

maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he [is] your brother;) {9:19} 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: {9:20} But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech. {9:21} And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

{9:22} When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel, {9:23} Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech: {9:24} 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; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren. {9:25} And the men of Shechem set liers in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech. {9:26} And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him. {9:27} And they went out into the fields, and 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. {9:28} And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who [is] Abimelech, and who [is] Shechem, that we should serve him? [is] not [he] the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him? {9:29} And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out.

{9:30} And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled. {9:31} And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee. {9:32} Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that [is] with thee, and lie in wait in the field: {9:33} 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.

{9:34} And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that [were] with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies. {9:35} 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. {9:36} 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, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as [if they were] men. {9:37} 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. {9:38} 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 now, and fight with them. {9:39} And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. {9:40} And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown [and] wounded, [even] unto the entering of the gate. {9:41} And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his

brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem. {9:42} And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech. {9:43} 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. {9:44} 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. {9:45} 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.

{9:46} And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard [that,] they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith. {9:47} And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. {9:48} And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he 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. ] {9:49} 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.

{9:50} Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. {9:51} But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut [it] to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower. {9:52} And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. {9:53} And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull. {9:54} Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died. {9:55} And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.

{9:56} Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren: {9:57} 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.

{10:1} 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. {10:2} And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir.

{10:3} And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty and two years. {10:4} 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. {10:5} And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

{10:6} 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 Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him. {10:7} 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. {10:8} And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that [were] on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which [is] in Gilead. {10:9} Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was sore distressed.

{10:10} 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. {10:11} 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? {10:12} The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand. {10:13} Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. {10:14} Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

{10:15} And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. {10:16} And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel. {10:17} Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh. {10:18} And the people [and] princes of Gilead said one to another, What man [is he] that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

{11:1} Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he [was] the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah. {11:2} 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. {11:3} 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.

{11:4} And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel. {11:5} 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: {11:6} And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon. {11:7} And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress? {11:8} 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. {11:9} 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, shall I be your head? {11:10} And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words. {11:11} 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.

{11:12} 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? {11:13} 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. {11:14} And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon: {11:15} And said unto him, Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon: {11:16} But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh; {11:17} 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 [thereto.] And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not [consent:] and Israel abode in Kadesh. {11:18} 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. {11:19} 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. {11:20} 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. {11:21} 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. {11:22} And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan. {11:23} So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldest thou possess it? {11:24} Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess. {11:25} 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, {11:26} While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that [be] along by the coasts of Arnon, three hundred years? why therefore did ye not recover [them] within that time? {11:27} Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon. {11:28} Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

{11:29} Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over [unto] the children of Ammon. {11:30} And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, {11:31} Then it shall be, that whatsoever 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.

{11:32} So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. {11:33} And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come 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.

{11:34} 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. {11:35} 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 art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back. {11:36} And she said unto him, My father, [if] thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, [even] of the children of Ammon. {11:37} 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, I and my fellows. {11:38} And he said, Go. And he sent her away [for] two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. {11:39} And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her [according] to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel, {11:40} [That] the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

{12:1} 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. {12:2} And Jephthah said unto them, I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands. {12:3} And when I saw that ye delivered [me] not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me? {12:4} Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, Ye Gileadites [are] fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, [and] among the Manassites. {12:5} And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was [so,] that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, [Art] thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay; {12:6} Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce [it] right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand. {12:7} And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in [one of] the cities of Gilead.

{12:8} And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. {12:9} And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, [whom] he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. {12:10} Then died Ibzan, and was buried at Bethlehem.

{12:11} And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. {12:12} And Elon the Zebulonite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

{12:13} And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, judged Israel. {12:14} And he had forty sons

and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts: and he judged Israel eight years. {12:15} 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.

{13:1} 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.

{13:2} 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. {13:3} And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou [art] barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. {13:4} Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean [thing:] {13:5} 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: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

{13:6} Then the woman came 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 terrible: but I asked him not whence he [was,] neither told he me his name: {13:7} 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 to God from the womb to the day of his death.

{13:8} 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. {13:9} 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. {13:10} And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the [other] day. {13:11} And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I [am. ] {13:12} And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and [how] shall we do unto him? {13:13} And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. {13:14} 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.

{13:15} And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. {13:16} 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. {13:17} 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? {13:18} And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret? {13:19} So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered [it] upon a rock unto the LORD: and [the angel] did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. {13:20} 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. {13:21} But the angel of the LORD did not

more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he [was] an angel of the LORD. {13:22} And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. {13:23} But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these [things,] nor would as at this time have told us [such things] as these.

{13:24} And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. {13:25} And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

{14:1} And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. {14:2} 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 get her for me to wife. {14:3} 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? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. {14:4} But his father and his mother knew not that it [was] of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

{14:5} 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. {14:6} 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. {14:7} And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

{14:8} 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. {14:9} 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: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

{14:10} So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. {14:11} And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

{14:12} 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: {14:13} But if ye cannot declare [it] me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it. {14:14} And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. {14:15} And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? [is it] not [so?] {14:16} 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? {14:17} 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. {14:18} 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? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

{14:19} 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 expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house. {14:20} But Samson's wife was [given] to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

{15:1} But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. {15:2} And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: [is] not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

{15:3} And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. {15:4} And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. {15:5} 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.

{15:6} 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.

{15:7} And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. {15:8} And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

{15:9} Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. {15:10} And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us. {15:11} Then three thousand men of Judah went 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. {15:12} And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. {15:13} And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

{15:14} [And] when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that [were] upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands

loosed from off his hands. {15:15} And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. {15:16} And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. {15:17} 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 that place Ramath-lehi.

{15:18} And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? {15:19} But God clave an hollow place that [was] in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof En-hakkore, which [is] in Lehi unto this day. {15:20} And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

{16:1} Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. {16:2} [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. {16:3} 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.

{16:4} And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name [was] Delilah. {16:5} And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength [lieth,] and by what [means] we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred [pieces] of silver.

{16:6} And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength [lieth,] and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. {16:7} And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. {16:8} Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. {16:9} 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 withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. {16:10} And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. {16:11} 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. {16:12} Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And [there were] liars in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. {16:13} And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. {16:14} And she fastened [it] with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

{16:15} And she said unto him, 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. ] {16:16} And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death; {16:17} That he told her all his heart, and said unto her. There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] 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. {16:18} 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. {16:19} And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. {16:20} 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 wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

{16:21} 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. {16:22} Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. {16:23} Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. {16:24} And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. {16:25} And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. {16:26} And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. {16:27} Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines [were] there; and [there were] upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. {16:28} And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. {16:29} And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. {16:30} And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with [all his] might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that [were] therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than [they] which he slew in his life. {16:31} Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought [him] up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

{17:1} And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name [was] Micah. {17:2} 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; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed [be thou] of the LORD, my son. {17:3} 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. {17:4} Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred [shekels] of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah. {17:5} And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest. {17:6} In those days [there was] no king in Israel, [but] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes.

{17:7} And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who [was] a Levite, and he sojourned there. {17:8} And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find [a place:] and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed. {17:9} And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I [am] a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find [a place. ] {17:10} And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten [shekels] of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in. {17:11} And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons. {17:12} And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. {17:13} Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to [my] priest.

{18:1} In those days [there was] no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day [all their] inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel. {18:2} And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there. {18:3} When they [were] by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this [place?] and what hast thou here? {18:4} And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest. {18:5} And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous. {18:6} And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

{18:7} Then the five men departed, and came to 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. {18:8} And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What [say] ye? {18:9} 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. {18:10} 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.

{18:11} And there went from thence of the family of the

Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. {18:12} And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath-jearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahaneh-dan unto this day: behold, [it is] behind Kirjath-jearim. {18:13} And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

{18:14} Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, 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. {18:15} And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, [even] unto the house of Micah, and saluted him. {18:16} And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which [were] of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate. {18:17} And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, [and] came in thither, [and] took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men [that were] appointed with weapons of war. {18:18} And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye? {18:19} And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: [is it] better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel? {18:20} And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people. {18:21} So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

{18:22} [And] when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that [were] in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan. {18:23} And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company? {18:24} And he said, 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, What aileth thee? {18:25} And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household. {18:26} And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they [were] too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house. {18:27} And they took [the things] which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people [that were] at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. {18:28} And [there was] no deliverer, because it [was] far from Zidon, and they had no business with [any] man; and it was in the valley that [lieth] by Beth-rehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein. {18:29} And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city [was] Laish at the first.

{18:30} And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. {18:31} And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

{19:1} And it came to pass in those days, when [there