

Things Fall Apart: Pilegash B'Gibeah

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * March 20th 2023 * Houses, Divided: Families in Judges #8

1: Reunion and hospitality

Judges 19:1-10

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

(4) His father-in-law, the girl's father, pressed him, and he stayed with him three days; they ate and drank and lodged there. (5) Early in the morning of the fourth day, he started to leave; but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Eat something to give you strength, then you can leave." (6) So the two of them sat down and they feasted together. Then the girl's father said to the man, "Won't you stay overnight and enjoy yourself?" (7) The man started to leave, but his father-in-law kept urging him until he turned back and spent the night there. (8) Early in the morning of the fifth day, he was about to leave, when the girl's father said, "Come, have a bite." The two of them ate, dawdling until past noon. (9) Then the man, his concubine, and his attendant started to leave. His father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Look, the day is waning toward evening; do stop for the night. See, the day is declining; spend the night here and enjoy yourself. You can start early tomorrow on your journey and head for home."

(10) But the man refused to stay for the night. He set out and traveled as far as the vicinity of Jebus—that is, Jerusalem; he had with him a pair of laden donkeys, and his concubine was with him. ^b

שופטים י"ט:א-י

(א) וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמְלָךְ אִין בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי אִישׁ לְוִי גֵר בְּיַרְכְּתֵי הַר אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח-לוֹ אִשָּׁה פִּילְגֶשֶׁת מִבֵּית לַחֵם יְהוּדָה. (ב) וַתִּזְנֶה עָלָיו פִּילְגֶשֶׁת וַתֵּלֶךְ מֵאִתּוֹ אֶל-בֵּית לַחֵם יְהוּדָה וַתְּהַיָּשֶׁם יָמִים אַרְבָּעָה חֳדָשִׁים. (ג) וַיָּקָם אִישָׁהּ וַיֵּלֶךְ אַחֲרֶיהָ לְדַבֵּר עִלְ-לִבָּהּ (לְהַשִּׁיבָהּ) וַנִּצְעְרוּ עִמּוֹ וַצְמִיד חֲמֹרִים וַתְּבִיאָהּ בֵּית אָבִיהָ וַיִּרְאֶהּ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה וַיִּשְׂמַח לְקִרְאָתוֹ.

(ד) וַיַּחְזְקֵבּוּ חֲתָנוּ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה וַיֹּשֶׁב אִתּוֹ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיֵּלִינוּ שָׁם. (ה) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַרְבִּיעִי וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ בַבֹּקֶר וַיָּקָם לְלֶכֶת וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה אַל-חֲתָנוּ סֶעֶד לָבָהּ פֶּת־לַחֵם וְאַחַר תֵּלְכוּ. (ו) וַיִּשְׁבוּ וַיֹּאכְלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה אֶל-הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה אַל-יָנֹא וְלֵין וַיִּיטֵב לָבָהּ. (ז) וַיָּקָם הָאִישׁ לְלֶכֶת וַיִּפְצַר-בּוֹ חֲתָנוּ וַיֹּשֶׁב וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם. (ח) וַיִּשְׁלַם בַּבֹּקֶר בַּיּוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי לְלֶכֶת וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה סֶעֶד-נָא לָבָהּ וְהַתְּמַהְמְהוּ עַד-נִטּוֹת הַיּוֹם וַיֹּאכְלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם. (ט) וַיָּקָם הָאִישׁ לְלֶכֶת הוּא וּפִילְגֶשֶׁת וַנִּצְעְרוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ חֲתָנוּ אָבִי הַנְּעֻרָה הִנֵּה נָא רָפָה הַיּוֹם לְעָרוֹב לֵינּוּ-נָא הִנֵּה חֲגוּת הַיּוֹם לֵין פֹּה וַיִּיטֵב לָבָהּ וְהַשְׁכַּמְתֶּם מָחָר לְדַרְכְּכֶם וְהִלַּכְתֶּם לְאֶהָלָהּ.

(י) וְלֹא-אָבָהּ הָאִישׁ לְלִין וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיָּבֵא עַד-נֶכַח יְבוּס הַיָּא יְרוּשָׁלַּיִם וְעִמּוֹ צְמִיד חֲמֹרִים חֲבוּשִׁים וּפִילְגֶשֶׁת עִמּוֹ.

2. Rebecca in the background

Genesis 24:49-61

(49) And now, if you mean to treat my master with true kindness, tell me; and if not, tell me also, that I may turn right or left.” (50) Then Laban and Bethuel answered, “The matter was decreed by ה'; we cannot speak to you bad or good. (51) Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be a wife to your master's son, as ה' has spoken.” (52) When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed low to the ground before ה'. (53) The servant brought out objects of silver and gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; and he gave presents to her brother and her mother...(55) But her brother and her mother said, “Let the maiden remain with us some ten days; then you may go.” (56) He said to them, “Do not delay me, now that ה' has made my errand successful. Give me leave that I may go to my master.” (57) And they said, “Let us call the girl and ask for her reply.” (58) They called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man ?” And she said, “I will.” (59) So they sent off their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his entourage. (60) And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “O sister! May you grow Into thousands of myriads; May your descendants seize The gates of their foes.” (61) Then Rebekah and her maids arose, mounted the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

בראשית כ"ד:מ"ט-ס"א

(מט) וְעַתָּה אִם־יִשְׁלַחַם עִשָׂיִם חֶסֶד וְאֶמֶת אֶת־אֲדֹנָי הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאִם־לֹא הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאֶפְנֶה עַל־יָמִינִי אִוּוּ עַל־שְׂמָאלִי: (נ) וַיַּעַן לָבָן וּבְתוּאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵה' יֵצֵא הַדְּבָר לֹא נוֹכַל דַּבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ רַע אוֹ־טוֹב: (נא) הִנֵּה־רֵבֶקָה לְפָנֶיךָ קַח וְלֵךְ וְתָהִי אִשְׁהָ לְכֹחַ אֲדֹנָיִךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר ה': (נב) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמַע עֶבֶד אֲבֵרָהֶם אֶת־דְּבָרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ אֶרְצָה לָהּ: (נג) וַיּוֹצֵא הָעֶבֶד כְּלֵי־כֶסֶף וְכֵלֵי זָהָב וּבְגָדִים וַיִּתֵּן לְרֵבֶקָה וּמַגְדָּנֹת נָתַן לְאֶחָיָהּ וּלְאִמָּהּ: (נד) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶחָיָהּ וְאִמָּהּ תִּשָּׁב הַנְּעִר אֶתְּנוּ יָמִים אִוּוּ עֲשׂוּר אַחַר תֵּלֵךְ: (נו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֶל־תֵּאַחֲרוּ אִתִּי וְה' הַצְּלִיחַ דְּרָכֵי שְׁלֹחֹנִי וְאַל־כֹּה לְאֲדֹנָי: (נז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִקְרָא לַנְּעִר וְנִשְׁאַלָה אֶת־פִּיהָ: (נח) וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְרֵבֶקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַתְּלַכִּי עִם־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וְתֵאמֶר אֵלָהּ: (נט) וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ אֶת־רֵבֶקָה אַחֲתָם וְאֶת־מַנְקַתָּהּ וְאֶת־עֶבֶד אֲבֵרָהֶם וְאֶת־אֲנָשָׁיו: (ס) וַיְבָרְכוּ אֶת־רֵבֶקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ אַחֲתָנוּ אֵת הַיָּ לְאַלְפֵי רֵבֶקָה וַיִּירָשׁ וְזָרַע אֵת שַׁעַר שַׁנְאָיו: (סא) וַתִּקֶּם רֵבֶקָה וַנְּעַרְתִּיהָ וַתִּרְפָּבְנָה עַל־הַגְּמָלִים וַתִּלְכְּנָה אַחֲרָי הָאִישׁ וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד אֶת־רֵבֶקָה וַיֵּלֶךְ:

3: Closed doors

Judges 19:11-15

(11) Since they were close to Jebus, and the day was very far spent, the attendant said to his master, “Let us turn aside to this town of the Jebusites and spend the night in it.” (12) But his master said to him, “We will not turn aside to a town of aliens who are not of Israel, but will continue to Gibeah. (13) Come,” he said to his attendant, “let us approach one of those places and spend the night either in Gibeah or in Ramah.” (14) So they traveled on, and the sun set when they were near Gibeah of Benjamin. (15) They turned off there and went in to spend the night in Gibeah. He went and sat down in the town square, but nobody took them indoors to spend the night.

שופטים י"ט:י"א-ט"ו

(יא) הֵם עִם־יְבוּס וְהַיּוֹם רַד מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּעִר אֶל־אֲדֹנָיו לְכֹה־נָא וְנִסְוּרָה אֶל־עִיר־הַיְבוּסִי הַזֹּאת וְנָלִין בָּהּ: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדֹנָיו לֹא נָסוּר אֶל־עִיר נְכָרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הִנֵּה וְעִבְרָנוּ עַד־גִּבְעָה: (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר לַנְּעִר לָהּ וְנִקְרָבָה בְּאַחַד הַמְּקוֹמֹת וְלָנוּ בְּגִבְעָה אִוּוּ בְרָמָה: (יד) וַיַּעֲבְרוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ וַתְּבֹא לָהֶם הַשָּׁמֶשׁ אֶצֶל הַגִּבְעָה אֲשֶׁר לְבִנְיָמִן: (טו) וַיִּסְרוּ שָׁם לְבוֹא לָלוֹן בְּגִבְעָה וַיָּבֹא וַיִּשָּׁב בְּרֶחֱבֹב הָעִיר וְאִין אִישׁ מֵאִסְרָ־אוֹתָם הַבֵּיתָה לָלוֹן:

4: Stumbling into Sodom

Judges 19:16-21

(16) In the evening, an old man came along from his property outside the town.^c (This man hailed from the hill country of Ephraim and resided at Gibeah, where the townspeople were Benjaminites.) (17) He happened to see the wayfarer in the town square. “Where,” the old man inquired, “are you going to, and where do you come from?” (18) He replied, “We are traveling from Bethlehem in Judah to the other end of the hill country of Ephraim. That is where I live. I made a journey to Bethlehem of Judah, and now I am on my way to the House of the LORD,^d and nobody has taken me indoors. (19) We have both bruised straw and feed for our donkeys, and bread and wine for me and your handmaid, and for the attendant with your servants.^e We lack nothing.” (20) “Rest easy,” said the old man. “Let me take care of all your needs. Do not on any account spend the night in the square.” (21) And he took him into his house. He mixed fodder for the donkeys; then they bathed their feet and ate and drank.

Genesis 19:2

he said, “Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant’s house to spend the night, and bathe your feet; then you may be on your way early.” But they said, “No, we will spend the night in the square.”

Genesis 19:4-8

They had not yet lain down, when the town council [and] the militia of Sodom —insignificant and influential alike, the whole assembly without exception—gathered about the house. And they shouted to Lot and said to him, “Where are the ones who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may be intimate with them.” So Lot went out to them to the entrance, shut the door behind him, and said, “I beg you, my friends, do not commit such a wrong. Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you please; but do not do anything to the others, since they have come under the shelter of my roof.”

שופטים י"ט:טז-כ"א

(טז) והנה איש זקן בא מן-מעשהו מן השדה בערב והאיש מהר אפרים והוא גר בגבעה ואנשי המקום בני מיני (יז) וישא עיניו וירא את-האיש הארח ברחב העיר ויאמר האיש הזקן אנה תלה ומאין תבוא (יח) ויאמר אליו עברים אנחנו מבית-לחם יהודה עד-ירכתי הר-אפרים משם אנכי ואלה עד-בית לחם יהודה ואת-בית ה' אני הלה ואין איש מאסר אותי הביתה (יט) וגם-תבן גם-מספוא יש לחמורינו וגם לחם וגין יש לי ולאמתה ולנער עם-עבדיה אין מחסור כל-דבר (כ) ויאמר האיש הזקן שלום לך רק כל-מחסורה עלי רק ברחוב אל-תלו (כא) וביאהו לביתו (ויבול) [ויבל] לחמורים וירחצו רגליהם ויאכלו וישתו.

בראשית י"ט:ב

ויאמר הנה נא-אדושם סורו נא אל-בית עבדכם ולינו ורחצו רגליכם והשכמתם והלכתם לדרךכם ויאמרו לא כי ברחוב נלין.

בראשית י"ט:ד-ח

טָרָם יִשְׁכְּבוּ וְאֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר אֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֹם נִסְבוּ עַל-הַבַּיִת מִנְעַר וְעַד-זֶקֶן כָּל-הָעָם מִקְצָה. וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אַיֵּה הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַלַּיְלָה הוֹצִיאֵם אֵלֵינוּ וְנִדְעָה אֹתָם. וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵהֶם לוֹט הַפֶּתַח וְהִדְלֵת סָגַר אַחֲרָיו. וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נְאֻם אַחֵי תָרְעוּ. הִנֵּה-נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדְעוּ אִישׁ אוֹצִיאָהֶנָּה אִתְּהוֹן וְאֵלֵיכֶם וְעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם רַק לְאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵל-אֲלֵתְעֲשׂוּ דְבַר כִּי-עֲלִיכֶן בָּאוּ בְצֵל קַרְתִּי.

5: Closed ears, closed hearts

Judges 19:22-25

(22) While they were enjoying themselves, the men of the town, a depraved lot, had gathered about the house and were pounding on the door. They called to the aged owner of the house, "Bring out the man who has come into your house, so that we can be intimate with him."

(23) The owner of the house went out and said to them, "Please, my friends, do not commit such a wrong. Since this man has entered my house, do not perpetrate this outrage. (24) Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. Let me bring them out to you. Have your pleasure of them, do what you like with them; but don't do that outrageous thing to this man." (25) But the men would not listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and pushed her out to them. They raped her and abused her all night long until morning; and they let her go when dawn broke.

Judges 19:26-30

(26) Toward morning the woman came back; and as it was growing light, she collapsed at the entrance of the man's house where her husband was. (27) When her husband arose in the morning, he opened the doors of the house and went out to continue his journey; and there was the woman, his concubine, lying at the entrance of the house, with her hands on the threshold. (28) "Get up," he said to her, "let us go." But there was no reply. So the man placed her on the donkey and set out for home. (29) When he came home, he picked up a knife, and took hold of his concubine and cut her up limb by limb into twelve parts. He sent them throughout the territory of Israel. (30) And everyone who saw it cried out, "Never has such a thing happened or been seen from the day the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt to this day! Put your mind to this; take counsel and decide."

Genesis 22:10-11

(10) And Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son.
(11) Then a messenger of ה' called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am."

שופטים י"ט:כ"ב-כ"ה

(כב) הָמָּה מִיִּטְבִּיבִים אֶת־לִבָּם וְהִנֵּה אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אַנְשֵׁי בְנֵי־בְלִיעֵל נִסְבּוּ אֶת־הַבַּיִת מִתְדַפְּקִים עַל־הַדֶּלֶת וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת הֲיָקוּן לְאֹמֵר הוֹצֵא אֶת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּא אֵלֶיךָ וְנִדְעָנוּ: (כג) וַיֵּצֵא אֵלֵיהֶם הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֶל־אֲחֵי אֱלֹהֵי־תִרְעוּ נָא אַחֲרַי אֲשֶׁר־בָּא הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה אֶל־בֵּיתִי אֶל־תַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת־הַנְּבִלָה הַזֹּאת: (כד) הִנֵּה בְתוּלָה וּפִילִגְשָׁהּ אוֹצִיאָהּ־נָא אוֹתָם וְעִנּוּ אוֹתָם וְעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם וְלֹא־יֵשׁוּ דָבָר הַנְּבִלָה הַזֹּאת: (כה) וְלֹא־אָבּוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְשַׁמֵּעַ לוֹ וַיַּחֲזֶק הָאִישׁ בְּפִילִגְשָׁהּ וַיֵּצֵא אֵלֵיהֶם הַחֹזֵץ וַיִּדְעוּ אוֹתָהּ וַיַּתְעַלְלוּ־בָּהּ כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה עַד־הַבֹּקֶר וַיִּשְׁלַחוּהָ (בעלות) [כְּעֵלוֹת] הַשָּׁחַר:

שופטים י"ט:כ"ו-ל'

(כו) וַתָּבֵא הָאִשָּׁה לַפְּנוֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַתִּפֹּל פְּתַח בַּיִת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אָדוּנָה שָׁם עַד־הָאוֹר: (כז) וַיָּקָם אָדוּנָה בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּפְתַּח דְּלֹתוֹת הַבַּיִת וַיֵּצֵא לְלֶכֶת לְדַרְכּוֹ וְהִנֵּה הָאִשָּׁה פִּילִגְשָׁה נִפְלֶתֶת פְּתַח הַבַּיִת וַיִּדְּבֶהּ עַל־הַסֶּף: (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ קוּמִי וְנִלְכְּהָ וְאִין עֲנֶה וַיִּקְחָהּ עַל־הַחֲמֹר וַיֵּקָם הָאִישׁ וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמַקְמוֹ: (כט) וַיָּבֵא אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת וַיַּחֲזֶק בְּפִילִגְשָׁהּ וַיִּנְתְּחָהּ לַעֲצָמֶיהָ לְשָׁנִים עֶשֶׂר נִתְחָם וַיִּשְׁלַחָהּ בְּכָל־גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ל) וְהָיָה כָּל־הָרְאָה וְאָמַר לֹא־נִהְיִתָּה וְלֹא־נִרְאָתָה כְּזֹאת לְמִיּוֹם עֲלוֹת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה שִׁמּוֹ־לָכֶם עָלֶיהָ עֲצוּ וַדְּבֹרוּ: {פ}

בראשית כ"ב:י"י"א

(י) וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יְדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת לְשַׁחֵט אֶת־בְּנוֹ: (יא) וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מִלְּאָה ה' מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם וַאֲבָרְהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי:

6: Torn bodies, grotesque reunion

Judges 20:1

(1) Thereupon all the Israelites—from Dan to Beer-sheba and [from] the land of Gilead—marched forth, and the community assembled to a man before the LORD at Mizpah.

Judges 20:18

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

שופטים כ':א

(א) וַיֵּצְאוּ כָּל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַתִּקְהַל
הָעֵדָה כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד לְמִדְּוָן וְעַד־בְּאֵר שָׁבַע
וַאֲרָץ הַגִּלְעָד אֶל־ה' הַמִּצְפָּה:

שופטים כ':י"ח

(יח) וַיִּקְאֻמוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ בֵּית־אֵל וַיִּשְׁאַלּוּ בְּאֱלֹקִים
וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי יַעֲלֶה־לָּנוּ בַּתְּחִלָּה
לְמַלְחָמָה עִם־בְּנֵי בְנֵי־יִמִּן וַיֹּאמֶר ה' יְהוּדָה
בַּתְּחִלָּה:

7: Yiphtach's fate blown large

Judges 21:1-12

(1) Now the men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: “None of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjaminite.” (2) The people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening. They wailed and wept bitterly, (3) and they said, “O LORD God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that one tribe must now be missing from Israel?” ..(5) The Israelites asked, “Is there anyone from all the tribes of Israel who failed to come up to the assembly before the LORD?” For a solemn oath had been taken concerning anyone who did not go up to the LORD at Mizpah: “He shall be put to death.” (6) The Israelites now relented toward their kinsmen the Benjaminites, and they said, “This day one tribe has been cut off from Israel! (7) What can we do to provide wives for those who are left, seeing that we have sworn by the LORD not to give any of our daughters to them in marriage?” (8) They inquired, “Is there anyone from the tribes of Israel who did not go up to the LORD at Mizpah?” Now no one from Jabesh-gilead had come to the camp, to the assembly. (9) For, when the roll of the troops was taken, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was present. (10) So the assemblage dispatched 12,000 of the warriors, instructing them as follows: “Go and put the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead to the sword, women and children included. (11) This is what you are to do: Proscribe every man, and every woman who has known a man carnally.” (12) They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 maidens who had not known a man carnally; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

שופטים כ"א:א'-י"ב

(א) וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִשְׁבַּע בַּמִּצְפָּה לְאֹמֶר
אִישׁ מִמֵּנוּ לֹא־יִתֵּן בַּתּוֹ לְבְנֵי־יִמִּן לְאִשָּׁה:
(ב) וַיָּבֹא הָעָם בֵּית־אֵל וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד־
הָעֶרֶב לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹקִים וַיִּשְׁאוּ קוֹלָם וַיִּבְכוּ
בְּכִי גָדוֹל: (ג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְמָה ה' אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיָּתָה זֹאת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַפְקֵד
הַיּוֹם מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁבֵט אֶחָד: ..(ה) וַיֹּאמְרוּ
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה בְּקִתְלָה
מִכָּל־שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־ה' כִּי הִשְׁבּוּעָה
הַגְּדוּלָּה הִיָּתָה לְאֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה אֶל־ה'
הַמִּצְפָּה לְאֹמֶר מוֹת יוֹמָת: (ו) וַיִּנְחְמוּ בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־בְּנֵי־יִמִּן אֲחֵיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִגְדַע
הַיּוֹם שֶׁבֵט אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (ז) מִה־נִּעְשָׂה
לָהֶם לְנוֹתְרִים לְנָשִׁים וְאֵנְחָנוּ נִשְׁבַּעְנוּ
כֹּה' לְבִלְתִּי תִתֵּן לָהֶם מִבְּנוֹתֵינוּ לְנָשִׁים:
(ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִי אֶחָד מִשְׁבְּטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה אֶל־ה' הַמִּצְפָּה וְהִנֵּה לֹא
כֹּא־אִישׁ אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה מִיַּבֶּשׁ גִּלְעָד אֶל־
הַקְּהָל: (ט) וַיִּתְּפַקְדוּ הָעָם וְהִנֵּה אִי־וָשֶׁם
אִישׁ מִיּוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד: (י) וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ־שָׁם
הָעֵדָה שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר אֶלְפֵי אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַקְּהָל
וַיֵּצְאוּ אוֹתָם לְאֹמֶר לָכֵן וְהַכִּיתֶם אֶת־
יּוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ גִּלְעָד לְפִי־חָרֹב וְהַנָּשִׁים
וְהַטָּרְף: (יא) וְגַם הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּ כָל־
זְכוֹר וְכֹל־אִשָּׁה יִדְעַת מִשְׁכַּב־זָכָר
תַּחֲרִימוּ: (יב) וַיִּמְצְאוּ מִיּוֹשְׁבֵי יָבֵשׁ
גִּלְעָד אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת נְעָרָה בְּתוּלָה אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־יָדְעָה אִישׁ לְמִשְׁכַּב זָכָר וַיְבִיאוּ אוֹתָם
אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה שְׁלֹה אֲשֶׁר בְּאֲרָץ כְּנָעַן: (ס)

8: No way out?

Judges 21:16-25

(16) So the elders of the community asked, “What can we do about wives for those who are left, since the women of Benjamin have been killed off?” (17) For they said, “There must be a saving remnant for Benjamin, that a tribe may not be blotted out of Israel; (18) yet we cannot give them any of our daughters as wives,” since the Israelites had taken an oath: “Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin!” (19) They said, “The annual feast of the LORD is now being held at Shiloh.” (It lies north of Bethel, east of the highway that runs from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.) (20) So they instructed the Benjaminites as follows: “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards. (21) As soon as you see the girls of Shiloh coming out to join in the dances, come out from the vineyards; let each of you seize a wife from among the girls of Shiloh, and be off for the land of Benjamin...(25) In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did as he pleased.

I Samuel 1:1

(1) There was a man from Ramathaim of the Zuphites, in the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

I Samuel 16:1

(1) And the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and set out; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have decided on one of his sons to be king.”

שופטים כ"א:ט"ז-כ"ה

(טז) ויאמרו וזקני העדה מהנעשה לנותרים לנשים כיינשמדה מבנימן אשה: (יז) ויאמרו ירשת פליטה לבנימן ולא ימתה שבט מישראל: (יח) ואנחנו לא נוכל לתת להם נשים מבנותינו כיינשבועו בני ישראל לאמר ארור נתן אשה לבנימן: (ט) (יט) ויאמרו הנה חגיה בשלח מימים ומימה אשר מצפונה לבית אל מזרחה השמש למסלה העלה מבית אל שכמה ומנגב ללבונה: (כ) ויצו [ויצו] את בני בנימן לאמר לכו וארבתם בכרמים: (כא) וראיתם והנה אם יצאו בנות שילו לחול במחלות ויצאתם מן הכרמים וחספתם לכם איש אשתו מבנות שילו והלכתם ארץ בנימן... (כה) בימים ההם אין מלך בישראל איש הישר בעיניו יעשה:

שמואל א א':א

(א) ויהי איש אחד מן הרמתים צופים מהר אפרים ושמו אלקנה בן ירתם בן אליהוא בן תחו בן צוף אפרתי:

שמואל א ט"ז:א

(א) ויאמר ה' אל שמואל עד-מתה אתה מתאבל אל שאול ואני מאסתיו ממלך על ישראל מלא קרנה שמו וזה אשר לקה אל-ישי בית-הלחמי כיראתי בבניו לי מלך: