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Judges

Judges 1

Judges 1:1

ULT

¹ Now it happened that after the death of Joshua, the sons of Israel asked Yahweh, saying, "Who will go up for us first against the Canaanite, to fight him?"

UST

¹ After Joshua died, the Israelite people asked Yahweh, "Which of our tribes should attack the Canaanites first?"

Who would lead the people of Israel when they went up against the Canaanites to fight against them?

Judah would lead the people of Israel against the Canaanites to fight against them.

Judges 1:2

ULT

² Yahweh answered, "Judah will go up, Behold, I have given the land into his hand."

UST

² Yahweh replied, "The men of the tribe of Judah must attack first. I will enable the tribe of Judah to defeat the Canaanites."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:3**ULT**

³ Then Judah said to Simeon, his brother, "Go up with me into my allotted territory, and let us fight together against the Canaanite. I will fight likewise myself, with you in your allotted territory." So Simeon went with him.

UST

³ The men of Judah went to their fellow Israelites, the men from the tribe of Simeon, and said to them, "Come and help us to fight the Canaanites in order that we can take from them the land that Yahweh allotted to us. If you do that, we will go with you and help you conquer the people in the land that Yahweh promised to give to you." So the men from the tribe of Simeon went with the men of the tribe of Judah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:4**ULT**

⁴ Judah went up, and Yahweh gave the Canaanite and the Perizzite into their hand. They smote ten thousand men at Bezek.

UST

⁴ When the men of those two tribes attacked, Yahweh enabled them to defeat ten thousand men of the Canaanites and the Perizzites at the city of Bezek.

Against whom did the men of Judah fight? (vv4-5)

The men of Judah fought against Adoni Bezek.

Judges 1:5**ULT**

⁵ They found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and they fought against him. They smote the Canaanite and the Perizzite.

UST

⁵ During the battle they found Adoni-Bezek, the leader of the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:6**ULT**

⁶ Then Adoni-Bezek fled, but they pursued after him. They seized him, and they chopped off the thumbs of his hands and the big toes of his feet.

UST

⁶ Adoni-Bezek tried to run away. The Israelites pursued him and caught him. Then they cut off his thumbs and his big toes.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:7**ULT**

⁷ Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with the thumbs of their hands and the big toes of their feet chopped off were gathering scraps of food beneath my table. Just as I have done, so God has repaid to me." Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

UST

⁷ Adoni-Bezek said, "My army captured seventy kings. We cut off their thumbs and big toes. After that, we forced those kings to eat scraps that fell from our table. Now God has paid me back for what I did." Then the men of Judah took Adoni-Bezek to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Who gathered their food from under Adoni Bezek's table?

Seventy kings, who had their thumbs and their big toes cut off, gathered their food from under Adoni Bezek's table.

Judges 1:8**ULT**

⁸ The sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and they took it. They smote it with the mouth of the sword and they sent the city into fire.

UST

⁸ The army of Judah fought against the men of Jerusalem, and they captured the city. With their swords they killed the people who lived there and they burned the houses in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:9**ULT**

⁹ Afterwards, the sons of Judah went down to fight them, against the Canaanites living in the hill country region, the southern wilderness, and the western lowland.

UST

⁹ Later, the men of Judah went down to fight the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the southern Judean wilderness, and in the foothills to the west.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then Judah went down to the Canaanite that lived in Hebron (the name of Hebron before was Kiriath Arba), and they smote Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai.

UST

¹⁰ The men of Judah also went to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the city of Hebron (which used to be named Kiriath Arba). They defeated the armies of kings Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai.

What was the previous name of Hebron?

The name of Hebron was previously Kiriath Arba.

Judges 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ He went from there to those living in Debir; the name of Debir before was Kiriath Sepher.

UST

¹¹ Then they left that area and went to fight against the people living in the city of Debir, which was previously named Kiriath Sepher.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:12**ULT**

¹² Then Caleb said, "Whoever will smite Kiriath Sepher and capture it, I will give him Aksah, my daughter, for a wife."

UST

¹² Before they attacked the city, Caleb said to them, "The person who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher, I will allow him to marry my daughter Aksah."

What did Caleb give to Othniel? (vv12-13)

Caleb gave Achsah, his daughter, to be Othniel's wife.

Judges 1:13**ULT**

¹³ Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb younger than him, captured it, so he gave him Aksah his daughter for a wife.

UST

¹³ Othniel, who was the son of Caleb's younger brother Kenaz, captured the city. So Caleb gave his daughter Aksah to him, to become his wife.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Now it happened that at her coming she incited him to ask for a field from her father. She descended from atop the donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What can I do for you?"

UST

¹⁴ After Aksah married Othniel, she asked him to request her father to give him a field. Then she rode back to her father Caleb's house on her donkey. When she got off the donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then she said to him, "Give me a blessing. Although you have given me the land of the Negev, you shall also me springs of waters." So Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

UST

¹⁵ She replied, "I want you to do a favor for me. You have given me the land of the southern Judean wilderness, but it is very dry there. So please also give me some land that has springs of water." So Caleb gave her some land on higher ground that had a spring, and some land on lower ground that had a spring in it.

Since Achsah was in Negev, what did she want her father to give her?

Since Achsah was in Negev, she wanted him to give her springs of water.

Judges 1:16**ULT**

¹⁶ The sons of the Kenite, the father-in-law of Moses, went up from the city of palm trees with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah, which is in the south country of Arad. So he went and he dwelt with the people.

UST

¹⁶ The Kenites who were descendants of Moses' father-in-law left Jericho, which was called "The City of Palm Trees." They went with some of the men of Judah to live with them in the southern Judean wilderness, near the city of Arad.

Where is the wilderness of Judah?

The wilderness of Judah is in the Negev.

Judges 1:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Then Judah went with Simeon his brother and they smote the Canaanite dwelling in Zephath. So they devoted it to destruction and they called the name of the city Hormah.

UST

¹⁷ The men of Judah and their fellow Israelites from the tribe of Simeon defeated the Canaanites who lived in the city of Zephath. They completely destroyed the city and gave it a new name, Hormah, which means "complete destruction."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Judah also captured Gaza and the territory of it, Ashkelon and the territory of it, and Ekron and the territory of it.

UST

¹⁸ The men of Judah also captured Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron cities and all the land that is near those cities.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Now it happened that Yahweh was with Judah and he took possession of the hill country, but he did not dispossess those dwelling in the valley because of their chariotry of iron.

UST

¹⁹ Yahweh helped the men of Judah to capture the hill country, but they could not force the people who were living in the plains to leave, because they had better weapons—they had iron chariots.

Why could the people of Judah not drive out the inhabitants of the plains?

They could not drive out the inhabitants of the plains because the inhabitants had iron chariots.

Judges 1:20**ULT**

²⁰ They gave Hebron to Caleb just as Moses had directed, and he dispossessed from there the three sons of the Anak.

UST

²⁰ The city of Hebron was given to Caleb because Moses had promised him that he could have that city. And Caleb forced the three clans descended from Anak to leave that area.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:21**ULT**

²¹ But the Jebusite dwelling in Jerusalem, the sons of Benjamin did not dispossess. So the Jebusite have dwelt with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem until this day.

UST

²¹ But the tribe of Benjamin could not force the Jebusites to leave Jerusalem. So, since that time the Jebusites have lived in Jerusalem with the tribe of Benjamin.

Why did the Jebusites live with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem?

Because the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem, the Jebusites lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem.

Judges 1:22**ULT**

²² Likewise, the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, even they, and Yahweh was with them.

UST

²² The men of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh went to fight against the men of the city of Bethel, and Yahweh helped them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:23**ULT**

²³ The house of Joseph sent out spies to assess Bethel; the name of the city before was Luz.

UST

²³ They sent some spies to find out everything that they could find out about Bethel, which was previously called Luz.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:24**ULT**

²⁴ The observers saw a man going out from the city, and they said to him, "Show us, please, the entrance of the city, and we will extend kindness to you."

UST

²⁴ The spies saw a man who was coming out of the city. They said to him, "If you show us a way to get into the city, we will be kind to you and we will not kill you."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:25**ULT**

²⁵ So he showed them the entrance of the city, and then they smote the city with the mouth of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free.

UST

²⁵ So the man showed them a way to enter the city. The men of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh entered the city and killed all the people with their swords, but they did not kill the man who showed them how to get into the city, and they did not kill his family.

What happened to the man who showed the spies from the house of Joseph how to get into Bethel? (vv25-26)

The spies let the man and his family get away and the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city and called it Luz.

Judges 1:26**ULT**

²⁶ Then the man went to the land of the Hittites and he built a city. He called its name Luz, which is its name until this day.

UST

²⁶ That man went to the area where the descendants of Heth lived, and he built a city. He named the city Luz, and that is still the name of that city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:27**ULT**

²⁷ But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth Shan and its daughters, or Taanach and its daughters, or the one dwelling in Dor and its daughters, or those dwelling in Ibleam and its daughters, or those dwelling in Megiddo and its daughters, because the Canaanite had resolved to dwell in that land.

UST

²⁷ There were Canaanites who lived in Beth Shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, and Megiddo cities and in the surrounding villages. The men of the tribe of Manasseh did not force them to leave those towns, because the Canaanites were determined to stay there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:28**ULT**

²⁸ Now it happened that when Israel became strong, he imposed tribute upon the Canaanite, but he did not take possession of him.

UST

²⁸ Later, the Israelites became stronger, and they forced the Canaanites to work for them as their slaves, but they did not force all the Canaanites to leave their land.

When Israel became strong, what did they do to the Canaanites?

When Israel became strong, they forced the Canaanites to serve them with hard labor, but they never drove them out completely.

Judges 1:29**ULT**

²⁹ Neither did Ephraim dispossess the Canaanite who dwelled in Gezer, so the Canaanite dwelled in Gezer in the midst of him.

UST

²⁹ The men of the tribe of Ephraim did not force the Canaanites to leave the city of Gezer. So the Canaanites continued to live with the tribe of Ephraim.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:30**ULT**

³⁰ Zebulun did not dispossess those dwelling in Kitron, or those dwelling in Nahalol, so the Canaanite dwelled in his midst. But they were subject to tribute.

UST

³⁰ The men of the tribe of Zebulun did not force the Canaanites who were living in the cities of Kitron and Nahalol to leave. They stayed there and lived with the tribe of Zebulun, but the people of Zebulun forced them to work for them as their slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:31**ULT**

³¹ Asher did not dispossess those dwelling in Akko, or those dwelling in Sidon, or Ahlab, or Akzib, or Helbah, or Aphek, or Rehob.

UST

³¹ The men of the tribe of Asher did not force the Canaanites who lived in Akko, Sidon, Ahlab, Aczib, Helbah, Aphek and Rehob cities to leave.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:32**ULT**

³² So the Asherite dwelled in the midst of the Canaanite who dwelled in the land, because he did not dispossess him.

UST

³² So the tribe of Asher lived with the Canaanites (those who were still there), and did not make them leave.

Why did the tribe of Asher live among the Canaanites?

The tribe of Asher lived among the Canaanites, because Asher did not drive them out.

Judges 1:33**ULT**

³³ Naphtali did not dispossess those dwelling in Beth Shemesh, or those dwelling in Beth Anath. So he dwelled in the midst of the Canaanite who dwelled in the land. However, those dwelling in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were subject to tribute to them.

UST

³³ The men of the tribe of Naphtali did not compel the people who lived in the cities of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath to leave, so they continued to live with the Canaanites in those cities, but the Canaanites were forced to work as the slaves of the tribe of Naphtali.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:34**ULT**

³⁴ The Amorite pressed the sons of Dan to the hill country, for he did not permit him to go down into the valley.

UST

³⁴ The Amorites forced the tribe of Dan to live in the hills. They did not allow them to come down and live on the plain.

Who conquered the Amorites at Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim? (vv34-35)

The house of Joseph conquered them.

Judges 1:35**ULT**

³⁵ The Amorite resolved to dwell at Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph became heavy and they were subject to tribute.

UST

³⁵ The Amorites were determined to stay at Mount Heres and in the cities of Aijalon and Shaalbim. But when the Israelites became stronger, they forced the Amorites to work as their slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 1:36**ULT**

³⁶ The border of the Amorite was from the ascent of Akrabbim, from the cliff and upward.

UST

³⁶ The land where the Amorites lived extended from Scorpion Pass toward the west beyond Sela, up into the hill country.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2

Judges 2:1

ULT

¹ The messenger of Yahweh went up from the region of Gilgal to the region of Bokim, and said, "I am leading you up from Egypt, and I have brought you to the land that I have sworn to your fathers. I have said, 'I will not break my covenant with you for eternity.

UST

¹ The angel of Yahweh went up from Gilgal to a place that the people of Israel would soon call Bokim. He said to the Israelite people, "I brought your ancestors up here from Egypt. I led them into this land that I solemnly promised to give to your ancestors. I said to them, 'I will never break the covenant I made with you.

Where did the angel of Yahweh bring the people of Israel?

The angel of Yahweh brought them to the land he swore to give to their fathers.

Judges 2:2

ULT

² You must not cut a covenant with those dwelling in this land. Their altars you must surely tear down.' But you have not heeded my voice. What is this you have done?

UST

² But as for you, you must never agree to have peace with the people who live in this land. You must tear down the altars where they make sacrifices to idols.' But you have not obeyed me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:3

ULT

³ Furthermore, I have said, 'I will not drive them out from before you, but they will be against you as adversaries, and their gods will be against you as a snare'."

UST

³ So now, I am telling you that I will not drive out your enemies as you advance. They will be like thorns in your sides. And they will try to trap you by persuading you to worship their idols."

When the angel said he would not drive the Canaanites out before the people of Israel, what did they do? (vv3-4)

When the angel said he would not drive the Canaanites out before the people of Israel, they shouted and wept.

Judges 2:4**ULT**

⁴ Now it happened that when the messenger of Yahweh spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voice and wept.

UST

⁴ After he said that to all the Israelites, the people lamented loudly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:5**ULT**

⁵ So they called the name of that place Bokim, and they offered a sacrifice there to Yahweh.

UST

⁵ They named that place Bokim, which means "weeping." There they offered sacrifices to Yahweh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:6**ULT**

⁶ Then Joshua dismissed the people, and the sons of Israel went each to his inheritance to possess the land.

UST

⁶ After Joshua sent the people of Israel away, each group went to possess the land that had been permanently assigned to them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:7**ULT**

⁷ The people served Yahweh all the days of Joshua and all of the days of the elders who had prolonged their days after Joshua, who had seen all of the great deeds of Yahweh that he had done for Israel.

UST

⁷ They obeyed Yahweh as long as Joshua was alive, and as long as the elders, those who had seen all the great things that Yahweh had done for Israel, were alive.

How long did the people serve Yahweh?

The people served Yahweh during the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him.

Judges 2:8**ULT**

⁸ Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of Yahweh, died a son of one hundred ten years.

UST

⁸ Then Yahweh's servant Joshua died. He was 110 years old when he died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:9**ULT**

⁹ Then they buried him within the border of his inheritance in Timnath Heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, to the north of Mount Gaash.

UST

⁹ They buried his body in the land that he had received from Moses, at Timnath Heres, in the area where the descendants of Ephraim lived, north of Mount Gaash.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ When all of that generation had also been gathered to his fathers, another generation rose up after them who did not know Yahweh or even the deed that he had done for Israel.

UST

¹⁰ After all the people who lived at the same time as Joshua died, more people grew up who did not know Yahweh and had not seen him do the great things he had done for the Israelite people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ The sons of Israel did the wickedness in the sight of Yahweh and they served the Baals.

UST

¹¹⁻¹³ They did things that Yahweh said were very evil. They worshiped idols that represented the god Baal and the female fertility goddess, the Ashtoreth. They worshiped the various gods that the people groups around them worshiped. They stopped worshipping Yahweh, the God their ancestors worshiped, the one who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. This caused Yahweh to be very angry.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:12**ULT**

¹² Thus they forsook Yahweh, the God of their fathers, the One Who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods from the gods of the people groups who were around them, and they bowed down to them. They provoked Yahweh to anger.

What gods did the people of Israel go after?

The people of Israel went after the very gods of the peoples who were around them.

Judges 2:13**ULT**

¹³ They forsook Yahweh and they served the Baal and the Ashtoreths.

UST

¹¹⁻¹³ They did things that Yahweh said were very evil. They worshiped idols that represented the god Baal and the female fertility goddess, the Ashtoreth. They worshiped the various gods that the people groups around them worshiped. They stopped worshipping Yahweh, the God their ancestors worshiped, the one who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. This caused Yahweh to be very angry.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then the anger of Yahweh burned against Israel, so he gave them into the hand of plunderers, and they plundered them. He surrendered them into the hand of their enemies from all around, so that they were not able any longer to stand before their enemies.

UST

¹⁴ Because Yahweh was angry, he allowed people from other groups to attack them and steal their crops and animals. They were no longer able to resist their enemies, and Yahweh allowed all their enemies around them to defeat them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ In every way, whenever they went out the hand of Yahweh was against them for calamity, just as Yahweh had spoken and just as Yahweh had sworn to them. Thus he pressed them exceedingly.

UST

¹⁵ Whenever the Israelites went to fight their enemies, Yahweh always worked against them and allowed their enemies to defeat them, just as he had said he would do. So the Israelites were greatly distressed.

What had Yahweh sworn to Israel?

Yahweh had sworn that wherever Israel went out to fight, Yahweh's hand would be against them to defeat them.

Judges 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then Yahweh raised up judges, and they saved them from the hand of their plunderers.

UST

¹⁶ Then Yahweh brought leaders to them. These leaders rescued the Israelites from the people who were attacking them.

What did the judges do?

The judges saved the people of Israel from the power of those who were stealing their possessions.

Judges 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Even to their judges they would not listen. For they pursued adulterously after other gods and they bowed down to them. They turned away quickly from the way that their fathers had walked. They did not do likewise to heed the commands of Yahweh.

UST

¹⁷ But the Israelites still would not obey their leaders. Instead, they betrayed Yahweh for idols, like prostitutes to other gods and they worshiped those idols. They were not like their ancestors. Their ancestors obeyed what Yahweh commanded, but these new people quickly stopped behaving as their ancestors had behaved.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:18**ULT**

¹⁸ When Yahweh raised up judges for them, Yahweh would be with the judges and he would save them from the hand of their enemies all of the days of the judges. For Yahweh would become remorseful on account of their groaning from the presence of those tormenting them and oppressing them.

UST

¹⁸ Whenever Yahweh brought a leader to them, he helped that leader and enabled him to rescue the people from their enemies. He did that as long as that leader was alive. Yahweh pitied them as they groaned because they were being oppressed and caused to suffer.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Now it would happen that at the death of the judge, they would turn back and behave corruptly more than their fathers, walking after other gods to serve them and to bow down to them. They did not drop any of their evil deeds or their shameless behavior.

UST

¹⁹ But after that leader died, the people always began behaving in more evil ways than their ancestors had behaved. They worshiped other gods and bowed down to them and did all the things that they thought those gods wanted them to do.

What happened when the judge died?

When the judge died, the people of Israel would turn away and do things that were even more corrupt than their fathers had done.

Judges 2:20**ULT**

²⁰ As a result the anger of Yahweh burned against Israel, and he said, "In that this nation transgressed my covenant that I had commanded their fathers, but they have not heeded my voice,

UST

²⁰ So Yahweh was very angry with the Israelite people. He said, "These people have disobeyed the covenant that I made with their ancestors. They have not done what I told them to do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:21**ULT**

²¹ I also will not continue to drive out anyone out of their presence from the nations that Joshua left when he died.

UST

²¹ So I will no longer expel the people groups that Joshua left in this land when he died.

Why would Yahweh not drive out from Israel any of the nations that Joshua left when he died? (vv21-22)

Yahweh would not drive out from Israel any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, so that Yahweh could test Israel, whether or not they would keep the way of Yahweh and walk in it, as their fathers kept it.

Judges 2:22**ULT**

²² in order to test Israel by them, whether they are observing the way of Yahweh, walking in them just as their fathers observed, or not."

UST

²² I will use them to test the Israelite people to see whether they will do what I want them to do, as their ancestors did."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 2:23**ULT**

²³ So Yahweh allowed those nations to stay, not dispossessing them hastily and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

UST

²³ Yahweh allowed these people groups to stay in that land for a long time after the people of Israel had come. He did not expel them by allowing Joshua and his men to defeat them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3

Judges 3:1

ULT

¹ Now those nations which Yahweh allowed to remain in order to test Israel by them, all who had not known any of the wars of Canaan,

UST

¹ At that time there were still many people groups in Canaan. Yahweh left them there to test the Israelite people because many of the Israelites in Canaan had not fought in any of the previous wars.

Why did Yahweh leave nations to test Israel?

Yahweh left nations to test Israel to teach warfare to the new generation of the Israelites who had not known it before.

Judges 3:2

ULT

² only for the sake of the generations of the sons of Israel knowing, to teach them warfare, only who formerly had not experienced them,

UST

² So Yahweh did this to teach the new generation of Israelites how to wage war.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:3

ULT

³ the five governors of the Philistines, and all of the Canaanite, the Sidonian, and the Hivite dwelling in the mountain of Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon as far as Lebo Hamath.

UST

³ This is a list of the people groups that Yahweh left there to test the Israelites: The Philistines and their five leaders, the people living in the area near the city of Sidon, the descendants of Canaan, and the Hivites who were living in the mountains of Lebanon between Mount Baal Hermon and Lebo Hamath ("the pass of Hamath").

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:4**ULT**

⁴ They were to test Israel by them, to know whether they would heed the commandments of Yahweh, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

UST

⁴ Yahweh left these people groups there to test the Israelites, to see if they would obey his commands which he had told Moses to give them.

What would Yahweh do by means of the remaining nations?

Yahweh would test Israel by means of the remaining nations, to confirm whether they would obey the commands he gave their ancestors through Moses.

Judges 3:5**ULT**

⁵ So the sons of Israel settled in the midst of the Canaanite, the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

UST

⁵ The Israelites lived among the people groups of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:6**ULT**

⁶ Then their daughters they took for themselves as wives, and their daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

UST

⁶ But the Israelites took the daughters of those people to be their own wives, and gave their own daughters to those men to marry them. And they worshiped the gods of those people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:7**ULT**

⁷ So the sons of Israel did this evil in the eyes of Yahweh and they forgot Yahweh their God. They served the baals and the asherahs.

UST

⁷ The Israelites did things that Yahweh said were very evil. They forgot about Yahweh, their God, and they started to worship the idols that represented the god Baal and the goddess Asherah.

What did the people of Israel worship?

They worshiped the Baals and the Asherahs.

Judges 3:8**ULT**

⁸ Therefore, the anger of Yahweh blazed against Israel, so he sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram Naharaim. The sons of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

UST

⁸ Therefore Yahweh was very angry with Israel, and he handed them over that they might live under the power of King Cushan-Rishathaim, who was king of Aram Naharaim in Mesopotamia. The people of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim for eight years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:9**ULT**

⁹ When the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, Yahweh raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel, and he delivered them: Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb younger than him.

UST

⁹ But when they pleaded to Yahweh to help them, he brought a leader to rescue them. He was Othniel (the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz).

Who did Yahweh first raise up, who would come to help the people of Israel?

Yahweh first raised up Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

Judges 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ The spirit of Yahweh came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went forth to battle and Yahweh gave Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram, into his hand. Thus his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.

UST

¹⁰ Yahweh's Spirit gave him power and insight, and he became their leader. He led an army that fought against the army of Cushan-Rishathaim, and Othniel defeated them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ So the land had tranquility forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

UST

¹¹ After that, for forty years there was peace in the land, until Othniel died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:12**ULT**

¹² Then the sons of Israel started again to do this evil in the eyes of Yahweh. So Yahweh strengthened Eglon, the king of Moab against Israel, because they did this evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

UST

¹² After that, the Israelites again did things that Yahweh had forbidden them to do, things that were very evil. Yahweh made the army of King Eglon, who ruled the land of Moab, much stronger so that he could defeat the Israelites.

Who gave strength to Eglon the king of Moab?

Yahweh gave strength to Eglon the king of Moab.

Judges 3:13**ULT**

¹³ Then he mobilized to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek and he went and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the city of the palm trees.

UST

¹³ Eglon persuaded the leaders of the Ammonites and the Amalekites to join their armies with his army to attack Israel. They captured Jericho, which was called "The City of Palm Trees."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:14**ULT**

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

UST

¹⁴ Then King Eglon ruled the Israelites for eighteen years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ When the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, Yahweh raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a man impeded in his right hand. The sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon, the king of Moab.

UST

¹⁵ But then the Israelites again pleaded to Yahweh to help them. So he brought another leader to rescue them. He was Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed man from the descendants of Benjamin. The Israelites sent him to King Eglon to give him the money he required every year so he would not attack them.

When did Yahweh raise up Ehud to help the people of Israel?

Yahweh raised up Ehud to help the people of Israel when they called out to him.

Judges 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then Ehud made for himself a sword and it had two edges, a span was its length. He bound it on from beneath his clothing on his right thigh.

UST

¹⁶ Ehud had with him a short double-edged sword, one-half meter in length. He hid it under his clothes by strapping the sword to his right thigh.

Where did Ehud strap on the sword he made?

He strapped it on under his clothing on his right thigh.

Judges 3:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Then he bought the tribute near to Eglon, the king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man.

UST

¹⁷ He gave the money to King Eglon, who was a very fat man.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Now it happened that when he had completed bringing over the tribute, he sent away the people, the bearers of the tribute.

UST

¹⁸ Then Ehud started to go back home with the men who had carried the money.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:19**ULT**

¹⁹ But he himself turned back from the quarries which were near the Gilgal, and he said, "I have a private message for you, O king." He said, "Silence!" So all those who were standing around him went out from around him.

UST

¹⁹ When they arrived at the stone quarries near Gilgal, he told the other men to go on, but he himself turned around and went back to the king of Moab. When he arrived at the palace, he said to the king, "Your majesty, I have a secret message for you." So the king told all his servants to be quiet, and he sent them out of the room.

Who was with Ehud and the king when Ehud told him the message? (vv19-20)

Only Ehud and the king were there.

Judges 3:20**ULT**

²⁰ So Ehud came to him. Now he was sitting in the roof chamber in the coolness, which was for him alone. Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you," and he rose up from upon the seat.

UST

²⁰ Then, as Eglon was sitting alone in the upstairs room of his summer palace, Ehud came close to him and said, "I have a message for you from God." Just then the king got up from his chair.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:21**ULT**

²¹ Then Ehud stretched out his left hand and took the sword from upon his right thigh, and he thrust it into his belly.

UST

²¹ As the king got up, Ehud reached with his left hand and pulled the dagger from his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:22**ULT**

²² Also the handle went in following the blade, and the fat closed up over the handle because he did not pull the sword out of his belly. Then he proceeded to the vestibule,

UST

²² He thrust it in so far that the handle went into the king's belly. Ehud did not pull the dagger out. He left it there, with the handle buried in the king's fat, and he went out from the room.

Why did fat close over the blade?

Fat closed over the blade, for Ehud did not draw the sword out of the king's body.

Judges 3:23**ULT**

²³ and Ehud went out to the porch and he closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

UST

²³ Then Ehud left the room. He went out to the porch. He shut the doors to the room and locked them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:24**ULT**

²⁴ After he had gone out, his servants came. They inspected and behold, the doors of the roof chamber were locked. So they said, "Surely he is covering his feet in the chamber in the coolness."

UST

²⁴ After he had gone, King Eglon's servants came back, but they saw that the doors of the room were locked. They said, "The king must be defecating in the inner room."

When the king's servants saw that the doors of the upper room were locked, what did they think?

When the king's servants saw that the doors of the upper room were locked, they thought he was relieving himself in the coolness of the upper room.

Judges 3:25**ULT**

²⁵ They waited until it was inappropriate, but behold, he was not opening the doors of the roof chamber. So they took the key and they opened them, and behold, their majestic lord had fallen to the floor, dead.

UST

²⁵ So they waited, but when the king did not open the doors of the room, after a while they were worried. They got a key and unlocked the doors. And they saw that their king was lying on the floor, dead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:26**ULT**

²⁶ Meanwhile Ehud had escaped during their tarrying and he passed beyond the quarries, then he fled to Seirah.

UST

²⁶ Meanwhile, Ehud escaped. He passed by the stone quarries and arrived at Seirah, in the hill country where the descendants of Ephraim lived.

When did Ehud escape?

While the servants were waiting, wondering what they should do, Ehud escaped.

Judges 3:27**ULT**

²⁷ Now it happened that at his coming in, he blew on the shofar in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was before them.

UST

²⁷ There he blew a trumpet to tell everyone that the people should join him to fight the people of Moab. So the Israelites went with him from the hills. They went down toward the Jordan River, with Ehud leading them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:28**ULT**

²⁸ Then he said to them, "Follow after me, for Yahweh has given your enemies, Moab, into your hand." So they went down after him and they captured the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab. Thus they did not allow anyone to cross over.

UST

²⁸ He said to the men, "Yahweh is going to allow us to defeat your enemies, the people of Moab. So follow me!" So they followed him down to the river, and they stationed some of their men at the place where people can walk across the river, in order that they could kill any people from Moab who tried to cross the river to escape.

How did the people of Israel prevent the Moabites from crossing the river?

The people of Israel captured the fords of the Jordan across from the Moabites.

Judges 3:29**ULT**

²⁹ So they routed Moab at that time, about ten thousand men. All were robust and all were men of strength, but not anyone escaped.

UST

²⁹ At that time, the Israelites killed about ten thousand people from Moab. They were all strong and capable men, but not one of them escaped.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:30**ULT**

³⁰ Moab was subdued on that day under the hand of Israel, and the land was tranquil eighty years.

UST

³⁰ On that day, the Israelites conquered the people of Moab. Then there was peace in their land for eighty years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 3:31**ULT**

³¹ After him was Shamgar, the son of Anath, and he smote Philistines, 600 men with a cattle prod. Thus he also delivered Israel.

UST

³¹ After Ehud died, Shamgar became their leader. He rescued the Israelites from the Philistines. In one battle he killed six hundred Philistines with an ox goad.

With what did Shamgar kill 600 Philistines?

Shamgar killed the Philistines with a stick used to goad the cattle.

Judges 4

Judges 4:1

ULT

¹ Then the sons of Israel resumed once again to do this evil in the eyes of Yahweh, after Ehud died.

UST

¹ After Ehud died, the Israelites again started doing things Yahweh said were very evil.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:2

ULT

² So Yahweh handed them over into the hand of Jabin, the king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Now the commander of his army was Sisera, and he was residing in Harosheth Haggoyim.

UST

² So he allowed the army of Jabin, one of the kings in the region of Canaan, who ruled in the city of Hazor, to conquer the Israelites. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth (where many of those who were not Israelites lived).

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:3

ULT

³ Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, because he had nine hundred chariots of iron and he oppressed the sons of Israel with severe might twenty years.

UST

³ Sisera's army had nine hundred chariots made out of iron. For twenty years he cruelly oppressed the Israelites. Then they pleaded to Yahweh to help them.

Why did the people of Israel call out to Yahweh for help?

The people of Israel called out to Yahweh for help, because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and he oppressed the people of Israel with force for twenty years.

Judges 4:4**ULT**

⁴ Now Deborah was a woman, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth. She was judging Israel at that time.

UST

⁴ Now Deborah, a woman who proclaimed the word of Yahweh (who was the wife of Lappidoth), was a leading judge in Israel at that time.

Why did the people of Israel come to Deborah?

The people of Israel came to Deborah to settle their disputes.

Judges 4:5**ULT**

⁵ She would sit beneath the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel came up to her for justice.

UST

⁵ She would sit under her palm tree (they called it the “palm of Deborah”) at a place between Ramah and Bethel, in the hill country where the descendants of Ephraim lived, and people would come to her and ask her to settle their legal disputes. She would determine what was right and fair.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:6**ULT**

⁶ She sent and called for Barak, the son of Abinoam, from Kedesh Naphtali. She said to him, “Has Yahweh, the God of Israel, not commanded: ‘Go and draft at Mount Tabor, and you shall take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun’?”

UST

⁶ One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam and called him to come to her. He was from Kedesh (in the area where the descendants of Naphtali lived). She said to him, “This is what Yahweh, the God we worship, is commanding you to do: ‘Take ten thousand men with you, some from Naphtali and some from Zebulun, and gather all your men together at Mount Tabor.’”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:7**ULT**

⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the commander of the army of Jabin, to you along the Kishon River, and his chariot and his multitude, and I will give him into your hand'."

UST

⁷ Yahweh will make me able to persuade Sisera, the commander of King Jabin's army, to come with his chariots and his army, to the river Kishon, a few miles away. I will enable your men to defeat them there.'"

Where would Yahweh cause Sisera to meet Barak?

Yahweh would cause Sisera to meet Barak by the river Kishon.

Judges 4:8**ULT**

⁸ Barak replied to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

UST

⁸ Barak replied, "I will go only if you go with me. If you will not go with me, I will not go."

Why would Yahweh make a woman defeat Sisera? (vv8-9)

Yahweh would make a woman defeat Sisera because Barak did not go without Deborah.

Judges 4:9**ULT**

⁹ She declared, "I will indeed go with you, for naught, since it will not be your honor on the way which you are going, but with a hand of a woman Yahweh will give over Sisera." Then Deborah rose up and she went with Barak to Kedesh.

UST

⁹ She replied, "Indeed I will go with you. But because that is what you have decided to do, Yahweh will enable a woman to defeat Sisera, and the result will be that no one will honor you for doing that." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. He went up, ten thousand men were at his feet, and Deborah went up with him.

UST

¹⁰ There he summoned men from Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men came to him there, and then they went together with Deborah to Mount Tabor.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:11**ULT**

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from Cain, from the sons of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses. He pitched his tent as far as an oak tree in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh.

UST

¹¹ At that time Heber (the Kenite) had moved away from the Kenites with his wife Jael, and set up his tent near the big oak tree at Zaanannim, near Kedesh. (Heber was a descendant of Moses' father-in-law Hobab.)

From whom did the Kenites descend?

The Kenites descended from Hobab, Moses' father-in-law.

Judges 4:12**ULT**

¹² When they reported to Sisera that Barak, the son of Abinoam, had gone up to Mount Tabor,

UST

¹² Someone told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up on Mount Tabor with an army.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:13**ULT**

¹³ Sisera summoned all of his chariotry, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all of the people who were with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

UST

¹³ Sisera gathered his troops with their nine hundred chariots, and they marched from Harosheth (where the non-Israelites lived) to the river Kishon.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then Deborah directed to Barak, "Arise! For this day when Yahweh has given Sisera into your hand, has not Yahweh gone forth before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor along with ten thousand men beside him.

UST

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get going! This is the day that Yahweh will enable your army to defeat the army of Sisera. Yahweh is going ahead of you!" So Barak led his men as they descended from Mount Tabor.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Yahweh dismayed Sisera and all of the chariotry and all of the army with an edge of a sword before Barak. So Sisera dismounted from atop the chariot and fled away on his feet.

UST

¹⁵ As they advanced, Yahweh caused Sisera and all his chariots and his army to have great difficulty maneuvering around. So Sisera jumped down from his chariot and ran away.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:16**ULT**

¹⁶ But Barak pursued after the chariotry and after the army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and the entire army of Sisera fell by an edge of a sword, not even one remained.

UST

¹⁶ But Barak and his men pursued the other chariots and the enemy soldiers as far as Harosheth (where the non-Israelites lived). They killed all of the men in Sisera's army. Not one man survived.

How many of the army of Sisera survived?

None of the army of Sisera survived.

Judges 4:17**ULT**

¹⁷ However Sisera had fled 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.

UST

¹⁷ But Sisera ran to Jael's tent. He did that because Sisera's master, Jabin of the city of Hazor, was a good friend of her husband Heber.

Why did Sisera go to the tent of Jael?

Sisera went to the tent of Jael, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor, and the house of Heber, Jael's husband.

Judges 4:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Jael went out to meet Sisera and she said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me. Do not fear." So he turned to her, into the tent, and she concealed him with the coverlet.

UST

¹⁸ Jael went out to greet Sisera. She said to him, "Sir, come into my tent! Do not be afraid!" So he went into the tent and lay down, and she covered him with a blanket.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:19**ULT**

¹⁹ He requested of her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened the leather bag of milk and gave him drink, and then she covered him.

UST

¹⁹ He said to her, "I am thirsty; can you give me some water?" So she opened a leather container of milk, and gave him a drink. Then she covered him with a blanket again.

When Sisera asked for water, what did Jael give him?

When Sisera asked for water, Jael gave him milk.

Judges 4:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then he directed her, "Stand at the entrance of the tent. It shall be if anyone should come and ask you and say, 'Is there anyone here?', then you shall say 'There is not'."

UST

²⁰ He said to her, "Stand in the entrance of the tent. If someone comes and asks, 'Is anyone else here?', say 'No'."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:21**ULT**

²¹ Then Jael, the wife of Heber, took the peg of the tent and she put the hammer in her hand. She came to him in the silence, and she drove the peg into his temple and pounded down to the ground. For he had been soundly sleeping and weary, instead he died.

UST

²¹ Sisera was very exhausted, so he soon was asleep. While he was sleeping, Jael crept quietly to him, holding a hammer and a tent peg. She pounded the peg through his skull, and she hammered the peg all the way through his head and it stuck into the ground, and he died.

How did Jael kill Sisera?

Jael hammered the tent peg into the side of his head and it pierced through him and went down into the ground.

Judges 4:22**ULT**

²² Then, behold, Barak was pursuing Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him and she said to him, "Come, and let me show you the man whom you are seeking." So he came to her, and behold, Sisera had fallen dead, and the peg was in his temple.

UST

²² When Barak came to Jael's tent to look for Sisera, she went out to greet him. She said, "Come in, and I will show you the man you are searching for!" So he followed her into the tent, and he saw Sisera lying there, dead, with the tent peg still piercing through his head.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:23**ULT**

²³ So on that day God vanquished Jabin, the king of Canaan, before the sons of Israel.

UST

²³ On that day God enabled the Israelites to defeat the army of Jabin, one of the kings of the Canaanites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 4:24**ULT**

²⁴ Thus the hand of the sons of Israel had gone on becoming increasingly severe against Jabin, the king of Canaan, up to the point that they had destroyed Jabin, the king of Canaan.

UST

²⁴ The Israelites became stronger and stronger, and they destroyed Jabin and his army.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5

Judges 5:1

ULT

¹ So Deborah sang with Barak, the son of Abinoam, on that day, saying:

UST

¹ On that day, Deborah and Barak (the son of Abinoam) sang this song:

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:2

ULT

² “When long hair flowed freely in Israel, as people enlisted themselves willingly, everyone bless Yahweh!

UST

² “When the leaders of the Israelite people really lead them, and the people willingly follow them, it is time to praise Yahweh!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:3

ULT

³ Hear, O kings! Give ear, O rulers! I, unto Yahweh, even I, I will sing, I will make music unto Yahweh, the God of Israel.

UST

³ Listen, you kings! Pay attention, you leaders! I will sing to Yahweh. With this song I will praise Yahweh, the God of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:4**ULT**

⁴ Yahweh, because of your going forth out of Seir, because of your marching out of the open land of Edom, the earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, also the dark clouds dripped down water.

UST

⁴ O Yahweh, when you came from Seir, when you marched from that land, also known as Edom, the earth shook, and rain poured down from the skies.

When did the earth shake?

The earth shook when Yahweh went out from Seir, when he marched from Edom.

Judges 5:5**ULT**

⁵ Mountains flowed because of the presence of Yahweh, this Sinai, because of the presence of Yahweh, the God of Israel.

UST

⁵ The mountains shook when you came, just like Mount Sinai shook when you appeared there, because you are Yahweh, the God of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:6**ULT**

⁶ In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, main roads were abandoned, and walkers of footpaths would walk crooked paths.

UST

⁶ When Shamgar was our leader and in the days of Jael, we were afraid to walk on the main roads; instead, caravans of travelers walked on winding, less traveled roads to avoid being molested.

What paths did those who walked use?

Those who walked used the winding paths.

Judges 5:7**ULT**

⁷ Rural people ceased to be in Israel, they ceased to be until when I arose, Deborah, when I arose, a mother in Israel!

UST

⁷ People left their small villages, and moved into the walled cities until I, Deborah, became their leader. I became like a mother to the Israelite people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:8**ULT**

⁸ When he chose new gods, then there was fighting at the city gates, neither shield nor spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

UST

⁸ When the Israelite people abandoned Yahweh and chose new gods, enemies attacked the gates of the cities, and then they took away the shields and spears from forty thousand Israelite soldiers. Not one was left with a metal weapon.

What was not seen among forty thousand in Israel?

Neither shields nor spears were seen among forty thousand in Israel.

Judges 5:9**ULT**

⁹ My heart is alongside those pledging order in Israel, those freely enlisting themselves among the people. Everyone bless Yahweh!

UST

⁹ I am thankful for the leaders and soldiers who volunteered to fight. I praise you, Yahweh, for them!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Riding on white donkeys, sitting on carpets, or walking along a road, sing of this,

UST

¹⁰ You wealthy people who ride on donkeys, sitting on nice padded saddles, and you people who just walk on the road, think about all this!

What things were used as saddles on the white donkeys?

Rugs were used as saddles on the white donkeys.

Judges 5:11**ULT**

¹¹ louder than the sound of those distributing water from watering places. There they continuously celebrate the righteous deeds of Yahweh, the righteous actions of his rural people in Israel. Then the people of Yahweh went down to the gates.

UST

¹¹ Listen to the voices of the singers who gather at the places where the animals drink water. They tell about how Yahweh acted righteously when he enabled the Israelite warriors to conquer their enemies. Yahweh's people marched down to the city gates.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:12**ULT**

¹² Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, utter a song! Arise, Barak, and lead away captive your prisoner, the son of Abinoam.

UST

¹² The people came to my house and shouted, 'Deborah, wake up! Wake up and start singing!' They also shouted, 'Barak (son of Abinoam), get up, and capture our enemies!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:13**ULT**

¹³ Then a survivor prevails over nobles, the people of Yahweh prevail at my side against the warriors.

UST

¹³ Later, some of the Israelite people who survived the battle came down from the highlands to where their leaders were. These were men who belonged to Yahweh and they came down to me to fight their enemies alongside these warriors.

To whom did the people of Yahweh come down?

The people of Yahweh came down to Deborah among the warriors.

Judges 5:14**ULT**

¹⁴ From Ephraim, their root was against Amalek; after you, Benjamin, among your peoples. From Machir those with resolve came down, and from Zebulun those who wield the scepter of a scribe.

UST

¹⁴ Some came from the tribe descended from Ephraim. They came from land that once belonged to the descendants of Amalek. Men from the tribe descended from Benjamin followed them. Troops from the group descended from Machir also came down, and officers from the tribe descended from Zebulun came down, carrying staffs to show they were important.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:15**ULT**

¹⁵ My princes in Issachar were with Deborah; and Issachar was also with Barak into a plain he was sent out on his feet. Among the divisions of Reuben there were great resolutions of heart.

UST

¹⁵ Leaders from the tribes descended from Issachar joined Barak and Deborah. They followed Barak, rushing down into the valley. But men from the tribe descended from Reuben could not decide what they should do.

What was Issachar doing with Barak?

Issachar was rushing after Barak into the valley under his command.

Judges 5:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Why did you sit among the campfires, in order to hear signaling for flocks? As for the divisions of Reuben there were great resolutions of heart.

UST

¹⁶ Why did you men stay at your fireplaces, waiting to hear the shepherds whistle for their flocks of sheep to come to the pens? Men in the tribe descended from Reuben could not decide whether they would join us to fight our enemies, or not.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Gilead settled in the region beyond the Jordan; but Dan, why does he sojourn on ships? Asher dwelt at the coast of the seas and he resides along his harbors.

UST

¹⁷ Similarly, the men living in the Gilead area stayed at home, east of the Jordan River. And the men from the tribe descended from Dan, why did they stay home? The tribe descended from Asher sat by the seashore. They stayed in their coves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Zebulun was a people willfully scorning its soul even to death, also Naphtali on the elevated places of the battlefield.

UST

¹⁸ But men from the tribe descended from Zebulun risked their lives on the battlefield, and men descended from Naphtali were ready to do that, also.

What would Zebulun risk?

Zebulun would risk their lives to the point of death.

Judges 5:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Kings came, they did battle; at that time the kings of Canaan did battle at Taanach along the waters of Megiddo. Plunder of silver they did not take.

UST

¹⁹ The kings of Canaan fought us at Taanach, near the springs in Megiddo Valley. But since they did not defeat us, they did not carry away any silver or other treasures from the battle.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:20**ULT**

²⁰ From the heavens the stars did battle, from their courses they did battle against Sisera.

UST

²⁰ It was as though the stars in the heavens fought for us and as though those stars in their paths fought against Sisera.

What fought against Sisera from their paths across the heavens?

The stars fought against Sisera from their paths across the heavens.

Judges 5:21**ULT**

²¹ The Kishon River swept them away, the ancient river, the Kishon River. Tread on, O my soul, in strength!

UST

²¹ The river Kishon swept them away— that river that has been there for ages. I will tell myself to be brave and continue marching on.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:22**ULT**

²² Then hooves of a horse beat down, from rushing, the rushing of his valiant ones.

UST

²² The hooves of the horses of Sisera's army pounded the ground. Those powerful horses kept galloping along.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:23**ULT**

²³ 'Curse Meroz!' said the messenger of Yahweh. 'You shall surely curse those dwelling in it, because they did not come to the aid of Yahweh— to the aid of Yahweh against the mighty men.'

UST

²³ The angel sent by Yahweh said, 'I curse the people of the town of Meroz because they did not come to help Yahweh to defeat the mighty warriors of Canaan.'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:24**ULT**

²⁴ Jael is most blessed of women, the wife of Heber, the Kenite, out of women in the tent she is blessed.

UST

²⁴ But God is very pleased with Jael, (the wife of Heber the Kenite). He is more pleased with her than with all the other women who live in tents.

Why did the angel of Yahweh curse Meroz?

The angel of Yahweh cursed Meroz because they did not come to help Yahweh.

Judges 5:25**ULT**

²⁵ Water he requested, milk she gave, in a bowl suitable for nobles, she brought curdled milk.

UST

²⁵ Sisera asked for some water, and Jael gave him some milk. She brought him some yogurt in a bowl that was suitable for kings.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:26**ULT**

²⁶ They reached out, her hand to the tent peg, and her right hand to a hammer of workmen; she struck Sisera, she shattered his head. She struck through and she pierced his temple.

UST

²⁶ Then, when he was asleep, she reached for a tent peg with her left hand, and she reached for a hammer with her right hand. She hit Sisera hard with it and crushed his head. She pounded the tent peg right through his head.

To what did Jael put her hand?

She put her hand to the tent peg, and her right hand to the workman's hammer.

Judges 5:27**ULT**

²⁷ Between her feet, he bowed, he fell, he lay down. Between her feet he bowed, he fell; at the place where he bowed, there he fell violently destroyed.

UST

²⁷ He collapsed at her feet and he fell and he layed there and did not move. At her feet he sank down, and there he fell limp. He was dead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:28**ULT**

²⁸ Through the window she had looked down and lamented, the mother of Sisera through the lattice window. 'Why has his chariot delayed in coming? Why are the hoofbeats of his chariots late?'

UST

²⁸ Sisera's mother looked out from her window. She said, 'Why is he taking so long to come home in his chariot? Why do I not hear the sound of the wheels of his chariot?'

Where did the mother of Sisera look out?

The mother of Sisera looked out of a window, through the lattice.

Judges 5:29**ULT**

²⁹ The wisest of her princesses answered, yet she continued her utterance to herself:

UST

²⁹ Her wisest princesses replied to her, and she kept consoling herself by repeating those words:

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:30**ULT**

³⁰ 'Are they not finding, are they dividing up spoil, a maiden, two maidens for every warrior, spoil of dyed fabrics for Sisera, spoil of dyed fabrics, embroidered, dyed fabric embroidered on both sides for the necks as spoil?'

UST

³⁰ 'Perhaps they are dividing up the things and the people they captured after the battle. Each soldier will get one or two women who will bear them children. Sisera will get some beautiful robes, and some beautiful embroidered robes for me.'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 5:31**ULT**

³¹ So may all of your enemies perish, Yahweh! But may those who love him be as the coming forth of the sun in its strength." Then the land was tranquil forty years.

UST

³¹ But that is not what happened! Yahweh, I hope that all your enemies will die as Sisera did! And I desire that all those who love you, Yahweh, be as strong as the sun when it rises!" There was peace again in the land for forty years.

Like what should those who love Yahweh be?

Those who love Yahweh should be like the sun when it rises in its might.

Judges 6

Judges 6:1

ULT

¹ The sons of Israel did this evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so Yahweh gave them over into the hand of Midian seven years.

UST

¹ Again the Israelites did what Yahweh said was very evil. So he allowed the people of Midian to conquer them and rule them for seven years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:2

ULT

² Then the hand of Midian prevailed over Israel. On account of the presence of Midian, the sons of Israel made the dens for themselves which were in the mountains, the caves, and the strongholds.

UST

² The people of Midian treated the Israelites so cruelly that the Israelites fled to the mountains. There they made places to live in caves and places to be safe.

What did the people of Israel do because of Midian?

Because of Midian, the people of Israel made shelters for themselves from the dens in the hills, the caves, and the strongholds.

Judges 6:3

ULT

³ Now it would happen whenever Israel sowed, that Midian and Amalek would come up, even sons of the east would come up against him.

UST

³ At the time when the Israelites planted their crops in the fields, the people of Midian and Amalek and people from the east attacked the Israelites.

What happened any time the Israelites planted their crops?

Any time the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, and the Amalekites, and the people from the east would attack the Israelites.

Judges 6:4**ULT**

⁴ They encamped around them and they ruined the produce of the land as far as your coming into Gaza. As a result means of sustaining life would not remain in Israel, neither sheep, nor cattle, nor donkey.

UST

⁴ They set up tents in the area, and then destroyed the crops as far south as Gaza. They did not leave anything for the Israelites to eat and took away the sheep, the cattle and the donkeys.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:5**ULT**

⁵ When they and their livestock would come up, along with their tents, they would come up as an abundance of a locust swarm because of the multitude. Of them and of their camels there was no counting thus they came into the land in order to destroy it.

UST

⁵ They came into Israel with their tents and their livestock like a swarm of locusts. There were so many of them that arrived riding on their camels that no one could count. They stayed so they could ruin the Israelites' livelihoods.

How many Midianites and Amalekites would attack?

It was impossible to count them.

Judges 6:6**ULT**

⁶ Israel was severely impoverished because of the presence of Midian, so the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh.

UST

⁶ The people of Midian took almost everything the Israelites owned. So finally the Israelites pleaded for Yahweh to help them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:7**ULT**

⁷ Now it happened that when the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh on account of Midian,

UST

⁷ When the Israelites pleaded with Yahweh to help them because of what the people from Midian had done to them,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:8**ULT**

⁸ that Yahweh sent a man, a prophet to the sons of Israel. He said to them, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel: 'I myself, have brought you up out of Egypt, and I have brought you out of the house of slavery.

UST

⁸ Yahweh sent to them a prophet, who said, "This is what Yahweh the God of Israel says, 'I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, out of the places where you all were slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:9**ULT**

⁹ I rescued you from the hand of Egypt, and from the hand of all of those oppressing you. I drove them out of your presence, and I have surely given to you their land.

UST

⁹ But I rescued them from the leaders of Egypt and from all the others who oppressed you. I expelled their enemies from this land, and gave it to you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:10**ULT**

¹⁰ I said to you, "I am Yahweh your God; you shall not revere the gods of the Amorite, when you are dwelling in their land." But you have not heeded my voice."

UST

¹⁰ I told you and your ancestors, "I am Yahweh, your God. You are now in the land of the Amorites, but you must not worship the gods they worship here in this land in which you are living." But you did not obey me."

In whose land were the people of Israel living?

They were living in the land of the Amorites.

Judges 6:11**ULT**

¹¹ Now the messenger of Yahweh came and sat beneath the oak which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash, the Abiezrite. Meanwhile Gideon, his son, was threshing out wheat at the winepress in order to hide from the presence of Midian.

UST

¹¹ One day the angel of Yahweh appeared and sat under a big oak tree at the town of Ophrah. (That tree belonged to Joash, who was from the clan of Abiezer.) Joash's son Gideon was threshing wheat in the pit where they pressed grapes to make wine. He was threshing the grain there in order to hide it from the people of Midian.

Why was Gideon separating out the wheat by beating it on the floor, in the winepress?

Gideon was separating out the wheat by beating it on the floor, in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

Judges 6:12**ULT**

¹² Then the messenger of Yahweh appeared to him and declared to him, "Yahweh is with you, O warrior of valor!"

UST

¹² Yahweh went over to Gideon and said to him, "You mighty warrior, Yahweh is helping you!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:13**ULT**

¹³ Gideon said to him, "With me, my lord? If Yahweh is with us, then why has all of this come to us? Where are all of his miraculous workings that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not Yahweh bring us up out of Egypt?' But now Yahweh has forsaken us and given us over into the grasp of Midian."

UST

¹³ Gideon replied, "Sir, if Yahweh is helping us, why have all these bad things happened to us? We heard about all the miracles that Yahweh performed for our ancestors. We heard people tell us about how he rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. But now Yahweh has abandoned us, and we are ruled by the people from Midian."

What did Gideon think Yahweh had done to the people of Israel?

Gideon thought Yahweh had abandoned them and had given them over to the power of Midian.

Judges 6:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then Yahweh turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours and you shall deliver Israel from the grasp of Midian. Have I not sent you?"

UST

¹⁴ Then Yahweh turned toward him and said, "You have the strength to rescue the Israelites from the people of Midian. I am sending you to do that!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then he replied to him, "Please, my lord! In what manner will I deliver Israel? See, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the most insignificant in the house of my father."

UST

¹⁵ Gideon replied, "But Lord, how can I rescue the Israelites? My clan is the least significant in the whole tribe descended from Manasseh, and I am the least significant person in my whole family!"

Why did Gideon think he could not deliver Israel?

Gideon thought he could not deliver Israel because his family was the weakest in Manasseh, and he was the least important in his father's house.

Judges 6:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then Yahweh said to him, "Because I will be with you, indeed you shall destroy Midian as one man."

UST

¹⁶ Yahweh said to him, "I will help you. So you will defeat the Midianite army as easily as if you were fighting only one man!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:17**ULT**

¹⁷ He replied to him, "If indeed I have found favor in your eyes, then perform a sign for me that it is you speaking to me.

UST

¹⁷ Gideon replied, "If you are truly pleased with me, do something which will prove that you who are speaking to me are really Yahweh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Please, do not depart from this place, until my coming to you then I will bring out my offering and I will set it before you." So he said, "Myself, I will stay until your returning."

UST

¹⁸ But do not go away until I go and bring back an offering to you." Yahweh answered, "Very well, I will stay here until you return."

Why did Yahweh wait for Gideon?

Yahweh waited for Gideon to bring him a gift.

Judges 6:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Then Gideon went and he prepared a young goat and from an ephah of flour, unleavened bread. He placed the meat in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot and brought them out to him to beneath the oak tree, and he presented them.

UST

¹⁹ Gideon hurried to his home. He killed a young goat and cooked it. Then he took a about twenty-two liters of flour and baked some bread without yeast. Then he put the cooked meat in a basket, and put the broth from the meat in a pot, and took it to Yahweh, who was sitting under the tree.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then the messenger of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and place them on this rock, and pour out the broth," and he did so.

UST

²⁰ Then the angel of God said to him, "Put the meat and the bread on this rock. Then pour the broth on top of it." So Gideon did that.

Where did the angel of God tell Gideon to put the meat and unleavened bread?

The angel of God told Gideon to put the meat and unleavened bread on a rock.

Judges 6:21**ULT**

²¹ Then the messenger of Yahweh stretched out the edge of the staff that was in his hand. He touched the meat and the unleavened bread; the fire went up out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the messenger of Yahweh went away out of his sight.

UST

²¹ Then Yahweh reached out and touched the meat and bread with the walking stick that was in his hand. A fire flamed up from the rock and burned up the meat and the bread that Gideon had brought! And then Yahweh disappeared.

What happened when the angel of Yahweh reached out with the end of the staff in his hand?

When the angel of Yahweh reached out with the end of the staff in his hand, he touched the flesh and the unleavened bread; a fire went up out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread.

Judges 6:22**ULT**

²² When Gideon saw that he was the messenger of Yahweh, Gideon lamented, "Alas, O my Lord Yahweh, for because of this I have seen the messenger of Yahweh face to face!"

UST

²² When Gideon realized that it was really Yahweh who had appeared in the form of an angel and talked with him, he exclaimed, "O, Yahweh, I have seen you face-to-face when you had the form of an angel! So I will surely die!"

Why was Gideon afraid when he understood that he had seen the angel of Yahweh?**(vv22-23)**

Gideon was afraid when he understood that he had seen the angel of Yahweh because he thought he would die.

Judges 6:23**ULT**

²³ But Yahweh replied to him, "Peace be unto you! Do not be afraid, you will not die."

UST

²³ But Yahweh called to him and said, "Do not be afraid! You will not die!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:24**ULT**

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and he named it Yahweh is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah of the Abiezerite.

UST

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar to worship Yahweh there. He named it 'Yahweh is Peace.' That altar is still there at the town of Ophrah, in the land of the Abiezrites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:25**ULT**

²⁵ Now it happened on that night that Yahweh said to him, "Take the young bull that belongs to your father, and the second bull seven years old, break into pieces the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.

UST

²⁵ That night Yahweh said to Gideon, "Take the second-best bull that belongs to your father, the bull that is seven years old, and tear down the altar that your father built to worship the god Baal. Also cut down the pole for worshiping the goddess Asherah that is there beside it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:26**ULT**

²⁶ You shall build an altar to Yahweh your God on the top of this place of refuge in the usual arrangement. Then you shall take the second bull and you shall offer a whole burnt offering, on the wood pieces from the Asherah that you shall cut down."

UST

²⁶ Then build a stone altar to worship me, your God Yahweh, here on this hill. Take the wood from the Asherah pole you cut down and make a fire to burn the meat of the bull as a burnt offering to me."

What did Yahweh tell Gideon to build on the top of the place of refuge?

Yahweh told him to build an altar to Yahweh on the top of the place of refuge.

Judges 6:27**ULT**

²⁷ So Gideon took ten men out of his servants and did just as Yahweh had instructed to him. Now it happened that because he was afraid of the household of his father and the men of the city to do it by day, he did it by night.

UST

²⁷ So Gideon and ten of his servants did what Yahweh commanded. But they did it at night, because he was afraid what the other members of his family and the other men in town would do to him if they found out that he had done that.

Why did Gideon do what Yahweh told him to do at night?

Gideon did what Yahweh told him to do at night because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the town to do it during the day.

Judges 6:28**ULT**

²⁸ When the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was torn down, the Asherah that was beside it had been cut down, and the second bull had been offered on the altar that had been built.

UST

²⁸ Early the next morning, as soon as the men got up, they saw that the altar to Baal was in ruins, and the Asherah pole was gone. They saw that there was a new altar there, and on it was what remained from the bull they had sacrificed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:29**ULT**

²⁹ As a result each man said to his neighbor, "Who has done this thing?" When they inquired and searched, they said, "Gideon, the son of Joash has done this thing."

UST

²⁹ The people asked each other, "Who did this?" After they investigated, someone told them that it was Gideon son of Joash who had done it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:30**ULT**

³⁰ Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son so that he may die, because he tore down the altar of Baal, and because he cut down the Asherah that was beside it."

UST

³⁰ The men of the town said to Joash, "Bring your son out here! He must be put to death, because he destroyed our god Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole where we worship!"

Why did the men of the town want to put Gideon to death?

The men wanted to put Gideon to death, because he pulled apart the altar of Baal, and because he cut down the Asherah beside it.

Judges 6:31**ULT**

³¹ Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you really contend on behalf of Baal? Will you really help him? Whoever contends for him, he will be put to death while it is still the morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself when someone tears down his altar."

UST

³¹ But Joash replied to those who came against him, "Are you trying to defend Baal? Are you trying to argue his case? Anyone who tries to defend Baal should be executed by tomorrow morning! If Baal is truly a god, he ought to be able to defend himself, when someone tears down his altar!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:32**ULT**

³² Therefore on that day he called him "Jerub Baal," saying, "May the Baal contend against him," because he had torn down his altar.

UST

³² From that time, people called Gideon Jerub Baal, which means "Baal should defend himself," because he had torn down Baal's altar.

Why was Gideon given the name, "Jerub Baal"?

Gideon was given the name, "Jerub Baal," because he said, "Let Baal defend himself against him," because Gideon pulled apart his altar.

Judges 6:33**ULT**

³³ Now all of Midian, Amalek, and the sons of the east assembled themselves together, and they crossed over and they camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

UST

³³ Soon after that, the armies of the people of Midian and of Amalek and the people from the east gathered together. They crossed the Jordan River to attack the Israelites. They set up their tents in the Valley of Jezreel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:34**ULT**

³⁴ But the Spirit of Yahweh clothed Gideon. As a result he blew the shofar, thus he summoned Abiezer after him.

UST

³⁴ Then Yahweh's Spirit took control of Gideon. He blew a ram's horn to summon the men to prepare to fight. So the men of the clan of Abiezer came to him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:35**ULT**

³⁵ Then he sent messengers in all of Manasseh, and he summoned him also after him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

UST

³⁵ He also sent messengers throughout the tribes descended from Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali to tell their soldiers to come, and all of them came.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:36**ULT**

³⁶ Then Gideon said to the true God, "If it is you delivering Israel by my hand, just as you have spoken,

UST

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to enable me to rescue the Israelite people as you promised,

What did Gideon do to find out if Yahweh intended to use him to save Israel? (vv36-37)

Gideon put a woolen fleece on the threshing floor. He said that if there was dew only on the fleece, and it was dry on all the ground, then he would know that Yahweh would use him to save Israel.

Judges 6:37**ULT**

³⁷ Look, I am putting this fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If dew shall be upon the fleece, only it, but on all of the ground it is dry, then I will know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, just as you have spoken.”

UST

³⁷ confirm it by doing this: Tonight I will put a dry wool fleece on the ground where I thresh the grain. Tomorrow morning, if the fleece is wet with dew but the ground is dry, then I will know that I am the one you will enable to rescue the people of Israel as you promised.”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 6:38**ULT**

³⁸ Now it happened afterwards that he rose early on the next day, and he pressed the fleece together. He wrung out dew from the fleece, the amount that fills the basin with water.

UST

³⁸ And that is what happened. When Gideon got up the next morning, he picked up the fleece, and squeezed out a whole bowlful of water!

When Gideon pressed the fleece together, and wrung out the dew from the fleece, how much water was there?

When Gideon pressed the fleece together, and wrung out the dew from the fleece, there was enough water to fill a bowl.

Judges 6:39**ULT**

³⁹ Then Gideon said to the true God, “Do not let your anger burn against me, but may I speak only this time. May I please test only this time with the fleece? May it be, I pray, dry on the fleece, only it, but on all of the ground may there be dew.”

UST

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me ask you to do one more thing. Tonight I will put the fleece out again. This time, let the fleece remain dry, while the ground is wet with the dew.”

What was Gideon’s second test for God?

Gideon’s second test was for God to make the fleece dry, and let there be dew on all the ground around it.

Judges 6:40**ULT**

⁴⁰ So God did this during that night. It was dry on the fleece, only it, but on all of the ground there was dew.

UST

⁴⁰ So that night, God did what Gideon asked him to do. The next morning the fleece was dry, but the ground was covered with dew.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7

Judges 7:1

ULT

¹ Then Jerubbaal, that is, Gideon, rose up early, and all of the people who were with him, and they encamped beside the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was northward from him, toward the hill of Moreh in the valley.

UST

¹ The next morning, Jerub Baal (his name is also Gideon) and his men got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The army of Midian was camped north of them, in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:2

ULT

² Yahweh said to Gideon, "Too many are the people who are with you for my giving Midian into their hand, lest Israel get glory themselves over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"

UST

² Yahweh said to Gideon, "You have too many soldiers with you. If I allow all of you to fight the army of Midian and your army defeats them, they will boast to me that they defeated their enemies by themselves, without my help."

Why did Yahweh have the fearful soldiers return? (vv2-3)

Yahweh had the fearful soldiers return so that Israel could not boast against Yahweh saying, "Our own power has saved us."

Judges 7:3

ULT

³ Now therefore, announce in the ears of the people saying, 'Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand of the people turned back, but ten thousand remained.

UST

³ So tell the men, 'Whoever among you is timid or afraid may leave us and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So after Gideon told that to them, twenty-two thousand of them went home. Only ten thousand men were left there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:4**ULT**

⁴ Then Yahweh said to Gideon, "Still the people are too numerous. Bring them down to the water, and I will further refine him for you there. So it will be whoever I will say to you, 'This one will go with you,' he will go with you. But anyone of whom I will say to you, 'This one will not go with you,' he will not go."

UST

⁴ But Yahweh told Gideon, "There are still too many men! Take them down to the spring, and there I will choose from among them, which ones will go with you and which ones will not go."

Why did Yahweh tell Gideon to take the soldiers down to the water?

Yahweh wanted to make the number of soldiers smaller by telling Gideon which ones would go with him.

Judges 7:5**ULT**

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water, and Yahweh said to Gideon, "Anyone who laps up with his tongue from the water, just as would lap the dog, you shall set him apart, likewise anyone who kneels down on his knees to drink."

UST

⁵ When Gideon took the men down to the spring, Yahweh told him, "When they drink, put into one group the ones who lap the water with their tongues, like dogs do. Put into another group the ones who kneel down to drink with their mouths in the water."

How did Yahweh tell Gideon to separate the soldiers?

Yahweh told Gideon to separate everyone who lapped up the water, as a dog laps.

Judges 7:6**ULT**

⁶ Now it happened that the number of those who lapped with their hand to their mouth was three hundred men, but all of the rest of the people knelt down on their knees to drink water.

UST

⁶ So when they drank, only three hundred men used their hands to bring water to their mouths. All the others drank by kneeling down and putting their mouths into the water.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:7**ULT**

⁷ Then Yahweh said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men those who lapped, I will deliver you and I will give Midian over into your hand. So let the other people go back each one to his own place."

UST

⁷ Then Yahweh told Gideon, "The three hundred men who lapped the water from their hands will be your army! I will help them defeat the Midianite army. Let all the others go home!"

How many soldiers did Gideon keep? (vv7-8)

Gideon kept three hundred soldiers and sent the rest home.

Judges 7:8**ULT**

⁸ Then the people took provision into their hand and their shofars but the other men of Israel he sent away, each man to his tents, except for the three hundred of the men he retained. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

UST

⁸ So Gideon's three hundred men collected the food and rams' horns (used as trumpets) from all the other men, and then he sent them home. The men of Midian were camping in the valley below Gideon.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:9**ULT**

⁹ Now it happened during that night Yahweh said to him, "Arise! Go down into the camp, for I have given him over into your hand.

UST

⁹ During that night, Yahweh said to Gideon, "Get up and go down to their camp, and you will hear something that will convince you that I will enable your men to defeat them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:10**ULT**

¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down, you and Purah your armor bearer to the camp,

UST

¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go by yourself, take your servant Purah with you.

If Gideon was afraid, what would strengthen Gideon's courage? (vv10-11)

If Gideon was afraid, he was told to go down to the camp, and listen to what they were saying, and his courage would be strengthened to attack the camp.

Judges 7:11**ULT**

¹¹ and you shall hear what they are speaking, and afterwards your hands will be encouraged and you shall go down against the camp." So he went down, he and Purah his armor bearer, to the edge of the fifty who were in the camp.

UST

¹¹ Go down and listen to what some of the Midian soldiers are saying. Then you will be very encouraged, and you will be ready to attack their camp." So Gideon took Purah with him, and they went down to the edge of the enemy camp.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:12**ULT**

¹² Now Midian, Amalek, and all of the sons of the east were lying down in the valley, as a locust swarm in abundance. As far as their camels they were innumerable, as the sand that is along the edge of the sea in abundance.

UST

¹² The armies of the people of Midian and Amalek and from the east had set up their tents and looked like a swarm of locusts. It seemed that their camels were too many to count, like the grains of sand on the seashore.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:13

ULT

¹³ Gideon came, and look, a man was telling a dream to his neighbor. He said, "Look! I have dreamed a dream, and look, a round loaf of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian. It came as far as the tent, and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent collapsed."

UST

¹³ Gideon crept closer and heard one man telling a friend about a dream. He said, "I just had a dream, and in the dream I saw a round loaf of barley bread tumble down into our Midian camp. It struck a tent so hard that the tent turned upside down and collapsed!"

When one man was telling a dream to his companion, who did the companion say the dream was about? (vv13-14)

When one man was telling a dream to his companion, the companion said the dream was about Gideon. God had given him victory over Midian and all their army.

Judges 7:14

ULT

¹⁴ His neighbor answered and said, "There is nothing else this can be if not the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, the man of Israel. The true God has given Midian into his hand and all of the camp."

UST

¹⁴ His friend said, "Your dream can mean only one thing. It means that God will enable Gideon, the man of Israel, to defeat all of the armies that are here with us men from Midian."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:15

ULT

¹⁵ Now it happened when Gideon heard the narration of the dream and its interpretation, that he bowed down in worship. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Rise up! For Yahweh has given the camp of Midian into your hand."

UST

¹⁵ When Gideon heard the man tell about his dream and the meaning of that dream, he thanked God. Then he and Purah returned to the Israelite camp, and he shouted to the men, "Get up! Because God is enabling you to defeat the men from Midian!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put shofars into the hand of all of them as well as empty jars, with torches inside of the jars.

UST

¹⁶ He divided his men into three groups. He gave each man a ram's horn (as a trumpet) and an empty clay jar. He also gave each of them a torch to carry.

What did Gideon give his three hundred soldiers?

Gideon gave them all trumpets and empty jars, with torches inside each jar.

Judges 7:17**ULT**

¹⁷ He said to them, "You shall look to me and thus you shall do. Watch! When I am coming along the edge of the camp, it shall be just as I do, thus you must do.

UST

¹⁷ Then he said to them, "Watch me. When we come close to the enemy camp, spread out to surround the camp. Then do exactly what I do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:18**ULT**

¹⁸ When I blow the shofar, I and everyone who is with me, then you shall blow the shofars, also you around all of the camp. Then you shall shout, 'For Yahweh and for Gideon!'"

UST

¹⁸ As soon as my men blow their ram's horns, you men in the other two groups surrounding the camp blow your horns and shout, 'We are doing this for Yahweh and for Gideon!'"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:19**ULT**

¹⁹ So Gideon and one hundred men who were with him came to the edge of the camp, at the beginning of the middle nightwatch. They had only just stationed the guards, when they blew the shofars and they shattered the jars that were in their hand.

UST

¹⁹ A while before midnight at the start of the "middle watch," just when a new group of guards took the places of the previous guards, Gideon and the hundred men with him arrived at the edge of the Midian camp. Suddenly he and his men blew their horns, and broke the jars that they were carrying.

When did Gideon's soldiers blow the trumpets and break the jars that were in their hands?

Just as the Midianites were changing the guard, Gideon's soldiers blew the trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.

Judges 7:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then the three companies blew the shofars and they broke the jars. They held the torches in their left hand and the shofars in their right hand to blow. They shouted out, "A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon."

UST

²⁰ Then the men in all three groups blew their horns and smashed their jars. They held the torches high with their left hands, and held up the horns with their right hands and alternatively blew them and shouted, "We have swords to fight for Yahweh and for Gideon!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:21**ULT**

²¹ Each man stood in his place around the camp and all of the camp ran. They shouted and fled away.

UST

²¹ Each of Gideon's men stood in his position around the enemy camp. As they watched, all the Midian men started running around and shouting in a panic.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:22**ULT**

²² When they blew the three hundred shofars, Yahweh set the sword of each man against his comrade and against all of the camp. As a result the army fled as far as Beth Shittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abel Meholah, towards Tabbath.

UST

²² While the three hundred Israelite men kept blowing their horns, Yahweh caused the Midianites to start fighting each other with their swords. Some of them killed each other. The rest fled. Some fled south to Beth Shittah. Some fled to the town of Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, near Tabbath.

When the soldiers blew the three hundred trumpets, what did Yahweh do?

When they blew the three hundred trumpets, Yahweh set every Midianite man's sword against his comrades and against all their army.

Judges 7:23**ULT**

²³ Then the men of Israel from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from all of Manasseh were summoned, and they pursued after Midian.

UST

²³ Then Gideon sent messages to the soldiers in the areas where the descendants of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh lived, to tell them to come and pursue the army of Midian.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 7:24**ULT**

²⁴ Also Gideon sent messengers throughout all of the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Go down opposite Midian and seize before them the waters, as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Thus all of the men of Ephraim were summoned and they captured the waters, as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.

UST

²⁴ Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country where the descendants of Ephraim lived, saying, "Go down and attack the army of Midian. Go down to the Jordan River, to the places where people can wade across, to prevent enemy troops from crossing it! Station men as far south as Beth Barah." So the men of Ephraim did what Gideon told them to do.

How far did the men of Ephraim gather together and take control of the waters?

The men of Ephraim gathered together and took control of the waters, as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan River.

Judges 7:25**ULT**

25 They captured the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued after Midian, and they brought the head of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, from across the Jordan.

UST

25 They also captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two generals of the Midian army. They killed Oreb at the big rock which is now called the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the place where they crush grapes that is now called the winepress of Zeeb. Afterwards, the Israelites cut off the heads of Oreb and Zeeb and brought them to Gideon, who was on the other side of the Jordan River.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8

Judges 8:1

ULT

¹ The men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this thing you have done to us, not summoning us when you went to fight against Midian?" Then they complained forcefully against him.

UST

¹ Then the soldiers from the tribe of Ephraim said to Gideon, "Why have you acted toward us like this? When you went out to fight against the army of Midian, why did you not call us to help you?" They argued very much with Gideon.

Why did the men of Ephraim argue with Gideon?

The men of Ephraim argued with Gideon because he had not called them when he went to fight against Midian.

Judges 8:2

ULT

² He said to them, "What have I done now according to you? Are not the grape gleanings from Ephraim better than the grape harvest of Abiezer?"

UST

² But Gideon replied, "I have done very little compared with what you have done! The grapes you do not bother to pick in the land of Ephraim are much better than the whole harvest among the descendants of Abiezer!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:3

ULT

³ God has given over the princes of Midian into your hand, Oreb and Zeeb! So what was I able to do compared to you?" Then their spirit concerning him abated when he was speaking this word.

UST

³ God helped you defeat Oreb and Zeeb, the generals of the army from Midian. That is much more important than what I did!" After Gideon told them that, they no longer resented what he had done.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:4**ULT**

⁴ Then Gideon came to the Jordan, crossing over, he and the three hundred men who were with him. They were weary, yet they continued pursuing.

UST

⁴ Then Gideon and his three hundred men went east. They came to the Jordan River and crossed it. Although they were very tired, they continued to pursue their enemies.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:5**ULT**

⁵ Then he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give round loaves of bread to the people who are at my feet, for they are weary, yet I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

UST

⁵ When they arrived at the town of Succoth, Gideon said to the town leaders, "Please give my men bread that they may eat it! They are very tired. We are pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

For what did Gideon ask the men of Succoth?

Gideon asked the men of Succoth for loaves of bread for the people who followed him.

Judges 8:6**ULT**

⁶ The princes of Succoth replied, "Is the palm of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand that we should give bread to your army?"

UST

⁶ But the leaders of Succoth replied, "You have not caught Zebah and Zalmunna yet. So why should we give food to your troops now? Catch them first, and then we will give you food."

Why did Gideon tell the men of Penuel that he would pull down the tower?

Gideon told the men of Penuel that he would pull down the tower because they would not give his army bread, just as the men of Succoth refused.

Judges 8:7**ULT**

⁷ So Gideon declared, "Assuredly when Yahweh has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will thresh your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and briers."

UST

⁷ Gideon replied, " Because you said that, after Yahweh enables us to defeat Zebah and Zalmunna, we will return. And then we will make whips from thorns from the desert, and with them we will rip the flesh off your bones!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:8**ULT**

⁸ Then he went up from there to Penuel and also spoke to them in this manner, but the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered.

UST

⁸ Gideon and his three hundred men went up to Peniel and asked for food there in the same way. But the people gave him the same answer.

Why did Gideon tell the men of Penuel that he would pull down the tower? (vv8-9)

Gideon told the men of Penuel that he would pull down the tower because they would not give his army bread, just as the men of Succoth refused.

Judges 8:9**ULT**

⁹ So he declared also to the men of Peniel saying, "When I return in peace, I will tear down this tower."

UST

⁹ So he said to the men of Peniel, "After I defeat those kings and make peace, then I will come and pull down this tower!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor and their troops were with them, about fifteen thousand, all the remaining out of all of the camp of the sons of the east, for the fallen were one hundred twenty thousand men drawing a sword.

UST

¹⁰ By that time, Zebah and Zalmunna had gone to Karkor town with fifteen thousand troops. They were all that were left of the armies that had come from the people of the East, and 120,000 of their men had already been killed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:11**ULT**

¹¹ Then Gideon went up the road of those dwelling in the tents, from the east to Nobah and Jogbehah. He struck the camp, when the camp was feeling secure.

UST

¹¹ Gideon and his men went east along the road on which caravans travel. They went past the villages of Nobah and Jogbehah and arrived at the enemy camp by surprise.

Why did Gideon defeat the enemy army past Nobah and Jogbehah?

Gideon defeated the enemy army, because they were not expecting an attack.

Judges 8:12**ULT**

¹² Zebah and Zalmunna fled, but he pursued after them and he captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna. Thus he caused all of the camp to tremble in terror.

UST

¹² Zebah and Zalmunna fled, but Gideon's men pursued them. He captured the two kings of Midian—Zebah and Zalmunna, and their whole army was sent off in confusion.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:13**ULT**

¹³ Then Gideon, the son of Joash, returned from the battle, going through the ascent of Heres.

UST

¹³ After that, Gideon and his men took Zebah and Zalmunna with them and started to return, going through the pass of Heres.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:14**ULT**

¹⁴ He captured a young man out of the men of Succoth and he interrogated him. He wrote down for him the princes of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

UST

¹⁴ There he captured a young man from Succoth, and demanded that he write down the names of all of the leaders in the town. The young man wrote down seventy-seven names.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then he came to the men of Succoth and he said, "Look at Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me saying, 'Is the palm of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand that we should give bread to your weary men.'"

UST

¹⁵ Then Gideon and his men returned to Succoth and said to those leaders, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna. When we were here before, you made fun of me and said 'You have not caught Zebah and Zalmunna yet! After you catch them, we will give your exhausted men some food.'"

Who did Gideon show to the men of Succoth before he punished them? (vv15-16)

Gideon showed Zebah and Zalmunna to the men of Succoth before he punished them.

Judges 8:16**ULT**

¹⁶ He took the elders of the city and the thorns of the wilderness and the briers, and he made the men of Succoth undergo them.

UST

¹⁶ Then Gideon's men took the town leaders and whipped them with whips made from briers from the desert, to teach them that they deserved to be punished for not giving them food.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Then he tore down the tower of Peniel and he killed the men of the city.

UST

¹⁷ Then they went to Peniel and tore down the tower, and killed all the men in the town.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Next he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What sort were the men who you killed at Tabor?" They replied, "As you are, so were they. Each one was as the form of the sons of the king."

UST

¹⁸ Then Gideon said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "The men you killed near Mount Tabor, what did they look like?" They replied, "They were like you; they all looked like they were sons of a king."

What kind of men did Zebah and Zalmunna kill at Tabor? (vv18-19)

Zebah and Zalmunna killed Gideon's brothers.

Judges 8:19**ULT**

¹⁹ So he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As Yahweh lives, if only you had let them live, I would not have killed you."

UST

¹⁹ Gideon replied, "They were my brothers! Just as surely as Yahweh lives, I would not kill you if you had not killed them."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then he said to Jether his firstborn, "Arise, kill them!" But the young man did not pull out his sword because he was afraid, for he was still a youth.

UST

²⁰ Then he turned to his oldest son, Jether. He said to him, "Kill them!" But Jether was only a boy, and he was afraid, so he did not pull out his sword to kill them.

Why did Jether not draw his sword?

Jether did not draw his sword for he was afraid, because he was still a young boy.

Judges 8:21**ULT**

²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Arise yourself and fall upon us! Truly like a man with his own power." So Gideon rose up and he killed Zebah and Zalmunna. He also took the crescent-shaped ornaments that were on the necks of their camels.

UST

²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said to Gideon, "Do not ask a young boy to do the work that a man should do!" So Gideon killed both of them. Then he took the golden crescent-shaped ornaments from the necks of their camels.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:22**ULT**

²² Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and even the son of your son, because you have delivered us out of the hand of Midian."

UST

²² Then a group of Israelite men came to Gideon and said to him, "You be our ruler! We want you and your son and your grandsons to be our rulers, because you rescued us from the Midian army."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:23**ULT**

²³ But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you myself, neither will my son rule over you. Yahweh will rule over you."

UST

²³ But Gideon replied, "No, I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you. Yahweh will rule over you."

Who did Gideon say would rule over the men of Israel?

Gideon said Yahweh would rule over the men of Israel.

Judges 8:24**ULT**

²⁴ Then Gideon said to them, "Let me ask a request of you, that each man give me the earring from his spoil." For they had earrings of gold because they were Ishmaelites.

UST

²⁴ Then he said, "I request only one thing. I request that each of you give me one earring from the things you captured after the battle." Now all the men descended from Ishmael wore gold earrings.

For what did Gideon ask the men of Israel?

Gideon asked them for the earrings of their plunder.

Judges 8:25**ULT**

²⁵ They replied, "We will surely give them." So they spread out the garment and each man threw the earring from his spoil onto there.

UST

²⁵ They replied, "We will be glad to give the earrings to you!" So they spread a cloth on the ground, and each man threw on it the gold earrings that he had taken from those whom he had killed in the battle.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:26**ULT**

²⁶ Now the weight of the earrings of gold that he requested was one thousand seven hundred pieces of gold, besides that of the crescent-shaped ornaments, the pendants, the dyed purple garments that were upon the kings of Midian, and besides that of the collars that were around the necks of their camels.

UST

²⁶ The weight of all the earrings was twenty kilograms. That did not include other things that they gave to Gideon—the other ornaments or the pendants or the clothes that their kings wore or the gold chains that were on the necks of their camels.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:27**ULT**

²⁷ Then Gideon made it into an ephod and placed it in his city, in Ophrah, and all of Israel pursued adulterously after it there. It became as a snare for Gideon and for his house.

UST

²⁷ Gideon made a sacred garment for the people and put it in his hometown of Ophrah. Soon the people worshiped it instead of worshiping only God. Gideon and all his family sinned by worshiping it.

What did Gideon make out of the earrings?

Gideon made an ephod out of the earrings.

What did Israel do to the golden ephod?

Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it.

Judges 8:28**ULT**

²⁸ So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel and they did not continue to raise up their heads. So the land was tranquil forty years during the days of Gideon.

UST

²⁸ That is how the Israelites defeated the people from Midian. The people of Midian did not become strong enough to attack Israel again. So while Gideon was alive, there was peace in the land for forty years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:29**ULT**

²⁹ Jerubbaal, the son of Joash, went and lived in his house.

UST

²⁹ Gideon went back home to live there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:30**ULT**

³⁰ Now Gideon had seventy sons coming forth from his loins, for he had many wives.

UST

³⁰ He had many wives, and they bore him seventy sons.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:31**ULT**

³¹ His concubine, who was in Shechem, even she bore him a son, and he made his name Abimelech.

UST

³¹ He also had a slave wife in the city of Shechem, who bore him a son whom he named Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:32**ULT**

³² Gideon, the son of Joash, died at a good old age and he was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, at Ophrah of the Abiezerite.

UST

³² Gideon son of Joash died when he was very old. They buried his body in the grave where his father Joash was buried, at Ophrah, in the land of the Abietherites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:33**ULT**

³³ Now it happened that when Gideon had died, the sons of Israel turned back again and pursued adulterously after the Baals. They made Baal-Berith for themselves as a god.

UST

³³ But as soon as Gideon died, the Israelites left God and gave themselves to worship the images of the god Baal, like adulteresses leave their husbands and go to other men. They made Baal-Berith the god they worshiped.

What happened as soon as Gideon was dead?

As soon as Gideon was dead, the people of Israel turned again and prostituted themselves by worshiping the Baals.

Judges 8:34**ULT**

³⁴ The sons of Israel did not remember Yahweh, their God, the one who had delivered them from the hand of all of their enemies all around.

UST

³⁴ They forgot about Yahweh, the one who had rescued them from all their enemies that surrounded them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 8:35**ULT**

³⁵ They did not show lasting loyalty with the house of Jerubbaal, Gideon, in accordance with all of the good that he did within Israel.

UST

³⁵ And even though Gideon had done many good things for the Israelites, they did not act kindly toward Gideon's family.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9

Judges 9:1

ULT

¹ Now Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to the brothers of his mother and he spoke to them and to all of the family of the house of the father of his mother saying,

UST

¹ Gideon's son Abimelech went to talk with his mother's brothers in the city of Shechem. He said to them and to all his mother's relatives,

Who was Abimelech's father?

Abimelech's father was Jerub Baal.

Judges 9:2

ULT

² "Please speak in the ears of all of the citizens of Shechem, 'What is better for you, seventy men ruling over you, all of the sons of Jerubbaal, or one man ruling over you? Remember that I am your bone and your flesh.'"

UST

² "Ask all the leaders of Shechem: 'Do you think it would be good for all seventy of Gideon's sons to rule over you? Or would it be better to have only one man, Abimelech, to rule over you?' And do not forget that I am a part of your family! "

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:3

ULT

³ The brothers of his mother spoke all of these things on his behalf in the ears of all of the citizens of Shechem, and their heart turned aside after Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

UST

³ So Abimelech's mother's brothers spoke to all the leaders of Shechem about what Abimelech had said. They said to each other, "We should allow Abimelech to rule over us, because he is our relative."

Why did Abimelech's mother's relatives agree to follow him?

They agreed to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

Judges 9:4**ULT**

⁴ Then they gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal Berith, and Abimelech hired with them unprincipled and undisciplined men, so they went after him.

UST

⁴ So the leaders of Shechem took from the temple of their god Baal-Berith one kilo of silver and gave it to Abimelech. With that silver he paid some worthless troublemakers to help him, and they went with Abimelech wherever he went.

For what did Abimelech use the seventy pieces of silver?

Abimelech used the seventy pieces of silver to hire men of lawless and reckless character.

Judges 9:5**ULT**

⁵ Then he went to the house of his father at Ophrah, and he killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men upon one stone. But Jotham was left, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, for he had hidden himself.

UST

⁵ Abimelech and his followers went to Ophrah, his father's town, and they murdered his seventy brothers, the sons of his father Gideon. They killed all those men on one huge rock. But Gideon's youngest son Jotham hid from Abimelech and his men, and he escaped.

Why was Jotham not murdered?

Jotham was not murdered, for he hid himself.

Judges 9:6**ULT**

⁶ Then all of the prominent citizens of Shechem and all of Beth Millo assembled themselves and they went and installed Abimelech as king beside an oak tree near the standing pillar that was in Shechem.

UST

⁶ Then all the leaders of the towns of Shechem and Beth-Millo gathered under the big sacred tree at Shechem. There they appointed Abimelech to be their leader.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:7**ULT**

⁷ When they told Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim. He lifted up his voice and cried out and said to them, "Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so God will listen to you.

UST

⁷ When Jotham heard about that, he climbed up Mount Gerizim. He stood at the top of the mountain and shouted to the people down below, "You leaders of Shechem, listen to me, in order that God will listen to you!

On what day did Jotham address the leaders of Shechem?

Jotham addressed them on the same day they had risen up against his father's house and killed his sons, seventy persons, upon one stone.

Judges 9:8**ULT**

⁸ Once the trees went about in order to anoint a king over themselves. So they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.'

UST

⁸ One day the trees decided to appoint a king to rule over all of them. So they said to the olive tree, 'You be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:9**ULT**

⁹ But the olive tree replied to them, 'Have I stopped producing my fatness, when by me they honor gods and men, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST

⁹ But the olive tree said, 'No! I will not be your king! The oil made from my fruit blesses both God and people. I will not stop producing olives from which we make that oil, in order to rule over you other trees!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:10**ULT**

¹⁰ So the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come! Reign over us.'

UST

¹⁰ Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come and be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:11**ULT**

¹¹ But the fig tree said to them, 'Have I stopped producing my sweetness and my good fruit, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST

¹¹ But the fig tree replied, 'No! I do not want to stop producing my good sweet fruit, and go and rule over you other trees!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:12**ULT**

¹² Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come! Reign over us.'

UST

¹² Then the trees said to the grapevine, 'Come and be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:13**ULT**

¹³ Then the vine said to them, 'Have I stopped producing my new wine, which cheers gods and man, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST

¹³ But the grapevine replied, 'No! I will not be your king! The new wine that is made from my grapes causes God and people to be happy. I do not want to stop producing grapes and go and rule over you other trees!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then all of the trees said to the thornbush, 'You come, reign over us.'

UST

¹⁴ Then all the trees said to the thornbush, 'Come and be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:15**ULT**

¹⁵ The thornbush said to the trees, 'If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come, seek refuge in my shade. But if not, may fire go forth from the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon.'

UST

¹⁵ The thornbush said to the trees, 'If you truly want to appoint me to be your king, come into the shade of my tiny branches. But if you do not want to do that, I hope that fire will come out from me and burn up all the cedar trees in Lebanon country!'"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Therefore, now if in truth and in integrity you have acted when you installed Abimelech as king, and if you have done well concerning Jerubaal and with his household, and if according to the deed of his hands you have done to him,

UST

¹⁶ After Jotham finished telling them this parable, he said, "So now I ask you, were you being completely honest and sincere when you appointed Abimelech to be your king? Have you rewarded Gideon (who is also called Jerub Baal) by honoring him as he deserved because of all the good things he did for you? No!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:17**ULT**

¹⁷ that my father fought on your behalf, and threw aside his life even out front, when he delivered you out of the hand of Midian,

UST

¹⁷ Do not forget that my father fought a battle for you, and he was willing to die for you if that were necessary, to save you from the power of the Midian people group.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:18**ULT**

¹⁸ but today you have risen up against the house of my father and have killed his sons, seventy men, upon one stone. Then you have installed Abimelech, the son of his female servant, as king over the citizens of Shechem, because he is your brother.

UST

¹⁸ But now you have rebelled against my father's family, and you have murdered seventy of his sons on one huge rock. And you have appointed Abimelech—who is the son of my father's slave girl, not the son of his wife—to be the king who will rule you people of Shechem. You have done that only because he is one of your relatives!

On what day did Jotham address the leaders of Shechem?

Jotham addressed them on the same day they had risen up against his father's house and killed his sons, seventy persons, upon one stone.

Judges 9:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Now if you have acted in truth and in integrity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, rejoice about Abimelech, and he himself will also rejoice about you.

UST

¹⁹ So, if today you think that you have truly acted fairly and sincerely toward Gideon and his family, I hope that Abimelech will cause you to be happy and that you will cause him to be happy.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:20**ULT**

²⁰ But if not, fire shall come forth from Abimelech and it shall consume the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo. Fire shall also come forth from the citizens of Shechem and from Beth Millo and it shall consume Abimelech."

UST

²⁰ But if what you did was not right, I wish that Abimelech will destroy Shechem and Beth Millo!" I wish that the leaders of Shechem and Beth Millo will also destroy Abimelech!"

If the people acted with honesty and integrity with Jerub Baal and his house, what should happen?

If the people acted with honesty and integrity with Jerub Baal and his house, fire should come out from Abimelech and burn up the men of Shechem and the house of Millo. Fire should come out from the men of Shechem and Beth Millo, to burn up Abimelech.

What was the curse of Jotham?

The curse of Jotham was for fire to come out from Abimelech and burn up the men of Shechem and the house of Millo, for fire to come out from the men of Shechem and Beth Millo, to burn up Abimelech.

Judges 9:21**ULT**

²¹ Then Jotham fled away and escaped, and he went to Beer. He settled there away from the presence of Abimelech, his brother.

UST

²¹ After Jotham finished saying that, he escaped from them and ran away to the town of Beer. He stayed there because he was afraid that his half-brother Abimelech would try to kill him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:22**ULT**

²² Now Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

UST

²² For three years Abimelech was the leader over the people of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:23**ULT**

²³ Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and between the citizens of Shechem so that the citizens of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

UST

²³ Then God sent an evil spirit to cause trouble between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, with the result that the leaders of Shechem rebelled against Abimelech.

Why did God send an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem? (vv23-24)

God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem so the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerub Baal might be avenged.

Judges 9:24**ULT**

²⁴ by revisiting the violent treatment of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal and by putting their blood upon Abimelech their brother, who had killed them, and upon the citizens of Shechem who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

UST

²⁴ The leaders of Shechem had helped Abimelech murder seventy of Gideon's sons, who were his half-brothers. So now God sent the evil spirit to punish all of them for what they had done.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:25**ULT**

²⁵ So the citizens of Shechem positioned men in ambush after him along the tops of the hills. They robbed everyone who would pass by them along the road, and it was reported to Abimelech.

UST

²⁵ The leaders of Shechem set an ambush on the hilltops. Those men robbed everyone who passed by. But someone told Abimelech about it, so he did not go near them.

Who did the leaders of Shechem hope to ambush?

The leaders of Shechem hoped to ambush Abimelech.

Judges 9:26**ULT**

²⁶ Then Gaal, the son of Ebed came along with his brothers and they went over to Shechem. The citizens of Shechem trusted him.

UST

²⁶ There was a man named Gaal son of Ebed who moved into Shechem city, along with his brothers. The leaders of Shechem grew to trust him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:27**ULT**

²⁷ They went out into the field and they picked grapes from their vineyards, and they pressed them. They celebrated harvest festivals and they went into the house of their gods, then they ate and they drank, and they cursed Abimelech.

UST

²⁷ They went out to their vineyards to pick some grapes. They pressed the grapes to make juice, and then they made wine. Then they had a feast in the house of their god, and they ate a lot of food and drank a lot of wine. Then they cursed Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:28**ULT**

²⁸ Then Gaal, the son of Ebed, said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal and Zebul his deputy? Serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem. Why should we serve him, ourselves?"

UST

²⁸ Gaal said, "We should not allow Abimelech to rule over us! He is only one of Gideon's sons, so he really does not belong to us! And he appointed Zebul, the governor of our city, to be his deputy! We should be loyal to one of the descendants of Hamor, the founder of our city, to be our leader, not Abimelech!"

Who wished to command the people? (vv28-29)

Gaal wished to command the people.

Judges 9:29**ULT**

²⁹ Who will give this people into my hand? Then I would depose Abimelech. He said to Abimelech, 'Enlarge your army and come forth.'"

UST

²⁹ If you would appoint me to be your leader, I would get rid of Abimelech. I would say to him, 'Get your army ready! Come and fight us!'"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:30**ULT**

³⁰ When Zebul, the prince of the city, heard the words of Gaal, the son of Ebed, his anger burned.

UST

³⁰ Someone told Zebul what Gaal had said, and he became very angry.

Why was Zebul's anger kindled?

When Zebul heard the words of Gaal (the son of Ebed), his anger was kindled.

Judges 9:31**ULT**

³¹ So he sent messengers to Abimelech in secret, saying, "Look, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers are coming to Shechem, and look, they are inciting the city against you.

UST

³¹ He sent messengers to Abimelech. They told him, "Gaal and his brothers have come here to Shechem, and they are stirring up the people so they will rebel against you.

Why did Zebul send messengers to Abimelech?

He sent messengers to Abimelech in order to deceive him.

Judges 9:32**ULT**

³² Therefore, now, rise up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in ambush in the field.

UST

³² You and your men should get up during the night and go and hide in the fields outside the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:33**ULT**

³³ Then it shall happen, in the morning, at the rising of the sun, you shall set out early and you shall spread out in an attack against the city. Watch, when he and the people who are with him are coming out to you, then you do to him just as your hand finds occasion."

UST

³³ As soon as the sun rises in the morning, get up and attack the city. When Gaal and his men come out to fight against you, you can do to them whatever you want to."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:34**ULT**

³⁴ So Abimelech and all of the people who were with him rose up by night, and they set up an ambush against Shechem. They were four units.

UST

³⁴ So Abimelech and all the men who were with him got up during the night. They divided into four groups and hid in the fields near Shechem.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:35**ULT**

³⁵ Gaal, the son of Ebed, went out and he stood in the entrance of the gate of the city. Then Abimelech and the people who were with him rose up from the ambush.

UST

³⁵ The next morning, Gaal went out and stood at the entrance to the city gate. While he was standing there, Abimelech and his soldiers came out of their hiding places and started walking toward the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:36**ULT**

³⁶ When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, a group of people is coming down from the tops of the hills!" Zebul said to him, "You are seeing the shadow of the hills as men."

UST

³⁶ When Gaal saw the soldiers, he said to Zebul, "Look! There are people coming down from the hills!" But Zebul said, "You are seeing only the shadows of trees on the hills. They are not people; they only look like people."

How did Zebul describe the men on the hilltops?

Zebul said they were shadows on the hills.

Judges 9:37**ULT**

³⁷ Again, Gaal continued to speak and said, "Look, groups of people are coming down from beside the summit of the land, and one unit is coming from the way of the oak of the diviners."

UST

³⁷ But Gaal looked again, and said, "Look! There are people coming down in the middle of the land! There is a group of them coming down by way of the oak tree where people claim to talk with the spirits of dead people!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:38**ULT**

³⁸ Then Zebul said to him, "Where then is your mouth, with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech that we should serve him?' Is this not the people who you regard it with contempt? Indeed, go out now and fight against him."

UST

³⁸ Zebul said to Gaal, "Now your bragging is worthless! You said, 'We should not allow Abimelech to rule over us?' You made fun of these men. So now go out and fight them!"

What did Zebul tell Gaal to do?

Zebul told Gaal to go out and fight against Abimelech.

Judges 9:39**ULT**

³⁹ So Gaal went out before the citizens of Shechem, and he fought against Abimelech.

UST

³⁹ So Gaal led the men of Shechem outside the city to fight the army of Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:40**ULT**

⁴⁰ Abimelech pursued him, and he fled from his presence. Many fell fatally wounded as far as the entrance of the city gate.

UST

⁴⁰ Abimelech and his men pursued them, and they killed many of Gaal's men before they could return safely inside the city gate.

What happened when Gaal fought Abimelech?

Abimelech chased Gaal and Gaal fled before Abimelech and many fell with deadly wounds before the entrance to the city gate.

Judges 9:41**ULT**

⁴¹ Then Abimelech settled in Arumah. Zebul drove Gaal and his brothers away from dwelling in Shechem.

UST

⁴¹ Abimelech then stayed at Arumah, about five miles away from Shechem, and Zebul's men forced Gaal and his brothers to leave Shechem.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:42**ULT**

⁴² Now it happened that the next day the people went out into the field, and they reported it to Abimelech.

UST

⁴² The next day, the people of Shechem got ready to leave the city and work in their fields. When someone told Abimelech about that,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:43**ULT**

⁴³ So he took the people, and he split up into three units. Then he waited in ambush in the field. When he saw and look, the people were going out of the city, then he rose up against them and he killed them.

UST

⁴³ he divided his men into three groups, and told them to hide in the fields. So they did that. And when they saw the people coming out of the city, they jumped up and attacked them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:44**ULT**

⁴⁴ Abimelech and the units that were with him spread out and they stood at the entrance of the gate of the city. But two units spread out against everyone who was in the field and they killed them.

UST

⁴⁴ Abimelech and the men who were with him ran to the city gate and blocked it. The other two groups ran out to the people in the fields and attacked them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:45**ULT**

⁴⁵ Abimelech fought against the city all that day. He captured the city, and he killed the people who were in it. Then he tore down the city and scattered salt on it.

UST

⁴⁵ Abimelech and his men fought all day. They captured the city and killed all the people. They tore down all the buildings, and then they threw salt over the ground to try to keep anything from growing there again.

What did Abimelech do after he captured the city?

Abimelech tore down the city walls and spread salt over it.

Judges 9:46**ULT**

⁴⁶ When all the lords of the tower of Shechem heard, they went into the citadel of the house of El-Berith.

UST

⁴⁶ When the leaders who lived in the tower outside of Shechem heard what had happened, they ran and hid inside the fortress, which was also a temple of their god El-Berith.

Where did the leaders of the tower of Shechem enter?

The leaders of the tower of Shechem entered the stronghold of the house of El Berith.

Judges 9:47**ULT**

⁴⁷ Then it was reported to Abimelech that all the lords of the tower of Shechem had assembled themselves.

UST

⁴⁷ But someone told Abimelech that all the leaders had gathered there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:48**ULT**

⁴⁸ So Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him. Abimelech took the proper ax in his hand and cut off a branch from the trees. He lifted it and set it upon his shoulder and said to the people who were with him, "Whatsoever you have seen that I have done, hurry, do the same as me."

UST

⁴⁸ So he and all the men who were with him went up Mount Zalmon, which is near Shechem. Abimelech cut some branches of trees with an axe, and put them on his shoulders. Then he said to all the men who were with him, "Quickly, do what I have just done!"

How did Abimelech kill all the leaders and people in the tower of Shechem? (vv48-49)

Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, piled branches on top of the underground chamber, and set it on fire above it.

Judges 9:49**ULT**

⁴⁹ So all the people also each cut off a branch and they went after Abimelech. Then they piled them on top of the underground chamber, thus on account of them they burned the underground chamber with fire. As a result all the distinguished people in the tower of Shechem also died, about a thousand men and women.

UST

⁴⁹ So his men all cut branches carried them down the mountain, following Abimelech. They went to the fortress and piled the branches against its walls. Then they kindled a fire, and the fire burned down the fortress and killed all the people who were inside. So all the people who were inside the fortress—about a thousand men and women—died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:50**ULT**

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he set up camp around Thebez and he captured it.

UST

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech and his men went to the city of Thebez. They surrounded it and captured it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:51**ULT**

⁵¹ But there was a strong tower in the midst of the city, so all of the men and the women and all the prominent citizens of the city fled to there. They closed it up behind themselves and they went up on the roof of the tower.

UST

⁵¹ But there was a strong tower inside the city. So all the men, women, and leaders of the city ran to the tower. When they were all inside, they locked the door. Then they climbed up to the roof of the tower.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:52**ULT**

⁵² Then Abimelech came towards the tower and he fought against it, and he approached as far as the entrance of the tower in order to burn it with fire.

UST

⁵² Abimelech and his men came to the tower and tried to get in the door, but they could not. Then Abimelech prepared to light a fire to burn it down.

**When Abimelech came near the door of the tower of Thebez, what happened to him?
(vv52-53)**

When Abimelech came near the door of the tower of Thebez, a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head and it cracked his skull.

Judges 9:53**ULT**

⁵³ But one woman threw down an upper millstone onto the head of Abimelech and it crushed his skull.

UST

⁵³ But when Abimelech came near the doorway, a woman who was on the roof dropped the upper half of a large grinding stone on his head, which cracked the bone of his skull.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:54**ULT**

⁵⁴ Then he cried out hurriedly to the young man bearing his armor, and he said to him, "Draw out your sword and put me to death, lest they will say about me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man stabbed him so that he died.

UST

⁵⁴ Abimelech quickly called to the young man who carried Abimelech's weapons, and said, "Pull out your sword and kill me with it! I do not want people to say 'A woman killed Abimelech.'" So the young man thrust his sword into Abimelech, and Abimelech died.

Why did Abimelech tell his armor-bearer to draw his sword and kill him?

Abimelech told his armor-bearer to draw his sword and kill him, so no one would say a woman killed Abimelech.

Judges 9:55**ULT**

⁵⁵ When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech had died, they went each to his own place.

UST

⁵⁵ When the Israelite soldiers saw that Abimelech was dead, they all returned to their homes.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:56**ULT**

⁵⁶ Thus God avenged the evil of Abimelech that he did to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

UST

⁵⁶ In that way God punished Abimelech for all the evil things that he had done to his father by murdering all seventy of his brothers.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 9:57**ULT**

⁵⁷ All the evil of the men of Shechem God caused to return back upon their own heads and on them came the curse of Jotham, the son of Jerubbaal.

UST

⁵⁷ God also punished the men of Shechem for the evil things that they had done. And when these things happened, it made true the curse of Jotham son of Gideon.

What was the curse of Jotham?

The curse of Jotham was for fire to come out from Abimelech and burn up the men of Shechem and the house of Millo, for fire to come out from the men of Shechem and Beth Millo, to burn up Abimelech.

Judges 10

Judges 10:1

ULT

¹ Now after Abimelech, Tola, the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, arose in order to deliver Israel. He settled in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim.

UST

¹ After Abimelech died, Tola the son of Puah and grandson of Dodo became the leader to rescue the Israelites from their enemies. He belonged to the tribe of Issachar, but he lived in Shamir city in the hilly area where the descendants of Ephraim live.

Where was Shamir?

Shamir was in the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges 10:2

ULT

² He judged Israel twenty-three years. He died and was buried in Shamir.

UST

² He ruled as judge over Israel for twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:3

ULT

³ Then arose after him Jair the Gileadite. He judged Israel twenty-two years.

UST

³ After Tola died, Jair (the Gileadite) ruled as judge over Israel for twenty-two years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:4**ULT**

⁴ Now he had thirty sons, riding on thirty donkeys. There were thirty cities for them, they call them Havvoth Jair to this day, that are in the land of the Gilead.

UST

⁴ He had thirty sons, and each of them had his own donkey to ride on. They had thirty cities in the region of Gilead that are still named even today, Havvoth Jair (or the Cities of Jair).

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:5**ULT**

⁵ Then Jair died and he was buried in Kamon.

UST

⁵ Then Jair died and was buried in the city of Kamon.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:6**ULT**

⁶ The sons of Israel continued to do this evil in the eyes of Yahweh: they worshiped the Baals, the Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines. They forsook Yahweh and did not serve him.

UST

⁶ Again the Israelites did things that Yahweh said were evil. They worshiped the Baal idols and female fertility idols called the Asthoreths. They worshiped the gods of the people groups of Aram, Sidon, Moab, and Ammon people groups, and the gods of the Philistines. They turned away from Yahweh and stopped worshiping him.

Why did Yahweh burn with anger toward the people of Israel? (vv6-7)

The people of Israel abandoned Yahweh and no longer worshiped him, so he burned with anger toward Israel.

Judges 10:7**ULT**

⁷ The anger of Yahweh burned against Israel, so he gave them over into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the sons of Ammon.

UST

⁷ So Yahweh was very angry with them, and he allowed the Philistines and Ammonites to conquer Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:8**ULT**

⁸ They shattered and oppressed the sons of Israel in that year, and for eighteen years all the sons of Israel who were on the opposite side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in the Gilead.

UST

⁸ They crushed and oppressed the Israelites that year, and for eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who lived on the east side of the Jordan River. That was the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:9**ULT**

⁹ Then the sons of Ammon also crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, and as a result there was for Israel exceedingly great distress.

UST

⁹ Then the Ammonites crossed over the Jordan River to fight against the people of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim. They caused the Israelites to live their lives with great fear and dread.

Why was Israel greatly distressed?

Ammonites crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.

Judges 10:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, saying, "We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and we have served the Baals."

UST

¹⁰ So the Israelites cried out to Yahweh, saying "We have sinned against you. We have abandoned you, and we have worshiped the idols of Baal."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:11**ULT**

¹¹ Then Yahweh said to the sons of Israel, "Was it not from the Egyptians, from the Amorite, from the sons of Ammon, from the Philistines,

UST

¹¹ Yahweh answered them, saying, "I delivered you from the people groups of the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:12**ULT**

¹² the Sidonians and Amalek and Maon, when they oppressed you that you cried out to me, and I delivered you from their hand?

UST

¹² and also from the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites. I did this because they hurt and imprisoned you. You cried out to me, and I brought you to freedom.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:13**ULT**

¹³ Yet you have abandoned me and you have served other gods. Therefore, I will not continue to deliver you.

UST

¹³ But now you have abandoned me, and you have been worshiping other gods. Therefore, I will not rescue you again and again.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods that you have chosen for yourselves. They should deliver you at the time of your distress."

UST

¹⁴ You have chosen those gods to be the ones you worship. So ask them to help you. Let them be the ones who rescue you when you are in trouble!"

To whom did Yahweh tell the people of Israel to call out for help?

Yahweh told the people to call out to the gods that they had worshiped.

Judges 10:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then the sons of Israel said to Yahweh, "We have sinned. You do to us according to all that is good in your eyes. Only rescue us please this day."

UST

¹⁵ But the people of Israel said to Yahweh, "We have sinned. Punish us in whatever way you wish. But please rescue us today!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:16**ULT**

¹⁶ They removed the foreign gods from their midst and they worshiped Yahweh. Then His soul became dismayed with the suffering of Israel.

UST

¹⁶ Then the Israelites threw away the idols of the foreign gods they had cherished, and they worshiped Yahweh. He saw that they were suffering very much, and he reached the limit of his endurance over the misery of Israel.

Why did Yahweh become impatient over the misery of Israel?

Israel turned away from the foreign gods they owned and they worshiped Yahweh, so he became impatient over the misery.

Judges 10:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Now the sons of Ammon were summoned and they encamped in Gilead. So the sons of Israel gathered together and they encamped at Mizpah.

UST

¹⁷ The Ammon people group gathered to fight against the Israelites, and they set up their tents in Gilead. The Israelite soldiers gathered and set up their tents at Mizpah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 10:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Then the people, the princes of Gilead each said to his fellow man, "Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He will become the leader over all who are residing in Gilead."

UST

¹⁸ The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, "Who will lead our attack against the Ammonite army? The one who will lead us will become the leader of all us who live in Gilead."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11

Judges 11:1

ULT

¹ Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a warrior of strength, but he was the son of a woman committing fornication. Gilead begat Jephthah.

UST

¹ There was a man from the region of Gilead named Jephthah. He proved himself to be a great warrior. But his mother was a prostitute. His father was Gilead.

Of whom was Jephthah the son?

Jephthah was the son of a prostitute.

Judges 11:2

ULT

² The wife of Gilead also gave birth to his sons. When the sons of the wife grew up, they drove out Jephthah and they said to him, "You will not inherit from the house of our father since a son of another woman are you."

UST

² Gilead's wife gave birth to several sons. When they grew up, they forced Jephthah to leave home, saying to him, "You are the son of another woman, not the son of our mother. So when our father dies, you will not receive any of his property."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:3

ULT

³ So Jephthah fled from the presence of his brothers and he settled in the land of Tob. Unprincipled men associated around Jephthah and they went about with him.

UST

³ So Jephthah ran away from his brothers, and he lived in the land of Tob. While he was there, some lawless men joined together with Jephthah, and they went out raiding together.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:4**ULT**

⁴ Now it happened after some days that the sons of Ammon fought with Israel.

UST

⁴ Some time later, the soldiers of the Ammon people group attacked the soldiers of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:5**ULT**

⁵ It was when the sons of Ammon fought with Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to summon Jephthah from the land of Tob.

UST

⁵ And the leaders of Gilead went out to find Jephthah so they could bring him back, and away from the land of Tob.

Why did the elders of Gilead go to bring Jephthah back from the land of Tob? (vv5-6)

The elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah back from the land of Tob so he would be their leader.

Judges 11:6**ULT**

⁶ Then they said to Jephthah, "Come and you will be for us as commander so we may fight against the sons of Ammon."

UST

⁶ They said to him, "Come with us and lead our army, and help us fight the army of Ammon!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:7**ULT**

⁷ But Jephthah replied to the elders of Gilead, "Do you yourselves not hate me since you drove me out of the house of my father? Why have you come to me now when you have trouble?"

UST

⁷ But Jephthah replied, "You hated me! You forced me to leave my father's house! So why have you come to me now and ask for my help, just when you have trouble?"

Why were the elders of Gildead turning to Jephthah? (vv7-8)

The elders of Gildead were turning to Jephthah because they were in trouble.

Judges 11:8**ULT**

⁸ Then the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Rightly, now we have turned back to you; so come with us and fight against the sons of Ammon, and you will become commander for us over all residing in Gilead."

UST

⁸ The leaders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we are coming to you now. Come and fight with us and lead our soldiers against the soldiers of Ammon, and you will be the leader over everyone who lives in Gilead."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:9**ULT**

⁹ Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me back to fight against the sons of Ammon, and Yahweh gives them over before me, I will actually be your leader?"

UST

⁹ Jephthah answered them, "If I go back to Gilead with you to fight against the army of Ammon, and if Yahweh helps us to defeat them, then I will be your leader."

If the elders of Gildeon brought Jephthah home again to fight against the soldiers of Ammon, and if Yahweh gave them victory over them, what would happen to Jephthah?

If the elders of Gildeon brought Jephthah home again to fight against the soldiers of Ammon, and if Yahweh gave them victory over them, Jephthah would be their leader.

Judges 11:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Yahweh will be a witness between us, surely according to your word, thus we will do!"

UST

¹⁰ They replied, "Yahweh is a witness to everything we are saying to you. So he will punish us if we do not what we are promising you."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:11**ULT**

¹¹ So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people set him as commander and leader over themselves. Jephthah spoke all his words before Yahweh in the Mizpah.

UST

¹¹ So Jephthah went with them back to Gilead, and the people appointed him to be their leader and the commander of their army. And Jephthah repeated to Yahweh there at Mizpah the terms of the agreement he had made.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:12**ULT**

¹² Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, "What has happened with respect to me and to you, that you have come against me to fight over my land?"

UST

¹² Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammon people group. They asked the king, "What have we done to make you angry, so your army is coming to fight against the people in our land?"

Why did the people of Ammon come with force to take the land of Israel? (vv12-13)

The people of Ammon came with force to take the land of Israel because when Israel came up out of Egypt, they seized the land of Ammon.

Judges 11:13**ULT**

¹³ The king of the sons of Ammon responded to the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel seized my land at his going up out of Egypt, from Arnon up to the Jabbok, and over to the Jordan. Now return them in peace."

UST

¹³ The king replied, "You took our land when you came here from Egypt. You took all our land east of the Jordan River, from the Arnon River in the south to the Jabbok River in the north. So now give it back to us without a fight."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then Jephthah continued again and sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon,

UST

¹⁴ So Jephthah sent the messengers to the king again.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:15**ULT**

¹⁵ and he said to him, "Thus Jephthah said: Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of the sons of Ammon.

UST

¹⁵ They said to him, "This is what Jephthah says: 'Israel did not take the land of the Moabites and the Ammonites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:16**ULT**

¹⁶ However in their coming up from Egypt, Israel went through the wilderness as far as the Sea of Reeds and he came to Kadesh.

UST

¹⁶ When the Israelite people came out of Egypt, they walked through the desert to the Red Sea, and then walked across it and traveled to the town of Kadesh at the border of the region of Edom.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:17**ULT**

¹⁷ When Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please may I pass through your land,' the king of Edom would not listen. He likewise sent to the king of Moab, but he was not willing. So Israel stayed at Kadesh.

UST

¹⁷ They sent messengers to the king of the Edomites to say to him, "Please allow us to walk across your land." But the king of the Edomites refused. Later they sent the same message to the king of the Moabites, but he also refused to allow them to go through his land. So the Israelites stayed at Kadesh for a long time.

Who was not willing to let Israel pass?

The king of Edom and the king of Moab were not willing to let Israel pass.

Judges 11:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Then he went through the wilderness and turned away from the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and he went to the place of the rising of the sun for the land of Moab. They camped on the other side of the Arnon, but they did not go within the border of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

UST

¹⁸ Then the Israelites went into the desert and walked outside the borders of Edom and Moab. They walked east of Moab, and then north of the Arnon River, which is the northern border of Moab. They did not cross into the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

Why did Israel not go into the territory of Moab?

They did not go into the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was Moab's border.

Judges 11:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Israel sent messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorite, the king of Heshbon. Israel said to him, 'Please, let us pass through your land as far as my place.'

UST

¹⁹ Then the leaders of Israel sent a message to Sihon, the king of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon. They asked him, "Please allow us Israelite people to cross through your land so we may go into the land that is ours."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:20**ULT**

²⁰ But Sihon did not trust Israel passing through within his border. So Sihon assembled all of his people together and they camped at Jahaz, and he fought with Israel.

UST

²⁰ But Sihon did not trust the Israelites to pass through his land in peace. So he gathered all his soldiers and they set up their tents at the village of Jahaz, and there he fought against Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:21**ULT**

²¹ Then Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all of his people over into the hand of Israel and they defeated them. Thus Israel possessed all of the land of the Amorite inhabiting that region.

UST

²¹ But Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave help to the Israelite army and they defeated Sihon and his army. Then they took possession of all the land where the Amorites had lived.

Who gave Israel victory over Sihon?

Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave Israel victory over Sihon.

Judges 11:22**ULT**

²² They possessed everything within the territory of the Amorite, from the Arnon to the Jabbok, and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan.

UST

²² The Israelites took all the land that belonged to the Amorites, from the Arnon River in the south to the Jabbok River in the north, and from the desert in the east to the Jordan River in the west.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:23**ULT**

²³ Since therefore Yahweh, the God of Israel, has expelled the Amorite out of the presence of his people Israel, will you indeed possess it?

UST

²³ It was Yahweh, the God of Israel, who forced the Amorites to leave the places where they lived, as the Israelites advanced. So do you now think that you can now take possession of their land?

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:24**ULT**

²⁴ Will you not take possession if Chemosh, your god, allows you to possess it? So all that Yahweh our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess it.

UST

²⁴ You have the right to the land when your god Chemosh gives it to you. And we will live in the land that Yahweh our God has given to us!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:25**ULT**

²⁵ Now are you really better than Balak, the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he dare contend with Israel or did he ever wage war against them?

UST

²⁵ Are you better than Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab? He never dared to fight against Israel!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:26**ULT**

²⁶ While Israel resided three hundred years in Heshbon and in its villages, and in Aroer and in its villages, and in all the cities that are along the banks of the Arnon—why then did you not repossess during that time?

UST

²⁶ For three hundred years the Israelites lived in the cities of Heshbon and Aroer, in the surrounding towns, and in all the cities along the Arnon River. Why have you Ammonites not taken back those cities during all those years?

For how long did Israel live in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are along the banks of the Arnon?

Israel lived for three hundred years in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are along the banks of the Arnon.

Judges 11:27**ULT**

²⁷ I have not sinned against you, but you are doing wrong in dealing with me by fighting against me. Yahweh, the judge, will decide today between the sons of Israel and between the sons of Ammon."

UST

²⁷ We have not done wrong against you, but you are doing wrong against me by attacking me and my army. I trust that Yahweh, who is the judge, will decide whether the people of Israel or the people of Ammon are in the right."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:28**ULT**

²⁸ But the king of the sons of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he had sent to him.

UST

²⁸ But the king of Ammon ignored the warning contained in this message from Jephthah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:29**ULT**

²⁹ Then the Spirit of Yahweh came on Jephthah, and he passed through the Gilead and Manasseh, and he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed through the sons of Ammon.

UST

²⁹ Then the Spirit of Yahweh took control of Jephthah. Jephthah went through Gilead and through the area where the tribe of Manasseh lived, to enlist men for his army. He finally gathered them together in the city of Mizpah in Gilead to fight against the Ammonites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:30**ULT**

³⁰ Jephthah vowed a vow to Yahweh and said, "If you truly give the sons of Ammon into my hand,

UST

³⁰ There Jephthah made a solemn promise to Yahweh, saying "If you will give help to my army to defeat the Ammonites,

If Yahweh gave Jephthah victory over the people of Ammon, what would Jephthah do?

If Yahweh gave Jephthah victory over the people of Ammon, Jephthah would offer up as a burnt offering whatever came out of the doors of his house to meet him.

Judges 11:31**ULT**

³¹ then it shall be the one who comes out, whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, that he will belong to Yahweh, and I will offer him up as a whole burnt offering."

UST

³¹ when I return from the battle, I will sacrifice to you whatever comes out of my house to greet me. That will belong to you."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:32**ULT**

³² So Jephthah passed through to the sons of Ammon to fight against them, and Yahweh gave them into his hand.

UST

³² Then Jephthah and his men went from Mizpah to attack the Ammonites, and Yahweh enabled his army to defeat them.

When Jephthah passed through to the people of Ammon to fight against them, who gave him the victory?

When Jephthah passed through to the people of Ammon to fight against them, Yahweh gave him victory.

Judges 11:33**ULT**

³³ Then he attacked them from Aroer and as far as your coming in to Minnith, twenty cities, and up to Abel Keramim, an exceedingly great slaughter. So the sons of Ammon were subdued by the presence of the sons of Israel.

UST

³³ Jephthah and his men killed them, from the city of Aroer all the way to the area around the city of Minnith. They destroyed twenty cities, as far as the city of Abel Keramim. So the Israelites completely defeated the Ammonites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:34**ULT**

³⁴ Jephthah came into the Mizpah area, to his house, and look, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. However, she was an only child; he did not have a son or daughter apart from her.

UST

³⁴ When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, his daughter was the first one to come out of the house to meet him. She was joyfully playing a tambourine and dancing. She was his only child and he had no other sons or daughters.

How many children did Jephthah have?

Jephthah had only one child.

Judges 11:35**ULT**

³⁵ Now it happened when he saw her that he tore his garments and he said, "Alas, my daughter! Indeed, you have made me bow in grief, and you are among those who cause me pain! For I have opened my mouth to Yahweh and I am not able to turn back."

UST

³⁵ When Jephthah saw his daughter, he tore his clothes to show that he was very sad about what he was going to do. He said to her, "My daughter, seeing you now, you have crushed me with a terrible sorrow, because I made a solemn promise to Yahweh to sacrifice the first one who came out of my house, and I must do what I promised."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:36**ULT**

³⁶ Then she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to Yahweh. Do to me according to what came forth from your mouth, after what Yahweh has done for you: complete vengeance against your enemies, against the sons of Ammon."

UST

³⁶ His daughter said, "My father, you made a solemn promise to Yahweh. So you must do to me what you promised, because you said that you would do that if Yahweh helped you to defeat our enemies, the Ammonites."

**What did Jephthah's daughter want to do before he did everything he had promised?
(vv36-37)**

She wanted him to leave her alone for two months, that she could leave and go down to the hills and grieve over her virginity.

Judges 11:37**ULT**

³⁷ She said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me. Release me for two months, so I may go away and I will fall prostrate on the hills and I will weep on account of my virginity, I and my companions."

UST

³⁷ Then she also said, "But allow me to do one thing. First, allow me to go into the hills and wander around for two months. Since I will never be married and have children, allow me and my friends to go and cry together."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:38**ULT**

³⁸ He replied, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months. She went, she and her companions, and she wept on account of her virginity on the hills.

UST

³⁸ Jephthah replied, "All right, you may go." So she left for two months. She and her friends stayed in the hills and they cried for her because she would never be married.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 11:39**ULT**

³⁹ Now it happened at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with respect to her that he had vowed. She did not know a man, and it became a custom in Israel.

UST

³⁹ After two months, she returned to her father Jephthah, and he did to her what he had solemnly promised. So his daughter never was married. Because of that, the Israelites now have a custom

What did Jephthah do with his daughter?

He did with her according to the promise of the vow he had made.

Judges 11:40**ULT**

⁴⁰ From time to time the daughters of Israel went to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite for four days during the year.

UST

⁴⁰ that the young Israelite women go into the hills for four days every year. There they remember and cry about what happened to the daughter of Jephthah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12

Judges 12:1

ULT

¹ Now the men of Ephraim were summoned and they passed northward and they said to Jephthah, "Why did you pass through in order to fight against the sons of Ammon but you did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down over you with fire."

UST

¹ The leaders of the tribe of Ephraim called together their soldiers, and they crossed the Jordan River and went to the town of Zaphon to talk with Jephthah. They said to him, "Why did you not ask us to help your army fight the Ammonites. So we will burn down your house while you are in it."

What did the men of Ephraim want to do to Jephthah's house because he did not call them to go with him?

Ephraim wanted to burn Jephthah's house down over him because he did not call them to go with him to fight against the people of Ammon.

Judges 12:2

ULT

² Jephthah said to them, "A man in exceedingly great dispute I have been, I and my people and the sons of Ammon. When I summoned you, you did not rescue me from their hand."

UST

² Jephthah replied, "The Ammonites were really oppressing us. When we were prepared to start to attack them, I requested you to come and help us, but you refused. My men and I defeated the Ammonites, but you did not help us."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:3**ULT**

³ When I saw that you were not coming to assist, I put my life in my own hand. I passed through to the sons of Ammon, and Yahweh gave them over into my hand. Now why have you come up to me to fight against me this day?"

UST

³ When I saw that you would not come to help us, I risked my own life by leading our people to pass through the people of Ammon. And Yahweh helped us to defeat them. So why do you come to fight against me today?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:4**ULT**

⁴ Then Jephthah assembled all of the men of Gilead and he fought Ephraim. The men of Gilead struck Ephraim because they had said, "Fugitives of Ephraim are you, O people of Gilead, in the midst of Ephraim, in the midst of Manasseh."

UST

⁴ Then Jephthah called together the soldiers of Gilead to fight against the soldiers of Ephraim. They attacked them because men of the tribe of Ephraim said, "You men from Gilead are just refugees here in the land of Ephraim and Manasseh."

Why did the men of Gilead attack the men of Ephraim?

The men of Gilead attacked the men of Ephraim because they said, "You Gileadites are fugitives from Ephraim—from within Ephraim and Manasseh."

Judges 12:5**ULT**

⁵ Gilead captured the crossing places of the Jordan along Ephraim. It happened when any of the survivors of Ephraim would say, "May I cross over," that the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"

UST

⁵ The Gileadites captured the shallow places in the Jordan River where people could cross over the river and go to the territory of Ephraim. If someone from the tribe of Ephraim came to the ford to try to escape, he would say, "Allow me to cross the river." Then the men of Gilead would ask him, "Are you from the tribe of Ephraim?" If he said "No,"

How did the men of Gilead test if a man was from Ephraim? (vv5-6)

They would tell him to say "Shibboleth." And if he said, "Sibboleth," (for he could not pronounce the word correctly), the Gileadites would seize him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan.

Judges 12:6**ULT**

⁶ then they would say to him, "Please say: Shibboleth." But if he said "Sibboleth," for he was not prepared to pronounce it correctly, they would seize him and they would slaughter him at the crossing places of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand from Ephraim fell at that time.

UST

⁶ they would say to him, "Say the word 'Shibboleth.'" The men of Ephraim could not pronounce that word correctly. So if the person from the tribe of Ephraim said "Sibboleth," they would know that he was lying and that he was really from the tribe of Ephraim, and they would kill him there at the ford. So the men of Gilead killed forty-two thousand people from the tribe of Ephraim at that time.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:7**ULT**

⁷ Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and he was buried among the cities of Gilead.

UST

⁷ Jephthah, the man from Gilead, served as a judge and leader over Israel for six years. Then he died and was buried in one of the towns of Gilead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:8**ULT**

⁸ Then after him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

UST

⁸ After Jephthah died, a man named Ibzan, from Bethlehem, became a leader and a judge over Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:9**ULT**

⁹ Now he had thirty sons. He sent away thirty daughters to the outside, and he brought in thirty daughters for his sons from the outside. He judged Israel seven years.

UST

⁹ He had thirty sons and he gave thirty daughters away in marriage. He brought in thirty daughters from families outside his clan. He was a leader and a judge over Israel for seven years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then Ibzan died and he was buried in Bethlehem.

UST

¹⁰ When died, he was buried in Bethlehem.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:11**ULT**

¹¹ After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years.

UST

¹¹ After Ibzan died, a man named Elon, from the tribe of Zebulun, became a leader of Israel. He was their leader for ten years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:12**ULT**

¹² Then Elon the Zebulunite died and he was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

UST

¹² Then he died and was buried in the city of Aijalon in the area where the tribe of Zebulun lives.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:13**ULT**

¹³ After him, Abdon, the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel.

UST

¹³ After Elon died, a man named Abdon son of Hillel, from the city of Pirathon, became a leader and a judge over Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Now he had forty sons and thirty sons of sons, who rode on seventy young male donkeys. He judged Israel eight years.

UST

¹⁴ He had forty sons and thirty grandsons. They had seventy donkeys. Abdon was a leader and a judge over Israel for eight years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 12:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then Abdon, the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and he was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekite.

UST

¹⁵ When Abdon died, he was buried in Pirathon, in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13

Judges 13:1

ULT

¹ The sons of Israel continued to do this evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so Yahweh gave them over into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

UST

¹ Again the Israelite people did evil, and Yahweh saw what they had done. So Yahweh helped the Philistines to conquer them. They ruled over the Israelites for forty years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:2

ULT

² Now there was one man from Zorah, of the families of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. His wife was barren and she had never given birth.

UST

² There was a man named Manoah from the family of Dan who lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, so they had no children.

Why had Manoah's wife not given birth?

Manoah's wife was not able to become pregnant and so she had not given birth.

Judges 13:3

ULT

³ The messenger of Yahweh appeared to the wife and he said to her, "Look, please, you are barren and you have not given birth, but you will conceive and you will bear a son.

UST

³ One day, the angel of Yahweh appeared to Manoah's wife and said to her, "Even though you have not been able to give birth to any children until now, you will soon become pregnant and you will give birth to a son.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:4**ULT**

⁴ Now take care that you surely do not drink wine or strong drink, and you do not eat anything unclean.

UST

⁴ From now until he is born, you must not drink any wine or other alcoholic drink, and you must not eat any food that the law says we should not eat.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:5**ULT**

⁵ For surely you are pregnant and you will bear a son. A razor will not go up upon his head, for a Nazirite to God from the womb the boy will be. He will begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

UST

⁵ You will become pregnant. After you give birth to your son, no one may ever cut his hair. He will be dedicated to God even before he is born until the day he dies. He will begin the work that will rescue Israel from the power of the Philistines."

Why was no razor to come onto the child's head?

No razor was to come onto his head, for the child was to be a Nazirite to God.

Judges 13:6**ULT**

⁶ Then the woman came in and she explained to her husband saying, "The man of God came to me. His appearance was as the appearance of the messenger of God, exceedingly fearsome, so I did not ask him from where he had come. He did not reveal to me his name.

UST

⁶ The woman ran and told her husband, "A man whom God sent came to me. I was very afraid of him, because he was like an angel from God. I did not ask where he came from, and he did not tell me his name.

Like what did the man of God look?

The man of God looked like an angel of God.

Judges 13:7**ULT**

⁷ Then he said to me, 'Surely, you are pregnant, and you will bear a son. So now, you must not drink wine or strong drink, and you must not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from the womb until the day of his death.'

UST

⁷ But he told me, 'You have become pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. Until then, you must not drink any wine or any alcoholic drink, and you must not eat any food that God's law says you are not to eat. Your son will be a Nazirite; that is one who is dedicated to God before he is born and until the day he dies.'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:8**ULT**

⁸ Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh and he said, 'Oh please, my Lord, please let the man of God who you sent come again to us so that he may instruct us about what we must do for the boy who is to be born.'

UST

⁸ Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh, saying, 'O Lord, I plead with you, allow that man whom you sent to us to come again and teach us how we should raise the boy who will be born to us.'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:9**ULT**

⁹ The true God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the messenger of God came to the woman again when she was sitting in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her.

UST

⁹ God did what Manoah asked, and his angel came to the woman again. This time she was out in the field. But again her husband Manoah was not with her.

When the angel of God came a second time, who was there?

When the angel of God came a second time, only Manoah's wife was there.

Judges 13:10**ULT**

¹⁰ So the woman hurried and she ran and she reported to her husband, and she said to him, "Look! The man has appeared to me who came to me that day!"

UST

¹⁰ So she quickly ran and said to her husband, "The man who appeared to me a few days ago has come back again!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:11**ULT**

¹¹ So Manoah rose up and he went after his wife. When he came to the man, he said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" He replied, "I am."

UST

¹¹ Manoah ran back with his wife and asked him, "Are you the man who talked with my wife a few days ago?" He replied, "Yes I am."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:12**ULT**

¹² Then Manoah said, "Now may your words come to pass. What will be the protocol for the boy, and his work?"

UST

¹² Manoah asked him, "When what you promised occurs and my wife gives birth to a son, what rules will there be for the child, and what work will he do when he grows up?"

About what did Manoah ask the angel?

Manoah asked the angel about the rules for the child and what his work would be.

Judges 13:13**ULT**

¹³ The messenger of Yahweh replied to Manoah, "Because of all that I have said to the woman, she must take heed herself.

UST

¹³ Yahweh's angel replied, "Your wife must obey all the instructions I gave her.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:14**ULT**

¹⁴ From anything that comes forth from the vine of the wine, she must not consume. She must not drink wine or strong drink, and anything unclean she must not eat. Everything that I have commanded her, she must do."

UST

¹⁴ Before the baby is born, she must not eat grapes, drink wine or any other alcoholic drink, or eat anything that the law says we should not eat."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then Manoah said to the messenger of Yahweh, "Please let us detain you, so that we may prepare a young kid from the goats on account of your presence."

UST

¹⁵ Then Manoah said, "Please stay here until we can kill and cook a young goat for you."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:16**ULT**

¹⁶ The angel of Yahweh replied to Manoah, "Even if you would detain me, I will not eat your bread. But if you would prepare a burnt offering for Yahweh, you may offer it." For Manoah did not know that he was the messenger of Yahweh.

UST

¹⁶ Yahweh's angel replied, "I will stay here, but I will not eat anything. However, you may kill an animal and sacrifice it as a burned offering to Yahweh." But Manoah did not yet realize that this was Yahweh's angel.

If Manoah prepared a burnt offering, to whom was he to offer it?

If Manoah prepared a burnt offering, he was to offer it to Yahweh.

Judges 13:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Then Manoah said to the messenger of Yahweh, "What is your name, that when your words come to pass we may honor you?"

UST

¹⁷ Then Manoah asked him, "What is your name? When what you have promised happens, we want to honor you."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:18**ULT**

¹⁸ The messenger of Yahweh replied to him, "Why is this, you are asking about my name, but it is incomprehensible!"

UST

¹⁸ Yahweh's angel replied, "Why do you ask me my name? It is too marvelous."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Manoah took the young kid from the goats and the offering and he brought up a sacrifice upon the rock to Yahweh. Meanwhile he was about to perform an act causing wonder while Manoah and his wife were watching.

UST

¹⁹ Then Manoah killed a young goat and burned it on a rock, along with a grain offering, as a sacrifice to Yahweh. Then Yahweh did an amazing thing as Manoah and his wife watched.

**What marvelous thing did Yahweh do while Manoah and his wife were watching?
(vv19-20)**

While Manoah and his wife were watching, the angel of Yahweh went up in the flame of the altar.

Judges 13:20**ULT**

²⁰ Now it happend when the flame went up from upon the altar towards the heavens, that the messenger of Yahweh went up in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife were watching. As a result they fell on their faces to the ground.

UST

²⁰ When the flames went up from the altar toward the sky, Yahweh's angel went up in the flame from the altar. Manoah and his wife saw that and lay facedown on the ground.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:21**ULT**

²¹ But the messenger of Yahweh did not continue to appear any longer to Manoah or to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the messenger of Yahweh.

UST

²¹ Although Yahweh's angel did not appear again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized who this angel really was.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:22**ULT**

²² Manoah said to his wife, "Surely we will die, because we have seen God!"

UST

²² So Manoah said, "Now we are sure to die, because we have seen God!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:23**ULT**

²³ But his wife replied to him, "If Yahweh had desired to kill us, he would not have taken from our hand the whole burnt offering and the offering. He would not have shown us all these things, and at this time would he have not allowed us to hear about this."

UST

²³ But his wife said, "No, I do not think so. If Yahweh intended to kill us, he would not have accepted the burned offering and the grain offering. And he would not have appeared to us and told us the wonderful thing that would happen to us, and he would not have performed this miracle."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:24**ULT**

²⁴ The woman gave birth to a son, and she called his name Samson. The boy grew up and Yahweh blessed him.

UST

²⁴ When their son was born, they named him Samson. Yahweh blessed him as he grew up.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 13:25

ULT

²⁵ Now the Spirit of Yahweh began to tap him in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and between Eshtaol.

UST

²⁵ While he was in Mahaneh-Dan, which is between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol, Yahweh's Spirit began to control him.

Where did Yahweh's Spirit begin to stir Samson?

Yahweh's Spirit began to stir Samson in Mahaneh Dan.

Judges 14

Judges 14:1

ULT

¹ Samson went down to Timnah, and he saw a woman in Timnah, from the daughters of the Philistines.

UST

¹ Samson went down to the town of Timnah, and there he saw a young Philistine woman.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:2

ULT

² Then he went back up and he reported to his father and to his mother, and he said, "I saw a woman in Timnah, among the daughters of the Philistines. So now take her for me for a wife."

UST

² When he returned home, he told his mother and father, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines in Timnah, and I want you to get her for me so I can marry her."

Who did Samson want his parents to get for him to be his wife?

Samson wanted his parents to get a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines, for him to be his wife.

Judges 14:3

ULT

³ His father and his mother replied to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all of my people, that you are going to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" Samson said to his father, "Take her for me, because she is right in my eyes."

UST

³ His mother and father objected very strongly. They said, "Is there no woman from our tribe, or from the other Israelite tribes, that you could marry? Why do you want a wife from the Philistines, who are not circumcised and do not worship Yahweh?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! She is the one I want!"

Why did Samson want his parents to get him the woman in Timnah as his wife?

He wanted his parents to get him the woman in Timnah as his wife, for when he looked at her, she pleased him.

Judges 14:4**ULT**

⁴ But his father and his mother did not know that this matter was from Yahweh, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

UST

⁴ His mother and father did not realize that Yahweh was arranging this. He was preparing a way for Samson to create a conflict with the Philistines, for they were ruling over Israel at that time.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:5**ULT**

⁵ Then Samson went down along with his father and his mother to Timnah. They came as far as the vineyards of Timnah, and look, a young lion among the lions was roaring when encountering him.

UST

⁵ Then Samson went down to Timnah with his mother and father. A young lion roared at him, threatening him near the vineyards close to the town.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:6**ULT**

⁶ The Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon him, and he tore it to pieces like butchering a young goat. There was not anything in his hand, but he did not disclose to his father or to his mother what he had done.

UST

⁶ Then Yahweh's Spirit came on Samson, and he tore the lion apart with his hands. He did it as easily as if it had been a young goat. But he did not tell his mother and father about it.

How was Samson able to tear the lion apart?

Yahweh's Spirit suddenly came on him, and he tore the lion apart.

Judges 14:7**ULT**

⁷ Then he went down and he spoke to the woman, and she seemed right in the eyes of Samson.

UST

⁷ When they arrived in Timnah, Samson talked with the young woman, and he liked her very much. And his father made arrangements for the wedding.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:8**ULT**

⁸ Then he returned after some days to take her. He turned aside to look for the carcass of the lion, and look, there was a swarm of bees in the dead body of the lion and honey.

UST

⁸ Later, when Samson returned to Timnah for the wedding, he turned off the path to see the lion carcass. He discovered that a swarm of bees had made a nest in the carcass and had made some honey.

What was in the carcass of the lion?

There was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

Judges 14:9**ULT**

⁹ He scraped it into the palms of his hands and he went along, walking and eating as he went to his father and to his mother. He even gave some to them so that they ate, but he did not disclose to them that he had scooped the honey out of the dead body of the lion.

UST

⁹ So he dug out some of the honey into his hands and ate some of it as he was walking along. He also gave some of it to his mother and father, but he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Then his father went down to the woman, and there Samson prepared a drinking feast, because so would do the young men.

UST

¹⁰ As his father was making the final arrangements for the marriage, Samson gave a feast for the young men in that area. That was the custom for men to do when they were about to be married.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:11**ULT**

¹¹ Now it happened when they saw him, that they brought thirty close friends and they were with him.

UST

¹¹ As soon as her relatives saw him, they brought him thirty of their friends to be with him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:12**ULT**

¹² Samson said to them, "Let me propose to you a riddle. If indeed you explain it to me during the seven days of the drinking feast, and truly you have found out, then I will give to you thirty linen outer garments and thirty changes of clothes.

UST

¹² Samson said to them, "Allow me to tell you a riddle. If you tell me the correct meaning of my riddle during these seven days of the celebration, I will give each one of you a linen robe and an extra set of clothes.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:13**ULT**

¹³ But if you are not able to provide an explanation to me, then you must yourselves give to me thirty linen outer garments and thirty changes of clothes." They said to him, "Set forth your riddle, so we may hear it."

UST

¹³ But if you cannot tell me the correct meaning, you must each give me a linen robe and an extra set of clothes." They replied, "All right. Tell us your riddle."

What would Samson get if the thirty friends could not answer his riddle?

Samson would get thirty linen robes and thirty sets of clothes if the thirty friends could not answer his riddle.

Judges 14:14**ULT**

¹⁴ He said to them, "From the eater came forth food; and from a strong one came forth sweetness." But they were not able to explain the riddle in three days.

UST

¹⁴ So he said, "From out of the eater I found something to eat; from out of the strong I found something sweet." But for three days they could not tell him the meaning of the riddle.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Now it happened on the seventh day that they said to the wife of Samson, "Entice your husband so he may reveal to us the riddle, lest we burn you and the house of your father with fire. Have you invited us in order to dispossess us or not?"

UST

¹⁵ On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Use your tricks and make your husband tell you the meaning of the riddle. If you do not do that, we will burn down your father's house, with you and your family inside it! Did you invite us here only to make us poor by forcing us to buy a lot of clothes for your husband?"

What would happen to Samson's wife if she did not trick her husband and get the answer to the riddle?

If Samson's wife did not trick her husband and get the answer to the riddle, the thirty friends would burn up her and her father's houses.

Judges 14:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then the wife of Samson wept beside him and she said, "Surely you hate me! You do not love me! You have put forth a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not informed me." He said to her, "Look, I have not informed my father or my mother, should I inform you?"

UST

¹⁶ So Samson's wife came to him, crying. She said to him, "You do not really love me. You hate me! You have told a riddle to my friends, but you have not told me the answer to it!" He replied, "I have not even told my own mother and father the answers, so why should I tell you?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:17**ULT**

¹⁷ She continued to weep beside him during the seven days that they had the drinking feast. Now it happened on the seventh day that he informed her because she pressed him, with the result that she revealed the riddle to the sons of her people.

UST

¹⁷ She continued to cry every time she was with him, all during the rest of the celebration. Finally, on the seventh day, because she continued to nag him, he told her the answer to the riddle. Then she told it to the young men.

For how long did Samson's wife cry in order to get the answer to the riddle?

She cried during the seven days that their feast lasted.

Judges 14:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Then the men of the city said to him before the sun went down on the seventh day, "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?" So he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

UST

¹⁸ So before sunset on the seventh day, the young men came to Samson and said to him, "Nothing is sweeter than honey; Nothing is as strong as a lion." Samson replied, "People use their own animals to plow their fields. My bride is like a young heifer that you have used, but she does not belong to you! If you had not forced her to ask me, you would not have learned the answer!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 14:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Then the Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon him. He went down to Ashkelon and he struck down thirty of their men. He took their spoil, and he gave the changes of clothes from the riddle. His anger blazed, and he went up to the house of his father.

UST

¹⁹ Then Yahweh's Spirit powerfully came on Samson. He went down to the coast at the city of Ashkelon and killed thirty men. He took their clothes and went back to Timnah; then he gave them to the men at the feast. But he was very angry about what had happened, so he went back home to live with his mother and father.

How did Samson get thirty sets of clothing?

Samson went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty men among those people and took their sets of clothing.

Judges 14:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then the wife of Samson came to be the wife of his close friend, who associated with him.

UST

²⁰ So his wife's father gave her instead to the man who had been Samson's special friend when he got married.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15

Judges 15:1

ULT

¹ Now it happened after some days, during the days of the harvest of wheat, that Samson visited his wife with a kid from the goats. for he said, "I will go in to my wife, to the inner room." But her father did not allow him to go in.

UST

¹ During the time that they were harvesting the wheat, Samson took a young goat to Timnah as a present for his wife. He wanted to sleep with his wife, but her father would not let him go into her room.

When Samson went to visit his wife, why did her father not allow him to go in?

The father thought Samson hated his wife, so the father gave her to Samson's friend.

Judges 15:2

ULT

² Her father said, "Truly I said that surely you hated her, so I gave her to your close friend. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please may she be yours in her place."

UST

² He said to Samson, "I really thought that you hated her. So I gave her to the man who was your best friend at the wedding, and she has married him. But look, her younger sister is more beautiful than she is. Take her instead."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:3

ULT

³ Samson said to them, "This time I am blameless concerning the Philistines when I am inflicting calamity against them."

UST

³ Samson replied, "No! And this time I have a right to get revenge on you Philistines!"

How did Samson try to be innocent in regard to the Philistines when he hurt them? (vv3-4)

Samson tried to be innocent in regard to the Philistines when he hurt them by catching three hundred foxes, tying torches to them, and letting them go in the Philistines' grain.

Judges 15:4**ULT**

⁴ Then Samson went and captured three hundred foxes and he made them turn tail to tail. He took torches, and he set one torch between two of the tails in the middle.

UST

⁴ Then he went out into the fields and caught three hundred foxes. He tied their tails together, two by two. He fastened torches to each pair of tails.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:5**ULT**

⁵ He kindled fire in the torches, he let them loose into the standing grain of the Philistines. As a result he burned both the stack of sheaves and also the standing grain, even a vineyard, and olive orchard.

UST

⁵ Then he lit the torches and let the foxes run through the fields of the Philistines. The fire from the torches burned all the grain to the ground, including the grain that had been cut and stacked in bundles. The fire also burned down their grapevines and their olive trees.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:6**ULT**

⁶ So the Philistines said, "Who has done this?", and they replied "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and he gave her to his close friend." As a result the Philistines went up and they burned her and her father with fire.

UST

⁶ The Philistines asked, "Who did this?" Someone told them, "Samson did it. He married a woman from Timnah, but then his father-in-law gave her to the man who was Samson's best friend at the wedding, and she married him." So the Philistines went to Timnah and got the woman and her father, and burned them to death.

When the Philistines were told that Samson burned their fields, what did they do?

When the Philistines were told that Samson burned their fields, they burned his wife and her father.

Judges 15:7**ULT**

⁷ Samson said to them, "Since you have actually acted like this, surely I have avenged myself against you, and afterwards, I will stop."

UST

⁷ Samson found out about that and said to them, "Because you have done this, I will get revenge on you, and then I will be happy!"

Why did Samson cut the Philistines to pieces, hip and thigh, with a great slaughter? (vv7-8)

Samson cut the Philistines to pieces, hip and thigh, with a great slaughter to get revenge on them for killing his wife and her father.

Judges 15:8**ULT**

⁸ He struck them on the lower leg as well as the thigh, a great slaughter. Then he went down and he remained in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

UST

⁸ So he attacked the Philistines furiously and killed many of them. Then he went to hide in a cave in the large rock at a place called Etam.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:9**ULT**

⁹ But the Philistines went up and they encamped in Judah and they had spread themselves out in Lehi.

UST

⁹ The Philistines did not know where he was, so they went up to where the descendants of Judah lived, and they arranged themselves for battle at the town of Lehi.

Why did the Philistines come up to attack Judah? (vv9-10)

The Philistines came up to attack Judah so they could capture Samson, and so they could do to him as he did to them.

Judges 15:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Now the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They replied, "We have come up in order to bind Samson, to do to him just as he has done to us."

UST

¹⁰ The men there asked the Philistines, "Why do you want to attack us?" The Philistines replied, "We have come to capture Samson. We have come to get revenge on him for what he did to us."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:11**ULT**

¹¹ Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and they said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are ruling over us? What is this you have done to us?" He replied to them, "Just as they have done to me, so I have done to them."

UST

¹¹ Someone there knew where Samson was hiding. So three thousand men from Judah went down to get Samson at the cave in the rock where he was hiding. They said to Samson, "Do you not realize that the people of Philistia are ruling over us? Do you not realize what they will do to us?" Samson replied, "The only thing I did was that I got revenge on them for what they did to me."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:12**ULT**

¹² They replied to him, "We have come down to bind you in order to give you over into the hand of the Philistines." But Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not instead attack me yourselves."

UST

¹² But the men from Judah said to him, "We have come to tie you up and put you in the hands of the Philistines." Samson said, "All right, but promise me that you yourselves will not kill me!"

When the men of Judah came to tie Samson up, what did he make them swear?

When the men of Judah came to tie Samson up, he made them swear that they would not kill him themselves.

Judges 15:13**ULT**

¹³ They replied to him saying, “No, however surely we will bind you and we will give you over into their hand. But truly we will not kill you.” Then they bound him with two new ropes and they brought him up from the rock.

UST

¹³ They replied, “We will just tie you up and take you to the Philistines. We will not kill you.” So they tied him with two new ropes and led him away from the cave.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:14**ULT**

¹⁴ He had come as far as Lehi, and then the Philistines shouted as they encountered him. Then the Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon him. The ropes which were on his arms became as flax stalks which they had burned in fire, so his bands were loosed from upon his hands.

UST

¹⁴ When they arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came toward him, shouting triumphantly. But Yahweh's Spirit powerfully came on Samson. He snapped the ropes on his arms as easily as if they had been stalks of burned flax, and they fell off his wrists.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:15**ULT**

¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and he stretched forth his hand and he took it and he slaughtered a thousand men with it.

UST

¹⁵ Then he saw a donkey's jawbone lying on the ground. It was new, so it was hard. He picked it up and killed about a thousand Philistine men with it.

With what did Samson kill a thousand men?

Samson killed a thousand men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey.

Judges 15:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of the donkey, one heap, two heaps, with the jawbone of the donkey I have slaughtered a thousand men."

UST

¹⁶ Then Samson wrote this poem: "With the jawbone of a donkey I have made them like a heap of dead donkeys. With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Now it happened when he finished speaking that he hurled the jawbone out of his hand, and he named that place Ramath Lehi.

UST

¹⁷ When he finished, he threw the jawbone away, but later that place was called Ramath Lehi (or Jawbone Hill).

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 15:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Then he was very thirsty and cried out to Yahweh and he said, "You Yourself have given this great victory into the hand of Your servant. But now must I die with this thirst so that I will fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

UST

¹⁸ Then Samson was very thirsty, so he called out to Yahweh, "You have given me strength to win a great victory. So now must I die because of being thirsty, with the result that those heathen, uncircumcised Philistines will capture me?"

After Samson killed a thousand men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey, how did he think he would die?

After Samson killed a thousand men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he thought he would die of thirst.

Judges 15:19**ULT**

¹⁹ So God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi and water came out of it. When he drank, his spirit returned so that he revived. Therefore he called the name of it En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

UST

¹⁹ So God caused water to gush out of a depression in the ground at Lehi. Samson drank from it and soon felt strong again. He named that place En Hakkore (or “The spring of the one who called out”). That spring can still be found at Lehi, even today.

How did Samson get water?

God split open the hollow place at Lehi, and water came out.

Judges 15:20**ULT**

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

UST

²⁰ Samson was the leader and judge over Israel for twenty years, but during that time the Philistines were in control of the entire land.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16

Judges 16:1

ULT

¹ Now Samson went to Gaza and he saw a woman there, a harlot, and he went in to her.

UST

¹ Samson went to the city of Gaza. He saw a prostitute there, and he spent the night with her.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:2

ULT

² Thus the Gazites were saying, "Samson has come here." So they encircled and they laid in wait for him all the night at the gate of the city. They kept themselves quiet all the night, saying, "At the light of the morning, then we will kill him."

UST

² The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." They surrounded the place where Samson was, and they waited in secret all night. They were beside the city gate, so they would be sure he could not escape. They said, "Let us wait until the light, and then we will kill him."

When did the Gazites plan to kill Samson?

The Gazites planned to kill Samson at daylight.

Judges 16:3

ULT

³ Samson lay down until the middle of the night. Then he arose in the middle of the night and he seized the doors of the gate of the city and the two doorposts. He pulled them up along with the bolt, he hoisted them upon his shoulders, and he brought them up to the top of the hill which is in front of Hebron.

UST

³ But Samson did not stay there all night. At midnight, he got up. He went to the city gate, he took hold of its two posts, and he lifted them up out of the ground, with its connecting cross bar still attached. He put it on his shoulders and carried it many miles uphill, in front of the town of Hebron.

How did Samson escape Gaza?

Samson took hold of the city gate and its two posts, and he pulled them up out of the ground, bar and all.

Judges 16:4**ULT**

⁴ Now it happened after this that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek. Her name was Delilah.

UST

⁴ Later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. She lived in the Valley of Sorek (in the Philistine area).

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:5**ULT**

⁵ The governors of the Philistines came up to her, and they said to her, "Make him open up. See by what means is his great strength, and how we can prevail over him, so that we may bind him in order to weaken him. Then we will each give you one thousand one hundred silver pieces."

UST

⁵ The Philistine leaders went to her and said, "Use your tricks to find out from Samson what makes him so strong. And find out how we can subdue him and tie him up securely. If you do that, each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

If Delilah tricked Samson, what would the rulers of the Philistines give her?

If Delilah tricked Samson, each of the rulers of the Philistines would give her 1,100 pieces of silver.

Judges 16:6**ULT**

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please, tell me by what means is your great strength, and how can you be bound in order to weaken you?"

UST

⁶ So Delilah went to Samson and said, "Please tell me what makes you so strong, and tell me how someone can subdue you and tie you up."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:7**ULT**

⁷ Samson replied to her, "If they would bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I would become weak and I would be just as one of the other men."

UST

⁷ Samson said, "If someone ties me with seven new bowstrings, ones that are not dry yet, I will become as weak as other men."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:8**ULT**

⁸ Then the governors of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she tied him up with them.

UST

⁸ So after Delilah told that to the Philistine leaders, they brought seven new bowstrings to Delilah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:9**ULT**

⁹ Now she had the ambush group staying in the room when she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he tore the cords to shreds just as a wick of flax fiber is torn to shreds when it draws in fire. So his strength did not become known.

UST

⁹ Then she hid the leaders in one of the rooms in her house. She tied Samson up with the bowstrings and then called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come here to capture you!" But Samson snapped the bowstrings as easily as though they had been strings that had been singed in a fire. So the Philistines did not find out what made Samson so strong.

When Delilah told Samson the Philistines were on him, what did he do to the bowstrings with which he was tied?

When Delilah told Samson the Philistines were on him, he broke the bowstrings.

Judges 16:10**ULT**

¹⁰ As a result Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have deceived me and you have spoken lies to me. Now tell me, please, by what means you can be bound."

UST

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have deceived me and lied to me! Now tell me the truth, how someone can tie you up securely."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:11**ULT**

¹¹ He replied to her, "If in fact they would bind me with new cords with which work has not been done with them, I would become weak and I would be just as one of the other men."

UST

¹¹ Samson replied, "If someone ties me with new ropes, ones that have never been used, I will be as weak as other men."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:12**ULT**

¹² So Delilah took new cords and she bound him with them. She said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" with the ambush group staying in the room. But he flicked them off from upon his arms like they were thread.

UST

¹² So again, she told the Philistine leaders, and then came and hid in the room as they did before. And again, while Samson was sleeping, she took the new ropes and tied him up with them and then called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson snapped the ropes on his arms as easily as if they had been threads.

When Samson tore off the ropes from his arms, where were the men lying in wait?

When Samson tore off the ropes from his arms, the men lying in wait were in the inner room.

Judges 16:13**ULT**

¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have dealt deceitfully with me and you have spoken lies to me. Reveal to me in what manner you may be bound." So he said to her, "If you would only weave seven of the locks of hair from my head with the loom."

UST

¹³ Then Delilah said, "You have deceived me and lied to me again! Please tell me how someone can tie you up securely!" Samson replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my hair into the threads you are weaving on the loom, and then fasten those threads with a nail that makes the threads tight, then I will become as weak as other men." So again, Delilah held the seven braids of his hair, and wove them into the threads on the loom,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:14**ULT**

¹⁴ She fastened them together with a pin, and she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" However he woke from his sleep and he pulled out the pin from the weaving and the warp of the loom.

UST

¹⁴ and she secured them with a pin. Then she called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson woke up and pulled away his hair, taking with it the pin of the loom and the fabric in the loom.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' yet your heart is not with me? You have dealt deceitfully with me these three times and you have not revealed to me by what means is your great strength."

UST

¹⁵ Then Delilah said to him, "How can you say that you love me when you do not tell me the truth about yourself? You have deceived me three times, and you still have not told me what really makes you so strong!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Now it happened that she pressured him with her speech throughout the day. She also continually pressed him so that his soul was vexed to death.

UST

¹⁶ Day after day she used every trick to get him to tell her his secret. He thought he would die from her nagging.

How much did Delilah pressure Samson?

She so pressured him that he wished he would die.

Judges 16:17**ULT**

¹⁷ So he told her everything in his heart and he said to her, "A razor has never gone up upon my head, because I have been a Nazirite to God from the womb of my mother. If I would be completely shaved, then my strength would leave me, and I would become weak. I would be just as any of the other men."

UST

¹⁷ Finally Samson told her the truth. He said, "I have been set apart for God since the day I was born. And because of that, my hair has never been cut. If my hair were shaved off, my strength would be gone, and I would be as weak as other men."

Why had Samson never had a razor cut the hair on his head?

Samson had never had a razor cut the hair on his head, for he had been a Nazirite for God from his mother's womb.

Judges 16:18**ULT**

¹⁸ When Delilah perceived that he had told her everything in his heart, she sent and she called to the governors of the Philistines, saying, "Come up one more time, for he has told me everything in his heart." Then the rulers of the Philistines came up to her, and they brought the silver in their hand.

UST

¹⁸ Delilah realized that this time he had told her the truth. So she called together the Philistine leaders, saying, "Come back one more time, because Samson has finally told me the secret about his strength." So the Philistine leaders returned and gave Delilah the money they promised to give her.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Then she made him fall asleep on her knees and she called to the man while she shaved off the seven locks from his head. Thus she had begun to weaken him, and his strength departed from upon him.

UST

¹⁹ Again she lulled Samson to sleep, with his head in her lap. Then she called one of the Philistine men to come and cut off Samson's hair. As he did that, Samson became weak; he had no more strength.

How was Delilah able to begin to subdue Samson?

Delilah began to subdue him when the locks of his head were shaven off, for his strength left him.

Judges 16:20**ULT**

²⁰ Then she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" He woke up from his sleep and he said, "I will escape like time after time and I will shake myself loose." But he did not know that Yahweh had departed from upon him.

UST

²⁰ Then after she tied him up, she called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" He woke up and thought, "I will do as I did before. I will shake these ropes off myself and be free!" But he did not realize that Yahweh had left him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:21**ULT**

²¹ The Philistines seized him and they gouged out his eyes. They brought him down to Gaza and they bound him with a pair of bronze fetters. Now it happened that he was grinding at the house of the prisoners.

UST

²¹ So the Philistine men seized him and gouged out his eyes. Then they took him to Gaza. There they put him in prison and bound him with bronze chains. They made him turn a large millstone to grind grain every day.

What work did the Philistines make Samson do?

The Philistines made Samson turn the millstone at the prison house.

Judges 16:22**ULT**

²² However, the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

UST

²² But his hair started to grow again after it had been cut.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:23**ULT**

²³ The governors of the Philistines assembled themselves together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and for a celebration. They said, "Our god has given Samson into our hand, our great enemy."

UST

²³ Several months later the Philistine leaders celebrated a big festival. During the festival they offered sacrifices to their god Dagon. They praised him, saying, "Our god has enabled us to defeat our great enemy Samson!"

Why did the rulers of the Philistines gather together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god?

The rulers of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, for they said, "Our god has conquered Samson."

Judges 16:24**ULT**

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the devastator of our land, who heaped up our slain ones."

UST

²⁴ When the other people saw Samson, they also praised their god Dagon, saying, "Our god has put our great enemy into our hands. Our god helped us to capture the one who has harmed our country so much!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:25**ULT**

²⁵ Now it happened when their heart was merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may make us laugh." So they called for Samson from the house of the prisoners and he caused laughter in front of them. They had made him stand between the columns.

UST

²⁵ By that time the people were half-drunk. They shouted, "Bring Samson out of the prison! Bring him here so he can entertain us!" So they brought Samson from the prison and made him stand in the center of the temple. They made him stand between the two pillars that held up the roof.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:26**ULT**

²⁶ Samson said to the young man who was holding onto his hand, "Let me rest! Let me touch the columns, those which the building is situated upon them, so that I may support myself on them."

UST

²⁶ Samson said to the servant who was leading him by his hand, "Place my hands against the two pillars. I want to rest against them."

Who helped Samson touch the pillars on which the building rested?

The boy who held Samson's hand helped Samson touch the pillars on which the building rested.

Judges 16:27**ULT**

²⁷ Now the building was full of the men and the women, and situated there were all of the governors of the Philistines. On the roof there were about three thousand men and women, who were watching while Samson was entertaining.

UST

²⁷ At that time the temple was full of men and women. All the Philistine leaders were also there. And there were about three thousand people on the roof, watching Samson and making fun of him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:28**ULT**

²⁸ Then Samson called out to Yahweh and he said, “My Lord Yahweh, remember me, please! Strengthen me please, just this time, O God, so that I may avenge myself by one act of vengeance on the Philistines because of my two eyes.”

UST

²⁸ Samson prayed to Yahweh and he said, “Lord Yahweh, think about me again! Please give me strength only this once more, so that I may get revenge on the Philistines for gouging out my eyes!”

Why did Samson want God to strengthen him?

Samson wanted God to strengthen him so that he could have revenge in one blow on the Philistines for taking his two eyes.

Judges 16:29**ULT**

²⁹ Samson took hold of the two center columns on which the building was situated on them. He leaned himself against them, one in his right hand, and one in his left.

UST

²⁹ Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars of the temple—his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on the other one.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 16:30**ULT**

³⁰ Then Samson said, “My soul will die with the Philistines!” He stretched out with his strength and the building fell on the governors and on all of the people who were in it. So the ones who died that he killed at his death were more than those he killed during his life.

UST

³⁰ Then he shouted to God, “Let me die with the Philistines!” He pushed with all his strength. The pillars collapsed, and the temple crashed down on the Philistine leaders and all the other Philistine people, and they all died. So Samson killed more people when he died than he had killed all during his life.

How many people did Samson kill when the building fell?

Samson killed more than those he killed during his life.

Judges 16:31**ULT**

³¹ Then his brothers and all the house of his father went down. They carried him, as they went back up. They buried him between Zorah and between Eshtaol in the burial place of Manoah, his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

UST

³¹ Later his brothers and their relatives went down from Zorah to Gaza to get his body. They took it back home and buried it between Zorah and Eshtaol, at the place where Samson's father Manoah was buried. Now Samson had led Israel for twenty years.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17

Judges 17:1

ULT

¹ Now there was a man from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Micah.

UST

¹ There was a man named Micah who lived in the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim live.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:2

ULT

² He said to his mother, "The one thousand one hundred silver pieces that were taken from you, about which you swore a curse, and moreover you uttered it in my ears—look! The silver is with me. I took it myself." His mother said, "Blessed is my son by Yahweh!"

UST

² One day he said to his mother, "I heard you curse whoever stole eleven hundred pieces of silver from your house. I am the one who took the silver, and I still have it." His mother replied, "My son, I pray that Yahweh will bless you."

What did Micah steal?

Micah stole the 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from his mother.

Judges 17:3

ULT

³ Then he brought back the one thousand one hundred silver pieces to his mother and his mother said, "I had entirely consecrated the silver to Yahweh, from my hand to my son in order to make an idol and a cast image. So now, I will return it back to you."

UST

³ Micah gave all the silver back to his mother. Then she said to herself, "I will give some of this silver to Yahweh." And she said to her son, "My son, I want you to make an idol and a statue from this silver. So I will give some of this silver back to you for making these things."

For what did Micah's mother set apart the silver?

She set apart the silver to Yahweh, for her son to make a carved wooden figure and a cast metal figure.

Judges 17:4**ULT**

⁴ Even so he restored the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred silver pieces and she gave them to the refiner. He made it into an idol and a cast image, and so it was in the house of Micah.

UST

⁴ After he had given the silver back to his mother, she took two hundred pieces and gave them to a metal worker. With the silver that man made a carved figure and a cast metal figure, and gave them to Micah. Micah put them in his house.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:5**ULT**

⁵ Now the man Micah he had a house of gods. He made an ephod and family idols, and he even filled the hand of one of his sons so he was as a priest for him.

UST

⁵ He had a house in which he worshiped his idols. He made a kind of vest that was worn by priests, and some smaller, personal idols and Micah gave one of his sons the task of being the priest for all his idols.

To what did Micah dedicate one of his sons?

He dedicated one of his sons to become his priest.

Judges 17:6**ULT**

⁶ In those days there was not a king in Israel. Each man would do whatever was right in his eyes.

UST

⁶ At that time, Israel did not have a king, and everyone did whatever they each decided was okay.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:7**ULT**

⁷ Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, from the family of Judah, and he was a Levite. He was sojourning there.

UST

⁷ There was a young man who had been living in town of Bethlehem which is in the area where the tribe of Judah lives. He wanted to work as a priest because he was a member of the tribe of Levi.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:8**ULT**

⁸ The man went out of the city, from Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn in whatever place he might find. He came to the hill country of Ephraim as far as the house of Micah as he made his way.

UST

⁸ So he left Bethlehem to find another place to live and work. He came to Micah's house in the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim lived.

Why did the Levite leave Bethlehem?

The Levite left Bethlehem to go and find a place to live.

Judges 17:9**ULT**

⁹ Micah said to him, "Where have you come from?" He replied to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn in whatever place I might find."

UST

⁹ Micah asked him, "Where are you from?" He replied, "I come from Bethlehem. I am from the tribe of Levi, and I am looking for a place to live and work as a priest."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Micah said to him, "Stay with me, and be as a father and as a priest to me. I myself will give to you ten silver pieces for the days, and provision of garments and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.

UST

¹⁰ Micah said to him, "Stay with me, and you can advise me and be my priest. Each year I will give to you ten pieces of silver and some new clothes. And I will provide food for you."

What did Micah ask the Levite to be to him?

Micah asked the Levite to live with him and be an adviser and a priest to him.

Judges 17:11**ULT**

¹¹ So the Levite was willing to stay with the man, and the young man became to him as one of his sons.

UST

¹¹ So the young man agreed to live with Micah. He became like one of Micah's own sons.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:12**ULT**

¹² Micah filled the hand of the Levite, and the young man became as a priest for him. So it was in the house of Micah.

UST

¹² Micah appointed him to be a priest, and he lived in Micah's house.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 17:13**ULT**

¹³ Then Micah said, "Now I know that Yahweh will cause success for me, because I have this Levite as a priest."

UST

¹³ Then Micah said, "Now I know that Yahweh will do good things for me, because I have a man from the tribe of Levi to be my priest."

Why did Micah think Yahweh would do good for him?

Micah thought Yahweh would do good for him, because a Levite became his priest.

Judges 18

Judges 18:1

ULT

¹ In those days there was not a king in Israel. Now in those days the tribe of the Danite was looking for a territory for itself to settle, because up to that day one had not fallen to it among the tribes of Israel for an inheritance.

UST

¹ At that time the Israelites had no king. The tribe of Dan was looking for a good place for them to settle down. The other Israelite tribes had been able to receive the land that had been allotted to them, but the tribe of Dan had not been able to do that.

Why was the tribe of the descendants of Dan looking for a territory on which to live?

The tribe of the descendants of Dan was looking for a territory to live on, for up to that day they had not received any inheritance from among the tribes of Israel.

Judges 18:2

ULT

² The sons of Dan sent five men from their family, from their members men, sons of valor from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to scout out the land on foot, and to examine it thoroughly. They said to them, "Go! Search out the land thoroughly." They came to the hill country of Ephraim, as far as the house of Micah, and they spent the night there.

UST

² So they chose five soldiers from their clans, men who lived in the cities of Zorah and Eshtaol, to go through the land and explore it and try to find some land where their tribe could live. They came to Micah's house in the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim lived, and they stayed there that night.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:3**ULT**

³ They were among the house of Micah and they recognized the voice of the young Levite man. So they turned aside there and they said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?"

UST

³ While they were in his house, when they heard the young man who had become Micah's priest talking, they recognized him from his accent. So they went to him and asked him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing here? Why did you come here?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:4**ULT**

⁴ He replied to them, "Like this and like this Micah has done for me; he has hired me and I am to him as a priest."

UST

⁴ He told them the things that Micah had done for him. And he said, "Micah has hired me, and I have become his priest."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:5**ULT**

⁵ They said to him, "Inquire, please, of God, that we may know whether our journey will have success, which we are going on it."

UST

⁵ So they said to him, "Please ask God if we will succeed in what we are trying to do on this journey."

What did the people of Dan want the Levite to seek?

The people of Dan wanted the Levite to seek the advice of God.

Judges 18:6**ULT**

⁶ The priest said to them, "Go in peace, before Yahweh is your journey which you are going on it."

UST

⁶ The young man replied, "Go in the knowledge that Yahweh will be with you on this journey."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:7**ULT**

⁷ Then the five men left and they came to Laish. They saw the people who were in the midst of it were living in safety as the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There was no one causing them shame in any way in the land. Possessing restraint, they were far away from the Sidonians and there was no interaction for them with anyone.

UST

⁷ Then the five men left. When they came to the city of Laish, they saw that the people there lived safely, as the people did in the city of Sidon. The people there thought that they were safe, because there was no one nearby to cause trouble for them, they were far from Sidon, and they rarely had contact with any outsiders.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:8**ULT**

⁸ Then they went to their brothers in Zorah and Eshtaol. Their brothers said to them, "How are you?"

UST

⁸ When those five men returned to Zorah and Eshtaol, their relatives asked them "What did you find out?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:9**ULT**

⁹ They responded, "Get up at once that we may go up against them! For we have seen the land and look, it is exceedingly good. Yet you are keeping still. You must not be sluggish to go to enter in to possess the land.

UST

⁹ They replied, "We have found some land, and it is very good. We should go and attack the people who live there. Why are you staying here and doing nothing? Do not wait any longer! We should go immediately and take possession of that land!

What did the five men from Dan want to do with the land of Laish?

The five men from Dan wanted to conquer the land.

Judges 18:10**ULT**

¹⁰ When you go, you will come to a people living securely, and the land is spacious on both hands! For God has given it into your hands, a place where there is not a lack of any thing that is on the earth."

UST

¹⁰ When you go there, you will see that there is plenty of land, and it has everything that we will need. The people there are not expecting anyone to attack them. God is certainly giving that land to us."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:11**ULT**

¹¹ So they journeyed away from there, six hundred men from the family of the Danite, out from Zorah and Eshtaol, girded with weapons of war.

UST

¹¹ So six hundred men from the tribe of Dan left Zorah and Eshtaol, carrying their weapons.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:12**ULT**

¹² They went up and they camped at Kiriath Jearim, in Judah. On account of this they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. It is back behind Kiriath Jearim.

UST

¹² On their way they set up their tents near the city of Kiriath Jearim in the area where the tribe of Judah live. That is why the area west of Kiriath Jearim was named Mahaneh Dan (or the "Camp of Dan"), and that is still its name.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:13**ULT**

¹³ They crossed over from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and they came up to the house of Micah.

UST

¹³ From there, they went to the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim lived. And they arrived at Micah's house.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then the five men who had gone to scout out the land of Laish on foot responded to their brothers and they said, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, family idols, a carved image, and a cast image? So now, consider what you will do."

UST

¹⁴ The five men who had explored the land near Laish said to their fellow Israelites, "Do you know that in one of these houses there is a sacred vest, several household idols, a carved figure and a cast metal figure? We think that you know what you should do."

What did the five men say was in the houses of Laish?

The five men said that in the houses of Laish there were an ephod, household gods, a carved figure, and a cast metal figure.

Judges 18:15**ULT**

¹⁵ So they turned in there and they came to the house of the young man, the Levite, at the house of Micah, and they asked about his welfare.

UST

¹⁵ So they went to the house where the man from the tribe of Levi lived, which was the house where Micah lived, and they greeted the young man from the tribe of Levi who was Micah's priest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Now six hundred men who were from the sons of Dan, the ones who were girded in their weapons of war, were stationed at the entrance of the gate.

UST

¹⁶ The six hundred men of the tribe of Dan stood outside the gate of the house, carrying their weapons.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:17**ULT**

¹⁷ The five men who had gone to scout out the land by foot went up, they came there. They took the carved image, the ephod, the family idols, and the cast image, while the priest was standing at the entrance of the gate along with the six hundred men who were girded with the weapons of war.

UST

¹⁷ The five men who had explored the land went into Micah's house, and took the carved figure, the sacred vest, the household gods, and the cast metal figure. While they did that, the six hundred men stood outside the gate, talking with the priest.

Who took the carved figure?

The five men who had gone to scout out the land went there and they took the carved figure.

Judges 18:18**ULT**

¹⁸ When these came into the house of Micah, and they took the carved image, the ephod, the family idols, and the cast image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

UST

¹⁸ When the priest saw them bringing out the carved figure, the sacred vest, the household gods, and cast metal figure, and he said to them, "What are you doing?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:19**ULT**

¹⁹ They said to him, "Be quiet! Put your hand over your mouth and come with us, and be for us as a father and as a priest. Is it better your being a priest for the house of one man, or your being a priest for a tribe and for a family in Israel?"

UST

¹⁹ They replied, "Be quiet! Do not say anything! You come with us and be like a father to us and a priest for us. Is it better for you to stay here and be a priest for the people in the house of one man, or to be a priest for a clan, and a priest for a whole tribe of Israelites?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:20**ULT**

²⁰ The heart of the priest was agreeable, so he took the ephod, the family idols, and the carved image, and he went in the midst of the people.

UST

²⁰ The priest liked what they were suggesting. So he took the sacred vest and the household gods, and the carved figure, and he prepared to go with the people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:21**ULT**

²¹ Then they turned and they went away. They put the little children, the cattle, and the property of value in front of themselves.

UST

²¹ All the men made their wives and little children, their animals, and everything else that they owned to travel just in front of themselves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:22**ULT**

²² They had gone a great distance from the house of Micah, when the men who were in the houses which were near the house of Micah were called together, and they overtook the sons of Dan.

UST

²² After they had gone a little distance from Micah's house, Micah saw what was happening. He quickly summoned the men who lived near him, and they ran and caught up with the men from the tribe of Dan.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:23**ULT**

²³ They called to the sons of Dan. They turned their faces around and they said to Micah, "What has happened to you that you have assembled together?"

UST

²³ They shouted at them. The men of the tribe of Dan turned around and said to Micah, "What is the problem? Why have you gathered these men to pursue us?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:24**ULT**

²⁴ He replied, "You took my gods that I made, and the priest, and you left. What do I have any longer? So how is it you can say to me, 'What has happened to you?'"

UST

²⁴ Micah shouted, "You took the silver idols that were made for me! You also took my priest! I do not have anything left! So why do you ask me, 'What is the problem?'"

Why was Micah angry?

Micah was angry because the Danites stole the gods he made, they took the priest, and they were leaving.

Judges 18:25**ULT**

²⁵ The sons of Dan responded to him, "You should not make your voice heard among us, lest some men fierce in temperment will come with hostility against you, with the result that you would reap the destruction of your soul and the soul of your household."

UST

²⁵ The men from the tribe of Dan replied, "You better not say anything about this matter. Some of our men might become angry and attack you, killing you and your family!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:26**ULT**

²⁶ So the sons of Dan went their way since Micah perceived that they were stronger than him. He turned back and he returned to his house.

UST

²⁶ Then the men from the tribe of Dan continued walking. Micah realized that there was a very large group of them, so that it would be useless for him to try to fight them. So he turned around and went home.

When did Micah turn and go back to his house?

When Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.

Judges 18:27**ULT**

²⁷ Now they had taken what Micah had made, and the priest who was his, and they came to Laish, to a people living undisturbed and feeling secure. They slaughtered them with the mouth of the sword and they burned the city with fire.

UST

²⁷ The men of the tribe of Dan were carrying the things that had been made for Micah, and they also took his priest, and they continued traveling to Laish. They attacked the people who were peacefully living there, and killed them with their swords. Then they burned everything in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:28**ULT**

²⁸ There was not a deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and there was no involvement for them with any man. It was in the valley that is near Beth Rehob. They rebuilt the city and they lived in it.

UST

²⁸ There was no group of people to rescue the people of Laish. Laish was far from Sidon, so the people who lived there could not help the people of Laish. And the people of Laish had no other allies. Laish was in a valley near the town of Beth Rehob. The people of the tribe of Dan rebuilt the city and started to live there.

Why was there no one to rescue the people of Laish?

There was no one to rescue the people because it was a long way from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone.

Judges 18:29**ULT**

²⁹ They called the name of the city Dan, in honor of the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However Laish was the name of the city at the first.

UST

²⁹ They gave a new name to the city, they called it Dan, in honor of their ancestor whose name was Dan. He was one of Israel's sons. The town used to be called Laish.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 18:30**ULT**

³⁰ The sons of Dan raised up the carved image for themselves. Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manesseh, he along with his sons were priests for the tribe of the Danite until the day of the exile of the land.

UST

³⁰ The people of the tribe of Dan set up in the city a carved figure that had been made for Micah. Jonathan son of Gershom, and the grandson of Moses, was appointed to be their priest. His descendants continued to be priests until the Israelites were captured and taken away.

Who were the priests for the tribe of the Danites?

Jonathan the son of Gershom (the son of Moses), he and his sons were priests for the tribe of the Danites until the day of the land's captivity.

Judges 18:31**ULT**

³¹ So they set up for themselves the carved image belonging to Micah that he had made, all the days of the house of the true God being at Shiloh.

UST

³¹ After the people of the tribe of Dan set up the carved figure that had been made for Micah, and it stayed there as long as the house of God was in Shiloh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19

Judges 19:1

ULT

¹ Now it happened in those days, when there was no king over Israel, that there was a man, a Levite, sojourning in the remotest parts of the hill country of Ephraim. He took for himself a woman, a concubine, from Bethlehem in Judah.

UST

¹ At that time the Israelite people had no king. There was a man from the tribe of Levi who lived in a remote place in the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim lives. He had previously taken to live with him a woman who was a slave. She was from Bethlehem, in the area where the tribe of Judah lives.

Where was the Levite living?

The Levite was living for a while in the most remote area of the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges 19:2

ULT

² However, his concubine played the harlot against him and she went away from being with him to the house of her father, to Bethlehem in Judah. She was there for a period of days, four months.

UST

² But she started to sleep with other men also. Then she left him and returned to her father's house in Bethlehem. She stayed there for four months.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:3

ULT

³ Then her husband rose up and he went after her, to speak to her heart, in order to persuade to return to him. His young man was with him, and a team of donkeys. She brought him into the house of her father, and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

UST

³ Then her husband took his servant and two donkeys and went to Bethlehem. He went to ask her to come back to live with him again. When he arrived at her father's house, she invited him to come in. Her father was happy to see him.

Where did the Levite's concubine bring him?

The concubine brought the Levite into the house of her father.

Judges 19:4**ULT**

⁴ His father-in-law, the father of the young woman, prevailed against him so he stayed with him three days. They ate and they drank, and they spent the night there.

UST

⁴ The woman's father asked him to stay. So he stayed there for three days. During that time he ate and drank and slept there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:5**ULT**

⁵ Now it happend on the fourth day that they got up early in the morning and he rose up to go, however the father of the young woman said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your heart with a piece of bread, then afterwards you shall go."

UST

⁵ On the fourth day, they all got up early in the morning. The man from the tribe of Levi was preparing to leave, but the woman's father said to him, "Eat something before you go."

**Although the Levite intended to go home, what did his father-in-law want him to do?
(vv5-6)**

His father-in-law wanted him to stay and spend the night.

Judges 19:6**ULT**

⁶ So the two of them sat down and they ate together, and they drank. Then the father of the young woman said to the man, "Please be willing and spend the night and your heart will be glad."

UST

⁶ So the two men sat down to eat and drink together. Then the woman's father said to him, "Please stay another night. Relax and have a good time."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:7**ULT**

⁷ Then the man rose up in order to leave, however his father-in-law urged him. So he stayed and he spent the night there.

UST

⁷ The man from the tribe of Levi wanted to leave, but the woman's father requested him to stay one more night. So he stayed again that night.

What did the Levite do about his plan to leave early and go home?

He changed his plan and spent the night with his father-in-law.

Judges 19:8**ULT**

⁸ He got up early in the morning on the fifth day in order to leave, but the father of the young woman said, "Please strengthen your heart." So they lingered until the turning aside of the day, and the two of them ate.

UST

⁸ On the fifth day, the man got up early and prepared to leave. But the woman's father said to him again, "Have something to eat. Wait until this afternoon, and then leave." So the two men ate together.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:9**ULT**

⁹ When the man rose up to go, he and his concubine and his young man, his father-in-law, the father of the young woman said to him, "Look, please, the day has drawn toward evening. Please stay the night. See, the day is declining. Spend the night here and your heart will be glad. Then make an early start tomorrow for your journey and go to your tent."

UST

⁹ In the afternoon, when the man from the tribe of Levi and his slave wife and his servant got up to leave, the woman's father said, "It will soon be dark. The day is almost finished. Stay here tonight and have a good time. Tomorrow morning you can get up early and leave for your home."

What did the Levite's father-in-law ask him to do again on the fifth day?

His father-in-law asked him to stay another night and have a good time.

Judges 19:10**ULT**

¹⁰ But the man was not willing to spend the night. So he got up and he left. He came as far as the region opposite Jebus, that is Jerusalem. Now with him was a team of donkeys equipped for riding, and also his concubine was with him.

UST

¹⁰ But the man from the tribe of Levi did not want to stay for another night. He put saddles on his two donkeys, and started to go with his slave wife and his servant toward the city of Jebus, which is now named Jerusalem.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:11**ULT**

¹¹ They were near Jebus, and the daylight had greatly diminished. So the young man said to his master, "Come, please, we should turn aside into this city of the Jebusites so we can spend the night in it."

UST

¹¹ When it was late in the afternoon, they came near to Jebus. The servant said to his master, "We should stop in this city where the Jebus people group live, and stay here tonight."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:12**ULT**

¹² However his master said to him, "We will not turn aside into a city of a foreigner, where there are none here from the sons of Israel. Instead we will pass by until reaching Gibeah."

UST

¹² But his master said, "No, it would not be good for us to stay here where foreign people live. There are no Israelite people here. We will go on to the city of Gibeah."

Why did the Levite not want to spend the night in Jebus?

The Levite did not want to turn aside into a city of foreigners.

Judges 19:13**ULT**

¹³ Then he said to his young man, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and we will spend the night in either Gibeah or in Ramah."

UST

¹³ He said to his servant, "Let us go. It is not far to Gibeah. We can go there, or we can go a bit further to Ramah. We can stay in one of those two cities tonight."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:14**ULT**

¹⁴ So they passed by and they went on. But the sun went down with regard to them in proximity to the region of Gibeah, which belonged to Benjamin.

UST

¹⁴ So they continued walking. When they came near to Gibeah, where people from the tribe of Benjamin live, the sun was setting.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:15**ULT**

¹⁵ As a result they turned aside there to come in to spend the night in the Gibeah area. They came in and they sat down in the open plaza of the city, but no one was receiving them into the house to spend the night.

UST

¹⁵ They stopped to stay there that night. They went to the public square of that city and sat down. But no one who passed by invited them to stay in their house for that night.

Why did the Levite and his servant sit down in the city square?

They sat down in the city square, for no one took them into his house for the night.

Judges 19:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Now, look, an old man was coming from his work, from the field at the evening. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in the Gibeah area. But the men of the place were Benjamite.

UST

¹⁶ But then an old man came by. He had been working in the fields. He was from the hill country of the tribe of Ephraim, but at that time he was living in Gibeah.

From what tribe were the men living in Gibeah?

The men living in Gibeah were Benjamites.

Judges 19:17**ULT**

¹⁷ He raised his eyes and he saw the traveling man in the open plaza of the city. Then the old man said, "Where are you going and from where are you coming?"

UST

¹⁷ He realized that the man from the tribe of Levi was only traveling and that he did not have a place to stay in that city. So he asked the man, "Where have you come from? And where are you going?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:18**ULT**

¹⁸ He said to him, "We are passing through from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim. I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to the house of Yahweh. However there is no one receiving me into the house.

UST

¹⁸ He replied, "We are traveling from Bethlehem to my home in the hill country where people of the tribe of Ephraim live. I went from there to Bethlehem, but now we are going to Shiloh where Yahweh's house is. No one here has invited us to stay in their house tonight.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Moreover, there is straw, also fodder for our donkeys. There is even bread and wine for me and for your maidservant, and for the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything."

UST

¹⁹ We have straw and food for our donkeys, and bread and wine for me and the young woman and my servant. We do not need anything else."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:20**ULT**

²⁰ The old man said, "Peace to you! Surely all of your need is upon me. Only you must not spend the night in the open plaza."

UST

²⁰ The old man said, "May everything go well for you. I can provide whatever you need. Do not stay here in the square tonight."

What did the old man warn the Levite not to do?

The old man warned the Levite not to spend the night in the square.

Judges 19:21**ULT**

²¹ So he brought him into his house and he poured out feed for the donkeys. They washed their feet and they ate and they drank.

UST

²¹ Then the old man took them to his house. He gave food to the donkeys. He gave water to the man and the woman and the servant to wash their feet. And the old man gave them something to eat and drink.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:22**ULT**

²² They were making their heart glad, but look, the men of the city, men of sons of wickedness, had encircled themselves around the house, pounding repeatedly on the door. They said to the old man, the master of the house, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, so we will know him."

UST

²² While they were having a good time together, some wicked men from that city surrounded the house and started to bang on the door. They shouted to the old man, "Bring out to us the man who has come to your house. We want to have sex with him."

Why did the wicked men of the city want the old man to bring out the man who came into his house?

The wicked men of the city wanted the old man to bring out the man who came into his house, so they could have sex with him.

Judges 19:23**ULT**

²³ The man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, please you must not act wickedly! Seeing that this man has come into my house, you must not do this disgraceful thing!"

UST

²³ The old man went outside and said to them, "My brothers, I will not do that. That would be a very evil thing. This man is a guest in my house. You should not do such a terrible thing!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:24**ULT**

²⁴ Here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. Please let me bring them out so you can violate them and do to them what is good in your eyes. But to this man do not do this wicked thing!"

UST

²⁴ Look, my virgin daughter and his slave wife are here. I will bring them out to you now. You may do to them whatever you wish, but do not do such a terrible thing to this man!"

Who did the old man offer to the wicked men in place of the Levite?

The old man offered them his virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine.

Judges 19:25**ULT**

²⁵ But the men were not willing to listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and made her go forth to them who were outside. They knew her and they abused her the whole night until the morning. Then they sent her away at the rising of the dawn.

UST

²⁵ But the men did not pay attention to what he said. So the man took his slave wife and sent her to them, outside the house. They forced her to have sex with them and abused her all night. Then at dawn, they let her go.

What happened at dawn? (vv25-26)

At dawn the wicked men let the concubine go. She came and she fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, and she lay there until it was light.

Judges 19:26**ULT**

²⁶ The woman came at the changing of the morning and she fell down at the entrance of the house of the man where her master was there, until the daylight.

UST

²⁶ She returned to the old man's house, and she fell down at the doorway and lay there until it was light.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:27**ULT**

²⁷ Her master rose up in the morning and he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way. But look, the woman, his concubine had fallen at the entrance of the house, and her hands were on the threshold.

UST

²⁷ The next morning, her master got up and went outside of the house to continue his journey. He saw his slave wife lying there at the doorway of the house, her hands still touching the doorsill.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 19:28**ULT**

²⁸ He said to her, "Get up and let us go!" But there was no answering, so he took her on the donkey. Thus the man rose up and he went to his place.

UST

²⁸ He said to her, "Get up! We will go now!" But she did not answer. He put her body on the donkey, and he and his servant traveled to his home.

What did the Levite do when his concubine did not answer him?

When the Levite's concubine did not answer him, he put her on the donkey, and the man set out for home.

Judges 19:29**ULT**

²⁹ When he came to his house, he took the knife, and he seized his concubine, and he cut her in pieces to her bones, into twelve pieces, and he sent her into all of the territory of Israel.

UST

²⁹ When he arrived at his home, he took a knife and he cut the body of the slave woman into twelve pieces. Then he sent one piece to each area of Israel, along with a message telling what had happened.

What did the Levite do to his concubine's body?

The Levite cut her up, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent the pieces everywhere throughout Israel.

Judges 19:30**ULT**

³⁰ Now it would happen, everyone who saw it said, "Nothing has happened and never has been seen anything like this from the day of the coming up of the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider about it for yourselves! Make a plan and speak up!"

UST

³⁰ Everyone who saw a piece of the body and the message said, "Nothing like this has ever happened before. Not since our ancestors left Egypt have we heard of such a terrible thing. We need to think carefully about it. Someone should decide what we should do."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20

Judges 20:1

ULT

¹ Then all of the sons of Israel came forth, and the company was assembled as one man, from Dan and as far as Beersheba and the land of Gilead, before Yahweh at Mizpah.

UST

¹ All the soldiers of Israel came out united as one man, from the city of Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, and from the region of Gilead to the east of the Jordan River, all of them heard what had happened. So they gathered together before Yahweh at Mizpah.

Who assembled together before Yahweh at Mizpah?

All the people from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, assembled together before Yahweh at Mizpah.

Judges 20:2

ULT

² The leaders of all of the people, of all of the tribes of Israel, stationed themselves among the company of the people of the true God, four hundred thousand, each a footsoldier wielding a sword.

UST

² The leaders of eleven of the tribes of Israel stood in front of the people who gathered there. There were 400,000 men on foot, fighting men who were there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:3

ULT

³ Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up to Mizpah. Then the sons of Israel said, "Explain how this wicked thing has been brought about."

UST

³ The people of the tribe of Benjamin heard that the other Israelites had gone up to Mizpah, but none of the men from the Benjamin tribe had gone to the meeting there. The people of Israel asked about the evil thing that had happened.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:4**ULT**

⁴ So the Levite man, the husband of the woman who had been murdered, answered. He said, "I came, myself and my concubine, to the Gibeah region that belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night.

UST

⁴ So the Levite who was the husband of the woman who had been killed replied, "My slave wife and I came to Gibeah, wanting to stay there that night.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:5**ULT**

⁵ The citizens of the Gibeah region rose up against me. They surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me. Instead they assaulted my concubine so that she died.

UST

⁵ That evening, the men of Gibeah came to attack me. They surrounded the house where I was staying and wanted to have sex with me and then kill me. They abused my slave wife and raped her all night, and she died.

What did the Levite say the relatives of Gibeah did to him?

The Levite said the relatives of Gibeah attacked him, surrounding the house and intending to kill him.

Judges 20:6**ULT**

⁶ I took back my concubine and cut her in pieces, and I sent her out into every territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they have committed a heinous crime and a disgrace in Israel.

UST

⁶ I took her body home and cut it into pieces. Then I sent one piece to each area of Israel, because I wanted you all to know about this wicked and disgraceful thing that has been done here in Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:7**ULT**

⁷ Look, all of you sons of Israel, decide for yourselves advice and a plan here."

UST

⁷ So now, all you Israelite people, speak, and tell me what you think should be done!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:8**ULT**

⁸ All of the people rose up as one man, saying, "We will not go back, each one to his tent, and we will not return, each one to his house!

UST

⁸ All the people stood up, and unitedly said, "None of us will go home! Not one of us will return to his house!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:9**ULT**

⁹ Instead now this is the thing that we should do to the Gibeah region, against it by lot.

UST

⁹ This is what we must do to the people of Gibeah. First, we will cast lots to determine which group should attack them.

How would the people attack Gibeah?

They would attack Gibeah as the lot directed them.

Judges 20:10**ULT**

¹⁰ We will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and one hundred of a thousand, and one thousand of ten thousand, to get provision for the people, in order to do at their coming to Gibeah in Benjamin, according to all the disgrace that it committed in Israel."

UST

¹⁰ We will choose one tenth of our number to get supplies we will need to punish Gibeah for the terrible thing that they have done here in Israel."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:11**ULT**

¹¹ So every man of Israel was assembled against the city, as one man, united companions.

UST

¹¹ And all the Israelite people agreed that the people of Gibeah should be punished.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:12**ULT**

¹² The tribes of Israel sent men into all the tribes of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness that has been done among you?

UST

¹² Then the Israelite men sent messengers throughout the tribe of Benjamin. They demanded, "Do you realize that some of your men have done a very evil thing?

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:13**ULT**

¹³ Therefore, now, give over the men, the sons of worthlessness, who are in the region of Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and thus we may incinerate evil out of Israel." But they were not willing, Benjamin, to heed the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel.

UST

¹³ Bring those wicked men to us, in order that we can execute them. By doing that, we will get rid of this evil thing that has happened in Israel." But the people of the tribe of Benjamin paid no attention to their fellow Israelites.

Why did the tribes of Israel tell Benjamin to give them those wicked men of Gibeah?

The tribes of Israel told Benjamin to give them those wicked men of Gibeah, so the tribes might put them to death, and so they would completely remove this evil from Israel.

Judges 20:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Then the sons of Benjamin assembled themselves out of the cities to the region of Gibeah, coming out to the battle against the sons of Israel.

UST

¹⁴ The men of the tribe of Benjamin left their cities and gathered at Gibeah to fight the other Israelites.

Why did the people of Benjamin come together out of the cities to Gibeah?

The people of Benjamin came together out of the cities to Gibeah to get ready to fight against the people of Israel.

Judges 20:15**ULT**

¹⁵ The sons of Benjamin mobilized together from the cities on that day twenty-six thousand men wielding a sword. In addition, out of the inhabitants of the Gibeah region seven hundred chosen men had been mobilized.

UST

¹⁵ In that one day the men of the tribe of Benjamin recruited twenty-six thousand fighting men. They also chose seven hundred men from Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Among all of these people were seven hundred chosen men, impeded in his right hand, each of whom could sling with a stone at a specific hair and he would not miss.

UST

¹⁶ From all those soldiers there were seven hundred men who were left-handed, and each of them could sling a stone without missing a target that was very small and as narrow as a hair.

What was special about the seven hundred chosen men?

The seven hundred chosen men were left-handed; each of them could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

Judges 20:17**ULT**

¹⁷ The men of Israel, besides Benjamin, mustered up for themselves four hundred thousand men wielding a sword, all of whom were men of war.

UST

¹⁷ The soldiers of Israel, not including the soldiers from Benjamin, numbered 400,000 men. All of these were trained to fight with the sword, men experienced at fighting in war.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Then they arose and they went up to Bethel. The sons of Israel asked God and they said, "Who should go up for us at the beginning to the battle with the sons of Benjamin?" Yahweh directed, "It shall be Judah at the beginning."

UST

¹⁸ Those other Israelites went up to Bethel and asked advice from God, "Which tribe should be the first to attack the men from the tribe of Benjamin?" Yahweh answered, "The men from the tribe of Judah should go first."

Why did Judah attack Benjamin first?

The people asked for advice from God, and Yahweh said, "Judah will attack first."

Judges 20:19**ULT**

¹⁹ So the sons of Israel arose in the morning and they encamped near the region of Gibeah.

UST

¹⁹ The next morning, the Israelite men went and set up their tents near Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:20**ULT**

²⁰ The men of Israel went forth to the battle against Benjamin. The men of Israel set themselves up for a battle against those in Gibeah.

UST

²⁰ Then they went to fight against the men from the tribe of Benjamin, and stood in their positions for fighting a battle, facing Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:21**ULT**

²¹ But the sons of Benjamin came forth out of the Gibeah region, and they struck down among Israel twenty-two thousand men to the ground on that day.

UST

²¹ The men of the tribe of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and fought against them, and they killed twenty-two thousand soldiers from Israel on that day.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:22**ULT**

²² However the people, the men of Israel, strengthened themselves and they continued to set up for battle at the place where they had set up there on the first day.

UST

²² But the soldiers of Israel encouraged themselves. Then they got ready to fight the next day in the same battle lines as on the first day.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:23**ULT**

²³ Then the sons of Israel went up and they wept before Yahweh until evening. They asked Yahweh, saying, "Should I continue to attack, to the battle against the sons of Benjamin, my brother?" Yahweh replied, "Go up against him!"

UST

²³ Then they came together and begged Yahweh for help; they prayed until evening. They asked advice from Yahweh about what they should do: "Should we go again to fight against our brothers, the people of Benjamin?" Yahweh answered, "Attack them!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:24**ULT**

²⁴ So the sons of Israel drew near to the sons of Benjamin on the second day.

UST

²⁴ The next day they again stood in their positions for fighting, just as they had done on the previous day.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:25**ULT**

²⁵ Benjamin came forth to confront them from the Gibeah region on the second day, and against the sons of Israel they struck down to the ground another eighteen thousand men. All of these were wielders of a sword.

UST

²⁵ The men of the tribe of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and attacked the Israelites, and killed eighteen thousand more of their men.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:26**ULT**

²⁶ Then the sons of Israel and all the people went up and they came to Bethel. They wept, and they sat there before Yahweh. They fasted on that day until the evening, then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before Yahweh.

UST

²⁶ In the afternoon, all the people of Israel who had not been killed again went to Bethel. There they sat down and cried to Yahweh, and they fasted until it was evening. They brought some offerings which they burned completely on the altar, and they also brought some offerings to restore fellowship with Yahweh.

After Benjamin killed many soldiers of Israel, what did the soldiers of Israel do?

After Benjamin killed many soldiers of Israel, the soldiers of Israel wept and fasted before Yahweh until evening. They also offered burnt offerings and peace offering before Yahweh.

Judges 20:27**ULT**

²⁷ The sons of Israel asked Yahweh, for the ark of the covenant of the true God was there in those days,

UST

²⁷ The people of Israel asked Yahweh,—for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

How did the people of Israel ask Yahweh?

The people of Israel asked Yahweh by using the ark of the covenant of God, which was there in those days.

Judges 20:28**ULT**

²⁸ when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, was serving before it in those days, saying, “Should I continue to go forth to the battle once more against the sons of Benjamin, my brother, or should I stop?” Yahweh said, “Go up, for tomorrow I will give him into your hand.”

UST

²⁸ and Phinehas son of Eleazar, was the grandson of Aaron; he was serving before the ark in those days —“Should we go out to battle once more against the people of Benjamin, who are out brothers, or should we stop?” Yahweh said, “Attack! For tomorrow I will help you defeat them.”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:29**ULT**

²⁹ So Israel set groups in ambush around the Gibeah region on all sides.

UST

²⁹ Israelite men set up an ambush in the fields around Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:30**ULT**

³⁰ The sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day, and they set up for battle against the Gibeah region as was time after time.

UST

³⁰ The other Israelite men went and stood in their positions for fighting a battle just as they had done on the previous days.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:31**ULT**

³¹ The sons of Benjamin went forth to confront the people. They were lured away from the city, and they began to strike down some of the people. About thirty men of Israel were slain as was the other time on the roads, of which one went up to Bethel, and one went to the Gibeah region through the field.

UST

³¹ When the men of the tribe of Benjamin came out of the city to fight against them, the Israelite men retreated away from the city, and the men of the tribe of Benjamin pursued them. The men of the tribe of Benjamin killed many Israelites, like they had done before. They killed about thirty Israelites, who died in the fields and on the roads—one of the roads went to Bethel and another road went to Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:32**ULT**

³² Then the sons of Benjamin said, "They have been defeated before us, just as at the first." But the sons of Israel said, "Let us flee so that we will draw him away from the city to the roads."

UST

³² The men of the tribe of Benjamin said, "We are defeating them like we did before!" But then Israelite men did what they had planned. The main group of Israelite men retreated a short distance from the city, to trick the men of Gibeah and cause them to pursue the Israelite men along the roads outside the city.

When the soldiers of Israel drew away from the city to the roads, what did the people of Benjamin think?

When the soldiers of Israel drew away from the city to the roads, the people of Benjamin thought they were running away.

Judges 20:33**ULT**

³³ Then every man of Israel rose up out of his place and they set up battle lines at Baal Tamar. The one hiding in ambush of Israel burst forth out of his place from Maareh Gibeah.

UST

³³ The main group of Israelite men left their positions and retreated, and then they stood in their battle positions again at a place named Baal Tamar. Then the soldiers of Israel who had been hiding in secret places ran out from their places in Maareh Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:34**ULT**

³⁴ Ten thousand men, chosen out of all Israel came out in the sight of the Gibeah region, and the battle was heavy. But they did not know that this calamity was coming near to them.

UST

³⁴ Then the other ten thousand Israelites came out from the places where they had been hiding, west of Gibeah, and attacked the city. They were men who had come from all parts of Israel. There was a very big battle. But the men of the tribe of Benjamin did not know that they were about to have a disastrous defeat.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:35**ULT**

³⁵ Thus Yahweh defeated Benjamin before Israel. The sons of Israel destroyed Benjamin on that day, twenty five thousand one hundred men, everyone of those were wielding a sword.

UST

³⁵ Yahweh enabled the Israelite men to defeat the men of the tribe of Benjamin. They killed 25,100 of them, all of them were fighting men.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:36**ULT**

³⁶ So the sons of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel had given a place to Benjamin, because they were confident in the group hiding in ambush that they had placed around the Gibeah region.

UST

³⁶ So the soldiers of Benjamin saw they were defeated. The men of Israel had allowed the Benjamites to advance, because they were relying on the men they had placed in hidden positions outside Gibeah to go out and shift the battle in their favor.

Why had the men of Israel given ground to Benjamin?

The men of Israel had given ground to Benjamin because they were counting on the men they had placed in hidden positions outside Gibeah.

Judges 20:37**ULT**

³⁷ Then the group hiding in ambush hurried and they spread out around the Gibeah region. The group hiding in ambush marched out and it struck all of the city with the edge of the sword.

UST

³⁷ Then the men who were hiding got up and hurried and they rushed into Gibeah, and with their swords they killed everyone who lived in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:38**ULT**

³⁸ Now there was the prearranged plan for the men of Israel on behalf of the group hiding in ambush: load up so that they would send the rising column of the smoke up out of the city,

UST

³⁸ Now the arranged signal between the soldiers of Israel and the men hiding in secret would be that a great cloud of smoke would rise up out of the city.

What was the signal between the soldiers of Israel and the men hiding in secret?

The arranged signal between the soldiers of Israel and the men hiding in secret was that a great cloud of smoke would rise up out of the city.

Judges 20:39**ULT**

³⁹ when the men of Israel retreated from the battle. Then Benjamin began to attack, among the men of Israel about thirty men were slain. For they said, "Surely he is absolutely defeated before us, as in the first battle."

UST

³⁹ By that time, the Israelite men had turned away from attacking, so the men of the tribe of Benjamin said, "We are winning the battle, as we did before!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:40**ULT**

⁴⁰ But when the signal began to rise up out of the city, a pillar of smoke, then Benjamin retreated away from it. Indeed, look, the entirety of the city had gone up to the heavens.

UST

⁴⁰ But then smoke from the burning buildings began to rise up from the city. The men of the tribe of Benjamin turned around and saw that the whole city was burning.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:41**ULT**

⁴¹ Then the men of Israel turned back. Each man of Benjamin was horrified, for he saw that the calamity had come upon them.

UST

⁴¹ Then the main group of Israelite men also saw the smoke, and they knew that the smoke signaled that they should turn around and begin to attack. The men of the tribe of Benjamin were very afraid, because they realized that they were about to have a disastrous defeat.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:42**ULT**

⁴² So they retreated before the men of Israel to the way of the wilderness, but the fighting overtook him. Meanwhile those coming out from the cities were destroying him in the very midst of him.

UST

⁴² So the men of the tribe of Benjamin tried to run away toward the wilderness to escape from the Israelite men, but they were not able to escape, because the Israelite men who had burned the two cities came out of those cities and killed many of them.

Why could the men of Benjamin not escape?

The men of Benjamin ran away from the soldiers of Israel escaping on the way to the wilderness, but the fighting overtook them.

Judges 20:43**ULT**

⁴³ They surrounded Benjamin, they put him to flight. With ease they trampled him down as far as opposite the Gibeah region, in the direction of the rising sun.

UST

⁴³ They surrounded some of the men of the tribe of Benjamin, and pursued the others to the area east of Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:44**ULT**

⁴⁴ They fell from Benjamin, eighteen thousand men, all of these were men of valor.

UST

⁴⁴ They killed eighteen thousand strong soldiers of the tribe of Benjamin.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:45**ULT**

⁴⁵ Then they turned and they fled to the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. They gleaned along the pathways five thousand men. They pursued closely after him as far as Gidom, and they struck down from him two thousand more men.

UST

⁴⁵ Then the rest of the men of the tribe of Benjamin realized that they had been defeated. They ran toward the rock of Rimmon, but the Israelite men killed five thousand more men of the tribe of Benjamin who fell behind along the roads. They pursued the rest of them to Gidom, and they killed two thousand more.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:46**ULT**

⁴⁶ So it happened that all of the fallen ones of Benjamin were twenty-five thousand men wielding a sword, on that day. All of these were men of valor.

UST

⁴⁶ Altogether, there were twenty-five thousand—men of the tribe of Benjamin who were killed, all of them were experienced fighting men.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 20:47**ULT**

⁴⁷ But six hundred men turned back and they fled to the wilderness, toward the rock of Rimmon. They stayed at the rock of Rimmon four months.

UST

⁴⁷ But six hundred men of the tribe of Benjamin ran to the rock of Rimmon in the wilderness. They stayed there for four months.

How many soldiers of Benjamin turned and fled to the wilderness?

Six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness.

Judges 20:48**ULT**

⁴⁸ Then the men of Israel returned to the sons of Benjamin. They struck them down with the edge of the sword, even a city in entirety, including cattle as well as everything that was found. Also all of the cities that were found, they set on fire.

UST

⁴⁸ Then the Israelite men went back to the land belonging to the tribe of Benjamin, and killed the people in every city. They also killed all the animals, and destroyed everything else that they found there. And they burned all the cities that they came to.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21

Judges 21:1

ULT

¹ Now each man of Israel bound himself by an oath at Mizpah, saying, "Everyone of us shall not give his daughter to Benjamin for a wife."

UST

¹ When the Israelite men had gathered at Mizpah before the battle started, they solemnly declared, "None of us will ever allow one of our daughters to marry any man from the tribe of Benjamin!"

Why did the men of Israel worry that one of their tribes should be missing?

The men of Israel worried that one of their tribes should be missing because they had promised to not give their daughters to marry a Benjamite.

Judges 21:2

ULT

² Then the people came to Bethel and they sat there until the evening before the true God. They lifted up their voices and they wept, a loud weeping.

UST

² But now the Israelites went to Bethel and cried loudly to Yahweh all day until the sun went down.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:3

ULT

³ They said, "Why, O Yahweh, God of Israel, has this happened to Israel, to be missing today one tribe from Israel?"

UST

³ They kept saying, "Yahweh, God of us Israelite people, one of the tribes of us Israelites does not exist anymore! Why has this happened to us?"

Why did the men of Israel worry that one of their tribes should be missing?

The men of Israel worried that one of their tribes should be missing because they had promised to not give their daughters to marry a Benjamite.

Judges 21:4**ULT**

⁴ Now it happened the next day that the people rose up early and they built an altar there and they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings.

UST

⁴ Early the next morning the people built an altar. Then they completely burned some sacrifices on the altar, and also offered other sacrifices to restore fellowship with God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:5**ULT**

⁵ The sons of Israel said, "Who is it that did not go up with the assembly out of all the tribes of Israel to Yahweh?" For the great oath was against whoever did not go up to Yahweh at Mizpah, saying, "Surely he must be put to death."

UST

⁵ Then, because they had solemnly declared that anyone who did not meet with them at Mizpah to help fight the men of the tribe of Benjamin would be killed, they asked among themselves, "Were there any of the tribes of Israel who did not come to Mizpah to meet with us in the presence of Yahweh?"

Who would certainly be put to death?

Anyone who did not come up to Yahweh at Mizpah would certainly be put to death.

Judges 21:6**ULT**

⁶ The sons of Israel were moved to pity towards Benjamin, his brother. They said, "Today one tribe has been hewn down from Israel.

UST

⁶ The Israelites felt sorry for their fellow Israelites from the tribe of Benjamin. They said, "Today one of our Israelite tribes has been cut off from Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:7**ULT**

⁷ What can we do for them, for the ones remaining, for a wife, since we have put ourselves under an oath to Yahweh to not give to them from our daughters for a wife?"

UST

⁷ What can we do to make certain that the men of the tribe of Benjamin who were not killed will have wives?" Yahweh heard us solemnly declare that we would not allow any of our daughters to marry any man from the tribe of Benjamin.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:8**ULT**

⁸ They said, "Who is anyone from the tribes of Israel who did not go up to Yahweh at Mizpah?" Now look, not anyone had gone to the camp, to the assembly, from Jabesh Gilead.

UST

⁸ Then one of them asked, "Which of the tribes of Israel did not send any men here to Mizpah?"

Which of the tribes of Israel did not come up to Yahweh at Mizpah?

Jabesh Gilead did not come up to Yahweh at Mizpah.

Judges 21:9**ULT**

⁹ When the people inspected themselves, look, not anyone was there from the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead.

UST

⁹ They realized that when the soldiers were counted, there was no one who had come from the city of Jabesh Gilead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:10**ULT**

¹⁰ So the assembly sent twelve thousand men there, from the sons of the army, and they instructed them, saying, "Go, and you must strike down the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, even the women and the children.

UST

¹⁰ So all the Israelites decided to send twelve thousand very good soldiers to Jabesh Gilead to kill the people there, even the women and the children.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:11**ULT**

¹¹ "This is the thing that you must do: every male, and every woman who has known the bed of a male, you must ban for destruction."

UST

¹¹ They told this to those men: "This is what you must do: You must kill every man in Jabesh Gilead. You must also kill every married woman. But do not kill the unmarried women."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:12**ULT**

¹² They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young women, virgins, who had not known a man by lying with a male, and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh which was in the land of Canaan.

UST

¹² So those soldiers went to Jabesh Gilead and killed all the men, married women, and the children. But they found four hundred virgin young women there. So they brought them to their camp at Shiloh in Canaan, across the river from the region of Gilead that belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.

Who did the men take from those living in Jabesh Gilead?

The men took four hundred young women who had never slept with a man from those living in Jabesh Gilead.

Judges 21:13**ULT**

¹³ The entire assembly reached out and they spoke to the sons of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and they proclaimed peace to them.

UST

¹³ Then all the Israelites who had gathered sent a message to the six hundred men who were at the rock of Rimmon. They said that they would like to make peace with them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Benjamin returned at that time and they gave to them the women who were alive from the women of Jabesh Gilead. But they had not found sufficient for them.

UST

¹⁴ So the men came back from the rock of Rimmon. The Israelites gave to them the young women from Jabesh Gilead. But there were only four hundred women. There were not enough women for those six hundred men.

What was the problem when the Benjaminites returned at that time and they were given the women of Jabesh Gilead?

When the Benjaminites returned at that time and they were given the women of Jabesh Gilead, there were not enough women for all of them.

Judges 21:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Now the people were sorry for Benjamin, because Yahweh had made a breach between the tribes of Israel.

UST

¹⁵ The Israelites still felt sorry for the men of the tribe of Benjamin, because Yahweh had set the other tribes against them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Then the elders of the assembly said, "How can we provide wives for the remaining ones, since women from Benjamin have been exterminated?"

UST

¹⁶ The Israelite leaders said, "We have killed all the married women of the tribe of Benjamin. Where can we get women to be wives of the men who are still alive?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:17**ULT**

¹⁷ They said, "There must be an inheritance for the escaped remnant of Benjamin, so that a tribe is not blotted out from Israel.

UST

¹⁷ These men must have wives to give birth to children, in order that their families of Benjamin will continue. If that does not happen, all the people of one of the tribes of Israel will all die out, and the tribe will be destroyed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:18**ULT**

¹⁸ But we are not able to give them wives from our daughters, because the sons of Israel are bound to an oath, saying, 'Cursed is anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin.'"

UST

¹⁸ But we cannot allow our daughters to marry these men, because we solemnly declared that Yahweh will curse anyone who gives one of his daughters to become a wife of any man of the tribe of Benjamin."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:19**ULT**

¹⁹ So they said, "Look, there is a feast for Yahweh from time to time at Shiloh, which is on the north of Bethel, to the direction of the rising of the sun on the road that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah."

UST

¹⁹ Then they had an idea. They said, "Every year there is a festival to honor Yahweh at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel and east of the road that extends from Bethel to Shechem, and it is south of the city of Lebonah."

Where was Shiloh?

Shiloh was north of Bethel, east of the road that went up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.

Judges 21:20**ULT**

²⁰ They instructed the sons of Benjamin, saying, "Go and wait in hiding in the vineyards.

UST

²⁰ So the Israelite leaders told the men of the tribe of Benjamin, "When it is the time for that festival, go to Shiloh and hide in the vineyards.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:21**ULT**

²¹ You must watch, and look when the daughters of Shilo are coming forth to dance in the dances, then you come forth out of the vineyards. You will catch for yourselves, each one his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and then you can go back to the land of Benjamin.

UST

²¹ Keep watching for the young women to come out of the city to dance. When they come out, run out of the vineyards. Each of you can seize one of the young women of Shiloh. Then you can all return to your homes with those women.

When were the Benjaminites to each rush out of the vineyards and grab a wife from the girls of Shiloh?

When the girls from Shiloh came out to dance, they each were to rush out of the vineyards and grab a wife from the girls of Shiloh.

Judges 21:22**ULT**

²² It will happen, when their fathers or their brothers come out to argue with us, that we will say to them, 'Give them freely to us, because we did not take for each man his wife in the battle. Since you did not give them at that time, you would be guilty.'"

UST

²² If their fathers or brothers come to us and complain about what you have done, we will say to them, 'Act kindly toward the men of the tribe of Benjamin. When we fought them, we did not leave any women alive to become their wives, and you did not give those young women to the men from the tribe of Benjamin. They stole them. So you will not be guilty, even though you said that you would not give any of your daughters to marry one of them.'"

What excuse would the men of Israel tell the men of Shiloh about the girls?

The men of Israel would tell the men of Shiloh to let the girls remain because the men of Israel did not get wives during the war.

Judges 21:23**ULT**

²³ The sons of Benjamin did so. They carried off wives sufficient for their number from the ones who were dancing, who they snatched away. Then they went and they returned to their inheritance. They rebuilt the cities and they lived in them.

UST

²³ So that is what the men of the tribe of Benjamin did. They went to Shiloh at the time of the festival. And when the young women were dancing, each man caught one of them and took her away and married her. Then they took their wives back to the land that God had given to them. They rebuilt their cities that had been burned down, and they lived there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:24**ULT**

²⁴ Then the sons of Israel disbursed themselves from there at that time, each one to his tribe and to his family. Thus they went away from there each one to his inheritance.

UST

²⁴ The other Israelites went to their home in the areas where their tribes and clans lived, the areas that God had allotted to them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Judges 21:25

ULT

²⁵ In those days there was not a king in Israel. Each one would do what was right in his own eyes.

UST

²⁵ At that time, the Israelite people did not have a king. Everyone did what was right according to his own opinion.

How did everyone live?

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions Contributors

Larry Saltee (Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary)
Perry Oakes (BA Biblical Studies, Taylor University; MA Theology, Fuller Seminary; MA Linguistics, University of Texas at Arlington; PhD Old Testament, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)
Joel D. Ruark (M.A.Th. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Th.M. Stellenbosch University; Ph.D. Candidate in Old Testament Studies, Stellenbosch University)
Jesse Griffin (BA Biblical Studies, Liberty University; MA Biblical Languages, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Jerrell Hein
Cheryl Stauter
Deb Richey
Don Ritchey
Gena Schottmuller
Irene Little
Marsha Rogne
Pat Naber
Randy Stauter
Russ Isham
Vickey DeKraker
Door43 World Missions Community

unfoldingWord® Literal Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Scott Bayer
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Dan Dennison
Jamie Duguid
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D.Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
Jesse Harris
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics

James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
 Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
 Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
 Dean Ropp
 Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
 Larry Saltee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
 Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
 Doug Smith, M.T.S., M.Div., Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Leonard Smith
 Suzanna Smith
 Tim Span
 Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
 Maria Tijerina
 David Trombold, M. Div.
 Aaron Valdizan, M.Div., Th.M. in Old Testament, The Masters Seminary
 James Vigen
 Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
 Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
 Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
 Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
 Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
 Grant Ailie, BA Biblical Studies, M.Div.
 Door43 World Missions Community

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Nicholas Alsop
 Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
 Matt Carlton
 George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
 Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D. Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
 Michael Francis
 Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
 Kailey Gregory
 Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
 C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
 Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
 Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
 John Huffman
 D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
 Robert Hunt
 Demsin Lachin
 Jack Messarra
 Gene Mullen
 Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
 Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
 Kristy Nickell
 Tom Nickell
 Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
 Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
 James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
 Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
 Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
 Dean Ropp
 Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch

Larry Saltee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Christopher Smith, M.A.T.S. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Ph.D. Boston College
Leonard Smith
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
David Trombold, M. Div.
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
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