



Come Follow Me 2022
Judges



COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Old Testament Seminary Manual

The book of Judges is named for the various rulers, called “judges” (Judges 2:16–19), who are the book’s central figures. These judges were generally military leaders and fighters more than preachers of righteousness (see Bible Dictionary, “Judges, the”). The book describes the deeds of many of these leaders, some of whom helped deliver the Israelites from the effects of their sinful behavior.

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Most Bible scholars believe that Judges, along with other historical books in the Old Testament, was compiled in its current form sometime in the late seventh or early sixth century B.C. This doesn't mean it was written for the first time during that period but there are reasons to suppose that various books in the Bible were compiled after the Israelites were conquered by the Assyrians (around 721 B.C.) or when the kingdom of Judah was defeated and its people carried away to Babylon (around 587 B.C.). Many books may have been compiled during this time to help the Jews who were removed from their homeland to remember what it was to be Jewish and what events and choices led to their exile. This is similar in some ways to Mormon compiling records for his people as his nation was on the brink of destruction.

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One clue for this possible dating of the book of Judges is Judges 18:30 - which states that a man named Jonathan and his sons...

“...were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land” (referring to the Assyrian conquest around 721 B.C.).

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The book of Judges recounts the history of the children of Israel from the time they settled in the land of Canaan after Joshua's death to the birth of Samuel (approximately 1400–1000 B.C.). Besides the short narrative of the book of Ruth, Judges provides the only biblical account of this time period.

The book of Judges describes a cycle that repeated itself multiple times during the reign of the judges. Because the Israelites failed to remove wicked influences from the promised land, they became entangled in sin and were conquered and afflicted by their enemies. After the Israelites cried unto the Lord for help, He sent judges to deliver them from their enemies. However, the Israelites soon returned to their sins, and this cycle was repeated. The book mentions the names of 12 judges who ruled with various degrees of effectiveness.



JUDGES



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Judges 1

people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

28 So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

29 ¶ And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old.

30 And they ^aburied him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-serah, which *is* in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash.

31 And Israel ^aserved the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the

days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

32 ¶ And the ^abones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

33 And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill *that pertained to* Phinehas his son, which was given him in ^amount Ephraim.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

CHAPTER 1

Judah, Simeon, and Joseph continue to conquer the Canaanites—Remnants of the Canaanites remain in the lands of Judah, Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan.

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 into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ^aten 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 fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

7 And Adoni-bezek said, ^aThree-score and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered *their meat* under my table: as I have done, so God hath required

30a Josh. 19:50 (49–50).

31a Judg. 2:7.

Ex. 13:19.

33a Judg. 17:1.

[JUDGES]

1, 4a Merm. 6:10 (9, 16).

The Continuing Conquest of Canaan

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.

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 blessing: for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the ^anether springs.

16 ¶ And the children of the ^aKenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the ^bcity of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which *lieth* in the south of 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,

15a Josh. 15:19.

16a 1 Sam. 15:6;
1 Chr. 2:55.

b Deut. 34:3.

18a HEB border (also v. 36).

b Josh. 17:16;
Judg. 4:3.

21a Ps. 106:34.

b Josh. 18:28;
Judg. 19:14.

2 Sam. 5:6;

1 Chr. 11:4;
Zech. 9:7.

25a Josh. 6:17.

27a Josh. 23:13 (1–16).

and utterly destroyed it. And the name of the city was called Hormah.

18 Also Judah took Gaza with the ^acoast thereof, and Askelon with the coast thereof, and Ekron with the coast thereof.

19 And the LORD was with ^aJudah; and he drave out *the inhabitants of* the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had ^bchariots 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 ^adrive out the ^bJebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the ^cJebusites dwell with the children 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. (Now the name of the city before *was* Luz.)

24 And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city, and they 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 ^aman 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.

27 ¶ Neither did Manasseh ^adrive out *the inhabitants of* Beth-shean and her towns, nor Taanach and 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.

Failure to Complete the Conquest

28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to ^atribute, and did not utterly drive them out.

29 ¶ Neither did Ephraim drive out the ^aCanaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

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, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob:

32 But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out.

33 ¶ Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth-anath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became tributaries unto them.

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

35 But the Amorites would dwell in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries.

36 And the coast of the Amorites *was* from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

CHAPTER 2

An angel rebukes Israel for not serving the Lord—As a pattern of future events, a new generation arises that forsakes the Lord and serves Baal and Ashtaroth—The Lord is angry with the children of Israel and ceases to preserve

28a Josh. 17:13 (12–13).

2a Ex. 34:12;

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Judges 2

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30 ¶ Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries.

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

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36 And the coast of the Amorites was from the going up to Akkrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

CHAPTER 2

An angel rebukes Israel for not serving the Lord—As a pattern of future events, a new generation arises that forsakes the Lord and serves Baal and Ashtaroth—The Lord is angry with the children of Israel and ceases to preserve

them—He raises up judges to guide and lead them—The Canaanites are left in the land to test Israel.

AND an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never ^abreak my ^bcovenant with you.

2 And ye shall make no ^aleague with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not ^bobeyed my voice: why have ye done this?

3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be *as thorns* in your sides, and their gods shall be a ^asnare unto you.

4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

5 And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD.

6 ¶ And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land.

7 And the people ^aserved the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

8 And Joshua the son of ^aNun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which ^aknew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

11 ¶ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

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 ^aanger.

13 And they forsook the LORD, and served ^aBaal and Ashtaroth.

14 ¶ And the ^aanger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of ^bspoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the ^ahand 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 ^ajudges, which ^bdelivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a ^awhoring after other ^bgods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned ^cquickly 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 them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: ^afor it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and ^bvexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their ^afathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their ^bstubborn 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 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may ^aprove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to ^bwalk 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.

CHAPTER 3

The children of Israel intermarry with the Canaanites, worship false gods, and are cursed—Othniel judges the Israelites—They serve Moab and are delivered by Ehud, who slays Eglon.

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*, ^afive lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from

12a TG Anger.
13a 1 Sam. 7:4.
14a D&C 95:2 (1–3); 98:21.
TG God, Indignation of.
b Neh. 9:27.
15a Lev. 26:3 (3–46).
16a Ruth 1:1;

Alma 7:6;
Hel. 6:31.
b Ex. 34:15.
c Alma 46:8;
Hel. 12:4 (2–5).
18a The Hebrew root means
“to be sorry,” “moved

Lord *hearkened* because
of . . .
b HEB crushed.
19a Matt. 23:32 (30–32).
b TG Stubbornness.
22a 1 Ne. 2:24 (23–24).
TG Test.

the land to test Israel.

AND an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never ^abreak my ^bcovenant with you.

2 And ye shall make no ^aleague with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not ^bobeyed my voice: why have ye done this?

3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be *as thorns* in your sides, and their gods shall be a ^asnare unto you.

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2 Nephi 2:25

And the Lord God said unto me: They shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to stir them up in remembrance of me; and inasmuch as they will not remember me, and hearken unto my words, they shall scourge them even unto destruction.

tributaries unto them.

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

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Old Testament Institute Manual (Volume 1)

**“Enrichment F - Idolatry:
Ancient and Modern.”**

(F-7) “The More Well-known False Gods of the Old Testament” offers a summary of the various deities.

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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 ^aanger.

13 And they forsook the LORD, and served ^aBaal and Ashtaroth.

14 ¶ And the ^aanger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of ^bspoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the ^ahand of the LORD was against them

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Baalim is the plural form of the word Baal. Baal and Ashtaroth were false gods of the Canaanites. Those who worshipped these false gods did so in corrupt and immoral ways, which included sacrificing children and breaking the law of chastity.

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NIV: the LORD gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them.

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18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: ^afor it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and ^bvexed them.

ESV: For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

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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 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may ^aprove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to ^bwalk therein, as their fathers did keep *it*, or not.

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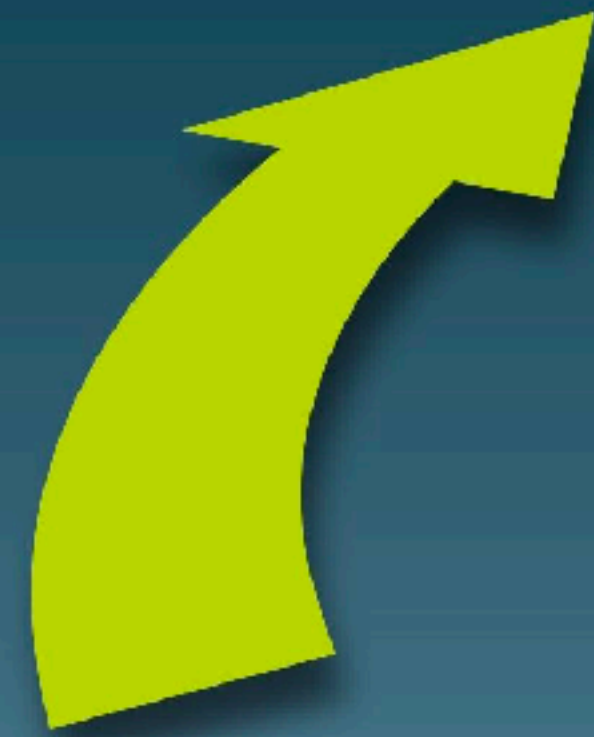
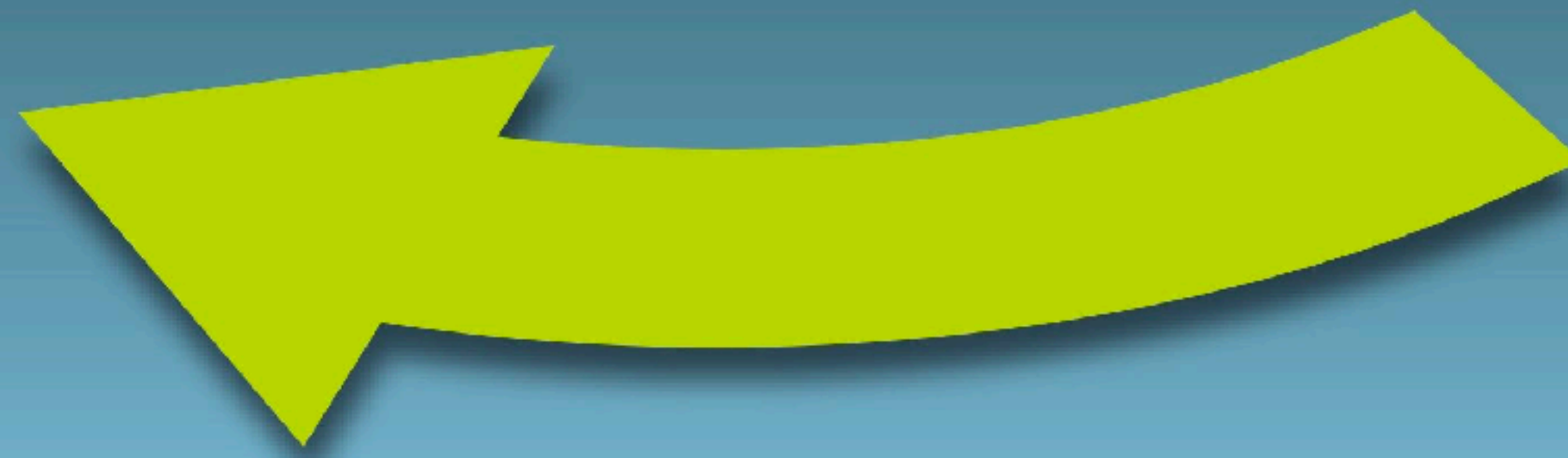
**Pride and
wickedness**

**Destruction and
suffering**



**Righteousness
and prosperity**

**Humility and
repentance**



COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT

A scroll of parchment is shown, partially unrolled, with the text "Judges 3" written in a red, cursive script. The scroll is held by two wooden handles with metal rings. The parchment is yellowed and has a slightly rough texture. The background is white.

Judges 3

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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

The Lord Raises Up Judges

Othniel

mount Baal-hermon unto the entering in of Hamath.

4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to 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:

6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

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

8 ¶ 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.

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

10 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.

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

12 ¶ And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

13 And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek,

and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

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

15 But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man left-handed: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

16 But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh.

17 And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man.

18 And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present.

19 But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him.

20 And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat.

21 And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly:

22 And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

23 Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them.

24 When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour

Ehud

were locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber.

25 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, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

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

27 And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

28 And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies 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.

29 And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man.

30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.

31 ¶ And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

CHAPTER 4

Deborah, a prophetess, judges Israel—She and Barak deliver Israel from the Canaanites—Jael, a woman, slays Sisera, the Canaanite.

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

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Alma 7:6;
Hel. 6:31.
b Ex. 34:15.
c Alma 46:8;
Hel. 12:4 (2-5).
18a The Hebrew root means "to be sorry," "moved

Lord *hearkened* because of . . .
b HEB crushed.
19a Matt. 23:32 (30-32).
b TG Stubbornness.
22a 1 Ne. 2:24 (23-24).
TG Test.

7 And the children of Israel did ^aevil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and ^bserved ^cBaalim and the ^dgroves.

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BD: Son of the Right Hand

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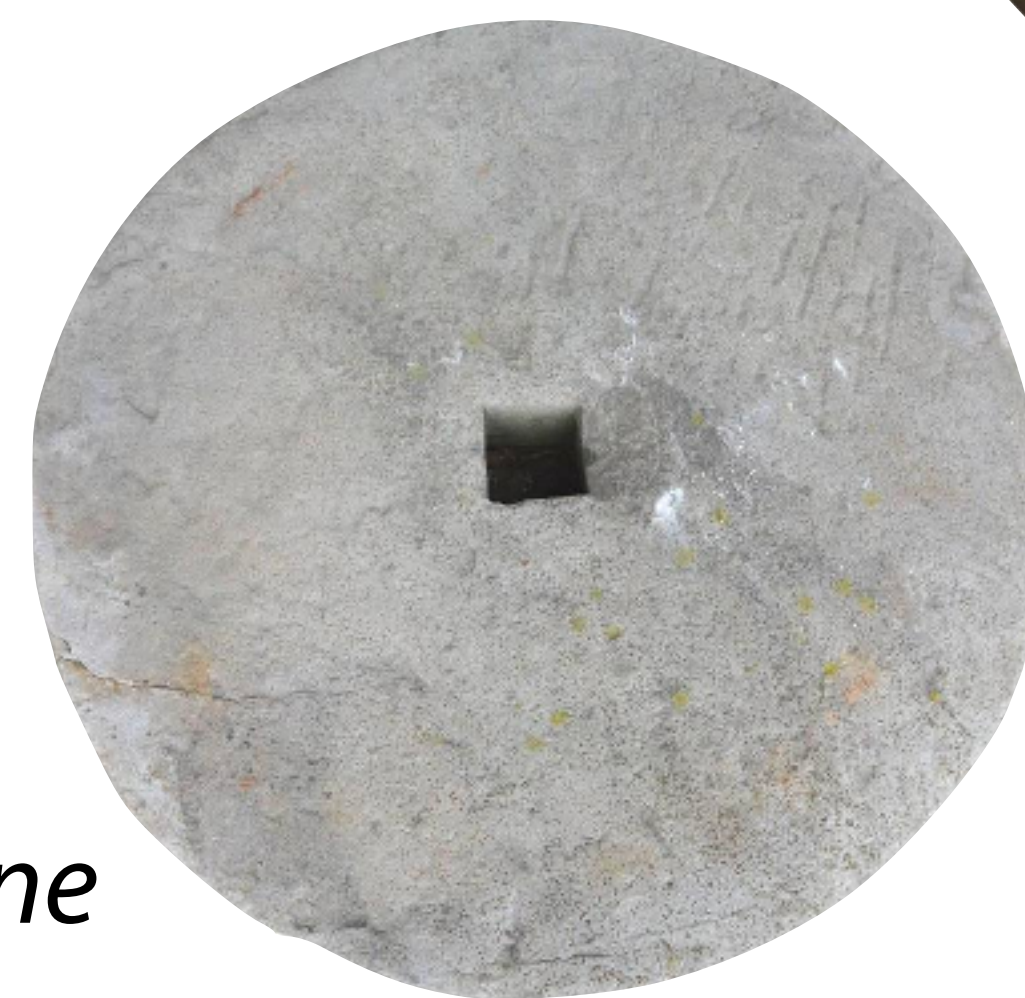
Shamgar's Ox Goad
3:31



Jael's Tent Peg
4:22



millstone
9:53



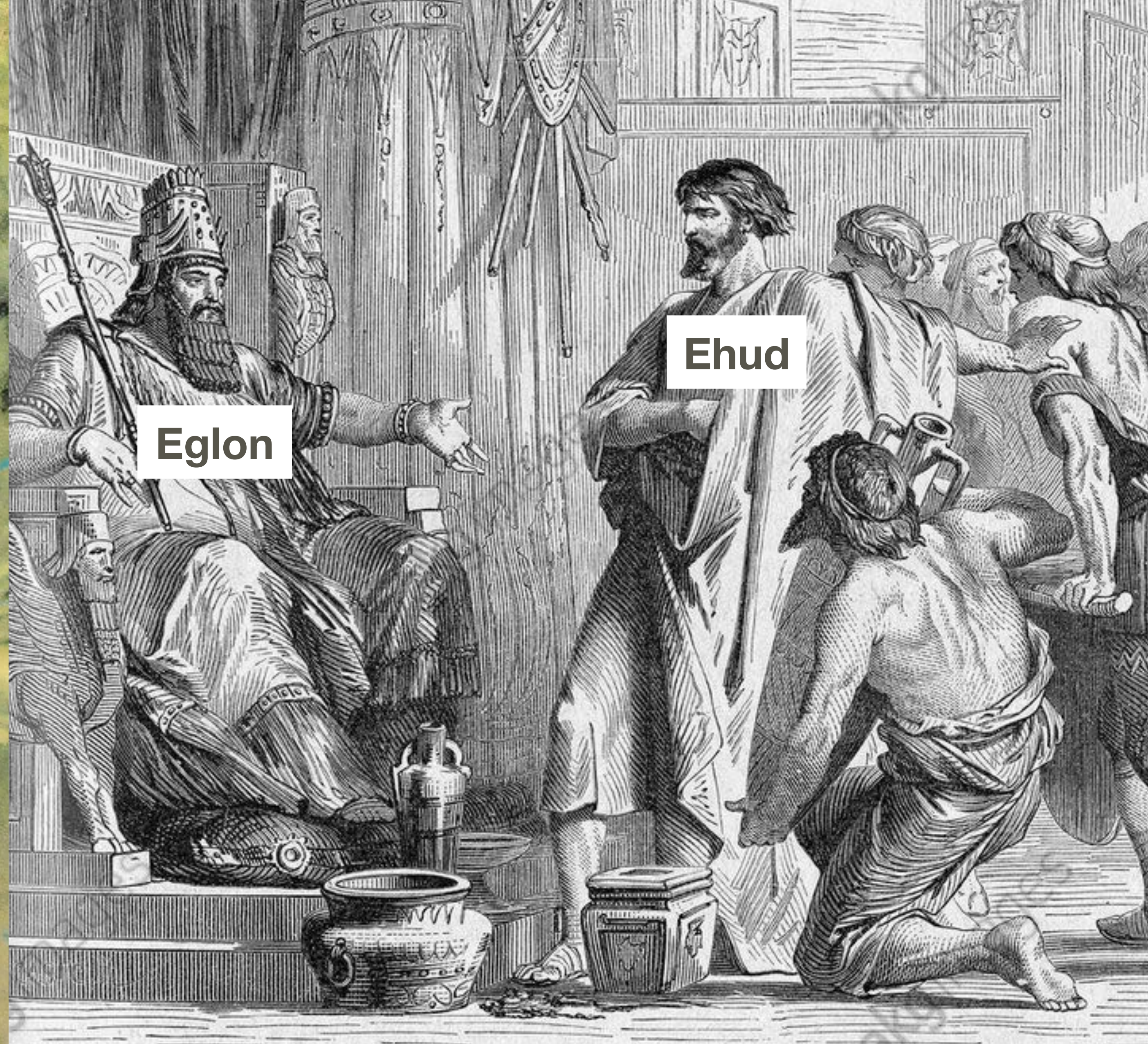
Samson's donkey jawbone
15:15





Jericho ●

Moab



Eglon

Ehad

3:17-18

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ESV: "dung" came out

unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him.

ESV: When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber."

and he drew the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out.

22 Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them.

24 When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour

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25 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, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth.

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27 And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he was before them.

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CHAPTER 4

*Deborah, a prophetess, judges Israel—
She and Barak deliver Israel from the
Canaanites—Jael, a woman, slays Sis-
era, the Canaanite.*

river Kishon.
Jabin's army,
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COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment is unrolled, showing the text 'Judges 4' written in a dark red, cursive font. The scroll is held by two wooden handles with silver-colored metal rings. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance and some minor discoloration.

Judges 4

Judges 4

Enemies of Israel

Jabin - King of Canaan in Hazor

Sisera - Captain of Jabin's army

Heroes for Israel

Deborah - Prophetess and Judge

Barak - Captain

were locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber.

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

2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan,

that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-el in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Not the LORD God of Israel hath commanded, saying, Go and draw down ten thousand men of the Naphtali and of the Zebulun?

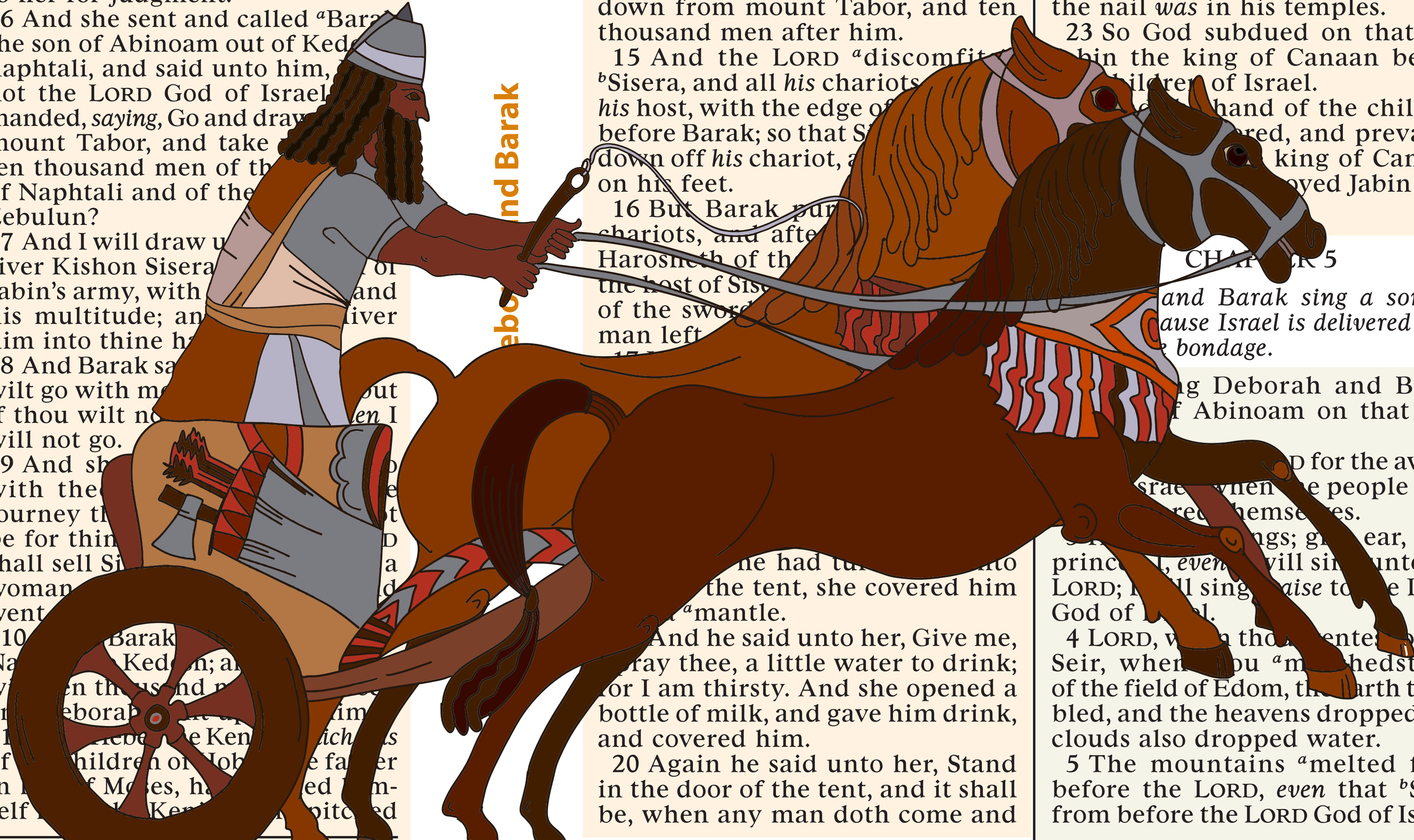
7 And I will draw you down unto the river Kishon Sisera, and all his chariots, and after him his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said unto Deborah, Wilt thou go with me? But she said, I will not go.

9 And she said, I will go with thee: but thou shalt not receive glory in the journey: for the LORD will sell Sisera into thine hand.

10 And Deborah said unto Barak, I will go with thee: but thou shalt not receive glory: for the LORD will sell Sisera into thine hand.

Deborah and Barak



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 Harosheth 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 Jabin the king of Canaan before Sisera, and all his chariots, and he fell down off his chariot, and was on his feet.

16 But Barak pursued Sisera, and after him his chariots, and after him his multitude, and he slew Sisera.

17 And Deborah and Barak sang a song of the sword, as it is written, A woman left Sisera dead.

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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

inquire 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 the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

24 And Deborah and Barak sang a song of the sword, as it is written, A woman left Sisera dead.

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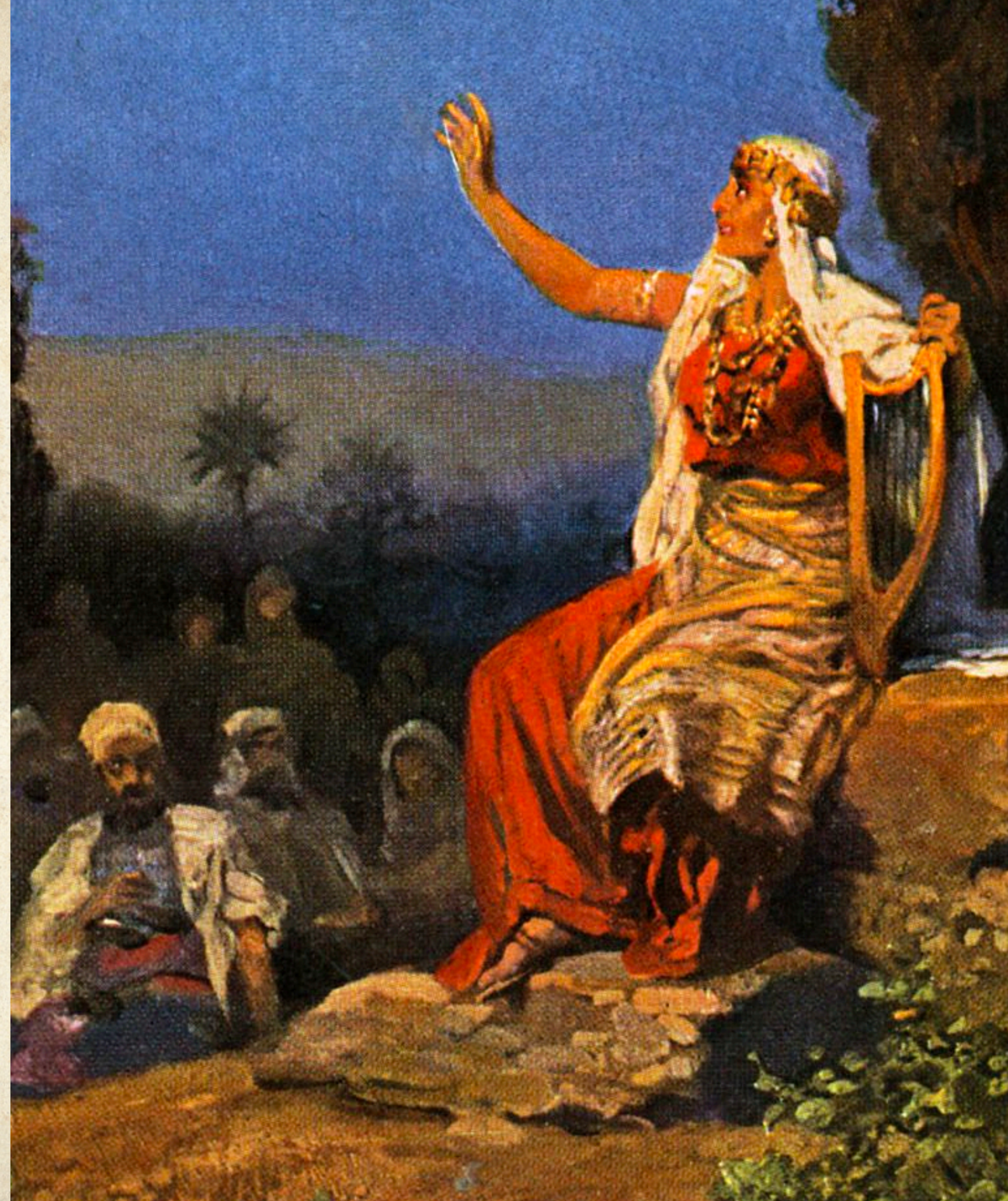
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“Deborah was very different from the savior women we have already encountered. They were private women; she was a recognized public figure. They lived ordinary lives until the politico-military world intruded into their realm; Deborah was active in the public arena as part of her normal everyday life.”

(Tikva Frymer-Kensky, “Reading the Women of the Bible,” 2002, p. 45)



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6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded *saying* Go and draw toward

A Prophetess

A Judge

A Mother in Israel

Hebrew is *Eset lapidot*

Eset = wife of or woman of
lapidot = name (although unusual) or noun (torch or fire)

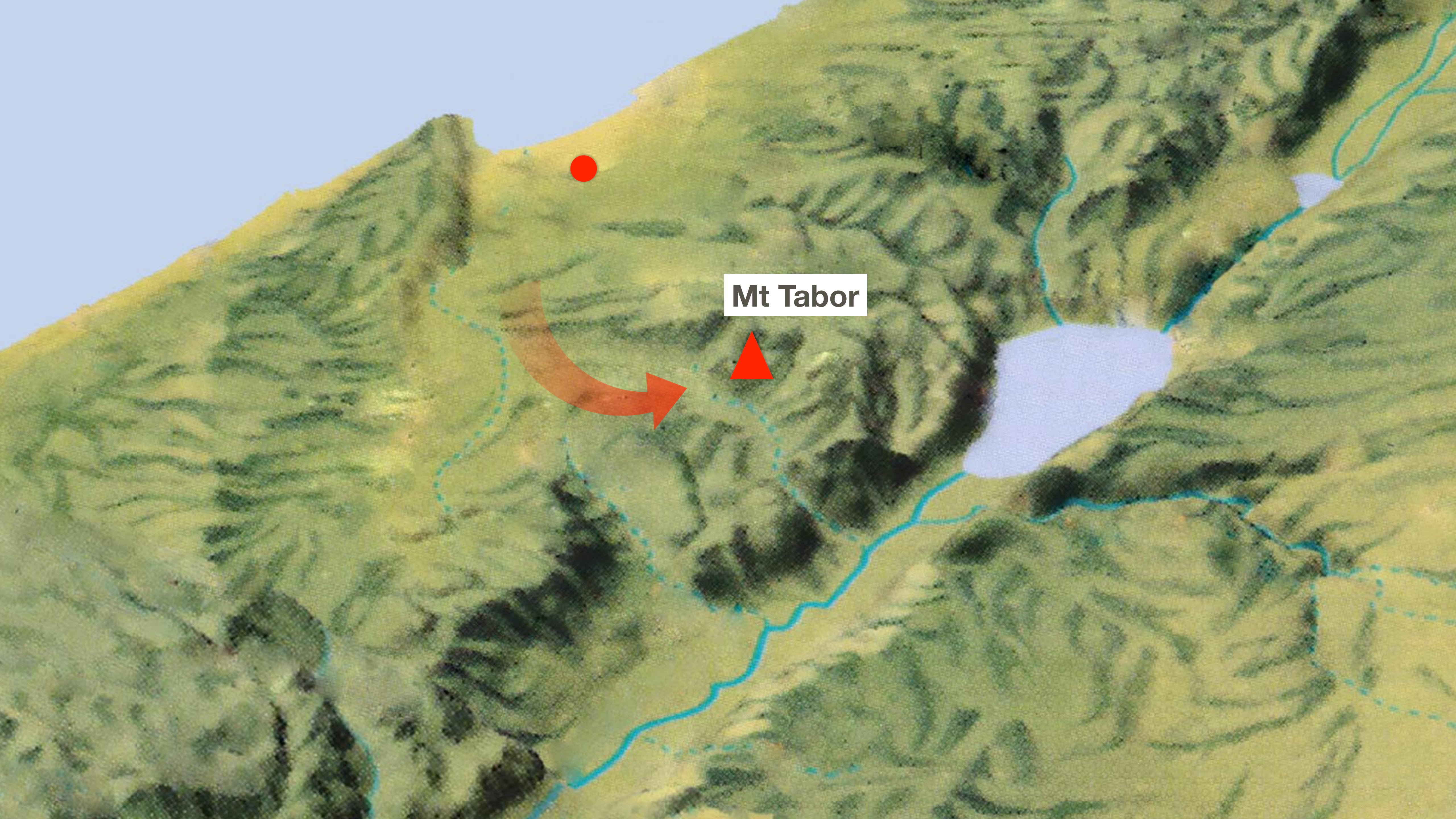
6 And she sent and called "Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, *saying*, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, *then* I will not go.

9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.





Mt Tabor

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 ^abefore thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 And the LORD ^adiscomfited ^bSisera, and all *his* chariots, and all *his* host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off *his* chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth 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

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.

CHAPTER 5

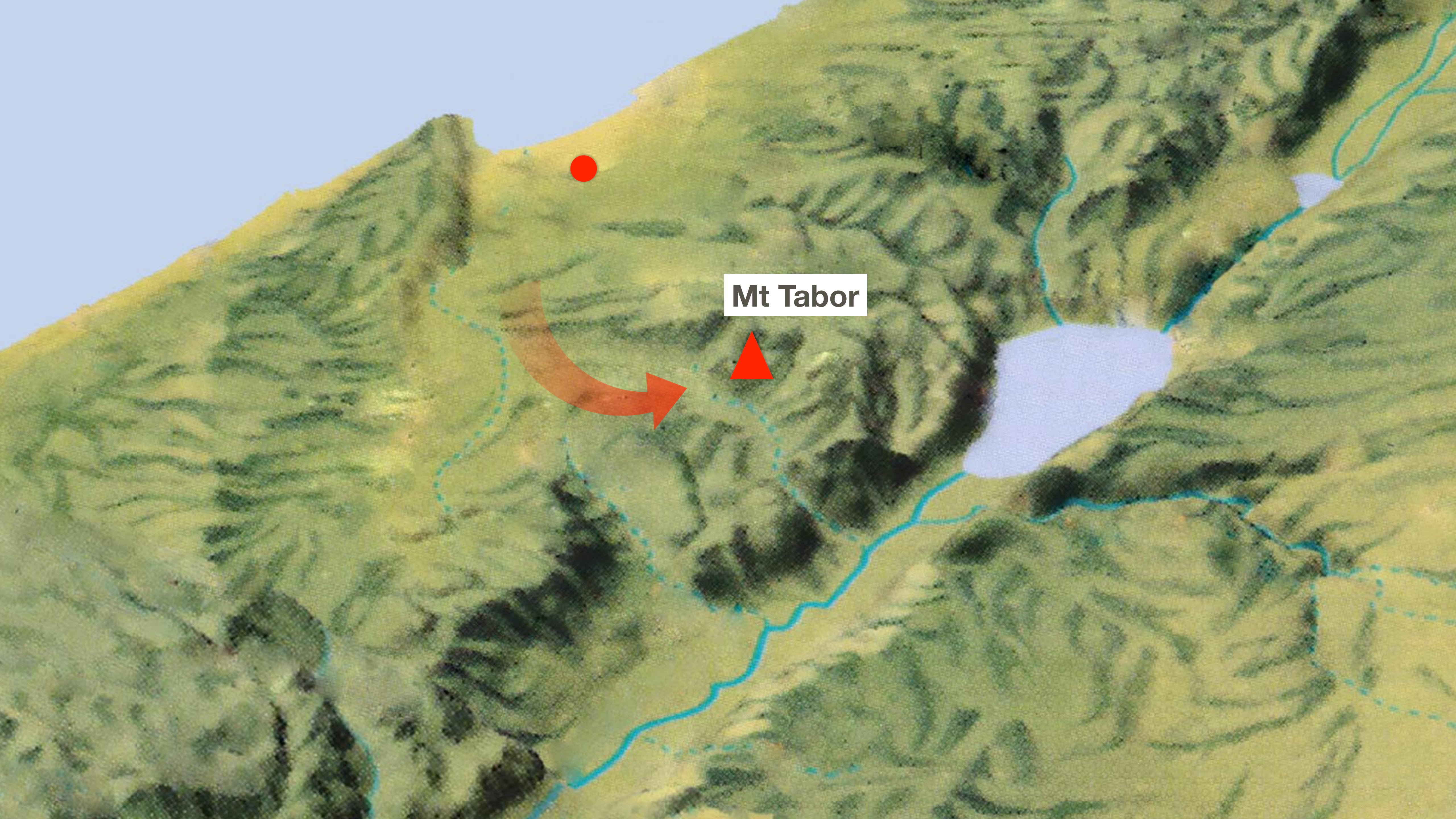
Deborah and Barak sing a song of praise because Israel is delivered from Canaanite bondage.

THEN ^asang Deborah and Barak

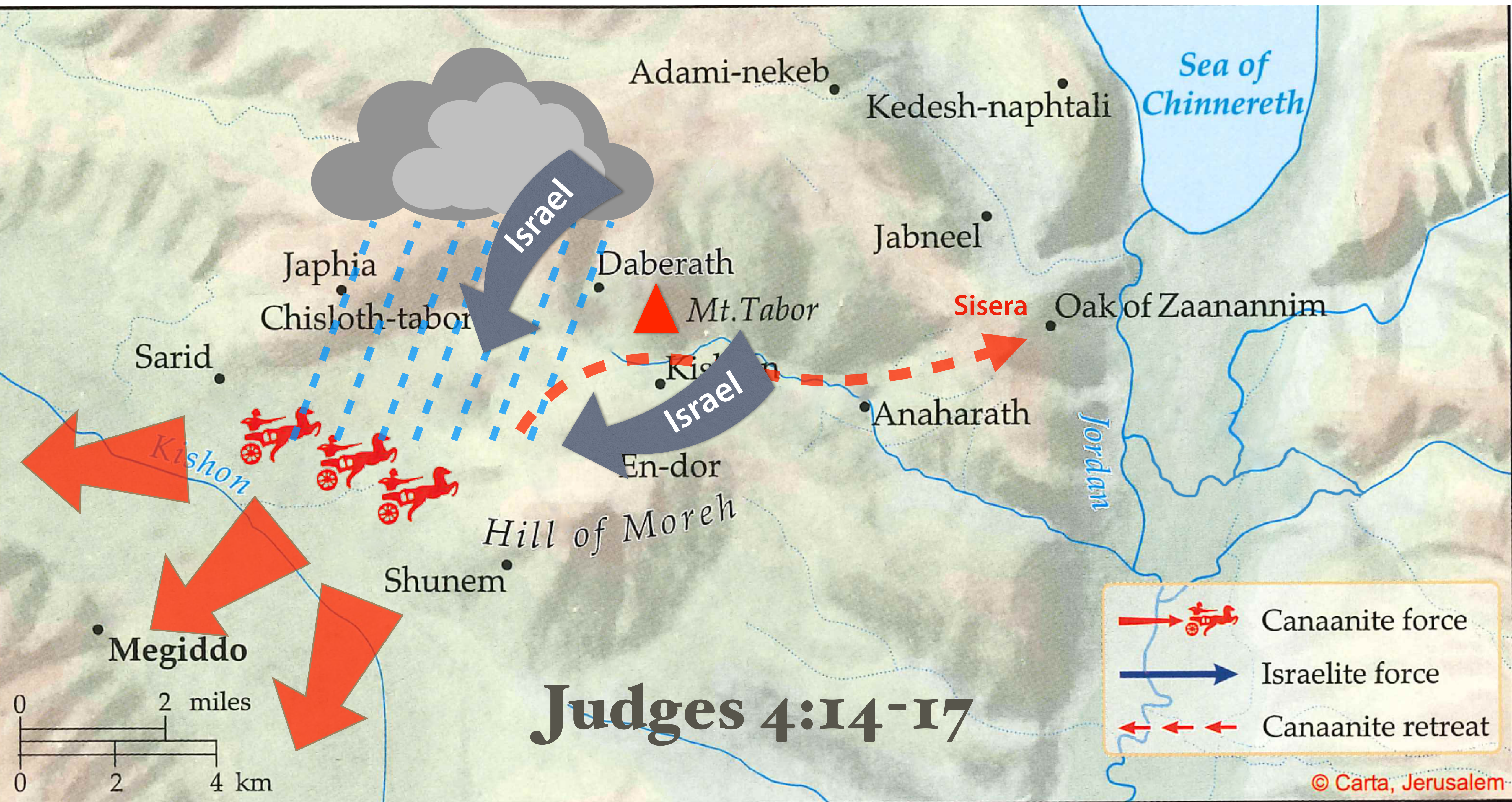
Old Testament Institute Student Manual

The River Kishon flows in a northwest direction through the Jezreel Valley until it empties into the Mediterranean Sea near present-day Haifa. Because the land is quite flat, the river is usually not much more than a sluggish stream. In times of unusually hard rains, however, it may overflow its banks and flood the surrounding land, making it marshy and nearly impassable.

The song of Deborah [in Judges 5] seems to suggest that just such an unexpected downpour, accompanied by thunder and lightning, suddenly struck the area. The chariots of Sisera bogged down in the resulting overflow of the Kishon River, making it possible for the smaller forces of Deborah and Barak to achieve victory (Judges 5:4-5, 21). Deborah rightly saw in this event the hand of the Lord and gave Him credit for the victory (Judges 5:30).



Mt Tabor



out before thee: so Barak went
down from mount Tabor and ten

thousand

15 And the
^bSisera, and
his host, were
before Barak
down off his
on his feet

16 But Barak
chariots, and
Harosheth
the host of
of the sword,
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,

tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and
the nail was in his temples.

on that day
man before
the children
prevailed
of Canaan,
Jabin king



*sang a song of
praise because Israel is delivered from
Canaanite bondage.*

THEN ^asang Deborah and Barak
the son of Abinoam on that day,
saying,

2 Praise ye the LORD for the aveng-
ing of Israel, when the people will-
ingly offered themselves.

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 ^amantle.

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

praise because Israel is delivered from Canaan.

THE LORD SAID UNTO JELIHO, THE KING OF THE AMORITES, saying,

2 For I will bring down the king of Canaan, and will cut off his name from the land.

3 For I will bring down the king of Canaan, and will cut off his name from the land. LORD GOD OF ISRAEL SAID UNTO JELIHO, THE KING OF THE AMORITES,

4 I will bring down the king of Canaan, and will cut off his name from the land. LORD GOD OF ISRAEL SAID UNTO JELIHO, THE KING OF THE AMORITES,

5 The LORD will bring down the king of Canaan, and will cut off his name from the land. LORD GOD OF ISRAEL SAID UNTO JELIHO, THE KING OF THE AMORITES,



his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim,
which is by Kedesh.



thousand men after him.

15 And the LORD ^adiscomfited
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23 So God subdued on that day
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the children of Israel.

24 And the hand of the children



COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT

A scroll of aged parchment is unrolled, showing the text 'Judges 5' written in a dark red, cursive font. The scroll is held by two wooden handles with metal rings. The parchment is yellowed and has a slightly rough texture. The background is plain white.

Judges 5

Judges 5



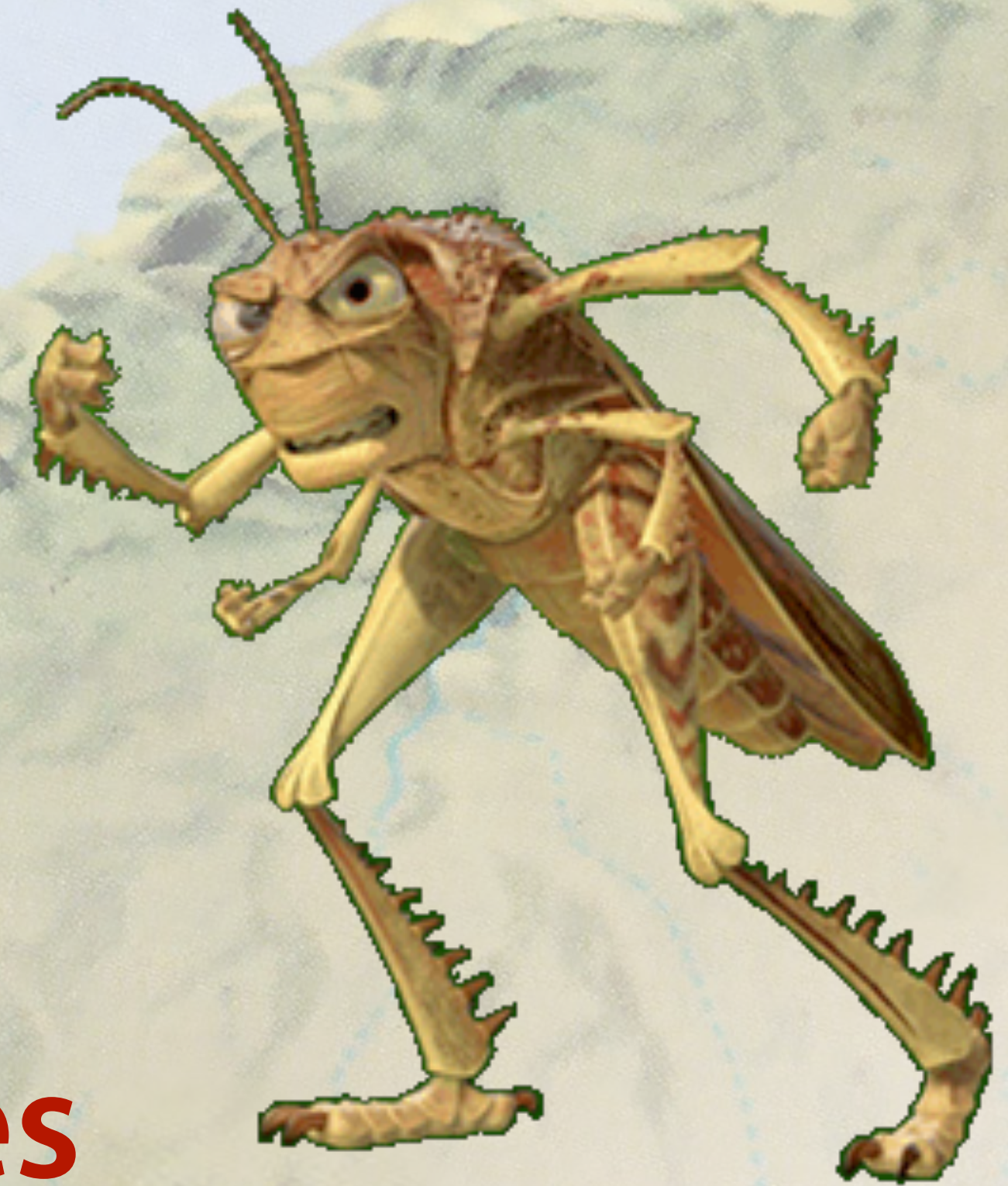
COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Judges 6



Israelites



Midianites

... and they came as grasshoppers for multitude. (Judges 6:5)

him milk; she brought forth ^abutter in a ^blordly dish.

26 She put her hand to the ^anail, 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 ^btemples.

27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: 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 ^aHave they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera ^ba 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.

CHAPTER 6

Israel is in bondage to the Midianites—An angel appears to Gideon and calls him to deliver Israel—He overthrows the altar of Baal, the Spirit of the Lord rests upon him, and the Lord gives him a sign to show he is called to deliver Israel.

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 which *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 ^aeast, even they came up against them;

4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the ^aincrease 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,

8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;

10 And I said unto you, I *am* the LORD your God; ^afear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not ^bobeyed my voice.

11 ¶ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that ^apertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat ^bby the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

Midian Oppresses Israel

The Call of Gideon

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD *is* with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his ^amiracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy ^amight, 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 ^aleast in my father's house.

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17 And he said unto him, If now I have found ^agrace in thy sight, then shew me a ^bsign 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 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 God 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 ^afire 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, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an ^aangel of the LORD face to ^bface.

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 ^aJehovah-shalom: unto this day it *is* yet in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

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 ^aBaal that thy father hath, and cut down the ^bgrove that *is* by it:

26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this ^arock, 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: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do *it* by day, that he did *it* by night.

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 inquired and asked, they

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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 ^awhilst 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 ^aJerubbaal, 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-ezer 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 God, 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.

38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

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5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that

13a Morm. 9:20 (15–20).

21a Lev. 9:24; 1 Ne. 1:6.

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31a OR before morning.

b HEB try or test.

4a 1 Sam. 14:6.

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The Sign of the Fleece

Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

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Gideon's army is reduced to 300—They frighten the Midianite armies with trumpets and lights—The Midianites fight among themselves, flee, and are defeated by Israel.

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31a OR before morning.

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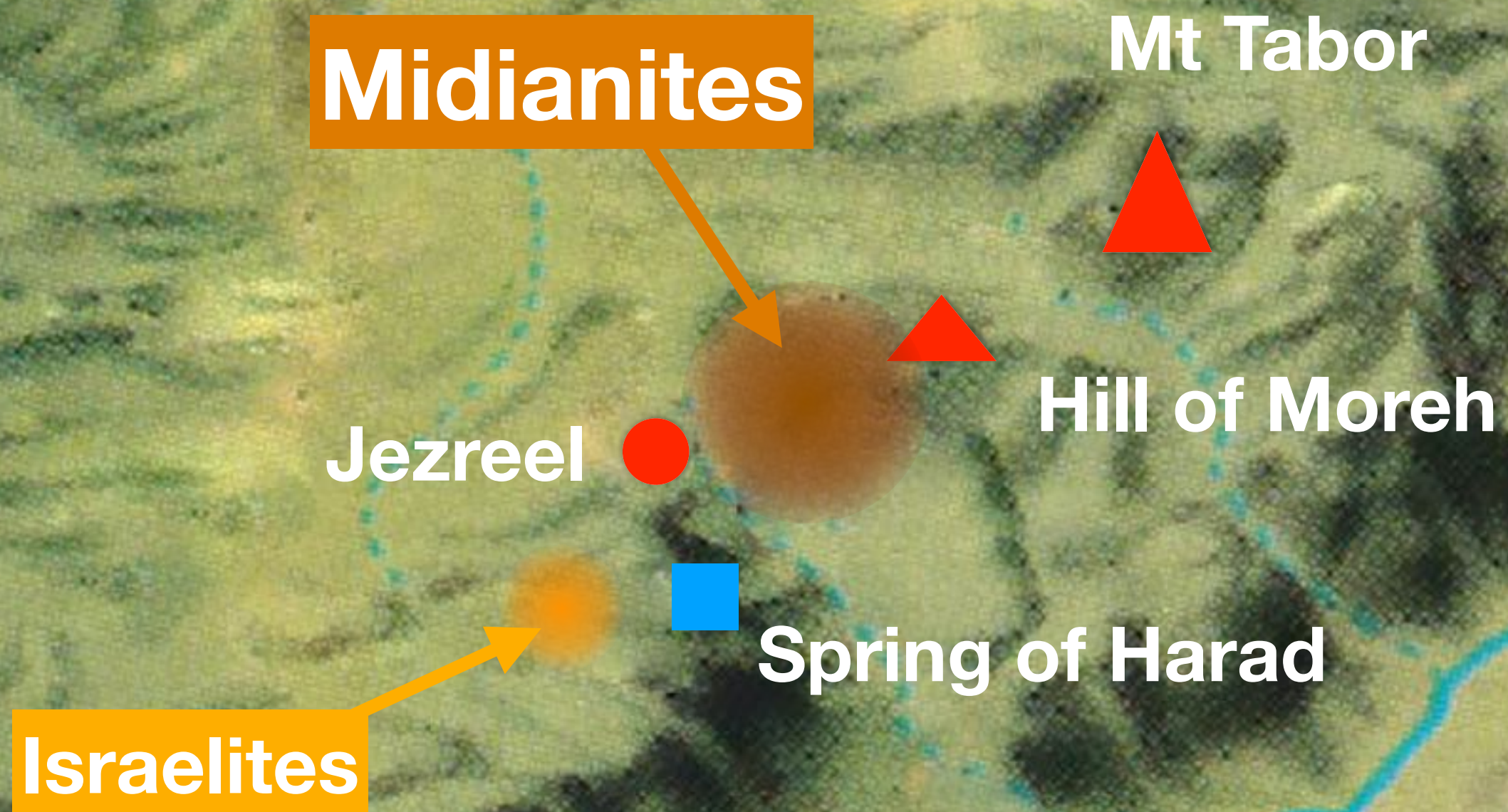
4a 1 Sam. 14:6.

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Judges 7

Judges 8:10 describes the Midianite numbers as 135,000.



Institute Manual

“It is now known that the use of camels for military purposes by the nomadic desert riders was only beginning to be common in those times—12th to 10th centuries B.C., and of course, the first tribes to use them had the advantage.”

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that boweth down upon his knees
to drink.

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.

7 And 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 the people took ^avictuals in
their hand, and their trumpets: and
he sent all *the rest of* Israel every man
unto his tent, and retained those three
hundred men: and the host of Midian
was beneath him in the valley.

9 ¶ And it came to pass the same
night, that the LORD said unto him,
Arise, get thee down unto the 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 host:

11 And thou shalt hear what they
say; and afterward shall thine hands
be strengthened to go down unto
the host. Then went he down with
Phurah his servant unto the out-
side of the armed men that were
in the host.

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

13 And when Gideon was come,
behold, *there was* a man that told
a dream unto his fellow, and said,
Behold, I dreamed a ^adream, and,
lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled
into the ^bhost of Midian, and came
unto a tent, and smote it that it fell,
and overturned it, that ^cthe tent
lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and
said, This is nothing else save the
sword of Gideon the son of Joash,
a man of Israel: *for* into his hand

hath God delivered Midian, and
all the host.

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

16 And he divided the three hun-
dred men *into* three companies, and
he put a trumpet in every man's
hand, with empty pitchers, and
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, I
and all that are with me, then blow
ye the trumpets also on every side
of all the camp, and say, *The sword*
of the LORD, and of Gideon.

19 ¶ So Gideon, and the hundred
men that were with him, came unto
the outside of the camp in the be-
ginning 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 trumpets, and brake the pitch-
ers, and held the lamps in their left
hands, and the trumpets in their
right hands to blow *withal*: and they
cried, The sword of the LORD, and
of Gideon.

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 ev-
ery man's sword against his ^afel-
low, even throughout all the host:
and the host fled to Beth-shittah
in Zererath, *and* to the border of
Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

23 And the men of Israel gathered
themselves together out of Naphtali,
and out of Asher, and out of all

Manasseh, and pursued after the
^aMidianites.

24 ¶ And Gideon sent messengers
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ing, Come down against the Midian-
ites, 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 ^aOreb upon the rock Oreb,
and Zeeb they slew at the winepress
of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and
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and Zeeb: and what was I able to do
in comparison of you? Then their
anger was abated toward him, when
he had said that.

4 ¶ And Gideon came to Jordan,
and passed over, he, and the three
hundred men that were with him,
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Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of
bread unto the people that follow
me; for they be faint, and I am pur-
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munna now
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7 And Gide
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8 ¶ And he
Penuel, and
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swered him
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9 And he sp
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10 ¶ Now
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11 ¶ And C
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12 And wh
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13 ¶ And C
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14 And ca
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15 And he
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and Zalmur
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of Zebah a
thine hand
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16 And he
city, and th
and briers, a
the men of

Gideon's Three Hundred Men

Gideon Defeats Midian

^b HEB try or test.
7 2s. Deut. 20:8

4a 1 Sam. 14:6.
^b CB text.

8a Josh. 1:11.
13s. 75s. Dream

^b HEB camp.
^c IF the tent lay flat

22a 1 Sam. 14:20;
2 Chr. 20:22

23a Isa. 9:4.
8 5a Ps. 83:11

stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death ^awhilst 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 ^aJerubbaal, 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-ezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent

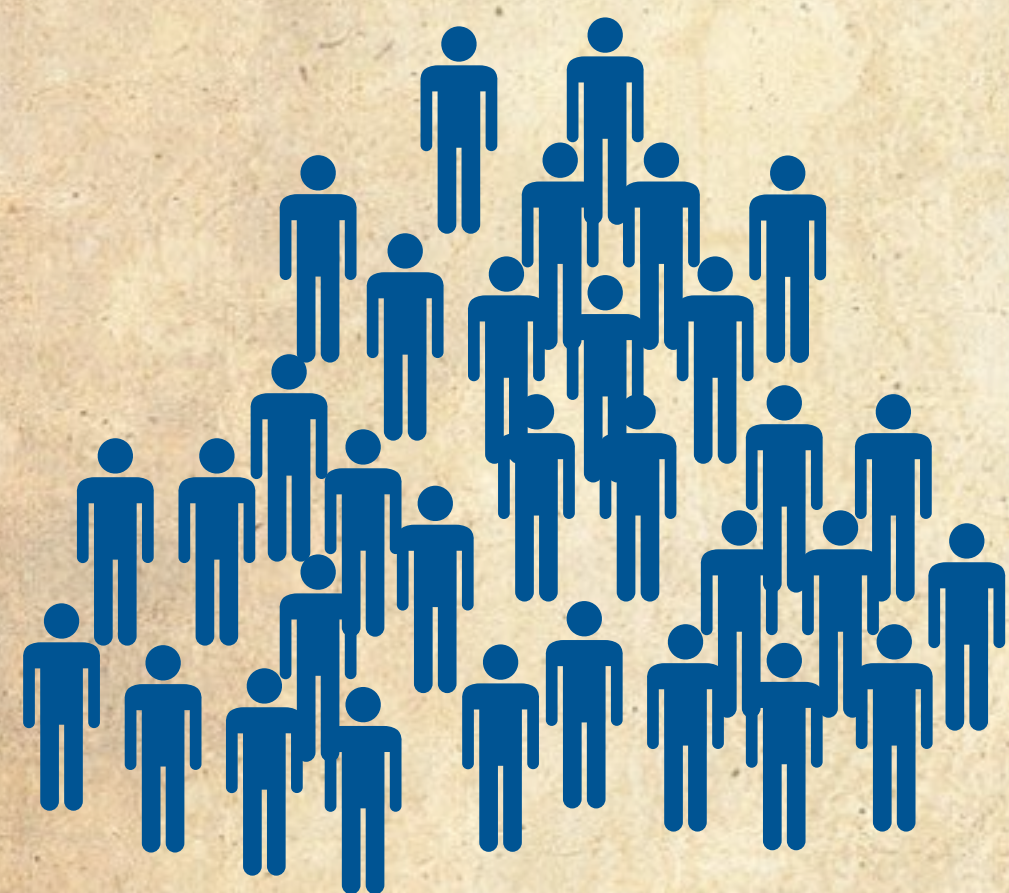
frighten the Midianite armies with trumpets and lights—The Midianites fight among themselves, flee, and are defeated by Israel.

THEN Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that *were* with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is ^afearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from ^bmount Gilead. And there returned of the

32,000 (Judges 7:3)



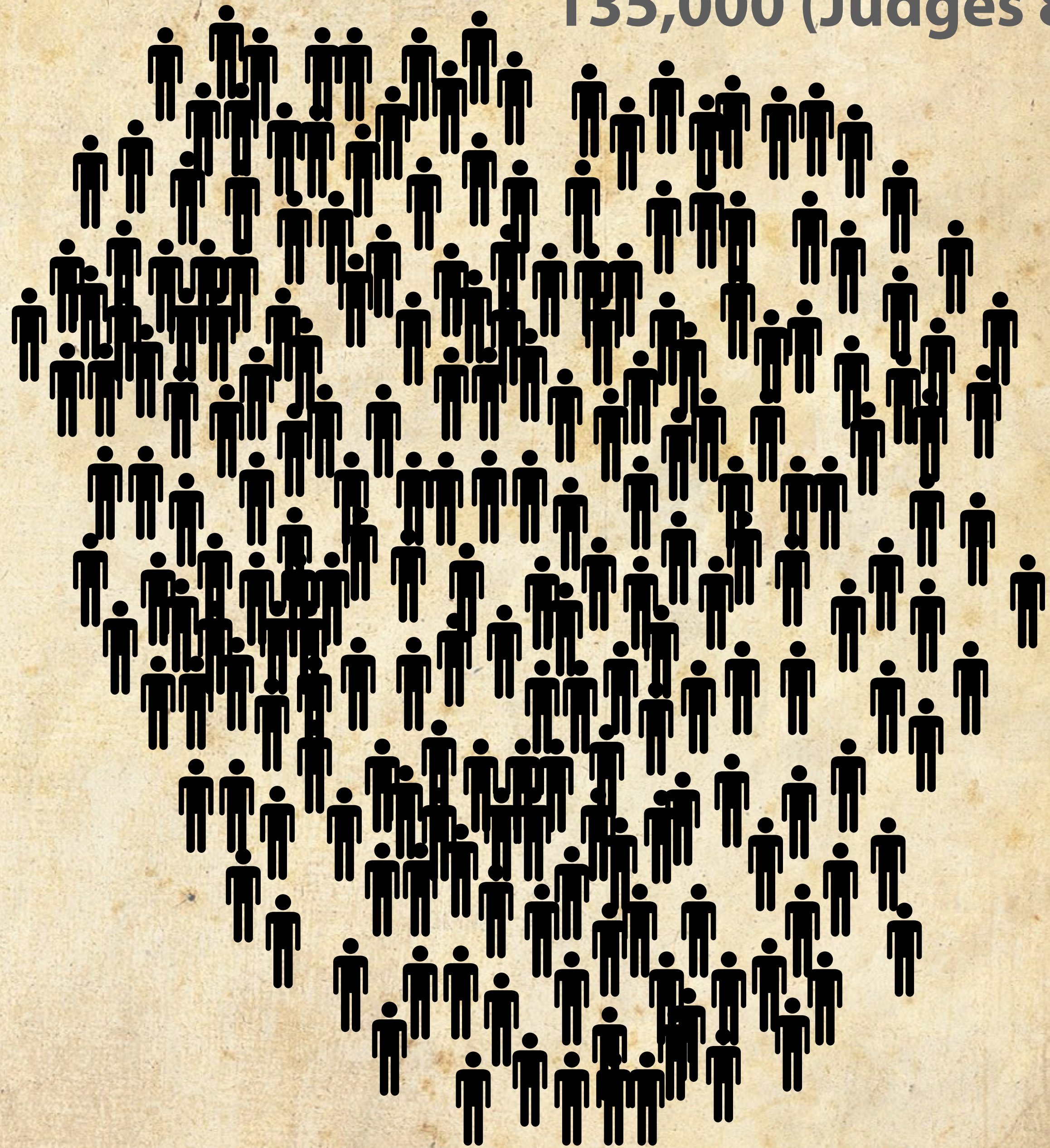
135,000 (Judges 8:10)



10,000 (Judges 7:3)



135,000 (Judges 8:10)



people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people *are* yet *too* ^amany; bring them down unto the water, and I will ^btry 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.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

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.

7 And 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.

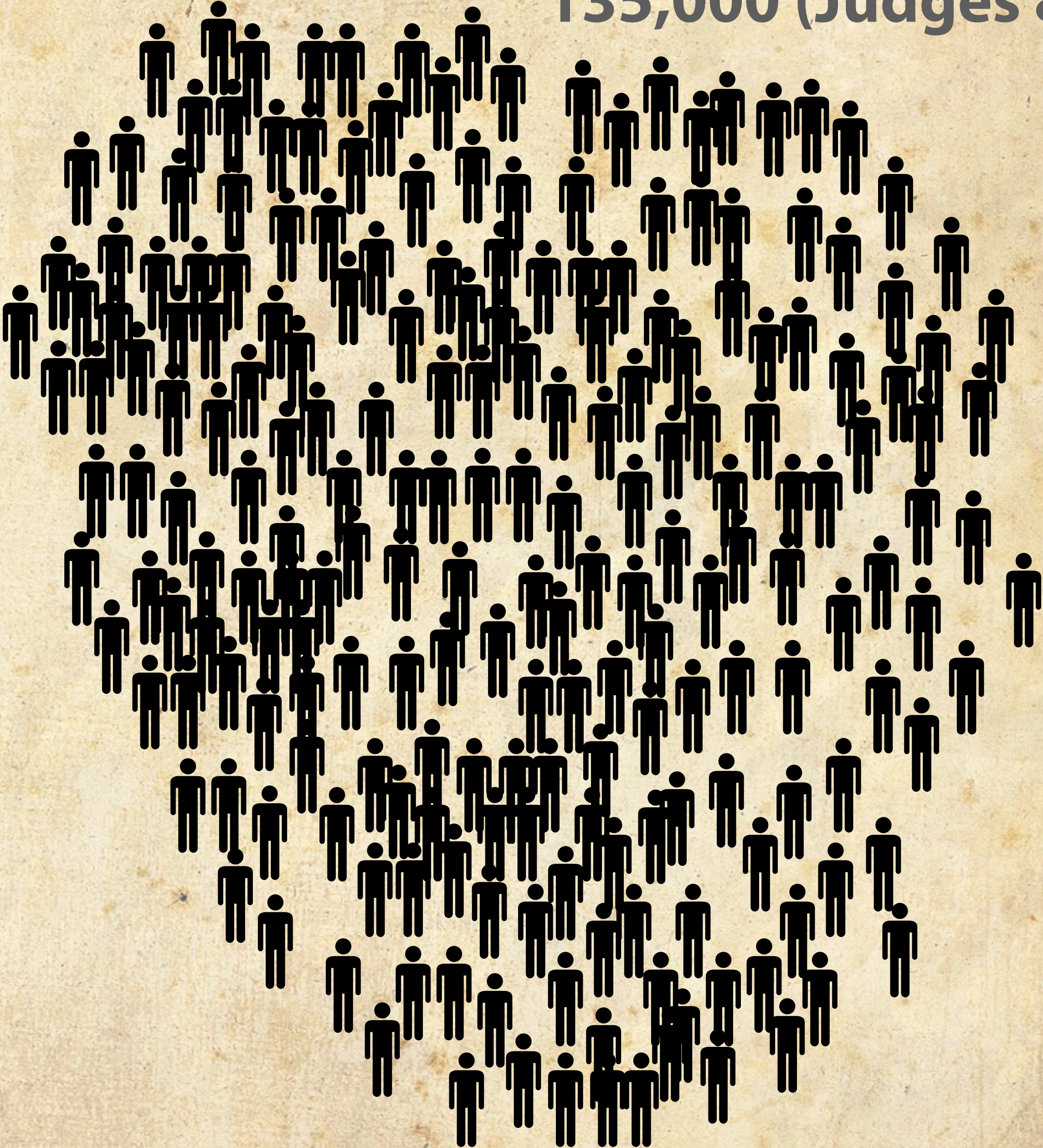
8 So the people took ^avictuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all *the rest of* Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

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





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300 (Judges 7:6-7)



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

16 And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and 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, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side

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9 ¶ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the 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 host:

11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

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

13 And when Gideon was come, behold, *there was* a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a ^adream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the ^bhost of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that ^cthe tent lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: *for* into his hand

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

19 ¶ So Gideon, and the hundred 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 trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

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3 God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

4 ¶ And Gideon came to Jordan, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men that *were* with him, faint, yet pursuing *them*.

5 And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they *be* faint, and I am pursuing after ^aZebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

6 ¶ And the princes of Succoth

said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

7 And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.

8 ¶ And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.

9 And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

10 ¶ Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand *men*, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.

11 ¶ And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was ^asecure.

12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.

13 ¶ And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun *was up*,

14 And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, *even* threescore and seventeen men.

15 And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men *that are* weary?

16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taunted the men of Succoth.



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7 And Gideon said unto the LORD, *Thou hast said, The LORD hath delivered me into the hands of Midianites.*

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment is unrolled across the center of the image. The scroll is held by two wooden handles with decorative metal rings. The text 'Judges 8' is written in a large, dark red, cursive font across the middle of the unrolled section of the scroll.

Judges 8

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Gideon Defeats Zebah and Zalmunna

Gideon's Ephod

17 And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

18 ¶ Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men *were they* whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou *art*, so *were they*; each one resembled the children of a king.

19 And he said, They *were* my brethren, *even* the sons of my mother: as the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.

20 And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he *was* yet a youth.

21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, 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.

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

23 And Gideon said unto them, I will not ^arule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall ^brule over you.

24 ¶ 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.)

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

26 And the weight of the ^agolden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred ^bshekels of gold; beside ^cornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.

27 And Gideon made an ^aephod thereof, and put it in his city, *even* in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a ^bsnare unto Gideon, and to his house.

28 ¶ Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

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

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

31 And his concubine that *was* in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

32 ¶ 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 Abi-ezrites.

33 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.

34 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:

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

CHAPTER 9

Gideon's son Abimelech is made king—He slays his seventy brothers—Jotham tells a fable of trees choosing a king—The Shechemites conspire against Abimelech—He is slain at Thebez.

AND Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with

23a TG Governments.

b Hel. 12:6;
D&C 60:4.

26a Ex. 32:2.

b Hebrew for "shekels"

expressed here.

c HEB crescents and pendants.

27a IE probably here a medallion of gold

ephod. Later it was at times revered.

Ex. 28:4 (4–35);

Judg. 17:5.

b Ex. 23:33.

Rise thou, 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.

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COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Judges 9:1-21 - Abimelech's Conspiracy

Judges 9:22-57 - The Downfall of Abimelech

Judges 10:1-5 - Tola and Jair

Judges 10:6-18 - Further Disobedience and Oppression

Judges 11:1-28 - Jephthah Delivers Israel

Judges 11:29-40 - Jephthah's Tragic Vow

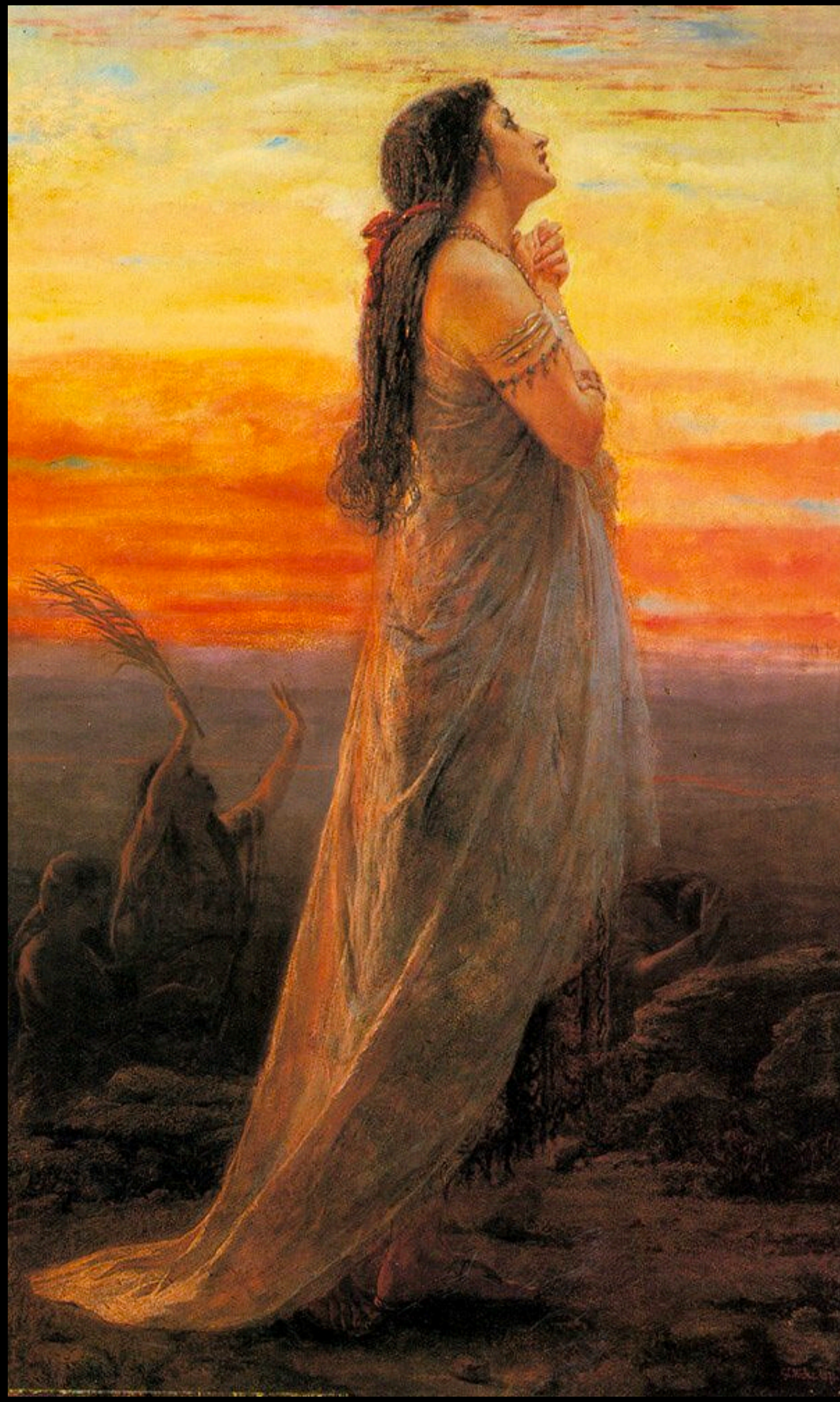
Judges 12:1-7 - Jephthah's Conflict with Ephraim

Judges 12:8-15 - Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon

Judges 11:30–31

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 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.



1 Samuel 1:11

And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid,...but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life...



Judges 12:5-6

5 ... 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;

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.

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



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?

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.

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;

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.

7 And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in *one* of the cities of Gilead.

8 ¶ And after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

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.

10 Then died Ibzan, and was buried at Beth-lehem.

11 ¶ And after him Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years.

12 And Elon the Zebulonite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

13 ¶ And after him Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, judged Israel.

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

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CHAPTER 13

Israel is in Philistine bondage for forty years—An angel comes to Manoah's wife and promises a son who will begin to deliver Israel—The angel comes again; he ascends in a flame from the altar—Samson is born, and the Spirit of the Lord moves upon him.

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.

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 *art* *barren*, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and *drink* not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any *unclean thing*:

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.

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:

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The Birth of Samson

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.

8 ¶ Then Manoah entreated 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.

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.

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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, until 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.

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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.

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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.

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 at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

CHAPTER 14

Samson slays a young lion with his bare hands—He marries a Philistine wife, propounds a riddle, is deceived by his wife, and slays thirty Philistines.

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

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6a TG Language.
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5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no ^arazor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to ^bdeliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

6 ¶ Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of

Old Testament Seminary

Nazarites were those who vowed or covenanted to dedicate themselves to God for a period of time. During the period of their vow, Nazarites promised not to drink wine, touch any dead thing, or cut their hair.

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The Birth of Samson

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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.

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Samson slays a young lion with his bare hands. He is captured by the Philistines.

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Samson's Marriage

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4 But his father and his mother knew not that it *was* of the ^aLORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had ^bdominion 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 ^aSpirit 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: 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 ^afeast; for so used the young men to do.

11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

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 ^asheets and thirty change of garments:

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 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.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, ^aEntice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we ^bburn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? *is it not so?*

16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a ^ariddle 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 ^alay 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? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

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.

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

CHAPTER 15

Samson burns the grain of the Philistines—They burn his wife and father-in-law—Samson slays a thousand Philistines at Lehi with the jawbone of an ass.

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.
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3 ¶ And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.

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.

5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let *them* go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and ^aburnt up both the shocks, and also the standing ^bcorn, with the vineyards *and* ^colives.

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 ^aburnt her and ^bher father with fire.

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14 3a TG Marriage, Interfaith.
b Gen. 34:14

6a 1 Ne. 7:17 (17-18).
10a Gen. 29:22.
12a HEB linen garments or

b Judg. 15:6.
16a Judg. 16:15.
17a IE pressed him hard

15 5a Ex. 22:6.
b OR grain

b Septuagint, Syriac, and many Hebrew texts

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Seminary Old Testament Manual

Today when we speak of someone having the Spirit of the Lord, we are usually referring to someone who is faithful and obedient and therefore close to God. However, as used here, referring to Samson (see Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14), the phrase seems to acknowledge Samson's remarkable physical strength, which came as a gift from God. The scriptures give credit to the Lord, the true source of Samson's gift, by saying "the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him," but this does not necessarily mean that the Lord prompted or approved of Samson's actions. Sometimes Samson used his gift of strength properly, and sometimes he did not.



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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 them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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?

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.

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

CHAPTER 16

Samson carries away the doors of the gate of Gaza—He loves Delilah, who delivers him to the Philistines—He destroys a building, killing himself and 3,000 others.

THEN went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

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.

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.

4 ¶ And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

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*.

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.

15 5a Ex. 22:6.

b Septuagint, Syriac, and

way.

18a OR very thirsty.

19a OR But God opened

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16 2a Josh. 6:3.

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CHAPTER 15

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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.

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.

10 And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast ^amocked 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* ^aliers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

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Samson and Delilah

15 ¶ And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart *is* not with me? thou hast ^amocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength *lieth*.

16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him ^adaily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was ^bvexed unto death;

17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a ^arazor 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.

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 ^amoney in their hand.

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.

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 ^awist not that 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 Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto ^aDagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Esh-taol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

The Death of Samson

18a OR very thirsty.
19a OR But God opened up the basin that was

who calls.
16 2a Josh. 6:3.
5a Judg. 14:15

fresh or moist sinews from animals.
10a TC Mocking

gate of Gaza—He loves Delilah, who delivers him to the Philistines—He destroys a building, killing himself and 3,000 others.

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12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake *them* off, as he brake the first. And *they* were ^aliers in wait abiding in his chamber. And he brake *them* off his arms like a thread.

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17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a ^arazor 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.

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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.

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21 ¶ But the Philistines took him,

Doctrine and Covenants 3:4

For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.

Old Testament Institute Manual

Samson's superhuman strength did not reside in his hair but in his confidence in God and in the Nazarite oath, of which the hair was the outward symbol. Delilah's treachery and the shaving of Samson's hair signified the final betrayal of his vows. Thus, he became a miserable, broken man with no power left.

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LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, re-
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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.

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Judges 17-21 (The Appendix)

The conclusion to the book of judges is really an appendix consisting of two episodes, neither of which mentions judges. Furthermore, the content of the material is different, dealing with intra-Israelite events, not Israelite tribes oppressed by their neighbors. Given its placement at the end of the book, one naturally assumes the events recounted in this appendix came at the end of the period of the judges, just prior to Samuel and the institution of the monarchy. Indeed, this portion of the book begins and ends with the claim, "in those days there was no king in Israel; but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:25), and contains two even more brief statements to the same effect (Judges 18:1; 19:1).

These episodes and evaluations appear to be pro-monarchy, presenting the case that the lack of a strong national government produced morally and religiously bankrupt conditions in Israel. However, a number of factors suggest that these events actually occurred at the beginning of the period of the judges but were intentionally placed last by the redactors (who lived centuries after this time period) to help demonstrate why so many Israelites favored having a king in the time of Samuel. For example, Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, is mentioned as the priest at the Tabernacle in Judges 20:26-28, but in Joshua 24:33 it is reported that Eleazar was buried on his son Phinehas's property. It is not likely that Phinehas was still alive 150 or more years later.

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, Dana M. Pike & David Rolph Seely, "Jehovah and the World of the Old Testament," 2009, p. 181)