

Things Fall apart:

Judges 17-21, Where Story, and Society, Fracture

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * June 15th 2021 * Storytelling and the rise of Kings lesson #3

1: The medium is the message

David M. Gunn and Donna Nolan Fewell, Narrative in the Hebrew Bible, 120:

With the final shattering of the pattern that has held together... the component stories in a larger story, the book comes to a fitting end... Like the plot, the very nation is shattered.

2: A hopeful beginning

Judges 17:1-6

(1) There was a man in the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah. (2) He said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, so that you uttered an imprecation which you repeated in my hearing—I have that silver; I took it.” “Blessed of the LORD be my son,” said his mother. (3) He returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother; but his mother said, “I herewith consecrate the silver to the LORD, transferring it to my son to make a sculptured image and a molten image. I now return it to you.” (4) So when he gave the silver back to his mother, his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave it to a smith. He made of it a sculptured image and a molten image, which were kept in the house of Micah. (5) Now the man Micah had a house of God; he had made an ephod and teraphim and he had inducted one of his sons to be his priest. (6) In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did as he pleased.

שופטים י"ז:א-ו

(א) וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וּשְׁמוֹ מִיכָהוּ:
 (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ אֵלַי וּמֵאֵה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר
 לָקַחְתָּ לְךָ וְאֵתִי [וְאֵת] אֲלִית וְגַם אֲמַרְתָּ
 בְּאָזְנֵי הַנְּהַ־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי אֲנִי לָקַחְתִּינוּ
 וְתֹאמַר אִמּוֹ בְּרַוְהַ בְּנֵי לֵיהוָה: (ג) וַיָּשֶׁב
 אֶת־אֵלָּהּ וּמֵאֵה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ וְתֹאמַר אִמּוֹ
 הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדָּשׁ־שֵׁתִי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לֵיהוָה מִיָּדִי
 לְבְנֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמַסֵּכָה וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ
 לָךְ: (ד) וַיָּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ וְתִקַּח
 אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף וְתַתְּנָהוּ לְצוּרָה וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ
 פֶּסֶל וּמַסֵּכָה וַיְהִי בְּבֵית מִיכָהוּ: (ה)
 וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה לֹן בֵּית אֱלֹהִים וַיַּעַשׂ אִפּוֹד
 וְתֵרָפִים וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת־גַּד אֶחָד מִבְּנָיו וַיְהִי־
 לוֹ לְכֹהֵן: (ו) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אֵין מֶלֶךְ
 בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ הַיֵּשֶׁר בַּעֲיָנָיו יַעֲשֶׂה: (פ)

3. A hidden reprimand

Deuteronomy 12:5-8

(5) but look only to the site that the LORD your God will choose amidst all your tribes as His habitation, to establish His name there. There you are to go, (6) and there you are to bring your burnt offerings and other sacrifices...(8) You shall not act at all as we now act here, every man as he pleases

דברים י"ב:ה-ח'

(ה) כִּי אִם־אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִכָּל־שְׁבֵטֵיכֶם לְשׁוּם אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שָׁם לְשַׁכְּנוֹ תִדְרָשׁוּ וּבָאתָ שָׁמָּה: (ו) וְהִבֵּאתֶם שְׁלֹמֶה עֲלֵתֵיכֶם וְזִבְחֵיכֶם... (ח) לֹא תַעֲשׂוּן כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר אֲנַחְנוֹ עֹשִׂים פֶּה הַיּוֹם אֵישׁ כָּל־הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵינָיו:

4. Further complication

Judges 17:7-13

(7) There was a young man from Bethlehem of Judah, from the clan seat of Judah; he was a Levite and had resided there as a sojourner. (8) This man had left the town of Bethlehem of Judah to take up residence wherever he could find a place. On his way, he came to the house of Micah in the hill country of Ephraim. (9) "Where do you come from?" Micah asked him. He replied, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem of Judah, and I am traveling to take up residence wherever I can find a place." (10) "Stay with me," Micah said to him, "and be a father and a priest to me, and I will pay you ten shekels of silver a year, an allowance of clothing, and your food." The Levite went. (11) The Levite agreed to stay with the man, and the youth became like one of his own sons. (12) Micah inducted the Levite, and the young man became his priest and remained in Micah's shrine. (13) "Now I know," Micah told himself, "that the LORD will prosper me, since the Levite has become my priest."

שופטים י"ז:ז-י"ג

(ז) וַיְהִי־נַעַר מִבֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה מִמְשַׁפַּחַת יְהוּדָה וְהוּא לֵוִי וְהוּא גֵר־שָׁם: (ח) וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ מִהָעִיר מִבֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה לְגוֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר יִמְצָא וַיָּבֹא הַר־אֶפְרַיִם עַד־בֵּית מִיכָה לַעֲשׂוֹת דְּרָכָו: (ט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ־לּוֹ מִיכָה מֵאִין תָּבוֹא וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לֵוִי אֲנֹכִי מִבֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה וְאֲנֹכִי הֵלֵךְ לְגוֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר אִמְצָא: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מִיכָה שְׁבֵה עִמָּדִי וְהָיִה־לִּי לְאָב וּלְכַהֵן וְאֲנֹכִי אֶתּוֹ־לֵךְ עֲשֹׂרֶת כֶּסֶף לַיָּמִים וְעֵרָה בְּגָדִים וּמַחֲתָה וַיֵּלֶךְ הַלֵּוִי: (יא) וַיֹּאֲלֵה לֵוִי לְשֹׁבֵת אֶת־הָאִישׁ וַיְהִי הַנַּעַר לוֹ כְּאֶחָד מִבָּנָיו: (יב) וַיִּמְלֵא מִיכָה אֶת־יַד הַלֵּוִי וַיְהִי־לוֹ הַנַּעַר לְכַהֵן וַיְהִי בְּבֵית מִיכָה: (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר מִיכָה עֲתָה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־יִיטֵיב יְהוָה לִּי כִּי הָיָה לִי הַלֵּוִי לְכַהֵן:

5: Another hopeful beginning

Judges 18:1-2

(1) In those days there was no king in Israel, and in those days the tribe of Dan was seeking a territory in which to settle; for to that day no territory had fallen to their lot among the tribes of Israel. (2) The Danites sent out five of their number, from their clan seat at Zorah and Eshtaol—valiant men—to spy out the land and explore it. “Go,” they told them, “and explore the land.” When they had advanced into the hill country of Ephraim as far as the house of Micah, they stopped there for the night.

Judges 18:8-11

(8) When [the men] came back to their kinsmen at Zorah and Eshtaol, their kinsmen asked them, “How did you fare?” (9) They replied, “Let us go at once and attack them! For we found that the land was very good, and you are sitting idle! Don’t delay; go and invade the land and take possession of it, (10) for God has delivered it into your hand. When you come, you will come to an unsuspecting people; and the land is spacious and nothing on earth is lacking there.” (11) They departed from there, from the clan seat of the Danites, from Zorah and Eshtaol, six hundred strong, girt with weapons of war.

Judges 18:15-27

(15) So they turned off there and entered the home of the young Levite at Micah’s house and greeted him. (16) The six hundred Danite men, girt with their weapons of war, stood at the entrance of the gate, (17) while the five men who had gone to spy out the land went inside and took the sculptured image, the ephod, the teraphim, and the molten image. The priest was standing at the entrance of the gate... (19) But they said to him, “Be quiet; put your hand on your mouth! Come with us and be our father and priest. Would you rather be priest to one man’s household or be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?” (20) The priest was delighted. He took the ephod, the household gods, and the sculptured image, and he joined the people... (27) taking the things Micah had made and the priest he had acquired. They proceeded to Laish, a people tranquil and unsuspecting, and they put them to the sword and burned down the town.

שופטים י"ח:א-ב

(א) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אִין מְלֶכָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וּבַיָּמִים הָהֵם שָׁבַט הַדָּנִי מִבְּקֹשֶׁת־לּוֹ נִחְלָה לְשֹׁבֵת כִּי לֹא־נָפְלָה לּוֹ עַד־הַיּוֹם הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ־שְׁבֻטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנִחְלָה: (ב) וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ בְנֵי־דָן וּמִמְשַׁפְּחֹתָם חֲמִשָּׁה אַנְשִׁים מִקְּצוֹתָם אַנְשִׁים בְּנֵי־חֵיל מִצָּרְעָה וּמֵאֲשֶׁתָּאֵל לְרַגֵּל אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְלַחְקֹרָהּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם לְכוּ חֲקְרוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּבְאוּ הַר־אֶפְרַיִם עַד־בֵּית מִיכָה וַיְלִינוּ שָׁם:

שופטים י"ח:ח-י"א

(ח) וַיִּבְאוּ אֶל־אֲחֵיהֶם צָרְעָה וְאֲשֶׁתָּאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶם אֲחֵיהֶם מָה אַתֶּם: (ט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ קוּמָה וְנַעֲלָה עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי רָאִינוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה טוֹבָה מְאֹד וְאַתֶּם מְחֹשִׁים אֶל־תַּעֲצָלוּ לְלַכֵּת לְבָא לְרִשֵׁת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: (י) כְּבֹאֲכֶם תְּבָאוּ וְאֶל־עַם בֵּטָח וְהָאָרֶץ רַחֲבַת יָדַיִם כִּי־נִתְּנָה אֲלֵהֶם בְּיַדְכֶם מִקּוֹם אֲשֶׁר אִין־שָׁם מַחְסוֹר כָּל־דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ: (יא) וַיִּסְעוּ מִשָּׁם מִמְשַׁפְּחַת הַדָּנִי מִצָּרְעָה וּמֵאֲשֶׁתָּאֵל שְׁש־מְאוֹת אִישׁ חָגוּר כָּלִי מִלְחָמָה:

שופטים י"ח:ט"ו-כ"ז

(טו) וַיִּסּוּרוּ שָׁמָּה וַיִּבְאוּ אֶל־בֵּית־הַנָּעַר הַלֵּוִי בֵּית מִיכָה וַיִּשְׁאַל־לוֹ לְשָׁלוֹם: (טז) וַיִּשְׁמַעֵם אִישׁ חָגוּרִים כָּלִי מִלְחָמָתָם נֹצְבִים פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר אֲשֶׁר מִבְּנֵי־דָן: (יז) וַיַּעֲלוּ חֲמִשַּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים הַהֹלְכִים לְרַגֵּל אֶת־הָאָרֶץ בָּאוּ שָׁמָּה לְקַחוּ אֶת־הַפְּסֶל וְאֶת־הָאֵפוֹד וְאֶת־הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת־הַמַּסְכָּה וְהַכֹּהֵן נֹצֵב פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר... (יט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַחֲרֹשׁ שָׁיִם־יָדוּךָ עַל־פִּיךָ וְלֹךְ עִמָּנוּ וְהִזֵּה־לָנוּ לְאָב וְלַכֹּהֵן הַטּוֹב וְהַיּוֹתֵךְ כֹּהֵן לְבֵית אִישׁ אֶחָד אוֹ הַיּוֹתֵךְ כֹּהֵן לְשְׁבֻט וְלִמְשַׁפְּחָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (כ) וַיִּיטֵב לֵב הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵפוֹד וְאֶת־הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת־הַפְּסֶל וַיִּבֵּא בְּקֶרֶב הָעָם... (כו) וְהֵמָּה לְקַחוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה מִיכָה וְאֶת־הַכֹּהֵן אֲשֶׁר הִזֵּה־לוֹ וַיִּבְאוּ עַל־לִישׁ עַל־עַם שְׁקֵט וּבֵטָח וַיִּכּוּ אוֹתָם לְפִי־חֶרֶב וְאֶת־הָעִיר שָׂרְפוּ בָאֵשׁ:

6: A family united?

Judges 19:1-3

(1) In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite residing at the other end of the hill country of Ephraim took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. (2) Once his concubine deserted him, leaving him for her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah; and she stayed there a full four months. (3) Then her husband set out, with an attendant and a pair of donkeys, and went after her to woo her and to win her back. She admitted him into her father's house; and when the girl's father saw him, he received him warmly.

Judges 19:25-28

(25) But the men would not listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and pushed her out to them. They raped her and abused her all night long until morning; and they let her go when dawn broke. (26) Toward morning the woman came back; and as it was growing light, she collapsed at the entrance of the man's house where her husband was. (27) When her husband arose in the morning, he opened the doors of the house and went out to continue his journey; and there was the woman, his concubine, lying at the entrance of the house, with her hands on the threshold. (28) "Get up," he said to her, "let us go." But there was no reply. So the man placed her on the donkey and set out for home.

Judges 19:29

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

שופטים י"ט:א-ג'

(א) וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמְלֹךְ אִין בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי אִישׁ לְוִי גֵר בְּיַרְכְּתֵי הַר־אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ אִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁת מִבֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה׃
(ב) וַתִּזְנֶה עָלָיו פִּילְגֶשֶׁת וַתֵּלֶךְ מֵאִתּוֹ אֶל־בֵּית אָבִיהָ אֶל־בֵּית לָחֵם יְהוּדָה וַתְּהִי־שָׁם יָמִים אַרְבָּעָה חֳדָשִׁים׃ (ג)
וַיִּקֶם אִישׁוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ אַחֲרֶיהָ לְדַבֵּר עַל־לְבָבָהּ לְהָשִׁיבוּ [לָהּ שִׁיבָה] וַנִּעְרְוּ עִמּוֹ וַצְּמַד חֲמֹרִים וַתְּבִיאֶהוּ בֵּית אָבִיהָ וַיֵּרְאֶהוּ אָבִי הַנִּעְרָה וַיִּשְׂמַח לְקִרְאָתוֹ׃

שופטים י"ט:כ"ה-כ"ח

(כה) וּלְא־אָבוֹ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְשֹׁמֵעַ לוֹ וַיַּחְזֹק הָאִישׁ בַּפִּילְגֶשֶׁת וַיִּצָּא אֲלֵיהֶם הַחֹוֹץ וַיִּדְעוּ אֹתָהּ וַיִּתְעַלְלוּ־בָּהּ כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה עַד־הַבֹּקֶר וַיִּשְׁלַחוּהָ בַעֲלוֹת [כַּעֲלוֹת] הַשָּׁחַר׃ (כו) וַתָּבֹא הָאִשָּׁה לַפְּנֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַתִּפֹּל פְּתַח בֵּית־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אָדוּגְיָה שָׁם עַד־הָאֹר׃ (כז) וַיִּקֶם אָדוּגְיָה בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּפְתַּח דְּלָתוֹת הַבַּיִת וַיִּצָּא לְלַכֵּת לְדַרְכּוֹ וְהִנֵּה הָאִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁת נֹפֶלֶת פְּתַח הַבַּיִת וַיִּדְּיָה עַל־הַסֶּף׃ (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֶיהָ קוּמִי וַנִּלְכָּה וְאִין עִנְיָה וַיִּקְחָהּ עַל־הַחֲמֹר וַיִּקֶם הָאִישׁ וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמִקְמוֹ׃

שופטים י"ט:כ"ט

(כט) וַיָּבֵא אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת וַיַּחְזֹק בַּפִּילְגֶשֶׁת וַיַּנְתְּחָהּ לַעֲצָמֶיהָ לְשֹׁגְגִים עַשְׂרֵי נִתְחִים וַיִּשְׁלַחַהּ בְּכָל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל׃

7. A nation united?

Judges 20:11

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

שופטים כ"י"א

(יא) וַיֵּאסְפוּ כָּל-אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הָעִיר כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד
חִבְרִים: (פ)

Judges 20:18

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

שופטים כ"י"ח

(יח) וַיִּקְמוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ בֵּית-אֵל וַיִּשְׁאַלְנוּ בְּאֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמְרוּ
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָּנוּ בַּתְּחִלָּה לְמַלְחָמָה עִם-
בְּנֵי בְנֵימִן וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה יְהוּדָה בַּתְּחִלָּה:

Judges 21:1-12

(1) Now the men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: "None of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjaminite." (2) The people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening. They wailed and wept bitterly, (3) and they said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that one tribe must now be missing from Israel?"... (6) The Israelites now relented toward their kinsmen the Benjaminites, and they said, "This day one tribe has been cut off from Israel! (7) What can we do to provide wives for those who are left, seeing that we have sworn by the LORD not to give any of our daughters to them in marriage?" (8) They inquired, "Is there anyone from the tribes of Israel who did not go up to the LORD at Mizpah?" Now no one from Jabesh-gilead had come to the camp, to the assembly... (10) So the assemblage dispatched 12,000 of the warriors, instructing them as follows: "Go and put the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead to the sword, women and children included.. (12) They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 maidens who had not known a man carnally; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

שופטים כ"א:א'-י"ב

(א) וַאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִשְׁבַּע בְּמִצְפָּה לֵאמֹר אִישׁ
מִמֶּנּוּ לֹא יִתֵּן בָּתּוֹ לְבְנֵימִן לְאִשָּׁה: (ב) וַיָּבֹאוּ
הָעָם לְבֵית-אֵל וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד-הָעֶרֶב לַפְּנֵי
הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁאוּ קוֹלָם וַיִּבְכּוּ בְּכֵי גָדוֹל: (ג)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָמָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵיטָה זֹאת
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַפְּקֹד הַיּוֹם מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל שִׁבְט
אֶחָד... (ו) וַיִּנְחָמוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-בְּנֵימִן אֶחָד
וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִגְדַע הַיּוֹם שִׁבְט אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (ז)
מִה-נִּעֲשֶׂה לָּהֶם לְנוֹתָרִים לְנָשִׁים וַאֲנַחְנוּ
נִשְׁבַּעְנוּ בַּיהוָה לְבַלְתִּי תַתֵּן-לָהֶם מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ
לְנָשִׁים: (ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִי אֶחָד מִשְׁבְּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה אֶל-יְהוָה הַמִּצְפָּה וְהִנֵּה לֹא
בֶּא-אִישׁ אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה מִיְּבִישׁ גִּלְעָד אֶל-
הַקָּהָל... (י) וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ-שָׁם הָעֵדָה שְׁנַיִם-עָשָׂר
אֲלֵה אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַחֵיָל וַיִּצְווּ אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר לָכוּ
וְהַפִּיתֶם אֶת-יוֹשְׁבֵי יְבִישׁ גִּלְעָד לְפִי-חָרֵב
וְהַנָּשִׁים וְהַטָּף... (יב) וַיִּמְצְאוּ מִיוֹשְׁבֵי יְבִישׁ
גִּלְעָד אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת נְעָרָה בְּתוּלָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא-
יָדְעָה אִישׁ לְמִשְׁכַּב זָכָר וַיְבִיאוּ אוֹתָם אֶל-
הַמַּחֲנֶה שְׁלֵה אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן:

8. A legacy of violence

Judges 21:16-21

(16) So the elders of the community asked, “What can we do about wives for those who are left, since the women of Benjamin have been killed off?” (17) For they said, “There must be a saving remnant for Benjamin, that a tribe may not be blotted out of Israel; (18) yet we cannot give them any of our daughters as wives,” since the Israelites had taken an oath: “Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin!” (19) They said, “The annual feast of the LORD is now being held at Shiloh.” (It lies north of Bethel, east of the highway that runs from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.) (20) So they instructed the Benjaminites as follows: “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards. (21) As soon as you see the girls of Shiloh coming out to join in the dances, come out from the vineyards; let each of you seize a wife from among the girls of Shiloh, and be off for the land of Benjamin.

Judges 21:25

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

Judges 18:30-31

(30) The Danites set up the sculptured image for themselves; and Jonathan son of Gershom son of Manasseh, and his descendants, served as priests to the Danite tribe until the land went into exile. (31) They maintained the sculptured image that Micah had made throughout the time that the House of God stood at Shiloh.

שופטים כ"א:ט"ז-כ"א

(טז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ וְזָקְנֵי הָעֵדָה מַה־נַּעֲשֶׂה לְנוֹתְרִים לְנָשִׁים כִּי־נִשְׁמְדָה מִבְּנֵימֶן אִשָּׁה: (יז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְרֻשֶׁת פְּלִיטָה לְבְנֵימֶן וְלֹא־יִמָּחֶה שְׁבֵט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (יח) וַאֲנַחְנוּ לֹא נוֹכֵל לְתֵת־לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ כִּי־נִשְׁבָּעוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר אֲרוּר גֵּיתָן אִשָּׁה לְבְנֵימֶן: (ס) (יט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲיֵה חַג־יְהוָה בְּשָׁלוֹ מִיָּמִים וַיִּמְיָה אֲשֶׁר מִצְפֹּנָה לְבֵית־אֵל מְזֻרְחָה הַשָּׁמֶשׁ לְמִסְלָה הָעֵלְיָה מִבֵּית־אֵל שְׁכֵמָה וּמִגֹּב לְלִבְנָה: (כ) וַיִּצְוּ [וַיִּצְוּ] אֶת־בְּנֵי בְנֵימֶן לֵאמֹר לְכוּ וְאַרְבַּתֶּם בְּכַרְמִים: (כא) וְרֵאִיתֶם וְהֵינָה אִם־לִצְאוֹ בְּנוֹת־שִׁילוֹ לְחֹגֹל בַּמַּחְלוֹת וַיִּצְאֲתֶם מִן־הַכַּרְמִים וַחֲטַפְתֶּם לָכֶם אִישׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ מִבְּנוֹת שִׁילוֹ וְהִלַּכְתֶּם אֶרֶץ בְּנֵימֶן:

שופטים כ"א:כ"ה

(כה) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אִין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינָיו יַעֲשֶׂה:

שופטים י"ח:ל"א

(ל) וַיִּקְיֵמוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי־דָן אֶת־הַפֶּסֶל וַיְהִי וַנִּתֵּן בְּזֶגְרָשׁ בְּזֶגְרָשׁ הוּא וּבָנָיו הָיוּ כַהֲנָיִם לְשֹׁבֵט הַדָּנִי עַד־יּוֹם גְּלוֹת הָאָרֶץ: (לא) וַיִּשְׁיֵמוּ לָהֶם אֶת־פֶּסֶל מִיֶּכָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה כָּל־יְמֵי הַיּוֹת בֵּית־הָאֱלֹהִים בְּשִׁלֹּה: (פ)