

8[1] And men of Ephraim said to him, “What is this thing you have done to us, not calling us when you went to fight against Midian?” And they contended with him in strength.¹ [2] And he said to them, “What have I done now like you? Is not the gleaning² of Ephraim better than the vintage³ of Abiezer?⁴ [3] In your hand, Gods, he gave officers of Midian, Raven and Wolf. And what am I able to do like you?” Then their spirit⁵ relaxed⁶ toward⁷ him when he spoke this word. [4] And Gideon came to the Jordan, he and three hundred men with him, crossing over exhausted and pursuing.

[5] And he said to men of Huts,⁸ “Please give loaves of bread to the people who are on foot with me,⁹ for they are exhausted. And I am pursuing after Sacrifice¹⁰ and Zalmunna,¹¹ kings of Midian.” [6] And the officers of Huts said, “Is the palm¹² of Sacrifice and Zalmunna now in your hand for us to give to your army bread?” [7] And Gideon said, “For this, when Yehvah gives Sacrifice and Zalmunna in my hand, so I will thresh your flesh with thorns of the wilderness and with the briers.” [8] And he went up from there to Penuel, and he spoke to them as that.¹³ And men of Penuel answered him just as men of Huts answered. [9] And he spoke also to men of Penuel saying, “When I return in peace, I will tear down this tower.”

[10] And Sacrifice and Zalmunna were in the Karkor¹⁴ and their camp with them, about 15,000, all who were left from all camp of sons of East. And those fallen were 120,000, men who drew a sword. [11] And Gideon went up the road of those who dwell in the tents East of Nobah¹⁵ and Jogbehah. And he struck the camp, though the camp was secure.¹⁶ [12] And Sacrifice and Zalmunna fled, and he pursued after them, and captured two kings of Midian, Sacrifice and Zalmunna, and routed¹⁷ the whole camp.

[13] And Gideon, son of Joash, returned from the battle from the ascent of Heres. [14] And he captured a young man from men of Huts and asked him, and he wrote down for him officers of Huts

1 In other words, they strongly contended with him.

2 עֲלֻלוֹת (‘ollot) “gleaning” = “going over a second time” BDB – e.g. Leviticus 19:10; Deuteronomy 24:21; Ruth 2:2.

3 בָּצִיִר (bâtsiyir) “vintage” as used here = “a season's yield of grapes or wine from a vineyard “ MW

4 See Judges 6:34. Abiezer was called up to war, whereas Ephraim was not, and that's their beef with Gideon.

5 רוּחָם (ruchâm) “their spirit” Green, DARBY, DRA; “their anger” NKJV, KJV, NAS; “anger” is not in the Hebrew.

6 רַפְתָּהּ (râphtâh) “relaxed” (BDB “sink, relax”); “subsided” NKJV, NAS; “abated” KJV

7 מֵעָלָיו (mê`âlâyv) “toward him” - more literally, “from upon him”

8 סֻכּוֹת (sukkot) “Huts” - NKJV, etc. “Succoth” - see footnote for Genesis 33:17.

9 בְּרַגְלִי (beraglây) “on foot with me” TLV; “at my feet” YLT, Green; “on foot” CEB; “following me” NKJV, KJV

10 זֶבַח (zevach) “Sacrifice” - NKJV, etc. “Zebah” - same exact word for sacrifice e.g. Numbers 6:18; 7:88; 15:3; etc. - for this man's name, found also in Judges 8:6-7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21; Psalm 83:11(H12).

11 צַלְמוֹנָה (tsalmunnâ) “Zalmunna” - found also in Judges 8:6-7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21; Psalm 83:11(H12).

12 כַּף (kaph) “palm” Green; “palms” DRA, WYC; “hand” YLT; “hands” NKJV, KJV, NAS

13 כַּזֹּאת (kâzo't) “as that” - NKJV “in the same way”; NAS “similarly”; KJV “likewise”

14 קַרְקֹר (qarqor) “Karkor” - only here, location unknown.

15 נֹבַח (novach) “Nobah” - see Numbers 32:42.

16 בֶּטַח (vetach) “secure” KJV; “confident” YLT; “felt secure” NKJV; “unsuspecting” NAS; “at ease” Green – similar use of this term in Genesis 34:25.

17 הִחְרִיד (hecheryd) “routed” - NKJV, etc. - “A rout is a panicked, disorderly and undisciplined retreat of troops” (Wikipedia) well describes the use of this word in this context. Elsewhere used for trembling (e.g. Zephaniah 3:13 “make . . . tremble”; “make . . . afraid” NKJV).

and her elders, seventy seven men. [15] And he came to men of Huts, and said, “Behold, Sacrifice and Zalmunna, about whom you reproached me saying, 'Is the palm of Sacrifice and Zalmunna now in your hand for us to give¹⁸ to your men, who are weary, bread?' [16] And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and the briers, and with them taught¹⁹ men of Huts. [17] And he tore down tower of Penuel, and killed the men of the city.

18 “Is the palm of Sacrifice and Zalmunna now in your hand for us to give” = Judges 8:6 exactly in the Hebrew, last part reads, “to your army bread” (in vs 6).

19 **יָדָעַ** (yoda') “taught” NKJV, KJV, Green, etc.; “disciplined” NAS