

The Man Who Would Be King: Avimelech's Rise and Fall

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * January 30th 2023 * Houses, Divided: Families in Judges #4

1: A murderous brother

Judges 9:1-5

(1) Abimelech son of Jerubbaal went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and spoke to them and to the whole clan of his mother's family. He said, (2) "Put this question to all the citizens of Shechem: Which is better for you, to be ruled by seventy men—by all the sons of Jerubbaal—or to be ruled by one man? And remember, I am your own flesh and blood." (3) His mother's brothers said all this in his behalf to all the citizens of Shechem, and they were won over to Abimelech; for they thought, "He is our kinsman." (4) They gave him seventy shekels from the temple of Baal-berith; and with this Abimelech hired some worthless and reckless fellows, and they followed him. (5) Then he went to his father's house in Ophrah and killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men on one stone. Only Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, survived, because he went into hiding.

Genesis 37:13-20

(13) Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "I am ready." (14) And he said to him, "Go and see how your brothers are and how the flocks are faring, and bring me back word." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. When he reached Shechem, (15) a man came upon him wandering in the fields. The man asked him, "What are you looking for?" (16) He answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Could you tell me where they are pasturing?" (17) The man said, "They have gone from here, for I heard them say: Let us go to Dothan." So Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan. (18) They saw him from afar, and before he came close to them they conspired to kill him. (19) They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer! (20) Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we can say, 'A savage beast devoured him.' We shall see what comes of his dreams!"

שופטים ט':א-ה'

(א) וילך אבימלך בן־ירבעל שִׁכְמָה אֶל־
אָחֵי אִמּוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם וְאֶל־כָּל־מִשְׁפַּחַת
בֵּית־אָבִי אִמּוֹ לֵאמֹר: (ב) דַּבְּרוּ־נָא בְּאָזְנֵי
כָּל־בְּעָלֵי שְׁכָם מִה־טוֹב לָכֶם הַמִּשַׁל בְּכֶם
שִׁבְעִים אִישׁ כָּל בְּנֵי יִרְבֵּעַל אִם־מִשַׁל בְּכֶם
אִישׁ אֶחָד וּזְכַרְתֶּם כִּי־עַצְמְכֶם וּבְשַׂרְכֶם אָנִי:
(ג) וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶחָד־אֹמְרוֹ עָלָיו בְּאָזְנֵי כָּל־בְּעָלֵי
שְׁכָם אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֵּט לָבָם
אֶחָד־אֶבִּימֶלֶךְ כִּי אָמְרוּ אֶתְנֵנוּ הוּא: (ד)
וַיִּתְּנוּ־לוֹ שִׁבְעִים כֶּסֶף מִבֵּית בַּעַל בְּרִית
וַיִּשְׁכֹּר בָּהֶם אֶבִּימֶלֶךְ אַנְשִׁים רִיקִים וּפְחָזִים
וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו: (ה) וַיָּבֵא בֵּית־אָבִיו עֶפְרָתָה
וַיְהַרְגֵם אֶת־אָחָיו בְּנֵי־יִרְבֵּעַל שִׁבְעִים אִישׁ
עַל־אֶבֶן אֶחָת וַיּוֹתֵר יוֹתָם בֶּן־יִרְבֵּעַל הַקָּטָן
כִּי נִחְבֵּא: {ס}

בראשית ל"ז:י"ג-כ"

(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא אָחִיךָ
רָעִים בְּשִׁכְם לָכֶה וְאֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ אֲלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר
לוֹ הַנְּנִי: (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֹךְ־נָא רְאֵה אֶת־
שְׁלוֹם אָחִיךָ וְאֶת־שְׁלוֹם הַצֹּאן וְהַשֶּׁבִּי דַבֵּר
וַיִּשְׁלַחֵהוּ מֵעֶמְקַת חֶבְרוֹן וַיָּבֵא שִׁכְמָה: (טו)
וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ וְהָנָה תַּעֲהָ בַשָּׂדֶה וַיִּשְׁאַלֵהוּ
הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר מִה־תִּבְקֶשׁ: (טז) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־
אָחִי אָנֹכִי מִבְּקֶשׁ הַגִּידָה־נָא לִי אֵיפֹה הֵם
רָעִים: (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ נִסְעוּ מִזֶּה כִּי
שָׁמַעְתִּי אֹמְרִים גִּלְכָה דִּתְיָנָה וַיִּלְךָ יוֹסֵף
אֶחָד אָחָיו וַיִּמְצָאֵם בְּדוֹתָן: (יח) וַיִּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ
מֵרַחֵק וּבְטָרִם יָקָרְב אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְּנֻכְלוּ אֹתוֹ
לְהַמִּיתוֹ: (יט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחָיו הִנֵּה
בָּעַל הַחֲלָמוֹת הִלְזָה בָּא: (כ) וַעֲתָה וּלְכוּ
וְנִהַרְגְהוּ וְנִשְׁלַכְהוּ בְּאֶתֶד הַבְּרוֹת וְאִמְרֵנוּ
חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלָתוֹ וְנִרְאָה מִה־יְהִי
חֲלָמֵתוֹ:

2. Uncles and Nephews

Genesis 29:13-27

(13) On hearing the news of his sister's son Jacob, Laban ran to greet him; he embraced him and kissed him, and took him into his house. He told Laban all that had happened, (14) and Laban said to him, "You are truly my bone and flesh."

When he had stayed with him a month's time, (15) Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are a kinsman, should you serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ..(18) Jacob loved Rachel; so he answered, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." (19) Laban said, "Better that I give her to you than that I should give her to an outsider. Stay with me." ..(25) When morning came, there was Leah! So he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I was in your service for Rachel! Why did you deceive me?" (26) Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the older. (27) Wait until the bridal week of this one is over and we will give you that one too, provided you serve me another seven years."

Genesis 2:23

(23) Then the man said,
"This one at last
Is bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh.
This one shall be called Woman,
For from man was she taken."

בראשית כ"ט:י"ג-כ"ז

(יג) וַיְהִי כַשְׁמֹעַ לְבֶן אֶת־שָׁמֶעַ ו
יַעֲקֹב בֶּן־אָחִיתוֹ וַיֵּרָץ לְקָרְאָתוֹ
וַיַּחְבֵּק־לוֹ וַיִּנְשָׁק־לוֹ וַיְבִיֵאֵהוּ אֶל־
בֵּיתוֹ וַיְסַפֵּר לְלָבָן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה: (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לָבָן אַךְ
עַצְמִי וּבִשְׂרִי אֶתָּה וַיֵּשֶׁב עִמּוֹ חֹדֶשׁ
יָמִים: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב
הַכִּי־אָחִי אַתָּה וְעַבְדְּתָנִי חֲנָם
הַגִּידָה לִּי מַה־מְשַׁכְּרָתָה... (יח)
וַיֵּאָתֵב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־רַחֵל וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶעֱבֹדָה שְׁבַע שָׁנִים בְּרַחֵל בַּתָּהּ
הַקְטָנָה: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן טוֹב תַּתֵּן
אֶתָּה לָּהּ מִתַּתִּי אֶתָּה לְאִישׁ אַחֵר
שָׁבָה עִמָּדִי... (כה) וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר
וַהֲנִיָּה־הוּא לְאָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־לָבָן
מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי הֲלֹא בְרַחֵל־
עַבְדְּתִי עִמָּךְ וְלָמָּה רַמִּיתָנִי: (כו)
וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לֹא־עָשִׂיָה כֵן בְּמִקוֹמֵנוּ
לְתַת הַצְעִירָה לְפָנֵי הַבְּכִירָה: (כז)
מִלֹּא שָׁבַע זֹאת וַנִּתְּנָה לָּהּ גַּם־אֶת־
זֹאת בַּעֲבֹדָה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲבֹד עִמָּדִי
עוֹד שְׁבַע־שָׁנִים אַחֲרוֹת:

בראשית ב':כ"ג

(כג) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם
זֹאת הַפֶּלֶם עָצָם
מִעֲצָמִי וּבִשְׂרִי
מִבִּשְׂרִי לְזֹאת יִקְרָא
אִשָּׁה כִּי מֵאִישׁ
לְקָחָהּ זֹאת:

3: Averted violence

Genesis 31:22-53

(22) On the third day, Laban was told that Jacob had fled. (23) So he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him a distance of seven days, catching up with him in the hill country of Gilead. (24) But God appeared to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Beware of attempting anything with Jacob, good or bad”..

(43) Then Laban spoke up and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks; all that you see is mine. Yet what can I do now about my daughters or the children they have borne? (44) Come, then, let us make a pact, you and I, that there may be a witness between you and me.” (45) Thereupon Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. (46) And Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” So they took stones and made a mound; and they partook of a meal there by the mound. (47) Laban named it Yegar-sahadutha, but Jacob named it Gal-ed. (48) And Laban declared, “This mound is a witness between you and me this day.” That is why it was named Gal-ed; (49) and [it was called] Mizpah, because he said, “May the LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of sight of each other....(51) And Laban said to Jacob, “Here is this mound and here the pillar which I have set up between you and me: (52) this mound shall be witness and this pillar shall be witness that I am not to cross to you past this mound, and that you are not to cross to me past this mound and this pillar, with hostile intent. (53) May the God of Abraham and the god of Nahor” —their ancestral deities— “judge between us.” And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

בראשית ל"א:כ"ב-נ"ג

(כב) וַיִּגְדַּל לְלָבָן בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי כִּי בָרַח יַעֲקֹב: (כג) וַיִּקַּח אֶת־אֶחָיו לְעִמּוֹ וַיִּרְדְּףוּ אַחֲרָיו דְּרֹרָה שִׁבְעַת יָמִים וַיִּדְבַּק אֹתוֹ בְּהַר הַגִּלְעָד: (כד) וַיָּבֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־לָבָן הָאֲרָמִי בַחֲלֹם הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לּוֹ הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ פֶּן־תִּדְבַּר עִם־יַעֲקֹב מִטּוֹב עַד־רָע..

(מג) וַיֵּלֶעַן לָבָן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הַבָּנוֹת בְּנֹתַי וְהַבָּנִים בְּנֵי וְהַצֹּאן צֹאנִי וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֶה לִי־הוּא וְלִבְנֹתַי מִה־אֲעֻשָׂה לְאֵלֶּה הַיּוֹם אִן לְבִנְיָהֶן אֲשֶׁר יֵלְדוּ: (מד) וְעַתָּה לְכָה נִכְרְתָה בְרִית אֲנִי וְאַתָּה וְהָיָה לְעֵד בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינָהּ: (מה) וַיִּקַּח יַעֲקֹב אֲבָן וַיִּרְמֶה מִצְבֵּה: (מו) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב לְאֶחָיו לְקַטְנוּ אֲבָנִים וַיִּקְחוּ אֲבָנִים וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־גִל וַיֹּאכְלוּ שָׁם עַל־הַגִּל: (מז) וַיִּקְרָא־לָו לָבָן יָגֵר שְׁהַדוּתָא וַיַּעֲקֹב קָרָא לָו גִּלְעָד: (מח) וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן הַגִּל הַזֶּה עֵד בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינָהּ הַיּוֹם עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ גִּלְעָד: (מט) וְהַמִּצְפָּה אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יִצְחָק ה' בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינָהּ כִּי נִסְתָּר אִישׁ מֵרֵעֵהוּ... (נא) וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב הִנֵּה הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמִּצְבָּה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינָהּ: (נב) עַד הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְעַד הַמִּצְבָּה אִם־אֲנִי לֹא־אֲעֻבֶר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְאִם־אַתָּה לֹא־תֵעָבֵר אֵלַי אֶת־הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת־הַמִּצְבָּה הַזֹּאת לָרְעָה: (נג) אֲלֹהֵי אֲבֹרָהֶם וְאֹלֹהֵי נַחֹר יִשְׁפֹּטוּ בֵּינֵינוּ אֲלֹהֵי אֲבִיהֶם וַיִּשְׁבַּע יַעֲקֹב בְּפָחַד אֲבָיו יִצְחָק:

4: An ominous place

Genesis 34:8-29

(8) And Hamor spoke with them, saying, “My son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him in marriage. (9) Intermarry with us: give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves: (10) You will dwell among us, and the land will be open before you; settle, move about, and acquire holdings in it.” ..(13) Jacob’s sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor—speaking with guile because he had defiled their sister Dinah— (14) and said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to a man who is uncircumcised, for that is a disgrace among us. (15) Only on this condition will we agree with you; that you will become like us in that every male among you is circumcised. (16) Then we will give our daughters to you and take your daughters to ourselves; and we will dwell among you and become as one kindred...(20) So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the public place of their town and spoke to their town council, saying, (21) “These people are our friends; let them settle in the land and move about in it, for the land is large enough for them; we will take their daughters to ourselves as wives and give our daughters to them. (22) But only on this condition will their representatives agree with us to dwell among us and be as one kindred: that all our males become circumcised as they are circumcised. (23) **Their cattle and substance and all their beasts will be ours, if we only agree to their terms, so that they will settle among us.**” ...

(25) On the third day, when they were in pain, Simeon and Levi, two of Jacob’s sons, brothers of Dinah, took each his sword, came upon the city unmolested, and slew all the males. (26) They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword, took Dinah out of Shechem’s house, and went away. (27) The other sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the town, because their sister had been defiled. (28) They seized their flocks and herds and asses, all that was inside the town and outside; (29) all their wealth, all their children, and their wives, all that was in the houses, they took as captives and booty.

בראשית ל"ד:ח-כ"ט

(ח) וַיְדַבֵּר חַמּוֹר אִתְּם לֵאמֹר שְׁכֶם בְּנִי חָשְׁקָה נַפְשׁוֹ בְּבִתְכֶם תָּנוּ נָא אֶתְּהָ לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה. (ט) וְהִתְחַתְּנוּ אִתָּנוּ בְּנֹתֵיכֶם תִּתְּנוּ-לָנוּ וְאֶת-בְּנֹתֵינוּ תִקְחוּ לָכֶם. (י) וְאִתָּנוּ תִשְׁבוּ וְהָאָרֶץ תִּהְיֶה לְפָנֵיכֶם שְׁבוּ וְסָחְרוּהָ וְהִתְאַחֲזוּ בָּהּ... (יג) וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-שְׁכֶם וְאֶת-חַמּוֹר אָבִיו בְּמִרְמָה וַיְדַבְּרוּ אִשָּׁר טִמְאָה אֶת דִּינָה אַחֲתָם. (יד) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם לֹא נוּכָל לַעֲשׂוֹת הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה לְתַת אֶת-אַחֲתָנוּ לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ עֶרְלָה כִּי-חָרְפָה הוּא לָנוּ. (טו) אֲדָבִיאָתְּ גַאֲוֹת לָכֶם אִם תִּהְיוּ כָמוֹנוּ לְהַמְלִל לָכֶם כְּלִזְכֹּר. (טז) וְנִתְּנוּ אֶת-בְּנֹתֵינוּ לָכֶם וְאֶת-בְּנֹתֵיכֶם נִקְחָ-לָנוּ וַיִּשְׁבְּנוּ אִתְּכֶם וְהָיִינוּ לְעַם אֶחָד.. (כ) וַיָּבֵא חַמּוֹר וּשְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ אֶל-שַׁעַר עִירָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶל-אֲנָשֵׁי עִירָם לֵאמֹר. (כא) הֲאֲנָשִׁים הֵאֱלָה שְׁלֹמִים הֵם אִתָּנוּ וַיִּשְׁבּוּ בְּאֶרֶץ וַיִּסְחָרוּ אִתָּהּ וְהָאָרֶץ הִנֵּה רַחֲבַת-יָדַיִם לְפָנֵיהֶם אֶת-בְּנֹתָם נִקְחָ-לָנוּ לְנָשִׁים וְאֶת-בְּנֹתֵינוּ נִתְּנוּ לָהֶם. (כב) אֲדָבִיאָתְּ יֵאתוּ לָנוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְשִׁבְתָּ אִתָּנוּ לְהִיֹּת לְעַם אֶחָד בְּהַמּוֹל לָנוּ כְּלִזְכֹּר כִּאֲשֶׁר הֵם גַּמְלִים. (כג) מִקְנֵיהֶם וּקְנִינָם וְכָל-בְּהֵמָתָם הֲלוֹא לָנוּ הֵם אִךְ נִאֲוֹתָהּ לָהֶם וַיִּשְׁבּוּ אִתָּנוּ...

(כה) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בַּהִיוֹתָם כְּאֲבִים וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁנֵי-בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁמֵעוֹן וְלֵוִי אֲחֵי דִינָה אִישׁ חֶרֶב וַיָּבֵאוּ עַל-הָעִיר בַּטַּח וַיַּהַרְגוּ כְּלִזְכֹּר. (כו) וְאֶת-חַמּוֹר וְאֶת-שְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ הָרְגוּ לְפִי-חֶרֶב וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-דִּינָה מִבֵּית שְׁכֶם וַיֵּצְאוּ. (כז) בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עָלְמוּ עַל-הַחֲלָלִים וַיָּבֵאוּ הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר טִמְאוּ אֶחָתָם. (כח) אֶת-צֹאֲנָם וְאֶת-בְּקָרָם וְאֶת-חֲמֹרֵיהֶם וְאֶת-אֲשֶׁר-בְּעִיר וְאֶת-אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה לְקָחוּ. (כט) וְאֶת-כָּל-חֵילָם וְאֶת-כָּל-טַפָּם וְאֶת-נְשֵׁיהֶם שָׁבוּ וַיָּבֵאוּ וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵיתָ.

5: Getting away with murder?

Judges 9:6

(6) All the citizens of Shechem and all Beth-millo convened, and they proclaimed Abimelech king at the terebinth of the pillar at Shechem.

שופטים ט':ו'

(ו) וַיֵּאסְפוּ כָּל־בְּעָלֵי שָׁכֶם וְכָל־בֵּית מִלּוֹא וַיָּלְכוּ וַיִּמְלִיכוּ אֶת־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לְמֶלֶךְ עַם־אֵלֶּון מִצֵּב אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁכֶם:

Judges 6:30-32

(30) The townspeople said to Joash, "Bring out your son, for he must die: he has torn down the altar of Baal and cut down the sacred post beside it!" (31) But Joash said to all who had risen against him, "Do you have to contend for Baal? Do you have to vindicate him? Whoever fights his battles shall be dead by morning! If he is a god, let him fight his own battles, since it is his altar that has been torn down!" (32) That day they named him Jerubbaal, meaning "Let Baal contend with him, since he tore down his altar."

שופטים ו':ל"ב

(ל) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אֶל־יֹאֵשׁ הוֹצֵא אֶת־בְּנֶךָ וַיָּמָת כִּי נִתַּץ אֶת־מִזְבֵּחַ הַבַּעַל וְכִי כָרַת הָאֲשֵׁרָה אֲשֶׁר־עָלָיו: (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר יֹאֵשׁ לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־עָמְדוּ עָלָיו הֵאֲתֶם ו תָּרִיבוּן לַבַּעַל אִם־אַתֶּם תּוֹשִׁיעוּן אוֹתוֹ אֲשֶׁר יָרִיב לוֹ יוֹמָת עַד־הַבֶּקֶר אִם־אֱלֹקִים הוּא יָרִיב לוֹ כִּי נִתַּץ אֶת־מִזְבְּחוֹ: (לב) וַיִּקְרָאֵלוּ בַיּוֹם־הַהוּא יִרְבֵּעַל לְאִמֶּר יָרֵב בּוֹ הַבַּעַל כִּי נִתַּץ אֶת־מִזְבְּחוֹ: {ס}

6: Of trees and kingship

Judges 9:7-21

(7) When Jotham was informed, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim and called out to them in a loud voice. "Citizens of Shechem!" he cried, "Listen to me, that God may listen to you. (8) "Once the trees went to anoint a king over themselves. They said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.' (9) But the olive tree replied, 'Have I, through whom God and men are honored, stopped yielding my rich oil, that I should go and wave above the trees?' (10) So the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come and reign over us.' (11) But the fig tree replied, 'Have I stopped yielding my sweetness, my delicious fruit, that I should go and wave above the trees?' (12) So the trees said to the vine, 'You come and reign over us.' (13) But the vine replied, 'Have I stopped yielding my new wine, which gladdens God and men, that I should go and wave above the trees?' (14) Then all the trees said to the thornbush, 'You come and reign over us.' (15) And the thornbush said to the trees, 'If you are acting honorably in anointing me king over you, come and take shelter in my shade; but if not, may fire issue from the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!.. (21) With that, Jotham fled. He ran to Beer and stayed there, because of his brother Abimelech.

שופטים ט"ז:כ"א

(ז) וַיִּגְדוּ לַיּוֹתָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּרֹאשׁ הַר־גְּרִזִים וַיִּשָׂא קוֹלוֹ וַיִּקְרָא וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שִׁמְעוּ אֵלַי בְּעָלֵי שָׁכֶם וַיִּשְׁמַע אֲלֵיכֶם אֱלֹקִים: (ח) הָלֹךְ הָלְכוּ הָעֵצִים לְמִשְׁחָ עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לַיָּת (מלוכה) [מְלָכָה] עָלֵינוּ: (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַיָּת הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת־דְּשָׁנִי אֲשֶׁר־בִּי כִכְבְּדוּ אֱלֹקִים וְאַנְשֵׁים וְהִלַּכְתִּי לְנוּעַ עַל־הָעֵצִים: (י) וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָעֵצִים לְתֹאנָה לְכִי־אֵת מְלָכִי עָלֵינוּ: (יא) וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַתֹּאנָה הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת־מִתְקִי וְאֶת־תְּנוּבָתִי הַטּוֹבָה וְהִלַּכְתִּי לְנוּעַ עַל־הָעֵצִים: (יב) וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָעֵצִים לְגַפֵּן לְכִי־אֵת (מלוכה) [מְלָכִי] עָלֵינוּ: (יג) וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַגַּפֵּן הַחֲדָלְתִּי אֶת־תִּירוֹשִׁי הַמְּשַׁמֵּחַ אֱלֹקִים וְאַנְשֵׁים וְהִלַּכְתִּי לְנוּעַ עַל־הָעֵצִים: (יד) וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל־הָעֵצִים אֶל־הָאֵטָד לָךְ אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ־עָלֵינוּ: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֵטָד אֶל־הָעֵצִים אִם בְּאַמַּת אַתֶּם מְשַׁחִים אֹתִי לְמֶלֶךְ עֲלֵיכֶם בְּאוֹ חֲסוּן בְּצִלִּי וְאִם־אֵין תִּצְאָ אִשׁ מִן־הָאֵטָד וְתֹאכַל אֶת־אַרְצִי הַלְבָּנוֹן... (כא) וַיִּנָּס יוֹתָם וַיִּבְרַח וַיֵּלֶךְ בְּאֶרֶץ וַיִּשָׁב שָׁם מִפְּנֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אַחִיו: {פ}

7: Measure for measure

Judges 9:23

(23) Then God sent a spirit of discord between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, and the citizens of Shechem broke faith with Abimelech—

שופטים ט':כ"ג

(כג) וַיִּשְׁלַח אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ רָעָה בֵּין אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּבֵין בְּעָלֵי שָׁכֶם וַיִּבְגְּדוּ בְּעַלְיֵי־שָׁכֶם בְּאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ׃

Judges 9:46-49

(46) When all the citizens of the Tower of Shechem learned of this, they went into the tunnel of the temple of El-berith. (47) When Abimelech was informed that all the citizens of the Tower of Shechem had gathered [there], (48) Abimelech and all the troops he had with him went up on Mount Zalmon. Taking an ax in his hand, Abimelech lopped off a tree limb and lifted it onto his shoulder. Then he said to the troops that accompanied him, "What you saw me do—quick, do the same!" (49) So each of the troops also lopped off a bough; then they marched behind Abimelech and laid them against the tunnel, and set fire to the tunnel over their heads. Thus all the people of the Tower of Shechem also perished, about a thousand men and women.

שופטים ט':מ"ו-מ"ט

(מו) וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ כָּל־בְּעָלֵי מְגִדֵּל־שָׁכֶם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־צִרְיִחַ בֵּית אֵל בְּרִית׃ (מז) וַיִּגְדּוּ לְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ כִּי הִתְקַבְּצוּ כָּל־בְּעָלֵי מְגִדֵּל־שָׁכֶם׃ (מח) וַיַּעַל אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ הַר־צְלָמוֹן הוּא וְכָל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־אִתּוֹ וַיִּקְחוּ אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶת־הַקְּרָדְמוֹת בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּכְרֹת שׁוֹכֵת עֲצִים וַיִּשְׁאֲהָ וַיִּשֶׁם עַל־שִׁכְמוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־עִמּוֹ מָה רָאִיתֶם עֲשִׂיתִי מִהֲרֹו עֲשׂוּ כְמוֹנִי׃ (מט) וַיִּכְרְתוּ גַם־כָּל־הָעָם אִישׁ שׁוֹכֵה וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָי אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַיִּשְׂימוּ עַל־הַצִּרְיִחַ וַיִּצְיִתוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־הַצִּרְיִחַ בְּאֵשׁ וַיָּמָתוּ גַם כָּל־אֲנָשֵׁי מְגִדֵּל־שָׁכֶם כְּאַלְפָּה אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה׃ {פ}

Judges 9:53

(53) But a woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and cracked his skull.

שופטים ט':נ"ג

(נג) וַתִּשְׁלַח אִשָּׁה אֶת־פְּלֶח רֶכֶב עַל־רֹאשׁ אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַתִּרְץ אֶת־גְּלִגְלוֹתָו׃

Judges 8:33-35

(33) After Gideon died, the Israelites again went astray after the Baalim, and they adopted Baal-berith as a god. (34) The Israelites gave no thought to the LORD their God, who saved them from all the enemies around them. (35) Nor did they show loyalty to the house of Jerubbaal-Gideon in return for all the good that he had done for Israel.

שופטים ח':ל"ג-ל"ה

(לג) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר מֵת גִּדְעוֹן וַיִּשׁוּבוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּזְנוּ אַחֲרָי הַבְּעָלִים וַיִּשְׂימוּ לָהֶם בְּעַל בְּרִית לְאֱלֹהִים׃ (לד) וְלֹא זָכְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־ה' אֱלֹהֵיהֶם הַמַּצִּיל אוֹתָם מִיַּד כָּל־אֲבִיבֵיהֶם מִסְבִּיב׃ (לה) וְלֹא־עָשׂוּ חֶסֶד עִם־בֵּית יִרְבָּעֵל גִּדְעוֹן כְּכָל־הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל׃ {פ}