

11[1] And Serpent,¹ the Ammonite, went up and encamped above Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to Serpent, “Cut for us a covenant, and we will serve you.” [2] And Serpent the Ammonite said to them, “In this I will cut for you, in gouging out for you every right eye and put her,² reproach, upon all Israel.” [3] And elders of Jabesh said to him, “Leave us be for seven days, and let us send messengers in all the borders of Israel, and if there is no savior with us, so we will come out to you.”

[4] And the messengers came to the Hill of Saul and spoke the words in the ears of the people, and all the people lifted up their voice and wept. [5] And behold, Saul came in behind cattle from the field, and Saul said, “What is to the people that they are crying?” And they recounted to him words of men of Jabesh. [6] And Gods' spirit rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger burned greatly. [7] And he took a pair of cattle and cut him³ in pieces and sent in every border of Israel in the hand of the messengers, saying that, “He who does not go out after Saul and after Samuel, thus shall be done to his cattle.” And the dread of Yehvah fell upon the people, and they went out as one man.

[8] And they numbered them in Bezek, and there were three hundred thousand sons of Israel, and men of Judah were thirty thousand. [9] And they said to the messengers who came, “Thus you shall say to men of Jabesh Gilead, 'Tomorrow you shall have salvation in the heat of the Sun.'” And the messengers went and declared to men of Jabesh, and they rejoiced. [10] And men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do to us according to all the good in your eyes.”

[11] And it was, on the next day, so Saul set the people into companies and in the morning watch they came into the midst of the camp and struck Ammon until the heat of the day. And it was, those left, so they scattered and no two of them remained together.

[12] And the people said to Samuel, “Who is the one who said, 'Saul shall reign over us?’⁴ Give up the men and we will kill them.” [13] And Saul said, “A man shall not be put to death this day, for today Yehvah did salvation in Israel.” [14] And Samuel said to the people, “Come, and lets go to the Gilgal and renew there the kingship.” [15] And all the people went to the Gilgal, and they made Saul king there before Yehvah in the Gilgal. And they sacrificed there sacrifices of peace before Yehvah, and Saul rejoiced there and all men of Israel greatly.

1 נָחָשׁ (nâchâsh) “Serpent”; NKJV, etc. “Nahash” - same exact term for “serpent” in Genesis 3:1.

2 שְׁמִתִּיהָ (samtiyhâ) “put her” - the following “reproach” is feminine; “her” refers to the reproach.

3 יְנַתְּחֶהוּ (yenattechahu) “cut him in pieces”

4 1 Samuel 10:27