JUDGES.
THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Alternation and Introversion.)

A | C | 1. 1—2. 5. ISRAEL AND OTHER PEOPLES. AGGRESSIONS.
   | D | 2. 6—8. 35. GOVERNMENT.
   | B | 9. 1—57. INTERNAL DISORDERS.

A | D | 10. 1—16. 31. GOVERNMENT.
C | 17. 1—18. 31. ISRAEL AND OTHER PEOPLES. AGGRESSIONS,
   | B | 19. 1—21. 25. INTERNAL DISORDERS.
1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, "Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?"

2 And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up, behold, I have delivered the land into his hand."

3 And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot." So Simeon went with him.

4 And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites in their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men.

5 And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 But Adoni-bezek fleed; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: "as I have done, so hath God required me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

8 Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley.

10 And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.

11 And from thence he went against the inhabitants of Debir: and the name of Debir before was Kirjath-sepher:

12 And Caleb said, "He that smiteth Kirjath-sepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife."

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

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**TITLE, Judges.** The Heb. name is Shoph'tim = rulers; from verb to put right and then rule. Not Judges, as modern English. For origin and description of name, cp. 2. 17-18. In Sept. = krêtai; Latin, Liber Judicum. The office peculiar to Israel. The book records the history of thirteen Judges (twelve called of God and one a usurper), whose names by Gematria make a multiple of eight and thirteen (see Ap. 10); six "evil" doings (see note on 2. 11); six oppressors and oppressions (see note on 2. 14); and six deliverances (see note on 2. 16).

1. 1-2. 5 (C, p. 323). CONQUESTS. ISRAEL AND OTHER NATIONS. (Alternation.)


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1-20 (A, above). BY THE TRIBE OF JUDAH. (Alternations.)

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14 And it came to pass, when she came to
him, that she moved him to ask of her father
a field: and she lighted from off her ass; and
caleb said unto her, "What wilt thou?"
15 And she said unto him, "Give me a bless­
ing: for thou hast given me a south land;
give me also springs of water." And Caleb
gave her the upper springs and the nether
springs.
16 And the sons of Anak, Japhlet, and Hec­
hol and Daleel, and Naadab, and Ebal, and Asa­
kelon, and Maunah, and Zikzel, dwelt in Arad;
and they went and dwelt among the People.
17 And Judah went with Simeon his brother,
and they slew the Canaanites that inhabited
Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. (And the
name of the city was called Hormah.)
18 Also Judah took Gaza with the coast
thereof, and Askelon with the coast thereof,
and Ekron with the coast thereof.
19 And the Lord was with Judah; and he drove
out the inhabitants of the mountain; but
could not drive out the inhabitants of the
valley, because they had chariots of iron.
20 And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as
Moses said: and he expelled thence the three
sons of Anak.
21 And the children of Benjamin did not
drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jeru­
salem; but the Jebusites dwelt with the chil­
dren of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.
22 And the house of Joseph, they also went
up against Beth-el: and the Lord was with
them. 23 And the house of Joseph sent to
descry Beth-el.

Agi

(k)

(Now the name of the city before was Luz.)
24 And the spies saw a man come forth out
of the city, and said unto him, "Shew us, we pray thee, the entrance into the
city, and we will shew thee mercy."
25 And when he shewed them the entrance
into the city, they smote the city with the edge
of the sword; but they let go the man and all
his family.
26 And the man went into the land of the
Hittites, and built a city, and called the name
thereof Luz: which is the name thereof unto
this day.

C'1

27 Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabi­
tants of Beth-shean and her towns, nor
Taaranach, nor her towns, nor the inhabitants
of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of
Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of
Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites
would dwell in that land.
28 And it came to pass, when Israel was
strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute,
and did not utterly drive them out.
29 Neither did Ephraim drive out the
Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer: but the
Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

14 to him. Supply Fig. Ellipsis with "home".
15, 19, 19.
16 Kenite. A non-Israelite race (Gen. 15. 19.
Num. 24. 21, &c. 1 Sam. 27. 10; 30. 29). See Saul's
correspondence with them (1 Sam. 15. 6). One branch
in the north (4. 11).
17 destroyed = devoted.
18 Hormah = utter destruction.
19 he drive out = he possessed. (Omit italics.)
22-26 (A, p. 325). BY THE HOUSE OF JOSEPH.
(Introduction and Alternation.)

A g i

(B, p. 326)

1. 27—2. 5. UNEXPELLED INHABITANTS. (Division.)
C2| 2. 1—5. Non-expulsion. The punishment.
27-36 (C1, above). NON-EXPULSION. SIN.
(Introduction and Alternation.)
C1| 1 n | 37. Manasseh.
| o | 28. Made them tributaries.
m | p | 29. Ephraim and Zebulun.
| q | 30. Made them tributaries.
| m | p | 31—33. Asher and Naphtali.
| q | 33. Made them tributaries.
| l | n | 34, 35—.
| o | 35, 36. Made them tributaries.
27 Neither... nor. Note the Fig. Paradoxical (Ap. 6)
in vv. 29—33. Emphasising the unfaithfulness and
disobedience, the cause of all subsequent trouble.
29 dwell : i.e. in friendly relations. Ps. 133. 1.
32 dwell among = dwell in the inside, as in the heart
or bowels of the Canaanites; vv. 27—30 are very different.
30 Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol;
but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries.
31 Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon,
or of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah,
or of Aphik, nor of Rehob:
32 But the Asherites dwelt among the
1. 32.

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1 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain; for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:

35 hand. Fig. Metonymy (of Cause). Ap. 6, by which the hand is put for the power exerted by it.

36 coast = border or boundary.

2. 1-5 (C2, p. 329). NON-EXPULSION. PUNISHMENT. (Alteration.)


| r | 2. 2. Threatening.

| r | 2. 3. Expostulation. Effect. Weeping.

| s | 2. 4. Worship.

Chapter 2 gives a summary of events from 3:1—16:31.

The period it covers is therefore 1434–1100, i.e. 334 years.


2 ye shall make no league. Cp. Ex. 29. 2, Deut. 6. 2, 5, &c.


why ? Fig. Euphemés (Ap. 6). Or, "what is this that ye have done?"

3 be as thorns in your sides. Some codices read "be adversaries to you". Cp. Num. 33. 52. Josh. 23. 13.

4 children = sons.

2. 6–8. 32 (D, p. 329). GOVERNMENT.

(Division.)

D | 2. 6–7. Antecedent.

D2 | 2. 8–11. Subsequent.

2. 6–10 (D, above). ANTECEDENT. (Alteration.)

D1 | 1. 6. Joshua's life.


7 who. Some codices, with two early printed editions, Syr. and Vulg., read "and who".

works = work.


mount = hill country.

10 knew not. Fig. Metonymy (of Cause). Ap. 6. Put for obeyed not or cared not for.

2. 11–8. 32 (D, above). SUBSEQUENT.

(Division.)

D1 | 2. 11–3. 4. The People and their Apostasies.

| E | 3. 5–8. 4. The oppressors and Deliverers.

2. 11–3. 4 (E, above). THE PEOPLE AND THEIR APOSTASIES. (Extended Alteration.)


w | 2. 16–19. Evil repeated.

x | 2. 20–22. Anger of Jehovah.

z | 2. 20–3. 4. Punishment. Proved by enemies.


4. 1; 6. 1; 10. 6; 18. 1.

12 forsook. Religion is not a gradual evolution to what is higher, but a declension to what is lower. See note on Josh. 24. 14.


people = peoples.

12 And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, Which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger.
13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashteroth.

14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers, which spoiled them, and He sold them into the hands of their enemies, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised up judges,

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods, to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said,

"Because that this people hath transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto My voice; 21 also will I not henceforth drive out any from before the nations of the land which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not."

23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered He them into the hand of Joshua.

3 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

3 Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baal-hermon unto the entering in of Hamath.

4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to

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13 Ashteroth. The special evil of Canaanite nations. Name derived from the Ashteroth (see Ap. 42). The Ashteroth was idolatry of the most revolting form of immorality under the guise of religion. All virtue surrendered. The "going a whoring" is more than a figure of speech. See Ex. 34.13. Deut. 7.4; 12.3; 16.21. Note all the occurrences of Ashteroth: Deut. 4.4. Josh. 9.10; 12.1; 13.12, 31. Judg. 2.13; 10.6. 1 Sam. 7.3, 4; 12.10; 31.10.

14 spoilers...enemies. Six oppressors and servitudes named: Judg. 3.7; 12.1; 4.7; 8.1; 10.7; 13.1.


16 judges. This word gives the name to the book = one who put right what was wrong; hence, a ruler. delivered = saved. Six deliverances: 3, 5; 4. 23; 5, 8, 22; 11.33; 16.30.

18 all the days, &c. This raises the question as to Deborah's call. See note on 4.4.

19 when. Cp. 5.12.

20—3. 4 (x, p. 327). PUNISHMENT. PROVING. (Repeated Alternation.)


21 c1 | 2. 12. Trial.

22 b1 | 2. 13. Non-expulsion.

23 c2 | 3. 1, 2. Trial.

24 b1 | 3. 2. Non-expulsion.

25 c2 | 3. 4. Trial.


22 therein. A special various reading called Sevir (Ap. 34), with some codices, Sept., and Vulg., read "in it": i.e. in Jehovah's way.

23 driving them out = dispossessing.

3 the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

2 children = sons.

3 five lords. See note on Josh. 13. 2-6.

entering in = pass.

3. 5-8, 33 (E2, p. 327). OPPRESSORS AND DELIVERERS. (Introversion.)

E2 | F | 3. 5-11. Chushan-rishathaim. (Othniel.)

G | 3. 12-30. Eglon. (Ehud.)

H | 3. 31. Shamar. (Philistines.)

G | 4. 1-5. 31. Jabin. (Barak.)

I | 6. 1-9. 35. Midian. (Gideon.)

3. 5-11 (F, above). CHUSHAN-RISHATHAIM, AND OTHNIEL. (Extended Alternation.)

F | d | 5-7. Evil committed.

e | s. Oppressor. (Chushan-rishathaim.)

| f | 8. Servitude. Eight years.


| e | 9-10. Deliverer. (Othniel.)

| f | 11. Rest. Forty years.

5 dwelt among. Not the Canaanites dwelling in Israel, but Israel dwelling among the Canaanites, who were to be exterminated. Ex. 3. 8, 17; 23. 23-25. Deut. 7. 1-5.

know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which He commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:
And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their sons to their sons, and served their gods.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years.

And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, He raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

And the land had rested forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and Othniel judged Israel, seven years.

And the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palms.

So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, He raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, even Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and he brought the present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

And he gathered in the king upon his right thigh. And Ehud put forth his right hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them.
And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

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

And the land had rested fourscore years.

And when he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, "Surely he covereth his feet in his twenty summer chamber." And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened them: and, behold, his lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath.

And they tarried till they were ashamed: and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, "Surely he covereth his feet in his twenty summer chamber." And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a woman to pass over.

And the land of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six thousand men: for his hand was with him from the mount, and suffered not a man to pass over.

And the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and suffered not a woman to pass over.

And he said unto them, "Follow after me: for I have delivered the Moabites into your hand." And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over.

And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and suffered not a woman to pass over.

And the land of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six thousand men: for his hand was with him from the mount, and suffered not a man to pass over.

And the LORD sold them into the hand of Sisera, which dwelt at Harosheth of the Gentiles.

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When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, "Surely he covereth his feet in his twenty summer chamber."
And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

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

11 Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh.

12 And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor.

13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Haroseth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said unto Barak, "Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee?" So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword: and there was not a man left.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Haroseth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

17 Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, "Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not." And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a veil.

19 And he 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 drink, and covered him.

20 Again he said unto her, "Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, 'Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, 'No.'"

21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

22 And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, "Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest."

And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.

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

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

10 called: i. e. by proclamation. 11 Hobah. Cp. Num. 10. 23, 14. 13 gathered: i. e. by proclamation. Cp. v. 10. 14 is not. Fig. Erotëtai. 15 the LORD discomfited =Jehovah discomfited. Cp. Ps. 83. 3. The word implies supernatural phenomena. Cp. 5. 20-22. Ex. 14. 24. Josh. 10. 10. 2 Sam. 22. 15. Ps. 18. 12. 16 upon=by. not a man. Heb. not so much as one.

17-22 (p. 330). INSTRUMENT. A WOMAN. (Extended Alternation.)

17 the tent of Jael. Note, not of Heber: the woman's tent, which itself brought Sisera under the death penalty. But there is nothing to apologise for here. The Author and Giver of life came on Jael as on Ehud, and enabled her to save the daughters of Israel from a fate worse than death. Cp. 5. 7, 11, 24, 30.

Kenite. Cp. v. 11.

18 mantle=rug. Heb. 'melon' occurs here only.

19 bottle=skin. milk. Rendered "butter" in 5. 25; probably = buttermilk, much used in the East.

20 door=entrance.

21 nail of the tent=a tent peg. Constantly tents are taken down and put up by the women to the present day.

So he died. The first of ten recorded deaths at the hands of women: Sisera (Judg. 4. 21); Abimelech (Judg. 9. 53. 2 Sam. 11. 21); Sheba (2 Sam. 20. 22); the harlot's child (1 Kings 8. 19); prophets (1 Kings 18. 4); Naboth (1 Kings 21. 9, 16); a son by his mother (2 Kings 6. 29); seed royal (2 Kings 11. 1, 2 Chron. 22. 10); Haman's sons (Est. 9. 13, 14); John Baptist (Matt. 14. 8).

22 behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.

24 prospered. Fig. Polyptoton. Ap. 6. Heb. going on went on. R. V. prevailed more and more.

5. 1-31 (K, p. 330). THE DELIVERERS' SONG. (Introversion.)

K 0 | 1-2. Praise to Jehovah. Avenging of Israel.


2 the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

5 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abiniom on that day, saying, When the People willingly offered themselves.
5 the highways, &c. = the highways were closed. The inhabitants. Why not supply the Fig. Ellipsis (Ap. 6) by the words "the women," considering the objects of Jabin's oppression? see notes on 4. 17; 6. 7, 11, 24, 30.
6 Shamgar. Cp. 3. 31. ceased = ceased [to be]. Same word as "unoccupied" in v. 6. I arose. Fig. Epizeuxis. Ap. 6. new gods. Cp. Deut. 32. 16.
7 The righteous acts of His rule over Israel. Then the People of Jehovah hastened to the gates. When Thou wentest out of Seir, the mountains melted from before 2 the LORD, even that Sinai from before 2 the LORD, God of Israel. When Thou marchest out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped. The clouds also dropped water. Even = Yea. Awake, awake, Deborah: lead thy captivity captive = lead thy captives captive; "captivity" put by Fig. Metonymy (of Subject) for the persons made captive = lead captive thy people.
8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: Was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?
9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye 2 the LORD.
10 Speak, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way.
11 They that are delivered Even = Yea. Awake, awake, Deborah: they that are delivered " captivity" put by Fig. Metonymy (of Subject) for the persons made captive = lead captive thy people. In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked by ways.
12 Awake, awake, Deborah: Arise, Barak, and utter a song: Arise, Barak, and o lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.
13 Then He made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: The LORD made me have dominion over the mighty.
14 Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; After thee, Benjamin, among thy people; Out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer. And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; Even Issachar, and also Barak: He was sent on foot into the valley.
15 For the divisions of Reuben There were great thoughts of heart. For the divisions of Reuben There were great thoughts of heart. Why abodest thou among the shepherds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks?
16 For the divisions of Dan there were great searchings of heart. There were great searchings of heart. Gilead abode beyond Jordan: And why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.
17 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field. The kings came and fought, Then fought the kings of Canaan. They took no gain of money.
5. 20.

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20 They fought from heaven;
    The stars in their courses fought against Sisera.
21 The river of Kishon swept them away,
    That ancient river, the river Kishon.
    O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.
22 Then were the horseshoofs broken
    By the means of the pransings, the pransings
    of their mighty ones.

23 'Curse ye Meroz,' said the Angel of the LORD:
    'Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof;
    Because they came not to the help of the LORD,
    To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'

24 'Blessed above women shall Jael
    The wife of Heber the Kenite be,
    Blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

25 He asked water, and she gave him milk;
    She brought forth butter in a lordly dish.
26 She put her hand to the nail,
    And her right hand to the workmen's hammer;
    And with the hammer she smote Sisera,
    She smote off his head,
    When she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down:
    Where he bowed, there he fell down dead.
28 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window,
    And cried through the lattice,
    'Why is his chariot so long in coming?'
    'Why tarry the wheels of his chariots?'
29 Her wise ladies answered her,
    'Yea, she returned answer to herself,
    30 Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey;
    To every man a damsel or two;
    To Sisera a prey of divers colours,
    A prey of divers colours of needlework,
    Of divers colours of needlework on both sides,
    Meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?'

31 So let all Thine enemies perish, O LORD:
    But let them that love Him be as the sun
    When he goeth forth in his might.'

And the land had rest forty years.

6. 8.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD:
    and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian
    seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites
    the children of Israel made them the dens that are in the mountains, and caves, and strong
    holds.
3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that

the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites,
    and the children of the east, even they came
    up against them;
4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come
    unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.
5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for
    multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into
    the land to destroy it.
6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites;
    and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.
7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,
    That the LORD sent a prophet unto the
6. 8.

JUDGES.

6. 22.

11 And there came an Angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite:

12 And his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

13 And Gideon said unto Him, "Oh my Lord, if thine hand be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" but now thy hand be with us, if we have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

15 And he said unto Him, "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

16 And the Lord said unto him, "Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."

17 And he said unto Him, "If now I have found grace in Thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

18 Depart not hence, I pray Thee, until I come unto Thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before Thee."

And he said, "I will tarry until thou come again."

19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and no unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

20 And the Angel of the Lord said unto him, "Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth."

And he did so.

21 Then the Angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an Angel of the Lord, Gideon said, "Alas, God, Heb. Elohim. Ap. 4. 1. from Egypt. Some codices, with Sept. and Syr., read "from the land of Egypt".

bondage. Heb. bondmen. Fig. Metonymy(of Adjunct). Ap. 6.

6. 11-20 (S2, above). ANGEL OF JEHOVAH.

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23 And the Lord said unto him, “Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.”

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezerites.

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, “Take thy father’s young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

26 And build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down:

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord had said unto him:

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

29 And they said one to another, “Who hath done this thing?” And when they enquired and asked, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.”

30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, “Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.”

31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, “Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning; if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.”

32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, “Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.”

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-zezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

36 And Gideon said unto the Lord, “If Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said, 37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said.”
1219
'lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, say-
ing, 'Mine own hand hath saved me.'

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of
the People, saying, 'Whosoever is fearful and
afraid, let him return and depart early from
's mount Gilead.'

x1
And there returned of the People two hundred
and two thousand; and there remained ten thou-
sand.

w2
4 And 2 the LORD said unto Gideon, "The
People are yet too many; bring them down
unto the water, and I will try them for thee
there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto
thee, 'This shall go with thee,' the same
shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say
unto thee, 'This shall not go with thee,' the
same shall not go.

x2
5 So he brought down the People unto the
water: and 2 the LORD said unto Gideon,
"Every one that o lappeth of the water with
his tongue, 2 as a dog lappeth, b shall thou set
himself; likewise every one that boweth
down upon his knees to drink.

w3
6 And the number of them that lapped, putting
their hand to their mouth, were three hundred
men: but all the rest of the People bowed
down upon their knees to drink water.

x3
7 And 2 the LORD said unto Gideon, "By the
three hundred men that lapped will I save you,
and deliver the Midianites into thine hand:
and let all the other People go every man unto
his place."

8 So o the People took victuals in their hand,
and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of
Israel every man unto his tent, and retained
those three hundred 6 men: and the 1 host
of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

u
9 And it came to pass the same night, that
2 the LORD said unto him, "Arise, get thee
down unto the 1 host; for I have delivered it
into thine hand.

10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with
Phurah thy servant down to the 1 host: 1
And thou shalt hear what they say; and
afterward shall thin hand be strengthened
to go down unto the 1 host." Then went he
down with Phurah his servant unto the out-
side of the armed men that were in the 1 host.

v1
12 And the Midianites and the o Amalekites
and all the 6 children of the east lay along in
the valley like 6 grasshoppers for multitude;
and their camels were without number, 6 as
the sand by the sea side for multitude.

13 And when Gideon was come, 2 behold, there
was a 6 man that told 2 a dream unto his fellow,
and said, ' 2 Behold, I dreamed a dream, and,
1 i, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the
host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and
smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that
the tent lay along.'

14 And his fellow answered and said, "This
is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the
son of Joash, a 6 man of Israel: for into his
hand hath 2 God delivered Midian, and all the
1 host.'

n
15 And it was so, when Gideon heard the
telling of the dream, and the interpretation
thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into
the 1 host of Israel, and said, "Arise; for 2 the
LORD hath delivered into your hand the 1 host
of Midian."

16 And he divided the three hundred 6 men
into three companies, and he put a trumpet in
every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and
6 lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, "Look on me, and
do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the
outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do,
so shall ye do.

18 When I blow with a trumpet, 3 and all
that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets
also on every side of all the camp, and say,
o 6 The sword of 2 the LORD, and of Gideon.'

19 So Gideon, and the hundred 6 men that
were with him, came unto the outside of the
camp in the beginning of the middle watch;
and they had but newly set the watch: and
they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers
that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trum-
quets, and brake the pitchers, and held the
lamps in their right hands to blow withal: and they
21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zerach, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

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

24 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan.

25 And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb: and they slew the thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.
And he said unto Jether his firstborn, "Up, and slay him." But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth.

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

Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, "Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian."

And Gideon said unto them, "I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the "earrings of his prey." (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

And they answered, "We will willingly give them." And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the "earrings of his prey.

And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.

And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his family of the house of his mother's father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

And his concubine that was in Shechem, 60: also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

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

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

And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.

And his concubine that was in Shechem, 66: also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

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

And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god.

And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

And Abimelech the son of Jerubbabal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communiued with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

"Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem. 'Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that 3 am your bone and your flesh.'

And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, "Our brother.'

And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

And 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.

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

And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto
1178 them, "Hearken unto me, ye 2 men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

8 The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, 'Reign thou over us.' But the olive tree said unto them, 'Should I leave my fatness, wherewith I honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?'

10 And the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come thou, and reign over us.'

11 But the fig tree said unto them, 'Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?'

12 Then said the trees unto the vine, 'Come thou, and reign over us.'

13 And the vine said unto them, 'Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?'

14 Then all the trees said unto the bramble, 'Come thou, and reign over us.'

15 And the bramble said unto the trees, 'If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'

18 Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands;

17 For my father fought for you, and adventure his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:

18 And if ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, three-score and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maid-servant, king over the men of Shechem, because ye is your brother;

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

20 But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the 2 men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the 2 men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.'

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

22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,

23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the 2 men of Shechem; and the 2 men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

24 That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them;

25 And the 2 men of Shechem set liers in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbled all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.
JUDGES.

9. 27. 1176 gathered their vineyards, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.

28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is the son of Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerub-baal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?"

29 And "would God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech."

30 And he said to Abimelech, "Increase thine army, and come out." 

J1 31 And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.

32 Now therefore up by night, Zebul and the people that is with thee, and lie in wait in the field: and it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, when he and the people that is with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion."

33 And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, when he and the people that is with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion."

34 And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.

35 And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city; and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from lying in wait.

36 And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains." And Zebul said unto him, "Seek the shadow of the mountains as if they were 28 men." 

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

38 Then said Zebul unto him, "Where is now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, "Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?" is not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray thee, now, and fight with them."

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

40 And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown and wounded, even unto the entering of the gate.

41 And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

J2 42 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech.

43 And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people were come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them.

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

45 And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

46 And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard that they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith.

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

48 Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said unto the people that were with him, "What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done."

49 And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them;

so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

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

51 But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women,
52 And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.

54 Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, "Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men may not say of me, 'A woman slew him.'" And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

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

56 Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren.

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

10 And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim.

2 And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.

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

4 And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts; and they had thirty cities, which are called Havoth-jair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

5 And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, 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.

7 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And the children of Ammon rose up against Israel from among them, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more.

8 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen: let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

9 And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, "We have sinned against Thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim."

10 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against Thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim."

11 And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, "Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? 12 The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the children of Ammon, and of the children of the Philistines; was not the LORD our God there with us? 13 And the LORD delivered Pharaoh of the Egyptians unto us; and we smote him, and also Pharaoh's horse and his chariots.

14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen: let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."
11 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, and he was the son of a Haroll: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, "Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.

Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.

Then Jephthah went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:

And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, "If thou wilt go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over us, and deliver us from them: we will burn thine house unto the ground.

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, and he was the son of Haroll: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:

And they said unto Jephthah, "Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.

Then Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, "Did ye not hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?"

And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, "Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, "If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, then shall I be your head; but if not, then I will go back home again." And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, "The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words."

Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.

And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying, "What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land?"

And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably."

And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon:

And said unto him, "Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon:

But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh; Then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, 'Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land;' but the king of Edom would not hearken thereunto. And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not consent: and Israel abode in Kadesh.

Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.
19 And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place.  

20 But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.  

21 And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.  

22 And they possessed all the 20 "coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan.  

23 So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and thou seest it.  

24 "Wilt thou not possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whosoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.  

25 And now art thou any thing better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them,  

26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in Arero and her towns, and in all the cities that be along by the 20 coasts of Arnon, three hundred years? why therefore did ye not recover them within that time?  

27 Wherefore 3 have not 4 "sinned against thee, but thou dost me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon."

28 Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.  

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizzpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.  

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, "If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,  

31 Then it shall be, that whatever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.  

33 And he smote them from Arero, even till thou came to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.  

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

35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou hast made one of the princes of my father's house a reproach.  

36 And she said unto him, "My father, if thou hast opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.  

37 And she said unto her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, and my fellows."  

38 And he said, "Go." And he sent her away.
12 And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, "Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire."

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39 did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: he did not offer her as a burnt offering; for Jehovah could not accept that. Therefore Jephthah must have dedicated her to the Lord by a perpetual virginity. Such a vow was provided for in Lev. 27. See note on v. 31.

And it was a custom in Israel, 40 That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

13. 1-16. 31 (B, p. 341). PHILISTINES AND SAMSON. (Alternation.)

K | 13. 1. Time of servitude (forty years).
K | 16. 31. Time of government (twenty years).

1 children = sons.

14 And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts: and he judged Israel eight years.

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

18 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

8-18 (A, p. 341). JUDGES (IBZAN, ELON, ABDON). (Extended Alternation.)

A | I j | 8, 9. Ibzan.
I j | 10. Death.
I j | 11. Elon.
I j | 12. Death.
I j | 14. Government (eight years).
I j | 15. Death.

14 nephews = grandsons.

15 mount = hill country.
2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah;

and his wife was barren, and bare not.

3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, "Behold now, thou shalt bear a son, and His name shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." For lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb to the day of his death.

4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God, even from the womb to the day of his death.

5 And the woman made haste, and ran, and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came unto me, and His countenance was like the countenance of an Angel of God, very awe-inspiring. But He said unto me, "Behold, thou shalt bear a son, and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb to the day of his death.""

6 Then Manoah intreated the Lord, and said, "O my Lord, let the Man of God Which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born."

7 But He said unto me, "Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb to the day of his death.""

8 Then Manoah intreated the Lord, and said, "O my Lord, let the Man of God Which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born."

9 And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the Angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. And she said, " Neither had I seen him." And he said, "Now how shall we do unto him?"

10 And the woman made haste, and ran, and told her husband, and said unto him, "Neither had I seen him." And her husband said unto her, "O my woman, didst thou see him?"

11 And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the Angel, and said unto Him, "Art thou the Man that spakest unto the woman?" And He said, "I am."

12 And Manoah said, "Now let Thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?"

13 And the Angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, "Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.

14 She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.

15 And Manoah said unto the Angel of the Lord, "I pray Thee, let us detain Thee, that we shall have made ready a kid for Thee."

16 And the Angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, "Though thou detain Me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the Lord." For Manoah knew not that He was an Angel of the Lord.

17 And Manoah said unto the Angel of the Lord, "What is Thy name, that when Thy sayings come to pass we may do Thee honour?"
18 And the Angel of the LORD said unto him, "Why askest thou thus after My name, seeing it is secret?"

19 So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD:

and the Angel did wondrously; (and Manoah and his wife looked on).

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

21 But the Angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife.

Then Manoah knew that the was an Angel of the LORD.

22 And Manoah said unto his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen 6 God." But his wife said unto him, "I f, and he rent him as he would have done to a beast.

23 And the spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

25 And the spirit of the LORD began to move him, and he went and told his father and mother.

L A P1 y
(p. 346)

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

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, "I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore let giyr for me to wife." Then his father and his mother said unto him, "Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?"

3 And Samson said unto his father, "Get giyr for me; for giyr pleaseth me well."

4 But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that giyr sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

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

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand:

but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

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

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

9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat:

on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat:

but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

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

11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, : i.e. saw what sort of man he was. Note emphasis on "him".

secret. Heb. wonderful. Same as Isa. 9. 6.

wonderously - a wonderful thing.

the flame went up. See note on Gen. 4. 4.

the rock is deemed the altar.

received. It is the acceptance of our Substitute by God which saves, not our acceptance of Him. This was sound reasoning.

called his name - called him. Fig. Pleonasm.

began. They had yet to wait. See Gen. 41. 8.


at times - to and fro.

borders of Judah.

14. 1-16. 31 - (L. p. 346). PROMISE FULFILLED.

14. 1-9 (P1, above). PROPOSALS.

(P. above). PROPOSALS.

Extended Alternations.)

3 take a wife of, &c. An unlawful connection.

P1 v 1-4. Wife.

w 5. c. Lion. Rent.

x 6. Concealment.

v 7. Wife.

w 8. - Lion. Honey in it.

x 9. Concealment.

a young lion. Lions once abounded in Palestine.

Hence names Lébooth (Josh. 15. 22; 19. 4). Arieh (2 Kings 15. 26). Laish (Judg. 18. 7). See also 1 Sam. 17. 36. 1 Kings 13. 24, &c., against him - at meeting him.


THE FEAST.

(Alternation and Introversión.)

P2 y 10-20. Wife and companions.

z 12. 13. Conditions proposed.

a b 14. Riddle put forth.

c 15-17. Wife's deceit.

a b 18. Riddle solved.

c 19. Wife's deceit.

z 19. Conditions fulfilled.

11 when they saw him: i.e. saw what sort of man he was. Note emphasis on "him".
14. 11.

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12 And Samson said unto them, "I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: 13 But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall I give me thirty 12 sheets and thirty change of garments." And they said unto him, "Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it."

14 And he said unto them, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the sour came forth sweets."

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, "Entice me with thy riddle, lest we burn thy garments," And they said unto him, "Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it."

16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, "Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me." And he said unto her, "Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee?"

17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?"

19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which they had burned before him, and he went up to his father's house.

20 But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his wife.

15. 1-19 (B, p. 346). SLAUGHTER, IN LIFE. (Division.)

B Q1 | 1-8. First slaughter. (Alternation.)

Q1 | d | 1, 2. Wife refused.
    | e | 3-5. Retribution. Burning.

Q2 | d | 6. Wife burnt.
    | e | 7, 8. Retribution. Slaughter.

1 kid = kid of the goats.
1 will go in = Let me come in.
3 concerning = to.
Now = this once.
4 foxes = jacks. These go in packs, foxes go alone.
6 burnt her and her father. Some codices, with one early printed edition, Sept., and Syr., read "burned the house of her father." 7 this = like [this]: i.e. on this wise.

8-19 (Q2, above). SECOND SLAUGHTER. (Alternation.)

Q2 | f | 8-16. Expected retaliation.
    | g | 17. Meaning of place. Ramath-lehi.

Q1 | f | 18-19. Expected retaliation.
    | g | 19. Meaning of place. En-hakkore.

8-16 (f, above). EXPECTED RETALIATION. (Alternation.)


5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives.

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

7 And Samson said unto them, "Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease."

8 And he smote him hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.
Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

And they answered, "To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us."

And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

And Samson said, "I will now put forth my hand, and take it, and slew an ass, and it shall be a deliverance into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

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

Then three thousand men of Judah went up to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, "Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that thou hast done unto us?"

And he said unto them, "As they did unto me, so have I done unto them."

And they said unto him, "We are come up to bind thee, that we may deliver thee, and put forth thy hand, and take it, and we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi, and came and took the doors of the city, and the two posts, and went away.

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

And Samson said, "With the jawbone of an ass, Heaps upon heaps, With the jaw of an ass Have I slain a thousand men."

And Samson said, "With the jawbone of an ass, Heaps upon heaps, With the jaw of an ass Have I slain a thousand men."

And it came pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called it Ramath-lehi.

And Samson lay till midnight, and arose, and went out from Lehi unto Ramath-lehi.

Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

And it was told the Gazites, saying, "Samson is come hither." And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city,

and were quiet all the night, saying, "In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him."

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

And it came to pass afterward, that he stood in array against the Gazites, and passed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city.

And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called it Ramath-lehi.
16. 6.

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16. 20 (n, p. 348). DELILAH'S SNARES.

(Repetition and Extended Alternation.)

n o1 | p1 | q1 | 116-20. Delilah's attempts. Success.
16 o1 | 1-14. Delilah's attempts. Failure.

6-14 (o1, above). DELILAH'S FAILURE.

And Delilah said unto Samson, "Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee."

7 And Samson said unto her, "If they bind me with seven green withes that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man."

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

9 Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson."

And he brake the withes, o as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

10 And Delilah said unto Samson, o "Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound."

11 And he said unto her, "If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man."

12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson."

And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber.

13 And Delilah said unto Samson, "Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: "tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound."

14 And he said unto her, "If thou wovest the seven locks of my head o with the web."

15 And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson."

16 And he waked o out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

17 And she said unto him, o "How canst thou say, 'I love thee,' when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth."

18 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;

19 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, "There hath not come a rasor upon mine head; for 3 have been o a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart."

Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees;

20 And she said, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, "I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself."

And he a wist not that 6 the LORD was departed from him.
21 But 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.

22 And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from his father, he judged Israel twenty years.

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

2 And he said unto his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; 3 take it." And his mother said, "Blessed be thou of the Lord, my son." And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, 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: now therefore I will restore it unto thee."

4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred
5 house of gods. The true house of God was neglected, and as hard to find as it is to-day (21. 19); and, when found, dancing was the prominent feature, not sacrifice or worship (21. 21-23).

6 Ephod. In imitation of Aaron’s. Ex. 25. 7; 28. 4.

7 consecrated. See note on Ex. 28. 41. Lev. 9. 17. his priest. Not Jehovah’s, but “made with hands”.

8 no king. First occurrence of four, see 18. 1; 19. 1. 21. 25. Two conform to the structure here; and two in chs. 19. 1. and 21. 25.


Beth-lehem-Judah. To distinguish it from Beth-lehem in Zebulun (Josh. 19. 14).


12 his priest. Not Jehovah’s; see on v. 5.

13 do me good. The “good” (as in all such cases) never came. For Micah is afterward robb’d both of his idols and his priest.


Introversion and Alternation.


e f 2-6. Mission of spies.

g 7-10. Security of Laish.

1 those days. Chs. 17-21 thought by some to record earlier events in the days of Othniel by Fig. Hysterésis (Ap. 6). See on 17. 1. and Structure. no king. No true “house of God” religiously (17. 6), leads to “no king” nationally (18. 1); and nationally to apostasy. See on v. 5, above.

Danites. See note on Gen. 49. 17.

2 children = sons.


coasts = borders.

men of valour = sons of valour.

mount = hill country of.

3 the young man. Op. 17. 7.

makes = doest.

5 Ask counsel. By the use of the ephod. See 17. 6.


6 the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.


quiet and secure. Probably arising from the enervating effects of malaria now endemic there. If so, it may be identified with Tel-el-kadi in the fever-ridden district at the head of the Jordan.


8 behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.

6 Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man.

8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, “What say ye?”

9 And they said, “Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.”

10 When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of any thing that is in the earth.”
11 And there went from thence of the family of the 1Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred 2 men 2 appointed with weapons of war.

12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath-jearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place 3 Mahaneh-dan unto this day: 9 behold, it is behind Kirjath-jearim.

13 And they passed thence unto 3 mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

14 Then answered the five 2 men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, 4 Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.

15 And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of 3 the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

16 And the six hundred 11 men 11 appointed with their weapons of war, which were of the 2 children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate.

17 And the five 2 men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, 4 the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred 11 men 11 that were 11 appointed with weapons of war.

18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, 4 the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, 2 What do ye? 2

19 And they said unto him, 4 Hold thy peace, 4 lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: 2 and the priest said unto them, 2 Ye have done that which is good.

20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, 4 and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.

21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the 3 carriage before them.

22 And they went from thence a good way from the house of Micah, 2 the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the 2 children of 1 Dan.

23 And they cried unto the 2 children of 1 Dan.

24 And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, 4 What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company? 4

25 And he said, 2 Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, 4 What aileth thee? 4

26 And the 2 children of 1 Dan said unto him, 2 Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest any evil befall us.

27 And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came 8 unto Laish, unto a people 2 that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.

28 And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no 8 business in the way: and it was in the valley that lieth by Beth-rehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.

29 And they called the name of the city 1 Dan, 2 after the name of 1 Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

30 And the children of 1 Dan 8 set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of 6 Manasseh, 46 and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

31 And they 8 set them up Micah's graven
And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah, 

And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Beth-lehem-judah, and was there four whole months, 

And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into a certain house of a couple of asses: and she brought him into the house of the father-in-law of his concubine, 

And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged with him there. 

And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law said unto him, "Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go thy way." 

And they sat down, and did eat and drink, and lodged there. 

And when the man arose to depart, he said unto his father in law, "Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it." 

And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: for there was no man that took them into his house to lodging. 

And he said unto him, "We are passing from Beth-lehem-judah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Beth-lehem-judah, but I am now going to the house of the LORD; and there is no man that receiveth me to house.

Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing." 

And the old man said, "Peace be with thee."
19. 20. JUDGES.

1423 to 1888

19. 20. then; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street.”
21 So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.
22 Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the 16 men of the city, certain "sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the 6 door, and spake to the master of the house, the old 1 man, saying, “Bring forth the 1 man that came into this house, that we may know him.”
23 And the 6 man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, “Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this 6 man is come into mine house, do not this folly.
24 Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; I will bring you out, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this 6 man do not so vile a thing.”
25 But the 16 men would not hearken to him: so the 6 man took his concubine, and brought forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning:
26 And when the day began to spring, they let her go.
27 Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the 6 door of the 6 man’s house, where her lord was, till it was light.
28 And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the 6 man’s house.
29 And he said unto her, “Up, and let us be gone,” But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.
30 And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and cut her pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of Israel, that all they might fall down at the vent of Gibeah of Benjamin, and bewail her, and say, “Woe is me! for I have rested all my labours for one woman, and thou hast given me none of the fruits of the fields of my labour.”
31 And all the men of Benjamin said, “What this wickedness is this that is done among you?
32 And all the 6 men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.
33 And I took my concubine, and cut her pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of Israel, that all they might fall down at Gibeah of Benjamin, and bewail her, and say, “Woe is me! for I have rested all my labours for one woman, and thou hast given me none of the fruits of the fields of my labour.”
34 And all the men of Benjamin said, “What this wickedness is this that is done among you?
35 And the 6 men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.
36 Then all the 6 children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one 6 man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto 6 the LORD in Mizpeh.
37 And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of 6 God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.
38 (Now the 1 children of Benjamin heard that the 1 children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.) Then said the 1 children of Israel, “Tell us, how was this wickedness?”
39 And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, “I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, 9 and my concubine, to lodge.
40 Then all the 6 children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one 6 man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto 6 the LORD in Mizpeh.
41 And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of 6 God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.
42 (Now the 1 children of Benjamin heard that the 1 children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.) Then said the 1 children of Israel, “Tell us, how was this wickedness?”
43 And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, “I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, 3 and my concubine, to lodge.

20. 22 sons of Belial = worthless scoundrels, sons of the devil.
23 the man. Another Lot in another Sodom.
24 Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.
25 door = entrance.

D c f 19. 28. Message to tribes.
D e 20. 4—7. Recital to tribes.
D d 20. 8—11. Unanimity.

29 coasts = borders.

20. 1 Then. These chapters (20, 21), by Fig. Hysterologia (Ap. 6), describe events which took place soon after Joshua’s death. See notes on 18.1 and 19.1. Children = sons. as one man. All this excitement, unanimity, and bloodshed about an injury done to a woman; no sense of the evil of idolatry and sin against God, recorded in ch. 18.women. Heb. ’ish. Ap. 14. II.

3 Now. Note the Fig. Parenthesis in this verse. Ap. 6. Mizpeh on the south-west border of Benjamin, not Mizpeh on the east of Jordan (10. 17; 11. 11, 24), wickedness. Heb. ra’ā’. Ap. 44. viii.
4 the Levite. Heb. = “the man, the Levite”.
5 men = masters or head-men.
7 Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.

12—46 (For Structures see next page)

5 And the 6 men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me; and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.
6 And I took my concubine, and cut her pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of Israel, that all they might fall down at Gibeah of Benjamin, and bewail her, and say, “Woe is me! for I have rested all my labours for one woman, and thou hast given me none of the fruits of the fields of my labour.”
7 °Behold, ye are all 6 children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.”
8 And all the people arose as one 6 man, saying, “We will not any of us go to his tent, neither will we any of us turn into his house.
9 But now this shall be the thing which we will do to Gibeah; we will go up by lot against it.
10 And we will take ten 6 men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the People, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel.”
11 So all the 6 men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one 6 man.
12 And the tribes of Israel sent 6 men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What wickedness is this that is done among you?
13 Now therefore deliver us the ten men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel."

But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel:

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

15 And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men.

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

17 And the men of Israel were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these were men of war.

18 And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up first."

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

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

21 And the children of Israel came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand men.

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

23 (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him.")

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

25 And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword.

26 Then all the children of Israel, and all the People, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

27 And the children of Israel enquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in Shiloh, in the house of the LORD of hosts; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the ephod, and the teraphim, were there.)

28 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, took the censer of incense, and aiferred, and went in after the children of Israel, and came in unto the city of Gibeon.

29 And Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, the contemporary of Jonathan the grandson of Moses, was the first to go out against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times.
31 And the children of Benjamin went out against the People, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the People, and kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one went up to the house of God, and the other to Gibeah in the field, about thirty thousand men of Israel.

32 And the children of Benjamin said, "We have been smitten down before us, as at the first."

But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways."

33 And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baal-tamar:

and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their places, even out of the meadows of Gibeah.

34 And there came against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore:

but they knew not that evil was near them.

35 And the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of their places, even out of the meadows of Gibeah.

36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: for the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted unto the liers in wait which they had set beside Gibeah.

37 And the liers in wait hasted, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers in wait drew themselves along, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword.

38 Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city.

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

40 But when the flame began to arise up out of the city with a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and beheld, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven.

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

42 Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them;

and them which came out of the cities destroyed in the midst of them.

43 Thus they inclosed the Benjamites round about, and chased them, and trode them down with ease over against Gibeah toward the sunrise.

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

45 And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon:

and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them unto Gidom, and slew two thousand five hundred men of them.

46 So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these were men of valour.

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

48 And the men of Israel turned again...
21 Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, "There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife."

v 2 And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;

3 And said, "O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel?"

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

5 And the children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto Mizpeh?"

6 And 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, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

7 And the people numbered, and, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

8 And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, "Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

9 For the People were numbered, and, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

10 And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, "Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

11 And the whole congregation sent some to speak to the children of Benjamin that were in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably unto them.

12 And Benjamin came again at that time, and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead: and yet so they suffered them not.

13 And the People repented them for Benjamin, because that the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

14 Then the elders of the congregation said, "How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing none of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife."

15 And 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, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

16 And the people came to the assembly, and said, "There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day."

17 And 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, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

18 And they appointed to take advice, and said, "How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing none of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife."

19 And they said, "There must be an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel."

20 Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.
of Benjamin, saying, "Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;  
21 And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

22 And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, 'Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them 'at this time, that ye should be guilty.'"

23 And the children 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 repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.

21 dance in dances. This is what "religion" had come to in those days of apostasy, by which we must judge it.

22 at this time, &c.: i.e. "at the time when ye would have incurred guilt [by so doing]."

23 repaired = rebuilt, or built up.

25 no king. Note the structural arrangement of the four occurrences of this expression. See note on 18. 1.

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

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