_Negev to_Ləvōnah. **20** And[128][129] ~~ḥōm~~ 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_

Readers' Version

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 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

128 LV 21:20 · Note OSHB variant note: וְ/צִ֣י/וֹ: (x-qere) וְ/וַיִּֽצְי֣וּ: lemma_c/6680 n_1.1 morph_HC/Vpw3mp id_07VKr וְ/וַיִּֽצְי֣וּ

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

Readers' Version

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]

JDG · OET-RV v0.2.3

Literal Version

_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 ~~DOM~~ 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.

JDG · OET-LV v0.2.0 (OT set)

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127 RV 21:25 · Cross-ref. Jdg 17:6.

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