

3[1] And these nations that Yehvah gave rest to test Israel in them, all who did not know all wars of Canaan, [2] only so that generations of sons of Israel might know, to teach them war, only who before did not know them,<sup>1</sup> [3] five lords of Philistines, and every one of the Canaanite, and the Sidonian, and the Hivite inhabiting mount Lebanon, from mount Baal Hermon unto entrance of Hamath. [4] And they were to test Israel in them to know if they will hear commandments of Yehvah which he commanded their fathers in hand of Moses. [5] And sons of Israel dwelt in the midst of the Canaanite, the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

[6] And they took their daughters to them for women, and their daughters they gave to their sons;<sup>2</sup> and they served their gods.<sup>3</sup> [7] And sons of Israel did the bad in eyes of Yehvah and forgot Yehvah their Gods. And they served the Baals and the Asherahs.<sup>4</sup> [8] And anger of Yehvah burned against Israel, and he sold them into hand of Cushan Rishathaim,<sup>5</sup> king of<sup>6</sup> Aram of Two Rivers,<sup>7</sup> and sons of Israel served Cushan Rishathaim eight years.

[9] And sons of Israel cried out to Yehvah, and Yehvah raised up a savior<sup>8</sup> for sons of Israel. And Othniel, son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, saved them. [10] And spirit of Yehvah was upon him, and he judged Israel. And he went out to war, and Yehvah gave in his hand Cushan Rishathaim, king of Aram;<sup>9</sup> and his hand was strong upon Cushan Rishathaim. [11] And the land was quiet forty years. And Othniel, son of Kenaz, died.

[12] And sons of Israel again did the bad in eyes of Yehvah. And Yehvah made Eglon, king of Moab, strong against Israel, because they did the bad in eyes of Yehvah. [13] And he gathered to himself sons of Ammon and Amalek, and he went and struck Israel and took possession of the city of the Palm Trees.<sup>10</sup> [14] And sons of Israel served Eglon, king of Moab, eighteen years.

[15] And sons of Israel cried out to Yehvah, and Yehvah raised up for them a savior, Ehud,<sup>11</sup> son of Gera, the Benjamite,<sup>12</sup> a man, his right hand bound.<sup>13</sup> And sons of Israel sent in his hand a gift to Eglon, king of Moab. [16] And Ehud made for himself a sword, and to her was two mouths,<sup>14</sup> her length a short cubit.<sup>15</sup> And he girded her underneath his clothes upon his right thigh. [17] And he brought the gift to Eglon, king of Moab, and Eglon was a very fat man.

[18] And it was, when he finished to offer the gift, and he sent away the people carrying the gift, [19] and he turned from the idols at the Gilgal, so he said, "I have a secret word for you, the king." And he said, "Hush."<sup>16</sup> And all those standing by him went out from by him. [20] And Ehud came to him, and he was sitting in his cool upper room<sup>17</sup> by himself.

1 יָדְעוּם (yedâ'um) "know them" - "them" refers to the "wars" of verse 1.

2 This was explicitly forbidden in Deuteronomy 7:3.

3 This is exactly what God said would happen in Deuteronomy 7:4.

4 See footnote for Deuteronomy 16:21.

5 כוּשָׁן רִשְׁתַּיִם (kushan Rish`ataim) "Cushan Rishathaim" - found also in Judges 3:10.

6 "king of" - Cushan Rishathaim is noted as king of "Aram of Two Rivers" (vs 8) and king of "Aram" (vs 10).

7 אֲרָם נְהַרַיִם ('aram naharâyim) "Aram of Two Rivers" = "Mesopotamia" (NKJV) = "land of the Chaldeans" (Acts 7:2, 4) = "Syria" - see footnotes for Genesis 10:22; 24:10.

8 מוֹשִׁיעַ (moshiy`a) "savior" CJB, GNV, GW, NOG, WEB - "saviour" YLT; "deliverer" NKJV, KJV, NAS - see footnote for Deuteronomy 22:27.

9 אֲרָם ('arâm) "Aram" = "Mesopotamia" NKJV - see footnote for Genesis 24:10.

10 City of the Palm Trees = Jericho. See Deuteronomy 34:3.

11 אֶהוּד ('êhud) "Ehud" - found also in Judges 3:16, 20-21, 23, 26; 4:1; 1 Chronicles 7:10 (son of Bilhan). There is also "Ehud" (NKJV) in 1 Chronicles 8:6, but that is a different name spelled slightly different אֶחָד ('êchud) "Echud."

12 בֶּן־הַיְמִינִי (ben-hayemiyniy) "the Benjamite" - "Benjamin" בְּנֵי־יְמִין (binyâmiyn) means "son of right-hand."

13 אִישׁ אֶטֶר יַד־יְמִינוֹ ('iysh 'itêr yad-yemiyno) more literally, "a man his right-hand bound" = "a left-handed man"

14 שְׁנֵי פִּיּוֹת (shenêy phêyot) "two mouths" = double-edged

15 גֹּמֶד (gomed) "a short cubit" - BDB "fr. elbow to knuckles of clenched (contracted) hand" - NKJV, etc. "cubit," yet the word for "cubit" is אַמָּה ('ammâh) e.g. Genesis 6:16. גֹּמֶד (gomed) "a short cubit" is only found here.

16 הָסָה (hâs) "Hush" YLT, CEB - "Keep silence" NKJV, KJV, NAS

17 עֲלֵי־יָתֵב ('aliyyat) "upper room" ASV, ERV, EXB, LEB, NET, NIV, OJB, WEB - "upper chamber" YLT; "roof chamber" NAS, BDB; "parlour" KJV - found also in Judges 3:23-25; 2 Samuel 18:33(H19:1); 1 Kings 17:19, 23; 2 Kings 1:2; 4:10-11; 23:12; 1 Chronicles 1:51; 28:11; 2 Chronicles 3:9; 9:4; Nehemiah 3:31-32; Psalm 104:3, 13; Jeremiah 22:13-14.

And Ehud said, “I have a word of Gods.” And he arose from upon the throne.<sup>18</sup> [21] And Ehud reached with his left hand and took the sword from upon his right thigh and thrust her in his belly. [22] And the handle<sup>19</sup> also went in after the blade. And the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out from his belly. And the guts<sup>20</sup> came out. [23] And Ehud went out the porch<sup>21</sup> and closed and locked the doors of the upper room behind him. [24] And he went out. And his servants came and looked and behold, the doors of the upper room were locked. And they said, “Surely, he is covering his feet<sup>22</sup> in the cool room.” [25] And they anxiously waited<sup>23</sup> until ashamed. And behold, he did not open the doors of the upper room. And they took the key and opened and behold, their Lords,<sup>24</sup> he was fallen on the ground dead. [26] And Ehud escaped during their delay, and he passed by the idols and escaped to the Female Goat.<sup>25</sup>

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18 כִּסֵּא (kissê) “throne” YLT, CSB, CEB, DRA, ERV, EHV, GNV, GW, HCSB, NOG, TLV, WYC - “seat” NKJV, KJV, NAS – same word for “throne” e.g. in Genesis 41:40; Exodus 11:5; 12:29; Deuteronomy 17:18; 1 Samuel 2:8; etc.. Also, used for “seat” e.g. in 1 Samuel 1:9; 4:13, 18; . There is also מוֹשֵׁב (moshâv) for “seat” e.g. 1 Samuel 20:18, 25(2x) & שֶׁבֶת (shevet) e.g. 1 Kings 10:19; 2 Chronicles 9:18.

19 נֶצֶב (netsâv) “handle” NAS; λαβήν (labên) “handle” LXX; “hilt” NKJV [“the handle of a sword or dagger” MW]; “haft” KJV [“the handle of a weapon or tool” MW]; – only found here.

20 פֶּרֶשׁוֹן (parshedonâh) “guts” CEB - “intestines” VOICE; “dirt” KJV; “entrails” NKJV; “refuse” NAS; “turds of the womb” WYC; “excrements of the belly” DRA; “bowels” EHV; “dung” ESV; “waste” CSB; “insides” HCSB; “stomach” NLV – only found here. The possibly related word פֶּרֶשׁ (peresh) is a word for “dung.” See footnotes for Exodus 29:14 & Leviticus 4:11.

21 מִסְדְּרוֹן (misdderonâh) - “porch” NKJV – only found here, exact meaning unknown.

22 מְסִיחַ הוּא אֶת־רַגְלָיו (mêsiykh hu' 'et-raglâyv) “he is covering his feet” ASV; DARBY; WEB; Green; “He is . . . attending to his needs” NKJV; “He is . . . relieving himself” NAS; “He is . . . covering his feet” YLT; “he covereth his feet” KJV = he is pooping, e.g. same phrase in 1 Samuel 24:3(H4) more literally, “Saul went in to cover his feet” i.e. to go poop. In contrast, Qr (Kt שִׁינֵיהֶם [shêynêyhem] “their urine”) for 2 Kings 18:27 & Isaiah 36:12 reads מֵימֵי רַגְלֵיהֶם (mêymêy raglêyhem) “waters of their feet” for urination (see also 1 Samuel 25:22 “pisseth against the wall” KJV).

23 יָחִילוּ (yâchiylu) “anxiously waited” - BDB “anxious longing”; NKJV, NAS “waited” - used similarly in Micah 1:12 “becomes weak waiting” NAS – used elsewhere for dancing (Judges 21:21), be in anguish (Deuteronomy 2:25), writhing in pain (Isaiah 26:17), etc..

24 אֲדֹנֵיהֶם ('adonêyhem) “their lords” - plural noun with plural pronominal suffix (their) with the singular verb “fallen.”

25 הַשְּׂעִירָתָה (hase'iyrâtâh) “to the Female Goat” - NKJV, NAS “to Seirah”; KJV “unto Seirath” - only found here for a location. This word, שְׂעִירָה (se'iyrâh), is used for a female goat in Leviticus 4:28; 5:6.