The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 10 Sefer Shoftim- A book about Judges or Kings -Conclusion

Putting the units together & uncovering key themes

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Review

SEFER SHOFTIM – Chronicle or Composition?
The final unit – chapters 17-21
What makes it a distinct unit?
NO JUDGES
NO CYCLE
COMMON REFRAIN
"During those days... NO KING in Israel..."

We start with the last two chapters - to complete the final unit Noting again the satirical matter in which the story is told.

I. Shoftim chapter 20

א וַיִּצְאוּ, כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַתִּקְּהֵל הָעֵדָה **כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד לְמִדָּן וְעַדּ-בְּאֵר** שָׁבַּע, וְאֶרֶץ הַגִּלְעָד--אֶל-יְהוָה, המצפּה.

1 Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was assembled as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD at Mizpah.

ב וַיִּתְיַצְבוּ פִּנּוֹת כָּל-הָעָם, כּּל שִׁבְטֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל--בִּקְהַל, עַם הָאֱלֹהִים; אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף אִישׁ רַגְלִי, שׁלף חרב. {פ}

2 And the chiefs of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.-- $\{P\}$

ג וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן, כִּי-עָלוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּצְפָּה; וַיּאמְרוּ, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, דַּבְּרוּ, אֵיכַה נָהָיִתָה הַרַעָה הַזֹּאת.

3 Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpah.--And the children of Israel said: 'Tell us, how was this wibckedness brought to pass?'

ד<u>ַ ויַע</u>ן **הָאִישׁ הַלֵּוִי**, אִישׁ הָאִשָּׁה הַנְּרְצָחָה--וַיּאמֵר: הַגִּבְעָתָה אֲשֶׁר לְבִנְיָמִן, בָּאתִי **אֲנִי וּפִילַגְשִׁי לָלוּן**. 4 And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was murdered, answered and said: 'I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

ה וַיָּקָמוּ עָלַי בּעֲלֵי הַגִּבְעָה, וַיָּסבּוּ עָלַי אֶת-הַבּיִת לָיְלָה; אוֹתִי דִּמּוּ לַהַרֹּג, וְאֶת-פִּילַגְשִׁי עִנּוּ וַתָּמת.

5 And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night; me they thought to have slain, and my concubine they forced, and she is dead.

וּ נָאֹחֵז בְּפִילַגְשִׁי, נָאֲנַתְּחֶהָ, נָאֲשַׁלְּחֶהָ, בְּכָל-שְׁדֵה נַחֲלַת יִשְׂרָאֵל: בִּי עָשוּ זִּמָּה וּנְבָּלָה, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל.

6 And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel; for they have committed lewdness and wantonness in Israel.

ז הְנֵּה כֻּלְּכֶם, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--**הָבוּ לָכֶם דָּבָר וְעֵצָה, הַלֹם**. **7** Behold, ye are all here, children of Israel, give here your advice and council.

ת וַיָּקָם, כָּל-הָעָם, <mark>כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד,</mark> לֵאמר: לא גֵלֵךְ אִישׁ לְאָהֲלוֹ, וְלֹא נַסוּר אִישׁ לִבֵּיתוֹ.

8 And all the people arose as one man, saying: 'We will not any of us go to his tent, neither will we any of us turn unto his house.

ט וְעַתָּה--זֶה הַדְּבָר, אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה לַגִּבְעָה: עָלֵיהָ, בִּגוֹרָל. **9** But now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: we will go up against it by lot;

י וְלָקַחְנוּ **עֲשָׂרָה אֲנָשִׁים לַמֵּאָה** לְכל שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל, וּמֵאָה לָאֶלֶף וְאֶלֶף לָרְבָבָה, לָקַחַת צֵדָה, לָעָם--לַעֲשׂוֹת, לְבוֹאָם לְגֶבַע בִּנְיָמִן, **כִּכָל-הַנִּבָלָה**, אֵשֵׁר עָשָׂה בִּישִׁרָאֵל. 10 and we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victuals for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the wantonness that they have wrought in Israel.'

יא וַיֵּאָםֵף <mark>כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל</mark>, אֶל-הָעִיר, כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד, חֲבֵרִים. {פ} **11** So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. {**P**}

יב וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲנָשִׁים, בְּכָל-שִׁבְטֵי בִנְיָמִן, לֵאמר: מָה הָרָעָה הַזּאת, אֲשֶׁר נִהְיְתָה בָּכֶם.

12 And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying: 'What wickedness is this that is come to pass among you?

יג וְעַתָּה תְּנוּ אֶת-הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּנֵי-בְלִיַעַל אֲשֶׁר בַּגִּבְעָה, וּנְמִיתֵם, וּנְבַעֲרָה רָעָה, מִיִשְׂרָאֵל; וְלֹא אָבוּ, (בְּנֵי) בִנְיָמְן, לִשְׁמעַ, בְּקוֹל אֲחֵיהֶם בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

13 Now therefore deliver up the men, the base fellows that are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel.

יד וַיֵּאָסְפוּ בְנֵי-בִנְיָמִן מִן-הֶעָרִים, הַגִּבְעָתָה, לָצֵאת לַמִּלְחָמָה, עִם-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

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

טו וַיִּתְפָּקְדוּ בְנֵי בִנְיָמִן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, מֵהֶעָרִים, <mark>עֶשְׁרִים וְשִׁשְּׁה אֶלֶף אִישׁ,</mark> **15** And the children of Benjamin numbered on that day out of the cities twenty and six

<mark>שׁלֵף חָרֶב-</mark>-לְבַד מִיּשְׁבֵי הַגִּבְעָה, הִתפָּקדוּ, שָׁבַע מֵאוֹת, אִישׁ בָּחוּר. thousand men that drew sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred chosen men.

טז מִכּל הָעָם הַזֶּה, שְׁבַע מֵאוֹת אִישׁ בָּחוּר, אִטֵּר, יַד-יְמִינו: כָּל-זֶה, קלֵעַ בָּאֶבֶן אֶל-הַשַּׁעֲרָה--וְלֹא יַחֵטָא. {פ} **16** All this people, even seven hundred chosen men, were left-handed; every one could sling stones at a hair-breadth, and not miss. {**P**}

 יז וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הִתְפָּקְדוּ, לְבַד מִבּנְיָמִן, , שׁלֵף חָרֶב אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף אִישׁ: כָּל-זֶה, אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה. **17** And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword; all these were men of war.

יח וַיָּקְמוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ בִיתּ-אֵל, וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בַאלהִים, וַיּאמְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל, מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ בַתְּחִלָּה לַמִּלְחָמָה עם-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן; וַיִּאמֶר יְהוָה, יְהוּדָה בַתִּחַלֶּה. **18** And the children of Israel arose, and went up to Beth-el, and asked counsel of God; and they said: 'Who shall go up for us first to battle against the children of Benjamin?' And the LORD said: 'Judah first.'

See chapter 1:1-2 – parallel

Opening lines of Sefer Shoftim

א וַיְהִי, אַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹשֵׁעַ, **וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בְּנֵי** יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּיהוָה לֵאמר: מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָּנוּ אֶל-הַכְּנַעֲנִי בַּתְּחִלָּה, לְהִלֶּחֶם בּוֹ.

1 And it came to pass after the death of Joshua, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying: 'Who shall go up for us first against the Canaanites, to fight against them?'

ב וַיּאֹמֶר יְהוָה, יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה: הִּנֵּה נַתַתִּי אֵת-הָאָרֵץ, בִּיָדוֹ.

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

Continuing now in chapter 20

יט וַיָּקוּמוּ בְנִי-יִשְרָאֵל, בַּבּקֶר; וַיַּחֲנוּ, עַל-הַגִּבְעָה. **19** And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.

ב וַיֵּצֵא אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, לַמִּלְחָמָה עִם-בִּנְיָמִן;וַיַּעַרְכוּ אִתָּם אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִלְחָמָה, אֶל-הַגִּבְעָה.

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

כֹא וַיֵּצְאוּ בְנִי-בִנְיָמֶן, מִן-הַגִּבְעָה; וַיַּשְׁחִיתוּ בְיִשְׂרָאֵל בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, <mark>שְׁנַיִם וְעֶשְׂרִים</mark> <mark>אֵלֶף אִישׁ--אָרְצָה.</mark>

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

כב וַיּתְחַזֵּק הָעָם, אִישׁ יִשְׁרָאֵל; וַיּסְפוּ, לַעֲרְדְּ מִלְחַמָה, בַּמַקום, אֵשֶׁר-עַרְכוּ שָׁם בַּיּוֹם 22 And the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves, and set the battle again in array in the place where they set themselves in array the first

.ווי מראשון day.

כֹג וַיַּעֲלוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׁרָאֵל, וַיִּבְכּוּ לִפְנֵי-יְהוָה עַדּ-הָעֶרֶב, וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בִיהוָה לֵאמר, הַאוֹסִיף לְגֶשֶׁת לַמְּלְחָמָה עִם-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן אָחִי; וַיּאמֶר יְהוָה, עַלוּ אֵלֵיוּ. {פ}

23 And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even; and they asked of the LORD, saying: 'Shall I again draw nigh to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?' And the LORD said: 'Go up against him.' {P}

כד וַיִּקְרְבוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמְן, בַּיּוֹם השׁני.

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

כּהֹ וַיֵּצֵא בִנְיָמִן לִקְרָאתָם מִן-הַגִּבְעָה, בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי, וַיַּשְׁחִיתוּ בִּבְנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל עוֹד שְׁמנַת עָשָׁר אֶלֶף אִישׁ, אָרְצָה: כָּל-אֵלֶה, שֹׁלְפֵי חָרֶב.

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

כּוֹ וַיַּעֲלוּ כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל-הָעָם וַיִּבֹאוּ בֵיתּ-אֵל, וַיִּבְכּוּ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, וַיָּצוּמוּ בַיּוֹם-<u>הַהוֹא, עַד-הָעָרָב</u> ; וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלוֹת וּשְׁלָמִים, לִפְנֵי יהוה.

26 Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto Beth-el, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even; and they offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before the LORD.

כז וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בְנִי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּיהוָה; **וְשָׁם, אֲרוֹן** בְּרִית הָאֱלֹהִים, בַּיָּמִים, הָהֵם. **27** And the children of Israel asked of the LORD--for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

כח ופינְחָס בֶּן-אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן-אַהֲרן עמֵד לְפָנָיו, בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם לֵאמר, הַאוֹסף עוד לָצֵאת לַמִּלְחָמָה עם-בְּנִי-בִנְיָמִן אָחִי, אם-אֶחְדַּל; וַיֹּאמֵר יִהוָה עֵלוּ, כִּי מַחָר אֵתִּנֵנּוּ בִיָּדֵךְ. 28 and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days--saying: 'Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease?' And the LORD said: 'Go up; for tomorrow I will deliver him into thy hand.'

כט וַיָּשֶׂם יִשְׁרָאֵל אֹרְבִים, אֶל-הַגּּבְעָה סְבִיב. {פ}

29 And Israel set liers-in-wait against Gibeah round about. **{P**}

ל וַיַּעֲלוּ בְנִי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן, בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי ; וַיַּעַרְכוּ אֶל-הַגִּבְעָה, כְּפַעַם בְּפָעַם. **30** And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and set themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times.

לא וַיֵּצְאוּ בְנִי-בִּנְיָמִן לִקְרַאת הָעָם, הָנְתְּקוּ מִן-הָעִיר; וַיָּחֵלּוּ לְהַכּּוֹת מֵהָעָם חֲלָלִים כְּפַעַם בְּפַעַם, בַּמְסִלּוֹת אֲשֶׁר אַחַת עֹלָה בִית-אֵל וְאַחַת גִּבְעָתָה בַּשָּׂדֶה, כִּשְׁלֹשִים אִישׁ, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. 31 And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite and kill of the people, as at other times, in the field, in the highways, of which one goeth up to Beth-el, and the other to Gibeah, about thirty men of Israel.

לב וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן, נִנְּפִים הַם לְפָנֵינוּ

32 And the children of Benjamin said: 'They are smitten down before us, as at the first.' But the children of Israel

ּכְּבָרְאשׁנָה; וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָמְרוּ, נָנוּסָה וּנְתַקִּנוּהוּ, מִן-הָעִיר, אֵל-הַמִּסְלּוֹת. said: 'Let us flee, and draw them away from the city unto the highways.'

לג וְכל אִישׁ יִשְּׁרָאֵל, קָמוּ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ, וַיַּעַרְכוּ, בְּבַעַל תָּמָר; וְארֵב יִשְׁרָאֵל מֵגִיחַ מִמְּקמוּ, מִמֵּעֵרָה-גַּבַע.

33 And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and set themselves in array at Baal-tamar; and the liers-inwait of Israel broke forth out of their place, even out of Maareh-geba.

לד וַיָּבֹאוּ מִנֶּגֶד לַגִּבְעָה עֲשֶׂרֶת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ בָּחוּר, מִכָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְהַמְּלְחָמָה, כְּבֵדָה; וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ, כִּי-נגַעַת עֲלֵיהֶם הָרָעָה. {פ}

34 And there came over against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore; but they knew not that evil was close upon them. {**P**}

לה וַיִּגֹּף יְהוָה אֶת-בִּנְיָמִן, לִפְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיַּשְׁחִיתוּ בְנֵי יִשְרָאֵל בְּבִנְיָמִן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, עֶשְרִים וַחֲמִשָּׁה אֶלֶף וּמֵאָה אִישׁ: כָּל-אֵלֶּה, שׁלֵף חַרֵב.

35 And the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel; and the children of Israel destroyed of Benjamin that day twenty and five thousand and a hundred men; all these drew the sword.

לו וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי-בִנְיָמִן, כִּי נִגָּפוּ ; וַיִּתְּנוּ אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל מָקוֹם, לְבִנְיָמִן, כִּי בָטְחוּ אֶל-הָארֵב, אַשֵּׁר-שָׁמוּ אֵל-הַגִּבְעָה.

36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten. And the men of Israel gave place to Benjamin, because they trusted unto the liers-in-wait whom they had set against Gibeah.--

לז וְהָאֹרֵב הֵחִישׁוּ, וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ אֶל-הַגִּבְעָה; וַיִּמְשׁדְּ, הָאֹרֵב, **וַיִּדְ אֶת-כָּל-הָעִיר, לְפִי-חָרֶב**....

37 And the liers-in-wait hastened, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers-in-wait drew forth, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword.

מוּ וַיְהִי כָּל-הַנּפְלִים מִבּנְיָמִן, עֶשְׂרִים וַחֲמִשָּׁה אֶלֶף אִישׁ שׁלֵף חֶרֶב--בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא: אֶת-כָּל-אֵלֶה, אַנִשִׁי-חָיָל.

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

מז וַיִּפְנוּ וַיָּנֵסוּ הַמִּדְבָּרָה, אֶל-סֶלֵע הָרְמּוֹן, שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת, אִישׁ ; וַיִּשְׁבוּ בְּסֶלַע רְמּוֹן, אַרְבָּעָה חֵדָשִׁים. **47** But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon, and abode in the rock of Rimmon four months.

מח וְאִישׁ יִשְּׂרָאֵל שְׁבוּ אֶל-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמְן, וַיַּכּוּם לְפִי-חֶרֶב, מֵעִיר מְתֹם עַד-בְּהֵמְה, עַד כָּל-הַנִּמְצָא; גַּם כָּל-הֶעָרִים הַנִּמְצָאוֹת, שָׁלָחוּ בַאֵשׁ. {פּ}

48 And the men of Israel turned back upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, both the entire city, and the cattle, and all that they found; moreover all the cities which they found they set on fire. **{P**}

Note parallel to laws of "ir ha'nidachat" in Devarim chapt 13 Chapter 21

א וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל, נִשְׁבַּע בַּמִּצְפָּה לֵאמר: אִישׁ מִמֵּנוּ, לֹא-יִתָּן בָּתּוֹ לִבְנִיָמִן לִאִשָּׁה.

1 Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying: 'There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.'

בּ וַיָּבִא הָעָם, בֵּית-אֵל, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד-הָעֶרָב, לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים ; וַיִּשְׁאוּ קוֹלָם, וַיִּבְכּוּ בְּכִי עדול **2** And the people came to Beth-el, and sat there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore.

ג וַיּאמְרוּ--לָמָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הָיְתָה זאת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: לְהִפָּקֵד הַיּוֹם מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, שֵׁבֶט אֵחַד.

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

ד וַיְהִי, מִמְּחֲרָת, וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ הָעָם, וַיִּבְנוּ-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ; וַיִּעֲלוּ עלוֹת, וּשְׁלָמִים. {פ} 4 And it came to pass on the morrow that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. {P}

ה וַיּאמְרוּ, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה בַּקָּהָל מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-יְהוָה: כִּי הַשְּׁבוּעָה הַגְּדוֹלָה הָיְתָה, לַאֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה לֵאמר--מוֹת יוּמָת. **5** And the children of Israel said: 'Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up in the assembly unto the LORD!' For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up unto the LORD to Mizpah, saying: 'He shall surely be put to death.'

ּ וּיִּנְּחֲמוּ בְּנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל, אֶל-בִּנְיָמִן אָחִיוּ; וַיּאמְרוּ, נִגְדַע הַיּוֹם שֵׁבֶט אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל.

6 And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said: 'There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.

ז מַה-נַּצְשֶׂה לָהֶם לַנּוֹתָרִים, לְנָשִׁים ; וַאֲנַחְנוּ נִשְׁבַּעְנוּ בַיהוָה, לְבִלְתִּי תֵּת-לָהֶם מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ לנשים.

7 How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?

ת וַיּאמְרוּ--מִי אֶחָד מִשִּׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר לא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה; וְהִנֵּה לֹא בָא-אִישׁ אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה, מִיָּבֵישׁ גִּלְעָד--אֶל-הַקָּהָל.

8 And they said: 'What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up unto the LORD to Mizpah!' And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.

ט וַיִּתְפָּקֵד, הָעָם ; וְהִנֵּה אֵין-שָׁם אִישׁ, מִיּוֹשָׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד.

9 For when the people were numbered, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

י וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ-שָׁם הָעֵדָה, שְׁנֵים-עֲשָׂר אֶלֶף אִישׁ--מִבְּנֵי הֶחָיִל; וַיְצֵוּוּ אוֹתָם לֵאמר, לְכוּ וְהַבִּיתֶם אֶת-יושְבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד לְפִי-חֶרֶב, וְהַנָּשִׁים,

10 And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying: 'Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the little ones.

יא וְזֶה הַדְּבָר, אֲשֶׁר תַּצְשׂוּ: כָּל-זָכָר, וְכָל-

11 And this is the thing that ye shall do: ye shall utterly destroy every male, and

י אָשָׁה ידַעַת מִשְׁכַּב-זָכֶר--תַּחֲרִימוּ. פּvery woman that hath lain by man.

יב וַיִּמְצְאוּ מִיּוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵישׁ גִּלְעָד, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת נַעֲרָה בְתוּלָה, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדְעָה אִישׁ, לְמִשְׁכַּב זָכָר; וַיָּבְאוּ אוֹתָם אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה שִׁלֹה, אֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֵץ כָּנַעַן. {פ}

12 And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, that had not known man by lying with him; and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. {P}

יג וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ, כָּל-הָעֵדָה, וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶל-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן, אֲשֶׁר בְּסֶלַע רִמּוֹן , וַיִּקְרְאוּ לָהֶם, שָׁלוֹם.

13 And the whole congregation sent and spoke to the children of Benjamin that were in the rock of Rimmon, and proclaimed peace unto them.

יד וַיָּשָׁב בִּנְיָמִן, בָּעֵת הַהִּיא, וַיִּתְּנוּ לָהֶם הַנָּשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר חִיּוּ מִנְשֵׁי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד; וְלֹא-מֵצְאוּ לַהֶם, כֵּן. 14 And Benjamin returned at that time; and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead; and yet so they sufficed them not.

טו וְהָעָם נִחָם, לְבִנְיָמִן: כִּי-עָשָׂה יְהוָה פֶּּרֶץ, בִּשִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

15 And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

טז וַיּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי הָעֵדָה, מַה-נַּעֲשֶׂה לַנּוֹתָרִים לְנָשִׁים: כִּי-נִשְׁמְדָה מִבִּנְיָמִן, אִשָּׁה.

16 Then the elders of the congregation said: 'How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?'

יז וַיּאמְרוּ, יְרֵשַׁת פְּלֵיטָה לְבִנְיָמִן ; וְלֹא־. יִּמֶחָה שַׁבֶּט, מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל. **17** And they said: 'They that are escaped must be as an inheritance for Benjamin, that a tribe be not blotted out from Israel.

יח וַאֲנַחְנוּ, לא נוּכַל לָתֵת-לָהֶם נָשִׁים--מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ: בִּי-נִשְׁבְּעוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמר, אָרוּר, נֹתֵן אִשָּה לְבִנְיָמִן. {ס}

18 Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters. For the children of Israel had sworn, saying: 'Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.' {S}

יט וַיּאמְרוּ הִנֵּה חַג-יְהוָה בְּשִׁלוֹ מִיָּמִים יָמִימָה, אֲשֶׁר מִצְפוֹנָה לְבֵית-אֵל מִזְרְחָה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ, לִמְסִלָּה, הָעלָה מִבֵּית-אֵל שְׁכֶמָה--וֹמִנֵּגָב, לִלְבוֹנָה. 19 And they said: 'Behold, there is the feast of the LORD from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north of Beth-el, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Beth-el to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.'

ב ויצו (וַיְצַוּוּ), אֶת-בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן לֵאמֹר: לְכוּ, וַאֲרַבְתֶּם בַּכְּרָמִים. **20** And they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying: 'Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;

כֹא וּרְאִיתֶם, וְהִנֵּה אִם-יֵצְאוּ בְנוֹת-שִׁילוֹ לָחוּל בַּמְּחלוֹת, וִיצָאתֶם מִן-הַכְּרָמִים, וַחֲטַפְתֶּם לָכֶם אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ מִבְּנוֹת שִׁילוֹ; וַהֲלַכְתֶּם, אֶרֶץ בִּנְיָמִן. 21 and see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

כב וְהָיָה פִּי-יָבֹאוּ אֲבוֹתָם אוֹ אֲחֵיהֶם לרוב (לָרִיב) אֵלֵינוּ, וְאָמֵרְנוּ אֲלֵיהֶם חָנּוּנוּ אוֹתָם--פִּי לֹא לָקַחְנוּ אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ, בַּמִּלְחָמָה: כִּי לֹא אַתֶּם נְתַתֶּם לָהֶם, כָּעֵת תֶּאְשָׁמוּ. {ס}

כג וַיַּצְשׁוּ-כֵּן, בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן, וַיִּשְׁאוּ נָשִׁים לְמִסְפָּרָם, מִן-הַמְּחלְלוֹת אֲשֶׁר גְּזָלוּ; וַיֵּלְכוּ, וַיָּשׁוּבוּ אֶל-נַחֲלָתָם, וַיִּבְנוּ אֶת-הֶעָרִים, וַיִּשׁבוּ בּהם.

כד וַיִּתְהַלְּכוּ מִשָּׁם בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּעֵת הַהִּיא, אִישׁ לְשִׁבְטוֹ וּלְמִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ; וַיֵּצְאוּ מִשָּׁם, אִישׁ לִנָחֵלָתוֹ. {פ}

כה בַּיָּמִים הְהֵם, אֵין מֶלֶדְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: אִישׁ הַיַּשַׁר בָּעִינֵיו, יַעֲשֵׁה. {ש} 22 And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come to strive with us, that we will say unto them: Grant them graciously unto us; because we took not for each man of them his wife in battle; neither did ye give them unto them, that ye should now be guilty.' {S}

23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they carried off; and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and built the cities, and dwelt in them.

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

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

In light of this final unit, let's review the outline

	II.	Review	of the	Outline
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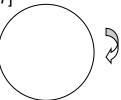
<u>Chapter</u> <u>Topic</u>

- 1 Background Who conquered, and who didn't [A seque from Sefer Yehoshua to Shoftim]
- 2 Stating the thesis the 'cycle' intro to the first theme:

 → The danger of appointing a King

[leaving God -> trouble -> 'crying out' -> salvation -> quiet...]

[compare this cycle with Tehillim 107]



3 - 8 Proving the thesis - the 'good' "shoftim" [judges]

The stories of

Otniel (40 years)

Ehud (80 years / includes Shamgar?),

Devorah (40 years)

Gideon (40 years, note request re: King at end of story!)

- 9 -10 The story re: Avimelech an 'anomoly'

 Intro to the second theme: The danger of not appointing a King

 [note how Avimelech does not fit the above cycle note his character]
- 10 -16 The stories re: Yiftach & Shimshon Proof from the 'not so good' "shoftim" note years are not '40'
 Note as well the numerous 'one-liner' shoftim
- 17 -21 Three additional 'stories' ' not involving"shoftim"

Third & final theme: the need for educational leadership of shevet Levi Note the phrase "ba'yamim ha'heym, ein melech b'Yisrael..."

In each story - note as well how they relate to 'anarchy'

Pay attention to the character of the "ish Levi" involved in each story!

- 1. "pesel Micha" Idol made by Micha & shevet Dan,
- 2. "pilegesh b'Givah" (how & why he cut up her body)
- 3. "milchemet Binyamin" the civil war against Binyamin & the attempt to find wives for the 600 male survivors.

III. Tehiilim 107, Applying the lesson of Sefer Shfotim

Shmuel the author 'Rebbe' of King David Author of Tehillim

In light of this, let's analyze Tehillim 107
Noting a similar cycle, as in Sefer Shoftim

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תהילים פרק קז א הדו ליהוה כי-טוב: כי לעולם חסדו.
       יאמרו, גאולי יהוה-- אשר גאלם, מיד-צר.
                                                                                               1
וּמֶאֶרַצוֹת, קבָּצָם: מִמְיָרַח וּמְמַעַרַב; מְצַפון וּמִיַם.
                            . עיר מושב, לא מַצָאוּ דָרָדְ יָרָר מושב, לא מַצָאוּ
                                   ַרְעֶבִים גַּם-צְמֵאִים-- נַפִּשָׁם, בַּהֶם תִּתְעֲטַף.
                                                                                              n
                ַוּיִצְעַקוּ אֵל-יִהוַה, בַּצַר לַהֶּם; מִמְצוּקוֹתֵיהֶם, יַצִּילֵם.
                                                                                               1
                וַיַּדְרִיכֵם, בְּדֶרֵדְ יִשָּׁרָה-- לָלֵכֵת, אֱל-עִיר מוֹשַׁב.
                                                                                               7
             יודו לַיהוַה חַסְדּוֹ; וְנִפְלָאוֹתַיוּ, לִבְנֵי אַדַם.
                                                                                              n
    ַכִּי-הִשִּׂבִּיעַ, נַפֵּשׁ שֹׁקַקָּה; וְנַפֵּשׁ רְעַבָּה, מִלֵּא-טוֹב.
                                                                                              0
                                       ּיִשְׁבֵי, חֹשֵׁךְ וְצַלְמָוֵת; אַסִירֵי עֵנִי וּבַרְזֵל.
                                                                                             לא
                                       ַנִּי-הָמָרוּ אָמָרֵי-אֵל; וַעֲצַת עֵלִיוֹן נַאַצוּ.
                                            ַוַיַּכְנַע בֵּעַמַל לְבַּם ; כַּשָּׁלוּ, וָאֵין עֹזֶר.
                                                                                             יב
              ַוּיִזְעֵקוּ אֱל-יִהוָה, בַּצַר לָהֶם; מִמְּצֵקוֹתֵיהֶם, יוֹשִׁיעֵם.
                                                                                             >
                יוֹצִיאֵם, מֵחשׁךְ וְצַלְמָוֵת; וּמוֹסְרוֹתֵיהֵם יְנַתֵּק.
                                                                                             7)
             יודו לַיהוָה חַסְדוֹ; וְנִפְלְאוֹתֵיוֹ, לְבְנֵי אַדָם.
                                                                                             10
          כִּי-שִׁבַּר, דַּלְתוֹת נָחֹשֵׁת; וּבְרִיחֵי בַרְזֵל גָּדֵעַ.
                                                                                             10
                                   אַוְלִים, מִדֶּרֶדְ פִּשְׁעַם; וּמֵעֲוֹנֹתֵיהֵם, יִתְעַנּוּ.
                                                                                             7>
                              בַּל-אכֶל, תַּתַעב נַפִּשָּם; וַיַּגִּיעוּ, עַד-שַעַרִי מַוֶת.
                                                                                             יח
               ַנִיּזְעֵקוּ אֱל-יִהוַה, בַּצֵּר לַהֶּם; ַ מִמְצִקוֹתֵיהֶם יוּשִיעֵם.
                                                                                             5
                   יִשְׁלַח דָּבָרוֹ, וִיִרְפָּאֶם; וִימַלֵּט, מְשָּׁחִיתוֹתַם.
                                                                                              Þ
            יודו לַיהוַה חַסְדוֹ; וְנְפַלְאוֹתַיוֹ, לְבְנֵי אַדַם
                                                                                            とり
          וִיזָבָּחוּ, זָבָחֵי תוֹדַה; וִיסַפִּרוּ מַעֵשַיו בִּרְנַּה.
                                                                                             כב
                           בג ז יורדי הַיַּם, בַּאַנִיוֹת ; עשִׁי מִלַאכָה, בִּמַיִם רַבִּים.
                             הַמַּה רָאוּ, מַעֲשֵׁי יָהוָה; וְנִפָּלְאוֹתַיוֹ, בִּמְצוּלָה.
                                                                                           בד]
                                 וַיּאמֶר--וַיַּעֲמֶד, רוּחַ סְעַרָה; וַתִּרוֹמֶם גַּלַיו.
                                                                                           [กว
                       יַעַלוּ שָׁמַיִם, יֵרְדוּ תָהוֹמוֹת ; נַפְשַׁם, בַּרַעַה תִתְמוֹגַג.
                                                                                           [15
                               יַחוֹגוּ וַיַנוּעוּ, כַּשִּׁכּוֹר; וַכַל-חַכִּמַתֵם, תִּתְבַּלַע.
                                                                                           [ 75
             ַוַיִּצְעַקוּ אֱל-יָהוַה, בַּצַר לַהֶּם; וּמִמְצוּקתֵיהֶם, יוֹצִיאֶם.
                                                                                           בת]
                           יַקֶם סְעָרָה, לִדִּמָמָה; וַיַּחֵשׁוּ, גַּלֵּיהֵם.
                                                                                            ひつ
                 וַיִּשְׁמְחוּ כִי-יִשְׁתִּקוּ; וַיַּנְחֶם, אֱל-מְחוֹז חֲפַצֵם.
                                                                                              ל
            יודו ליהוה חסדו; ונפלאותיו, לבני אדם.
                                                                                             לא
                                                                                             לב
 ָוִירוֹמָמוּהוּ, בָּקהַל-עַם; וּבָמוֹשַׁב זְקֵנִים יְהַלְלוּהוּ.
                                           לג ישם נהרות למדבר; ומצאי מים, לצמאון.
                                                 ַלָּד אֱרֵץ פָּרִי, לִמְלֶחָה; מֶרָעַת, יוֹשְׁבֵי בָה.
                                                                                             לה
                           ַיַשֶּׁם מִדָבַּר, לַאֲגָם-מַיִם; וַאֶרֶץ צִיַּה, לַמֹצַאֵי מַיִם.
                                        וַיִּכוֹנְנוּ, עִיר מוֹשָׁב. וַיִּכוֹנְנוּ, עִיר מוֹשָׁב.
                                                                                             לו
                                                                                             け
                            וַיָּזְרְעוּ שַׁדוֹת, וַיִּטָעוּ כָרָמִים; וַיַּעֲשוּ, פַּרִי תִבוּאַה.
                                    ַוּיִבַרְכֶם וַיִּרְבּוּ מָאֹד ; וּבְהֶמְתַּם, לֹא יַמְעִיט.
                                                                                             לח
                                     וַיִּמְעֲטוּ וַיַּשֹׁחוּ-- מֵעֹצֵר רַעַה וְיַגוֹן.
                                                                                             לט
                                       ַ שַּׁפֶּךְ בּוּז, עַל-נִדִיבִים; וַיַּתִעֵם, בִּתֹחוּ לֹא-דָרֵךְ.
                                                                                             2
                                         מא וַיִשַׂגֶב אֶבִיוֹן מֵעוֹנִי; וַיַּשֵׂם כַּצֹאון, מִשְׁפַחוֹת.
                       יִרְאוּ יִשַּׁרִים וִיִשְׁמַחוּ; וְכַל-עַוְלַה, קַפְצַה פִּיהַ.
                                                                                             מב
                       מִי-חַכָם וִישִׁמַר-אֵלֶה; וִיתְבּוֹנְנוּ, חַסְדֵי יְהוָה.
                                                                                             מג
               מסכת ברכות - דף נד,ב ...אמר רב יהודה אמר רב ארבעה צריכין להודות:
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יורדי הים, -הולכי מדברות,- ומי שהיה חולה ונתרפא- ומי שהיה חבוש בבית האסורים ויצא