

Book of Judges Chapter 11

וַיִּפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי הָיָה גִבּוֹר חָיִל וְהוּא בֶן־אִשָּׁה זֹנָה וַיֹּלֶד גִּלְעָד אֶת־יִפְתָּח׃

1 Now Yiftah the Gil'adite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of a harlot: and Gil'ad begot Yiftah.

וַתֵּלֶד אֶשְׁת־גִּלְעָד לוֹ בָּנִים וַיִּגְדְּלוּ בְנֵיהָ־אִשָּׁה וַיִּגְרְשׁוּ אֶת־יִפְתָּח וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא־תִנְתַּל בְּבֵית־אֲבִינוּ כִּי בֶן־אִשָּׁה אַחֲרָת אֲתָה׃

2 And Gil'ad's wife bore him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they drove out Yiftah, and said to him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.

וַיִּבְרַח יִפְתָּח מִפָּנָיו אֲחִיו וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֶרֶץ טוֹב וַיִּתְּלַקְטוּ אֶל־יִפְתָּח אֲנָשִׁים רִיקִים וַיֵּצְאוּ עִמּוֹ׃ {פ}

3 Then Yiftah fled from his brothers, and dwelt in the land of Tov: and idle fellows joined themselves to Yiftah, and went out with him.

וַיְהִי מִיָּמִים וַיִּלַּחֲמוּ בְנֵי־עַמּוֹן עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל׃

4 And it came to pass in the course of time, that the children of 'Ammon made war against Yisra'el.

וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר־נִלְחָמוּ בְנֵי־עַמּוֹן עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד לִקְחַת אֶת־יִפְתָּח מֵאֶרֶץ טוֹב׃

5 And when the children of 'Ammon made war against Yisra'el, the elders of Gil'ad went to fetch Yiftah out of the land of Tov:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִיִּפְתָּח לָכֵה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקַצֵּין וְנִלְחָמָה בְּבָנֵי עַמּוֹן׃

6 and they said to Yiftah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of 'Ammon.

וַיֹּאמֶר יִפְתָּח לְזִקְנֵי גִלְעָד הֲלֹא אַתֶּם שֹׂנְאִתֶּם אוֹתִי וַתִּגְרְשׁוּנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי וּמִדֹּעַ בָּאתֶם אֵלַי לַעֲשֹׂה צָר לָכֶם׃

7 And Yiftah said to the elders of Gil'ad, Did you not hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why have you come to me now when you are in distress?

וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד אֶל־יִפְתָּח לְכֹן עִתָּה שָׁבָנוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהִלַּכְתָּ עִמָּנוּ וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בְּבָנֵי עַמּוֹן וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְרֹאשׁ לְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל׃

8 And the elders of Gil'ad said to Yiftah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayst go with us, and fight against the children of 'Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gil'ad.

וַיֹּאמֶר יִפְתָּח אֶל־זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד אִם־מְשִׁיבִים אַתֶּם אוֹתִי לְהִלָּחֵם בְּבָנֵי עַמּוֹן וְנָתַן יְהוָה אוֹתָם לִפְנֵי אֲנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה לָכֶם לְרֹאשׁ׃

9 And Yiftah said to the elders of Gil'ad, If you bring me back home to fight against the children of 'Ammon, and the Lord deliver them before me, shall I be your head?

וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי־גִלְעָד אֶל־יִפְתָּח יְהוָה יְהִי שֹׁמֵעַ בִּינוֹתֵינוּ אִם־לֹא כְדַבְּרְךָ כֹּן נַעֲשֶׂה׃

10 And the elders of Gil'ad said to Yiftah, The Lord is witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.

וַיֵּלֶךְ יִפְתָּח עִם־זִקְנֵי גִלְעָד וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ הָעָם אוֹתוֹ עֲלֵיהֶם לְרֹאשׁ וּלְקַצֵּין וַיִּדְבֹּר יִפְתָּח אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרָיו לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בְּמִצְפֶּה׃ {פ}

11 Then Yiftah went with the elders of Gil'ad, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Yiftah uttered all his words before the Lord in Mizpe.

וַיִּשְׁלַח יִפְתָּח מַלְאָכִים אֶל־מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹן לֵאמֹר מִהֲלִי וְלֹךְ כִּי־בָאת אֵלַי לְהִלָּחֵם בְּאֶרְצִי׃

12 And Yiftah sent messengers to the king of the children of 'Ammon, saying, What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land?

וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹן אֶל־מַלְאָכָיו יִפְתָּח כִּי־לָקַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־אֶרְצִי בְּעִלּוֹתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם מֵאַרְנוֹן וְעַד־הַיַּבֹּק וְעַד־הַיַּרְדֵּן וְעַתָּה הִשְׁיֵבָה אֶתְהֶן בְּשָׁלוֹם׃

13 And the king of the children of 'Ammon answered the messengers of Yiftah, Because Yisra'el took away my land, when they came up out of Mizrayim, from Arnon as far as the Yabboq, and the Yarden: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably.

וַיִּזְסַף עוֹד יִפְתָּח וַיִּשְׁלַח מַלְאָכִים אֶל־מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן׃

14 And Yiftah sent messengers again to the king of the children of 'Ammon:

וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר יִפְתָּח לֹא־לָקַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־אֶרֶץ מוֹאָב וְאֶת־אֶרֶץ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן׃

15 and said to him, Thus says Yiftah, Yisra'el did not take away the land of Mo'av, nor the land of the children of 'Ammon:

כי בעלותם ממצרים וילך ישראל במדבר ערבים סוף ויבא קדשה:

16 but when Yisra'el came up from Mizrayim, and walked through the wilderness to the Sea of Suf, and came to Qadesh;

וישלח ישראל מלאכים | אלמלך אדום | לאמר אעברהנא בארצה ולא שמע מלך אדום וגם אלמלך מואב שלח ולא אבה וישב ישראל בקדש:

17 then Yisra'el sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land: but the king of Edom would not hearken. And in like manner they sent to the king of Mo'av: but he would not consent: and so Yisra'el remained in Qadesh.

וילך במדבר ויסב אתארץ אדום ואתארץ מואב ויבא ממזרח שמש לארץ מואב ויחנו בעבר ארנון ולאבאו בגבול מואב כי ארנון גבול מואב:

18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and went round the land of Edom, and the land of Mo'av, and came by the east side of the land of Mo'av, and camped on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Mo'av: for Arnon was the border of Mo'av.

וישלח ישראל מלאכים אלסיתון מלךהאמרי מלך חשבון ויאמר לו ישראל נעברהנא בארץ עדמקומי:

19 And Yisra'el sent messengers to Sihon king of the Emori, the king of Heshbon; and Yisra'el said to him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land to my place.

ולאהאמין סיתון אתישראל עבר בגבול ויאסף סיתון אתכלעמו ויחנו ביהצה וילחם עמישראל:

20 But Sihon did not trust Yisra'el to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Yahaz and fought against Yisra'el.

ויתן יהוה אלהישראל אתסיתון ואתכלעמו ביד ישראל ויכום ויירש ישראל את כלארץ האמרי יושב הארץ ההיא:

21 And the Lord God of Yisra'el delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Yisra'el, and they smote them: so Yisra'el possessed all the land of the Emori, the inhabitants of that country.

ויירשו את כלגבול האמרי מארנון ועדהיבק ומנהמדבר ועדהירדן:

22 And they possessed all the border of the Emori from Arnon even as far as Yabboq, and from the wilderness as far as the Yarden.

ועתה יהנה | אלהי ישראל הוריש אתהאמרי מפני עמו ישראל ואתה תירשנו:

23 So now the Lord God of Yisra'el has driven out the Emori from before his people Yisra'el, and shouldst thou possess their land?

הלא את אשר יורישך כמוש אלהיך אותו תירש ואת כלאשר הוריש יהוה אלהינו מפנינו אותו נירש:

24 Wilt not thou possess that which Kemosh thy god gives thee to possess? So likewise that which the Lord our God has voided before us, that shall we possess.

ועתה הטוב טוב אתה מבלק בןצפור מלך מואב הרוב רב עמישראל אסילתם נלחם בם:

25 And now art thou at all better than Balaq the son of Zippor, king of Mo'av? did he ever strive against Yisra'el, or did he ever fight against them,

בשבת ישראל בחשבון ובבנותיה ובערעור ובבנותיה ובכלהערים אשר עליי ארנון שלש מאות שנה ומדוע לא הצלתם בעת ההיא:

26 while Yisra'el dwelt in Heshbon and its hamlets, and in 'Ar'or and its hamlets, and in all the cities that are along by the shores of Arnon, for three hundred years? why did you not recover them within that time?

ואנכי לאחטאתי לך ואתה עשה אתי רעה להלחם בי ישפט יהוה השפט היום בין בני ישראל ובין בני עמון:

27 But I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the children of Yisra'el and the children of 'Ammon.

ולא שמע מלך בני עמון אלדברי יפתח אשר שלח אליו: {פ}

28 Howbeit the king of the children of 'Ammon did not hearken to the words of Yiftah which he sent him.

ותהי עליפתח רוח יהוה ויעבר אתהגלעד ואתמנשה ויעבר אתמצפה גלעד וממצפה גלעד עבר בני עמון:

29 Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Yiftah and he passed over Gil'ad, and Menashshe, and passed over Mizpe of Gil'ad, and from Mizpe of Gil'ad he passed over to the children of 'Ammon.

וַיֵּדֶר יִפְתָּח נָדָר לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶם־נָתַן תִּתֶּן אֶת־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן בְּיָדִי:

30 And Yiftah̄ vowed a vow to the Lord, and said, If Thou shalt deliver the children of 'Ammon into my hands,

וְהָיָה הַיּוֹצֵא אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִדְלֹתַי בֵּיתִי לִקְרָאתִי בְּשׁוּבִי בְּשָׁלוֹם מִבְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וְהָיָה לַיהוָה וְהַעֲלִיתִהוּ עֹלָה: {פ}

31 then whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of 'Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

וַיַּעֲבֹר יִפְתָּח אֶל־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן לְהִלָּחֵם בָּם וַיִּתְּנֵם יְהוָה בְּיָדוֹ:

32 So Yiftah̄ passed over to the children of 'Ammon to fight against them: and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

וַיָּכֶם מִעְרוֹעֵר וְעַד־בֶּאֱלֶּמ מִנִּית, עֶשְׂרִים עִיר וְעַד אֶבֶל כְּרָמִים מִכָּה גְדוֹלָה מֵאֹד וַיִּכְנְעוּ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: {פ}

33 And he smote them from 'Aro'er, as far as Minnit, twenty cities, and as far as Avel-keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of 'Ammon were subdued before the children of Yisra'el.

וַיָּבֹא יִפְתָּח הַמְצִפָּה אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וְהִנֵּה בָתּוֹ יֹצֵאת לִקְרָאתוֹ בְּתִפְסִים וּבַמַּחֲלוֹת וְרַק הִיא יַחֲידָה אֵינָלּוּ מִמֶּנּוּ בֶן אִוִּבָת:

34 And Yiftah̄ came to Mizpe to his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

וַיְהִי כִּרְאוּתוֹ אוֹתָהּ וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָהָה בֵּיתִי הַכְרַע הַכְרַעַתִּי וְאַתָּה הֵיית בְּעֶכְרִי וְאֲנֹכִי פָצִיתִי כִּי־אֵלֶיהָ וְלֹא אוֹכֵל לָשׁוּב:

35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou hast become the cause of trouble to me: for I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot go back.

וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אָבִי פָצִיתָה אֶת־פִּיךָ אֶל־יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה לִי כַּאֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִפִּיךָ אַחֲרָי אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָךְ יְהוָה נִקְמוֹת מֵאִי־בִיד מִבְּנֵי עַמּוֹן:

36 And she said to him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth to the Lord, do to me according to that which has proceeded out of thy mouth; seeing that the Lord has taken vengeance for thee of thy enemies, of the children of 'Ammon.

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־אָבִיהָ יַעֲשֵׂה לִי הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה הַרְפָּה מִמֶּנִּי שְׁנַיִם חֳדָשִׁים וְאֵלְכָה וְיִרְדֹּתִי עַל־הָהָרִים וְאֶבְכֶּה עַל־בְּתוּלִי אֲנֹכִי (וְרַעֲוִיתִי) [וְרַעֲוִיתִי]:

37 And she said to her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go and wander down the mountain sides, and bewail my virginity, I and my friends.

וַיֹּאמֶר לָכִי וַיִּשְׁלַח אוֹתָהּ שְׁנֵי חֳדָשִׁים וַתֵּלֶךְ הִיא וְרַעֲוִתֶיהָ וַתִּבְנֶן עַל־בְּתוּלֶיהָ עַל־הָהָרִים:

38 And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and wept for her virginity upon the mountains.

וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ שְׁנַיִם חֳדָשִׁים וַתָּשֻׁב אֶל־אָבִיהָ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהּ אֶת־נִדְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָדָר וְהִיא לֹא־יָדְעָה אִישׁ וַתְּהִי־חֹק בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

39 And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Yisra'el,

מִזְמִימָה לְתִלְכָּנָה בָּנוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְתַנּוֹת לְבַת־יִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי אַרְבַּעַת יָמִים בַּשָּׁנָה: {פ}

40 that the daughters of Yisra'el went yearly to lament the daughter of Yiftah̄, the Gil'adite four days in the year.