### Judges

## Chapter 21

1Now, while they were in MasSephath, the sons of IsraEl all swore not to give their daughters as wives to the BenJaminites. 2Then they all went to BethEl and sat before God until that evening, calling out to Him and crying:  
  
 3‘O Jehovah the God of IsraEl,  
  
 ‘Why should one tribe of IsraEl now be missing?’  
  
4Well, the next morning, the people got up early and built an altar there, upon which they sacrificed whole burnt offerings and peace offerings.  
  
5And the sons of IsraEl started asking:  
  
 ‘Who among the tribes of IsraEl failed to come here and assemble with the rest of gathering of Jehovah?’  
  
For, they’d all sworn an oath that those who didn’t come to Jehovah at MasSephath would be put to death.  
  
6The sons of IsraEl also grieved over their brothers of [the tribe of] BenJamin, saying:  
  
 ‘Today, one tribe has been cut off from IsraEl.  
  
 7‘So, what must we do to provide wives for those [among BenJamin] who have survived, since we’ve all sworn by Jehovah not to give them our daughters as their wives?’  
  
8Then they again asked:  
  
 ‘Are there any among the tribes of IsraEl who failed to come to Jehovah at MasSephath?’  
  
And they found that no one had come there from And they found that no one had come there from <span class="placename">JabIsh in GileAdAnd they found that no one had come there from <span class="placename">JabIsh in GileAd</span> 9(they counted all the people who were there and found that no one had come from [that city]).  
  
10So the gathering sent 12,000 of their mightiest men to JabIsh of GileAd, giving them the orders to take their swords and kill everyone there. 11They told them to kill every man – and every woman who’s [had sex] with a man, but not to kill the virgins… And that’s what they did.  
  
12And among the inhabitants of JabIsh GileAd, they found 400 young virgins that had never [had sex] with a man, and they brought them back to ShiLoh in the land of CanaAn.  
  
13Then the entire gathering agreed to send [ambassadors] to speak to the remaining sons of BenJamin at the Rock of RemMon and invite them to make peace. 14As a result, [the tribe of] BenJamin returned to the sons of IsraEl that day, and they gave them the women whom they hadn’t killed among the daughters of JabIsh GileAd… And they were satisfied.  
  
15The reason why the people made this concession to BenJamin was because Jehovah had allowed this breakup among the tribes of IsraEl.  
  
16Then the elders of the gathering asked,  
  
 ‘What must we do to provide more women for those of BenJamin that are still alive, since all their women have been destroyed?’  
  
17For they all agreed that the BenJaminites that escaped must be allowed an inheritance so that a tribe wouldn’t be destroyed from IsraEl. 18However, they couldn’t give them their daughters as wives, because the whole gathering had sworn that anyone who gave a woman to those of BenJamin would be cursed.  
  
19Then they said:  
  
 ‘Look, there’s a feast of Jehovah that’s held each year in ShiLoh.’  
  
Now, this is a town located north of BethEl, east of the road between BethEl and ShiKima, and south of Lebona.  
  
20And they told the sons of BenJamin this:  
  
 ‘You may go and hide in the vineyards there and watch.  
  
 21‘Then, whenever you see any of the daughters of the people in ShiLoh come out to dance, you should each run from the vineyards and grab a woman and carry her back to the land of BenJamin.  
  
 22‘And if their fathers or brothers should come to argue the matter with you, you should tell them:  
  
 ‘You must give them to us freely, for we haven’t taken them from you in battle. Rather, we’ve taken them to keep you from sinning against the oath that you made.’  
  
23And that’s what the sons of BenJamin did... They went and took women from among the dancers and brought them back to their inherited land, where they rebuilt their cities and lived in them.  
  
24Well thereafter, all the sons of IsraEl returned home to their own tribes, families, and inheritances. 25For back in those days (since there was no king in IsraEl), every man did whatever he thought was right.

# Ruth

Ruth is a story about how the Great-Grandmother of King David came to IsraEl and converted to Judaism.  
  
The events happened sometime around 1300 BCE. It was likely written by SamuEl around 1090 BCE, because it appears to have originally been a continuation of the book of Judges.