

JUDGES

CHAPTER 1

And after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the sons of Israel enquired of the Lord, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them. ²And the Lord said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. ³And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, and let us array ourselves against the Canaanites; and I also will go with thee into thy lot: and Simeon went with him. ⁴And Judah went up; and the Lord delivered the Canaanite and the Perizzite into their hands: and they smote of them in Bezek to ten thousand men. ⁵And they overtook Adoni-zedek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they smote the Canaanite and the Perizzite. ⁶And Adoni-zedek fled; and they pursued after him, and took him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes. ⁷And Adoni-zedek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered *their meat* under my table: as I therefore have done, so God hath requited me: and they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

⁸And the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and burned the city with fire. ⁹And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight with the Canaanite that dwelt in the hill country, and in the south, and in the country of the plain. ¹⁰And Judah went unto the Canaanite that dwelt in Hebron; and Hebron came out against him: (and the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba:) and they smote Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, children of Anak. ¹¹And from thence they went up unto the inhabitants of Debir: but the name of Debir before was Kirjath-sephar, the city of letters. ¹²And Caleb said, Whosoever smiteth the city of letters, and first taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. ¹³And Othniel the younger son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; and Caleb gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. ¹⁴And it came to pass, when she went in, that Othniel moved her to ask of her father a field: and she murmured and cried from off her ass, Thou hast given me away into a south land; and Caleb said unto her, What aileth thee? ¹⁵And Achsah said unto him, Give me a blessing, I pray thee: for thou hast given me away into a south land; thou shalt give me also the ransom of water: and Caleb gave her according to her heart the ransom of the upper springs, and the ransom of the nether springs.

¹⁶And the children of Jothor the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness that is in the south of Judah, which is at the descent of Arad; and they dwelt with the people. ¹⁷And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they smote the Canaanite that inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed them; and they called the name of the city Anathema. ¹⁸But Judah inherited not Gaza, nor

the coasts thereof, nor Askalon, nor the coasts thereof, nor Ashdod, nor the lands round about it. ¹⁹And the Lord was with Judah; and he inherited the mountain; for they could not destroy the inhabitants of the valley, because Recab commanded them. ²⁰And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and thence he inherited the three cities of the sons of Anak. ²¹But the children of Benjamin inherited not the inheritance of the Jebusite that dwelt in Jerusalem; and the Jebusite dwelt with the children of Benjamin unto this day. ²²And the children of Joseph, they also went up unto Bethel: and the Lord was with them. ²³And they encamped, and descried Bethel: and the name of the city before was Luz. ²⁴And the spies looked; and, behold, a man went out of the city, and they took him, and said unto him, Shew us the way into the city, and we will deal mercifully with thee. ²⁵And he shewed them the way into the city, and they smote the city with the edge of the sword; but they let go the man and all his family. ²⁶And the man went into the land of the Hittites, and built there a city, and called the name thereof Luz: this is the name thereof unto this day. ²⁷Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean, which is a city of the Scythians, nor her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor her towns, nor the inhabitants of Balak, nor her suburbs, nor her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo, nor her suburbs, nor her towns, nor the inhabitants of Jebelaam, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; and the Canaanite began to dwell in this land. ²⁸And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that he made the Canaanite tributary, but did not utterly drive them out. ²⁹Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanite that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanite dwelt in the midst of him in Gezer, and became tributary. ³⁰Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanite dwelt among them, and became tributary unto him. ³¹Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, (and that people became tributary unto him;) nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor the inhabitants of Ahlab, nor Achzib, nor Helbah, nor Nai, nor Ereo. ³²And Asher dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite that inhabited the land; for he could not drive him out. ³³Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth-she-mesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-anath; and Naphtali dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite that inhabited the land: but the inhabitants of Beth-she-mesh and of Beth-anath became tributary unto him. ³⁴And the Amorite drove out the children of Dan into the mountain: for they did not suffer them to come down into the valley. ³⁵And the Amorite began to dwell in the mount of shells, wherein are bears, and foxes, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; and the house of Joseph was heavy upon the Amorite; and he became tributary unto him. ³⁶And the border of the Amorite was from the going up of Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

CHAPTER 2

And an angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to the place of weeping, and to Bethel, and to the house of Israel, and said unto them, Thus saith the

Lord: I have brought you up out of Egypt, and have brought you into the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant that I have made with you. ²And ye shall make no covenant with them that dwell in this land, neither shall ye worship their gods; but ye shall destroy their graven images, ye shall pull down their altars: but ye have hearkened not unto My voice, for ye have done these things. ³And I said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall for a distress unto you, and their gods shall be for an offence unto you. ⁴And it came to pass, when the angel of the Lord spake these words unto all the sons of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵And they called the name of that place Weepings: and they sacrificed there unto the Lord.

⁶And Joshua let the people go, and they went every man unto his inheritance, to inherit the land. ⁷And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that drew out the time with Joshua, as many as knew all the great work of the Lord, what things he had wrought in Israel. ⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old. ⁹And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the Mount of Gaash. ¹⁰And all that generation were laid unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done in Israel.

¹¹And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim. ¹²And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and walked after other gods, of the gods of the nations that were round about them, and worshipped them. ¹³And they provoked the Lord to anger, and forsook Him, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴And the Lord was exceeding wroth with Israel, and He gave them into the hands of the spoilers; and they spoiled them: and He sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, and they could not any longer stand against their enemies, ¹⁵among whomsoever they went: and the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had spoken, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and He greatly afflicted them. ¹⁶And the Lord raised up judges, and the Lord saved them out of the hands of those that spoiled them: and yet they hearkened not unto the judges, ¹⁷for they went a whoring after other gods, and worshipped them: and they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, to hearken unto the words of the Lord; they did not so. ¹⁸And because the Lord raised them up judges, so the Lord was with the judge, and saved them out of the hands of their enemies all the days of the judge: for the Lord repented at their groaning, by reason of them that oppressed them and afflicted them. ¹⁹And it came to pass, when the judge died, that they returned, and again corrupted themselves more than their fathers, to go after other gods to serve them, and to worship them: they forsook not their own devices, nor their stubborn ways. ²⁰And the Lord was exceeding wroth with Israel, and said, Because that this nation hath forsaken my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and hath not hearkened unto My voice, ²¹there I will not henceforth cast out any from before them of the

nations which Joshua the son of Nun left in the land, and let be, ²²to prove Israel with them, whether they would keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. ²³Therefore the Lord left these nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered He them into the hand of Joshua.

CHAPTER 3

And these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them, even all such as had not known the wars of Canaan; ²only for the sake of the generations of the sons of Israel, to teach them war; at the least such as knew not these things: the five lordships of the Philistines, and every Canaanite, and the Sidonian, and the Hivite that dwelt in Lebanon, from the mount of Hermon unto Hamath. ⁴And this was done to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵And the sons of Israel dwelt among the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite: ⁶and they took their daughters for wives unto them, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

⁷And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgot the Lord their God, and served Baalim and the groves. ⁸And the Lord was exceeding wroth with Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Syria of the rivers: and the sons of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years. ⁹And the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord, and the Lord raised up a saviour unto Israel; and he saved them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, younger than him. ¹⁰And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war against Chushan-rishathaim: and the Lord delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Syria of the rivers into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim. ¹¹And the land was quiet forty years: and Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹²And the sons of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹³And he gathered unto him all the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and inherited possession of the city of palm trees. ¹⁴So the sons of Israel served Eglon eighteen years. ¹⁵And the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord, and He raised them up a saviour, Ehud the son of Gera, a son of Benjamin, a man that used both hands alike: and by his hand the sons of Israel sent presents unto Eglon the king of Moab. ¹⁶And he made him a dagger of two edges, of a span length; and he did gird it under his cloak upon his right thigh. ¹⁷And he went and brought the presents unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was an exceeding well favoured man. ¹⁸And it came to pass, when Ehud had made an end to offer his presents, that he sent away them that brought the presents. ¹⁹But he himself turned again from the quarries that are by Gilgal; and Ehud said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: and Eglon said unto him, Keep silence; and

he sent away from his presence all that waited upon him. ²⁰And Ehud went in unto him; and he sat in his own summer parlour, quite alone: and Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee, O king; and Eglon arose from his throne *that was* near him. ²¹And it came to pass, as he arose, that Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: ²²and drave in also the haft after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, for he drew not the dagger out of his belly. ²³And Ehud went forth through the porch by them that were appointed, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them. ²⁴And he went out; and Eglon's servants came, and saw, and, behold, the doors of the upper parlour were locked; and they said, Doth he not uncover his feet in the summer chamber? ²⁵And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, there was none that opened the doors of the upper parlour; therefore they took the key, and opened them: and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth. ²⁶And Ehud escaped while they were in a tumult, and none heeded him; and he passed the beyond quarries, and escaped unto Seirath. ²⁷And it came to pass, when Ehud was come into the land of Israel, that he blew the trumpet in mount Ephraim, and the sons of Israel came down with him from the mount; and he was before them. ²⁸And he said unto them, Come down after me: for the Lord hath delivered our enemies, even Moab, into our hand: and they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan before Moab, and he suffered not a man to pass over. ²⁹And they smote Moab in that day about ten thousand men, every person, and every man of might; and there escaped not a man. ³⁰So Moab was put to shame in that day under the hand of Israel: and the land had rest fourscore years; and Ehud judged them till he died.

³¹And after him there arose Shamgar the son of Anath; and he smote the Philistines to the number of six hundred men with an ox's ploughshare: and he also delivered Israel.

CHAPTER 4

And the sons of Israel again did evil against the Lord; and Ehud was dead. ²And the Lord sold the sons of Israel into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; and the chief of his host was Sisera, and he dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles. ³And the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed Israel. ⁴And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. ⁵And she sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the sons of Israel went up to her for judgment. ⁶And Deborah sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded thee? and thou shalt depart to mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali, and of the children of Zebulun. ⁷And I will bring unto thee to the torrent of Kishon Sisera, the captain of of Jabin's host, and his chariots, and his multitude; and I will deliver them into

thine hands. ⁸And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, I will go: and if thou wilt not go, I will not go; for I know not the day wherein the Lord prospereth his angel with me. ⁹And she said, I will surely go with thee: but know that thine honour shall not attend upon the journey that thou goest; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hands of a woman: and Deborah arose, and went with Barak out of Kedesh. ¹⁰And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali out of Kedesh; and there went up at his feet ten thousand men: and Deborah went up with him. ¹¹And Heber the Kenite had removed from Caina, from the children of Jobab the father in law of Moses, and pitched his tent by the oak of the covetous, which is near Kedesh. ¹²And it was shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. ¹³And Sisera called all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the brook of Kishon. ¹⁴And Deborah said unto Barak, Rise up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: for the Lord shall go out before thee: and Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. ¹⁵And the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his army, with the edge of the sword before Barak: and Barak lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. ¹⁶And Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the army, into Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; there was not one left. ¹⁷And Sisera fled on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite, his friend: for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. ¹⁸And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; fear not: and he turned aside unto her into the tent, and she covered him with a mantle. ¹⁹And Sisera said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty: and she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him to drink, and covered him. ²⁰And Sisera said unto her, Stand now by the door of the tent, and it shall be, if any man doth come to thee, and ask of thee, and say, Is there any man here? then thou shalt say, There is not. ²¹ And Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went secretly unto him, and fastened the nail into his temple: and it went through into the ground, and he fainted away, and darkness fell upon him; and he died. ²²And, behold, Barak pursued Sisera: and Jael went out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest: and he went in to her; and, behold, Sisera was fallen dead, and the nail was in his temple. ²³So God routed in that day Jabin king of Canaan before the sons of Israel. ²⁴And the hand of the sons of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had utterly destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

CHAPTER 5

Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam in that day, saying,

²A revelation was revealed in Israel, when the people were made willing: bless ye the Lord. ³Hear, O ye kings, and hearken, O rulers, It is I, even I, will sing unto the Lord; it is I, even I, will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel. ⁴O Lord, in Thy going forth upon Seir, when Thou wentest forth out of the land of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped dews, the clouds also dropped water. ⁵The mountains were moved before the face of the Lord Eli, even this Sinai from before the face of the Lord God of Israel. ⁶In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, they forsook the ways, and went in byways; they went in crooked ways. ⁷The mighty men in Israel failed; they failed until that Deborah arose, until that she arose a mother in Israel. ⁸They chose new gods; then the cities of princes fought; there was not a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel. ⁹My heart is with the things that are ordained in Israel: ye that are willing among the people, bless ye the Lord. ¹⁰Ye that mount a she ass at noon day, ye that sit in the judgment seat, and walk by the roads of them that sit in judgment by the way: declare, ¹¹from the sound of them that made music among the drawers of water; there shall they give righteousness unto the Lord, increase righteousness in Israel. Then the people of the Lord went down to the cities. ¹²Awake, awake, Deborah; awake, awake utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam. ¹³Then went down a remnant unto the strong, the people of the Lord went down unto Him with my mighty ones. ¹⁴Ephraim rooted them out in Amalek, after thee was Benjamin, among thy people: the inhabitants of Machir came down with me seeking out the enemy, and from Zebulun came them that wrote the record as a scribe. ¹⁵And the princes in Issachar were with Deborah and Barak; thus sent she Barak on his feet in the valleys, into the divisions of Reuben, there were great pangs, reaching to the heart. ¹⁶Why sat they between the sheepfolds, to hear the bleating of the flocks? in the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of hearts. ¹⁷Gilead is on the other side of Jordan, where he pitched his tents: and why doth Dan remain in ships? Asher sat down on the sea shore, and will abide in his ports. ¹⁸The people of Zebulun jeoparded their soul unto the death, and Naphtali came unto the high places of their land. ¹⁹Kings set themselves in array, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach at the waters of Megiddo; they took no gift of money. ²⁰The stars of heaven set themselves in array; they set themselves to fight with Sisera out of their paths. ²¹The brook of Kison swept them away; the ancient brook, the brook of Kishon: my strong soul shall trample him down. ²²When the horsehoofs were were entangled, his mighty ones earnestly hasted ²³to curse Meroz: Curse ye it, said the angel of the Lord; cursed is every one that dwelleth therein; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to His help among the mighty. ²⁴Blessed among women be Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite; let her be blessed above women in tents. ²⁵He asked water, she gave him milk in a dish; she brought butter of princes. ²⁶She stretched forth her left hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workman's hammer; and with it she smote Sisera, she nailed through his head, and smote him; she nailed through his temples. ²⁷He rolled down between her feet; he fell down, and lay between her feet; he bowed and fell: where he

bowed, there fell he dead. ²⁸The mother of Sisera looked down through the window out of the loophole, saying, Why was his chariot ashamed? Why tarried the wheels of his chariots? ²⁹Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answers to herself, saying, ³⁰Will not they find him dividing the spoil? He will surely be gracious unto every man: unto Sisera are spoils of dyed garments, spoils of divers dyed garments, dyed embroidered garments; they are the spoils for his neck. ³¹So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: and they that love Him shall be as the going forth of the sun in his strength.

And the land had rest forty years.

CHAPTER 6

And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ²And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of Midian the sons of Israel made them the caves in the mountains, and the dens, and the holes in the rocks. ³And it came to pass, when the sons of Israel had sown, that Midian and Amalek went up; and the children of the east went up together with them. ⁴And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of them, until they came unto Gaza, and left no support of life in the land of Israel, not even an ox or ass among the herds. ⁵For they came up, and their cattle; and their tents were with them as the locust for multitude; and of them and their camels there was no number: and they came into the land of Israel, and laid it waste. ⁶And Israel was greatly impoverished before the face of Midian: ⁷and the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord before the face of Midian. ⁸And the Lord sent a man, a prophet, unto the sons of Israel; and he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I am He that brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of your bondage. ⁹And I delivered you out of the hand of Egypt, and out of the hand of all that afflicted you, and cast them out before you, and gave you their land. ¹⁰And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God: ye shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye hearkened not unto My voice.

¹¹And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat down under a turpentine tree which was in Ophrah, in the land of Joash the father of Abiezerite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to escape from before the face of Midian. ¹²And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty in strength. ¹³And Gideon said unto him, With me, my Lord; but if the Lord be with us, why have these evils found us? and where be all His wonders which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? and now he hath cast us out, and given us into the hand of Midian. ¹⁴And the angel of the Lord turned to him, and said, Go in this thy strength, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of Midian: behold, I have sent thee. ¹⁵And Gideon said unto him, With me, my Lord; whereby shall I save Israel? behold, my thousand is weakened in Israel, and I am the least in my father's house. ¹⁶And the angel of the Lord

said unto him, The Lord shall be with thee, and thou shalt smite Midian as one man. ¹⁷And Gideon said unto him, If now I have found mercy in thine eyes, and thou wilt do this day for me all that thou hast spoken with me, ¹⁸depart not hence until I come unto thee, and I will bring forth an offering, and offer it before thee: and he said, I will tarry until thou come again. ¹⁹And Gideon went, and made ready a kid of the goats, and an ephah of fine flour unleavened: and the flesh he put in the basket, and he poured the broth into the pot, and brought them out unto him under the turpentine tree, and drew nigh. ²⁰And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and put them upon that rock, and pour out the broth close by: and he did so. ²¹And the angel of the Lord stretched forth the end of the rod that was in his hand; and there came up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of the Lord vanished out of his sight. ²²And Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, Ah, ah, O Lord my God! for because I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face. ²³And the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not; thou shalt not die. ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Peace of the Lord, unto this day, as it is yet in Ophrah of the father of Ezri.

²⁵And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, Take the young bullock which thy father hath, even the second bullock of seven years old; and thou shalt destroy the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and the grove that is by it shalt thou destroy. ²⁶And thou shalt build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this Maozi, in the ordered place; and thou shalt take the second bullock, and thou shalt offer whole burnt offerings with the wood of the grove which thou shalt destroy. ²⁷And Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord spake unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, if he should do it by day, that he did it by night. ²⁸And the men of the city arose early in the morning; and, behold, the altar of Baal was thrown down, and the grove was destroyed that was by it; and they saw the second bullock, which Gideon offered upon the altar that was built. ²⁹And a man said unto his neighbour, Who hath done this thing? and they enquired, and searched, and learnt that Gideon the son of Joash had done this thing. ³⁰And the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, and let him die, because he hath destroyed the altar of Baal, and because he hath destroyed the grove that is by it. ³¹And Gideon the son of Joash said unto all the men that rose up against him, Do ye now plead for Baal, or will ye save him? Whosoever will plead for him, let him be put to death this morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath thrown down his altar. ³²And in that day he called it Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead thereby, because his altar hath been thrown down. ³³And all Midian and Amalek and the children of the east gathered themselves together, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. ³⁴And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew with the horn; and Abi-ezer came to help after him. ³⁵And Gideon sent messengers unto all Manasseh, and into Asher, and into Zebulun, and into Naphtali; and he went up to meet

them. ³⁶And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, ³⁷behold, I put the fleece of wool in the threshing floor; if there be dew on the fleece only, and drought upon all the earth, then shall I know that Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said. ³⁸And it was so: and he rose up early in the morning, and wringed the fleece, and dew dropped from the fleece, a bowl full of water. ³⁹And Gideon said unto God, Let not Thine anger be kindled with me, and I will speak but once: I will even yet make one trial more with the fleece; let now the drought be upon the fleece only, and upon all the ground let there be dew. ⁴⁰And God did so in that night: and there was drought upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

CHAPTER 7

And Jerubbaal rose up early, (the same is Gideon,) and all the people with him, and pitched at the fountain of Harod: and the camp of Midian was to the north of him, from Gabaath Moreh, in the valley. ²And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people with thee are many, so that I may not deliver Midian into their hand, lest at any time Israel boast against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. ³And now, speak in the ears of the people, saying, Who is afraid and fearful? Let him return and depart from mount Gilead: and there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. ⁴And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people is yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will purge them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, even he shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, even he shall not go with thee. ⁵So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Whosoever lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set apart; and likewise whosoever boweth down upon his knees to drink. ⁶And the number of them that lapped, with their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: and all the rest of the people bowed upon their knees to drink water. ⁷And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and give Midian into thine hand: and all the *other* people shall go every man unto his place. ⁸And they took the provision of the people in their hand, and their horns: and he sent away every man of Israel each unto his tent, and strengthened the three hundred: and the army of Midian was beneath him in the valley. ⁹And it came to pass in that night, that the Lord said unto him, Arise, get thee down into the camp; for I have delivered it into thine hand. ¹⁰And if thou fear to go down, go thou with thy servant Phurah down into the camp. ¹¹And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hand be strong, and thou shalt go down into the camp: and he went down, and Phurah his servant, unto the outside of the fifty that were in the camp. ¹²And Midian and Amalek and all the children of the east were scattered in the valley as the locust for multitude; and there was no number to their camels,

but they were as the sand on the sea shore for multitude. ¹³And Gideon came, and, behold, a man told a dream unto his neighbour, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread rolled into the camp of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it, and it fell, and it overturned, and the tent fell. ¹⁴And his neighbour answered and said, This is none other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joas, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host. ¹⁵And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped the Lord, and returned unto the camp of Israel, and said, Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into our hand the camp of Midian. ¹⁶And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put horns into the hand of all, and empty pitchers, and torches with the pitchers. ¹⁷And he said unto them, Ye shall look at me, and so shall ye do; and, behold, I will go into the beginning of the host; and as I do so, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. ¹⁸And I will sound with the horn, and all ye that are with me shall sound with the horn round about all the camp, and say, For the Lord, and Gideon. ¹⁹And Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the army in the beginning of the middle watch; and they utterly roused the guards, and sounded with the horns, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands: ²⁰and the three companies sounded with the horns, and brake the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and their horns in their right hands to sound withal: and they cried out, A sword for the Lord, and for Gideon. ²¹And they stood every man in his place round about the host: and all the host ran, and sounded an alarm, and fled. ²²And they sounded with the three hundred horns, and the Lord set every man's sword against his neighbour, even in all the host. ²³And the host fled to Beth-shittah Zererath, unto the border of Abel-meholah, even unto Tabbath. And the men of Israel out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, came to help, and followed after Midian. ²⁴And Gideon sent messengers into all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down to meet Midian, and take unto you the water unto Beth-barah and Jordan: and every man of Ephraim cried out, and took the water before them unto Beth-barah and Jordan. ²⁵And they took the princes of Midian, even Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb in Zur, and Zeeb they slew in Jakeph-zeph, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from the other side Jordan.

CHAPTER 8

And the men of Ephraim said unto Gideon, What is this that thou hast done unto us, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with Midian? And they did chide with him sharply. ²And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparision of you? is not the gleaning of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi-ezer? ³The Lord hath delivered into your hand the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparision of you? Then was their spirit abated toward him, when he spake this word.

⁴And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, hungry, yet pursuing *them*. ⁵And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, bread to feed this people that follow me; for they be faint, and, behold, I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunnah, kings of Midian. ⁶And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunnah now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army? ⁷And Gideon said, Therefore when the Lord giveth Zebah and Zalmunnah into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and the Barkenim. ⁸And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered him. ⁹And Gideon said unto the men of Penuel, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower. ¹⁰And Zebah and Zalmunnah were in Karkor, and their host was with them, about fifteen thousand, all that were left of all the host of the strangers: and they that fell were and hundred and twenty thousand men that drew the sword. ¹¹And Gideon went up by way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host; and the host was secure. ¹²And Zebah and Zalmunnah fled, and he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunnah, and discomfited all the host. ¹³And Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle, down from the battle of Ares. ¹⁴And he took prisoner a young lad of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him: and he wrote unto him the names of the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, even threescore and seventeen men. ¹⁵And Gideon came unto the princes of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunnah, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunnah now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men that are faint? ¹⁶And he took the elders of the city with the thorns of the wilderness and the Barkenim, and with them he tore the men of the city. ¹⁷And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city. ¹⁸And he said unto Zebah and Zalmunnah, Where are the men whom ye slew in Tabor? and they said, As thou, so were they, according to the likeness of the son of a king. ¹⁹And Gideon said, They were my brethren, and the sons of my mother: as the Lord liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not have slain you. ²⁰And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them: but the lad drew not his sword, for he feared; for he was yet very young. ²¹And Zebah and Zalmunnah said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for thy strength is that of a man: and Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunnah, and took away the round ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

²²And the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou, my lord, over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son: for thou hast saved us out of the hand of Midian. ²³And Gideon said, I will not rule, and my son shall not rule among you: the Lord shall rule over you. ²⁴And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you; and do ye give me every man an earring out of his spoils: for they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites. ²⁵And they said, We will certainly give them: and he opened his garment, and each man did cast therein an earring of his spoils. ²⁶And the weight of the golden earrings that he asked was a thousand and seven hundred pieces of gold,

beside the round ornaments, and the chains, and the garments, and the purple cloths that were upon the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were on their camels' necks. ²⁷And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: and it became a stumblingblock to Gideon and his house. ²⁸And Midian was straitened before the sons of Israel, and they lifted up their heads no more: and the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon. ²⁹And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and sat in his own house. ³⁰And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives. ³¹And his concubine was in Shechem, and she also bare him a son, and gave him the name Ahimelech. ³²And Gideon the son of Joash died in his city, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of Abiezri.

³³And it came to pass, when Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made them a covenant with Baal, that he should be their god. ³⁴And the sons of Israel remembered not the Lord their God, who had delivered them out of the hand of all them that had afflicted them round about. ³⁵And they did not deal mercifully with the house of Jerubbaal, (the same is Gideon,) according to all the good which he did unto Israel.

CHAPTER 9

And Ahimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, ²Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, saying, Which is better for you, either that threescore and ten men, even all the sons of Jerubbaal, reign over you, or that one man reign over you? Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh. ³And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts turned after Ahimelech; for they said, He is our brother. ⁴And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith: and Ahimelech hired him vain and fainthearted men; and they followed him. ⁵And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. ⁶And all the men of Shechem were gathered together, and all the house of Beth-millo; and they went and made Ahimelech king by the oak of Sedition, which was at Shechem.

⁷And it was told to Jotham, and he went and stood on the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and wept, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, and God shall hearken unto you. ⁸The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. ⁹But the olive tree said unto them, Shall I leave my fatness, wherewith men shall glorify God, and to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁰And the trees said unto the fig tree, Come thou, reign over us. ¹¹But the fig

tree said unto them, Shall I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruits, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹²And the trees said unto the vine, Come thou, reign over us. ¹³And the vine said unto them, Shall I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁴Then all the trees said unto the bramble, Come thou, reign over us. ¹⁵And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me to reign over you, then come, stand under my shadow: and if not, let fire come from me, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. ¹⁶Now therefore, if ye have done it in truth and integrity, and have made Ahimelech king, and if ye have done well with Jerubbaal, and with his house, and have done unto him according to the reward of his hand; (¹⁷as my father fought for you, and put his life in jeopardy, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;) ¹⁸and ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, being threescore and ten men, upon one stone, and have made Ahimelech the son of his bondwoman king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother; ¹⁹if ye then have done truly and faithfully with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Ahimelech, and let him also rejoice over you: ²⁰but if not, let fire come out from Ahimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Beth-millo, and devour Ahimelech. ²¹And Jotham fled, and ran away, and went unto Beer, and dwelt there, out of the way of Ahimelech.

²²And Ahimelech reigned three years over Israel. ²³And God sent an evil spirit between Ahimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with the house of Ahimelech: ²⁴to bring the injury done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal, and to lay their blood upon Ahimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, because they strengthened his hands to slay his brethren. ²⁵And the men of Shechem set liers in wait against him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed every one that passed by them on the way: and it was told king Ahimelech. ²⁶And Gaal the son of Ebed came, and his brethren, and passed by Shechem; and the men of Shechem trusted in him. ²⁷And they went out into the field, and gathered their grapes, and trod them, and made merry; and they brought the grapes into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Ahimelech. ²⁸And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Ahimelech, and who is the son of Shechem, that we should serve him? Is not he the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul his steward, his servant with the son of Hamor, the father of Shechem? and why should we serve him? ²⁹And would that this people were under my hand! Then would I remove Ahimelech, and say unto him, Multiply thy host, and come out. ³⁰And Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, and he was exceeding angry. ³¹And he sent messengers unto Ahimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they have laid siege to the city against thee. ³²And now rise up by night, thou and the people that is with thee, and lie in wait in the field: ³³and it shall be, that in the morning, at the sunrising, thou shalt rise early, and draw toward the city: and, behold, he and the people that is with him will come out against thee, and thou shalt do

to him whatsoever thine hand shall find. ³⁴And Ahimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they lay in wait against Shechem in four companies. ³⁵And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in at the entering of the gate of the city: and Ahimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from lying in wait. ³⁶And Gaal the son of Ebed saw the people, and said unto Zebul, Behold, there cometh down a people from the tops of the mountains: and Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as men. ³⁷And Gaal spake yet more, and said, See there cometh a people down westward from the part that bordereth on the middle of the land, and another company cometh by the way of mount Meonenim. ³⁸And Zebul said unto him, And where is thy mouth, as thou saidst, Who is Ahimelech, that we should serve him? is not this the people that thou despisest? Go out now, and set the battle in array against him. ³⁹And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and set the battle in array against Ahimelech. ⁴⁰And Ahimelech chased him, and Gaal fled from before him; and many fell down slain, even unto the entering in of the gate. ⁴¹And Ahimelech entered into Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem. ⁴²And it came to pass on the second day, that the people went out into the field: and one brought word to Ahimelech. ⁴³And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people went forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them. ⁴⁴And Ahimelech, and the captains of companies that were with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two other companies rushed forward upon all them that were in the field, and smote them. ⁴⁵And Ahimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew all the people that were therein, and destroyed the city, and sowed it with salt. ⁴⁶And all the men of the tower of Shechem heard, and came unto the gathering of Bethel-berith. ⁴⁷And it was told Ahimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. ⁴⁸And Ahimelech gat him up to the mount of Zalmon, and all the people that were with him; and Ahimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough of a tree, and took it, and laid it on his shoulders, and said unto the people that were with him, What ye see me do, do quickly as I. ⁴⁹And they likewise cut down every man a bough, and went after Ahimelech, and laid them against the place of gathering, and burnt the place of gathering over them with fire; and they died, even all the men of the tower of Shechem, about a thousand men and women.

⁵⁰And Ahimelech went out of Bethel-berith, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. ⁵¹And there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women of the city, and shut the door without them, and gat them up on to the roof of the tower. ⁵²And Ahimelech drew near unto the tower, and they laid siege to it; and Ahimelech drew near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire. ⁵³And a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Ahimelech's head, and all to brake his skull. ⁵⁴And he cried out hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, lest at any time they say, A woman slew him: and his

young man thrust him through, and he died. ⁵⁵And the men of Israel saw that Ahimelech was dead, and they went each unto his place. ⁵⁶Thus God rendered the wickedness of Ahimelech, which he wrought against his father, in slaying his seventy brethren. ⁵⁷And all the wickedness of the men of Shechem did God render upon their head: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

CHAPTER 10

And after Ahimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of his father's brother, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim. ²And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.

³And after him arose Jair of Gilead, and judged Israel twenty and two years. ⁴And he had thirty and two sons that rode on thirty and two colts, and they had thirty and two cities; and they called them Jair's towns unto this day in the land of Gilead. ⁵And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

⁶And the sons of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baalim, and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not Him. ⁷And the Lord was exceeding wroth with Israel, and He sold them into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the children of Ammon. ⁸And they afflicted and bruised the sons of Israel at that time eighteen years, all the sons of Israel that were beyond Jordan the land of the Amorite in Gilead. ⁹Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight with Judah, and with Benjamin, and with Ephraim; and the sons of Israel were sore afflicted. ¹⁰And the sons of Israel cried unto the Lord, saying, We have sinned against Thee, because we have forsaken God, and served the Baalim. ¹¹And the Lord said unto the sons of Israel, Did I not save you from Egypt, and from the Amorite, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, ¹²and from the Zidonians, and from Amalek, and from Midian, which afflicted you?: and ye cried unto Me, and I saved you out of their hand. ¹³Yet ye have forsaken Me, and served other gods: wherefore I save you no more. ¹⁴Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen unto you, and let them save you in the time of your tribulation. ¹⁵And the sons of Israel said unto the Lord, We have sinned: do Thou unto us according to all that is good in Thine eyes; deliver us only this day. ¹⁶And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the Lord only: and His soul was pained for the trouble of Israel.

¹⁷And the children of Ammon went up, and encamped in Gilead: and the sons of Israel were assembled together, and encamped on the hill. ¹⁸And the people the princes of Gilead said every man unto his neighbour, Who is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all that dwell in Gilead.

CHAPTER 11

And Jephthah the Gileadite was exalted in might, and he was the son of an harlot, which bare Jephthah to Gilead. ²And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they cast out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a concubine. ³And Jephthah fled from the face of his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him. ⁴And it came to pass, when the sons of Ammon prepared to fight with Israel, ⁵that the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob. ⁶And they said, Come, and be our captain, and we will fight with the sons of Ammon. ⁷And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did ye not hate me, and cast me out of my father's house, and banish me from you? and why are ye come unto me now when ye want me? ⁸And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore have we now turned unto thee, that thou shouldest go with us, and fight against the sons of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead. ⁹And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye turn me back to fight with the sons of Ammon, and the Lord deliver them before me, then will I be your head. ¹⁰And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The Lord be witness between us, if we do not according to thy word. ¹¹And Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and ruler over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the Lord in Mizpeh.

¹²And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, What have to do with thee, that thou art come against me to fight in my land? ¹³And the king of the sons of Ammon said unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when he went up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now then, return them peaceably, and I will depart. ¹⁴And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the sons of Ammon, ¹⁵and said unto him, Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took away not the land of Moab, nor the land of the sons of Ammon: ¹⁶for in their going up out of Egypt, Israel went in the wilderness unto the sea of Ziph, and came unto Kadesh. ¹⁷And Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, I will pass, if it please thee, by thy land; but the king of Edom did not hearken *thereto*: and they sent also unto the king of Moab, but he would not consent: and Israel sojourned in Kadesh. ¹⁸And they journeyed in the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east of the land of Moab, and pitched in the country beyond Arnon, and came not within the borders of Moab: for Arnon is the border of Moab. ¹⁹And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorite, king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, by thy land into our place. ²⁰And Sihon trusted not Israel to pass by his coast; and Sihon gathered all his people together, and they pitched in Jahaz, and he set the battle in array against Israel. ²¹And the Lord God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote him: and Israel inherited all the land of the Amorite which dwelt in that land, ²²from Arnon

even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan. ²³And now the Lord God of Israel hath removed the Amorite from before His people Israel, and shalt thou inherit it? ²⁴Wilt thou not inherit those possessions which Chemosh thy god causeth thee to inherit; and shall we not inherit the land of all whom the Lord our God hath removed from before you? ²⁵And now art thou any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? did he indeed fight with Israel, or indeed make war with him, ²⁶when Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her coasts, and in the land of Aroer and her coasts, and in all the cities by Jordan, three hundred years? And why therefore didst thou not recover them within that time? ²⁷And now I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong in preparing war against me: let the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon. ²⁸Howbeit the king of the sons of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

²⁹And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed by the watch tower of Gilead unto the other side of the sons of Ammon. ³⁰And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If Thou wilt indeed deliver the sons of Ammon into mine hand, ³¹then it shall be, that whosoever first cometh out of the door of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, he shall be the Lord's: I will offer him up for an whole burnt offering. ³²And Jephthah went forward to meet the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hand. ³³And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Arnon, even twenty cities, and unto Minnith, with a very great destruction: and the sons of Ammon were straitened before the sons of Israel.

³⁴And Jephthah came to Mizpah unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; he had not another son or daughter. ³⁵And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Ah, ah, my daughter! thou hast indeed troubled me, and thou wast the cause of my trouble: and I have opened my mouth against thee unto the Lord, and I shall not be able to go back from it. ³⁶And she said unto him, Father, hast thou opened thy mouth unto the Lord? do to me according as the word went out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the Lord hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies of the sons of Ammon. ³⁷And she said unto her father, Let my father now do this thing: let me alone for two months, and I will go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions. ³⁸And he said, Go: and he sent her away for two months: and she went, and her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. ³⁹And it came to pass at the end of the two months, that she returned unto her father; and he performed upon her his vow which he vowed: and she knew no man: ⁴⁰and it was an ordinance in Israel, that the daughters of Israel went yearly to bewail the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

CHAPTER 12

And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and passed on northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight with the sons of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thy house over thee with fire. ²And Jephthah said unto them, I and my people and the sons of Ammon were at much great strife; and I called for you, and ye saved me not out of their hand. ³And I saw that ye were no helper, and I put my life in my hand, and passed on to the sons of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand: and wherefore are ye come up against me this day, to fight with me? ⁴And Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they that were escaped of Ephraim said, Ye are of Gilead in the midst of Ephraim, and in the midst of Manasseh. ⁵And Gilead took the fords of Jordan before Ephraim; and they that escaped of Ephraim said unto them, Let us go over; and the men of Gilead said, Art thou an Ephraimite?, and he said, Nay. ⁶Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth; and he did not frame to pronounce it right: and they took him, and slew him at the fords of Jordan: and there fell at that time of Ephraim forty and two thousand. ⁷And Jephthah judged Israel six years; and Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in his city Gilead.

⁸And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. ⁹And he had thirty sons and thirty daughters, whom he sent abroad, and brought in thirty daughters from without for his sons: and he judged Israel seven years. ¹⁰Then died Ibzan, and was buried in Bethlehem. ¹¹And after him Elon of Zebulun judged Israel ten years. ¹²And Elon of Zebulun died, and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun. ¹³And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, judged Israel. ¹⁴And he had forty sons, and thirty grandsons, that rode on threescore and ten colts: and he judged Israel eight years. ¹⁵And Abdon the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, died, and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mount of Amalek.

CHAPTER 13

And the sons of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. ²And there was a man of Zorah, of the family of the kindred of Dan, and his name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. ³And an angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold, thou art barren, and hast not borne; yet thou shalt conceive a son. ⁴Now therefore beware, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing; ⁵for, lo, thou art with child, and shalt bring forth a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazirite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. ⁶And the woman went in, and spake unto her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and

his appearance was as of an angel of God, very terrible: and I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: ⁷and he said unto me, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bring forth a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be holy to God from the womb to the day of his death. ⁸And Manoah prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray Thee, O Lord Adonai, the man of God which thou didst send, let him come now once more unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. ⁹And the Lord hearkened unto the voice of Manoah; and the angel of the Lord came yet again unto the woman; and she sat in the field, and Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰And the woman made haste, and ran, and brought word unto her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. ¹¹And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? and the angel said, I am. ¹²And Manoah said, Now shall thy word come to pass; what shall be the ordering of the child, and our dealings with him? ¹³And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all things concerning which I spake unto the woman, she shall beware. ¹⁴She shall eat of nothing that cometh of the vine that yieldeth wine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat anything unclean: all things that I have commanded her, she shall observe. ¹⁵And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, Let us detain thee here, and make ready a kid of the goats for thee. ¹⁶And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, If thou shouldest detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wouldest offer an whole burnt offering, thou shalt offer it unto the Lord: for Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the Lord. ¹⁷And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, What is thy name, that when thy word cometh to pass, we may glorify thee? ¹⁸And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Why askest thou after my name, seeing it is Wonderful? ¹⁹And Manoah took a kid of the goats, and the meat offering thereof, and offered it upon the rock unto the Lord: and the angel did a wondrous work, and Manoah and his wife looked on. ²⁰For it came to pass, when the flame went up above the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame; and Manoah and his wife looked, and they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹And the angel appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife: then Manoah knew that this was an angel of the Lord. ²²And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. ²³But his wife said, If the Lord were pleased to kill us, He would not have received an whole burnt offering of our hand, neither would He have shewed us these things, nor would have caused us to hear all these things as at this time. ²⁴And the woman brought forth a son, and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. ²⁵And the Spirit of the Lord began to go out with him in the camp of Dan, and between Zorah and Eshtaol.

CHAPTER 14

And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. ²And he went up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: and now take her to me for wife. ³And his father and his mother said, Are there no daughters of thy brethren, and is there not a woman of all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Take her for me; for she is right in my eyes. ⁴And his father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought occasion to be avenged on the Philistines: and at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. ⁵And Samson, and his father and his mother, went down to Timnath, and he came to the vineyard of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. ⁶And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he crushed him as he would a kid of the goats, and there was nothing in his hands: and he told not his father and his mother what he had done. ⁷And they went down, and spake unto the woman; and she was pleasing in the eyes of Samson. ⁸And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion: and, behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the mouth of the lion. ⁹And he took it into his hands, and went on eating, and went to his father and mother, and gave them, and they did eat: but he told them not that he had taken the honey out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁰So his father went down unto the woman, and Samson made there a feast for seven days; for so the young men are used to do. ¹¹And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they took thirty guests, and they were with him. ¹²And Samson said unto them, I put forth a riddle unto you: if ye will indeed tell it me, and find it out, within the seven days of this feast, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments. ¹³And if ye cannot tell it me, ye shall give me thirty napkins and thirty changes of garments: and they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, and we will hear it. ¹⁴And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness: and they could not in three days expound the riddle. ¹⁵And it came to pass on the fourth day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Deceive now thy husband, and let him tell thee the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye invited us to do us violence? ¹⁶And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: for the riddle which thou hast put forth unto the children of my people, thou hast not told it me. And Samson said unto her, If I have not told it my father and my mother, shall I tell it thee? ¹⁷And she wept before him the seven days, in which their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she vexed him: and she told it to the children of her people. ¹⁸And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day, before sunrising, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And Samson said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye would not have known my riddle. ¹⁹And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he went down to Askalon, and destroyed thirty

men of the inhabitants, and took their garments, and gave the changes of raiment unto them which told the riddle. And Samson was exceeding angry, and he went up to his father's house. ²⁰And Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

CHAPTER 15

And it came to pass after some days, in the days of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid of the goats; and he said, I will go in to my wife, into the chamber: but her father did not suffer him to go in. ²And her father spake, saying, I said that thou didst surely hate her, and I gave her to one of thy friends: is not her younger sister better than she? let her be unto thee instead of her. ³And Samson said unto them, Now for once am I guiltless regarding the Philistines, in that I do mischief among them. ⁴And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned tail to tail, and put a torch between two tails, and fastened it. ⁵And he set fire to the torches, and sent the foxes into the corn of the Philistines; and every thing was burnt, from the threshing floor unto the standing corn, and even unto the vineyard and olive. ⁶And the Philistines said, Who hath done these things? and they said, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he hath taken his wife, and given her to one of his friends. And the Philistines went up, and burnt her and her father's house with fire. ⁷And Samson said, Though ye have dealt thus with her, verily I will be avenged of you; and afterward I will cease. ⁸And he smote them leg on thigh with a great overthrow: and he went down and dwelt in a cave of the rock Etam.

⁹And the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves abroad in Lehi. ¹⁰And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And the Philistines said, To bind Samson are we come up, and to do to him as he hath done to us. ¹¹And the three thousand men of Judah went down to the hole of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines rule over us? and what is this that thou hast done unto us?; and Samson said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. ¹²And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, to deliver thee into the hands of the Philistines: and Samson said, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. ¹³And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will only bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand, and will by no means slay thee: and they bound him with two new cords, and brought him from the rock. ¹⁴And they came unto Lehi, and the Philistines shouted, and ran to meet him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax which is burnt with fire, and his bands were consumed from off his hands. ¹⁵And he found the jawbone of an ass, that had been cast away; and he put forth his hand, and took it, and smote a thousand men therewith. ¹⁶And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass have I destroyed them utterly, for with the jawbone of an ass have I smitten a thousand men. ¹⁷And it came to pass, when he had

made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place the Lifting of the Jawbone. ¹⁸And he was sore athirst, and wept before the Lord, and said, Thou hast been well pleased to grant this great deliverance by the hand of Thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? ¹⁹And God brake open an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout, and he drank; and his spirit came again, and he revived; wherefore the name of the fountain was called The well of the Caller, which is in Lehi unto this day. ²⁰And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

CHAPTER 16

And Samson went to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. ²And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither: and they compassed him, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, Let us wait until the sunrising appear, and we shall kill him. ³And Samson slept till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city, with the two posts, and lifted them up with the bar, and laid them upon his shoulders, and went up to the top of the mount that is before Hebron, and laid them there.

⁴And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in Al-sorek, and her name was Delilah. ⁵And the princes of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Beguile him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and wherewith we shall prevail against him, and bind him to humble him: and we will give thee each man eleven hundred pieces of silver. ⁶And Delilah said unto Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou shalt be bound, that thou mayest be humbled. ⁷And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven moist cords that have not been spoiled, then shall I be weak, and as another man. ⁸And the princes of the Philistines brought her seven moist cords that had not been spoiled, and she bound him with them. ⁹And the liers in wait abode with her in her chamber; and she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson: and he brake the cords, as if one should break a thread of tow when it hath touched the fire; and his strength was not known. ¹⁰And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast cheated me, and told me lies; now then, tell me wherewith thou shalt be bound. ¹¹And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes wherewith work hath never been done, then shall I be weak, and shall be as another man. ¹²And Delilah took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and the liers in wait came out of the chamber; and she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson: and he brake them from off his arms like a thread. ¹³And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast deceived me, and told me lies: tell me, I entreat thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weave the seven locks of my head with the web, and fasten them with the pin into the wall, then shall I be weak as another man. ¹⁴And it came to pass when he was asleep, that Delilah took the seven locks of his

head, and fastened them with the pin into the wall, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson: and he awaked out of his sleep, and carried away the pin of the web out of the wall. ¹⁵And Delilah said unto Samson, How sayest thou, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? This third time hast thou deceived me, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. ¹⁶And it came to pass, when she pressed him sore with her words continually, and straitened him, that his spirit failed almost unto death. ¹⁷Then he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not a razor come upon mine head; for I have been an holy one of God from my mother's womb: if then I be shaven, my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like all *other* men. ¹⁸And Delilah saw that he told her all his heart, and she sent and called for the princes of the Philistines, saying, Come up yet this once; for he hath told me all his heart. And the chiefs of the Philistines went up to her, and brought the money in their hands. ¹⁹And Delilah made Samson sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and he shaved the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength departed from him. ²⁰And Delilah said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson: and he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at former times, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord had departed from him. ²¹And the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

²²And the hair of his head began to grow as before it was shaven. ²³And the princes of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their God, and to make merry: and they said, God hath given Samson our enemy into our hand. ²⁴And the people saw him, and sang praises unto their God: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, who wasted our land, and multiplied our slain. ²⁵And when their heart was merry, then they said, Call for Samson out of the prison house, and let him make sport before us: and they called for Samson out of the prison house, and he made sport for them; and they smote him with the palms of their hands, and set him between the pillars. ²⁶And Samson said unto the young man that held his hand, Suffer me to feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, and I will stay myself upon them. ²⁷And the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld the sports of Samson. ²⁸And Samson wept before the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, yet this once, O God, and I will requite one recompense to the Philistines for my two eyes. ²⁹And Samson took hold of the two pillars of the house, upon which the house stood, and leaned upon them, and laid hold of one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. ³⁰And Samson said, Let my life perish with the Philistines: and he bowed himself mightily; and the house fell upon the princes, and upon all the people that were in it: and the dead which Samson slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. ³¹And his brethren and his father's house went down, and took him; and they went up,

and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father: and he judged Israel twenty years.

CHAPTER 17

And there was a man of mount Ephraim, and his name was Micah.
²And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred pieces of silver which thou tookest unto thyself, and about which thou cursedst me, and spakest of in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it: and his mother said, Blessed be my son of the Lord. ³And he restored the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother; and his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the Lord from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: and now I will restore it unto thee. ⁴Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred pieces of silver, and gave them to a founder, and he made thereof a graven and a molten image; and it was in the house of Micah. ⁵And the house of Micah was to him the house of God; and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, and he became a priest to him. ⁶And in those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

⁷And there was a young man in Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah; and he was a Levite, and he sojourned there. ⁸And the man departed out of Bethlehem the city of Judah to sojourn in whatsoever place he might find; and he came unto mount Ephraim, and to the house of Micah, to accomplish his journey. ⁹And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? and he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehem-judah, and I go to sojourn in any place that I can find. ¹⁰And Micah said, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten pieces of silver by the year, and a change of apparel, and thy living. ¹¹And the Levite went, and began to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons. ¹²And Micah consecrated the Levite, and he became unto him a priest, and was in the house of Micah. ¹³And Micah said, Now know I that the Lord will do me good, because a Levite is become my priest.

CHAPTER 18

In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of Dan sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day no inheritance had fallen unto them among the tribes of the sons of Israel. ²And the sons of Dan sent of their families five men of valour, from Zorak, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, and search the land. And they came unto the mount of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and they lodged there, ³in the house of Micah; and they recognised the voice of the young man the Levite, and turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee in hither? and what doest thou in this place? and what hast

thou here? ⁴And he said unto them, Thus and thus hath Micah dealt with me, and hath hired me, and I am become his priest. ⁵And they said Enquire now of God, and we shall know whether our way which we go will prosper. ⁶And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the Lord is your way wherein ye go. ⁷And the five men went on, and came unto Laish, and saw the people that were in the midst thereof, dwelling securely at ease, as is the manner of the Zidonians; and there is none that perverteth or shameth a matter in the land, no heir extorting treasures; and they are far from the Zidonians, and they have no business with any man. ⁸And the five men came unto their brethren to Zorak and Eshtaol, and said unto their brethren, Why sit ye here idle? ⁹And they said, Arise, and let us go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: yet ye are still: delay not to go, and to enter in to possess the land. ¹⁰And whensoever ye go, ye shall come in upon a people secure, and the land is large: for God hath given it into your hand; a place where there is no want of any thing that the earth affordeth.

¹¹And there went from thence of the families of Dan, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. ¹²And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath-jearim in Judah: wherefore it was called in that place the camp of Dan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjath-jearim. ¹³And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah. ¹⁴Then the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish answered and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in this place an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? and now consider what ye shall do. ¹⁵And they turned aside there, and went into the house of the young man the Levite, even into the house of Micah, and asked him how he fared as to peace. ¹⁶And the six hundred men of the sons of Dan, which were appointed with their weapons of war, stood by the entering in of the gate. ¹⁷And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and entered into the house of Micah; and the priest stood. ¹⁸And they took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image; and the priest said unto them, What do ye? ¹⁹And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and come with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be the priest of the house of one man, or to be the priest of a tribe and an house for a family of Israel? ²⁰And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and the molten image, and went in the midst of the people. ²¹So they turned and departed, and put their children and their substance and their baggage before them. ²²They went a good way from the house of Micah; and, behold, Micah and the men that were in the houses near to Micah' house cried out, and overtook the sons of Dan. ²³And the sons of Dan turned their face, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou hast cried out? ²⁴And Micah said, Because ye have taken away my graven image which I made, and my priest, and ye are gone away; and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, What aileth thee? ²⁵And the sons of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard with us, lest angry men run upon thee,

and take away thy life, and the lives of thine household. ²⁶And the sons of Dan went their way: and Micah saw that they were stronger than he, and he went back unto his house. ²⁷And the sons of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and they came to Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. ²⁸And there was no deliverer, because the city is far from the Zidonians, and they have no business with men; and it is in the valley of the house of Rehob; and they built the city, and dwelt therein. ²⁹And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel; and the name of the city was Laish before. ³⁰And the sons of Dan set them up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the carrying away of the land. ³¹And they set them up the graven image which Micah made, all the days that the house of God was in Shiloh; and it was so in those days that there was no king in Israel.

CHAPTER 19

And there was a man a Levite sojourning in the sides of mount Ephraim; and he took him a concubine out of Bethlehem-judah. ²And his concubine departed from him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehem-judah, and was there four months. ³And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak kindly unto her, to recover her to him; and he had his young man with him, and a pair of asses: and she brought him into her father's house: and the father of the damsel saw him, and was well pleased to meet him. ⁴And his father in law, the damsel's father, constrained him; and he staid with him three days: and they did eat and drink, and lodged there. ⁵And it came to pass on the fourth day, that they arose early in the morning, and he stood up to depart: and the damsel's father said unto his son in law, Strengthen thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward ye shall go. ⁶So they two sat down together, and did eat and drink: and the damsel's father said unto her husband, Tarry now the night, and let thine heart be merry. ⁷And the man rose up to depart; but his father in law constrained him, and he staid and lodged there. ⁸And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the damsel's father said, Strengthen now thine heart, and quit thyself as a soldier until the day decline. ⁹And the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his young man; but his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold now, the day hath declined toward evening; lodge here, and let thine heart rejoice: and ye shall arise to morrow for your journey, and thou shalt go unto thy habitation. ¹⁰But the man would not lodge there, but he rose up and departed, and came to the part over against Jebus, (this is Jerusalem,) and there was with him a pair of asses saddled, and his concubine also was with him. ¹¹And they came unto Jebus: and the day was far spent; and the young man said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn aside into this city of the

Jebusites, and lodge in it. ¹²And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside into a strange city, where there is not one of the sons of Israel; but we will pass on as far as Gibeah. ¹³And he said unto his young man, Come, and let us draw near to one of the places; and we will lodge in Gibeah, or in Ramah. ¹⁴And they passed by, and went on; and the sun went down upon them near to Gibeah, which is in Benjamin. ¹⁵And they turned aside thither, to go in and lodge in Gibeah: and they went in, and sat down in the street of the city: and there was no man that led them into a house to lodge. ¹⁶And, behold, there came an old man from his work at even; and the man was of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah; and the men of the city were sons of Benjamin. ¹⁷And he lifted up his eyes, and saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city; and the old man said unto him, Whither goest thou, and whence comest thou? ¹⁸And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehem-judah toward the sides of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went as far as Bethlehem-judah, and I am now going home, and there is no man to take me into his house. ¹⁹Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses, and bread and wine for me and mine handmaid, and the young man with thy servants: there is no want of any thing. ²⁰And the old man said, Peace be unto thee; only be every want of thine upon me; only lodge not in the street. ²¹And he brought him into his house, and made room for his asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink. ²²And they were comforting their heart, when, behold, the men of the city, sons of transgressors, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the old man, the owner of the house, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. ²³And the master of the house came out unto them, and said, Nay, my brethren, do not ye wrong, I pray you, after this man hath come into mine house; do not this folly. ²⁴Behold, my daughter, a maiden, and the man's concubine: them will I bring out, and humble ye them, and do with them what is good in your eyes: but unto this man do not this folly. ²⁵But the men would not consent to hearken unto him: so the man laid hold of his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all night until the morning: and when the morning dawned, they let her go. ²⁶Then came the woman toward the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the house where her husband was, till it was light. ²⁷And her husband rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go on his journey: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the doors of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold. ²⁸And he said unto her, Rise up, and let us be going; and she answered not, for she was dead: and he took her up upon his ass, and gat him unto his place. ²⁹And he took his sword, and laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve parts, and sent them into every coast of Israel. ³⁰And it was so, that every one which saw it said, Such as this hath not happened nor hath been seen from the day of the going up of the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt unto this day: take ye counsel concerning it, and speak.

CHAPTER 20

And all the sons of Israel went out, and all the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, and in the land of Gilead, unto the Lord in Mizpeh. ²And all the tribes of Israel stood before the Lord in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword. ³And the sons of Benjamin heard that the people of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh; and the sons of Israel came and said, Tell us, where did this wickedness take place? ⁴And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah of Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge. ⁵And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about against me by night; they wished to slay me: and my concubine they humbled, and she is dead. ⁶And I laid hold of my concubine, and divided her in pieces, and sent her into every coast of the inheritance of the sons of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and abomination in Israel. ⁷Behold, ye are sons of Israel; and consider, and take counsel among yourselves. ⁸And all the people rose up as one man, saying, Not one of us will return to his tent, neither will any one of us return into his house. ⁹And now this is the thing that shall be done in Gibeah; we will go up by lot against it; ¹⁰moreover we will take ten men for an hundred for all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred for a thousand, and a thousand for ten thousand, to take provision, to cause them to come unto Gibeah of Benjamin, to do unto it according to all the abomination that they have wrought in Israel. ¹¹And all the men of Israel were gathered unto the city as one man.

¹²And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What is this wickedness that is wrought among you? ¹³Now then give up the men, the sons of transgressors, which are in Gibeah, and we will put them to death, and purge out wickedness from Israel. But the sons of Benjamin consented not to hearken unto the voice of their brethren the sons of Israel. ¹⁴And the sons of Benjamin were gathered together out of their cities unto Gibeah, to go out to fight with the sons of Israel. ¹⁵And the sons of Benjamin were numbered in that day out of their cities twenty and three thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men out of all the people, able to use both hands alike: ¹⁶all of these could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss. ¹⁷And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these were men of war. ¹⁸And they arose, and went up to Bethel, and enquired of God; and the sons of Israel said, Who shall go up for us first to fight with the sons of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up first as leader. ¹⁹And the sons of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah. ²⁰And all the men of Israel went out to fight with Benjamin; and they engaged with them at Gibeah. ²¹And the sons of Benjamin went forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground in Israel that day twenty and two thousand men. ²²And the men of Israel strengthened themselves, and again engaged in battle in the place where they had engaged the first day. ²³And the sons of Israel went up and wept before

the Lord until even, and enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall we again draw nigh to battle against the sons of Benjamin our brethren? and the Lord said, Go up against them. ²⁴And the sons of Israel advanced against the sons of Benjamin the second day. ²⁵And the sons of Benjamin went forth to meet them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the sons of Israel again eighteen thousand men: all these drew the sword. ²⁶And the sons of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto Bethel, and wept, and sat there before the Lord, and fasted that day until even, and offered whole burnt offerings and perfect sacrifices before the Lord, ²⁷(for the ark of the Lord was there in those days, ²⁸and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days:) and the sons of Israel enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall we yet again go out to fight with the sons of Benjamin our brethren? and the Lord said, Go up; to morrow I will give them into your hands.

²⁹And the sons of Israel set an ambush against Gibeah round about it. ³⁰And the sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as before. ³¹And the sons of Benjamin went out to meet the people, and were all drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the people, and kill, as before, in the highways, of which one goeth up to Bethel, and one to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel. ³²And the children of Benjamin said, They fall before us, as at the first: but the sons of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways; and they did so. ³³And all the men of Israel rose up out of their places, and engaged in Baal-tamar; and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their place from Marah-gibeah. ³⁴And there came over against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the fight was sore: and they knew not that the evil came upon them. ³⁵And the Lord smote Benjamin before the sons of Israel: and the sons of Israel destroyed of Benjamin that day an hundred and twenty and five thousand men: all these drew the sword. ³⁶And the sons of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: and the men of Israel gave place to Benjamin, because they trusted in the ambush which they had set against Gibeah. ³⁷And when they retreated, then the liers in wait rose up, and moved on toward Gibeah, and all the ambush came forth, and smote the city with the edge of the sword. ³⁸And the sons of Israel had a sign of battle with the liers in wait, that they should send up a signal of smoke out of the city. ³⁹And the sons of Israel saw that the liers in wait had seized Gibeah, and they stood in the line of battle; and Benjamin began to smite down of the wounded among the men of Israel about thirty men: for they said, Surely they fall again before us, as in the first battle. ⁴⁰And the signal went up more and more over the city as a pillar of smoke; and Benjamin looked behind him, and, behold, the destruction of the city ascended up to heaven. ⁴¹And the men of Israel turned back, and the men of Benjamin hasted; for they saw that evil had come upon them. ⁴²And they turned unto the way of the wilderness from before the sons of Israel, and fled; but the battle overtook them; and they that came out of the cities destroyed them in the midst of them. ⁴³And they cut down Benjamin, and pursued him from Nuah closely until they came over

against Gibeah toward the sunrising. ⁴⁴And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these were men of might. ⁴⁵And the rest turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon: and the sons of Israel gleaned of them five thousand men; and the sons of Israel went down after them unto Gidom, and smote two thousand men of them. ⁴⁶And all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword: all these were men of might. ⁴⁷And the rest turned, and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon, even six hundred men, and abode in the rock of Rimmon four months. ⁴⁸And the sons of Israel returned unto the sons of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword from the city of Mitlah, even to the cattle, and every thing that was found in all the cities: also they set on fire the cities that they found.

CHAPTER 21

Now the sons of Israel sware in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any man of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife. ²And the people came to Bethel, and sat there till even before God: and they lifted up their voice, and wept with a great weeping; ³and said, O Lord God of Israel, why is this come to pass, that there should be today one tribe accounted as lacking from Israel? ⁴And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered whole burnt offerings and peace offerings. ⁵And the sons of Israel said, Who *is there* of all the tribes of Israel that went not up in the congregation unto the Lord? for there was a great oath made concerning those that went not up to the Lord to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death. ⁶And the sons of Israel repented them toward Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day. ⁷How shall we do for wives for the rest that remain? seeing we have sworn by the Lord not to give them of our daughters to wives? ⁸And they said, What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the Lord? and, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly. ⁹And the people were numbered, and there was not a man from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there. ¹⁰And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the strongest, and commanded them, saying, Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword. ¹¹And this shall ye do: ye shall devote to destruction every male, and every woman that hath known lying with man; but the virgins shall ye save alive: and they did so. ¹²And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with him: and they brought them unto Shiloh in the land of Canaan. ¹³And the whole congregation sent and spake unto the sons of Benjamin that were in the rock of Rimmon, and besought them to make peace. ¹⁴And Benjamin came again unto the sons of Israel at that time; and the sons of Israel gave them the women which they had saved alive of the daughters of Jabesh-gilead: and they were content.

¹⁵And the people repented them for Benjamin because that the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel. ¹⁶And the elders of the congregation said, How shall we do for wives for them that remain? for the women have been destroyed out of Benjamin. ¹⁷And they said, There must be an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin; and so a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel. ¹⁸For we shall not be able to give them wives of our daughters: for we have sworn among the sons of Israel, saying, Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin. ¹⁹And they said, Behold, there is a feast of the Lord from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north of Bethel, eastward on the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and from the south of Lebonah. ²⁰And they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards; ²¹and ye shall see; and, behold, if the daughters of the inhabitants of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then shall ye go out of the vineyards, and catch you every man a wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go into the land of Benjamin. ²²And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come to dispute with us, that we will say unto them, Grant them freely unto us, for we have not taken every man his wife in the battle: because ye did not give unto them according to the occasion, ye transgressed. ²³And the sons of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and dwelt in them. ²⁴And the sons of Israel went thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his kindred, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. ²⁵And in those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.