

[18] And he said to Sacrifice and Zalmunna, “Where¹ are the men who you killed at Tabor?” And they said, “As you, as they, each one as the form of the king's sons.”² [19] And he said, “They were my brothers, sons of my mother. Yehvah lives.³ If you had let them live, I would not have killed you.” [20] And he said to Jether his firstborn, “Arise, kill them.” And the young man did not draw out his sword, because he was afraid; for he was still a youth. [21] And Sacrifice and Zalmunna said, “Arise yourself and attack⁴ us. For as a man is, so is his strength.” And Gideon arose and killed Sacrifice and Zalmunna. And he took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

[22] And men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you, also your son, also your son's son. For you saved us from hand of Midian!” [23] And Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you. Yehvah shall rule over you.” [24] And Gideon said to them, “Let me ask from you a request. So, give to me each a ring of his spoil.” For they had rings of gold, because they were Ishmaelites. [25] And they said, “Giving, we will give.” And they spread out the garment and threw there each a ring of his spoil. [26] And the weight of the gold rings which he requested was one thousand seven hundred of gold, apart from the crescent ornaments, and the pendants, and the purple robes that were on kings of Midian, and apart from the necklaces which were on their camels necks. [27] And Gideon made it into an ephod and placed it in his city in Ophrah. And all Israel played the prostitute after it there. And it was to Gideon and to his house for a snare.⁵ [28] So, Midian was subdued before sons of Israel, and they did not again lift their head. And the land was quiet forty years in Gideon's days.

[29] And Jerubaal, son of Joash, went and dwelt in his house. [30] And Gideon had seventy⁶ sons going out his loins, for he had many women.⁷ [31] And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore to him a son, and he made his name Abimelech.⁸ [32] And Gideon, son of Joash, died in a good old age. And he was buried in tomb of Joash his father in Ophrah of the Abi-Ezrite. [33] And it was, just as Gideon died, so sons of Israel turned and played the prostitute after the Baals. And they set up for themselves Covenant Baal⁹ for Gods.¹⁰ [34] And sons of Israel did not remember Yehvah their Gods who delivered them from hand of all their enemies roundabout. [35] And they did not deal kindly with house of Jerubaal, Gideon, for all the good which he did with Israel.

1 אִיפֹה (’êyphoh) “Where” ESV, RSV, LXX (ποῦ [pou]); “How” YLT; “What kind of” NKJV, NAS; “What manner of” KJV – this is a peculiar use. Elsewhere, always “where” (Genesis 37:16; Ruth 2:19; 1 Samuel 19:22; 2 Samuel 9:4; Job 4:7; 38:4; Isaiah 49:21; Jeremiah 3:2; 36:19;).

2 בְּנֵי (benêy) “sons” (plural noun) YLT, CJB, etc.; “son” NKJV, NAS; “children” KJV

3 חַי־יְהוָה (chay-yehvâh) “Yehvah lives” - YLT “Jehovah liveth”; Green “As Jehovah lives”; NKJV, etc. “As the LORD lives” - same exact words as in Psalm 18:46(H47) “The LORD lives!” (NKJV). Used when taking an oath (e.g. 1 Samuel 20:3; 1 Kings 1:29). This exact phrase can also be found in Ruth 3:13; 1 Samuel 14:39, 45; 19:6; 20:21; 25:26, 34; 26:10, 16; 28:10; 29:6; 2 Samuel 4:9; 12:5; 14:11; 15:21; 22:47; 1 Kings 2:24; 17:1, 12; 18:10, 15; 22:14; 2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6; 3:14; 4:30; 5:16, 20; 2 Chronicles 18:13; Jeremiah 4:2; 5:2; 12:16; 16:14-15; 23:7-8; 38:16; Hosea 4:15. There is also תִּי־אֱלֹ (chay-'êl) “God lives” in Job 27:2; חַי הָאֱלֹהִים (chay hâ'elohym, singular adjective, plural noun) “the God lives” or “the Gods, He lives” in 2 Samuel 2:27; חַי־אֲדֹנָיִי יְהוִה (chay-'adonâiy yehvih) “Yehvih Lords lives” in Jeremiah 44:26; חַי־יְהוָה (chay yehvâh tsevâot) “Yehvah of armies lives” in Kings 18:15; 2 Kings 3:14; חַי הָעוֹלָם (chay hâ'olâm) “the eternal one lives” in Daniel 12:7; by God Himself, חַי־אֲנִי (chay-'âniy) “I live” in Numbers 14:21, 28; Isaiah 49:18; Jeremiah 22:24; 46:18; Ezekiel 5:11; 14:16, 18, 20; 16:48; 17:16, 19; 18:3; 20:3, 31, 33; 33:11, 27; 34:8; 35:6, 11; Zephaniah 2:9; and חַי אֲנִי לְעוֹלָם (chay 'ânokiy le'olâm) “I live forever” in Deuteronomy 32:40.

4 פָּגַע (phega) “attack” ISV, MEV; “kill” NKJV; “fall” YLT, KJV, NAS – not technically a word for “kill” or “fall” - basic idea of the word is to “meet” in a hostile way (e.g. Numbers 35:19, 21), thus here “attack.”

5 מוֹקֵשׁ (moqêsh) “snare” - same word used in Psalm 106:36 for the snare of idolatry.

6 Gideon actually had a total of 72 sons (recorded). The concubine's son in verse 31 is an additional (“also”) son, and the youngest, Jotham, mentioned in Judges 9:5, is an additional son, since Abimelech killed seventy, but Jotham escaped.

7 This illustrates the blessedness of polygamy (Psalm 127:3-5; Ecclesiastes 6:3).

8 אַבִּימֶלֶךְ ('aviymelech) “Abimelech” = “My Father is King”

9 בְּעַל בְּרִית (ba'al beriyt) “Covenant Baal” - EHV “Baal of the Covenant”; GNT “Baal-of-the-Covenant”; NKJV, etc. “Baal-Berith” - בְּרִית (beriyt) = “covenant” (e.g. Judges 2:1-2, 20).

10 לְאֱלֹהִים (lê'lohiym) “for Gods”