

Judges

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וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הֵם וּמִלֶּדֶךָ אִין בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי | אִישׁ לְוִי גָר בְּיַרְכְּתָי הַר־אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ
אִשָּׁה פִּילְגָשׁ מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה:

In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite residing at the other end of the hill country of Ephraim took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

וַתִּזְנֶה עָלָיו פִּילְגָשׁוֹ וַתֵּלֶךְ מֵאִתּוֹ אֶל־בֵּית אָבִיהָ אֶל־בֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה וַתְּהִי־שָׁם יָמִים
אַרְבָּעָה חֳדָשִׁים:

Once his concubine deserted him, leaving him for her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah; and she stayed there a full four months.

וַיָּקָם אִישָׁהּ וַיֵּלֶךְ אַחֲרֶיהָ לְדַבֵּר עַל־לִבָּהּ לְהַשִּׁיבָהּ [לְהַשִּׁיבָהּ] וַנִּעְרָו עִמּוֹ וַצִּמְד חֲמָרִים
וַתְּבִיֵּאֶהוּ בֵּית אָבִיהָ וַיֵּרְאֶהוּ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה וַיִּשְׂמַח לְקִרְאָתוֹ:

Then her husband set out, with an attendant and a pair of donkeys, and went after her to woo her and to win her back. She admitted him into her father's house; and when the girl's father saw him, he received him warmly.

וַיַּחֲזֹק־בּוֹ חֲתָנוֹ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה וַיֵּשֶׁב אִתּוֹ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׂתּוּ וַיֵּלִינוּ שָׁם:

His father-in-law, the girl's father, pressed him, and he stayed with him three days; they ate and drank and lodged there.

וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הָרְבִיעִי וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ בַבֶּקֶר וַיָּקָם לָלֶכֶת וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה אֶל־חֲתָנוֹ סַעַד לְבָנְךָ
פַת־לָחֶם וְאַחַר תֵּלְכוּ:

Early in the morning of the fourth day, he started to leave; but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Eat something to give you strength, then you can leave."

וַיֵּשְׁבוּ וַיֹּאכְלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יחדו וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה אֶל־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה לֵּאמֹר וַיֵּשְׁבֶנָּה וַיֵּטֵב לָבֶדָּה:

So the two of them sat down and they feasted together. Then the girl's father said to the man, "Won't you stay overnight and enjoy yourself?"

וַיִּקָּם הָאִישׁ לָלֶכֶת וַיִּפְצַר־בוֹ חַתָּנוֹ וַיֵּשֶׁב וַיִּלָּן שָׁם:

The man started to leave, but his father-in-law kept urging him until he turned back and spent the night there.

וַיִּשְׁכֹּם בַּבֹּקֶר בַּיּוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי לָלֶכֶת וַיֹּאמֶר | אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה סֶעֶד־נָא לָבֶדָּה וְהִתְמַהֲמָהּ עַד־נִטּוֹת הַיּוֹם וַיֹּאכְלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

Early in the morning of the fifth day, he was about to leave, when the girl's father said, "Come, have a bite." The two of them ate, dawdling until past noon.

וַיִּקָּם הָאִישׁ לָלֶכֶת הוּא וּפְלִגְשׁוֹ וְנַעֲרֹו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ חַתָּנוֹ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה הֲנֵה נָא רָפָה הַיּוֹם לַעֲרֹב לִינּוּ־נָא הֲנֵה חֲנֹוֹת הַיּוֹם לִין פֹּה וַיֵּטֵב לָבֶדָּה וְהִשְׁכַּמְתָּם מִחַר לְדַרְכְּכֶם וְהִלַּכְתָּ לְאֵהָלָהּ:

Then the man, his concubine, and his attendant started to leave. His father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Look, the day is waning toward evening; do stop for the night. See, the day is declining; spend the night here and enjoy yourself. You can start early tomorrow on your journey and head for home."

וְלֹא־אָבָה הָאִישׁ לָלוֹן וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיָּבֵא עַד־נֹכַח יְבוּס הִיא יְרוּשָׁלַם וְעַמּוֹ צֶמֶד חֲמֹרִים חֲבוּשִׁים וּפְלִגְשׁוֹ עִמּוֹ:

But the man refused to stay for the night. He set out and traveled as far as the vicinity of Jebus—that is, Jerusalem; he had with him a pair of laden donkeys, and his concubine was with him.

הֵם עִם־יְבוּס וְהַיּוֹם רַד מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּעִיר אֶל־אֲדָנָיו לְכֹה־נָא וְנִסּוּרָה אֶל־עִיר־הַיְבוּסִי הַזֹּאת וְנָלִין בָּהּ:

Since they were close to Jebus, and the day was very far spent, the attendant said to his master, “Let us turn aside to this town of the Jebusites and spend the night in it.”

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדֹנָיו לֹא נִסּוּר אֶל־עִיר נְכָרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הִנֵּה וְעַבְרָנוּ עַד־גִּבְעָה:

But his master said to him, “We will not turn aside to a town of aliens who are not of Israel, but will continue to Gibeah.

וַיֹּאמֶר לְנַעְרֹו לֵךְ וְנִקְרְבָה בְּאַחַד הַמְּקֹומֹות וְלִנּוּ בְּגִבְעָה אוֹ בְּרָמָה:

Come,” he said to his attendant, “let us approach one of those places and spend the night either in Gibeah or in Ramah.”

וַיַּעֲבְרוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ וַתְּבֹא לָהֶם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ אֶצֶל הַגִּבְעָה אֲשֶׁר לְבִנְיָמִן:

So they traveled on, and the sun set when they were near Gibeah of Benjamin.

וַיִּסְרוּ שָׁם לָבוֹא לָלוֹן בְּגִבְעָה וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּרְחוֹב הָעִיר וְאִין אִישׁ מֵאֶסְפֵּי־אוֹתָם הַבַּיְתָה לָלוֹן:

They turned off there and went in to spend the night in Gibeah. He went and sat down in the town square, but nobody took them indoors to spend the night.

וַהֲנִה | אִישׁ זָקֵן בָּא מִן־מַעֲשֵׂהוּ מִן־הַשְּׂדֵה בְּעָרֵב וְהָאִישׁ מֵהָר אֶפְרַיִם וְהוּא־גָר בְּגִבְעָה וְאֲנָשֵׁי הַמְּקֹום בְּנֵי יְמִינֵי:

In the evening, an old man came along from his property outside the town. (This man hailed from the hill country of Ephraim and resided at Gibeah, where the townspeople were Benjaminites.)

וַיֵּשֶׂא עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־הָאִישׁ הָאֶרֶח בְּרְחֹב הָעִיר וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הַזֶּקֶן אָנָּה תֵּלֵךְ וּמֵאִין תָּבוֹא:

He happened to see the wayfarer in the town square. “Where,” the old man inquired, “are you going to, and where do you come from?”

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו עֲבָרִים אֲנַחְנוּ מִבֵּית־לָחֶם יְהוּדָה עַד־יַרְכְּתֵי הַר־אֶפְרַיִם מִשָּׁם אֲנֹכִי וְאֵלֶיךָ
עַד־בֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה וְאֶת־בֵּית יְהוָה אֲנִי הֵלֵךְ וְאִין אִישׁ מֵאֶסֶף אוֹתִי הַבַּיְתָה:

He replied, "We are traveling from Bethlehem in Judah to the other end of the hill country of Ephraim. That is where I live. I made a journey to Bethlehem of Judah, and now I am on my way to the House of the LORD, and nobody has taken me indoors.

וְגַם־תָּבֵן גַּם־מִסְפּוּא יֵשׁ לַחֲמוּרֵינוּ וְגַם לָחֶם וַיִּין יֵשׁ־לִי וְלֵאמֹתֶךָ וְלַנֶּעֶר עִם־עַבְדְּךָ אֵין
מִחֶסֶר כָּל־דְּבָר:

We have both bruised straw and feed for our donkeys, and bread and wine for me and your handmaid, and for the attendant with your servants. We lack nothing."

וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הַזֶּקֶן שָׁלוֹם לָךְ רַק כָּל־מִחְסוֹרְךָ עָלַי רַק בְּרָחוּב אֶל־תֵּלֶן:

"Rest easy," said the old man. "Let me take care of all your needs. Do not on any account spend the night in the square."

וַיָּבִיאוּהוּ לְבֵיתוֹ וַיָּבֹל לַחֲמוּרִים וַיִּרְחֹצוּ רַגְלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ:

And he took him into his house. He mixed fodder for the donkeys; then they bathed their feet and ate and drank.

הַמָּה מִיִּטְיָבִים אֶת־לֶבֶם וְהִנֵּה אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אַנְשֵׁי בְנֵי־בְלִיעַל נִסְבוּ אֶת־הַבַּיִת מִתְדַפְּקִים
עַל־הַדָּלֶת וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת הַזֶּקֶן לֵאמֹר הוֹצֵא אֶת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּא אֶל־בַּיְתְּךָ
וַיַּדְעֵנוּ:

While they were enjoying themselves, the men of the town, a depraved lot, had gathered about the house and were pounding on the door. They called to the aged owner of the house, "Bring out the man who has come into your house, so that we can be intimate with him."

וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵיהֶם הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אֶל־אֲחֵי אֶל־תִּרְעוּ נָא אֶחָרִי אֲשֶׁר־בָּא
הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה אֶל־בַּיְתִי אֶל־תַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת־הַנְּבִלָה הַזֹּאת:

The owner of the house went out and said to them, “Please, my friends, do not commit such a wrong. Since this man has entered my house, do not perpetrate this outrage.

הִנֵּה בְּתוּלָהּ וּפִילְגֶשֶׁהּ אֹצִיָּא-נָא אוֹתָם וְעַנּוּ אוֹתָם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם
וְלֹאִישׁ הַזֶּה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ דָבָר הַנְּבִלָה הַזֹּאת:

Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. Let me bring them out to you. Have your pleasure of them, do what you like with them; but don't do that outrageous thing to this man.”

וְלֹא-אָבוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לִשְׁמָעַ לּוֹ וַיַּחְזֹק הָאִישׁ בְּפִילְגֶשֶׁהּ וַיֵּצֵא אֶלֵיהֶם הַחוּץ וַיִּדְעוּ אֹתָהּ
וַיִּתְעַלְלוּ-בָּהּ כָּל-הַלַּיְלָה עַד-הַבֹּקֶר וַיִּשְׁלַחוּהָ בַעֲלוֹת [כַּעֲלוֹת] הַשָּׁחַר:

But the men would not listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and pushed her out to them. They raped her and abused her all night long until morning; and they let her go when dawn broke.

וַתָּבֹא הָאִשָּׁה לַפְּנוֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַתִּפֹּל פְּתַח בֵּית-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-אֲדוֹנֶיהָ שָׁם עַד-הָאֹר:

Toward morning the woman came back; and as it was growing light, she collapsed at the entrance of the man's house where her husband was.

וַיָּקָם אֲדוֹנֶיהָ בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּפְתַּח דְּלָתוֹת הַבַּיִת וַיֵּצֵא לָלֶכֶת לְדַרְכּוֹ וְהִנֵּה הָאִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁהּ נֹפֶלֶת
פְּתַח הַבַּיִת וַיִּדְיָה עַל-הַסֶּף:

When her husband arose in the morning, he opened the doors of the house and went out to continue his journey; and there was the woman, his concubine, lying at the entrance of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ קוּמִי וְנִלְכָה וְאִין עֲנָה וַיִּקְחֶהָ עַל-הַחֲמֹר וַיִּקָּם הָאִישׁ וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמִקְמוֹ:

“Get up,” he said to her, “let us go.” But there was no reply. So the man placed her on the donkey and set out for home.

וַיָּבֵא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הַמַּאֲכָלֹת וַיַּחֲזֵק בְּפִילִגְשׁוֹ וַיַּנְתְּחֶהָ לְעֶצְמוֹתָיִךְ לְשָׁנָיִם עָשָׂר נִתְחָמִים
וַיִּשְׁלַחֶהָ בְּכָל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

When he came home, he picked up a knife, and took hold of his concubine and cut her up limb by limb into twelve parts. He sent them throughout the territory of Israel.

וְהָיָה כָּל-הָרֹאֶה וְאָמַר לֹא-נִהְיֶתָה וְלֹא-נִרְאָתָה כְּזֹאת לְמִיּוֹם עָלוֹת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה שִׁימוּ-לָכֶם עָלֶיךָ עֲצוֹ וְדַבְּרוּ: (פ)

And everyone who saw it cried out, “Never has such a thing happened or been seen from the day the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt to this day! Put your mind to this; take counsel and decide.”

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וַיֵּצְאוּ כָּל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַתִּקְהַל הָעֵדָה כָּאִישׁ אֶחָד לְמִדָּן וְעַד־בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וְאֶרֶץ הַגִּלְעָד
אֶל־יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה:

Thereupon all the Israelites—from Dan to Beer-sheba and [from] the land of Gilead—marched forth, and the community assembled to a man before the LORD at Mizpah.

וַיִּתְיַצְּבוּ פְּנוֹת כָּל־הָעָם כָּל שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקֶהֱל עִם הָאֱלֹהִים אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף אִישׁ
רַגְלֵי שֶׁלֶף חָרָב: (פ)

All the leaders of the people [and] all the tribes of Israel presented themselves in the assembly of God's people, 400,000 fighting men on foot.—

וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּנֵי בְנִימִן כִּי־עָלוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּצְפָּה וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל דַּבְּרוּ אֵיכָה נִהְיָתָה
הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת:

The Benjaminites heard that the Israelites had come up to Mizpah.—The Israelites said, “Tell us, how did this evil thing happen?”

וַיַּעַן הָאִישׁ הַלְוִי אִישׁ הָאִשָּׁה הַנִּרְצָחָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְּבֻעָתָה אֲשֶׁר לְבְנִימִן בָּאתִי אֲנִי וּפִילְגֶשֶׁי
לְלוֹן:

And the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, replied, “My concubine and I came to Gibeah of Benjamin to spend the night.

וַיִּקְמוּ עָלַי בְּעַלְי הַגְּבֻעָה וַיִּסְבּוּ עָלַי אֶת־הַבַּיִת לַיְלָה אוֹתִי דָמוֹ לְהָרֵג וְאֶת־פִּילְגֶשֶׁי עִנּוּ
וַתָּמֹת:

The citizens of Gibeah set out to harm me. They gathered against me around the house in the night; they meant to kill me, and they ravished my concubine until she died.

וַאֲחִזּוּ בְּפִילְגְשִׁי וְאֶנְתַּחֲתֶהּ וְאֶשְׁלַחְתֶּהּ בְּכָל-שְׂדֵה נַחֲלַת יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי עָשׂוּ זִמָּה וַיִּבְלָהּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

So I took hold of my concubine and I cut her in pieces and sent them through every part of Israel's territory. For an outrageous act of depravity had been committed in Israel.

הֲנֵה כְּלַכֶּם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הָבּוּ לָכֶם דְּבַר וְעֲצֵה הָלָם:

Now you are all Israelites; produce a plan of action here and now!"

וַיָּקָם כָּל-הָעָם כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד לֵאמֹר לֹא נֵלֵךְ אִישׁ לְאָהָלוֹ וְלֹא נָסוּר אִישׁ לְבֵיתוֹ:

Then all the people rose, as one man, and declared, "We will not go back to our homes, we will not enter our houses!

וְעָתָה זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה לְגִבְעָה עָלֶיהָ בְּגֹרְלִי:

But this is what we will do to Gibeah: [we will wage war] against it according to lot.

וַלְקַחְנוּ עִשְׂרֵה אַנְשִׁים לְמֵאָה לְכָל | שְׁבַטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמֵאָה לְאַלְפֵי וְאַלְפֵי לְרִבְבָּה לְקַחַת צִדָּה לְעַם לַעֲשׂוֹת לְבוֹאֵם לְגִבְעָה בְּנִימָן כְּכָל-הַנְּבִלָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

We will take from all the tribes of Israel ten men to the hundred, a hundred to the thousand, and a thousand to the ten thousand to supply provisions for the troops—to prepare for their going to Geba in Benjamin for all the outrage it has committed in Israel."

וַיֵּאסֹף כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הָעִיר כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד חֲבָרִים: (פ)

So all the men of Israel, united as one man, massed against the town.

וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ שְׁבַטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַנְשִׁים בְּכָל-שְׁבַטֵי בְּנִימָן לֵאמֹר מָה הָרַעַה הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר נִהְיִתָּה בְּכֶם:

And the tribes of Israel sent men through the whole tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What is this evil thing that has happened among you?”

וְעַתָּה תָּנוּ אֶת־הָאָנָשִׁים בְּנֵי־בִלְיָעַל אֲשֶׁר בַּגְּבֵעָה וּנְמִיתֵם וּנְבַעְרָה רָעָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא אָבוּ
[בְּנֵי] בְּנֵימָן לְשַׁמֵּעַ בְּקוֹל אַחֵיהֶם בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Come, hand over those scoundrels in Gibeah so that we may put them to death and stamp out the evil from Israel.” But the Benjaminites would not yield to the demand of their fellow Israelites.

וַיֵּאסְפוּ בְּנֵי־בְנֵימָן מִזֵּהָ עָרִים הַגְּבֵעָתָה לָצֵאת לְמִלְחָמָה עִם־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

So the Benjaminites gathered from their towns to Gibeah in order to take the field against the Israelites.

וַיִּתְּפְקְדוּ בְנֵי בְנֵימָן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מִהַעָרִים עֶשְׂרִים וְשֵׁשָׁה אֲלָף אִישׁ שְׁלֹף חַרְבַּ לְבַד מִיִּשְׂבֵּי
הַגְּבֵעָה הַתְּפֻקְדוֹ שִׁבְעַת מֵאוֹת אִישׁ בַּחֹר:

On that day the Benjaminites mustered from the towns 26,000 fighting men, mustered apart from the inhabitants of Gibeah; 700 picked men

מִכָּל | הָעָם הַזֶּה שִׁבְעַת מֵאוֹת אִישׁ בַּחֹר אֲטָר יַד־יְמִינָם כָּל־זֶה קָלַע בְּאֶבֶן אֶל־הַשִּׁעָרָה
וְלֹא יִחָטָא: (פ)

of all this force—700 picked men—were left-handed. Every one of them could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הַתְּפֻקְדוֹ לְבַד מִבְּנֵימָן אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אֲלָף אִישׁ שְׁלֹף חַרְבַּ כָּל־זֶה אִישׁ
מִלְחָמָה:

The men of Israel other than Benjamin mustered 400,000 fighting men, warriors to a man.

וַיִּקְמוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ בֵּית־אֵל וַיִּשְׁאַלּוּ בְּאֵלֵהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי יַעֲלֶה־לָּנוּ בַתְּחִלָּה לְמִלְחָמָה
עִם־בְּנֵי בְנֵימָן וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה יְהוּדָה בַתְּחִלָּה:

They proceeded to Bethel and inquired of God; the Israelites asked, “Who of us shall advance first to fight the Benjaminites?” And the LORD replied, “Judah first.”

וַיִּקְוּמוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּחֲנוּ עַל־הַגְּבֵעָה: (פ)

So the Israelites arose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

וַיֵּצֵא אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַלְחָמָה עִם־בְּנֵימִן וַיַּעֲרְכוּ אֹתָם אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל מַלְחָמָה אֶל־הַגְּבֵעָה:

The men of Israel took the field against the Benjaminites; the men of Israel drew up in battle order against them at Gibeah.

וַיֵּצְאוּ בְנֵי־בְנֵימִן מִן־הַגְּבֵעָה וַיִּשְׁחִיתוּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׁנַיִם וְעֶשְׂרִים אֲלֶף אִישׁ אֶרְצָה:

But the Benjaminites issued from Gibeah, and that day they struck down 22,000 men of Israel.

וַיִּתְחַזַּק הָעָם אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּסְפוּ לַעֲרֹךְ מַלְחָמָה בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־עָרְכוּ שָׁם בַּיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן:

Now the army—the men of Israel—rallied and again drew up in battle order at the same place as they had on the first day.

וַיַּעֲלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּבְכּוּ לְפָנֵי־יְהוָה עַד־הָעֶרֶב וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ בַיהוָה לֵאמֹר הֲאוֹסִיף לְגַשֵּׁת לְמַלְחָמָה עִם־בְּנֵי בְנֵימִן אֲחֵי וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה עָלוּ אֵלָיו: (פ)

For the Israelites had gone up and wept before the LORD until evening. They had inquired of the LORD, “Shall we again join battle with our kinsmen the Benjaminites?” And the LORD had replied, “March against them.”

וַיִּקְרְבוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־בְּנֵי בְנֵימִן בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי:

The Israelites advanced against the Benjaminites on the second day.

וַיֵּצֵא בְנֵימִן | לְקָרְאָתָם | מִן־הַגְּבֵעָה בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי וַיִּשְׁחִיתוּ בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עוֹד שְׁמֹנֶת עָשָׂר אֲלֶף אִישׁ אֶרְצָה כָּל־אֵלֶּה שְׁלֹפֵי חָרָב:

But the Benjaminites came out from Gibeah against them on the second day and struck down 18,000 more of the Israelites, all of them fighting men.

וַיַּעֲלוּ כָל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל־הָעָם וַיָּבֹאוּ בֵּית־אֵל וַיִּכְכּוּ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם לְפָנַי יְהוָה וַיִּצְוּמוּ
בַּיּוֹם־הַהוּא עַד־הָעֶרֶב וַיַּעֲלוּ עֲלוֹת וּשְׁלָמִים לְפָנַי יְהוָה:

Then all the Israelites, all the army, went up and came to Bethel and they sat there, weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening, and presented burnt offerings and offerings of well-being to the LORD.

וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּיהוָה וַשֵּׁם אַרְוֹן בְּרִית הָאֱלֹהִים בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם:

The Israelites inquired of the LORD (for the Ark of God's Covenant was there in those days,

וּפִינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אֶהֱרֹן עֹמֵד | לְפָנָיו בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם לֵאמֹר הֲאוֹסֵף עוֹד לְצִאֲת
לְמַלְחָמָה עִם־בְּנֵי־בְנֵימִן אָחִי אִם־אֶחְדָּל וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה עָלָיו כִּי מָחָר אֶתְנַנְּנוּ בְיָדְךָ:

and Phinehas son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest ministered before Him in those days), "Shall we again take the field against our kinsmen the Benjaminites, or shall we not?" The LORD answered, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hands."

וַיִּשֶׂם יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲרָבִים אֶל־הַגְּבֻעָה סָבִיב: (פ)

Israel put men in ambush against Gibeah on all sides.

וַיַּעֲלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־בְּנֵי בְנֵימִן בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיַּעֲרֹכוּ אֶל־הַגְּבֻעָה כְּפַעַם כְּפַעַם:

And on the third day, the Israelites went up against the Benjaminites, as before, and engaged them in battle at Gibeah.

וַיִּצְאוּ בְנֵי־בְנֵימִן לְקָרְאֵת הָעָם הַנִּתְקָו מִן־הָעִיר וַיַּחֲלוּ לְהַכּוֹת מֵהָעַם חֲלָלִים כְּפַעַם |
כְּפַעַם בְּמַסְלוֹת אֲשֶׁר אַחַת עָלָה בֵּית־אֵל וְאַחַת גְּבֻעָתָה בְּשָׂדֶה כְּשֹׁלְשִׁים אִישׁ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

The Benjaminites dashed out to meet the army and were drawn away from the town onto the roads, of which one runs to Bethel and the other to Gibeah. As before, they started out by striking some of the men dead in the open field, about 30 men of Israel.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי בְנֵימִן נִגְפִים הֵם לְפָנֵינוּ כְּבָרָאשְׁנָה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָמְרוּ נָנוּסָה וְנִתְקַנְּהוּ
מִן־הָעִיר אֶל־הַמְּסֻלּוֹת:

The Benjaminites thought, “They are being routed before us as previously.” But the Israelites had planned: “We will take to flight and draw them away from the town to the roads.”

וְכָל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל קָמוּ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ וַיַּעֲרְכוּ בְּבַעַל תְּמָר וְאָרְבַּי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִגִּיחַ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ
מִמַּעַרְה־גִבְעָה:

And while the main body of the Israelites had moved away from their positions and had drawn up in battle order at Baal-tamar, the Israelite ambush was rushing out from its position at Maareh-geba.

וַיִּבְאוּ מִנֶּגֶד לַגִּבְעָה עֶשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ בְּחֹר מִכָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַמְּלַחְמָה כְּבִדָּה וְהֵם לֹא
יָדְעוּ כִּי־נִגְעַת עָלֵיהֶם הָרָעָה: (פ)

Thus 10,000 picked men of all Israel came to a point south of Gibeah, and the battle was furious. Before they realized that disaster was approaching,

וַיִּגַּף יְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵימִן לְפָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁחִיתוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּבְנֵימִן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עֶשְׂרִים
וַחֲמֵשָׁה אֲלָף וּמֵאָה אִישׁ כָּל־אֶלֶּה שָׁלַף חָרֵב:

the LORD routed the Benjaminites before Israel. That day the Israelites slew 25,100 men of Benjamin, all of them fighting men.

וַיֵּרְאוּ בְנֵי־בְנֵימִן כִּי נִגְפוּ וַיִּתְּנוּ אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל מְקוֹם לְבְנֵימִן כִּי בִטְחוּ אֶל־הָאֲרָב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמוּ
אֶל־הַגִּבְעָה:

Then the Benjaminites realized that they were routed. Now the Israelites had yielded ground to the Benjaminites, for they relied on the ambush which they had laid against Gibeah.

וְהָאֲרָב הֵחִישׁוּ וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ אֶל־הַגְּבֵעָה וַיִּמְשֹׁךְ הָאֲרָב וַיִּךְ אֶת־כָּל־הָעִיר לְפִי־חָרֶב:

One ambush quickly deployed against Gibeah, and the other ambush advanced and put the whole town to the sword.

וְהַמוֹעֵד הָיָה לְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם־הָאֲרָב הַרְבֵּה לְהַעֲלוֹתָם מִשְׁאֵת הָעֵשָׁן מִן־הָעִיר:

A time had been agreed upon by the Israelite men with those in ambush: When a huge column of smoke was sent up from the town,

וַיִּהְיוּ אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִלְחָמָה וּבְנִימֹן הַחַלּוֹל לְהַכּוֹת חֲלָלִים בְּאִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּשִׁלְשִׁים אִישׁ כִּי אָמְרוּ אֵךְ נִגְוָף נִגְוָף הוּא לְפָנֵינוּ כְּמִלְחָמָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה:

the Israelite men were to turn about in battle. Benjamin had begun by striking dead about 30 Israelite men, and they thought, "They are being routed before us as in the previous fighting."

וְהַמִּשְׁאֵת הַחֲלָה לְעֵלוֹת מִן־הָעִיר עֲמוּד עֵשָׁן וַיִּפְּן בְּנִימֹן אַחֲרָיו וְהִנֵּה עֹלָה כְּלִיל־הָעִיר הַשָּׁמַיְמָה:

But when the column, the pillar of smoke, began to rise from the city, the Benjaminites looked behind them, and there was the whole town going up in smoke to the sky!

וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הָפֹךְ וַיִּבְהַל אִישׁ בְּנִימֹן כִּי רָאָה כִּי־נִגְעָה עָלָיו הָרָעָה:

And now the Israelites turned about, and the men of Benjamin were thrown into panic, for they realized that disaster had overtaken them.

וַיִּפְּנוּ לְפָנָי אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־דְּרֹךְ הַמַּדְבָּר וְהַמִּלְחָמָה הַדְּבִיקָתָהּ וַאֲשֶׁר מֵהָעָרִים מִשְׁחִיתִים אוֹתוֹ בְּתוֹכוֹ:

They retreated before the men of Israel along the road to the wilderness, where the fighting caught up with them; meanwhile those from the towns were massacring them in it.

כָּתְרוּ אֶת־בְּנֵי־מִן הַרְדִּיפָהוּ מְנוּחָה הַדְּרִיכָהוּ עַד נֹכַח הַגְּבֵעָה מִמְּזֹרַח־שָׁמֶשׁ:

They encircled the Benjaminites, pursued them, and trod them down [from] Menuhah to a point opposite Gibeah on the east.

וַיִּפְּלוּ מִבְּנֵי־מִן שְׁמֹנֶה־עָשָׂר אֲלָף אִישׁ אֶת־כָּל־אֱלֹהֵי אַנְשֵׁי־חֵייל:

That day 18,000 men of Benjamin fell, all of them brave men.

וַיִּפְּנוּ וַיִּגְּסוּ הַמְּדַבְּרָה אֶל־סֵלַע הַרְמוֹן וַיַּעֲלֶלְהוּ בַּמַּסְלֹת חֲמִשָּׁת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ וַיִּדְּבִיקוּ אַחֲרָיו עַד־גִּדּוֹם וַיִּכּוּ מִמֶּנּוּ אֲלָפִים אִישׁ:

They turned and fled to the wilderness, to the Rock of Rimmon; but [the Israelites] picked off another 5,000 on the roads and, continuing in hot pursuit of them up to Gidom, they slew 2,000 more.

וַיְהִי כָל־הַנְּפֹלִים מִבְּנֵי־מִן עֶשְׂרִים וַחֲמִשָּׁה אֲלָף אִישׁ שָׁלַף חָרֵב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת־כָּל־אֱלֹהֵי אַנְשֵׁי־חֵייל:

Thus the total number of Benjaminites who fell that day came to 25,000 fighting men, all of them brave.

וַיִּפְּנוּ וַיִּגְּסוּ הַמְּדַבְּרָה אֶל־סֵלַע הַרְמוֹן שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בְּסֵלַע רְמוֹן אַרְבָּעָה חֳדָשִׁים:

But 600 men turned and fled to the wilderness, to the Rock of Rimmon; they remained at the Rock of Rimmon four months.

וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁבוּ אֶל־בְּנֵי בְנֵי־מִן וַיִּכּוּם לְפִי־חָרֵב מֵעִיר מָתָם עַד־בְּהֶמָּה עַד כָּל־הַנִּמְצָא גַם כָּל־הָעָרִים הַנִּמְצָאוֹת שָׁלְחוּ בָּאֵשׁ: (פ)

The men of Israel, meanwhile, turned back to the rest of the Benjaminites and put them to the sword—towns, people, cattle—everything that remained. Finally, they set fire to all the towns that were left.

Judges

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וַאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נָשָׁבַע בַּמִּצְפָּה לֵאמֹר אִישׁ מִמֶּנּוּ לֹא-יִתֵּן בָּתּוֹ לְבַנְיָמִן לְאִשָּׁה:

Now the men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: “None of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjaminite.”

וַיָּבֹאוּ הָעָם בֵּית-אֵל וַיֹּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד-הָעֶרֶב לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׂאוּ קוֹלָם וַיִּבְכּוּ בְּכִי גָדוֹל:

The people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening. They wailed and wept bitterly,

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לַמָּה יְהוָה יְהוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲיִתָּה זֹאת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְהִפָּקֵד הַיּוֹם מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁבֶט אֶחָד:

and they said, “O LORD God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that one tribe must now be missing from Israel?”

וַיְהִי מִמָּחָרֹת וַיִּשְׁפִּימוּ הָעָם וַיִּבְנוּ-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלוֹת וּשְׁלָמִים: (פ)

Early the next day, the people built an altar there, and they brought burnt offerings and offerings of well-being.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה בְקָהֶל מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יְהוָה כִּי הִשְׁבוּעָה הַגְּדוֹלָה הֲיִתָּה לְאִשָּׁר לֹא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה לֵאמֹר מוֹת יוֹמָת:

The Israelites asked, “Is there anyone from all the tribes of Israel who failed to come up to the assembly before the LORD?” For a solemn oath had been taken concerning anyone who did not go up to the LORD at Mizpah: “He shall be put to death.”

וַיִּנְחְמוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-בְּנֵימִן אָחִיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִגְדַע הַיּוֹם שֶׁבֶט אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:

The Israelites now relented toward their kinsmen the Benjaminites, and they said, “This day one tribe has been cut off from Israel!

מֵהַנְּעֻשָׂה לָהֶם לְנוֹתָרִים לְנָשִׁים וְאֲנַחְנוּ נִשְׁפָּעְנוּ בִּיהוָה לְבַלְתִּי תַתְּלֶהֶם מִבָּנוֹתֵינוּ לְנָשִׁים:

What can we do to provide wives for those who are left, seeing that we have sworn by the LORD not to give any of our daughters to them in marriage?"

וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִי אֶחָד מִשְׁבְּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה אֶל־יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה וְהִנֵּה לֹא בָא־אִישׁ אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה מִיִּבֵּשׁ גִּלְעָד אֶל־הַקָּהָל:

They inquired, "Is there anyone from the tribes of Israel who did not go up to the LORD at Mizpah?" Now no one from Jabesh-gilead had come to the camp, to the assembly.

וַיִּתְּקַד הָעָם וְהִנֵּה אֵין־שָׁם אִישׁ מִיּוֹשְׁבֵי יִבֵּשׁ גִּלְעָד:

For, when the roll of the troops was taken, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was present.

וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ־שָׁם הָעֵדָה שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר אֶלֶף אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַחַיִל וַיִּצְווּ אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר לָכוּ וְהַכִּיתֶם אֶת־יוֹשְׁבֵי יִבֵּשׁ גִּלְעָד לְפִי־חֶרֶב וְהַנָּשִׁים וְהַטָּף:

So the assemblage dispatched 12,000 of the warriors, instructing them as follows: "Go and put the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead to the sword, women and children included.

וְזֶה הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּ כָל־זָכָר וְכָל־אִשָּׁה יִדְעַת מִשְׁכַּב־זָכָר תַּחְרִימוּ:

This is what you are to do: Proscribe every man, and every woman who has known a man carnally."

וַיִּמְצְאוּ מִיּוֹשְׁבֵי יִבֵּשׁ גִּלְעָד אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת נַעֲרָה בְּתוּלָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעָה אִישׁ לְמִשְׁכַּב זָכָר וַיָּבִיאוּ אוֹתָם אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה שְׁלֵה אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: (ס)

They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 maidens who had not known a man carnally; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ כָּל־הָעֵדָה וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶל־בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן אֲשֶׁר בְּסֵלַע רִמּוֹן וַיִּקְרְאוּ לָהֶם שָׁלוֹם:

Then the whole community sent word to the Benjaminites who were at the Rock of Rimmon, and offered them terms of peace.

וַיָּשָׁב בְּנִימֹן בְּעֵת הַהִיא וַיִּתְּנוּ לָהֶם הַנָּשִׁים אֲשֶׁר חָיוּ מִנְּשֵׁי יַבֵּשׁ גִּלְעָד וְלֹא־מָצְאוּ לָהֶם
כֹּן:

Thereupon the Benjaminites returned, and they gave them the girls who had been spared from the women of Jabesh-gilead. But there were not enough of them.

וְהָעָם נָחַם לְבִנְיָמִן כִּי־עָשָׂה יְהוָה פְּרִץ בְּשַׁבְּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Now the people had relented toward Benjamin, for the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ זְקֵנֵי הָעֵדָה מֵהַנְּעֻשָׂה לְנוֹתְרִים לְנָשִׁים כִּי־נִשְׁמְדָה מִבְּנֵימֹן אִשָּׁה:

So the elders of the community asked, “What can we do about wives for those who are left, since the women of Benjamin have been killed off?”

וַיֹּאמְרוּ יִרְשֶׁת פְּלִיטָה לְבִנְיָמִן וְלֹא־יִמָּחָה שְׁבֵט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:

For they said, “There must be a saving remnant for Benjamin, that a tribe may not be blotted out of Israel;

וְאִנְחֵנוּ לֹא נוֹכֵל לְתַת־לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ כִּי־נִשְׁבְּעוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר אָרוּר נָתַן אִשָּׁה
לְבִנְיָמִן: (ס)

yet we cannot give them any of our daughters as wives,” since the Israelites had taken an oath: “Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin!”

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנֵּה חֲגִי'הוּנָה בְּשָׁלוֹ מִיָּמַיִם | יָמִימָה אֲשֶׁר מִצְּפוֹנָה לְבֵית־אֵל מִזְרַחָה הַשְּׁמֶשׁ
לְמִסְלָה הָעֵלָה מִבֵּית־אֵל שְׁכָמָה וּמִגֵּב לְלִבְוֹנָה:

They said, “The annual feast of the LORD is now being held at Shiloh.” (It lies north of Bethel, east of the highway that runs from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.)

וַיִּצְוּ [וַיִּצְוּ] אֶת־בְּנֵי בְנִימִן לֵאמֹר לְכוּ וְאַרְבַּתֶּם בַּכְּרָמִים:

So they instructed the Benjaminites as follows: “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards.

וּרְאִיתֶם וְהָיָה אִם־יֵצְאוּ בָנוֹת־שִׁילוֹ לְחֹל בַּמַּחְלוֹת וַיִּצְאֲתֶם מִן־הַכְּרָמִים וְחִטַּפְתֶּם לָכֶם
אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ מִבָּנוֹת שִׁילוֹ וְהִלַּכְתֶּם אֶרֶץ בְּנִימִן:

As soon as you see the girls of Shiloh coming out to join in the dances, come out from the vineyards; let each of you seize a wife from among the girls of Shiloh, and be off for the land of Benjamin.

וְהָיָה כִּי־יָבֹאוּ אָבוֹתֶם אוֹ אַחֵיהֶם לְרוֹב [לְרִיב |] אֵלֵינוּ וְאָמְרֵנוּ אֲלֵיהֶם חָנּוּנוּ אוֹתָם כִּי לֹא
לָקַחְנוּ אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ בַּמִּלְחָמָה כִּי לֹא אַתֶּם נִתַּתֶּם לָהֶם כְּעַת הַאֲשָׁמוּ: (ס)

And if their fathers or brothers come to us to complain, we shall say to them, ‘Be generous to them for our sake! We could not provide any of them with a wife on account of the war, and you would have incurred guilt if you yourselves had given them [wives].’”

וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן בְּנֵי בְנִימִן וַיִּשְׂאוּ נָשִׁים לְמִסְפָּרָם מִן־הַמַּחְלָלוֹת אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ
אֶל־נַחֲלָתָם וַיִּבְנוּ אֶת־הָעָרִים וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בָהֶם:

The Benjaminites did so. They took to wife, from the dancers whom they carried off, as many as they themselves numbered. Then they went back to their own territory, and rebuilt their towns and settled in them.

וַיִּתְּהֲלוּ מִשָּׁם בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעַת הַהִיא אִישׁ לְשִׁבְטוֹ וּלְמִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ וַיִּצְאוּ מִשָּׁם אִישׁ
לְנַחֲלָתוֹ:

Thereupon the Israelites dispersed, each to his own tribe and clan; everyone departed for his own territory.

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אֵין מִלֶּדֶד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינָיו יַעֲשֶׂה:

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did as he pleased.