

The Book of  
**Judges**

**Chapter 1**

**A**nd it came to pass after the death of Jesus, that the sons of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, Who shall go up for us first against the Canaanites, to fight against them? 2 And the Lord said, Judas should go up, behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. 3 And Judas said to his brother Simon, Come up with me into my lot, and let us array ourselves against the Canaanites, and I also will go with thee into thy lot; and Simon went with him. 4 And Judas went up; and the Lord delivered the Canaanite and the Pherezite into their hands, and they destroyed them in Bezek to *the number of* ten thousand men. 5 And they overtook Adonibezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they destroyed the Canaanite and the Pherezite. 6 And Adonibezek fled, and they pursued after him, and took him, and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. 7 And Adonibezek said, Seventy kings, having their thumbs and their big toes cut off, gathered under my table; as I therefore have done, so God has recompensed me; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

8 And the sons of Judas fought against Jerusalem, and took it, and destroyed with the edge of the sword, and they burnt the city with fire. 9 And afterwards the sons of Judas went down to fight with the Canaanite living in the hill country, and the south, and the plain country. 10 And Judas went to the Canaanite who lived in Hebron; and Hebron came out against him; and the name of Hebron before was Kariatharboksepher. And they destroyed Sessi, and Ahiman, and Tholmi, children of Enak. 11 And they went up thence to the inhabitants of Dabir; but the name of Dabir was before Cariathsepher, the City of Letters. 12 And Kaleb said, Whoever shall strike the City of Letters, and shall first take it, I will give to him Asha my daughter to wife. 13 And Gothoniel the younger son of Kenez the brother of Kaleb took it; and Kaleb gave him his daughter Asha to wife. 14 And it came to pass as she went in, that Gothoniel urged her to ask a field of her father; and she murmured and cried from off her mule, Thou have sent me forth into a south land; and Kaleb said to her, What troubles thee? 15 And Asha said to him, Give me, I pray thee, a blessing, for thou hast sent me forth into a south land, and thou shall give me the ransom of water: and Kaleb gave her according to her heart the ransom of the upper and the ransom of the low.

16 And the sons of Jothor the Kenite the father-in-law of Moses went up from the city of palm trees with the sons of Judas, to the wilderness that is in the south of Judah, which is at the descent of Arad, and they lived with the people.

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17 And Judas went with Simon his brother, and struck the Canaanite that inhabited Sepheth, and they utterly destroyed them; and they called the name of the city Anathema. 18 But Judas did not inherit Gaza or her coasts, or Askalon or her coasts, or Akkaron or her coasts, or Azotus or the lands around it. 19 And the Lord was with Judas, and he inherited the mountain; for they were not able to destroy the inhabitants of the valley, for Rehab prevented them. 20 And they gave Hebron to Kaleb, as Moses said; and thence he inherited the three cities of the sons of Enak. 21 But the sons of Benjamin did not inherit the inheritance of the Jebusite who lived in Jerusalem; and the Jebusite lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem until this day.

22 And the sons of Joseph, they also went up to Bethel; and the Lord was with them. 23 And they encamped and surveyed Bethel; and the name of the city before was Luza. 24 And the spies looked, and behold, a man went out of the city, and they took him; and they said to him, Show us the way into the city, and we will deal mercifully with thee. 25 And he showed them the way into the city; and they smote the city with the edge of the sword; but they let go the man and his family. 26 And the man went into the land of Hettin, and built there a city, and called the name of it Luza; this *is* its name until this day. 27 And Manassas did not drive out *the people of* Bethsan, which is a city of Scythians, nor her daughters, nor her surrounding country; nor Thanak, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; nor the inhabitant of Balak, nor her surrounding country, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Magedo, nor her surrounding country, nor her towns; nor the inhabitants of Jeblaam, nor her suburbs, nor her towns; and the Canaanite began to live in this land. 28 And it came to pass when Israel was strong, that he made the Canaanite a tributary, but did not utterly drive them out. 29 And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanite that lived in Gazer; and the Canaanite lived in the middle of him in Gazer, and became a tributary. 30 And Zabulon did not drive out the inhabitants of Kedron, or the inhabitants of Domana: and the Canaanite lived in the middle of them, and became a tributary to him. 31 And Aser did not drive out the inhabitants of Akkho, and *they* became a tributary to him, nor the inhabitants of Dor, nor the inhabitants of Sidon, nor the inhabitants of Dalaph, nor Aschazi, nor Hebda, nor Nai, nor Ereo. 32 And Aser lived in the middle of the Canaanite who inhabited the land, for he could not drive him out. 33 And Nephthali did not drive out the inhabitants of Bethsamis, nor the inhabitants of Bethanah; and Nephthali lived in the middle of the Canaanite who inhabited the land; but the inhabitants of Bethsamis and of Betheneth became a tributary to them.

34 And the Amorite drove out the sons of Dan into the mountains, for they did not suffer them to come down into the valley. 35 And the Amorite began to live on the Mountain of Shards, in which *are* bears, and foxes, in Myrsinon, and in Thalabin; and the hand of the house of Joseph was heavy upon

the Amorite, and he became a tributary to them. 36 And the border of the Amorite was from the going up of Akkrabin, from the rock and upward.

## **Chapter 2**

**A**nd an angel of the Lord went up from Galgal to the Weeping, and to Bethel, and to the house of Israel, and said before them, Thus says the Lord, I brought you up out of Egypt, and I brought you into the land which I swore to thy fathers; and I said, I will never break My covenant that I have made with you. 2 And ye shall make no covenant with them that live in this land, neither shall ye worship their gods; but ye shall destroy their graven images, ye shall pull down their altars: but ye hearkened not to My voice, for ye did these things. 3 And I said, I will not drive them out from before you, but they shall be worries to you, and their gods shall be to you for an offence. 4 And it came to pass when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the sons of Israel that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. 5 And they called the name of that place Weepings; and they sacrificed there to the Lord. 6 And Jesus dismissed the people, and they went every man to his inheritance, to inherit the land.

7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Jesus, and all the days of the elders that lived many days with Jesus, as many as knew all the mighty work of the Lord, what things He had wrought in Israel.

8 And Jesus the son of Naue, the servant of the Lord, died, a son of a hundred and ten years *old*. 9 And they buried him on the border of his inheritance, in Thamnathares, on mount Ephraim, on the north of the mountain of Gaas. 10 And all that generation were laid to their fathers: and another generation arose after them, who knew not the Lord, nor yet the work that He performed in Israel.

11 And the sons of Israel did evil before the Lord, and served Baalim. 12 And they abandoned the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and walked after other gods, of the gods of the nations around them; and they worshipped them, and they provoked the Lord, 13 and abandoned Him, and served Baal and the Astartes. 14 And the Lord was very angry with Israel; and He gave them into the hands of the plunderers, and they plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around, and they could not any longer stand before their enemies, 15 among whomever they went; and the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord spoke, and as the Lord swore to them; and He greatly afflicted them. 16 And the Lord raised up judges, and the Lord save them out of the hands of them that plundered them: and yet they hearkened not to the judges,

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17 for they acted as a harlot after other gods, and worshipped them; and they turned quickly out of the way in which their fathers walked to hearken to the words of the Lord; they did not do so. 18 And because the Lord raised them up judges, so the Lord was with the judge, and saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved at their groaning by reason of them that oppressed them and afflicted them. 19 And it came to pass when the judge died, that they went back, and again *became* corrupted worse than their fathers to go after other gods to serve them and to worship them: they abandoned neither their devices nor their stiff-necked ways. 20 And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and said, Forasmuch as this nation has abandoned My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not hearkened to My voice, 21 therefore I will not any more drive out from before their face a man of those nations, which Jesus the son of Naue left in the land and then left, 22 to test Israel with them, whether they would keep the way of the Lord, to walk in it, as their fathers kept it, or not. 23 So the Lord left these nations, so as not to drive them out suddenly; and did not delivered them into the hand of Jesus.

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**A**nd these *are* the nations which the Lord left, to test Israel with them, all that had not known the wars of Canaan. 2 Only for the sake of the generations of the sons of Israel, to instruct them *in the art of war*, but only those who knew not these things. 3 The five lordships of the Philistines, and every Cananite, and the Sidonion, and the Evion who lived in Lebanon from the mountain of Aermion to Laboemath. 4 And *this* was done so as to test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commands of the Lord, which He charged their fathers by the hand of Moses. 5 And the sons of Israel lived in the midst of the Cananite, and the Hettite, and the Amorite, and the Pherezite, and the Evite, and the Jebusite. 6 And they took their daughters for wives to themselves, and they gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

7 And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgot the Lord their God, and served Baalim and the sacred Orchard of Trees. 8 And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and sold them into the hand of Housarsathem king of Syria *of the rivers*: and the sons of Israel served Housarsathem eight years. 9 And the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord; and the Lord raised up a deliverer to Israel, and he rescued them, Gothoniel the son of Kenez, the brother of Kaleb who was younger than him.

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10 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel; and he went to war against Housarsathem: and the Lord delivered into his hand Housarsathem king of Syria *of the rivers*, and his hand triumphed against Housarsathem. 11 And the land was at rest for forty years; and Gothoniel the son of Kenez died.

12 And the sons of Israel continued to do evil before the Lord. And the Lord strengthened Eglom king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil before the Lord. 13 And he gathered to himself all the sons of Ammon and Amalek, and went and struck Israel, and inherited possession of the City of Palms. 14 And the sons of Israel served Eglom the king of Moab for eighteen years.

15 And the sons of Israel cried to the Lord; and He raised up to them a savior, Aod the son of Gera a son of Jemeni, a man *who was ambidextrous*. And the sons of Israel sent gifts by his hand to Eglom king of Moab. 16 And Aod made himself a double-edged knief, of a span long, and he girded it under his cloak upon his right thigh. 17 And he went, and brought the gifts to Eglom king of Moab, and Eglom *was* an exceedingly handsome man. 18 And it came to pass when Aod had finished offering his gifts, that he sent out those that brought the gifts. 19 And he himself returned from the carvings that are by Galgal; and Aod said, I have a secret word to thee, O king! and Eglom said to him, Be silent: and he sent away from his presence all who waited upon him. 20 And Aod went in to him; and he sat in his own upper harvest chamber quite alone; and Aod said, I have a word from God to thee, O king: and Eglom arose from the throne *that was* near him. 21 And it came to pass as he rose, that Aod stretched out his left hand, and took the knief from his right thigh, and stuck it into his stomach; 22 and drove in also the handle after the blade, and the fat closed in upon the blade, for he did not pull out the knief from his stomach. 23 And Aod went out to the porch, and he went forth *by the things* set in order, and shut the doors of the chamber upon him, and sealed *them*.

24 And he went out. And his slaves came, and saw, and behold, the doors of the upper chamber *were* sealed; and they said, Does he not uncover his feet in the harvest chamber? 25 And they remained being ashamed, and, behold, there was not one that opened the doors of the upper chamber; and they took the key, and opened them; and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead upon the ground.

26 And Aod escaped until they made a disturbance, and no one paid attention to him; and he passed the carvings, and escaped to Setirotha. 27 And it came to pass when Aod came into the land of Israel that he blew the horn on mount Ephraim, and the sons of Israel came down with him from the mountain, and he was in front of them.

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28 And he said to them, Come down after me, for the Lord God has delivered our enemies, even Moab, into our hand; and they went down after him, and captured the fords of Jordan before Moab, and he did not allow a man to pass over. 29 And they struck Moab on that day about ten thousand men, every person and every man of might; and not a man escaped. 30 So Moab was made ashamed in that day under the hand of Israel, and the land had calm *for* eighty years, and Aod judged them until he died.

31 And after him arose Samegar the son of Dinah, and struck the Philistines to the number of six hundred men with a ploughshare *by an oxen*; and he himself saved Israel.

## Chapter 4

**A**nd the sons of Israel continued to do evil against the Lord; and Aod was dead. 2 And the Lord sold the sons of Israel into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who ruled in Asor; and the ruler of his forces was Sisara, and he lived in Arisoth of the Gentiles. 3 And the sons of Israel cried to the Lord, because he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and he mightily afflicted Israel for twenty years.

4 And Debbora, a woman prophet, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel in this time. 5 And she sat under the palm tree of Debbora between Rama and Bethel on mount Ephraim, and the sons of Israel went up to her for judgement. 6 And Debbora sent and called Barak the son of Abineem out of Kades Nephthali, and she said to him, Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded thee? And thou shalt depart to mount Thabor, and shall take with thyself ten thousand men of the sons of Nephthali and of the sons of Zabulon. 7 And I will bring to thee to the rapids of Kison Sisara the ruler of the forces of Jabin, and his chariots, and his multitude, and I will deliver them into thine hands. 8 And Barak said to her, If thou will go with me, I will go; and if thou will not go, I will not go; for I know not the day on which the Lord prospers his angel with me. 9 And she said, I will surely go with thee; but know that thy honor shall not attend on the road on which thou go, for by the hand of a woman the Lord shall deliver Sisara: and Debbora arose, and went with Barak out of Kades. 10 And Barak called Zabulon and Nephthali out of Kades, and there went up at his feet ten thousand men, and Debbora went up with him. 11 And Haber the Kinaios had removed from Kaina, from the sons of Jobab the father-in-law of Moses, and pitched his tent by the Oak of the Greedy, which is near Kedes.

12 And it was announced to Sisara that Barak the son of Abineem had ascended to mount Thabor. 13 And Sisara summoned all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron and all the people with him, from Arisoth of the Gentiles to the rapids of Kison.

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14 And Debbora said to Barak, Arise, for this *is* the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisara into thy hand, for the Lord shall go forth before thee. And Barak descended from mount Thabor, and ten thousand men behind him. 15 And the Lord surprised Sisara, and all his chariots, and all his army, with the mouth of the long sword before Barak: and Sisara descended from off his chariot, and fled on his feet. 16 And Barak, pursuing after the chariots and after the camp, *went* into Arisoth of the Gentiles; and the whole camp of Sisara fell by the mouth of the broadsword, there was not one left.

17 And Sisara fled on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Haber the Kinaiou his friend: for there was peace between Jabin king of Asor and the house of Haber the Kinaiou. 18 And Jael went out to meet Sisara, and said to him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me, fear not: and he turned aside to her into the tent; and she covered him with a covering. 19 And Sisara said to her, Give me, I beg thee, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty: and she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him to drink, and covered him. 20 And Sisara said to her, Stand now by the door of the tent, and it shall come to pass if any man come to thee, and ask of thee, and say, Is there *any* man here? Then thou shall say, There is not. 21 And Jael the wife of Haber took a post of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand, and went secretly to him, and fastened the post in his temple, and it went through to the earth, *and* he was surprised and he was darkened and he died. 22 And, behold, Barak *was* pursuing Sisara: and Jael went out to meet him, and he said to him, Come, and I will show thee the man, whom thou seeks. And he went in to her; and, behold, Sisara was fallen dead, and the post *was* in his temple.

23 And God routed Jabin king of Canaan in that day before the sons of Israel. 24 And the hand of the sons of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin king of Canaan, until they utterly destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

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**A**nd Debbora and Barak son of Abineem sang in that day, saying, 2 A revelation was made in Israel when the people were made willing: Praise ye the Lord. 3 Hear, ye kings, and hearken, rulers: I will sing, I am the Lord's, it is I, I will sing unto the Lord the God of Israel.

4 O Lord, in thy going forth on Seir, when thou wentest forth out of the land of Edom, the earth quaked and the heaven dropped dews, and the clouds dropped water. 5 The mountains *were* shaken from the face of the Lord Eloi, this Sinai from the face of the Lord God *of* Israel.

6 In the days of Samegar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, they deserted the roads, and traveled in bypasses; *and* traveled *the* winding paths.

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7 The strong men *of* Israel failed; they failed until Debbora arose, until she arose, a mother in Israel. 8 They selected new gods; then the cities of rulers waged war; if there should be seen a shield or spear among forty thousand in Israel. 9 My heart is with the things ordered to Israel; ye that are willing among the people bless the Lord. 10 Ye that mount a female mule at noon, ye that sit on the judgement seat, and walk by the roads of them that sit in judgement by the way; declare, 11 from the sound of men making music in the midst of the drawers of water; there they shall give righteousness *unto the* Lord, increase righteousness in Israel, then the people of the Lord went down to the cities.

12 Awaken, awaken, Debbora; awaken, awaken, sing a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, son of Abineem.

13 Then went down a remnant to the strong; the people of the Lord went down to him with my powerful men. 14 Ephraim rooted them out at Amalek, behind thee was Benjamin among thy people. The inhabitants of Mahir came down with me searching out the enemy, and from Zabulon they came writing a record *as a scribe*. 15 And rulers among Issahar were with Debbora and Barak, thus Barak sent out his foot *soldiers* in the valleys unto the portions of Ruben; *there were* great searchings of heart. 16 Why did they stay in the midst of the sheepfolds? To hear the whistling of *the* flocks of the divisions of Ruben? *there were* great searchings of heart. 17 Galaad *is* on the other side of Jordan where he encamped; and why does Dan remain in ships? Aser sat down on the sea shore, and he will encamp at his ports. 18 The people *of* Zabulon reproached their soul to death, and Nephthali came to the high places of their land.

19 Kings set themselves in array, then the kings of Canaan fought in Thanaach at the water of Magedo; they took no gift of money. 20 The stars from heaven set themselves in array, they set themselves against Sisara out of their order. 21 The torrent river of Kison swept them out, the torrent river of antiquity, the torrent river Kison; my strong soul shall trample him down. 22 When the hoofs of the horse were impeded, his mighty ones were quickened with diligence. 23 Curse Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, *with a* curse, curse every one that dwells in it, because they came not to the help of the Lord, to His help among the strong.

24 Blessed *be* among women Jael wife of Haber the Kineou; may she be blessed above *the* women in *the* tents. 25 He asked for water, she gave him milk in a pan; she brought butter of princes. 26 She stretched forth her left hand to the nail post, and her right to the laborer's hammer, and she struck with a hammer Sisarat, she nailed his head and struck him; she nailed his temples. 27 In between her feet he rolled down, he fell and slept; in between her feet he fell and lay down; as he laid down there he fell and divided the way. 28 The mother of Sisara looked down through the window out of the archer's tower, *saying*, Why was his chariot ashamed? Why did the feet of his chariots delay?

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29 Her wise ladies leading answered to her, and she returned words to herself, *saying*, 30 Will they not find him dividing the spoils? He will surely be gracious to the lead man: spoils of dyed *things* for Sisara, spoils of various dyed embroidery, dyed embroidered garments, they are the spoils for his neck. 31 Thus let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: and they that love Him shall be as the leaving of the sun in his might. And the land rested for forty years.