



unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v88

Judges

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unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Judges

Judges 1

Judges 1:1

ULT:

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

UST:

After Joshua died, the Israelite people asked Yahweh, "Which of our tribes should send their soldiers into the hill country to attack the Canaanites first?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:2

ULT:

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

UST:

Yahweh replied, "The soldiers of the tribe of Judah must attack first. I have already made the people of Judah the owners of the land {in Canaan that Joshua assigned to them}."

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 1:3

ULT:

Then Judah said to Simeon, his brother, "Go up with me into my allotment, and let us fight against the Canaanite. And I will also go with you myself into your allotment." So Simeon went with him.

UST:

Then the men of Judah went to their fellow Israelites, the men from the tribe of Simeon. They said to them, "Come and help us fight the Canaanites. That way we will be able to conquer the territory that Yahweh has given to us. {If you do that,} we will go with you and help you conquer the territory that Yahweh has given to you." So the soldiers of the tribe of Simeon went with the soldiers of the tribe of Judah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:4

ULT:

*And Judah went up, and Yahweh gave the Canaanite and the Perizzite into their hand.
And at Bezek they struck 10,000 men.*

UST:

So the soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon went together. Yahweh enabled them to defeat the army of the Canaanites and Perizzites. At the city of Bezek, they killed about 10,000 enemy soldiers.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:5

ULT:

And they found Adoni-Bezek at Bezek, and they fought against him. And they struck the Canaanite and the Perizzite.

UST:

The king of Bezek, Adoni-Bezek, personally commanded his army to defend his city. But the Israelite soldiers were able to defeat his army of Canaanites and Perizzites.

Against whom did the soldiers of Judah fight?

The soldiers of Judah fought against the Canaanites, the Perizzites, and Adoni-Bezek.

Judges 1:6

ULT:

Then Adoni-Bezek fled, but they pursued after him, and they seized him, and they cut off the thumbs of his hands and his feet.

UST:

Adoni-Bezek tried to run away, but the soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon chased 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:

And Adoni-Bezek said, “70 kings {with} the thumbs of their hands and their feet cut off were gathering beneath my table. According to what I have done, so God has repaid to me.” Then they brought him {to} Jerusalem, and he died there.

UST:

Adoni-Bezek said, “My army captured 70 kings. We cut off their thumbs and big toes. After that, we gave them little to eat, and we humiliated them. Because I did that to them, now God has done the same thing to me.” Then the soldiers took Adoni-Bezek to the city of Jerusalem. That was where he died.

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 beneath Adoni-Bezek’s table.

Judges 1:8

ULT:

And the sons of Judah fought with Jerusalem and captured it. And they struck it to the mouth of the sword, and they sent the city into fire.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon fought against the people of Jerusalem, and they captured that city. They killed all the people who lived there, and they burned down all the buildings in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:9

ULT:

And afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight with the Canaanite living {in} the hill country and the Negev and the Shephelah.

UST:

After that, the soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon went to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, the southern wilderness, and the western lowland.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:10

ULT:

Then Judah went down to the Canaanite living in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron previously {was} Kiriath Arba.) And they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon also went to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the city of Hebron. (People used to call that city Kiriath Arba). {Those Canaanites were from} the clans of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. The soldiers defeated them.

What was the previous name of Hebron?

The name of Hebron was previously Kiriath Arba.

Judges 1:11

ULT:

And he went from there against the dwellers of Debir. (Now the name of Debir previously {was} Kiriath Sepher.)

UST:

Then they left that area and went to fight against the people who lived in the city of Debir. (People used to call that city Kiriath Sepher.)

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:12

ULT:

And Caleb said, "Whoever strikes Kiriath Sepher and takes it, I will then give to him Aksah, my daughter, for a wife."

UST:

A man whose name was Caleb {was commanding the soldiers. He} told them, "I need someone to lead the attack against Kiriath Sepher and conquer that city. I will allow the man who does that to marry my daughter Aksah."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:13

ULT:

And Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, the {one} younger than him, captured it. So he gave to him Aksah, his daughter, for a wife.

UST:

Caleb had a younger brother whose name was Kenaz. Kenaz had a son whose name was Othniel. Othniel commanded the soldiers who captured the city of Kiriath Sepher. So Caleb allowed Othniel to marry his daughter Aksah.

What did Caleb give to Othniel?

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

Judges 1:14

ULT:

Now it happened, in the coming of her, that she persuaded him to request the field from her father. And she descended from upon the donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What for you?"

UST:

Aksah came {to Kiriath Sepher} to marry Othniel. When she got there, she convinced Othniel to let her ask her father for some land they could farm. She {went to see her father and respectfully} got off the donkey she was riding. Caleb asked her, "What would you like me to do for you?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:15

ULT:

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

UST:

She replied, "Please do a favor for me. You have given {my husband and} me some land in an area where it is very dry. So please also give us some land that has springs on it." So Caleb gave her some land on higher ground that had a spring and some land on lower ground that had a spring.

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

Since Achsah now had land in the Negev, she wanted him to give her springs of water.

Judges 1:16

ULT:

Now the sons of the Kenite, the father-in-law of Moses, went up from the City of Palms with the sons of Judah {to} the wilderness of Judah that {is} in the Negev of Arad. And he went and he dwelled with the people.

UST:

The father-in-law of Moses was a Kenite. Some of his descendants had been living in the area of Jericho, which people called Palm Tree City. They went with some people from the tribe of Judah to the wilderness {in the southern part} of the territory that belonged to that tribe. They settled with those Judeans in the dry region that is around the city of Arad.

Where is the wilderness of Judah?

The wilderness of Judah is in the Negev.

Judges 1:17

ULT:

Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanite dwelling {in} Zephath. And they devoted it, and they called the name of the city Hormah.

UST:

The army of the tribe Judah then went with their fellow Israelites, the army of the tribe of Simeon{, to help them conquer the territory that Joshua had assigned to them.} They defeated the Canaanites who lived in the town of Zephath. They completely destroyed that city. Then they gave it a new name, Hormah{, which means “complete destruction.”}

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:18

ULT:

And Judah captured Gaza and the territory of it and Ashkelon and the territory of it and Ekron and the territory of it.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Simeon also captured the cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron and all the land around those cities.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:19

ULT:

Now it happened {that} Yahweh {was} with Judah and he possessed the hill country. But he did not dispossess the dwellers of the valley, for chariotry of iron {was} to them.

UST:

So Yahweh helped the soldiers from Judah to capture the hill country. But they could not force the people who were living in the plains to leave. That was because those people had {better weapons. They had} chariots that had iron parts.

Why could the people of Judah not drive out the dwellers of the valley?

They could not drive out the dwellers of the valley because they had iron chariots.

Judges 1:20

ULT:

But they gave Hebron to Caleb, according to what Moses had spoken, and he dispossessed from there the three sons of the Anak.

UST:

The people of the tribe of Judah gave the city of Hebron to Caleb because Moses had promised him that he could have that city. Caleb forced the three clans whose ancestor was Anak to leave that area.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:21

ULT:

But the Jebusite, the dweller of Jerusalem, the sons of Benjamin did not dispossess. So the Jebusite has dwelled with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem until this day.

UST:

But the tribe of Benjamin could not force the Jebusites to stop living in the city of Jerusalem. So those Jebusites stayed in Jerusalem and lived there with the tribe of Benjamin. They are still living with them there now.

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:

And the house of Joseph, they too went up {to} Bethel, and Yahweh {was} with them.

UST:

Just as the soldiers from Judah and Simeon had done, soldiers from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh went {to conquer the territory that Joshua had assigned to them. They first attacked} the city of Bethel, and Yahweh helped them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:23

ULT:

And the house of Joseph spied upon Bethel. (Now the name of the city previously {was} Luz.)

UST:

They sent some spies to find out everything they could about Bethel. (People used to call that city Luz.)

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:24

ULT:

And 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 do kindness with you."

UST:

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, then we will be kind to you {and not kill you when we capture the city}."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:25

ULT:

So he showed them the entrance of the city, and they struck the city to the mouth of the sword, but the man and all of his family they sent {away}.

UST:

So the man showed them a way to get into the city. The soldiers from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh went in and killed all the people who lived in the city. But they allowed the man and his whole family to leave safely.

What happened to the man who showed the spies from the house of Joseph how to get into Bethel?

The spies let the man and his family get away.

Judges 1:26

ULT:

Then the man went {to} the land of the Hittites and he built a city, and he called the name of it Luz. That {is} the name of it until this day.

UST:

That man went to the area where the Hittites lived. He built a city there and named it Luz. That is still the name of that city now.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:27

ULT:

But Manasseh did not dispossess Beth Shan and its daughters, or Taanach and its daughters, or the dwellers of Dor and its daughters, or the dwellers of Ibleam and its daughters, or the dwellers of Megiddo and its daughters, for the Canaanite had resolved to dwell in that land.

UST:

There were Canaanites living in the cities of Beth Shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, and Megiddo. They were also living in the villages around those cities. The soldiers from the tribe of Manasseh were not able to force them to leave their homes. That was because those Canaanites fought very hard to stay there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:28

ULT:

Now it happened that Israel became strong and he put the Canaanite to forced labor, but he did not dispossess him.

UST:

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:

And Ephraim did not dispossess the Canaanite, the dweller of Gezer, so the Canaanite dwelled in the midst of him in Gezer.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribe of Ephraim were not able to force the Canaanites who were living in the city of Gezer to leave. So the Canaanites continued to live in that city with the tribe of Ephraim.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:30

ULT:

Zebulun did not dispossess the dwellers of Kitron or the dwellers of Nahalol, so the Canaanite dwelled in his midst. But they became forced labor.

UST:

There were also Canaanites living in the cities of Kitron and Nahalol. The soldiers from the tribe of Zebulun were not able to force them to leave. So those Canaanites stayed in those cities and lived with the tribe of Zebulun. But the people of Zebulun forced them to work as their slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:31

ULT:

Asher did not dispossess the dwellers of Akko or the dwellers of Sidon or Ahlab or Akzib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob.

UST:

There were Canaanites living in the cities of Akko, Sidon, Ahlab, Aczib, Helbah, Aphek, and Rehob. The soldiers from the tribe of Asher were not able to force them to leave.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:32

ULT:

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

UST:

So those Canaanites continued to live in those cities. The people of the tribe of Asher lived with them, because they were not able to force them to leave.

Why did the tribe of Asher live among the Canaanites?

The tribe of Asher lived among the Canaanites because they did not drive the Canaanites out of the land.

Judges 1:33

ULT:

Naphtali did not dispossess the dwellers of Beth Shemesh or the dwellers of Beth Anath. So he dwelled in the midst of the Canaanite, the dwellers of the land. But the dwellers of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath became forced labor for them.

UST:

There were Canaanites living in the cities of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath. The soldiers from the tribe of Naphtali were not able to force them to leave. So those Canaanites continued to live in that area. The people of the tribe of Naphtali lived with them. But they forced the ones who lived in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath to work as their slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:34

ULT:

And the Amorite, they pressed the sons of Dan {into} the hill country, for he did not allow him to go down into the valley.

UST:

The Amorites forced the people of the tribe of Dan to live in the hills. That was because they did not allow them to come down and live on the plain.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 1:35

ULT:

And 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 became forced labor.

UST:

The Amorites fought hard to keep living at Mount Heres and in the cities of Aijalon and Shaalbim{, and so the Israelites were not able to force them to leave}. But when the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh became stronger, they forced those Amorites to work as their slaves.

Who conquered the Amorites at Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim?

The house of Joseph conquered them.

Judges 1:36

ULT:

Now the border of the Amorite {was} from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

UST:

The land where the Amorites lived extended from the Ascent of Akrabbim {toward the west} beyond Sela, up into the hill country.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2

Judges 2:1

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh went up from Gilgal to Bochim and said, “I am bringing you up from Egypt, and I have brought you to the land that I swore to your fathers. And I have said, ‘I will forever not break my covenant with you.

UST:

An angel representing Yahweh went from Gilgal to a place that the people of Israel would soon call Bochim. He said to the Israelite people, “Your ancestors were slaves in Egypt, but I set them free, and they escaped. I promised your ancestors that I would give this land to you, and I have now brought you to it. I told them I would never break the promises I made to them.

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:

And you, you shall not cut a covenant with the dwellers of this land. Their altars you shall demolish. ' But you have not heard my voice. What {is} this you have done?

UST:

But I also told them that you, their descendants, must never make any peace treaties with the people who lived in this land. You were supposed to tear down all the altars {where those people made sacrifices to idols}. But you have not obeyed me. You have done a wicked thing {by making peace treaties with them and not destroying their altars}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:3

ULT:

And I have also said, 'I will not expel them from the face of you, but they will be to you in the sides, and their gods will be to you for a snare.'"

UST:

So now, as I warned you {through Joshua}, I will no longer help you force the people who live here to leave. They will bother you continually, as if they were thorns in your sides. And when you worship their idols, it will be as if a hunter catches you in a trap {and kills you}."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:4

ULT:

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

UST:

After the angel representing Yahweh had said these things to all the Israelites, they cried loudly.

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

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

Judges 2:5

ULT:

So they called the name of that place Bochim, and they sacrificed to Yahweh there.

UST:

So they named that place Bochim, which means “weeping.” They offered sacrifices there to Yahweh.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:6

ULT:

And Joshua dismissed the people, and the sons of Israel went, a man to his inheritance, to possess the land.

UST:

After Joshua had sent the people of Israel away {from the assembly at Shechem}, each group had gone to occupy the land that Joshua had assigned to them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:7

ULT:

And the people served Yahweh all of the days of Joshua and all of the days of the elders who had lengthened their days after Joshua, who had seen all of the great deed of Yahweh that he had done for Israel.

UST:

The Israelites had obeyed Yahweh for as long as Joshua was alive. After he died, there were still some older leaders alive who had seen all the miracles that Yahweh had done for Israel. For as long as those leaders were alive, the people had continued to obey Yahweh.

How long did the people serve Yahweh?

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

Judges 2:8

ULT:

And Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of Yahweh, died, a son of 110 years.

UST:

Yahweh's servant Joshua was 110 years old when he died. Joshua's father's name was Nun.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:9

ULT:

And 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:

The Israelites buried the body of Joshua within the territory that he had received from Moses. That was at Timnath Heres, north of Mount Gaash. That is in the hilly area where the descendants of Ephraim settled.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:10

ULT:

And all of that generation was also gathered to its fathers, and another generation arose after them who did not know Yahweh and also the deed that he had done for Israel.

UST:

Finally, all the people who had lived at the same time as Joshua died. After that, more people grew up who did not know Yahweh. They had also not seen the miracles he had done for the people of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:11

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, and they served the Baals.

UST:

The Israelites then did things that Yahweh had said were very evil. They worshiped different idols that represented gods such as Baal. They stopped worshiping Yahweh, the God their ancestors had worshiped. He was the one who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. Instead, they began to worship the various gods that the people groups around them worshiped. They bowed down to those gods in order to honor them. This caused Yahweh to be very angry. When the Israelites stopped worshiping Yahweh and started worshiping Baal, they also started worshiping female fertility goddesses such as Ashtoreth. (vv11-13)

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:12

ULT:

And they forsook Yahweh, the God of their fathers, the one having brought them out from the land of Egypt, and they went after other gods from the gods of the peoples who {were} around them, and they bowed down to them. So they angered Yahweh.

UST:

The Israelites then did things that Yahweh had said were very evil. They worshiped different idols that represented gods such as Baal. They stopped worshiping Yahweh, the God their ancestors had worshiped. He was the one who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. Instead, they began to worship the various gods that the people groups around them worshiped. They bowed down to those gods in order to honor them. This caused Yahweh to be very angry. When the Israelites stopped worshiping Yahweh and started worshiping Baal, they also started worshiping female fertility goddesses such as Ashtoreth. (vv11-13)

What gods did the people of Israel go after?

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

Judges 2:13

ULT:

And they forsook Yahweh and they served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

UST:

The Israelites then did things that Yahweh had said were very evil. They worshiped different idols that represented gods such as Baal. They stopped worshiping Yahweh, the God their ancestors had worshiped. He was the one who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. Instead, they began to worship the various gods that the people groups around them worshiped. They bowed down to those gods in order to honor them. This caused Yahweh to be very angry. When the Israelites stopped worshiping Yahweh and started worshiping Baal, they also started worshiping female fertility goddesses such as Ashtoreth. (vv11-13)

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:14

ULT:

Then the nose of Yahweh burned against Israel, and he gave them into the hand of plunderers, and they plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their enemies from around, and they were not able anymore to stand to the face of their enemies.

UST:

This made Yahweh very angry with the Israelites. So he allowed people from other groups to attack the Israelites and steal their crops and animals. Yahweh allowed the hostile nations around them to conquer them. The Israelites were no longer able to defeat their enemies in battle.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:15

ULT:

In all that 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. And it narrowed to them greatly.

UST:

Whenever the Israelites went to fight their enemies, Yahweh always worked against them and allowed their enemies to defeat them. That was just what he had warned them 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 would allow their enemies to defeat them.

Judges 2:16

ULT:

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

UST:

But then Yahweh brought leaders to them. These leaders rescued the Israelites from the powerful enemies who had been 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:

But even to their judges they did not listen. For they whored after other gods and they bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way that their fathers had walked, to hear the commandments of Yahweh. They did not do thus.

UST:

But the Israelites did not obey those leaders. Instead, they were unfaithful to Yahweh and worshiped false gods. They bowed down to idols that represented those gods. They were not like their ancestors. Their ancestors had obeyed what Yahweh commanded. But these younger people quickly stopped behaving as their ancestors had behaved.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:18

ULT:

For when Yahweh raised up for them judges, then Yahweh was with the judge and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all of the days of the judge. For Yahweh had compassion because of their groaning from the faces of their afflictors and their oppressors.

UST:

The Israelites were groaning because their enemies were treating them badly and making them suffer. Yahweh heard them groaning and felt sorry for them. So he brought leaders to them, and he helped each leader rescue the people from their enemies. He did that for as long as the leader was alive.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:19

ULT:

But it happened, at the death of the judge, they turned and acted corruptly more than their fathers, to walk after other gods, to serve them, and to bow down to them. They did not drop {any} of their deeds or {any} of their stubborn ways.

UST:

But after that leader died, the people stopped living as God wanted. Instead, they did even more evil things than the Israelites who had lived before them. They worshiped other gods and bowed down to them and did what they thought those gods wanted them to do. They stubbornly continued to do very wicked things.

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:

So the nose of Yahweh burned against Israel and he said, "In that this nation has transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and they have not listened to my voice,

UST:

This made Yahweh very angry with the Israelite people. He said, "These people have disobeyed the agreement 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:

I also will not continue to dispossess from the face of them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died,

UST:

*When Joshua died, there were still some other people groups living in this land.
Because the Israelites are disobeying me, I will no longer help them force any of those people groups to leave.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 2:22

ULT:

for the testing of Israel by them, whether they will be keeping the way of Yahweh, to walk in them just as their fathers kept {them}, or not.”

UST:

Instead, I will use those people groups to create difficult situations for the Israelites. That will show whether or not they will consistently do what I want them to do, as their ancestors did.”

Why would Yahweh not drive out from Israel any of the nations that Joshua left when he died?

Yahweh would not drive out from Israel any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, so that Yahweh could test Israel to see whether or not they would do what Yahweh wanted them to do as their ancestors had.

Judges 2:23

ULT:

So Yahweh left those nations, so as not to dispossess them quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

UST:

That is why Yahweh did not allow Joshua and his army to force those people groups to leave. Instead, he allowed those people groups to stay in the land for a long time after the people of Israel arrived.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3

Judges 3:1

ULT:

Now those nations that Yahweh left for the testing of Israel by them, all who had not known any of the wars of Canaan,

UST:

The younger Israelites had not fought in any of the wars against the Canaanites. Yahweh wanted them to show faith and courage. So he allowed some enemy people groups to stay in the land.

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:

only for the knowing of the generations of the sons of Israel, to teach them warfare, only who previously had not known them,

UST:

Yahweh did that in order to teach the new generation of Israelites how to wage war, since they had no experience fighting battles before.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:3

ULT:

{were} the five rulers of the Philistines, and all of the Canaanite and the Sidonian and the Hivite, the dweller of the mountain of Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

UST:

These are the people groups that Yahweh allowed to stay in the land: the Philistines and their five leaders, the Canaanites, the people living in and around the city of Sidon, and the Hivites living in the mountains of Lebanon between Mount Baal Hermon and Lebo Hamath.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:4

ULT:

And they were for the testing of Israel by them, to know whether they would hear the commandments of Yahweh, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

UST:

Yahweh left those people groups there to test the Israelites. He wanted to see whether they would obey the commands that he had told Moses to give to their ancestors.

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 commandments he gave their ancestors through Moses.

Judges 3:5

ULT:

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

UST:

That was why the Israelites lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:6

ULT:

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

UST:

The Israelite men married women from those people groups. They also allowed their daughters to marry men from those people groups. And they worshiped the gods of those people groups.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:7

ULT:

So the sons of Israel did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. And they forgot Yahweh their God and they served the Baals and the Asherahs.

UST:

The Israelites then did things that Yahweh had said were very wicked. They stopped worshiping Yahweh, the God their ancestors had worshiped. Instead, they started to worship idols that represented gods such as Baal and goddesses such as Asherah.

What did the people of Israel serve?

They served the Baals and the Asherahs.

Judges 3:8

ULT:

Then the nose of Yahweh burned against Israel and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram Naharaim. And the sons of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

UST:

This made Yahweh very angry with the people of Israel. So he allowed Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram Naharaim {in Mesopotamia}, to conquer them. Cushan-Rishathaim ruled over the people of Israel for eight years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:9

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh raised up a savior for the sons of Israel, and he saved them: Othniel, the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, the {one} younger than him.

UST:

But when the people of Israel pleaded with Yahweh to help them, he brought a leader to rescue them. This leader 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:

And the Spirit of Yahweh was upon him, and he judged Israel. And he went out to war, and Yahweh gave Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram, into his hand. So his hand was strong against Cushan-Rishathaim.

UST:

Yahweh's Spirit gave Othniel special strength and courage to be a leader for the Israelites. Then he led an army that fought against the army of Cushan-Rishathaim, the king of Aram. Yahweh enabled the Israelites to win this battle. So Othniel defeated Cushan-Rishathaim {and he no longer ruled over the people of Israel}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:11

ULT:

And the land rested 40 years. Then Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died.

UST:

After that, the land of Israel was a peaceful place for the next 40 years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:12

ULT:

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

UST:

Then the Israelites once again did things that Yahweh had said were very wicked. Because they were doing these things, Yahweh gave Eglon, the king of Moab, a stronger army than the Israelites had {so that he could defeat them}.

Who gave strength to Eglon, the king of Moab?

Yahweh gave strength to Eglon, the king of Moab.

Judges 3:13

ULT:

And he gathered to him the sons of Ammon and Amalek, and he went and struck Israel, and they possessed the City of Palms.

UST:

Eglon persuaded the leaders of the Ammonites and the Amalekites to join their armies with his army to attack Israel. They defeated the Israelites and captured Jericho, which people called Palm Tree City.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:14

ULT:

So the sons of Israel served Eglon, the king of Moab, 18 years.

UST:

Then King Eglon of Moab ruled the Israelites for 18 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:15

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh raised up a savior for them, Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjaminite, a man impeded in his right hand. And the sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon, the king of Moab.

UST:

After that, the Israelites again pleaded with Yahweh to help them. So he brought another leader to rescue them. This leader was Ehud, the son of Gera. He was from the tribe of Benjamin, and he was left-handed. King Eglon of Moab made the Israelites send him goods such as gold, silver, animals, and crops every year so that he would not attack them. This time, the Israelites put Ehud in charge of delivering those goods.

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

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

Judges 3:16

ULT:

And Ehud made a sword for himself, and two mouths {were} to it; a cubit {was} its length. And he bound it onto his right thigh beneath his clothing.

UST:

Ehud had made a special sword to bring with him on this trip. Both of its edges were sharp, and it was only half a meter long. He hid it under his clothes by strapping it onto 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:

Then he brought the tribute to Eglon, the king of Moab. Now Eglon {was} a very fat man.

UST:

Ehud made sure that King Eglon of Moab received all of the goods that the Israelites had sent. (Eglon was a very fat man.)

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:18

ULT:

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

UST:

After he had delivered all of the goods, Ehud told the men who had carried them to go back to Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:19

ULT:

But he, he turned back from the carved images that {were} at Gilgal, and he said, "A word of secrecy {is} to me for you, O king." And he said, "Hush!" So all of the ones standing around him went out from around him.

UST:

Ehud went with the men as far as the boundary stones near the city of Gilgal. There 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 told 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.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:20

ULT:

Then Ehud came to him. Now he was sitting in the upper room of coolness that {was} to him, alone. And Ehud said, "A word from God {is} to me for you." And he arose from upon the throne.

UST:

This left Eglon sitting all by himself in the room of his palace where he stayed cool in the heat of summer. Ehud came close to him and said, "I have a message for you from God." The king stood up from his throne {to receive the message}.

Who was with Ehud and the king when Ehud told him the message?

Only Ehud and the king were there.

Judges 3:21

ULT:

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

UST:

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

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:22

ULT:

And the handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed around the handle, for he did not pull the sword from his belly, and excrement came out.

UST:

Ehud plunged the sword in so far that even the handle went into the king's belly. Ehud did not pull the sword out. He left it there, with the king's fat surrounding it. {From the force of the blow,} Eglon's bowels discharged.

Why did fat close over the handle of the sword?

Fat closed over the handle because Ehud did not draw the sword out of the king's body.

Judges 3:23

ULT:

Then Ehud went out {to} the porch, and he closed the doors of the upper room behind him and bolted {them}.

UST:

Then Ehud stepped out of the room into its entrance area. He closed the doors to the room, and he bolted them shut as he closed them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:24

ULT:

And he went out, and his servants came, and they looked, and behold, the doors of the upper room {were} bolted. So they said, "Surely he is covering his feet in the chamber of coolness."

UST:

Then Ehud ran away from the palace. King Eglon's servants came back, but they found that someone had locked the doors to the room. They said {to each other}, "The king must be relieving himself in there."

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

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

Judges 3:25

ULT:

So they waited until they felt ashamed, but behold, he was not opening the doors of the upper room. So they took the opener and they opened {them}, and behold, their lord {was} fallen on the ground, dead.

UST:

So they waited. But when the king did not open the doors of the room for a long time, they became concerned because they had left him alone for so long. They got a key and unlocked and opened the doors. And they saw that their king was lying on the floor dead {from the sword wound}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:26

ULT:

But Ehud escaped during their delaying, and he passed the carved images, and he fled to Seirah.

UST:

The servants had taken so long to enter the king's room that Ehud had time to escape. He ran back to Israel, passed by the boundary stones {at Gilgal}, and arrived at the city of Seirah.

When did Ehud escape?

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

Judges 3:27

ULT:

Now it happened at his coming that 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} to the face of them.

UST:

That city was in the hilly area where the descendants of Ephraim lived. When Ehud got there, he blew a ram's horn {to call the people to join him in fighting against the people of Moab}. So the Israelites went with him down from the hills {toward the Jordan River}. Ehud was leading them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:28

ULT:

Now he had 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, and they did not allow anyone to cross over.

UST:

Ehud told the men he was leading, "Yahweh is going to enable us to defeat our enemies, the people of Moab. So follow me!" So they followed him down to the Jordan River, and they stationed some of their men at the place where people could walk across the river into Moab. That way 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:

And they struck Moab at that time, about 10,000 men. Each {was} robust and each {was} a man of strength, but not one escaped.

UST:

At that time, the Israelites killed about 10,000 Moabite soldiers {who had been occupying the city of Jericho}. They were all strong and capable soldiers, but the Israelites killed them all.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:30

ULT:

So Moab was subdued on that day under the hand of Israel, and the land rested 80 years.

UST:

On that day, the Israelites conquered the people of Moab. After that, the land of Israel was a peaceful place for the next 80 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 3:31

ULT:

After him was Shamgar, the son of Anath, and he struck Philistines, 600 men, with a goad of the ox. So he also saved Israel.

UST:

After Ehud died, Shamgar, the son of Anath, became their leader. In one battle, Shamgar killed 600 Philistine soldiers even though his only weapon was an ox goad. In that way, he rescued the Israelites from the Philistines.

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:

And the sons of Israel resumed to do evil in the eyes of Yahweh after Ehud died.

UST:

After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did things that Yahweh had said were very wicked.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:2

ULT:

And Yahweh sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Now the commander of his army {was} Sisera, and he {was} dwelling in Harosheth Hagoyim.

UST:

A strong king whose name was Jabin ruled the city of Hazor and many other parts of the region of Canaan. Yahweh allowed Jabin to conquer the Israelites with his army because they had disobeyed him. The commander of Jabin's army was a man whose name was Sisera. He lived in a place that people called Harosheth Hagoyim.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:3

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, for 900 chariots of iron {were} to him, and he oppressed the sons of Israel with might 20 years.

UST:

Sisera's army had 900 chariots that had iron parts. He cruelly oppressed the Israelites for 20 years. Then they pleaded with 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 900 iron chariots and he had been oppressing the people of Israel for 20 years.

Judges 4:4

ULT:

Now Deborah, a woman, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, she {was} judging Israel at that time.

UST:

At that time, a woman whose name was Deborah was a leader of the people of Israel. She was a prophetess. Her husband's name was Lappidoth.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:5

ULT:

And she {was} sitting 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:

She would sit under her palm tree (which people called Deborah's Palm Tree) at a place between Ramah and Bethel in the hilly area where the descendants of Ephraim lived. The Israelites would come to her and ask her to help them settle their disputes.

Why did the people of Israel come to Deborah?

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

Judges 4:6

ULT:

And she sent and called for Barak, the son of Abinoam, from Kedesh Naphtali, and she said to him, "Has not Yahweh, the God of Israel, commanded, 'Go and draw out at Mount Tabor, and you shall take with you 10, 000 men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun,

UST:

One day she sent for Barak, the son of Abinoam. She called him to come to her. He was from Kedesh, in the area where the descendants of Naphtali lived. She told him, "Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship, is commanding you to do something. He is telling you to gather an army of {at least} 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun. Have this army assemble at Mount Tabor.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:7

ULT:

and I will draw out to you, to the wadi of Kishon, Sisera, the commander of the army of Jabin, and his chariotry and his multitude, and I will give him into your hand'?"

UST:

Sisera is the commander of King Jabin's army. Yahweh will make him come near you with his chariots and his army. He will come to the Kishon River {a few miles away from you}. Yahweh will enable your men to defeat them."

Where would Yahweh make Sisera meet Barak?

Yahweh would make Sisera meet Barak by the river of Kishon.

Judges 4:8

ULT:

And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

UST:

Barak told her, "I will only go if you go with me. If you do not go with me, then I will not go."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:9

ULT:

And she said, "Going, I will go with you, only that it will not be your honor upon the way that you are going, for Yahweh will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

UST:

She replied, "I will certainly go with you. But because you would not go without me, Yahweh will enable a woman to defeat Sisera. The result will be that no one will honor you for doing that." So Deborah left her home and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Why would Yahweh make a woman defeat Sisera?

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

Judges 4:10

ULT:

Then Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his feet, and Deborah went up with him.

UST:

Barak called for the men of Zebulun and Naphtali to assemble at Kedesh. With Barak as their commander, 10,000 men came there. Deborah accompanied this army.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:11

ULT:

Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from Kain, from the sons of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses. And he had pitched his tent near an oak tree in Zaanannim, which {is} near Kedesh.

UST:

Now there was a man whose name was Heber who was a Kenite. (He was a descendant of Moses' father-in-law Hobab.) He had moved away from the rest of the Kenites. He was living at this time near the big oak tree at Zaanannim, near Kedesh.

From whom did the Kenites descend?

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

Judges 4:12

ULT:

And they reported to Sisera that Barak, the son of Abinoam, had gone up {to} Mount Tabor.

UST:

People told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had assembled an army on Mount Tabor.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:13

ULT:

So Sisera summoned all of his chariotry, 900 chariots of iron, and all of the people who {were} with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the wadi of Kishon.

UST:

When Sisera heard that, he gathered all his troops. They brought all 900 of the chariots that had iron parts, and they marched from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River {to attack Barak and his army}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:14

ULT:

Then Deborah said to Barak, “Arise! For this {is} the day when Yahweh has given Sisera into your hand. Has not Yahweh gone out to the face of you?” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor, and 10,000 men {were} after him.

UST:

Then Deborah said to Barak, “It is time to attack! Today Yahweh is going to enable your army to defeat the army of Sisera. Yahweh is already fighting against Sisera for you.” So Barak led his thousands of troops down the slopes of Mount Tabor {to fight with Sisera}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:15

ULT:

And Yahweh panicked Sisera and all of the chariotry and all of the army, to the mouth of the sword to the face of Barak. So Sisera descended from upon the chariot and fled on his feet.

UST:

As Barak and his troops advanced, Yahweh caused Sisera and all his chariots and his army to become disorganized. The Israelites were killing so many of his soldiers that Sisera jumped down from his chariot and ran away.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:16

ULT:

But Barak pursued after the chariotry and after the army unto Harosheth Haggoyim, and all of the army of Sisera fell by the mouth of the sword. Not even one remained.

UST:

But Barak and his soldiers chased after the other chariots and enemy soldiers all the way to Harosheth Haggoyim. They killed all of the soldiers in Sisera's army. None of them got away.

How many of the army of Sisera survived?

None of the army of Sisera survived.

Judges 4:17

ULT:

But Sisera fled on his feet to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for {there was} peace between Jabin, king of Hazor, and the house of Heber the Kenite.

UST:

But Sisera ran away to the place where Heber the Kenite was staying. He went up to the tent where Heber's wife Jael lived. He did that because Heber and his family were good friends of Sisera's master Jabin, the king of the city of Hazor{, so he thought Jael would hide him}.

Why did Sisera go to the tent of Jael?

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

Judges 4:18

ULT:

And 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 aside to her, into the tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

UST:

Jael went out to greet Sisera. She said to him, "Sir, please come into my tent. You do not have to be afraid." So he went into her tent {and lay down}, and she covered him with a blanket {to hide him}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:19

ULT:

And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and let him drink, and she covered him.

UST:

He said to her, "I am thirsty, so would you please give me some water?" So she opened a leather container of milk, and she gave him a drink. Then she covered him with the 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:

And he said to her, "Stand {at} the entrance of the tent, and it shall be, if anyone comes and asks you and says, 'Is there anyone here?' then you shall say 'No one.'"

UST:

He told her, "Stand near the door of the tent {to meet anyone who arrives}. If someone {who is looking for me} comes and asks you, 'Is anyone else here?' say 'No.'"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:21

ULT:

Then Jael, the wife of Heber, took a peg of the tent, and she put the hammer in her hand, and she came to him in secret, and she drove the peg into his temple and pounded {it} into the ground, for he was sleeping deeply and was weary, and he died.

UST:

Sisera was very exhausted, so he soon fell asleep. While he was sleeping, Jael picked up a hammer and a tent peg and crept quietly over to him. Suddenly she pounded the peg into his skull. She hammered it all the way through his head until it stuck into the ground. This killed Sisera.

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:

And behold, Barak was pursuing Sisera, and Jael came out to meet him, and she said to him, "Come, and I will 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:

Meanwhile, Barak was looking for Sisera. When he got to Jael's tent, she went out to greet him. She told him, "The man you are looking for is in here!" So he followed her into the tent, and there he saw Sisera lying dead with the tent peg through his head.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:23

ULT:

So on that day God subdued Jabin, the king of Canaan, to the face of the sons of Israel.

UST:

And that was how God enabled the Israelites that day to defeat the army of Jabin, one of the kings of the Canaanites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 4:24

ULT:

For going, the hand of the sons of Israel went and {became} severe against Jabin, the king of Canaan, until that they destroyed Jabin, the king of Canaan.

UST:

The Israelites had become stronger and stronger, and finally they completely defeated the army of Jabin, that Canaanite king.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5

Judges 5:1

ULT:

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

UST:

At the time when the Israelites defeated Jabin's army, Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang a song to celebrate. This is the song that they sang:

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:2

ULT:

“For the loosening of long hair in Israel, for the volunteering of the people, bless Yahweh!

UST:

“We should all praise Yahweh for the Israelite men who promised to fight and who fought willingly.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:3

ULT:

Listen, kings! Give ear, rulers! I, to Yahweh, {even} I, may I sing. I will make music to Yahweh, the God of Israel.

UST:

Even the most important people in the world should pay attention to this! I am going to 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:

Yahweh, at your going forth from Seir, at your marching from the field of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens also dripped, the dark clouds also dripped water.

UST:

Yahweh, when you came from Seir, when you marched from that land that people also call Edom, thunder shook the earth and clouds poured down rain 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:

The mountains flowed from the face of Yahweh, this {is} Sinai from the face of Yahweh, the God of Israel.

UST:

The mountains shook when you came, just as Mount Sinai shook when you appeared there, because you are Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:6

ULT:

In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, roads ceased, and walkers of paths walked crooked roads.

UST:

After our leader Shamgar son of Anath died and before Jael helped us defeat the army of Jabin, we Israelites were afraid to walk on the main roads, {because Jabin's soldiers would rob us}. Instead, when our people had to travel, they used little roads that wound through the countryside.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:7

ULT:

The peasantry ceased in Israel, they ceased, until when I, Deborah, arose, when I arose, a mother in Israel!

UST:

Israelites who lived in small villages left them and moved into walled cities {for safety}. But then I, Deborah, became a leader of the Israelite people, and I protected them just as a mother protects her children.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:8

ULT:

He chose new gods, then fighting {was} {at} the gates; was a shield seen, or a spear, among 40,000 in Israel?

UST:

When the Israelite people {abandoned Yahweh} and began to worship different gods, enemies attacked their cities. The Israelites {could barely defend themselves because they} had hardly any weapons.

What was not seen among 40,000 in Israel?

Neither shields nor spears were seen among 40,000 in Israel.

Judges 5:9

ULT:

My heart is to the commanders of Israel, the ones volunteering themselves among the people. Bless Yahweh!

UST:

So I am very thankful for the Israelite leaders and soldiers who willingly fought against Sisera. We should all praise Yahweh for them!

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:10

ULT:

Riders of white donkeys, sitters on carpet, walkers on the road, consider!

UST:

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

What things were used as saddles on the white donkeys?

Carpets were used as saddles on the white donkeys.

Judges 5:11

ULT:

From the voice of the singers at the watering places, there they celebrate the righteous acts of Yahweh, the righteous acts of his peasantry in Israel. Then the people of Yahweh went down to the gates.

UST:

Listen to the songs that people sing at the places along the road where travelers stop to get water. Those songs tell about how Yahweh acted righteously when he enabled the Israelite warriors to defeat their enemies. After that, Yahweh's people were able to return safely to their cities.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:12

ULT:

Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, speak a song! Arise, Barak, and take captive your captivity, son of Abinoam.

UST:

Sing energetically, Deborah! Sing from your own vivid recollections! Now is the time, Barak son of Abinoam, to show the prisoners that your army captured.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:13

ULT:

Then the remnant came down to the nobles, the people of Yahweh came down to me against the warriors.

UST:

The Israelite people who had scattered for safety came down from the highlands to where their leaders were gathering an army. These were men who were loyal to Yahweh, and they came to help me, Barak, fight against the enemy soldiers.

Why did the people of Yahweh come down?

The people of Yahweh came down to help Barak fight against the warriors.

Judges 5:14

ULT:

From Ephraim, their root {is} in Amalek; after you, Benjamin, with your peoples; from Machir, commanders came down; and from Zebulun, the ones holding the scepter of a scribe.

UST:

Some soldiers came from the tribe of Ephraim. They came from land that had once belonged to the descendants of Amalek. Soldiers also came from the tribe of Benjamin. They reached the Israelite camp before the ones from Ephraim. Military leaders from the clan of Machir in the tribe of Manasseh led their troops to fight. So did officers from the tribe of Zebulun. They carried staffs to indicate their rank.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:15

ULT:

And my commanders in Issachar {were} with Deborah, and {as} Issachar, so Barak; into a valley he was sent at his feet. Among the divisions of Reuben, great {were} the searchings of the heart.

UST:

Leaders from the tribe of Issachar brought their soldiers when Deborah told Barak to gather an army. They fully supported Barak. He led these soldiers down into the valley {to fight Sisera}. But the men of the tribe of Reuben could not decide what they should do.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:16

ULT:

Why did you sit among the sheepfolds? To hear the piping for the flocks? As for the divisions of Reuben, great {were} the searchings of the heart.

UST:

They should not have stayed away from the battle, taking care of their sheep and listening to shepherds playing their flutes. But the men of the tribe of Reuben could not decide what they should do.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:17

ULT:

Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, and Dan, why did he sojourn {on} ships? Asher remained at the coast of the seas, and he stayed among his harbors.

UST:

So the men of all the tribes living in the Gilead area stayed at home, east of the Jordan River. And the men of the tribe of Dan just kept fishing in the sea {when they should have been helping to fight against Sisera}. Similarly, the men of the tribe of Asher did not leave their harbors on the seacoast {to come and help fight}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:18

ULT:

Zebulun {was} a people reproaching its soul unto death, also Naphtali on the heights of the field.

UST:

But the soldiers from the tribe of Zebulun risked their lives on the battlefield. The soldiers from the tribe of Naphtali also risked their lives in order to occupy the high ground on the battlefield.

What would Zebulun risk?

The people of Zebulun would risk their lives to the point of death.

Judges 5:19

ULT:

Kings came, they fought; then the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo. Plunder of silver they did not take.

UST:

Sisera brought an army of soldiers from many Canaanite kingdoms {that were subject to Jabin} to fight against us. They fought a battle against us near the city of Taanach. That city is near the river that flows through the Valley of Megiddo. But {they did not defeat us, and so} they did not carry any valuable things away from the battle.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:20

ULT:

From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.

UST:

It was as if the stars in the sky fought for us, and as if those stars fought against Sisera, as they moved across the sky.

What fought against Sisera from their courses across the heavens?

The stars fought against Sisera as they moved across the heavens.

Judges 5:21

ULT:

The wadi of Kishon swept them away, the wadi of antiquity, the wadi of Kishon. March on, my soul, {in} strength!

UST:

The Kishon River, that river that has been there for a long time, was drowning Sisera's soldiers. So I told myself to be brave and to keep fighting.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:22

ULT:

Then the hooves of a horse beat, from the galloping, the galloping of his mighty {ones}.

UST:

Then the horses of Sisera's army {ran away from the battle. As they ran, they} pounded the ground with their hooves. Those powerful horses kept galloping along.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:23

ULT:

'Curse Meroz!' said the angel of Yahweh. 'Cursing, you shall curse the dwellers of it, because they did not come to the aid of Yahweh, to the aid of Yahweh against the warriors.'

UST:

{After the battle,} an angel representing Yahweh said, 'The people who live in the town of Meroz did not help Yahweh by stopping Sisera's army from retreating. And so you must call for Yahweh to punish them by making bad things happen to them.'

Why did the angel of Yahweh curse Meroz?

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

Judges 5:24

ULT:

Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, is blessed from women, from women in the tent she is blessed.

UST:

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

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:25

ULT:

Water he requested, milk she gave; in a bowl of nobles she brought curdled milk.

UST:

Although Sisera only asked for some water, Jael gave him some milk. She brought him some yogurt in the kind of bowl that rulers have.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:26

ULT:

They reached out, her hand to the peg and her right hand to a hammer of workmen. And she struck Sisera, she crushed his head, and she shattered and pierced his temple.

UST:

Then{, when Sisera was asleep,} Jael picked up a tent peg with her left hand and a heavy hammer with her right hand. She pounded the tent peg into Sisera's head so hard that it went right through his temple. This smashed his head.

To what did Jael put her hand?

In one hand she took the tent peg and in her other hand, a workman's hammer.

Judges 5:27

ULT:

Between her feet, he bowed, he fell, he lay down. Between her feet he bowed, he fell. At where he bowed, there he fell, destroyed.

UST:

As Jael stood over him, Sisera died {from the crushing blow to his head}. He did not even move from where he was when she hit him. He died right there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:28

ULT:

*Through the window she looked and wailed, the mother of Sisera, through the lattice,
'Why has his chariot delayed to come? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots tarry?'*

UST:

Sisera's mother looked out through her window {to see whether he was returning from the battle}. She asked, 'Why is he taking so long to come home in his chariot? Why have I not yet heard his chariot horses pounding the ground with their feet?'

Where did the mother of Sisera look out?

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

Judges 5:29

ULT:

The wise of her princesses answered, she also returned her answer to herself:

UST:

Some tactful ladies in her household reassured her; and she told herself the same thing they told her:

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:30

ULT:

'Are they not finding, {are} they {not} dividing spoil, a maiden, two maidens to the head of a warrior, spoil of dyed fabrics for Sisera, spoil of dyed fabrics {and} embroidery, dyed fabric {and} two embroideries for the necks of the spoil?'

UST:

'Sisera and his soldiers are probably {late returning because they are} dividing up the things and the people they captured after the battle. Each soldier will get one or two women as slaves. Each of Sisera's soldiers will also get one or two expensive robes that have bright colors and gold thread for decoration. They will probably wear them home from the battle to show that they won.'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 5:31

ULT:

So may all of your enemies perish, Yahweh! But {may} the lovers of him {be} like the going forth of the sun in its strength.” Then the land rested 40 years.

UST:

{But that is not what happened!} Yahweh, I hope that all your enemies will die as Sisera did! And I wish that all those who love you, Yahweh, will be as strong as the sun when it rises!” After that, the land of Israel was a peaceful place for the next 40 years.

Like what should those who love Yahweh be?

Those who love Yahweh should be as strong as the sun when it rises.

Judges 6

Judges 6:1

ULT:

And the sons of Israel did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so Yahweh gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.

UST:

But then the Israelites once again did things that Yahweh had said were very wicked. 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:

So the hand of Midian prevailed over Israel. From the face of Midian, the sons of Israel made for themselves dens, which {were} in the mountains, and caves and strongholds.

UST:

The people of Midian treated the Israelites so cruelly that they hid from them. The Israelites made places where they could live on mountains, in caves, and in other safe locations.

What did the people of Israel do because of Midian?

To hide from the cruelty of Midian, the people of Israel made dens and caves in the mountains to live in.

Judges 6:3

ULT:

Now it happened, when Israel sowed, that Midian came up and Amalek and the sons of the east, that they came up against him.

UST:

This is what the enemies of the Israelites were doing to them. The Israelites would plant crops in their fields. Once those crops began to grow, enemies from Midian and Amalek and from desert tribes would come into Israel.

What happened any time the Israelites planted their crops?

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

Judges 6:4

ULT:

And they encamped among them, and they ruined the produce of the land until your coming {to} Gaza. And they did not leave sustenance in Israel or sheep or ox or donkey.

UST:

They set up their tents in the land, and their animals devoured the crops as far south as Gaza. They did not leave anything for the Israelites to eat. They also took away their sheep, cattle, and donkeys.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:5

ULT:

For they and their livestock would come up, and their tents, and they would come like the abundance of the locust in multitude. And of them and of their camels there was no counting. And they came into the land to destroy it.

UST:

They came into Israel with their tents and their livestock. When they came, there were so many of them that they seemed like a huge swarm of locusts. One could hardly count how many of them arrived riding on their camels. They came into the land of Israel and ruined the land, so that crops could not grow there.

How many Midianites and Amalekites would attack?

So many Midianites and Amalekites would attack that it was impossible to count them.

Judges 6:6

ULT:

And Israel was impoverished greatly from the face of Midian, so the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh.

UST:

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:

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

UST:

When the Israelites pleaded with Yahweh to help them because of what the people from Midian were doing to them,

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:8

ULT:

that Yahweh sent a man, a prophet, to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt, and I brought you out from the house of slaves.

UST:

Yahweh sent a prophet to them. He told them, "Yahweh is the God we Israelites are supposed to worship. He sent me to tell you, 'I brought your ancestors out of Egypt. I rescued them from that place where they were slaves.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:9

ULT:

I rescued you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of all of your oppressors. And I drove them out from your face, and I gave to you their land.

UST:

I made the Egyptian rulers who had made them slaves set them free. When you got to this land, I enabled you to defeat your enemies. I forced them to leave, and I allowed you to live here instead.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:10

ULT:

And I said to you, "I {am} Yahweh your God. You shall not fear the gods of the Amorite, when you {are} dwelling in their land." But you have not heard my voice.'"

UST:

I told your ancestors, "I am Yahweh, the God whom you must worship. Once you Israelites are living in the land that belonged to the Amorites, you must not worship the gods that they worshiped." But you have disobeyed what I told them.'"

In whose land were the people of Israel living?

They were living in the land of the Amorites.

Judges 6:11

ULT:

Now the angel of Yahweh came and sat beneath the oak that {was} in Ophrah, which {was} to Joash the Abiezrite. And Gideon, his son, {was} threshing wheat in the winepress to hide from the face of Midian.

UST:

One day an angel representing Yahweh came and sat under a big oak tree in 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 because it was a place where the people of Midian could not see him.

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

Gideon was working in the winepress in order to hide from the Midianites.

Judges 6:12

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him and said to him, “Yahweh {is} with you, warrior of valor!”

UST:

The angel representing Yahweh went over to Gideon and told him, “You mighty soldier, Yahweh is helping you!”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:13

ULT:

And Gideon said to him, "Excuse me, my lord, but {if} Yahweh is with us, then why has all of this happened to us? And where {are} all of his wonders that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not Yahweh bring us up from Egypt?' But now Yahweh has forsaken us and given us into the palm of Midian."

UST:

Gideon replied, "Pardon me for asking, sir, but if Yahweh is really helping us, then why have all these bad things happened to us? Yahweh is not doing any miracles for us like the ones that our ancestors have told us about. They have said that he rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. But now Yahweh has abandoned us. He is allowing the people from Midian to rule us."

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

Gideon thought Yahweh had forsaken them and had allowed the people of Midian to rule over them.

Judges 6:14

ULT:

But Yahweh turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours, and you shall save Israel from the palm of Midian. Have I not sent you?"

UST:

Then Yahweh looked right at him and said, "I have made you strong enough to rescue the Israelites from the people of Midian who are ruling you. So lead an army against them. I am commanding you to do that!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:15

ULT:

And he said to him, "Excuse me, my lord, by what shall I save Israel? Behold, my thousand {is} the weak {one} in Manasseh, and I {am} the young {one} in the house of my father."

UST:

Gideon replied, "I am sorry, sir, but I do not believe that I can rescue the Israelites. This is why I cannot: my clan is the smallest and weakest one in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least important 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 youngest in his family.

Judges 6:16

ULT:

Then Yahweh said to him, “Because I will be with you, and you will strike Midian as one man.”

UST:

Yahweh said to him, “I will help you{, and so you will be able to rescue the Israelites}. I will enable you to defeat the entire Midianite army at one time.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:17

ULT:

And he said to him, “Please, if I have found favor in your eyes, then do for me a sign that you {are} speaking with me.

UST:

Gideon replied, “If you truly are pleased with me, then let me ask you to do something that will prove that you, Yahweh, really are the one who is speaking with me.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:18

ULT:

Please do not depart from this {place} until my coming to you, and I will bring out my offering and set it to your face.” And he said, “I will stay until your returning.”

UST:

I would like to go and prepare a special meal and bring it to you. Please do not leave here until I get back.” Yahweh answered, “{I agree.} I will wait here until you come back.”

Why did Yahweh wait for Gideon?

Yahweh waited for Gideon to bring him an offering.

Judges 6:19

ULT:

Then Gideon went and he prepared a kid of goats and, {from} an ephah of flour, unleavened bread. The meat, he put in a basket, and the broth, he put in a pot. And he brought {them} out to him at under the oak tree, and he presented {them}.

UST:

So Gideon hurried to his home. He killed a young goat and cooked it. He also took about 22 liters of flour and baked some bread without yeast. Then he put the cooked meat in a basket, and he put the broth from the meat in a pot. He brought the meat and the bread to Yahweh, who was still sitting under the oak tree. Gideon invited him to eat these foods as a special meal.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:20

ULT:

And the angel 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:

But Yahweh told Gideon, "Put the meat and the bread on this rock. Then pour the broth on top of it." So that is what Gideon did.

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:

Then the angel of Yahweh stretched out the end of the staff that {was} in his hand. And he touched upon the meat and upon the unleavened bread, and fire came up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of Yahweh went from his eyes.

UST:

Then the angel representing Yahweh reached out and touched the meat and bread with the tip of the walking stick that he was holding. Flames came up from the rock and completely burned up the meat and the bread! And then the angel representing Yahweh disappeared.

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

When the angel of Yahweh stretched out the end of the staff in his hand, touching the meat and the unleavened bread, a fire went up out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread.

Judges 6:22

ULT:

And Gideon saw that he {was} the angel of Yahweh, and Gideon said, "Alas, my Lord Yahweh, for upon that I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!"

UST:

Then Gideon realized that it had actually been an angel representing Yahweh who had come and spoken with him. He exclaimed, "Oh, no! Yahweh my Lord, I just saw your angel in person! {No one can see you and live, so I am going to die!}"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:23

ULT:

But Yahweh said to him, "Peace to you! Do not fear. You will not die."

UST:

But Yahweh called to him and said, "You are safe. You do not have to be afraid. I am not going to kill you."

Why was Gideon afraid when he understood that he had seen the angel of Yahweh?

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

Judges 6:24

ULT:

Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and he called it Yahweh {is} Peace. To this day it {is} still at Ophrah of the Abiezrite.

UST:

Then Gideon built an altar there to worship Yahweh. He gave it the name Yahweh is Peace. That altar is still there at this time in the town of Ophrah in the land that belongs to the Abiezrite clan.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:25

ULT:

And it happened on that night that Yahweh said to him, "Take the bullock of an ox that {is} to your father and the second bullock, seven years {old}, and you shall break down the altar of Baal that {is} to your father, and you shall cut down the Asherah that {is} beside it.

UST:

Then, that same night, Yahweh told Gideon, "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 beside that altar. Use the young bull that your father owns {to pull down the altar}. But also bring another bull with you that your father owns, the one that is seven years old.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:26

ULT:

And you shall build an altar to Yahweh your God on the head of this stronghold, in the arrangement. Then you shall take the second bull and you shall offer an offering on the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down.”

UST:

Build a plain stone altar here on this hill to worship me, your God Yahweh. Take the wood from the Asherah pole that you cut down and use it to make a fire. Then burn the meat of that seven-year-old bull on that fire as a burnt offering to me.”

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

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

Judges 6:27

ULT:

So Gideon took ten men from his servants and he did according to what Yahweh had spoken to him. Now it happened, because he feared the house of his father and the men of the city from doing by day, that he did {by} night.

UST:

Then Gideon got ten of his servants and together they did what Yahweh had commanded him to do. But he was afraid of what the other members of his family and the other people who lived in the town would do to him if they found out that he had done that. So they did it at night.

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 city to do it during the day.

Judges 6:28

ULT:

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

UST:

The next morning, when the people who lived in the town got up, they saw that the altar to Baal was in ruins. The Asherah pole that had been next to it was gone. They saw that there was a new altar on the hill above the town, and on it were the remains of a bull that someone had sacrificed.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:29

ULT:

And they said, a man to his fellow, "Who has done this thing?" And they searched and sought, and they said, "Gideon, the son of Joash, has done this thing."

UST:

The people asked each other, "Who did this?" When some of the town leaders investigated, someone finally told them. So they announced publicly, "It was Gideon son of Joash who did this."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:30

ULT:

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

UST:

The men of the town came to the house of Joash. They told him, “Bring your son out here! We want to kill him to punish him for destroying the altar of our god Baal and for cutting 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 tore down the altar of Baal and because he cut down the Asherah beside it.

Judges 6:31

ULT:

But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him, may he die, still morning. If he {is} a god, let him contend for himself, since one has torn down his altar.”

UST:

But Joash {refused to bring Gideon out. He} told the hostile crowd that had gathered around his house, “You should not have to argue a case on behalf of Baal! You should not have to defend him! Anyone who thinks he needs to defend Baal is the one whom we should execute. In fact, we should execute him right now! If Baal really is 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:

And one called him on that day Jerubbaal, saying, “May Baal contend against him, since he tore down his altar.”

UST:

And that was how Gideon got the nickname Jerubbaal, which means, “Let Baal defend himself.” People said, “Yes, Baal should be the one to punish this man for tearing down his altar.”

Why was Gideon given the name, “Jerubbaal”?

Gideon was given the name “Jerubbaal” because it meant “Let Baal defend himself” and they said that Baal should be the one to punish him, since it was his altar Gideon had torn down.

Judges 6:33

ULT:

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

UST:

Soon after that, the people of Midian and Amalek and the desert tribes that were their allies sent their armies together across the Jordan River to attack the Israelites. Their soldiers set up their camp in the Valley of Jezreel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:34

ULT:

Then the Spirit of Yahweh wore Gideon, and he blew on the shofar, and he summoned Abiezer after him.

UST:

Then Yahweh's Spirit gave Gideon special strength and courage. Gideon blew a ram's horn {to call the people of Israel to join him in fighting against these invaders}. The men from his clan of Abiezer gathered to fight, with him as their commander.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:35

ULT:

And he sent messengers through all of Manasseh, and he summoned him also after him. And he sent messengers through Asher and through Zebulun and through Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

UST:

Gideon also sent messengers throughout the territory of the tribe of Manasseh to tell its soldiers to come and fight under his command. He also sent messengers throughout the territories of the tribes of Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and soldiers from those tribes came and joined his army.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:36

ULT:

Then Gideon said to God, "If you are saving Israel by my hand just as you have spoken,

UST:

Then Gideon said to God, "I want to be sure that you are truly going to enable me to rescue the Israelite people as you promised.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 6:37

ULT:

behold, I {am} putting a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If dew shall be upon the fleece alone, but on all of the ground {is} dryness, then I will know that by my hand you will save Israel just as you have spoken.”

UST:

Please confirm that by doing something for me. Tonight I will put a dry wool fleece on this place where people thresh grain. Tomorrow morning, if only the fleece is wet with dew and the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to enable me to rescue the people of Israel as you promised.”

What did Gideon do to find out if Yahweh intended to use him to save Israel?

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

Judges 6:38

ULT:

And it happened that he arose early on the next day and squeezed the fleece and wrung dew from the fleece, the fulness of a bowl {of} water.

UST:

And that is what happened. When Gideon got up the next morning, he picked up the fleece and he squeezed enough dew from it to fill a bowl with water! {But the ground all around the fleece was dry.}

When Gideon squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew, how much water was there?

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

Judges 6:39

ULT:

Then Gideon said to God, "May your nose not burn against me, but may I speak only this time. May I please test only this time with the fleece? Please may dryness be on the fleece alone, and on all of the ground may dew be."

UST:

Then Gideon said to God, "Please do not be angry with me, but I would like to ask you to do one more thing. Tonight let me put the fleece out again. This time, please let only the fleece remain dry, and let the whole ground become wet with 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:

And God did thus during that night. For dryness was on the fleece alone, and on all of the ground was dew.

UST:

And that night God did what Gideon had asked him to do. The next morning only the fleece was dry, but the whole ground was wet with dew.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7

Judges 7:1

ULT:

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

UST:

So that morning Gideon (whom people were calling Jerubbaal) got up right away and led all of his soldiers as far as the spring that people would soon call Harod. The army of Midian had camped north of there, in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:2

ULT:

And Yahweh said to Gideon, “The people who {are} with you {are} {too} many for my giving Midian into their hand, lest Israel glorify itself over me, saying, ‘My hand has saved me.’”

UST:

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

Why did Yahweh have the fearful soldiers return?

Yahweh had the fearful soldiers return so that Israel could not boast against Yahweh saying that their own power had saved them.

Judges 7:3

ULT:

So now please proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever {is} afraid and trembling, may he turn back and depart from Mount Gilead.''' And from the people 22,000 turned back, but 10,000 were left.

UST:

So I want you to make an announcement to the soldiers. Tell them, 'Any one of you who is too afraid to fight may leave this army camp and go home by way of Mount Gilead.''' When Gideon made that announcement, 22, 000 of the soldiers went home. Only 10, 000 of them stayed in the camp.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:4

ULT:

Then Yahweh said to Gideon, "Still the people {are} {too} many. Bring them down to the water, and I will refine it for you there. And it will be, {of} whom I say to you, 'This {one} shall go with you,' he shall go with you, but all {of} whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

UST:

But Yahweh told Gideon, "You still have too many soldiers! Take them down to the spring, and there I will show you which ones to bring. I will tell you which ones to take with you and which ones not to take with you."

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

Yahweh said that there were still too many soldiers and this would be the way that he would tell Gideon which ones would go with him.

Judges 7:5

ULT:

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

UST:

When Gideon took the men down to the spring, Yahweh told him, "Watch how the men drink. Put in one group the men who scoop up the water with their hands and lick it with their tongues the way dogs do. {Put in another group} the men who kneel down and put their faces in the water to drink."

How did Yahweh tell Gideon to separate the soldiers?

Yahweh told Gideon to set apart everyone who lapped up the water as a dog laps from those who knelt down to drink.

Judges 7:6

ULT:

And the number of the ones lapping with their hand to their mouth was 300 men, and all of the rest of the people knelt upon their knees to drink the water.

UST:

Now when the soldiers drank, only 300 of them used their hands to bring water to their mouths. All the others drank by kneeling down and putting their faces in the water.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:7

ULT:

Then Yahweh said to Gideon, "With the 300 men, the ones lapping, I will save you, and I will give Midian into your hand. But all the people may go, a man to his place."

UST:

Then Yahweh told Gideon, "I will use the 300 men who lapped the water from their hands to rescue Israel! I will enable you to defeat the Midianites. All the others may return to their homes."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:8

ULT:

So the people took provision into their hand and their shofars, but every man of Israel he sent away, a man to his tents, but he held onto the 300 men. Now the camp of Midian was to him from below, in the valley.

UST:

So the 300 soldiers who were staying with Gideon collected the food that the other men had brought. They also collected the ram's horns they had brought. Then Gideon sent those other men home, but he kept the 300 soldiers with him. The army of Midian was camping in the valley below Gideon and his army.

How many soldiers did Gideon keep?

Gideon kept 300 soldiers and sent the rest home.

Judges 7:9

ULT:

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

UST:

The night after all the other soldiers left, Yahweh said to Gideon, "Now is the time for you to attack the Midianites in the valley! You can be confident that I will enable you and your men to defeat them."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:10

ULT:

But if you fear to go down, go down, you and Purah your servant, to the camp,

UST:

But if you are afraid to attack the Midianites, then go secretly to their camp with Purah, your armor-bearer.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:11

ULT:

and you shall hear what they are speaking, and afterward, your hands will be strong and you shall go down against the camp.” So he went down, he and Purah his servant, to the edge of the armed {ones} who {were} in the camp.

UST:

Listen to what some of the Midianite soldiers are saying. Then you will be very encouraged, and you will be ready to attack their army.” So Gideon took Purah with him and they went secretly to where sentries were guarding the enemy camp.

If Gideon was afraid, what would strengthen Gideon’s courage?

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 7:12

ULT:

Now Midian and Amalek and all of the sons of the east were lying in the valley like the locust in multitude. And to their camels there was not a number, like the sand that {is} along the edge of the sea in multitude.

UST:

The armies of the people of Midian and Amalek and the desert tribes that were their allies had set up their tents in the valley. They seemed to have as many soldiers as there are locusts in a swarm. It seemed that their camels were too many to count, like the number of grains of sand on the seashore.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:13

ULT:

And Gideon came, and behold, a man was recounting a dream to his comrade. And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a loaf of bread of barley was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came to the tent and struck it and it fell, for it overturned it upwards, and the tent fell."

UST:

But Gideon and Purah crept close to the edge of the camp. There they heard one man telling a friend about a dream. The man said, "I just had a dream, and in it I saw a round loaf of barley bread rolling down into our Midianite camp. When it reached a tent, it hit it so hard that the tent turned upside down and collapsed!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:14

ULT:

And his comrade answered and said, "This {is} nothing except if {it is} the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, the man of Israel. God has given into his hand Midian and all of the camp."

UST:

His friend replied, "Your dream can mean only one thing. It means that God is going to enable Gideon son of Joash, that Israelite man, to lead his soldiers to defeat our combined armies from Midian and its allies."

When one man was telling a dream to his companion, who did the companion say the dream was about?

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 7:15

ULT:

And it happened, when Gideon heard the recounting of the dream and its interpretation, that he bowed down. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for Yahweh has given the camp of Midian into your hand!"

UST:

When Gideon heard the man tell about his dream and his friend say what it meant, he thanked God {for the victory that the Israelites were going to win}. Then he and Purah returned to the Israelite camp. Gideon shouted to the men, "Now is the time to attack! Yahweh is going to enable us to defeat the Midianite army!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:16

ULT:

Then he divided the 300 men {into} three companies, and he put shofars in the hand of all of them, and empty jars, and torches inside of the jars.

UST:

Gideon then divided his 300 soldiers into three groups. He gave each soldier a ram's horn {to blow as a trumpet}. He also gave each one a torch and an empty clay jar to cover the torch and hide its light.

What did Gideon give his 300 soldiers?

Gideon gave them all ram's horns and empty jars, with a torch inside each jar.

Judges 7:17

ULT:

And he said to them, "You shall look at me, and thus you shall do. And behold, {as} I am arriving at the edge of the camp, then it shall be, just as I do, thus shall you do.

UST:

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:

And I will blow on the shofar, I and all who {are} with me, and you shall blow on the shofars, also you, around all of the camp. And you shall say, 'For Yahweh and for Gideon!'"

UST:

I will be leading one group of soldiers. As soon as we blow our ram's horns, you men in the other two groups surrounding the camp must blow your horns too. Then shout, 'We are Yahweh's army! We are Gideon's army!'"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:19

ULT:

So Gideon and the 100 men who {were} with him came to the edge of the camp, {at} the start of the middle watch. Stationing, they had just stationed the guards, and they blew on the shofars and shattered the jars that {were} in their hand.

UST:

A new group of guards was just replacing the guards who had been watching the camp since the start of the night. That was when Gideon and the 100 men with him arrived at the edge of the Midianite camp. They suddenly blew their horns and broke the jars they were carrying. {The torches that had been inside the jars shone brightly.}

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

Just as the Midianites were changing the guard, Gideon's men blew on the ram's horns and broke the jars that were in their hands.

Judges 7:20

ULT:

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

UST:

Then the men in all three groups blew their horns and smashed their jars. They held the torches high with their left hands {so that the light would awaken and frighten the Midianites}. They held up the horns with their right hands and alternately blew them and shouted, "We are Yahweh's army! We are Gideon's army!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:21

ULT:

And they stood, a man in his place, around the camp, and all of the camp ran and cried out and fled.

UST:

Each of Gideon's men stayed in position all around the enemy camp. All of the enemy soldiers started running around and sounding the alarm and trying to escape.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:22

ULT:

And they blew the 300 shofars, and Yahweh set the sword of a man against his comrade and against all of the camp. And the camp fled unto Beth Shittah, toward Zererah, unto the edge of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

UST:

While the 300 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 others ran away. Some fled south to the town of Beth Shittah. Some fled to the town of Zererah. Others ran away as far as the outskirts of the town of Abel Meholah, near the town of Tabbath.

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

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

Judges 7:23

ULT:

Then a man of Israel from Naphtali and from Asher and from all of Manasseh was summoned, and they pursued after Midian.

UST:

Then Gideon sent messengers to the Israelite men who lived in the territories of the tribes of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh. The messengers got them to come and help finish defeating the army of Midian.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 7:24

ULT:

And Gideon sent messengers through all of the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down to meet Midian and capture before them the waters unto Beth Barah and the Jordan." So every man of Ephraim was summoned, and they captured the waters unto Beth Barah and the Jordan.

UST:

Gideon sent messengers throughout the hilly area where the tribe of Ephraim lived. The messengers told the men there, "Go down and attack the fleeing Midianite soldiers. So that those soldiers do not escape, put guards at the shallow places where people can wade across rivers and streams. Put guards at the crossings of the streams in the area of Beth Barah and the crossings of the Jordan River." So the men of Ephraim came and put guards in those places.

How far did the men of Ephraim take control of the waters?

The men of Ephraim put guards at the shallow river crossings as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan River.

Judges 7:25

ULT:

And they captured the two commanders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. And they chased after Midian, and they brought the head of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, from across the Jordan.

UST:

They also captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two rulers who were commanding the Midianite army. They found Oreb hiding in a cave in a big rock. They killed him there, and that is why people now call it the Rock of Oreb. They found Zeeb hiding in a pit where people press grapes to make wine. They killed him there, and that is why people now call it the Winepress of Zeeb. The Israelites cut off the heads of Oreb and Zeeb so they could bring them to Gideon. They pursued the Midianites across the Jordan River, and they met Gideon there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8

Judges 8:1

ULT:

And the men of Ephraim said to him, “What {is} this thing you have done to us, not calling to us when you went to fight against Midian?” And they contended with him in strength.

UST:

Then the soldiers from the tribe of Ephraim told Gideon, “You have not treated us fairly! You should have given us the opportunity to help you fight against the army of Midian!” They argued very angrily with Gideon.

Why did the men of Ephraim argue with Gideon?

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

Judges 8:2

ULT:

But he said to them, "What have I now done like you? {Are} not the gleanings of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

UST:

But Gideon told them, "I have done very little compared with what you have done! It is as if I and my soldiers from the clan of Abiezer and other Israelite tribes harvested a crop of grapes. And it is as if you soldiers from the tribe of Ephraim came along after us and collected the few grapes that we had left on the vines. And it is as if those few grapes you collected were better than the whole crop that we harvested."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:3

ULT:

God has given into your hand the commanders of Midian, Oreb, and Zeeb! So what was I able to do like you?" Then their spirit abated toward him, upon him speaking this word.

UST:

God enabled you to capture Oreb and Zeeb, the rulers who were commanding the Midianite army. What you did is much more important than what I was able to do!" After Gideon told them that, they were no longer angry with him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:4

ULT:

Then Gideon came to the Jordan. Crossing over, he and the 300 men who {were} with him {were} weary, but pursuing.

UST:

Then Gideon and his 300 men came to the Jordan River and crossed it. They were very tired, but they continued to chase their enemies.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:5

ULT:

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

UST:

When they arrived at the town of Succoth, Gideon said to the town leaders, "Please give my soldiers something to eat. They are tired and hungry, and we are still trying to capture the Midianite kings, Zebah and Zalmunna."

For what did Gideon ask the men of Succoth?

Gideon asked the men of Succoth for loaves of bread for his soldiers.

Judges 8:6

ULT:

But the leaders of Succoth said, “{Is} the palm of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that {we are} giving bread to your army?”

UST:

But the leaders of Succoth replied, “You have not caught Zebah and Zalmunna yet! So we are not going to give your troops anything to eat.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:7

ULT:

So Gideon said, "Therefore, in the giving of Yahweh {of} Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will thrash your flesh with thorns of the wilderness and briers."

UST:

Gideon replied, "Because you have refused to give us food, we will return here after Yahweh enables us to capture Zebah and Zalmunna. We are going to make whips out of the stems of thorny desert plants. Then we are going to use them to whip you and cut you!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:8

ULT:

Then he went up from there {to} Penuel, and he spoke to them like this, but the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered.

UST:

Next Gideon and his 300 men went to the town of Penuel and asked for food there. But the town leaders of Penuel also refused to give them anything to eat.

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 had refused.

Judges 8:9

ULT:

And he said also to the men of Penuel, saying, "In my returning in peace, I will tear down this tower."

UST:

So Gideon told the town leaders of Penuel, "I am going to defeat those kings. Then I will come back here and demolish your tower{, which you think is going to protect you}!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:10

ULT:

Now Zebah and Zalmunna {were} in Karkor and their camps {were} with them, about 15, 000, all of the {ones} remaining from all of the camp of the sons of the east, and the {ones} having fallen {were} 120, 000 men drawing the sword.

UST:

By that time, Zebah and Zalmunna had gone to the town of Karkor with 15,000 troops. Those were all who were left of the armies of Midian, Amalek, and the desert tribes that were their allies. Of their fighting men, 120,000 had already died.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:11

ULT:

Then Gideon went up the road of the {ones} lodged in tents, from the east to Nobah and Jogbehah. And he struck the camp, and the camp was {in} security.

UST:

Gideon and his men took the road through the wilderness on which caravans travel. This took them east of the villages of Nobah and Jogbehah. The Midianite soldiers were feeling safe out in the wilderness, so Gideon was able to attack them by surprise.

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

Gideon defeated the enemy army because they were feeling safe and not expecting an attack.

Judges 8:12

ULT:

Then Zebah and Zalmunna fled, but he pursued after them, and he captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna. And he made all of the camp tremble.

UST:

When Gideon and his soldiers attacked, the Midianite army panicked and ran away. Zebah and Zalmunna tried to escape, but Gideon and his soldiers chased them. And they captured those two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:13

ULT:

Then Gideon, the son of Joash, returned from the battle through the Ascent of Heres.

UST:

After that, Gideon the son of Joash and his men {took Zebah and Zalmunna with them} and started to return home. They went through the Ascent of Heres.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:14

ULT:

And he captured a youth from the men of Succoth and he questioned him. And he wrote for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, 77 men.

UST:

Gideon was able to capture a young man who lived in Succoth. Gideon made him tell him who were all the leaders and elders of the town. The young man wrote down the names of all 77 of those men.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:15

ULT:

Then he went to the men of Succoth and said, “Behold, Zebah and Zalmunna, {about} whom you taunted me, saying, ‘Is the palm of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we {are} giving bread to your weary men?’”

UST:

Then Gideon and his men went into Succoth and said to those leaders, “Here are Zebah and Zalmunna! When we were here before, you made fun of me. You said ‘You have not caught Zebah and Zalmunna yet! So we are not going to give your hungry troops anything to eat.’”

Whom did Gideon show to the men of Succoth before he punished them?

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

Judges 8:16

ULT:

And took the elders of the city and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and he taught the men of Succoth with them.

UST:

Then Gideon and his men grabbed the town leaders. They made whips from the stems of thorny desert plants, and they whipped the town leaders with them. They did that to punish the leaders for not giving them food.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:17

ULT:

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

UST:

Then Gideon and his men went to the town of Penuel. They tore down the tower and killed men in that town.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:18

ULT:

Then he said to Zebah and to Zalmunna, “Where {are} the men whom you killed at Tabor?” And they said, “As you {are}, so they {were}. Each {was} like the form of the sons of the king.”

UST:

Then Gideon said to Zebah and Zalmunna, “You and your soldiers killed some men near Mount Tabor. Tell me about those men.” They replied, “They looked like you. They all looked like royal princes.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:19

ULT:

And he said, "They {were} my brothers, the sons of my mother! The life of Yahweh, if you had let them live, I would not have killed you."

UST:

Gideon replied, "Those men were my own brothers! I swear by Yahweh that I would spare your lives now if you had spared their lives then."

What men did Zebah and Zalmunna kill at Tabor?

Zebah and Zalmunna killed Gideon's brothers.

Judges 8:20

ULT:

Then he said to Jether his firstborn, "Arise, kill them!" But the youth did not draw his sword, for he feared, for he {was} still a youth.

UST:

Then Gideon turned to his oldest son, Jether. He told him, "Now you kill these two kings!" But Jether was still only a boy, so 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; he was still a young boy.

Judges 8:21

ULT:

Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, “Arise yourself and strike us! For like a man {is} his strength.” So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the ornaments that {were} on the necks of their camels.

UST:

Then Zebah and Zalmunna said to Gideon, “Do not ask a boy to do the work that a man should do! You kill us yourself.” So Gideon killed both of them. Then he took the golden crescent-shaped ornaments that their camels were wearing.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:22

ULT:

Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son and the son of your son, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian."

UST:

Then the soldiers whom Gideon had led into battle told him, "You should be our king! In fact, we want you and your son and your grandson to be our kings. That is because you rescued us from the Midianites who were oppressing us."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:23

ULT:

But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you myself, and my son will not rule over you. Yahweh will rule over you."

UST:

But Gideon told them, "No, I will not be your king. My son will not be your king either. Yahweh is your real king."

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:

But Gideon said to them, "Let me request a request from you, that a man give to me an earring of his spoil." For earrings of gold {were} to them, for they {were} Ishmaelites.

UST:

But he added, "There is one thing that I would like you to do for me. Would each of you please give me one earring from the things you captured after the battle?" (The Midianite soldiers were descendants of Ishmael, and it was their custom to wear golden earrings.)

For what did Gideon ask the men of Israel?

Gideon asked them for the earrings from their spoil.

Judges 8:25

ULT:

And they said, "Giving, we will give." And they spread out a cloak, and a man threw an earring of his spoil there.

UST:

They replied, "We will each be glad to give an earring to you!" So they spread out a large garment on the ground. Then each man threw a gold earring onto it from the things he had taken from the enemy soldiers he had killed in the battle.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:26

ULT:

Now the weight of the earrings of gold that he requested {was} 1,700 gold, apart from the ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes that {were} on the kings of Midian and apart from the chains that were on the necks of their camels.

UST:

The golden earrings that Gideon received weighed a total of over 20 kilograms. That weight did not include some other things that Gideon received. He also received gold, jewels, and luxurious purple robes that the Midianite kings had been wearing and gold chains that had been around their camels' necks.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:27

ULT:

Then Gideon made it into an ephod and placed it in his city, in Ophrah, and all of Israel whored after it there. And it was for a snare to Gideon and to his house.

UST:

Gideon used the gold to make a sacred garment. He set it up in his hometown of Ophrah. The people of Israel started going there to worship it, instead of worshiping only Yahweh. Gideon and his family had great trouble because of this.

What did Gideon make out of the earrings?

Gideon made an sacred garment out of the earrings.

What did Israel do to the golden ephod?

Israel worshiped the ephod.

Judges 8:28

ULT:

So Midian was subdued to the face of the sons of Israel, and they did not continue to lift their head. And the land rested forty years in the days of Gideon.

UST:

So that is the story of how the Israelites defeated the army of Midian. The people of Midian did not become strong enough to attack Israel again. So while Gideon was alive, Israel was a peaceful place for 40 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:29

ULT:

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

UST:

Then Gideon son of Joash, whom people also called Jerubbaal, went back home to live there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:30

ULT:

Now to Gideon were 70 sons coming from his thigh, for many wives were to him.

UST:

Gideon had many full legal wives, and they bore him 70 sons.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:31

ULT:

And his concubine, who {was} in Shechem, bore to him, she too, a son, and he made his name Abimelech.

UST:

Gideon also had a secondary wife in the city of Shechem. She too bore him a son, and Gideon named him Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:32

ULT:

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

UST:

Gideon son of Joash lived for a long time. When he died, his family buried his body in the burial ground that his father Joash owned. This was in the town of Ophrah in the territory that belonged to the clan of Abiezer.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:33

ULT:

Now it happened, when Gideon died, that the sons of Israel turned and whored after the Baals. And they made for themselves Baal-Berith as a god.

UST:

But as soon as Gideon died, the Israelites were unfaithful to Yahweh. They once again worshiped idols that represented gods such as Baal. They made an idol that they called Baal-Berith, and they worshiped it as their god.

What happened as soon as Gideon was dead?

As soon as Gideon was dead, the people of Israel turned again and worshiped the Baals.

Judges 8:34

ULT:

And the sons of Israel did not remember Yahweh, their God, the one having delivered them from the hand of all of their enemies from around.

UST:

The enemy nations that surrounded the Israelites had conquered them. Yahweh their God had rescued the Israelites from their control. But they were not grateful for this.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 8:35

ULT:

And they did not do covenant faithfulness with the house of Jerubbaal, Gideon, according to all of the good that he did with Israel.

UST:

Gideon, whom people also called Jerubbaal, had done many good things for the Israelites. But they did not act kindly toward his family.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9

Judges 9:1

ULT:

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 clan of the house of the father of his mother, saying,

UST:

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

Who was Abimelech's father?

Abimelech's father was Gideon who was also called Jerubbaal.

Judges 9:2

ULT:

“Please speak in the ears of all of the lords of Shechem, ‘What is better for you, 70 men ruling over you, all of the sons of Jerubbaal, or one man ruling over you?’ Now remember that I {am} your bone and your flesh.”

UST:

“I want you to gather all the leaders of Shechem. Tell them, ‘It would not be good to have all 70 of Gideon’s sons rule over us. It would be better to have only one man, Abimelech, rule over us.’ And do not forget that I am a part of your family!”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:3

ULT:

And the brothers of his mother spoke all of these things for him in the ears of all of the lords of Shechem, and their heart turned after Abimelech, for they said, “He {is} our brother.”

UST:

So Abimelech’s mother’s brothers gathered all the leaders of Shechem. They told them everything that Abimelech wanted them to say. The leaders decided to allow Abimelech to rule over them, considering that he was their relative.

Why did the leaders of Shechem agree to follow Abimelech?

They agreed to follow Abimelech because he was their relative.

Judges 9:4

ULT:

Then they gave 70 silver to him from the house of Baal-Berith, and with them Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men, and they went after him.

UST:

So the leaders of Shechem took about a kilogram of silver from the temple of their god Baal-Berith and gave it to Abimelech. He used that money to hire some wicked and violent men. They did whatever he told them to do.

For what did Abimelech use the 70 pieces of silver?

Abimelech used the 70 pieces of silver to hire wicked and violent men.

Judges 9:5

ULT:

Then he went {to} the house of his father in Ophrah and he killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, 70 men upon one stone. But Jotham was left, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, for he had hidden himself.

UST:

Abimelech and the men he had hired went to Ophrah, his father's town. There they murdered his 70 brothers, the sons of his father Gideon. They brought each one of them to a huge rock and killed him there. But Gideon's youngest son Jotham escaped because he hid from Abimelech and his men.

Why was Jotham not murdered?

Jotham was not murdered because he hid himself.

Judges 9:6

ULT:

Then all of the lords of Shechem and all of Beth Millo gathered themselves, and they went and made Abimelech reign as king beside the oak of the pillar that {was} in Shechem.

UST:

Then all the town leaders of Shechem and the officers from the nearby fort gathered next to the pillar under the big sacred tree at Shechem. There they appointed Abimelech to be their king.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:7

ULT:

And they declared to Jotham, and he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and he lifted his voice and cried out and said to them, "Listen to me, lords of Shechem, that God may listen to you!"

UST:

When Jotham heard about that, he climbed high up on Mount Gerizim. From where he was standing, he shouted very loudly to the people below, "You leaders of Shechem, pay attention to what I say, or God will not answer your prayers!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:8

ULT:

Going, the trees went to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.'

UST:

One day the trees decided to choose one tree to be their king. First they told the olive tree, 'We would like you to be our king.'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:9

ULT:

But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I discontinue my fatness, which, by it, they honor gods and men, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST:

But the olive tree replied, 'I produce olives, and people make oil from them. They put the oil in sacrifices that they offer, and they use it to anoint people whom they want to honor. It is much more important for me to keep producing olives than to wander around settling matters for other trees as a king would do. {So I will not be your king.}'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:10

ULT:

So the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come, you reign over us.'

UST:

So the trees told the fig tree, 'Then we want you to be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:11

ULT:

But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I discontinue my sweetness and my good fruit, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST:

But the fig tree replied, 'I produce figs. They are good to eat, and they taste sweet. It is much more important for me to keep producing figs than to wander around settling matters for other trees as a king would do. {So I will not be your king.}'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:12

ULT:

So the trees said to the vine, 'Come, you reign over us.'

UST:

So the trees told the grapevine, 'Then we want you to be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:13

ULT:

But the vine said to them, 'Should I discontinue my new wine, cheering gods and men, that I should go to wave over the trees?'

UST:

But the grapevine replied, 'I produce grapes, and people produce new wine from them. That new wine causes gods and people to be happy. It is much more important for me to keep producing grapes than to wander around settling matters for other trees as a king would do. {So I will not be your king.}'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:14

ULT:

So all of the trees said to the thornbush, 'Come, you reign over us.'

UST:

So all of the trees finally told the thornbush, 'Then we want you to be our king!'

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:15

ULT:

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

UST:

The thornbush said to the trees, 'If you sincerely want to appoint me to be your king, then accept my protection and obey my commands. But be sure that you are sincere, because if you do not obey me, then I will start a fire that will burn up all of you, even the biggest trees, such as the cedar trees in the country of Lebanon!''

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:16

ULT:

So now, if you have acted in truth and in integrity and made Abimelech reign, and if you have done good with Jerubbaal and with his house, and if according to the deserving of his hands you have done to him,

UST:

After Jotham finished telling them this parable, he said, “Now you must consider whether you have truly done the right thing by making Abimelech your king. You must consider whether you have treated Gideon and his family properly. You must consider whether you have treated him the way he deserved for what he did.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:17

ULT:

that my father fought for you and threw his life in front and delivered you from the hand of Midian—

UST:

Remember what my father did for you. He led the Israelites into battle against the Midianites. He was willing to die if necessary to rescue you from their power.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:18

ULT:

but today you have arisen against the house of my father and have killed his sons, 70 men upon one stone, and you have made Abimelech, the son of his female slave, reign over the lords of Shechem because he is your brother—

UST:

But now you have rebelled against my father's family. You have murdered 70 of his sons on one huge rock. And you have appointed Abimelech to be the king who will rule you people of Shechem. {You think he will treat you well} because he is your relative. {But he has no right to be a king, since} he is only the son of my father's slave girl, not of one of his full legal wives.

On what day did Jotham address the leaders of Shechem?

Jotham addressed them on the same day that they had risen up against his father's house and killed 70 of his sons.

Judges 9:19

ULT:

now if you have acted in truth and in integrity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, rejoice in Abimelech, and may he also rejoice in you.

UST:

Now if you truly have done the right thing toward Gideon and his family, then may you now be happy that Abimelech is your king, and may he also be happy that you are his subjects.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:20

ULT:

But if not, may fire go forth from Abimelech, and may it consume the lords of Shechem and Beth Millo, and may fire go forth from the lords of Shechem and from Beth Millo, and may it consume Abimelech.”

UST:

But if what you did was not right, then I hope that Abimelech destroys you leaders of Shechem and you officers from the fort, and I hope that you destroy him!”

What was the curse of Jotham?

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

Judges 9:21

ULT:

Then Jotham escaped and fled, and he went to Beer. And he dwelled there from the face of Abimelech his brother.

UST:

After Jotham finished saying all of this, the leaders of Shechem tried to capture him, but he got away from them. He ran away to the town of Beer. He stayed there so that his half-brother Abimelech would not be able to kill him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:22

ULT:

And Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

UST:

For the next three years, Abimelech ruled as the king of the city of Shechem. Many Israelites also accepted him as their king.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:23

ULT:

Then God sent a bad spirit between Abimelech and between the lords of Shechem, and the lords of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

UST:

Then God made Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem hostile toward each other. The leaders of Shechem started plotting against Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:24

ULT:

the violence of the 70 sons of Jerubbaal to come, and their blood to put, upon Abimelech their brother who killed them and upon the lords of Shechem who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

UST:

The 70 sons of Jerubbaal were Abimelech's half-brothers, but he hired men to kill them. The leaders of Shechem gave him the money to have men kill his half-brothers. {So God made them enemies so that} they would suffer violently, just as they had caused others to suffer violently. God did this to punish them for the murders they had committed.

Why did God allow the leaders of Shechem to deal treacherously with Abimelech?

God allowed the leaders of Shechem to deal treacherously with Abimelech so that the violence done to the 70 sons of Jerubbaal might be avenged.

Judges 9:25

ULT:

And the lords of Shechem put ambushers against him on the tops of the hills, and they robbed everyone who passed by them on the road, and it was told to Abimelech.

UST:

The leaders of Shechem decided not to rely on Abimelech anymore. Instead, they had some of their men hide up high on the hills around the city. {From there these men could see travelers approaching, and they surprised them} and robbed them when they got close. Abimelech heard about what they were doing.

Who did the leaders of Shechem hope to ambush?

The leaders of Shechem hoped to ambush Abimelech.

Judges 9:26

ULT:

Then Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his brothers and they went over into Shechem. And the lords of Shechem trusted in him.

UST:

Then Gaal son of Ebed moved into the city of Shechem along with a group of men he commanded. The leaders of Shechem liked him and welcomed him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:27

ULT:

And they went out {into} the field and cut off their vineyards and trod, and they made offerings and went {into} the house of their god, and they ate and drank and cursed Abimelech.

UST:

Then the people who lived in Shechem went out to their vineyards to pick some grapes. They pressed the grapes to make juice, and from the juice they made wine. They brought some of the wine as an offering into the temple of their god Baal-Berith. There they had a big feast and drank a lot of wine. Then they started cursing Abimelech.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:28

ULT:

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 {is not} Zebul his deputy? Serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem. But we, why should we serve him?”

UST:

Gaal son of Ebed said, “We should not allow Abimelech to rule over us! His mother was from Shechem, but his father was Jerubbaal{, an Israelite}. So he is not really one of us! {We should not allow} Zebul {to rule over us either, since} it was Abimelech who appointed him as governor of our city. Instead, our ruler should be one of the descendants of Hamor, who founded our city of Shechem. We should not be allowing a foreigner like Abimelech to rule us.

Who wished the people would serve him instead of Abimelech?

Gaal wished the people would serve him.

Judges 9:29

ULT:

Now who will give this people into my hand? Then I would remove Abimelech.” And he said to Abimelech, “Increase your army and come out.”

UST:

*If you appoint me to be your leader, I will make Abimelech stop being your leader.”
Then Gaal boasted that he would not be afraid to fight Abimelech and his whole army.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:30

ULT:

And Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal, the son of Ebed, and his nose burned.

UST:

When Zebul, the governor of Shechem, heard Gaal son of Ebed talking {about Abimelech} this way, he became very angry.

When was Zebul's anger kindled?

When Zebul heard what Gaal was saying about removing Abimelech, he became angry.

Judges 9:31

ULT:

And he sent messengers to Abimelech in deceit, saying, "Behold, Gaal, the son of Ebed, and his brothers {are} come to Shechem, and behold, {they are} inciting the city against you.

UST:

But Zebul did not show that he was angry. He sent messengers to warn Abimelech, but he pretended he was sending them for some other reason. The messengers told Abimelech, "Be careful! A certain man, Gaal son of Ebed, has brought a group of men that he commands to Shechem. You need to know that they are getting the people who live in Shechem to rebel against you.

Why did Zebul send messengers to Abimelech?

He sent messengers to Abimelech in order to warn him that Gaal, the son of Ebed, was inciting the city against him.

Judges 9:32

ULT:

So now arise {at} night, you and the people who {are} with you, and hide in the field.

UST:

So you and your troops should come here at night{, when no one will see you,} and hide in the area outside the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:33

ULT:

And it shall happen in the morning, as the sun rises, you shall start early and you shall rush against the city. And behold, he and the people who {are} with him {will be} coming out against you, and you shall do to him according to what your hand finds.”

UST:

That way, in the morning, as soon as it becomes light, you can immediately attack the city. Gaal and his men will surely come out of the city to fight against you, and when they do, you can do whatever you want to him.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:34

ULT:

So Abimelech and all of the people who {were} with him arose {at} night, and they ambushed against Shechem, {in} four companies.

UST:

So Abimelech and all of his troops 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:

And Gaal, the son of Ebed, went out and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city, and Abimelech and the people who {were} with him arose from the ambush.

UST:

{The next morning,} Gaal went out and stood at the city gate. {While he was standing there,} Abimelech and his soldiers came out of their hiding places and started coming toward him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:36

ULT:

And Gaal saw the people and he said to Zebul, "Behold, a people {is} coming down from the tops of the hills!" But Zebul said to him, "The shadow of the hills, you {are} seeing as men."

UST:

When Gaal saw the soldiers, he said to Zebul, "Look! There is a group of people coming down from the hills!" But Zebul said, "You are just seeing the shadow that one hill casts on another as the sun gets higher in the sky. That dark shape is not a group of people. It only looks like one."

How did Zebul describe the men Gaal saw coming down the hills?

Zebul said they were shadows of the hills.

Judges 9:37

ULT:

And Gaal resumed to speak more and he said, "Behold, people {are} coming down from the navel of the land, and one company {is} coming along the way of the Oak of the Diviners."

UST:

But Gaal {kept watching and} spoke again. He said to Zebul, "Look! I do see groups of people coming down that central hill! I also see a group coming towards us along the road that goes past the Oak of the Diviners."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:38

ULT:

Then Zebul said to him, “Where now {is} your mouth, {by} which you said, ‘Who {is} Abimelech, that we should serve him?’ {Is} this not the people that you despised? Indeed, go out now and fight with it.”

UST:

Then Zebul said to Gaal, “Earlier you spoke boastfully. You said, ‘We should not allow Abimelech to rule over us!’ That is who you see coming: the army that you said you could easily defeat. So now that they are here, 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:

So Gaal went out to the face of the lords of Shechem, and he fought with Abimelech.

UST:

So Gaal and his men went out of the city and fought against the army of Abimelech. The leaders of Shechem were watching {to see what would happen}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:40

ULT:

And Abimelech pursued him, and he fled from his face. And many wounded fell, up to the entrance of the gate.

UST:

Abimelech and his men {defeated them and} chased them when they ran away. They stabbed and killed many of Gaal's men all the way back to the city gate of Shechem.

What happened when Gaal fought Abimelech?

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

Judges 9:41

ULT:

Then Abimelech dwelt in Arumah. And Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers from dwelling in Shechem.

UST:

Abimelech then went to the nearby town of Arumah. Zebul forced Gaal and the group of men he commanded to leave Shechem, where they had been living.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:42

ULT:

And it happened on the next day that the people went out {to} the field, and they reported {this} to Abimelech.

UST:

Then, the next day, the people of Shechem were getting ready to leave the city and go out and work in their fields. Someone told Abimelech what they were going to do.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:43

ULT:

So he took the people and divided them into three companies and hid in the field. Then he saw and behold, the people {were} gone out from the city, and he arose against them and killed them.

UST:

So Abimelech divided his men into three groups and had them hide in the fields around Shechem. Then, once they saw that the people were out in the fields away from the city, they got up and attacked them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:44

ULT:

For Abimelech and the companies that {were} with him rushed out. And they stood {at} the entrance of the gate of the city, while two of the companies rushed against all who {were} in the field and killed them.

UST:

When Abimelech and his soldiers came out of hiding, he and one group of them ran to the city gate {and blocked it}. The other two groups of soldiers ran out to the fields and killed the people of Shechem who were there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:45

ULT:

And Abimelech fought with the city all of that day. And he captured the city, and he killed the people who {were} in it. Then he tore down the city and sowed it {with} salt.

UST:

Abimelech and his soldiers fought against the people of Shechem all that day. When they finally conquered the city, they killed all the people who lived there. They tore down all of the buildings. Then they threw salt over the ruins to show that they never wanted anyone to live there again.

What did Abimelech do after he captured the city?

Abimelech killed the people, tore down the city, and spread salt over it.

Judges 9:46

ULT:

And all of the lords of the tower of Shechem heard, and they entered into the citadel of the house of El-Berith.

UST:

A group of soldiers lived in a fortress near Shechem that had a defensive tower. When their commanders heard what had happened, all of them went 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 citadel of the house of El-Berith.

Judges 9:47

ULT:

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

UST:

Somebody told Abimelech that the commanders of the fortress near Shechem had all gone inside it.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:48

ULT:

So Abimelech went up Mount Zalmon, he and all of the people who {were} with him, and Abimelech took axes in his hand. And he cut a branch of the trees and lifted it and set {it} on his shoulder and said to the people who {were} with him, "What you have seen I have done, hurry, do like me."

UST:

So Abimelech and all of his soldiers went onto the slopes of {nearby} Mount Zalmon. They brought axes with them. Abimelech cut a large branch from a tree and put it on his shoulder. He told all of his soldiers, "Quickly, all of you cut branches as you just saw me do!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:49

ULT:

So all the people also cut, a man a branch, and they went after Abimelech. And they set {them} against the citadel, and they burned the citadel upon them with fire. So all of the men of the tower of Shechem also died, about 1,000 men and women.

UST:

So each one of the soldiers also cut a branch, {and they carried them down the mountain,} following Abimelech. They went to the fortress and piled the branches against its walls. Then they set the branches on fire. About 1,000 men and women were inside the tower near Shechem. The fire burned up the fortress and killed all of them too.

How did Abimelech kill all the leaders and people in the tower of Shechem?

Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, piled branches around the fortress and set it on fire, killing all the people in it.

Judges 9:50

ULT:

Then Abimelech went to Thebez and encamped against Thebez, and he captured it.

UST:

After that, Abimelech and his soldiers went to the town of Thebez{, whose people had also rebelled against him}. They surrounded it and conquered it.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:51

ULT:

But a strong tower was in the midst of the city, and all of the men and women and all of the lords of the city fled there. And they closed {it} behind them and went up onto the roof of the tower.

UST:

But the people of that city had built a tower where they would be safe if someone attacked them. Many men and women from the city, including its leaders, ran to the tower. Once they were 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:

Then Abimelech came to the tower and fought with it. And he came near to the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire.

UST:

Abimelech and his soldiers came to the tower to try to kill the people who were in it. Abimelech went right up to the tower to start a fire that would burn it down.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:53

ULT:

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

UST:

But when Abimelech came near the tower, a woman who was on the roof dropped a large grinding stone on his head. It cracked the bone of his skull.

When Abimelech came near the entrance of the tower of Thebez, what happened to him?

When Abimelech came near the entrance of the tower of Thebez, a woman on the roof dropped a millstone on his head and it crushed his skull.

Judges 9:54

ULT:

Then he cried hastily to the young man bearing his armor and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest they say about me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man stabbed him, and he died.

UST:

The servant who was carrying Abimelech's weapons was nearby. Abimelech quickly ordered him, "Pull out your sword and kill me with it! I do not want people to say about me, 'A woman killed Abimelech.'" So the servant stabbed Abimelech with his sword, and that killed him.

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:

And the men of Israel saw that Abimelech had died, and they went away, a man to his place.

UST:

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:

So God turned back the evil of Abimelech, which he did to his father by killing his 70 brothers.

UST:

In that way, God punished Abimelech for murdering all 70 of his brothers. When Abimelech did that, he did a wicked thing to his father.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 9:57

ULT:

And all of the evil of the men of Shechem, God turned back upon their head, and the curse of Jotham, the son of Jerubbaal, came upon them.

UST:

God also punished the people of Shechem for all the wicked things that they had done. Jotham son of Gideon had said that Abimelech would destroy them, and that is what happened.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10

Judges 10:1

ULT:

Now after Abimelech, Tola, the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, arose to save Israel. And he {was} dwelling in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim.

UST:

After Abimelech died, Tola, the son of Puah and grandson of Dodo became a leader. He rescued the Israelites from their enemies. He belonged to the tribe of Issachar. However, he lived in the town of Shamir 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:

And he judged Israel 23 years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir.

UST:

Tola was the leader of the Israelites for 23 years. When he died, his family buried him in Shamir.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:3

ULT:

And after him Jair the Gileadite arose. And he judged Israel 22 years.

UST:

After Tola died, Jair from the region of Gilead became a leader. He was the leader of the Israelites for 22 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:4

ULT:

And it was to him 30 sons, riding on 30 donkeys. And 30 cities {were} to them, they call them Havvoth Jair to this day, which {are} in the land of Gilead.

UST:

He had 30 sons, and he gave each of them his own donkey to ride on. They lived in 30 cities in the region of Gilead. People still call those cities Havvoth Jair.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:5

ULT:

Then Jair died, and he was buried in Kamon.

UST:

When Jair died, his family buried him in the town of Kamon.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:6

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel resumed to do evil in the eyes of Yahweh. And they served the Baals and the Ashtoreths and the gods of Aram and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook Yahweh and did not serve him.

UST:

Once again the Israelites did things that Yahweh said were very wicked. They worshiped various idols that represented gods such as Baal. They also worshiped female fertility goddesses such as Ashtoreth. They also worshiped the gods that people worshiped in the countries of Aram and Moab and in the city of Sidon. And they worshiped the gods that the Ammonites and Philistines worshiped. But they did not worship Yahweh at all anymore.

Why did Yahweh burn with anger toward the people of Israel?

The people of Israel forsook Yahweh and no longer served him, so he became angry with Israel.

Judges 10:7

ULT:

Then the nose of Yahweh burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the sons of Ammon.

UST:

So Yahweh became very angry with the Israelites, and he allowed the Philistines and Ammonites to conquer them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:8

ULT:

And they shattered and crushed the sons of Israel in that year. {For} 18 years, all the sons of Israel who {were} on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which {is} in Gilead.

UST:

For 18 years, the Amorites had already been oppressing all the people of Israel who lived in the area east of the Jordan River. That land formerly belonged to the Amorites. (People also call it Gilead.) But now they began to oppress all of the Israelites severely.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:9

ULT:

Then the sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also with Judah and with Benjamin and with the house of Ephraim, and it narrowed to Israel greatly.

UST:

The Ammonites crossed over the Jordan River and also fought against the people of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim. They made the Israelites suffer terribly.

Why was Israel greatly distressed?

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

Judges 10:10

ULT:

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

UST:

So the Israelites prayed desperately to Yahweh. They said, “We have sinned against you. We have stopped worshiping you, and instead we have been worshiping idols representing false gods such as Baal.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:11

ULT:

Then Yahweh said to the sons of Israel, “{Was it} not from the Egyptians and from the Amorite and from the sons of Ammon and from the Philistines

UST:

Yahweh answered them, saying, “{In the past,} the Egyptians, Amorites, Ammonites, Philistines,

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:12

ULT:

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

UST:

Sidonians, Amalekites, and Maonites were treating you badly. You prayed desperately to me, and I rescued you from them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:13

ULT:

Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods. Therefore I will not continue to save you.

UST:

But even after that, you stopped worshiping me. You worshiped other gods instead. So I am not going to keep rescuing you.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:14

ULT:

Go and cry out to the gods upon whom you have chosen. Let them save you in the time of your distress.”

UST:

See whether the gods you are worshiping can rescue you now that you are in trouble again!”

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 to show them that those gods could not save them.

Judges 10:15

ULT:

But the sons of Israel said to Yahweh, "We have sinned. You do to us according to all of the good in your eyes. Only please deliver us this day."

UST:

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

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:16

ULT:

And they removed the foreign gods from the midst of them, and they served Yahweh. And his soul wore out with the trouble of Israel.

UST:

Then the Israelites threw away the idols that represented the foreign gods they had been worshiping. They worshiped Yahweh instead. Yahweh saw that they were suffering greatly. He felt compassion for them and decided to help them.

Why could Yahweh no longer bear the misery of Israel?

Israel removed the foreign gods from their midst and they worshiped Yahweh, so he had compassion on them.

Judges 10:17

ULT:

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

UST:

Ammonite soldiers gathered {to fight against the Israelites}. They set up their tents in the region of Gilead. So the Israelite soldiers gathered {to fight against them}. They set up their tents near the city of Mizpah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 10:18

ULT:

Then the people, the leaders of Gilead, said, a man to his fellow, “Who {is} the man who will begin to fight with the sons of Ammon? He will be the head for all of the dwellers of Gilead.”

UST:

The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, “Who will lead our attack against the Ammonite army? If someone will do that, we will make him the leader of everyone who lives in the region of Gilead.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11

Judges 11:1

ULT:

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a warrior of valor, but he {was} the son of a whoring woman. Now Gilead had begotten Jephthah.

UST:

There was a man from the region of Gilead whose name was Jephthah. He was a great soldier. But his mother was a prostitute. His father was a man whose name was Gilead.

Who were Jephthah's parents?

Jephthah was the son of a prostitute and Gilead.

Judges 11:2

ULT:

And the wife of Gilead bore sons to him, and the sons of the wife grew up, and they drove out Jephthah and said to him, "You will not inherit in the house of our father, for you are the son of another woman."

UST:

Gilead also had a legal wife who gave birth to several sons. When they became adults, they forced Jephthah to leave. They told him, "You are not the son of our father's legal wife, so you have no right to inherit any of his property."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:3

ULT:

So Jephthah fled from the face of his brothers, and he dwelled in the land of Tob. And worthless men collected themselves to Jephthah, and they went out with him.

UST:

So Jephthah ran away from his brothers. He settled in the region of Tob. He attracted a group of lawless men, and they went out raiding together.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:4

ULT:

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

UST:

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

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:5

ULT:

And it happened, when the sons of Ammon fought with Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

UST:

The Israelites needed someone to lead their soldiers to fight against the Ammonites. So the leaders of the region of Gilead went to the land of Tob. They wanted to bring Jephthah back {to be their commander}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:6

ULT:

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, and you shall be a commander for us so we may fight with the sons of Ammon."

UST:

They said to him, "Come back with us and lead our army. That way we will be able to defeat the Ammonite army."

Why did the elders of Gilead go to bring Jephthah back from the land of Tob?

The elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah back from the land of Tob so he would be their commander in their fight against the Ammonites.

Judges 11:7

ULT:

But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Do you not hate me, since you drove me from the house of my father? So why have you come to me now, when trouble {is} to you?"

UST:

But Jephthah told the leaders of Gilead, "You rejected me! You let my brothers force me to leave home {without any inheritance}! So you should not come and expect me to help you now that you are in trouble."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:8

ULT:

Then the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Therefore we have now returned to you. So you shall come with us and fight with the sons of Ammon, and you shall be for us the head of all of the dwellers of Gilead.”

UST:

The leaders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “That is exactly why we are coming to you now{, because we are in trouble}. Come back with us and lead our soldiers against the Ammonite army. If you do, we will make you the leader over everyone who lives in Gilead.”

Why did the elders of Gilead come to Jephthah?

The elders of Gilead came to Jephthah because they wanted him to come with them to fight the Ammonites and be their leader.

Judges 11:9

ULT:

Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you have brought me back to fight with the sons of Ammon and Yahweh gives them over to my face, I will be the head for you."

UST:

Jephthah answered them, "So 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 Gideon 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 Gideon 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:

And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "May Yahweh be hearing {the things} between us if not, according to your word, thus we do!"

UST:

The leaders of Gilead told Jephthah, "We swear that we will do what you have just described. Yahweh is a witness of the promises we are making to you. May he punish us if we do not keep those promises!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:11

ULT:

So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people set him over them as head and as commander. And Jephthah spoke all of his words to the face of Yahweh at Mizpah.

UST:

So Jephthah went with the leaders back to Gilead. {In a religious gathering} at Mizpah, Jephthah repeated to Yahweh the terms of the agreement they had made. Then the people appointed him to be their leader and the commander of their army.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:12

ULT:

Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, "What to me and to you, that you have come against me to fight in my land?"

UST:

Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites. They asked the king, "What have we done to make you angry, so that your army has invaded our land to fight against us?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:13

ULT:

And the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took my land in his coming up from Egypt, from the Arnon and to the Jabbok and to the Jordan. So now return them in peace."

UST:

The Ammonite king replied to Jephthah's messengers, "I am invading because you Israelites took our land when you came here from Egypt. You took all of 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."

Why did the people of Ammon come to fight to take the land of Israel?

The people of Ammon came to take the land of Israel because they claimed that when Israel came up out of Egypt, Israel seized the land of Ammon.

Judges 11:14

ULT:

Then Jephthah resumed and sent messengers again to the king of the sons of Ammon,

UST:

But Jephthah sent his messengers back to the Ammonite king.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:15

ULT:

and said to him, “Thus says Jephthah: ‘Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of the sons of Ammon.

UST:

They said to him, “Jephthah told us to tell you: ‘Israel did not take any land that belonged to the Moabites or the Ammonites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:16

ULT:

But in their coming up from Egypt, Israel went through the wilderness to the Sea of Reeds, and he came to Kadesh.

UST:

Here is what actually happened. When the Israelite people came out of Egypt, they walked through the desert to the Sea of Reeds. From there they 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:

Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please may I pass through your land." But the king of Edom did not listen. And he also sent to the king of Moab, but he did not consent. So Israel dwelled in Kadesh.

UST:

From there the Israelites sent messengers to the king of the Edomites. They asked him, "Please allow us to walk across your land." But the king of the Edomites refused. When they sent the same message to the king of the Moabites, 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:

Then he went through the wilderness and circled the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and he went from the rising of the sun to the land of Moab. And they encamped on the other side of the Arnon, but they did not enter within the border of Moab, for the Arnon {was} the border of Moab.

UST:

Then the Israelites went into the desert and walked outside the borders of Edom and Moab. They stayed to the east of Moab, and they did not set up their camp until they were north of the Arnon River. That means that they never went into the territory of Moab, since the Arnon River is the {northern} border of Moab.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:19

ULT:

Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorite, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, "Please, may we pass through your land to my place?"

UST:

Then the leaders of Israel sent a message to the king of the Amorites. His name was Sihon. He ruled in the city of 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:

But Sihon did not trust Israel passing through his border. So Sihon assembled all of his people, and they encamped at Jahaz, and he fought with Israel.

UST:

But Sihon thought that if he allowed the Israelites to come into his land, they would try to conquer it. So he gathered his whole army. His soldiers set up their tents at the town of Jahaz. From there, they attacked the Israelite people.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:21

ULT:

Then Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all of his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them. So Israel possessed all of the land of the Amorite inhabiting that land.

UST:

But Yahweh, the God of Israel, made the Israelite army stronger than the army of Sihon. So the Israelites destroyed that enemy army. Then they took possession of all the land where those Amorites had lived.

Who gave Israel victory over Sihon?

Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave Israel victory over Sihon.

Judges 11:22

ULT:

And they possessed all of the border of the Amorite, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

UST:

Yes, the Israelites took all the land that belonged to those Amorites. It extended 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:

And now, Yahweh, the God of Israel, has dispossessed the Amorite from the face of his people Israel. So will you possess it?

UST:

So it was Yahweh, the God of Israel, who forced the Amorites to leave the land in which they were living. Yahweh allowed the Israelites to live there instead. So you cannot claim that land as if it belonged to you.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:24

ULT:

What Chemosh your god causes you to possess, will you not possess it? And all of what Yahweh our God has dispossessed from our face, we will possess it.

UST:

You have the right to live in any land that your god Chemosh may give to you. But Yahweh our God forced others to leave this entire land so that we could live in it. And we are going to keep living in it!

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:25

ULT:

And now, being better, are you being better than Balak, the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Contending, did he contend with Israel, or fighting, did he fight with them?

UST:

You are not greater than Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab. He never disputed that this land now belonged to the Israelites. He never fought against the Israelites to try to take the land from them{, even though it once belonged to the Moabites and Ammonites}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:26

ULT:

In the dwelling of Israel in Heshbon and in its daughters and in Aroer and in its daughters and in all of the cities that {are} upon the banks of the Arnon, 300 years, why then did you not deliver during that time?

UST:

The Israelites have been living for the past 300 years in the city of Heshbon and the town of Aroer and in the villages around them. They have also been living in settlements along the Arnon River. But during all of that time, you Ammonites have not tried to capture those areas for yourselves.

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 300 years in Heshbon and Aroer and their villages as well as in all the cities that are along the banks of the Arnon.

Judges 11:27

ULT:

So I have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong by fighting with me. Yahweh, the judge, will judge today between the sons of Israel and between the sons of Ammon. ’’

UST:

So we Israelites have not harmed you {by taking any land from you}. But you Ammonites are doing something bad to us by attacking us {to try to conquer our land}. Yahweh {our God} makes sure that people treat each other properly. If we fight, he will enable our Israelite army to defeat your Ammonite army, because we have done what is right and you are doing what is wrong. ’’

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:28

ULT:

But the king of the sons of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he sent to him.

UST:

But even though Jephthah sent him this message, the king of Ammon did not command his army to stop fighting against the Israelites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:29

ULT:

Then the Spirit of Yahweh was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed through {to} the sons of Ammon.

UST:

Then the Spirit of Yahweh gave Jephthah special strength and courage. He went through the region of Gilead and through the area east of the Jordan River where the tribe of Manasseh lived {to enlist men for his army}. He brought all those soldiers to the city of Mizpah in Gilead{, where some of the Israelites had already gathered}. From there, they would go to fight against the Ammonites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:30

ULT:

And Jephthah vowed a vow to Yahweh and said, "If giving, you will give the sons of Ammon into my hand,

UST:

There Jephthah made a solemn promise to Yahweh. He said, "If you will enable my army to defeat the Ammonites,

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:31

ULT:

then it shall be, the one coming out, whoever comes out of the doors of my house to greet me in my returning in peace from the sons of Ammon, that he will be to Yahweh, and I will offer him {as} a burnt offering.”

UST:

when I return safely from defeating the Ammonites, then I will devote to you the first person who comes out of my house to greet me. I will sacrifice that person by burning him up completely on an altar.”

If Yahweh gave Jephthah victory over the people of Ammon, what did Jephthah vow to do?

If Yahweh gave Jephthah victory over the people of Ammon, Jephthah would offer up as a burnt offering whoever came out of the doors of his house to greet him.

Judges 11:32

ULT:

Then Jephthah passed through to the sons of Ammon to fight with them, and Yahweh gave them into his hand.

UST:

Then Jephthah and his soldiers went from Mizpah to attack the Ammonites. 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:

And he struck them from Aroer and to your coming {to} Minnith, twenty cities, and to Abel Keramim, a very great slaughter. So the sons of Ammon were subdued from the face of the sons of Israel.

UST:

Jephthah and his men defeated the Ammonites at the town of Aroer. Then they pursued them all the way to the area around the city of Minnith. They destroyed 20 settlements, as far as the city of Abel Keramim. The Israelites killed a very great number of Ammonites. After that the Ammonites could no longer oppose the Israelites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:34

ULT:

Then Jephthah came to Mizpah, to his house, and behold, his daughter was coming out to greet him with timbrels and with dances. And except her alone, {there was} not to him a son or daughter apart from her.

UST:

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. Since he had no other sons or daughters, she was his only child.

How many children did Jephthah have?

Jephthah had only one child, this daughter.

Judges 11:35

ULT:

And it happened, as he saw her, that he tore his garments and said, "Alas, my daughter! Causing to bow, you have caused me to bow, and you are among the ones troubling me! For I have opened my mouth to Yahweh, and I am not able to turn back."

UST:

When Jephthah saw his daughter, he tore his clothes to show that he was very sad about what he thought he had to do. He said to her, "Oh, no! My daughter, you have made me terribly distressed {by being the first one to greet me}. You are troubling me just as the Ammonites did. I made a solemn promise to Yahweh {to sacrifice the first person who came out of my house}, and I have to do what I promised."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:36

ULT:

But 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: vengeance against your enemies, against the sons of Ammon."

UST:

His daughter said, "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 your enemies, the Ammonites."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:37

ULT:

Then she said to her father, "May this thing be done for me. Refrain from me two months so I may go, and I will go down upon the hills and weep upon my virginity, I and my companions."

UST:

But then she asked him, "Please do something for me first. Do not offer me as a sacrifice right away. Let me go into the hills and wander around with my friends for two months. Let me grieve with them the fact that I will never get married and have children."

What did Jephthah's daughter want to do before he did everything he had promised?

She wanted him to leave her alone for two months, that she could go down to the hills and grieve over her virginity.

Judges 11:38

ULT:

And he said, "Go." Then he sent her away {for} two months. And she went, she and her companions, and she wept upon her virginity on the hills.

UST:

Jephthah told her, "You may go." And he let her leave for two months. So she and her friends wandered in the hills, and they all cried for her because she would never get married and have children.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 11:39

ULT:

And it happened at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he did to her his vow that he had vowed. And she had not known a man. And it became a custom in Israel.

UST:

After two months, she returned to her father Jephthah, and he did to her what he had solemnly promised. So his daughter never married. Because of that, the Israelites now have a custom.

What did Jephthah do with his daughter?

He did what he had promised in the vow he had made.

Judges 11:40

ULT:

From days to days the daughters of Israel go to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite, four days in the year.

UST:

The young Israelite women go into the hills for four days each year. There they sadly remember what happened to the daughter of Jephthah from the region of Gilead.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12

Judges 12:1

ULT:

And a man of Ephraim was summoned, and he crossed over northward. And they said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight with the sons of Ammon but did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire."

UST:

The men of the tribe of Ephraim got ready for battle. They crossed the Jordan River and went northeast to where Jephthah was. They said to Jephthah, "You should not have gone to fight the Ammonites without asking us to help you. We will burn down your house with you inside it!"

What did the men of Ephraim want to do to Jephthah's house because he did not call them to go with him?

The men of Ephraim wanted to burn Jephthah's house down because he did not call them to go with him to fight against the people of Ammon.

Judges 12:2

ULT:

And Jephthah said to them, "I was a man of strife, I and my people and the sons of Ammon, exceedingly. And I summoned you, but you did not save me from their hand.

UST:

Jephthah replied to them, "My people and I were in a big fight with the Ammonites. I called for you to help me against them, but you did not come.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:3

ULT:

And I saw that you {were} not a savior, and I put my life in my palm and crossed over against the sons of Ammon, and Yahweh gave them into my hand. So why have you come up to me this day to fight with me?"

UST:

When I saw that you would not help me, I risked my own life and led my men against the Ammonites. Yahweh helped me defeat them. So you should not have come to fight against me today!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:4

ULT:

And Jephthah assembled all of the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim because they said, “You, Gilead, {are} fugitives of Ephraim in the midst of Ephraim, in the midst of Manasseh.”

UST:

The Ephraimites insulted the Gileadites. They said, “You Gileadites are just runaway people from Ephraim. You live between Ephraim and Manasseh.” {Because the Ephraimites insulted them,} Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead. They fought against the men of Ephraim and defeated them.

Why did the men of Gilead attack the men of Ephraim?

The men of Gilead attacked the men of Ephraim because Ephraimites said the Gileadites were fugitives from Ephraim.

Judges 12:5

ULT:

And Gilead captured the fords of the Jordan to Ephraim. And it happened, when the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me cross over," then the men of Gilead said to him, "{Are} you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"

UST:

The men of Gilead blocked the places where people could cross the Jordan River. They did this to stop the Ephraimites from escaping. Some of the soldiers from Ephraim tried to cross the river. The men of Gilead asked everyone who wanted to cross, "Are you from the tribe of Ephraim?" If a man said "No,"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:6

ULT:

then they said to him, "Please say 'Shibboleth.'" And he said "Sibboleth," for he was not able to pronounce {it} correctly. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. And at that time 42,000 from Ephraim fell.

UST:

the men of Gilead would tell him, "Say the word 'Shibboleth.'" The Ephraimites could not pronounce that word correctly. They would say "Sibboleth" instead. When they said that, the men of Gilead knew they were from Ephraim. Then they would catch them and kill them at the river crossing. At that time they killed 42,000 people from the tribe of Ephraim.

How did the men of Gilead test if a man was from Ephraim?

They would tell him to say "Shibboleth." And if he said, "Sibboleth," (for the Ephraimites could not pronounce the word correctly), the Gileadites would seize him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan.

Judges 12:7

ULT:

And Jephthah judged Israel six years. And Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.

UST:

Jephthah, who came from the region of Gilead, led the people of Israel for six years. Then he died. People buried him in one of the towns of Gilead.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:8

ULT:

And after him Ibzan from Bethlehem judged Israel.

UST:

*After Jephthah died, a man whose name was Ibzan became the next leader of Israel.
Ibzan was from the town of Bethlehem.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:9

ULT:

And 30 sons were to him. And 30 daughters he sent outside, and 30 daughters he brought in for his sons from outside. And he judged Israel seven years.

UST:

Ibzan had 30 sons and 30 daughters. He let all his daughters marry men from other clans. He brought in 30 young women from other clans to marry his sons. Ibzan led Israel for seven years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:10

ULT:

Then Ibzan died and was buried in Bethlehem.

UST:

Then Ibzan died, and people buried him in the town of Bethlehem.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:11

ULT:

And after him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. And he judged Israel ten years.

UST:

After Ibzan died, a man whose name was Elon became the next leader of Israel. Elon was from the tribe of Zebulun. He led Israel for ten years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:12

ULT:

Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

UST:

Then Elon the Zebulunite died. People buried him in the town of Aijalon. That town was in the territory that belonged to the tribe of Zebulun.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:13

ULT:

And after him Abdon, the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, judged Israel.

UST:

After Elon died, a man whose name was Abdon became the next leader of Israel. Abdon was the son of Hillel. He came from the town of Pirathon.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:14

ULT:

And 40 sons and 30 sons of sons were to him, riding on 70 donkeys. And he judged Israel eight years.

UST:

Abdon had 40 sons and 30 grandsons. He was rich enough to buy donkeys for all of them to ride. Abdon led Israel for eight years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 12:15

ULT:

Then Abdon, the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekite.

UST:

Then Abdon son of Hillel died, and people buried him in his home town of Pirathon. This town was in the territory that belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. It was in the hill country where the Amalekite people used to live.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13

Judges 13:1

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel resumed to do evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so Yahweh gave them into the hand of the Philistines 40 years.

UST:

The Israelites again did what Yahweh had said was wicked. So Yahweh allowed the Philistines to rule over them for 40 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:2

ULT:

Now there was one man from Zorah, from the clan of the Danite, and his name {was} Manoah. And his wife {was} barren and had not given birth.

UST:

There was a man whose name was Manoah who lived in the town of Zorah. He belonged to the tribe of Dan. His wife could not have children.

What clan was Manoah from?

Manoah was from the clan of Dan.

Judges 13:3

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, please, you {are} barren and have not given birth, but you will conceive and bear a son.

UST:

One day, an angel representing Yahweh appeared to Manoah’s wife. The angel told her, “Please pay attention to this. You have not been able to have children. But you will soon become pregnant and have a son.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:4

ULT:

And now, please be careful and do not drink wine or beer, and do not eat any unclean {thing}.

UST:

*Please make sure that from now until he is born, you do not drink any wine or beer.
Also, do not eat any food that God has said is unclean.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:5

ULT:

For behold, you will conceive and bear a son. And a razor will not go up on his head, for the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb. And he will begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

UST:

You must do this because you are going to become pregnant and have a son {who must not drink or eat these things}. You must dedicate him to God as a Nazirite as soon as you give birth to him. Therefore you must never cut his hair. He will begin to stop the Philistines from ruling the Israelites.”

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:

And the woman came and said to her husband, saying, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance {was} like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him from where he {was}, and he did not declare his name to me.

UST:

The woman ran and told her husband, "A man from God came to me. He looked like an angel from God. Looking at him made me afraid. I did not ask where he came from, and he did not tell me his name.

What did the man of God look like?

The man of God looked like an angel of God.

Judges 13:7

ULT:

And he said to me, 'Behold, you will conceive and bear a son. And now, do not drink wine or beer, and do not eat any unclean {thing}, for the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.'"

UST:

But he told me, 'Pay attention to this. You will become pregnant and have a son. From now until he is born, do not drink any wine or beer. Do not eat any food that God has said is unclean. You must do this because you are to dedicate your son to God as a Nazirite as soon as you give birth to him. He must continue to be a Nazirite for his entire life.'"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:8

ULT:

And Manoah prayed to Yahweh and said, "Please, my Lord, the man of God whom you sent, please let him come again to us and teach us what we should do for the boy, the one to be born."

UST:

Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh, "Please, Lord, let the man you sent who looked like an angel come back to us. We want him to teach us how to raise the son my wife will have."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:9

ULT:

And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman. And she {was} abiding in the field, but Manoah her husband {was} not with her.

UST:

God did what Manoah asked. The angel representing God came again to the woman while she was out working in the field. But 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:

And the woman hurried and ran and declared to her husband and said to him, "Behold, the man has appeared to me who came to me on a day."

UST:

The woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Listen to this! The man who appeared to me the other day has come back!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:11

ULT:

And Manoah arose and went after his wife. And he came to the man and said to him, “{Are} you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I {am}.”

UST:

Manoah went out with his wife right away. When he came to the man, he asked him, “Are you the one who talked to my wife?” The man replied, “Yes, I am.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:12

ULT:

And Manoah said, “Now may your words come {to pass}. What will be the manner of the boy and his work?”

UST:

Manoah asked him, “When what you have said comes true, what rules should the boy follow? What work should he do?”

What did Manoah ask the angel about?

Manoah asked the angel about the rules for the boy and what his work would be.

Judges 13:13

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to this woman, let her be careful."

UST:

The angel representing Yahweh said to Manoah, "Your wife must be careful to do everything I told her."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:14

ULT:

Of all that comes forth from the vine of wine, she shall not eat, and wine or beer, she shall not drink, and any unclean {thing}, she shall not eat. All that I have commanded her, she shall keep.”

UST:

She must not eat any grapes or raisins or drink grape juice. She must not drink any wine or beer. And she must not eat any food that God has said is unclean. She must obey everything I have told her.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:15

ULT:

And Manoah said to the angel of Yahweh, "Please let us detain you, and we will prepare to your face a kid of goats."

UST:

Manoah said to the angel, "Please stay here for a while. We would like to prepare a young goat for you to eat."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:16

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your bread. But if you prepare a burnt offering, to Yahweh you shall offer it." For Manoah did not know that he {was} the angel of Yahweh.

UST:

The angel replied, "All right, I will stay, but I will not eat a meal. If you want to prepare something, you should offer it as a burnt offering to Yahweh." Now Manoah did not realize that this was an angel representing Yahweh.

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:

Then Manoah said to the angel of Yahweh, "What {is} your name, {that} when your words come {to pass}, then we may honor you?"

UST:

Then Manoah asked the angel, "What is your name? We want to honor you when what you have said comes true."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:18

ULT:

And the angel of Yahweh said to him, "Why do you ask this about my name, since it {is} wonderful?"

UST:

The angel told him, "You should not ask me my name. It is a mysterious name that I do not tell other people."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:19

ULT:

And Manoah took the kid of goats and the grain offering and offered {them} on a rock to Yahweh. And he was being wonderful in doing, and Manoah and his wife {were} watching.

UST:

Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered them on a rock to Yahweh. As Manoah and his wife were watching, the angel did something amazing.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:20

ULT:

For it happened, in the going up of the flame from the altar toward the heavens, that the angel of Yahweh went up in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife {were} watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.

UST:

As the flame went up from the altar toward the sky, the angel went up in the flame. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they knelt down and put their faces to the ground {as an act of humble worship}.

What wonderful thing did Yahweh do while Manoah and his wife were watching?

While Manoah and his wife were watching, the angel of Yahweh went up in the flame of the altar.

Judges 13:21

ULT:

*And the angel of Yahweh did not resume again to appear to Manoah and to his wife.
Then Manoah knew that he {was} the angel of Yahweh.*

UST:

The angel did not appear to Manoah and his wife again. Then Manoah realized that the angel had been representing Yahweh.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:22

ULT:

And Manoah said to his wife, "Dying, we shall die, for we have seen God."

UST:

Manoah said to his wife, "We have seen God, so we are going to die!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:23

ULT:

But his wife said to him, "If Yahweh desired to kill us, he would not have taken from our hand a burnt offering and a grain offering, and he would not have shown us all these {things}, and at {this} time he would not have made us hear {things} like this."

UST:

But his wife said to him, "If Yahweh had wanted to kill us, he would not have accepted our burnt offering and grain offering {to show that he is pleased with us}. He also would not have done this remarkable sign for us. And he would not have told us that we were going to have a baby even before I conceived him and gave birth to him."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:24

ULT:

And the woman bore a son, and she called his name Samson. And the boy grew, and Yahweh blessed him.

UST:

Then the woman did have a son{, just as the angel had said}. She named him Samson. As the boy was growing up, Yahweh did good things for him {to show that he was going to use him to help the Israelites}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 13:25

ULT:

And the Spirit of Yahweh began to agitate him in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and between Eshtaol.

UST:

Samson went to live in the town of Mahaneh Dan, between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol. There the Spirit of Yahweh began to make him want to stop the Philistines from ruling the Israelites.

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:

And Samson went down to Timnah, and he saw a woman in Timnah from the daughters of the Philistines.

UST:

Samson went to the town of Timnah. There he saw a young Philistine woman.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:2

ULT:

And he went up and declared to his father and to his mother and said, "I saw a woman in Timnah from the daughters of the Philistines. And now, get her for me for a wife."

UST:

Samson went back home and told his parents, "I saw a young Philistine woman in Timnah. I want you to arrange for me to marry her."

Who did Samson want his parents to get for him to be his wife?

Samson wanted his parents to get for him a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines, to be his wife.

Judges 14:3

ULT:

And his father and his mother said to him, “{Is there} not among the daughters of your brothers and among all of my people a woman, that you {are} going to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she {is} right in my eyes.”

UST:

His parents said to him, “There are many young women in our own tribe of Dan and among our people of Israel. You can marry one of them. You should not marry someone from a people group that does not worship Yahweh.” But Samson told his father, “No, I like her very much, and so I want you to arrange for me to marry her.”

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:

But his father and his mother did not know that it {was} from Yahweh, for he {was} seeking an occasion against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines {were} ruling over Israel.

UST:

His parents did not know that Yahweh wanted this to happen. Yahweh was looking for a way to act against the Philistines because they were oppressing Israel at that time.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:5

ULT:

And Samson went down, and his father and his mother, to Timnah. And they came to the vineyards of Timnah, and behold, a young lion of lions {was} roaring to meet him.

UST:

Samson went to Timnah with his parents. As they came near the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion attacked Samson {as he was walking alone}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:6

ULT:

Then the Spirit of Yahweh rushed on him, and he tore it as the tearing of a kid, and {there was} not anything in his hand. And he did not declare to his father or to his mother what he had done.

UST:

The Spirit of Yahweh gave Samson great strength. He ripped the lion apart with his bare hands as easily as if it had been a young goat. But he did not tell his parents what he had done.

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:

And he went down and spoke to the woman, and she was right in the eyes of Samson.

UST:

When they arrived in Timnah, Samson talked with the young woman, and he liked her very much. {So his father made arrangements for the wedding.}

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:8

ULT:

And he returned after some days to take her, and he turned to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, a swarm of bees was {in} the body of the lion, and honey.

UST:

Later, Samson went back to marry her. On the way, he went to look at the dead lion. He saw that a swarm of bees had made a nest in the lion's body and produced 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:

And he scraped it into his palms, and going, he walked, and eating, he walked, to his father and to his mother. And he gave to them, and they ate, but he did not declare to them that he had scraped the honey from the body of the lion.

UST:

Samson scooped out some of the honey with his hands. He ate some as he walked along. When he came to his parents, he gave them some, and they ate it too. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's body.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:10

ULT:

And his father went down to the woman, and Samson made a feast there, for thus the young men would do.

UST:

Samson's father went to arrange the marriage with the woman's family. Samson gave a feast for the young men in that area. That was what young men did when they married someone.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:11

ULT:

And it happened, in their seeing him, that they took 30 companions, and they were with him.

UST:

The family of the woman saw that Samson had not brought any other young men with him. So they had 30 of their own young men accompany him at the feast.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:12

ULT:

And Samson said to them, "Please let me put a riddle to you. If declaring, you declare it to me {during} the seven days of the feast and you find {it}, then I will give to you 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes.

UST:

Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle. If you can answer it during the seven days of the feast, I will give you 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:13

ULT:

But if you are not able to declare {it} to me, then you will give to me 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes.” And they said to him, “Put your riddle and we will hear it.”

UST:

But if you can not answer it, then you must give me 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes.” They told him, “{We agree.} Tell us your riddle, and we will try to solve it.”

What would Samson get if the 30 companions could not answer his riddle?

Samson would get 30 linen robes and 30 changes of clothes if the 30 companions could not answer his riddle.

Judges 14:14

ULT:

So he said to them, "From the eater came forth food, and from the strong came forth sweet." And they were not able to declare the riddle {for} three days.

UST:

He said to them, "Something to eat came out of something that eats. Something sweet came out of something strong." They tried for three days to solve the riddle, but they could not.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:15

ULT:

And it happened on the seventh day that they said to the wife of Samson, "Entice your husband that he may declare to us the riddle, lest we burn you and the house of your father with fire. Did you invite us to dispossess us? {Is it} not {so}?"

UST:

On the last day of the feast, they said to Samson's bride, "Get the answer to the riddle for us from your bridegroom. If you do not, we will burn you and your family to death. We did not come to this feast to become poor!"

What would happen to Samson's wife if she did not entice her husband to get the answer to the riddle?

If Samson's wife did not entice her husband to get the answer to the riddle, the 30 companions would burn up her and her father's house.

Judges 14:16

ULT:

And the wife of Samson wept on him, and she said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me! You have put a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not declared {it} to me." And he said to her, "Behold, to my father and to my mother I have not declared {it}, so will I tell {it} to you?"

UST:

So Samson's bride went to him and started crying. She shouted, "You hate me! You do not love me! You told a riddle to my relatives, but you did not tell me the answer." Samson said to her, "I have not even told the answer to my parents. So I am not going to tell you."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:17

ULT:

And she wept on him {for} the seven days {during} which the feast was to them. And it happened on the seventh day that he declared {it} to her, for she had pressed him. And she declared the riddle to the sons of her people.

UST:

But she kept crying for the rest of the feast. Finally, as it was about to end, he told her the answer to the riddle because she had kept bothering him. She went and told the answer to the Philistine young men.

For how long did Samson's wife cry in order to get the answer to the riddle?

She cried for the seven days that the feast lasted.

Judges 14:18

ULT:

And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day, before the sun came in, "What {is} sweeter than honey? And what {is} stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found my riddle."

UST:

Before sunset on the last day of the feast, the Philistine guests said to Samson, "The sweet thing was honey, and the strong thing was a lion!" Samson said to them, "You must have gotten the answer from my bride! Otherwise, you could not have solved my riddle!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 14:19

ULT:

And the Spirit of Yahweh rushed on him, and he went down {to} Ashkelon, and he struck 30 men from them. And he took their spoils, and he gave the changes {of clothes} to the declarers of the riddle. And his nose burned, and he went up {to} the house of his father.

UST:

Then the Spirit of Yahweh gave Samson great strength. He went to the city of Ashkelon and killed 30 men there. He took their clothes and gave them to the men who had answered his riddle. But he was very angry about what had happened. He went back to his father's house without marrying the woman.

How did Samson get 30 changes of clothing?

Samson went down to Ashkelon and killed 30 men among those people and took their changes of clothing.

Judges 14:20

ULT:

And the wife of Samson became to his companion who had accompanied him.

UST:

So her father had her marry instead the Philistine young man who had been a special helper to Samson at the wedding feast.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15

Judges 15:1

ULT:

And it happened after some days, in the days of the harvest of wheat, that Samson visited his wife with a kid of goats. And he said, "I will go in to my wife, to the chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in.

UST:

Some time later, during the wheat harvest, Samson visited the woman he was supposed to marry. He brought a young goat as a gift. He told her father that he wanted to sleep with her {to make their marriage official}. But her father would not let him do that.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:2

ULT:

And her father said, "Saying, I said that hating, you hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please let her be to you instead of her."

UST:

Her father told him, "I honestly thought that you hated her. So I had her marry the young man who was your helper at the wedding feast. But her younger sister is even prettier. You can marry her instead."

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 had already given her to one of Samson's companions.

Judges 15:3

ULT:

And Samson said to them, "This time I will be blameless regarding the Philistines when I do harm to them."

UST:

Samson refused, and he said to everyone who was listening, "Now I have a good reason to hurt the Philistines!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:4

ULT:

And Samson went and caught 300 foxes, and he took torches, and he turned tail to tail, and he put one torch between two of the tails, in the middle.

UST:

Then Samson went out into the fields and caught 300 foxes. He tied their tails together in pairs. He got some torches, and he put a torch between each pair of tails.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:5

ULT:

And he kindled fire in the torches and sent {them} into the {standing} grain of the Philistines, and he burned from stack and to {standing} grain, and to grove of olive tree.

UST:

He lit the torches and let the foxes run through the Philistines' fields. The fire burned the grain they had harvested and the grain that was still in the fields. It also burned their olive trees.

How did Samson retaliate after finding out his wife had been given to another?

Samson retaliated by catching 300 foxes, tying torches to them, and letting them go in the Philistines' grain.

Judges 15:6

ULT:

And the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." And the Philistines went up and burned her and her father with fire.

UST:

The Philistine leaders asked, "Who did this?" Someone told them, "Samson did it. He was supposed to marry the daughter of a man who lived in the town of Timnah. But that man had his daughter marry Samson's best man instead." In revenge, the Philistines went and killed Samson's fiancée and her father by burning them.

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:

And Samson said to them, "If you have done like this, then if I avenge against you, then afterward I will stop."

UST:

Samson found out that they had done that. He told them, "Because you killed my bride and her father, I am going to avenge their deaths. But I will do no more than that."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:8

ULT:

Then he struck them leg on thigh, a great striking. And he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

UST:

Samson attacked the Philistines furiously and killed many of them. Then he went and hid in a cave in the rock of Etam.

Why did Samson kill a great number of Philistines?

Samson killed a great number of Philistines to avenge the killing of his wife and her father.

Judges 15:9

ULT:

And the Philistines went up and encamped in Judah, and they spread out in Lehi.

UST:

Then many Philistine soldiers came and set up camp in the territory of Judah. There were so many of them that their camp covered a large area near the town that people later called Lehi.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:10

ULT:

And the men of Judah said, “Why have you come up against us?” And they said, “We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him just as he has done to us.”

UST:

The men of Judah asked them, “Why have you come to fight us?” The Philistines answered, “We have come to capture Samson. He killed many of us, and so we are going to kill him.”

Why did the Philistines come up to attack Judah?

The Philistines came up to attack Judah so they could capture Samson in order to kill him as he had killed so many of them.

Judges 15:11

ULT:

Then 3,000 men from 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? So what is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "Just as they did to me, so I have done to them."

UST:

Then 3,000 men from Judah went to the cave in the rock of Etam where Samson was hiding. They said to Samson, "The Philistines rule over us. You should have known not to upset them. You have caused much trouble for us." Samson answered, "They killed my fiancée and her father, so I killed some of them."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:12

ULT:

And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, to give you into the hand of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not strike me yourselves."

UST:

The men of Judah told Samson, "We have come to tie you up. We are going to give you to the Philistines." Samson said to them, "Promise me that you will not kill me yourselves."

When the men of Judah came to tie up Samson, what did he make them swear?

When the men of Judah came to tie up Samson, he made them swear that they would not kill him themselves.

Judges 15:13

ULT:

And they spoke to him, saying, "No, but binding, we will bind you and we will give you into their hand, but putting to death, we will not put you to death." Then they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

UST:

They answered, "We will only tie you up and give you to the Philistines. We will not kill you." So they tied him with two new ropes and led him away from the rock.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:14

ULT:

He came to Lehi, and the Philistines shouted to meet him. Then the Spirit of Yahweh rushed on him, and the ropes that {were} on his arms became like flax that they burn with fire, and his bonds melted from on his hands.

UST:

When Samson came to the town of Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. Then the Spirit of Yahweh gave Samson great strength. His arms became so strong that he was able to break the rope around them as if it were weak thread. He also easily broke the rope that was around his hands.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:15

ULT:

And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and he stretched out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.

UST:

Then Samson saw a donkey's jawbone lying on the ground. It was new, so it was hard. He picked it up and used it to kill 1,000 men.

With what did Samson kill 1,000 men?

Samson killed 1,000 men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey.

Judges 15:16

ULT:

And Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, a heap, two heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have struck 1,000 men."

UST:

Then Samson made up this poem: "With a donkey's jawbone, I have made piles of bodies. With a donkey's jawbone, I have killed 1,000 men."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:17

ULT:

And it happened in his finishing to speak, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, so he called that place Ramath Lehi.

UST:

After Samson finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone. He named that place Ramath Lehi.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 15:18

ULT:

But he was very thirsty, so he called to Yahweh and said, “You have given this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?”

UST:

Samson was very thirsty. He called out to Yahweh, “You have given me this great victory. But now I am afraid that I will die of thirst. Then the Philistines, who do not worship you, will take my body and treat it shamefully!”

After Samson killed 1,000 men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey, how did he think he would die?

After Samson killed 1,000 men with a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he thought he would die of thirst.

Judges 15:19

ULT:

Then God split open the hollow place that {is} in Lehi, and water came out from it. And he drank and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore, he called its name En-Hakkore, which {is} in Lehi to this day.

UST:

Then God split open a hollow place in Lehi. Water came out of it. When Samson drank some of that water, he felt strong again. So he named that spring En Hakkore. It is still in Lehi today.

How did Samson get water?

God split open the hollow place at Lehi, and water came out.

Judges 15:20

ULT:

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines 20 years.

UST:

Samson was the leader of Israel for 20 years. But during that time, the Philistines were in control of the land of Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16

Judges 16:1

ULT:

Now Samson went to Gaza and he saw a woman there, a harlot, and he went in to her.

UST:

Samson later went to the city of Gaza. He saw a prostitute there, and he had sexual relations with her {and then stayed in her room}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:2

ULT:

{And it was told} to the Gazites, saying, "Samson has come here." So they encircled and they lay in ambush for him all of the night at the gate of the city. And they kept themselves quiet all of the night, saying, "At the light of the morning, then we will kill him."

UST:

People told the leaders of the Gazites, "Samson has come inside our city!" So the leaders sent men to surround the place where Samson was. They waited there secretly all night. The leaders also put guards at the city gate. But they did not try to capture Samson that night. They decided that once day came, {they would be able to see clearly} to catch him and kill him.

When did the Gazites plan to kill Samson?

The Gazites planned to kill Samson at daylight.

Judges 16:3

ULT:

Now Samson lay down until the middle of the night, but he arose in the middle of the night, and he seized the doors of the gate of the city and the two doorposts. And he pulled them up with the bar, and he put them on his shoulders, and he brought them up to the head of the hill that is at the face of Hebron.

UST:

But Samson did not stay where he was all night. At midnight, he got up. He went to the city gate {to leave the city, but he found that it was barred shut}. So he lifted the entire gate up out of the ground, the doors and their posts and the bar. He carried all of this on his shoulders uphill {for many miles,} all the way to the top of the hill near 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:

Now it happened afterward that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, and her name {was} Delilah.

UST:

Later Samson fell in love with a woman who lived in the Valley of Sorek. Her name was Delilah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:5

ULT:

And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and they said to her, "Entice him and see in what his great strength {is} and in what we shall overcome him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we ourselves will give to you, a man, 1,100 silver."

UST:

The Philistine leaders came to her and said, "See if you can get Samson to tell you what makes him so strong. See if you can find out how we can capture him and tie him up so that he cannot get away. If you do that, each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

If Delilah enticed Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, what would the leaders of the Philistines give her?

If Delilah enticed Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, each of the Philistine leaders would give her 1,100 pieces of silver.

Judges 16:6

ULT:

So Delilah said to Samson, "Please declare to me in what {is} your great strength and in what you may be bound to humble you."

UST:

So Delilah told Samson, "I want you to explain to me what makes you so strong. Tell me how anyone could ever tie you up to capture you."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:7

ULT:

And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I will weaken and I will be like one of man."

UST:

Samson replied, "If someone ties me with seven new bowstrings, ones that are not dry yet, I will have only the strength of an ordinary person."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:8

ULT:

Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

UST:

So {Delilah told this to the Philistine leaders, and} they brought her seven new bowstrings. {When Samson fell asleep,} she used them to tie him up.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:9

ULT:

Now the ambush {was} staying for her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines {are} upon you, Samson!" But he broke the cords just as a string of flax is broken in its touching fire. So his strength was not known.

UST:

Some men were hiding in one of the other rooms in her house {to capture Samson when they were sure that the bowstrings would restrain him}. Delilah called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come here to capture you!" But Samson {woke up and} snapped the bowstrings as easily as fire burns through string. So the Philistines did not find out what made Samson so strong.

When Delilah told Samson the Philistines were upon him, what did he do?

When Delilah told Samson the Philistines were upon him, he broke the cords with which he was tied.

Judges 16:10

ULT:

And Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have deceived me and spoken lies to me. Now please declare to me in what you may be bound."

UST:

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Now listen, you made up a story to trick me! Now tell me how someone can really tie you up securely."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:11

ULT:

And he said to her, "If binding, they bind me with new ropes with which work has not been done, then I will weaken and I will be like one of man."

UST:

Samson replied, "If someone actually ties me up with new ropes, ones that no one has used for anything else, then I will have only the strength of an ordinary person."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:12

ULT:

So Delilah took new ropes, and she bound him with them. And she said to him, "The Philistines {are} upon you, Samson!" And the ambush {was} staying in the room. But he broke them from upon his arms like thread.

UST:

So Delilah {once again told the Philistine leaders what Samson had said. She} got some new ropes, and she had men hide in one of the rooms in her house. {When Samson fell asleep,} she tied him up with the ropes. Then she called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson {woke up and} snapped the ropes off his arms as easily as if they had been threads.

When Samson tore off the new ropes from his arms, where were the men lying in wait?

When Samson tore off the new ropes from his arms, the men were waiting in one of the rooms of the house.

Judges 16:13

ULT:

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Up to now you have deceived me and spoken lies to me. Declare to me in what you may be bound!" So he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the warp."

UST:

Then Delilah told Samson, "You made up another story to trick me! Now tell me how someone can really tie you up securely." Samson replied, "You have a loom here with threads going in one direction. If you weave the seven braids of my hair into those threads in the other direction, {as if you were making fabric,} then I will have only the strength of an ordinary person."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:14

ULT:

So she drove with the peg, and she said to him, "The Philistines {are} upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled the peg {from} the weaving and the warp.

UST:

So Delilah {once again told the Philistine leaders what Samson had said, and she had men hide in one of the rooms in her house. Then she} used a shuttle to weave the seven braids of Samson's hair in and out of the threads she had on her loom. Then she called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When Samson woke up, his hair was still in the shuttle. But he pulled it right out of the threads on the loom.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:15

ULT:

Then she said to him, "How do you say, 'I love you,' yet your heart {is} not with me? These three times you have deceived me and you have not declared to me in what {is} your great strength."

UST:

After this, Delilah said to him, "You say that you love me, but I do not believe that you do, because you have not told me the truth about yourself. You have tricked me three times and you have not really told me what makes you so strong!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:16

ULT:

And it happened that she pressed him with her words all of the days and she urged him, and his soul wore out to death.

UST:

Day after day she nagged him relentlessly to tell her his secret. He felt as if he was going to die from her nagging.

How much did Delilah beg Samson to tell her his secret?

She begged him so much that he wished he would die.

Judges 16:17

ULT:

So he declared to her all of his heart, and he said to her, "A razor has not gone up on my head, for I {have been} a Nazirite of God from the womb of my mother. If I were shaved, then my strength would turn from me, and I would weaken and I would be like all of man."

UST:

So finally Samson told her the whole truth. He told her, "My parents dedicated me to God as a Nazirite on the day I was born. Because of that, no one has ever cut my hair. If someone did shave the hair off my head, then I would lose my great strength. I would have only the strength of an ordinary person."

Why had Samson never cut the hair on his head?

Samson had never cut the hair on his head, for he had been a Nazirite of God from his mother's womb.

Judges 16:18

ULT:

Then Delilah saw that he had declared to her all of his heart. So she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up one time, for he has declared to me all of his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and they brought up the silver in their hand.

UST:

Delilah realized that this time he had told her the whole truth. So she sent someone to get the Philistine leaders. She told them, "Come back one more time, because Samson has finally told me the secret of his strength." So the Philistine leaders came back to her house and brought the money they had promised to give her.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:19

ULT:

And she put him to sleep on her knees, and she called to a man, and she shaved the seven locks of his head, and she began to humble him, and his strength turned from upon him.

UST:

Then she got Samson to fall deeply asleep. Then she called one of the Philistine men to come and cut off Samson's hair. This would enable the Philistines to capture him, because he would lose his great strength.

How was Delilah able to subdue Samson?

Delilah was able to subdue him when the locks of his head were shaven off, for his strength left him.

Judges 16:20

ULT:

And she said, "The Philistines {are} upon you, Samson!" And he woke from his sleep, and he said, "I will go out like time upon time, and I will shake myself." But he himself did not know that Yahweh had turned from upon him.

UST:

Then she called out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" He woke up and thought, "I will be able to do whatever I need to do to get away from them, just as I did the other times!" But he did not realize that Yahweh was no longer helping him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:21

ULT:

And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes. And they brought him down to Gaza and they bound him with bronze fetters. And he was grinding in the house of prisoners.

UST:

Instead, the Philistine men captured him. They blinded him by gouging out both of his eyes {so that he could no longer attack any of them}. Then they took him to Gaza. They put him in prison there and put bronze chains on him {so he could not escape}. 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 to grind grain in the prison.

Judges 16:22

ULT:

But the hair of his head began to grow after it had been shaved.

UST:

But his hair started to grow again after the man had cut it.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:23

ULT:

Now the lords of the Philistines gathered themselves to sacrifice a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and for celebration, for they said, "Our god has given into our hand Samson, our enemies."

UST:

Then the Philistine leaders had a big celebration. They offered many sacrifices to their god Dagon. They praised him, saying, "Our god has enabled us to capture Samson, who did so many things to harm us!"

Why did the leaders of the Philistines gather together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god?

The leaders of the Philistines had a celebration to offer sacrifices to Dagon their god because they said he had conquered Samson.

Judges 16:24

ULT:

And the people saw him, and they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given into our hand our enemy and the devastator of our land, and who multiplied our slain."

UST:

When the other people at the festival saw Samson, they also praised their god Dagon, saying, "Samson harmed us greatly. He killed many of our soldiers and ruined many of our crops, but our god Dagon has enabled us to capture him!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:25

ULT:

And it happened, when their heart {was} good, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may make us laugh." So they called for Samson from the house of prisoners, and he caused laughter to their faces. And they made him stand between the columns.

UST:

The people drank a lot of wine and began to become drunk. Then they shouted, "Get Samson out of the prison! Bring him here so we can ridicule him!" So they brought Samson from the prison and made him stand {in the center of the temple,} between the pillars that supported the roof. The people ridiculed him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:26

ULT:

And Samson said to the young man holding onto his hand, "Let me rest. Let me feel the columns upon which the house is set so I may support myself on them."

UST:

Samson said to the servant who was leading him by the hand {because he was blind}, "I want to rest. Place my hands against the two pillars that support the roof so that I can lean against them."

Who helped Samson touch the columns on which the building rested?

The young man leading Samson by the hand led him so he could touch the columns which supported the building.

Judges 16:27

ULT:

Now the house was full {of} men and women, and all of the lords of the Philistines {were} there, and on the roof {were} about 3, 000 men and women, watching to laughing of Samson.

UST:

All the Philistine leaders were in the temple, along with a great crowd of men and women. There were about 3, 000 people on the roof, looking at Samson and ridiculing him.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:28

ULT:

Then Samson called to Yahweh and he said, "Lord Yahweh, please remember me, and please strengthen me only this time, O God, so I may avenge myself {with} one vengeance against the Philistines for my two eyes."

UST:

Samson prayed to Yahweh and said, "Lord Yahweh, please think about me again! Please, God, give me strength just once more so that I can take 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:

And Samson grasped the two columns of the center upon which the house was set, and he leaned himself against them, one on his right and one on his left.

UST:

Then Samson put his right hand on one of the central pillars of the temple, and he put his left hand on the other one. He pushed hard against both pillars.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 16:30

ULT:

Then Samson said, "My soul shall die with the Philistines!" And he stretched out with his strength, and the house fell on the lords and on all of the people who {were} in it. So the ones dying whom he killed at his death were more than those he killed in his life.

UST:

Then Samson shouted, "I am going to kill all these Philistines, even though I have to die myself!" He pushed on the pillars as hard as he could, and he broke them and the temple collapsed. This killed the Philistine leaders and all the other people who were in the temple. So Samson killed more people when he died than he had killed while he was alive.

How many people did Samson kill when the building fell?

Samson killed more at his death than those he had killed during his life.

Judges 16:31

ULT:

Then his brothers and all of the house of his father went down. And they lifted him and they went up and they buried him between Zorah and between Eshtaol in the burial place of Manoah, his father. And he had judged Israel 20 years.

UST:

Later his brothers and other relatives traveled from Zorah to Gaza to get his body. They took it back home and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol, at the place where people had previously buried his father Manoah. Samson had led Israel for 20 years.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17

Judges 17:1

ULT:

Now there was a man from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name {was} Micah.

UST:

There was a man whose name was Micah who lived in the hilly area that belongs to the tribe of Ephraim.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:2

ULT:

And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 silver that was taken from you, and you swore, and also you spoke in my ears, behold, the silver {is} with me. I myself took it." His mother said, "Blessed {be} my son by Yahweh!"

UST:

One day he said to his mother, "Someone stole 1, 100 pieces of silver from your house. I heard you ask Yahweh to make bad things happen to whoever did that. I confess that I took that silver, and I still have it." His mother replied, "My son, may Yahweh do good things for you {because you admitted this}!"

What did Micah steal?

Micah stole 1,100 pieces of silver from his mother.

Judges 17:3

ULT:

And he returned the 1, 100 silver to his mother, and his mother said, “Consecrating, I consecrate the silver to Yahweh, from my hand to my son to make an idol and a molded image. And now, I return it to you.”

UST:

Micah gave the 1,100 pieces of silver back to his mother. Then she said, “I am dedicating some of this silver to Yahweh. I am giving it to you, my son, so that you can have someone mold a figure from it. I will give you enough silver to do that.”

For what did Micah’s mother set apart the silver?

Micah’s mother said she had dedicated the silver to Yahweh, for her son to make an idol.

Judges 17:4

ULT:

And he returned the silver to his mother, and his mother took 200 silver and she gave it to a refiner. And he made it {into} an idol and a molded image, and it was in the house of Micah.

UST:

When Micah gave the silver pieces back to his mother, she took 200 of them and gave them to a metal worker. That man made a molded figure with the silver. Then he gave the figure to Micah. Micah kept it in his home.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:5

ULT:

And the man Micah, to him {was} a house of gods. And he made an ephod and teraphim, and he filled the hand of one of his sons, and he was to him for a priest.

UST:

Micah made a shrine in which he worshiped idols. He made the kind of vest that priests wear. He also made some small, personal idols. Micah appointed one of his sons to be his priest at this shrine.

To what did Micah appoint one of his sons?

He appointed one of his sons to become his priest.

Judges 17:6

ULT:

In those days a king {was} not in Israel. A man did the right in his eyes.

UST:

At that time, Israel did not have a king, so everyone did what they thought they should do.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:7

ULT:

Now there was a young man from Bethlehem {in} Judah, from the clan of Judah. Now he was a Levite, and he was sojourning there.

UST:

There was a young man who had been living in the town of Bethlehem where people from the tribe of Judah live. He belonged to the tribe of Levi, but he had been living temporarily in the territory that Joshua had assigned to the tribe of Judah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:8

ULT:

And the man went from the city, from Bethlehem {in} Judah, to sojourn in where he might find. And he entered the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, to make his way.

UST:

Then he left Bethlehem to look for another place to live. As he was looking, he came to Micah's house in the hilly area that belongs to the tribe of Ephraim.

Why did the Levite leave Bethlehem?

The Levite left Bethlehem to go and find a place to live.

Judges 17:9

ULT:

And Micah said to him, "From where have you come?" And he said to him, "I {am} a Levite from Bethlehem {in} Judah, and I am going to sojourn in where I may find."

UST:

Micah asked him, "Where are you from?" He replied, "I have come from Bethlehem in the territory of Judah. I belong to the tribe of Levi, and I am looking for a new place to live for a while."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:10

ULT:

And Micah said to him, "Stay with me and be to me for a father and for a priest, and I myself will give to you ten silver for the days, and a set of garments and your sustenance." So the Levite went {in}.

UST:

Micah told him, "You may live in my house with me. You can advise me and be my priest. Each year I will give to you ten pieces of silver and some new clothes. I will also provide food for you." So the Levite stayed there.

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:

And the Levite was willing to stay with the man, and the young man became to him like one from his sons.

UST:

The Levite agreed to live with Micah. He became like one of his own sons.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:12

ULT:

And Micah filled the hand of the Levite, and the young man was to him for a priest, and he was in the house of Micah.

UST:

Micah appointed the Levite to be his priest, and he lived on Micah's property.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 17:13

ULT:

Then Micah said, "Now I know that Yahweh will be good to me, because the Levite is to me for a priest."

UST:

Then Micah said, "Now I know that Yahweh will do good things for me, because I have a Levite as my priest."

Why did Micah think Yahweh would be good to him?

Micah thought Yahweh would be good to him because he had a Levite as his priest.

Judges 18

Judges 18:1

ULT:

In those days a king {was} not in Israel. Now in those days, the tribe of the Danite {was} seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell, for one had not fallen to it up to that day in the midst of the tribes of Israel for an inheritance.

UST:

At that time the Israelites had no king. And at that time people of the tribe of Dan wanted more land where they could live. The other Israelite tribes had been able to occupy the territories that their leaders had assigned to them. But the tribe of Dan had not yet been able to occupy all of their territory.

Why were the descendants of Dan looking for a territory in which to live?

The descendants of Dan were looking for a territory in which to live because they had not been able to occupy all of the territory that had been assigned to them.

Judges 18:2

ULT:

And the sons of Dan sent from their clan five men, men from their borders, sons of valor from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy on the land and to examine it. And they said to them, "Go, examine the land." And they entered the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and they lodged there.

UST:

So the Danites chose five strong soldiers from their tribe to look carefully for more land where they could live. These men lived in the part of their territory that the tribe had been able to occupy, in the cities of Zorah and Eshtaol. When the tribe sent them out to explore the land, the men went to the hilly area where the people of the tribe of Ephraim live. They stayed overnight in the area where Micah lived.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:3

ULT:

They {were} near the house of Micah, and they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite. So they turned aside there and said to him, "Who brought you here? And what {are} you doing in this {place}? And what {is} to you here?"

UST:

Since they were close to his house, they could hear the people there talking. They recognized from the way he spoke that the young Levite was from the southern part of Israel, as they were. So they went and asked him, "How did you come here? What are your duties here? How do you support yourself?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:4

ULT:

And he said to them, "Like this and like this Micah has done for me: now he has hired me, and I am to him for a priest."

UST:

He answered, "Let me explain exactly what Micah has done for me. He has given me the job of being his priest."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:5

ULT:

And they said to him, "Please inquire of God that we may know, will our way prosper, upon which we {are} going?"

UST:

So they said to him, "Please ask God to tell us whether we will succeed in what we are trying to do on this journey."

What did the people of Dan want the Levite to ask God?

The people of Dan wanted the Levite to ask God if they would succeed in what they were trying to do.

Judges 18:6

ULT:

And the priest said to them, "Go in peace, your way upon which you are going is before Yahweh."

UST:

The young man replied, "You should not worry. Yahweh will make you successful in what you are trying to do on your journey."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:7

ULT:

So the five men went, and they came {to} Laish. And they saw the people who {were} in the midst of it dwelling in security, according to the manner of the Sidonians, reposing and being secure. And no one possessing restraint {was} humiliating {for} a thing in the land. And they {were} far from the Sidonians, and no thing {was} to them with man.

UST:

Then the five men left. They came to the city of Laish, and they saw that the people there were not warlike. Instead, they engaged in trading, as the people of the city of Sidon do. The people there thought that they were safe. No ruler was controlling them. Their city was far from Sidon, and they were not part of a defensive league of cities.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:8

ULT:

So they came to their brothers {in} Zorah and Eshtaol. And their brothers said to them, "What you?"

UST:

When those five men returned to their tribe in Zorah and Eshtaol, the other Danites asked them "What do you have to report?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:9

ULT:

And they said, "Arise, and let us go up against them! For we have seen the land, and behold, {it is} very good. And {are} you being silent? May you not slacken yourselves to go to enter to possess the land!"

UST:

They replied, "We have found some land, and we can assure you that it is very good. So we should go and attack the people who live there. We should not stay here and do nothing. We should go right away 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 take possession of the land so their people could live there.

Judges 18:10

ULT:

When you go, you will come to a people being secure, and the land is broad {at} two hands. For God has given it into your hand, a place where no lack {is} there of any thing that {is} on the earth."

UST:

When you get there, you will find that the people there are not expecting anyone to attack them. There is plenty of land, and it has everything that we will need. {We should certainly go there,} because God will enable us to conquer that land."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:11

ULT:

So they journeyed from there, from the clan of the Danite, from Zorah and Eshtaol, 600 men girded {with} weapons of war.

UST:

So 600 men from the tribe of Dan left Zorah and Eshtaol. They brought their weapons with them {so they could attack the people of Laish}.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:12

ULT:

And they went up and camped at Kiriath Jearim in Judah. Upon this they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. Behold, {it is} beside Kiriath Jearim.

UST:

On their way, they set up their tents near the city of Kiriath Jearim in the area where the tribe of Judah lives. That is why people call the area west of Kiriath Jearim Mahaneh Dan. People still call it that now.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:13

ULT:

And they passed over from there {to} the hill country of Ephraim, and they came to the house of Micah.

UST:

*From there, they went to the hilly area where the people of the tribe of Ephraim live.
And they arrived at Micah's house.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:14

ULT:

Then the five men having gone to spy on the land of Laish answered and said to their brothers, "Do you know that in these houses {are} an ephod and teraphim and an idol and a molded image? And now, consider what you shall do."

UST:

The five men who had explored the land near Laish said to their fellow Danites, "We want to inform you that in one of these houses, there is a sacred vest, several household idols, and a silver molded figure. Think about the advantages of having those things for ourselves."

What did the five men say was in the houses of Laish?

The five men said that in the houses of Laish there were a sacred vest, household idols, and a silver molded figure.

Judges 18:15

ULT:

So they turned aside there, and they entered into the house of the young man, the Levite, at the house of Micah, and they asked of him concerning peace.

UST:

So they interrupted their journey and went to the house on Micah's property where the young Levite lived. They told him they hoped he was doing well.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:16

ULT:

Now the 600 men girded with weapons of war who {were} from the sons of Dan had stationed themselves at the entrance of the gate.

UST:

The 600 soldiers from the tribe of Dan stood outside the gate to the compound, holding their weapons.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:17

ULT:

And the five men having gone to spy on the land came up. They entered there. They took the idol and the ephod and the teraphim and the molded image. And the priest {was} stationing himself at the entrance of the gate with the 600 men girded {with} weapons of war.

UST:

The five men who had explored the land went into the house where Micah himself lived. They took the sacred vest, the household idols, and the silver molded figure. They made the priest go out and stand outside the gate with the 600 soldiers who were holding weapons.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:18

ULT:

And these entered the house of Micah and took the idol, the ephod and the teraphim and the molded image. And the priest said to them, "What {are} you doing?"

UST:

He saw them bringing out the sacred vest, the household idols, and the silver molded figure from Micah's house. The priest told them it was wrong to take those things.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:19

ULT:

And they said to him, "Be quiet! Put your hand over your mouth and come with us and be to us for a father and for a priest. {Is} the good your being a priest for the house of one man or your being a priest for a tribe and for a clan in Israel?"

UST:

They replied, "Do not object. Just come quietly with us and advise us and be our priest. It is certainly better for you to be the priest for a whole tribe of Israelites than to stay here and be the priest just for one man's family and servants."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:20

ULT:

And the heart of the priest was good, and he took the ephod and the teraphim and the idol, and he went in the midst of the people.

UST:

The priest liked what they were suggesting. So he took the sacred vest, the household idols, and the silver molded figure and he left with the Danites.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:21

ULT:

And they turned and they went. And they put the children and the livestock and the wealth to their faces.

UST:

When they left, the soldiers had their children and cattle walk in front of them. They also had the animals that were carrying their baggage{, including the items they had taken from Micah,} walk in front of them. {That was to protect them from an attack from the rear.}

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:22

ULT:

They themselves had gone far from the house of Micah, and the men who {were} in the houses that were near the house of Micah assembled themselves, and they overtook the sons of Dan.

UST:

Micah gathered together the men who lived near him and they formed an army. Although the Danites had gotten some distance away by the time they started pursuing them, they were able to catch up with them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:23

ULT:

And they called to the sons of Dan, and they turned their faces and they said to Micah, "What to you, that you have assembled yourself?"

UST:

Micah and his men shouted at the men of the tribe of Dan. They turned around and asked Micah, "Why have you come after us with this army?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:24

ULT:

And he said, "My gods, which I made, you took, and the priest, and you went. And what {is} still to me? So what is this, you say to me, 'What to you'?"

UST:

Micah replied, "You took away my own silver idols and my priest! Those were the things I valued the most. So you should not be asking me why I have come after you with an army."

Why was Micah angry?

Micah was angry because the Danites stole the idols he had made and his priest and they were leaving.

Judges 18:25

ULT:

And sons of Dan said to him, "You should not make your voice heard among us, lest men bitter of soul strike you and you gather your soul and the soul of your house."

UST:

The men from the tribe of Dan replied, "You had better not say anything further about this to us. Otherwise some of our men will become angry and attack you, and they would kill you and your relatives and servants!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:26

ULT:

And the sons of Dan went on their way, for Micah perceived that they were stronger than him. And he turned and returned to his house.

UST:

Then the men from the tribe of Dan continued walking. Micah realized that those soldiers would defeat him and his neighbors if they fought. So he turned around and went home.

Why 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:

But they themselves took what Micah had made and the priest who was to him. And they came to Laish, to a people reposing and being secure. And they struck them to the mouth of the sword, and they burned the city with fire.

UST:

The men of the tribe of Dan kept Micah's household idols and his priest, and they continued traveling to Laish. They attacked the people who were living there, who had thought that they were safe. They killed all of them, and then they burned everything in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:28

ULT:

And there was not a deliverer, for it was far from Sidon and no thing {was} to them with man. Now it {was} in the valley that {is} to Beth Rehob. And they built the city, and they dwelled in it.

UST:

There was no group of people to rescue the people of Laish. The city was far from Sidon, so the people who lived there could not help them. 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 lived there themselves.

Why was there no one to rescue the people of Laish?

There was no one to rescue the people of Laish because it was a long way from Sidon and they had no other allies.

Judges 18:29

ULT:

And they called the name of the city Dan, by the name of their father Dan, who was born to Israel. However, Laish {was} the name of the city at the first.

UST:

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. But previously the name of the city had been Laish.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 18:30

ULT:

And the sons of Dan raised up the idol for themselves. And Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests for the tribe of the Danite until the day of the exile of the land.

UST:

The people of the tribe of Dan began to worship the silver molded figure that had belonged to Micah. They appointed Jonathan son of Gershom, the grandson of Moses, to be their priest. His descendants continued to be their priests until the Assyrians captured the Israelites who lived in that area and took them away to other countries.

Who were the priests for the tribe of the Danites?

Jonathan, the son of Gershom, (the grandson of Moses) and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan.

Judges 18:31

ULT:

So they set up for themselves the idol of Micah that he had made, all of the days of the being of the house of God at Shiloh.

UST:

Even though the sacred tent was in Shiloh at this time {and Israelites were supposed to worship there}, the people of the tribe of Dan worshiped the silver molded figure that had belonged to Micah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19

Judges 19:1

ULT:

Now it happened in those days, and a king {was} not in Israel, that a man, a Levite, was sojourning in the flanks of the hill country of Ephraim. He took for himself a woman, a concubine, from Bethlehem {in} Judah.

UST:

At that time the Israelites had no king. There was a Levite who lived in a remote place in the hilly area where the people of the tribe of Ephraim live. He had married a woman as a secondary wife. She was from the city whose name is Bethlehem that is in the area where the tribe of Judah lives.

Where was the Levite living?

The Levite was living in a remote area of the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges 19:2

ULT:

But his concubine whored against him, and she went from with him to the house of her father, to Bethlehem {in} Judah. And she was there days, four months.

UST:

But his secondary wife was unfaithful to him, and then she left him and returned to her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah. She kept living there for four months.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:3

ULT:

And her husband arose and went after her to speak to her heart to cause her to return. And his young man {was} with him, and a pair of donkeys. And she brought him into the house of her father; and the father of the young woman saw him, and he was glad to meet him.

UST:

Then her husband went to Bethlehem to try to persuade her to live with him again. He brought his servant and two donkeys with him. When he arrived at her father's house, she invited him to come in. When her father saw him, he was happy that he had come.

Where did the Levite's concubine bring him?

The concubine brought the Levite into the house of her father.

Judges 19:4

ULT:

And his father-in-law, the father of the young woman, prevailed upon him, and he stayed with him three days. And they ate and they drank and they lodged there.

UST:

The woman's father insisted that he stay for a visit. So he stayed there for three days. During that time, he shared meals with his host and slept in his house.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:5

ULT:

And it happened on the fourth day that they got up early in the morning and he arose to go, but the father of the young woman said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your heart {with} a piece of bread, and afterward you shall go."

UST:

On the fourth day, they all got up early in the morning because the Levite wanted to travel back home that day. But his wife's father said to him, "You should really have something to eat before you go {so that you are not hungry on your journey}."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:6

ULT:

So they sat down, and the two of them ate together, and they drank. Then the father of the young woman said to the man, "Please consent and lodge, and may your heart be good."

UST:

So the two men had a meal together. Then the wife's father said to the Levite, "Please agree to stay another night. Relax and have a good time."

Although the Levite intended to go home, what did his father-in-law want him to do?

His father-in-law wanted him to stay and spend the night.

Judges 19:7

ULT:

But the man arose to go, but his father-in-law urged him, so he stayed and lodged there.

UST:

The Levite wanted to leave, but his wife's father finally persuaded him to stay again that night.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:8

ULT:

And he got up early in the morning on the fifth day to go, but the father of the young woman said, "Please strengthen your heart." So they lingered until the declining of the day, and the two of them ate.

UST:

On the fifth day, the man got up early and prepared to leave. But the woman's father said to him once again, "You should have something to eat." So the two men once again had a meal together, and they did not finish until the end of the day.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:9

ULT:

And the man arose to go, he and his concubine and his young man. But his father-in-law, the father of the young woman, said to him, "Behold, please, the day has subsided toward evening. Please lodge. Behold the declining of the day. Lodge here, and may your heart be good. Then you shall get up early tomorrow to your road, and you shall go to your tent."

UST:

Then the Levite got up to leave with his wife and his servant. But the woman's father said, "Please do not leave. See how the sun is getting lower in the sky. See how dark it is getting already. You should stay here tonight and have a good time. Then you can leave on your journey tomorrow morning and get all the way home {in one day}."

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:

But the man was not willing to lodge, so he arose and he went. And he came to before Jebus (it {is} Jerusalem). Now with him {was} the pair of donkeys, saddled, and his concubine {was} with him.

UST:

But the Levite did not want to stay for another night. So he put saddles on his two donkeys and left with his wife {and his servant}. They traveled as far as the city of Jebus, which people now call Jerusalem.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:11

ULT:

They {were} beside Jebus, and the day had gone down greatly. So the young man said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusite, and we shall lodge in it."

UST:

It was late in the afternoon by the time they got to Jebus. So the servant said to his master, "I know that the Jebusites live in this city, but I think we need to stop and stay here for the night."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:12

ULT:

But his master said to him, "We shall not turn aside into a city of a foreigner, where none from the sons of Israel {are} here. But we shall cross over to Gibeah."

UST:

But his master told him, "No, it would not be good for us to stay here where foreign people live. There are no Israelite people here. We should 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 stay in a city where there were no other Israelites.

Judges 19:13

ULT:

And he said to his young man, "Come, and let us approach to one of the places, and we shall lodge in Gibeah or in Ramah."

UST:

He told his servant, "Instead of staying here, we can go a little farther to a city where Israelites live. We could stay for the night in either Gibeah or Ramah."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:14

ULT:

So they crossed over and they went. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which {is} to Benjamin.

UST:

So they continued walking. By the time they reached Gibeah, where people from the tribe of Benjamin live, the sun was setting.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:15

ULT:

So they turned aside there to enter to lodge in Gibeah. And they entered and they sat down in the open area of the city, but no one was receiving them into the house to lodge.

UST:

So they stopped there in Gibeah to stay for the night. They went into the public square of that city and sat down {as travelers did who were hoping that someone would give them a place to stay}. But no one who went through the square invited them to stay in his house for the night.

Why did the Levite and his servant sit down in the city square?

They sat down in the city square, for no one had offered them a place to stay for the night.

Judges 19:16

ULT:

Then behold, an old man coming from his work, from the field in the evening. And the man {was} from the hill country of Ephraim, and he {was} sojourning in Gibeah. But the men of the place {were} Benjaminite.

UST:

But then an old man came by. He had been out working in the fields all day. He was from the hilly area where the people of the tribe of Ephraim live. But at that time, he was living in Gibeah. He did not belong to the tribe of Benjamin as most of the people there did.

From what tribe were the men living in Gibeah?

The men living in Gibeah were from the tribe of Benjamin.

Judges 19:17

ULT:

And he lifted his eyes, and he saw the traveling man in the open area of the city. And the old man said, "Where are you going and from where are you coming?"

UST:

When he saw the Levite in the open area, he realized that he was traveling and did not have a place to stay in that city. So the old man asked him, "Where have you come from? And where are you going?"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:18

ULT:

He said to him, "We {are} crossing over from Bethlehem {in} Judah to the flanks of the hill country of Ephraim. I {am} from there, and I went to Bethlehem {in} Judah, and I {am} going {to} the house of Yahweh. But there is not a man receiving me into the house."

UST:

The Levite replied, "We are returning from Bethlehem in Judah to my home in the hilly area where the people of the tribe of Ephraim live. I went from there to Bethlehem. However, before we return to my home, we are going to the sacred tent {in Shiloh}. No one here has invited us to stay in their house tonight."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:19

ULT:

But there is even straw and even fodder for our donkeys, and there is even bread and wine for me and for your maidservant and for the young man with your servants. {There is} no need of anything.”

UST:

{But wanting to be polite and not wanting to impose, the Levite continued,} “However, we have straw and grain to feed our donkeys. And I and my wife and our servant have bread and wine to eat and drink. So we do not need anything else.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:20

ULT:

But the old man said, "Peace to you! Surely all of your need {is} upon me. Surely you must not lodge in the open area."

UST:

The old man said, "I will take care of you. I will provide you with a place to stay. I do not want you to have to spend the night in the open square."

What did the old man warn the Levite not to do?

The old man warned the Levite not to spend the night in the open square.

Judges 19:21

ULT:

So he brought him into his house, and he mixed for the donkeys, and they washed their feet, and they ate and they drank.

UST:

Then the old man took them to his house. He gave food to their donkeys. He gave the man and the woman and the servant water so they could wash the dust from the road off their feet. Then the old man served them a meal.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:22

ULT:

They were making their heart good, but behold, men of the city, men of sons of wickedness, encircled themselves {around} the house, pounding {repeatedly} on the door. And they spoke to the old man, the master of the house, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him."

UST:

While they were having a good time together, a group of very wicked men from that city surrounded the house and started to bang on the door. They shouted to the old man whose house it was, "Bring out the man who has come to your house! We are all going to rape him!"

Why did the wicked men of the city want the old man to bring out the man who was staying in his house?

The wicked men of the city wanted the old man to bring out the man who came was staying in his house so they could have sex with him.

Judges 19:23

ULT:

But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brothers, please do not act wickedly! After that this man has come into my house, you must not do this outrage!”

UST:

The old man whose house it was went outside to talk to them. He told them, “Please do not commit such a crime against this man! We are all members of the same community. I have offered this man shelter and safety in my home. You should {respect that and} not do such a terrible thing to him!”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:24

ULT:

Behold, my virgin daughter and his concubine. Please let me bring them out, and you may humble them and do to them the good in your eyes. But to this man do not do this thing of outrage!”

UST:

Listen, I have an unmarried daughter living with me in my home. This man’s wife is also here. I will bring them out to you, and you can have sex with them and do whatever you want to them. 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:

But the men did not consent to listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them outside. And they knew her and they abused her all of the night until the morning. Then they let her go at the rising of the dawn.

UST:

But the men did not agree to do what he had said. So the man pushed his wife outside the house where those men were. They forced her to have sex with them. They abused her all night long. At dawn, they finally let her go.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:26

ULT:

And the woman came at the turning of the morning, and she fell down at the entrance of the house of the man where her master was there, until the light.

UST:

The sun was rising when the woman got back to the old man's house, where her husband was staying. But she collapsed at the doorway and remained there until it became light.

What happened at dawn?

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 19:27

ULT:

And her master arose in the morning, and he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way. And behold, the woman, his concubine, fallen {at} the entrance of the house, and her hands {were} on the threshold.

UST:

That morning, her husband got up and unlocked the doors and left the house to continue his journey. But he saw his wife lying there at the doorway of the house. Her hands were on the doorsill.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 19:28

ULT:

And he said to her, "Arise, and let us go." But {there was} no answering, so he took her on the donkey, and the man arose and went to his place.

UST:

He said to her, "Come on, we can go now." But she did not answer{, because she was dead}. He put her body on one of the donkeys, and he {and his servant} traveled back 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 body on the donkey and set out for home.

Judges 19:29

ULT:

And he came to his house, and he took a knife, and he seized his concubine, and he cut her to her bones, into 12 pieces, and he sent her into all of the border of Israel.

UST:

When he arrived at his home, he took a knife and cut his wife's body into twelve pieces. Then he sent one piece into the territory of each of the tribes of Israel{, along with a messenger to tell what had happened}.

What did the Levite do to his concubine's body?

The Levite cut her up into twelve pieces and sent the pieces to each of the tribes throughout Israel.

Judges 19:30

ULT:

And it happened, everyone was seeing, and he said, "Like this has not been done and has not been seen from the day of the coming up of the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt up to this day. Set for yourselves upon it! Take counsel, and speak!"

UST:

Then everyone who saw a piece of the body {and heard the message} said, "Nothing like this has happened since our ancestors came here from Egypt! No one has heard of such a terrible thing! We all need to think carefully about this, and people should say what they think we should do in response."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20

Judges 20:1

ULT:

Then all of the sons of Israel came forth, and the congregation was assembled as one man, from Dan and unto Beersheba and the land of Gilead, to Yahweh at Mizpah.

UST:

Then many people from throughout Israel traveled to Mizpah so they could meet together there and talk about what to do. They came from as far north as the city of Dan and from as far south as the city of Beersheba. They also came from the region of Gilead east of the Jordan River. They asked Yahweh to be present with them and guide their discussion.

Who gathered together before Yahweh at Mizpah?

All the people from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, gathered together before Yahweh at Mizpah.

Judges 20:2

ULT:

And the cornerstones of all of the people, all of the tribes of Israel, stationed themselves within the assembly of the people of God, 400, 000, a man, a footsoldier drawing the sword.

UST:

The leaders who had come from various tribes of Israel met together with all the other Israelite people. There were 400,000 men there who had learned how to fight well on foot with a sword.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:3

ULT:

Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up {to} Mizpah. And the sons of Israel said, "Say how this evil has been done."

UST:

The people of the tribe of Benjamin heard that the other Israelites were meeting in Mizpah. But no one from the tribe of Benjamin joined them there. The other Israelites who had gathered asked to hear how this horrible crime had happened.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:4

ULT:

So the man, the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered and said, "To Gibeah that {is} to Benjamin I came, I and my concubine, to lodge.

UST:

The Levite whose wife the men of Gibeah had murdered spoke up. He said, "My wife and I were traveling, and we needed a place to stay for the night. We went to the city whose name is Gibeah that is in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:5

ULT:

And the lords of Gibeah arose against me, and they encircled the house at night against me. Me, they intended to kill, but my concubine, they humbled, and she died.

UST:

That evening, a gang of men who seem to be able to do whatever they want in that city surrounded the house where we were staying. They wanted to rape me, and they would have killed me afterwards. {I know that because} they raped my wife all night so that she died.

What did the Levite say the men of Gibeah did to him?

The Levite said the men of Gibeah surrounded the house in order to abuse and kill him.

Judges 20:6

ULT:

And I took back my concubine, and I cut her up, and I sent her into every field of the inheritance of Israel, because they have done lewdness and outrage in Israel.

UST:

I took her body home and cut it into pieces. Then I sent one piece into the territory of each of the tribes of Israel. I did that because I wanted you all to know about this terrible, wicked thing that those men did right here in Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:7

ULT:

Behold, all of you sons of Israel, give to yourselves a word and advice here.”

UST:

So now, all you Israelites, talk together here and decide what you should do about this!”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:8

ULT:

And all of the people arose as one man, saying, "We will not go back, a man to his tent, and we will not return, a man to his house!"

UST:

Then all the people stood up together {to show how resolved they were} and said, "None of us will go back to where we live {until we make sure that those men will be punished}!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:9

ULT:

And now this {is} the thing that we should do to Gibeah, against it by lot.

UST:

This is what we must do to the people of Gibeah. First, we will cast lots to choose an army of soldiers to attack them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:10

ULT:

Now we will take ten men of a hundred from all of the tribes of Israel, and a hundred from a thousand, and a thousand from a myriad, to get provision for the people, to do at their coming to Gibeah in Benjamin according to all of the outrage that it did in Israel.”

UST:

Then, we will have one tenth of our people get supplies for those soldiers. That way they will have what they need to go to Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin and punish the people who are responsible for doing this terrible thing in the land of Israel.”

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:11

ULT:

So every man of Israel was gathered against the city as one man, associates.

UST:

And all the Israelite people agreed that they had to punish the people of Gibeah. They would all work together to do that.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:12

ULT:

And the tribes of Israel sent men into all of the tribes of Benjamin, saying, "What is this evil that has been done among you?"

UST:

The assembly of Israelites also agreed to send messengers throughout the tribe of Benjamin. They told these messengers to say, "Some of your men have done a very wicked thing in your territory!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:13

ULT:

And now, give over the men, the sons of wickedness, who {are} in Gibeah, that we may kill them so that we may burn up evil from Israel.” But they were not willing, Benjamin, to listen to the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel.

UST:

Those wicked men live in the city of Gibeah. Surrender them to us so that we can execute them. That way we can get rid of the influence that the wicked thing they did is having on the people of Israel.” But the people of the tribe of Benjamin refused to surrender the men as the other Israelites had demanded.

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 they might put them to death in order to completely remove this evil from Israel.

Judges 20:14

ULT:

Then the sons of Benjamin gathered themselves from the cities to Gibeah, to come out to battle with the sons of Israel.

UST:

The men who lived in other cities in the territory of Benjamin gathered at Gibeah to defend it against the other Israelites when they attacked.

Why did the people of Benjamin come together at Gibeah?

The people of Benjamin came together at Gibeah to defend it against the people of Israel.

Judges 20:15

ULT:

And the sons of Benjamin mobilized themselves on that day from the cities, 26,000 men drawing the sword, besides 700 chosen men from the dwellers of Gibeah {who} mobilized themselves.

UST:

When they did that, a total of 26,000 fighting men came from those cities to fight. Another 700 skilled warriors who lived in Gibeah joined them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:16

ULT:

Among all of this people {were} 700, a chosen man, impeded in his right hand, each of them slinging with a stone at a hair and he would not miss.

UST:

Among those soldiers there were 700 skilled warriors who were left-handed. They could all sling stones and hit targets with great accuracy.

What was special about the 700 chosen men?

The 700 chosen men were left-handed; each of them could sling a stone with great accuracy.

Judges 20:17

ULT:

And the men of Israel, besides Benjamin, mobilized themselves, 400, 000 men drawing the sword, each of them a man of war.

UST:

The people of all the tribes of Israel except Benjamin formed an army of 400,000 men. Those men had learned how to fight with a sword. They were all experienced soldiers.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:18

ULT:

And they arose and went up to Bethel. And the sons of Israel inquired of God, and they said, "Who should go up for us at the start to the battle with the sons of Benjamin?" And Yahweh said, "Judah at the start."

UST:

Those other Israelites wanted to ask God for advice. So they went to Bethel {where the sacred chest was at that time}. They asked, "Which tribe's soldiers should lead the attack when we go and fight against the tribe of Benjamin?" Yahweh answered, "The soldiers from the tribe of Judah should lead the attack."

Why did Judah attack Benjamin?

The people asked God and he told them that Judah should attack first.

Judges 20:19

ULT:

So the sons of Israel arose in the morning, and they camped near Gibeah.

UST:

So the next morning the Israelite soldiers went and set up a military camp near Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:20

ULT:

And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin. And the men of Israel arrayed themselves for battle against Gibeah.

UST:

After that, the Israelite soldiers went to fight against the men from the tribe of Benjamin. They got into positions near Gibeah where they could fight a battle.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:21

ULT:

And the sons of Benjamin came out from Gibeah, and they destroyed down to the ground 22,000 men from Israel on that day.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and fought against them. They killed 22,000 soldiers from Israel in that battle.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:22

ULT:

But the people, the men of Israel, strengthened themselves, and they resumed to array for battle at the place where they had arrayed there on the first day.

UST:

But the soldiers of Israel did not give up. 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:

For the sons of Israel had gone up and wept to the face of Yahweh until the evening. And they had inquired of Yahweh, saying, "Shall I resume to approach to battle with the sons of Benjamin, my brother?" And Yahweh had said, "Go up against him."

UST:

Some of them had gone {to Bethel} and mourned in Yahweh's presence until the end of that day. They had asked Yahweh what they should do. They had said, "Should we fight another battle with the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin, even though they are Israelites just as we are?" Yahweh had answered, "Yes, attack them!"

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:24

ULT:

So the sons of Israel drew near to the sons of Benjamin on the second day.

UST:

So the next day the Israelite soldiers once again advanced against the Benjaminite army.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:25

ULT:

And Benjamin came forth to meet them from Gibeah on the second day, and they destroyed to the ground yet 18,000 men from the sons of Israel, all of these drawers of a sword.

UST:

The soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin came out from Gibeah to fight another battle. They attacked them, and they killed 18,000 more Israelite soldiers who had all learned how to fight well with a sword.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:26

ULT:

Then all of the sons of Israel went up, and all of the people, and they came {to} Bethel. And they wept, and they sat there to the face of Yahweh, and they fasted on that day until the evening, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the face of Yahweh.

UST:

That afternoon, the soldiers who had survived went to Bethel. All the other Israelites who had come to support the army went with them. They sat there in Yahweh's presence and mourned. They ate nothing that day until the sun set. At the sacred tent the priests made sacrifices for them that they burned completely on the altar, and they also made fellowship sacrifices.

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 offerings to Yahweh.

Judges 20:27

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel inquired of Yahweh, for the Box of the Covenant of God {was} there in those days

UST:

The people of Israel asked Yahweh to guide them. The sacred chest of God was in Bethel at that time.

Where was the Box of the Covenant of God in those days?

The Box of the Covenant of God was in Bethel at that time.

Judges 20:28

ULT:

(and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, {was} standing to the face of it in those days), saying, "Shall I resume again to go out to battle with the sons of Benjamin, my brother; or shall I stop?" And Yahweh said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will give him into your hand."

UST:

Phinehas son of Eleazar, the grandson of Aaron, was serving as the high priest at the sacred tent at that time. The Israelites asked, "Should we fight another battle with the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin, even though they are Israelites just as we are? Or should we not fight any more battles?" Yahweh said, "Attack them, because tomorrow I will enable you to defeat them."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:29

ULT:

So Israel set ambushers against Gibeah all around.

UST:

The Israelites had many of their soldiers hide in the fields around Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:30

ULT:

And the sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day, and they arrayed against Gibeah as time upon time.

UST:

The other Israelite soldiers advanced against Gibeah for a third time. They stood in their positions for fighting a battle against the Benjaminite army just as they had done on the previous days.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:31

ULT:

And the sons of Benjamin came out to meet the people. They were drawn from the city, and they began to strike down {some} of the people, slain as time upon time on the roads, {of} which one went up {to} Bethel and one {to} Gibeah by the field, about 30 men of Israel.

UST:

Then the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin came out of the city to fight against them. The Israelite soldiers retreated so that they would chase them and go away from the city. The Benjaminite soldiers were able to kill some of them as they had done before. They killed them on the roads {that they were using to retreat}. (One of those roads went to Bethel, and the other road went through the countryside to Gibeah.) They killed about 30 Israelite soldiers.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:32

ULT:

*And the sons of Benjamin said, "They {are} being beaten to our faces as at the first."
But the sons of Israel had said, "Let us flee and let us draw him from the city to the roads."*

UST:

*The men of the tribe of Benjamin thought, "We are defeating them as we did before!"
But the Israelite soldiers had only retreated in order to trick the soldiers from Benjamin into leaving the city and going down the roads.*

When the soldiers of Israel drew away from the city, what did the people of Benjamin think?

When the soldiers of Israel drew away from the city, the people of Benjamin thought they had defeated them and they were running away.

Judges 20:33

ULT:

Then every man of Israel arose from his place, and they arrayed at Baal Tamar. And the ambush of Israel gushed from his place, from Maareh Gibeah.

UST:

All at once, the soldiers in the main Israelite army stopped running away and came together into battle positions at a place that people call Baal Tamar. The other Israelite soldiers ran out from where they had been hiding in Maareh Gibeah.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:34

ULT:

And 10,000 men, chosen from all of Israel, came from opposite Gibeah, and the battle {was} heavy. But they did not know that harm {was} touching upon them.

UST:

There were 10,000 of those soldiers, and the Israelites had selected them for this mission from throughout their army. They advanced against the Benjaminite soldiers from the direction of the city. There was a very big battle. The soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin did not yet realize that the Israelites were going to defeat them badly.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:35

ULT:

So Yahweh defeated Benjamin to the face of Israel. And the sons of Israel destroyed Benjamin on that day, 25, 100 men, all of them drawing the sword.

UST:

Yahweh enabled the Israelite soldiers to defeat the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin. That day the Israelites killed 25,100 Benjaminites who had all learned how to fight well with a sword.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:36

ULT:

And the sons of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. For the men of Israel had given place to Benjamin because they were confident in the ambush that they had set against Gibeah.

UST:

Finally the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin recognized that they were going to lose the battle. {They realized that} the Israelite soldiers had only retreated because they knew they had other soldiers hiding around Gibeah {who would come and attack them from behind}.

Why had the men of Israel retreated?

The men of Israel had retreated because they wanted the Benjaminites to be drawn out of the city where they had men hidden outside Gibeah waiting to attack them.

Judges 20:37

ULT:

And the ambush hurried and spread out against Gibeah, and the ambush marched out and struck all of the city to the mouth of the sword.

UST:

Those soldiers who had been hiding came out and rushed quickly into Gibeah. They killed everyone who lived in the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:38

ULT:

Now a sign was to the men of Israel with the ambush, "Make great" for them sending up a signal of smoke from the city

UST:

The main group of Israelite soldiers {knew when to stop fleeing and turn around and attack because they} had arranged for the soldiers who were hiding to give them a signal. They told them to {set the city on fire once they had entered it so that} a great cloud of smoke would rise from it into the sky.

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:

when the men of Israel retreated from the battle. And Benjamin began to strike, the slain among the men of Israel {were} about 30 men. For they said, "Surely being beaten, he {is} being beaten to our faces, as {in} the first battle."

UST:

That was why the main group of Israelite soldiers had fled from the battle. They wanted the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin to think that they were winning the battle, just as they had before. The soldiers from Benjamin were able to kill about 30 Israelite soldiers.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:40

ULT:

But the signal began to go up from the city, a column of smoke, and Benjamin turned after it, and behold, the whole of the city had gone up to the heavens.

UST:

But then a cloud of smoke began to rise up from the city because the Israelite soldiers who had been hiding were setting fires as a signal. The soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin turned around and saw a great cloud of smoke going up into the sky because fires were burning throughout the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:41

ULT:

And a man of Israel turned, and a man of Benjamin was alarmed, for he saw that harm had touched upon him.

UST:

The main group of Israelite men also saw the smoke, and so they turned around {and began to attack the Benjaminites}. The soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin became very afraid, because they realized that they were going to be badly defeated.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:42

ULT:

So they turned to the face of the men of Israel to the way of the wilderness, but the battle overtook him, and {those} who {were} from the cities {were} destroying him in the midst of him.

UST:

So the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin tried to run away toward the desolate area outside the city to escape from the Israelite soldiers. But they were not able to escape, because the rest of the Israelite soldiers were coming at them from the other direction. They were caught between the two groups.

Why could the men of Benjamin not escape?

The men of Benjamin ran away from the soldiers of Israel, trying to escape into the wilderness, but they were caught between the two groups of Israelites.

Judges 20:43

ULT:

They surrounded Benjamin, they caused to pursue, {with} ease they trampled him unto before Gibeah, from the rising of the sun.

UST:

The Israelite soldiers surrounded many of the soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin, chasing them into an area east of Gibeah. The Israelite soldiers easily killed many of them there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:44

ULT:

And they fell from Benjamin, 18,000 men, all of them men of valor.

UST:

The Israelites killed 18,000 soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin who were all great warriors.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:45

ULT:

And they turned and fled to the wilderness, to the rock of Rimmon. And they gleaned along the pathways 5,000 men. And they pursued closely after him unto Gidom, and they struck from him 2,000 men.

UST:

Those who were still alive tried to run to the rock of Rimmon in a desolate area {where they could protect themselves}. But the Israelite soldiers killed 5,000 more soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin on the roads as they were trying to run away. The Israelites chased other soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin who were fleeing towards the city of Gidom. The Israelites killed 2,000 of them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:46

ULT:

So on that day all of the fallen ones from Benjamin were 25, 000 men drawing the sword, all of them men of valor.

UST:

Altogether 25,000 soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin who had learned how to fight well with a sword died that day. They were all great warriors.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 20:47

ULT:

But 600 men turned and fled to the wilderness, to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon four months.

UST:

But 600 soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin escaped into a desolate area. They got safely to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed there for four months.

How many soldiers of Benjamin turned and fled to the wilderness?

Six hundred men were able to escape to the wilderness.

Judges 20:48

ULT:

Then the men of Israel returned to the sons of Benjamin, and they struck them to the mouth of the sword, from a city of entirety to cattle to everything found. Also, all of the cities found, they sent into fire.

UST:

Then the Israelite soldiers went throughout the territory that belonged to the tribe of Benjamin and slaughtered everyone. They killed all the people in each city. They also killed all the animals and destroyed everything else that was in those cities. They also burned all of the cities in that territory to the ground.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21

Judges 21:1

ULT:

Now a man of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, saying, "A man from us shall not give his daughter to Benjamin for a wife."

UST:

(When the Israelites gathered at Mizpah before they started to fight the tribe of Benjamin, all of the men made a solemn promise. They had declared, "None of us will ever allow one of our daughters to marry a man from the tribe of Benjamin!")

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:2

ULT:

*And the people came {to} Bethel, and they sat there until the evening to the face of God.
And they lifted their voice and wept a great weeping.*

UST:

*{After destroying the people, animals, and property throughout the territory of
Benjamin,} the Israelites went to Bethel where God's sacred tent was. They sat down
and wept very loudly and sadly all day.*

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:3

ULT:

And they said, "Why, Yahweh, God of Israel, should this be in Israel, to be missing today one tribe from Israel?"

UST:

They kept saying, "Yahweh, you are the God of us Israelite people. But one of our Israelite tribes does not exist anymore! This should not have happened to us!"

Why did the men of Israel say that one of their tribes might not exist anymore?

The men of Israel worried that the Benjaminite tribe would no longer exist since they had promised to not allow their daughters to marry a Benjaminite so the remaining men would not have women to marry.

Judges 21:4

ULT:

And it happened the next day that the people arose early and built an altar there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

UST:

Early the next morning, the people built an altar at Bethel. The priests made sacrifices for them that they burned completely on the altar, and they also made fellowship sacrifices.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:5

ULT:

And the sons of Israel said, “Who {is it} who did not go up with the assembly from all of the tribes of Israel to Yahweh?” For a great oath had been regarding whoever did not go up to Yahweh {at} Mizpah, saying, “Dying, he shall be caused to die.”

UST:

Then the Israelites started asking whether the people of any city in one of the tribes of Israel had not come when they met to ask Yahweh for guidance. They were asking this because they had all sworn very solemnly that they would kill any group that did not come when they met with Yahweh at Mizpah.

Who would certainly be put to death?

Anyone who did not come when they met with Yahweh at Mizpah would certainly be put to death.

Judges 21:6

ULT:

And the sons of Israel repented themselves toward Benjamin, his brother. And they said, "Today one tribe has been hewn from Israel."

UST:

The Israelites {were asking about this because they} felt sorry for their fellow Israelites from the tribe of Benjamin. They said, "Now one of our Israelite tribes no longer exists."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:7

ULT:

What shall we do for them, for the remaining ones, for a wife, since we ourselves have sworn to Yahweh not to give to them from our daughters for a wife?"

UST:

Let us think about what we can do to make sure that the surviving men from the tribe of Benjamin have wives. {This is a difficult problem, because} all of us here made a solemn promise to Yahweh that we would not allow any of our daughters to marry a man from the tribe of Benjamin."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:8

ULT:

And they said, “Who {is} the one from the tribes of Israel who did not go up to Yahweh {at} Mizpah?” And behold, a man had not come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead for the assembly.

UST:

That is why the people were asking whether the people from any city in one of the tribes of Israel had not sent anyone to Mizpah when the Israelites met with Yahweh there. They thought they recalled that no one had come from the city of Jabesh Gilead to the meeting at Mizpah.

Which of the cities did not come to meet with Yahweh at Mizpah?

No one from the city of Jabesh Gilead had come to meet with Yahweh at Mizpah.

Judges 21:9

ULT:

And the people counted themselves, and behold, a man {was} not there from the dwellers of Jabesh Gilead.

UST:

So they checked everyone who was there in Bethel, and they found that no one who lived in the city of Jabesh Gilead was there. {This seemed to prove that none of them had come to Mizpah.}

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:10

ULT:

So the congregation sent 12,000 men there from the sons of the army and they commanded them, saying, "Go, and you shall strike the dwellers of Jabesh Gilead to the mouth of the sword, even the women and the children."

UST:

So all the Israelites chose 12,000 experienced soldiers and gave them orders to go and kill all of the people who lived in Jabesh Gilead, including the women and the children.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:11

ULT:

And this {is} the thing that you shall do: every male and every woman having known the lying of a male, you shall devote.”

UST:

They told those soldiers: “This is what we want you to do: kill all of the men 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:

And they found among the dwellers of Jabesh Gilead 400 young women, a virgin who had not known a man by the lying of a male, and they brought them to the camp {at} Shiloh, which was in the land of Canaan.

UST:

{So those soldiers went to Jabesh Gilead and killed all the men, married women, and children.} But in that city they found 400 young women there who had never been married. So they brought them to Shiloh{, where they had all gone by then}. That city was across the river from the region where the city of Jabesh Gilead was.

Who did the men take from those living in Jabesh Gilead?

The men took 400 young women who had never slept with a man from those living in Jabesh Gilead.

Judges 21:13

ULT:

And all of the congregation sent and spoke to the sons of Benjamin who {were} at the rock of Rimmon, and they called out peace to them.

UST:

Then all the Israelites who had gathered sent a message to the men from the tribe of Benjamin who had gone to the rock of Rimmon {where they could protect themselves}. The Israelites said that they would not try to kill them.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:14

ULT:

So Benjamin returned at that time, and they gave to them the women who were alive from the women of Jabesh Gilead. But they did not find enough for them.

UST:

So the Benjaminites then came back from the rock of Rimmon. The Israelites allowed them to marry the young women from Jabesh Gilead whom they had not killed. But {there were only 400 women.} That was not enough women for those 600 men.

What was the problem when the Benjaminites were given the women of Jabesh Gilead?

When the Benjaminites were given the women of Jabesh Gilead, there were not enough women for all of them to marry.

Judges 21:15

ULT:

And the people repented itself for Benjamin, for Yahweh had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

UST:

So the Israelites still felt sorry for the men of the tribe of Benjamin. It seemed that one of the Israelite tribes would not exist any more because Yahweh had told the other Israelites to fight against that tribe.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:16

ULT:

So the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for the remaining ones, since a woman has been destroyed from Benjamin?"

UST:

The Israelite leaders said, "We have killed all the women of the tribe of Benjamin. So 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:

And they said, "A possession of the escapee of Benjamin, so a tribe will not be wiped out from Israel.

UST:

They continued, "These surviving Benjaminites must have wives {who will give birth to children so that their family lines can continue}. Otherwise, the tribe of Benjamin will no longer exist in Israel.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:18

ULT:

But we ourselves are not able to give wives to them from our daughters, because the sons of Israel have sworn, saying, 'Cursed {is} the one giving a wife to Benjamin.'"

UST:

But we Israelites all solemnly asked Yahweh to curse anyone who gave one of his daughters to any man of the tribe of Benjamin as a wife. So we cannot allow our daughters to marry these men."

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:19

ULT:

So they said, "Behold, a feast of Yahweh {is} at Shiloh from days to days." (That {is} from the north to Bethel, from the rising of the sun to the road going up from Bethel {to} Shechem and from the south to Lebonah.)

UST:

Then they had an idea. They remembered, "Every year there is a festival to honor Yahweh at Shiloh." (That city is north of Bethel and east of the road that extends from Bethel to Shechem. 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:

So they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, "Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards.

UST:

So the Israelite leaders told the surviving men of the tribe of Benjamin {who did not yet have wives}, "When it is the time for that festival, go to Shiloh and hide in the vineyards around the city.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:21

ULT:

And you shall look, and behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then you shall come out from the vineyards, and you shall catch for yourselves a man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and you shall go {to} the land of Benjamin.

UST:

Keep watching for the young women to come out of Shiloh to dance. When they come out, run out from the vineyards. Each of you men can seize one of the young women of Shiloh. Then you can all return to your homes in the territory of Benjamin with those women as your wives.

When were the Benjaminites to each rush out of the vineyards and grab a wife from the young women of Shiloh?

When the young women from Shiloh came out to dance, each Benjaminite was to rush out of the vineyards and grab a young woman as his wife.

Judges 21:22

ULT:

And it will happen, when their fathers or their brothers come to contend with us, that we will say to them, 'Grant us them, for we did not take, a man his wife, in the battle. For you have not given to them at {this} time, {that} you should be guilty.'"

UST:

If their fathers or brothers come to us and demand that you give the women back, we will say to them, 'Please allow us to give your young women to the men of Benjamin as wives. Do this because, when we fought them, we did not leave any women alive who could be their wives. And you are not giving your young women now to the men from the tribe of Benjamin as wives. They stole them. So you will not be guilty of breaking the oath that we all swore not to give any of our daughters as a wife to any of them.'"

Why would the men of Shiloh not be guilty of breaking their oath?

The men of Shiloh were told that they had not broken their oath since they had not given their daughters to the Benjaminites as wives but instead, the young women had been stolen.

Judges 21:23

ULT:

And the sons of Benjamin did thus, and they carried away wives for their number from the ones dancing, whom they caught. And they went and returned to their inheritance, and they built the cities and dwelled in them.

UST:

So that is what the men of the tribe of Benjamin did. They went to Shiloh at the time of the festival. When the young women came out of the city to dance, each man grabbed one of them and took her away and married her. Then they took their wives back to the land that the Israelite leaders had assigned to them. They rebuilt their cities that the other Israelites had burned down, and they lived there.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:24

ULT:

Then the sons of Israel disbursed themselves from there at that time, a man to his tribe and to his clan, and they went away from there, a man to his inheritance.

UST:

Then the other Israelites left Shiloh and all went back to where their families and tribes lived. They returned to the areas that the Israelite leaders had assigned to their tribes.

(There are no questions for this verse)

Judges 21:25

ULT:

In those days a king {was} not in Israel. A man did the right in his eyes.

UST:

At that time, Israel did not have a king, and everyone did what they thought they should do.

How did everyone live in those days when Israel had no king?

Everyone did what he thought was right in his own eyes.