Variations on Abandonment: Yiphtach's Fate

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * February 20th 2023 * Houses, Divided: Families in Judges #5

1: God's abandonment

Judges 10:6-16

- (6) The Israelites again did what was offensive to the LORD. They served the Baalim and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines; they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. (7) And the LORD, incensed with Israel, surrendered them to the Philistines and to the Ammonites. (8) That year they battered and shattered the Israelites—for eighteen years—all the Israelites beyond the Jordan, in [what had been] the land of the Amorites in Gilead. (9) The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to make war on Judah, Benjamin, and the House of Ephraim. Israel was in great distress.
- (10) Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, "We stand guilty before You, for we have forsaken our God and served the Baalim."
- (11) But the LORD said to the Israelites, "[I have rescued you] from the Egyptians, from the Amorites, from the Ammonites, and from the Philistines. (12) The Sidonians, Amalek, and Maon also oppressed you; and when you cried out to Me, I saved you from them. (13) Yet you have forsaken Me and have served other gods. No, I will not deliver you again. (14) Go cry to the gods you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress!"
- (15) But the Israelites implored the LORD: "We stand guilty. Do to us as You see fit; only save us this day!" (16) They removed the alien gods from among them and served the LORD; and He could not bear the miseries of Israel.

- שופטים יי:ו'-ט"ז
- (ו) וַיֹּסִיפּוּ וּ בְּנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל לַעֲשׁוֹת הָרַע בְּעִינִי

 ה' וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֶת־הַבְּעָלִים וְאֶת־הָעֵשְׁתָּרוֹת
 וְאֶת־אֱלֹבֵי אֲרָם וְאֶת־אֱלֹבֵי צִידוֹן וְאֵת וּ
 אֱלֹבֵי מוֹאָב וְאֵת אֱלֹבֵי בְנִי־עַמּוֹן וְאֵת אֱלֹבֵי מוֹאָב וְאֵת אֱלֹבֵי בְנִי־עַמּוֹן וְאֵת אֱלֹבֵי נִיְשְׁרָאֵל וַיִּמְבְּרִם בְּיִדּי וֹן וְאֵת אֶלֹבִי נִיְשְׁרָאֵל וַיִּמְבְּרִם בְּיִדִּי וְיִּרְעֲצוּ הִיֹּיִ שְׁמֹנָה פִּלְּיבְּנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל בַּשְּׁנָה הַהִּיִא שְׁמֹנָה פַּלִּיבְנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל בַּשְׁנָה הַהִּיִא שְׁמֹנָה נִיִירְבְצוּ בְּנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל בַּשְׁנָה הַהִּיִא שְׁמֹנָה בְּנִי יִשְּׁרָאֵל בְּשְׁנָה הַהִּיִא שְׁמֹנָה בְּעָבְרוּ בְּנִי יִשְּׁרָאֵל בְּשְׁנָה הַהִּיִא שְׁמֹנָה בְּעָבְרוּ בְּנִי יִשְּׁרָאֵל בְּאָרְי בְּנִיִיעְמוֹן אָת־הַיִּרְבוֹן לְהִלְּחָה וַתַּצֶּר (ט) וַיַּעַבְּרוּ בְּנִי־עַמּוֹן וּבְבֵית אֶפְּרְיֵם וַתַּצֶּר (ט) וַיִּעַבְרוּ הְבָּיִיעְמוֹן וּבְבֵית אֶפְרְיֵם וַתַּצֶּר לִיִּים וְתַּצֶּר לִיִישְׁרָאֵל מְאִר. לִיִיִּבְיְהוֹן וּבְבֵית אֶפְרְיֵם וַתַּצֶּר לִיִים וְתִּצְיִר בְּיִינְיִיִן וּיִבְבִית אֵמֹן וּבְבֵית אַמְּרְיֵם וַתַּצֶּר לִיִּבְירוּ בְּנִיִינְיִיִן וּבְבִית אֶפְרְיֵם וַתַּצֶּר
- (י) וַיִּזְעֲקוּ בְּנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֶל־ה' לֵאמֹר חָטָאנוּ לָּךְ וְכִי עָזַבְנוּ אֶת־אֱלֹקֵינוּ וַנַּעֲבֹד אֶת־ הַבִּעָלִים: {פּ}
- (יא) נַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל־בְּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲלֹא מִמִּצְרַיִּם ׁוּמִן־הָגָאמֹרִי וּמִן־בְּנֵי עַמֹּוֹן וּמִן־ פְּלִשְׁתִּים: (יב) וְצִידוֹנִים וַעֲמָלֵק ׁוּמְעוֹן לָחֲצוּ אֶתְכֶם וַתִּצְעַקוּ אֵלַי וָאוֹשִׁיעָה אֶתְכֶם מִיָּדְם: (יג) וְאַתֶּם עוֹבְתָּם אוֹתִי וַתִּעַכְדוּ אֱלֹקִים אֲחַרִים לָכֵן לְא־אוֹסִיף לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם: (יד) לְכוֹּ וְזְעֲקוּ אֶל־הָנֶאֵלֹקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּחַרְתָּם בָּם הַמָּה יוֹשִׁיעוּ לָכֶם בְּעֵת צרתכִם:
- (טו) וַיּאמְרוּ בְנֵי־יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֶל־ה' חָטָׂאנוּ עֲשֵׂה־אַתָּה לָנוּ כְּכָל־הַטוֹב בְּעִינֵיךּ אַךְ הַצִּילֵנוּ נָא הַיִּוֹם הַזֶּהּ. (טז) וַיָּסִירוּ אֶת־ אֶלֹמֵי הַנֵּכָר מִקּרְבָּם וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֶת־ה' וַתִּקְצַר נַפִּשׁוֹ בַּעַמֵל יִשִּׂרָאֵל. {פּ}

2. Yiphtach's abandonment

Judges 11:1-11

- (1) Jephthah the Gileadite was an able warrior, who was the son of a prostitute. Jephthah's father was Gilead; (2) but Gilead also had sons by his wife, and when the wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out. They said to him, "You shall have no share in our father's property, for you are the son of an outsider." (3) So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the Tob country. Men of low character gathered about Jephthah and went out raiding with him.
- (4) Some time later, the Ammonites went to war against Israel. (5) And when the Ammonites attacked Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah back from the Tob country. (6) They said to Jephthah, "Come be our chief, so that we can fight the Ammonites."
- (7) Jephthah replied to the elders of Gilead, "You are the very people who rejected me and drove me out of my father's house. How can you come to me now when you are in trouble?" (8) The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Honestly, we have now turned back to you. If you come with us and fight the Ammonites, you shall be our commander over all the inhabitants of Gilead."
- (9) Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "[Very well,] if you bring me back to fight the Ammonites and the LORD delivers them to me, I am to be your commander." (10) And the elders of Gilead answered Jephthah, "The LORD Himself shall be witness between us: we will do just as you have said." (11) Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him their commander and chief. And Jephthah repeated all these terms before the LORD at Mizpah.

שופטים י"א:א'-י"א

(א) וְיִפְתָּח הַגּלְעָדִי הָיָה ֹגִּבְּוֹר חַיִּל וְהוּא בֶּן־אִשָּׁה זוֹנָה וַיִּוֹלֶד גִּלְעָד אָת־ יִפְתָּחִי (ב) וַתִּלֶד אֵשֶׁת־גִּלְעָד לוֹ בָּנִים וַיִּגְדְּלוּ בְנִי־הָאִשָּׁה וַיְּנִרְשׁוּ אֶת־יִפְתָּח בָּן־אִשָּׁה אַחֶרֶת אָתָהי (ג) וַיִּבְרַח יִפְתָּח מִפְּנֵי אֶחָיו וַיִּשֶׁב בְּאֶרֵץ טוֹב וַיְּתְלַקְטוּ אֶל־יִפְתָּח ֹאֲנָשִׁים רֵילִים וַיֵּצְאוּ עִמִּוֹי (פּ}

- (ד) וַיְהָי מִיֶּמְים וַיִּלְּחֲמִוּ בְנִי־עַמּוֹן עִם־ יִשְּׂרָאֵלּי (ה) וַיְהִיֹּ כַּאֲשֶׁר־נִלְחֲמִוּ בְנִי־ עַמּוֹן עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּלְכוּ וֹקְנִי גּלְעָׂד לָקַחַת אֶת־יִפְּתָּח מֵאֶרֵץ טְוֹבי (ו) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיִפְתָּח לְכָה וְהָיִיתָה לָנוּ לְקָצֵין וְנָלְחֲמָה בִּבְנִי עַמִּוֹןּי
- (ז) וַיּּאמֶר יִפְתָּחֹ לְזִקְנֵי גִלְעָּד הֲלֹא אַתֶּםׁ שְׁנֵאתֶם אוֹתִי וַתְּגָרְשׁוּנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי לָכֵוֹ עַתָּה שַׁבְנִי אֵלִי עַתָּה כַּאֲשֶׁר צַר לָכֵוֹ עַתָּה שַׁבְנוּ אֵלֶיךְ וְהָלַכְתָּ עִפְּנוּ וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בִּבְנִי עַמֵּוֹן וְהָיִיתְ לָנוּ לְרֹאשׁ לְכֹל ישִׁבֵי גִּלְעָד.
- (ט) וַיּאמֶר יִפְתָּח אֶל־זִקְנֵי גִּלְעָּד אִם־ מְשִׁיבִים אַתֶּם אוֹתִי ְלְהִלָּחֵם בּבְנֵי עַמּוֹן וְנְתַן ה' אוֹתָם לְפָנֵי אָנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה לָכֶם יִפְתָּח ה' יִהְיֶה שֹׁמֵעַ בִּינוֹתֵינוּ אִם־לְּא יִבְּרָךְ כֵּן נְעֲשֶׂהּ (יא) וַיֵּלֶהְ יִפְתָּח עִם־ זִקְנִי גִלְעָד וַיִּשִּׂימוּ הָעָם אוֹתוֹ עֲלֵיהֶם לְרֹאשׁ וּלְקָצֵין וַיְדַבֵּר יִפְתָּח אֶת־כָּל־ דְּבָרָיֶו לִפְנִי ה' בַּמִּצְפֶּהּ (פּ}

3: Victory and disaster

Judges 11:29-33

(29) Then the spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah. He marched through Gilead and Manasseh, passing Mizpeh of Gilead; and from Mizpeh of Gilead he crossed over [to] the Ammonites. (30) And Jephthah made the following vow to the LORD: "If you deliver the Ammonites into my hands, (31) then whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me on my safe return from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's and shall be offered by me as a burnt offering." (32) Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites and attacked them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands. (33) He utterly routed them—from Aroer as far as Minnith, twenty towns—all the way to Abel-cheramim. So the Ammonites submitted to the Israelites.

שופטים י"א:כ"ט-ל"ג

(כט) וַתְּהָי עַל־יִפְתָּחֹרְנְּחַ ה' וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת־ הַגִּלְעָד וְאֶת־מְנִשֶּׁה וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת־מִצְפֵּה גִּלְעָד וּמִמִּצְפֵּה גִלְעָד עָבַר בְּנִי עַמְּוֹןּ (ל) וַיִּצֹר יִפְתָּח נָדֶר לַה' וַיֹּאמֵר אִם־נָתוֹן תִּתֵּן אֶת־בְּנִי עַמּוֹן בְּיָדִיּ (לֹא) וְהָיֶה הַיּוֹצֵּא אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִדַּלְתֵי בֵיתִי לִקְרָאתִי בְּשׁוּבִי בְשָׁלוֹם מִבְּנֵי עַמֵּוֹן וְהָיָה ֹלִקְרָאתִי בְּשׁוּבִי עֹלֵה: {פ}

(לב) וַיִּעֲבֹר יִפְתָּח אֶל־בְּנִי עַמּוֹן לְהִלְּחֶם בָּם וַיִּתְנִם ה' בְּיָדְוֹּ (לֹג) וַיַּכֵּם מִעְרוֹעֵר וְעַד־בֹּאֲךְ מִנִּית עֶשְׂרִים עִיר וְעַד´אָבֵל כְּרָמִים מַכָּה גְּדוֹלָה מְאֹד וַיִּכֵּנְעוּ´בְּנִי עַמּוֹן מִפָּנֵי בִּנִי יִשִּׂרָאֵלּ (פּ}

Judges 11:34-40

(34) When Jephthah arrived at his home in Mizpah, there was his daughter coming out to meet him, with timbrel and dance! She was an only child; he had no other son or daughter. (35) On seeing her, he rent his clothes and said, "Alas, daughter! You have brought me low; you have become my troubler! For I have uttered a vow to the LORD and I cannot retract." (36) "Father," she said, "you have uttered a vow to the LORD; do to me as you have vowed, seeing that the LORD has vindicated you against your enemies, the Ammonites." (37) She further said to her father, "Let this be done for me: let me be for two months, and I will go with my companions and lament upon the hills and there bewail my maidenhood." (38) "Go," he replied. He let her go for two months, and she and her companions went and bewailed her maidenhood upon the hills. (39) After two months' time, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. She had never known a man. So it became a custom in Israel (40) for the maidens of Israel to go every year, for four days in the year, and chant dirges for the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

שופטים י"א:ל"ד-מי

(לד) וַיַּבֹא יִפְתַּח הַמָּצְפַּה ״אֵל־בֵּיתוֹ וְהָנֵה בָתוֹ'יצֵאת לָקָרַאתוֹ בָּתַפַּיִם וּבַמַחֹלוֹת וְרַקּ' הָיא יִחִידָה אֵין־לָוֹ מִמֶנוּוּ בֵּן אוֹ־בַתּי (לה) וַיָהָי כָרָאוֹתוֹ אוֹתַהּ וַיָּקָרָע אָת־בָּגַדַיו וַיֹּאמֶר אַהָה בִּתִּי הַכָרֵעַ הִכְרַעִתִּנִי וְאַתִּ הַיִּת בָּעַכָרֵי וָאַנֹכִי פַּצִיתִי פִי אֵל־ה' וִלֹא ֹאוּכַל לַשׁוּבּ (לו) וַתִּאמֶר אֵלַיו אַבִי ּ פַּצִיתַה אֵת־פִּיּרְ אֵל־ה' עַשֵּׂה לִי כַּאֲשֶׁר יַצָא מִפִּיך אַחֲרָי אֲשֶׁר עַשַּׂה ּלְךָּ ה' נָקַמוָת מֵאֹיָבֵיָךְ מִבְּנֵי עֲמַוֹן: (לוֹ) וַתֹּאמֶר ֹאֵל־ אָבִיהַ יֵעָשֵׂה לִּי הַדָּבָר הַזֵּה הַרְפֵּה מִמֵּנִי שָׁנַיִם חֶדַשִּׁים וְאֵלְכָה וְיַרַדְתִּי עַל־הֵהָרִים וָאֶבְכֶּה עַל־בָּתוּלַי אֲנֹכִי (ורעיתי) [וְרֵעוֹתָי]: (לח) וַיֹּאמֵר לֵכִי וַיִּשְׁלָח אוֹתָה שָׁנֵי חַדשִׁים ותַּלָּךְ הִיא'וַרֵעוֹתֵיה ותַּבַּךְ עַל־בָּתוּלֵיָהַ עַל־הֵהַרִים: (לט) וַיִּהִ״ מְקֵץוּ שָׁנַיָם חֲדַשִּׁים וַתַּשָּׁבֹ אֱל־אַבִּיהַ וַיַּעֲשׁ לַה אָלישׁ אַלֶּיר נְדָר וְהִיא לֹא־יַדְעָה אָלישׁ וַתָּהִי־חַק בִּיִשְרַאֱלֹּ (מ) מִיַּמִים ו יַמִּימַה תַלַכנָה בּנוֹת יִשָּׁרָאֵל לְתַנּוֹת לְבַת־יִפִּתָּח הַגִּלְעַדְיָ אַרְבַּעַת יָמִיִם בַּשָּׁנַה: {פּ

4: No way forward

Judges 12:7-10

- (7) Jephthah led Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and he was buried in one of the towns of Gilead.
- (8) After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem led Israel. (9) He had thirty sons, and he married off thirty daughters outside the clan and brought in thirty girls from outside the clan for his sons. He led Israel seven years. (10) Then Ibzan died and was buried in Bethlehem.

שופטים י"ב:ז"-יי

- (ז) וַיִּשְׁפִּט יִפְתָּח אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֵׁשׁ שָׁנֵים וַיָּטָת יִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי וַיִּקְבֵר בְּעָרֵי גַלִעֵד: {פ}
- (ח) וַיִּשְׁפַּט אַחֲרָיו אֶת־יִשְּׂרָאֵל אִבְצָן מִבֵּית לֵחֶם: (ט) וַיְהִי־לוֹ שְׁלשִׁים בָּנִים וּשְׁלשִׁים בָּנוֹת שַׁלַח הַחוּצָה וּשְׁלשִׁים בָּנוֹת הַבִּיא לְבָנָיו מִן־הַחוּץ וַיִּשְׁפִּט אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים: (י) וַיֵּמָת אִבְצָּן וַיִּקְבַך בְּבֵית לַחֵם: {פּ}

5: The national home

Judges 12:1-6

- (1) The men of Ephraim mustered and crossed [the Jordan] to Zaphon. They said to Jephthah, "Why did you march to fight the Ammonites without calling us to go with you? We'll burn your house down over you!" (2) Jephthah answered them, "I and my people were in a bitter conflict with the Ammonites; and I summoned you, but you did not save me from them. (3) When I saw that you were no saviors, I risked my life and advanced against the Ammonites; and the LORD delivered them into my hands. Why have you come here now to fight against me?"
- (4) And Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought the Ephraimites. The men of Gilead defeated the Ephraimites; for they had said, "You Gileadites are nothing but fugitives from Ephraim—being in Manasseh is like being in Ephraim." (5) The Gileadites held the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any fugitive from Ephraim said, "Let me cross," the men of Gilead would ask him, "Are you an Ephraimite?"; if he said "No," (6) they would say to him, "Then say shibboleth"; but he would say "sibboleth," not being able to pronounce it correctly. Thereupon they would seize him and slay him by the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites fell at that time.

שופטים י"ב:א'-ו'

- (א) וַיִּצְעֵק ֹאִישׁ אֶפְרַיִּם וַיִּעֲבֹך צָפּוֹנָה
 וַיֹּאמְרוֹּ לְיִפְתָּח מַהוּעַ וּ עָבַרְתָּ וּ לְהִלְּחֵם בִּבְּנִי־עַמֹּוֹן וְלָנוּ ֹלֹא לְּעְלָּתְ ֹלָלֶכֶת עִמְּּהְ בִּיתְה ֹנְעָלֶרָת עִמְּּהְ בִּאֲשׁי (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר יִּבְּתְּח ֹאֲלֵיך בָּאֲשׁי (ב) וַיִּאמֶר וּבְנִי־עַמּוֹן מְאֹד וָאָזְעַק אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא־וּבְנִי־עַמּוֹן מְאֹד וָאָזְעַק אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא־הוֹשֵׁעְתֶּם אוֹתִי מִיְדְם. (ג) וָאֶרְאֶה כִּי־ אֵינְרְ מִוֹשְׁיתָם אוֹתִי מִיְדְם. (ג) וָאֶרְאֶה כִּי־ אֵינְרְ מוֹשִׁיעַ וָאָשִׂימָה נַפְשִׁי בְּכַפִּיֹ וַ אֵאֶבְרָה ֹאֶל־בְּנִי עַמּוֹן וַיִּתְּנָם ה' בְּיָדִי וְעָמִּן וְלִמְיה וְיִנְם הֹיָּה לְהִלְּחֶם בִּיּ.
- (ד) וַיִּקְבֹּץ יִפְתָּחֹ אֶת־כָּל־אַנְשֵׁי גִּלְעָד וַיִּלָחֶם אֶת־אֶפְרָיֵם וַיַּכּוֹּ אַנְשֵׁי גִּלְעָד אֶת־ אֶפְרַיִם כִּי אָמְרוּ פְּלִיטֵי אֶפְרַיִּם אַנְּשֵׁהּ (ה) גִּלְעֶד בְּתִוֹך אֶפְרַיִם בְּתִוֹך מְנַשֶּׁהּ (ה) וַיִּלְכָּד גִּלְעֶד אָת־מֵעְבְּרָוֹת הַיַּרְבֵּן לְאֶפְרָיִם וְהָיָּה כִּי יֹאמְרוּ פְּלִיטֵי אֶפְרַיִּם אָעֲבֹרָה וַיֹּאמֶרוּ לוֹ אַנְשֵׁי־גִלְעֶד הַאֶפְרָיִם אָתָב לָה וַיִּאמֶר סִבּּלֶת וְלֹא יָכִיוֹ לְדַבֵּר בַּן וַיֹּאחֲזוּ אוֹתוֹ וַיִּשְׁחָטוּהוּ אֶל־מַעְבְּרוֹת הַיִּרְבֵּן וַיִּפּּלֹ בָּעֵת הַהִיא מֵאֶפְרַיִּם אַרְבַּעִים וּשְׁנִים אֵלֶף.

6: A question of leadership

Taanit 4a:4

As a preamble to the statement of Rabbi Berekhya, below, the Gemara cites that which Rabbi Shmuel bar Naḥmani said that Rabbi Yonatan said: Three people entreated God in an unreasonable manner, i.e., in situations where their requests might have received an unfavorable answer. To two of them God responded reasonably, with a favorable response to their requests, and to one God responded unreasonably, i.e., unfavorably, in a manner befitting the unreasonable request. And they are: Eliezer, servant of Abraham; Saul, son of Kish; and Jephthah the Gileadite.

תענית ד' א:ד'

אָמַר רַבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחְמָנִי אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹנָתָן: שְׁלֹשָׁה שָׁאֲלוּ שֶׁלֹּא כַּהוֹגֶן, לְשְׁנַיִם הָשִׁיבוּהוּ כַּהוֹגֶן, לְאֶחָד הָשִׁיבוּהוּ שֶׁלֹּא כַּהוֹגֶן. וְאֵלוּ הַן: אֱלִיעֶזֶר עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם, וְשָׁאוּל בֶּן קִישׁ, וְיִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי.

Rashi on Judges 11:39:1

She became the subject of a law. Legislation was enacted prohibiting any repetition of this, for, had he approached Pinchos, or had Pinchos approached him, he would have released him from his vow. But they refused to humble themselves, and were, thus, both responsible for her ruin. They were punished. The Divine Presence departed from Pinchos, as it is said in Divrei Hayamim, "Adonoy was with him previously." We learn that he was not with him later. And Yiftoch was afflicted with ulcerations and the loss of his limbs, as it is said, "He was buried in the cities of Gilod." Another interpretation: "She became the subject of a law in Yisroel" relates to the following passage.

רש'י על שופטים י"א:ל"ט:א'

ותהי חק. גזרו שלא יעשה אדם עוד
כן, שאלו הלך אצל פנחס, או הוא בא
אצלו, היה מתיר לו נדרו, עמדו
בגדולתן, ומבין שניהם אבדה, ונפרע
מהם, פנחס נסתלקה שכינה הימנו,
שנאמר בדברי הימים (א ט כ): לפנים
ה' עמו, למדנו שבסופו אינו עמו,
ויפתח הוכה בשחין וניפול אברים,
שנאמר (לקמן יב ז): ויקבר בערי
גלעד. ויש עוד לפתור: ותהי חק

בישראל. מחובר למקרא שלאחריו:

Judges 21:25

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

שופטים כ"א:כ"ה

(כה) בַּיָּמְים הָהֵם אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אָישׁ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעִינָיו יַעֲשֶׂהּ

<u>Judges 1:1-3</u>

(1) After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, "Which of us shall be the first to go up against the Canaanites and attack them?" (2) The LORD replied, "Let [the tribe of] Judah go up. I now deliver the land into their hands." (3) Judah then said to their brother-tribe Simeon, "Come up with us to our allotted territory and let us attack the Canaanites, and then we will go with you to your allotted territory." So Simeon joined them.

שופטים א':א'-ג'

(א) וַיְהִי אַחֲבִי מְוֹת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וִיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בְּנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל בַּה' לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה־לְּנֵוּ אֶל־ הַכְּנַעֲנֶי בַּתְּחִלֶּה לְהִלֶּחֶם בִּוֹּ (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה הִנָּה נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָבֶץ בְּיִדְוֹּ (ג) וַיִּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְשִׁמְעוֹן אָחִיו עֲלֵה אִתִּי בְגֹרָלִי וְנִלְּחֲמָה בִּכְּנַעֲנִי וְהָלַכְתִּי גַם־אֲנֵי אִתְּרָ, בְּגוֹרָלֶךָ וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ שִׁמְעוֹן.