Judges #1 The Joshua-Judges Continuum

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1. Judges chapter 1

¹After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, "Which of us shall be the first to go up against the Canaanites and attack them?" ²The LORD replied, "Let [the tribe of] Judah go up. I now deliver the land into their hands"... ⁸The Judites attacked Jerusalem and captured it; they put it to the sword and set the city on fire... ²¹The Benjaminites did not dispossess the Jebusite inhabitants of Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have dwelt with the Benjaminites in Jerusalem to this day.

²²The House of Joseph, for their part, advanced against Bethel, and the LORD was with them...²⁷Manasseh did not dispossess [the inhabitants of] Beth-shean and its dependencies, or [of] Taanach and its dependencies, or the inhabitants of Dor and its dependencies, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its dependencies. The Canaanites persisted in dwelling in this region. ²⁸And when Israel gained the upper hand, they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor; but they did not dispossess them. ²⁹Nor did Ephraim dispossess the Canaanites who inhabited Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in their midst at Gezer. ³⁰Zebulun did not dispossess the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt in their midst, but they were subjected to forced labor...

שופטים פרק א

(א) וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹשָׁעַ וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּהי לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה־לָּנוּ אֶל־הַכְּנַעֲנִי בַּתְּחִלֶּה לְהִלֶּחֶם בּוֹ : (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר הי יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ בְּיָדוֹ :...(ח) וַיִּלְחֲמוּ בְנֵייְהוּדָה בִּירוּשָׁלַם וַיִּלְכְּדוּ אוֹתָהּ וַיַּכּוּהָ לְפִי־חָרֶב וְאֶת־הָעִיר שִׁלְחוּ בָאֵשׁ :...(כא) וְאֶת־הַיְבוּסִי ישׁב יְרוּשָׁלַם לֹא הוֹרִישׁוּ בְּנֵי בִנְיָמִן וַיֵּשֶׁב הַיְבוּסִי אֶת־בְּנִי בִנְיָמִן בִּירוּשָׁלַם עַד הַיּוֹם הַיָּה :

ָׁ (כֹב) וַיַּצְלוּ בֵית־יוֹסֵף גַּם־הֵם בֵּית־אֵל וַה׳ עִפֶּם :...(כז) וְלֹא־הוֹרִישׁ מְנַשֶּׁה אֶת־בֵּית־שְׁאָן וְאֶת־בְּנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת־תַּעְנַדְּ וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת־<ישב> יוֹשְׁבֵי דוֹר וְאֶת־ בְּנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת־יוֹשְׁבֵי יִבְלְעָם וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת־יוֹשְׁבֵי מְגִדּוֹ וְאֶת־בְּנוֹתֶיהָ וַיּוֹאֶל הַכְּנַצְנִי לָשֶׁבֶת בָּאָרֶץ הַוֹּאת: (כח) וַיְהִי כִּי־חָזַק יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּשֶׁם אֶת־הַכְּנַצְנִי לָמֵס וְהוֹרֵישׁ לֹא הוֹרִישׁוֹ: (כט) וְאֶבְּרִים לֹא הוֹרִישׁ אֶת־הַכְּנַצְנִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּנָזֶר וַיִּשֶׁב הַכְּנַצְנִי בְּקְרְבּוֹ וַיְּהָיוֹ לַמֵּס: סְּ זָבוּלֹן לֹא הוֹרִישׁ אֵת־יוֹשָׁבֵי קַטְרוֹן וְאֶת־יוֹשָׁבֵי נַהֵלֹל וַיִּשֶׁב הַכְּנַצֵנִי בְּקַרְבּוֹ וַיְּהִיוּ לַמֵּס: סְּ

2. Judges chapter 2

⁶When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites went to their allotted territories and took possession of the land. ⁷The people served the LORD during the lifetime of Joshua and the lifetime of the older people who lived on after Joshua and who had witnessed all the marvelous deeds that the LORD had wrought for Israel. ⁸Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten years, ⁹and was buried on his

own property, at Timnath-heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. ¹⁰And all that generation were likewise gathered to their fathers.

Another generation arose after them, which had not experienced [the deliverance of] the LORD or the deeds that He had wrought for Israel. ¹¹And the Israelites did what was offensive to the LORD. They worshiped the Baalim ¹² and forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They followed other gods. from among the gods of the peoples around them, and bowed down to them; they provoked the LORD... ¹⁴Then the LORD was incensed at Israel, and He handed them over to foes who plundered them. He surrendered them to their enemies on all sides, and they could no longer hold their own against their enemies... ¹⁶Then the LORD raised up chieftains who delivered them from those who plundered them. ¹⁷But they did not heed their chieftains either; they went astray after other gods and bowed down to them. They were quick to turn aside from the way their fathers had followed in obedience to the commandments of the LORD; they did not do right. ¹⁸When the LORD raised up chieftains for them, the LORD would be with the chieftain and would save them from their enemies during the chieftain's lifetime; for the LORD would be moved to pity by their moanings because of those who oppressed and crushed them. ¹⁹But when the chieftain died, they would again act basely, even more than the preceding generation—following other gods, worshiping them, and bowing down to them; they omitted none of their practices and stubborn ways.

<u>שופטים פרק ב</u>

(ו) וַיְשַׁלַּח יְהוֹשֵׁעַ אֶת־הָעָם וַיֵּלְכוּ בְּנֵייִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ לְנַחֲלֶתוֹ לֶרֶשֶׁת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ : (ז) וַיַּעַבְדוּ הָעָם אֶת־ה׳ כּּל יְמֵי יְהוֹשֵׁעַ וְכֹל יְמֵי הַזְּקֵנִים אֲשֶׁר הָאֱרִיכוּ יָמִים אַחֲרֵי יְהוֹשׁוּעַ אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ אֵת כָּל־מַצְשֵׂה ה׳ הַגָּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשֶׂה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל : (ח) וַיָּמֶת יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בִּּן־נוּן עֶבֶד ה׳ בֶּן־מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׁר שָׁנִים : (ט) וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אוֹתוֹ בִּגְבוּל נַחֲלֶתוֹ בְּתִמְנַת־חֶרֶס בְּהַר אֶבְּרָיִם מִצְּפוֹן לְהַר־גָּעַשׁ : (י) וְגַם כָּל־הַדּוֹר הַהוּא נֶאֶסְפוּ אֶל־אֲבוֹתִיו וַיִּקְם דּוֹר אֲחֵר אַחֲרֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ אֶת־ה׳ וְגַם אֶת־ הַמַּצְשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר עָשָּׁה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל :

(יא) וַיַּצְשׁוּ בְנֵי־יִשְּׁרָאֵל אֶת־הַרָע בְּעֵינֵי הי וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֶת־הַבְּעָלִים : (יב) וַיַּעַזְבוּ אֶת־הי אֱ-לֹקֵי אֲבוֹתָם הַמּוֹצִיא אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים מֵאֱלֹהֵי הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבוֹתֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לָהֶם וַיַּכְעְסוּ אֶת־הי :...(יד) וַיִּחַר־אַף הי בְּיִשְׁרָאֵל וַיִּתְּנֵם בְּיַד־שׁׁסִים וַיִּשֹׁסוּ אוֹתָם וַיִּמְכְּרֵם בְּיַד אוֹיְבֵיהֶם מְּסָּרִיב וְלֹא־יַכְלוּ עוֹד לַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי אוֹיְבֵיהֶם :...(טז) וַיָּקֶם הי שֹׁפְטִים וַיּוֹשִׁיעוּם מִיַּד שֹׁסִיהֶם : (יז) וְגַם אֶל־שֹׁפְטֵיהֶם לֹא שָׁמֵעוּ כִּי זָנוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וַיִּשְׁתַחוּ לָהֶם סְרוּ מַהֵר מִן־הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָלְכוּ אֲבוֹתָם לֹּלְשְׁמֵע מִצְוֹּר בְּעוֹּ בֹן: (יח) וְכִי־הֵקִים הי לָהֶם שֹׁפְטִים וְהָיָה הי עִם־הַשֹּׁפֵט וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם מִיּיַד אֹיְבֵיהֶם כֹּל לְשְׁמֹע מִצְוֹת־הי לֹא־עֲשוּ כֵּן: (יח) וְכִי־הֵקִים הי לָהֶבֶיהם וְהַיְהָבְּירִם מְעְבְדָם וּלְחֲצִיהֶם וְלֹהְשְׁתַּחוֹת לָהֶם לֹא הִפִּילוּ מִמֵעלְלֵיהֶם וֹמִי אֲלַהִים אֲחַרִים לְעָבְדָם וּלְחֲצִיהֶם וְלֹּהְשְׁתַּחוֹת לָהֶם לֹא הִפִּילוּ מִמַעלְלֵיהָם וּמִדְּכָם הַקְּשָּה.

3. <u>Joshua 15:63</u>

But the Judahites could not dispossess the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so the Judahites dwell with the Jebusites in Jerusalem to this day.

<u>יהושע טו :סג</u>

וְאֶת הַיְבוּסִי יוֹשְׁבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם לֹא יוכלו יָכְלוּ בְנֵי יְהוּדָה לְהוֹרִישָׁם וַיֵּשֶׁב הַיְבוּסִי אֶת בְּנֵי יְהוּדָה בִּירוּשָׁלַם עַד הַיּוֹם הַגֶּה :

4. Joshua 16:10

However, they failed to dispossess the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites remained in the midst of Ephraim, as is still the case. But they had to perform forced labor.

י: יהושע טז

וַלֹא הוֹרִישׁוּ אֶת הַכִּנַעַנִי הַיּוֹשֶׁב בְּגַזֶר וַיֶּשֶׁב הַכִּנַעַנִי בְּקָרֵב אֲפָרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיְהִי לְמַס עֹבֶד:

5. Joshua 17:12-13

¹²The Manassites could not dispossess [the inhabitants of] these towns, and the Canaanites stubbornly remained in this region. ¹³When the Israelites became stronger, they imposed tribute on the Canaanites; but they did not dispossess them.

יהושע יז :יב-יג

(יב) וְלֹא יָכְלוּ בְּנֵי מְנַשֶּׁה לְהוֹרִישׁ אֶת הֶעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיּוֹאֶל הַכְּנַעֲנִי לָשֶׁבֶת בָּאָרֶץ הַוֹּאת: (יג) וַיְהִי כִּי חָזְקוּ בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתִּנוּ אֵת הַכָּנַעַנִי לַמֵּס וְהוֹרֵשׁ לֹא הוֹרִישׁוֹ:

6. Joshua 18:2-3

²but there remained seven tribes of the Israelites which had not yet received their portions. ³So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you be slack about going and taking possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has assigned to you?

הושע יח:ב-ג

ָב) וַיִּנְתְרוּ בִּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר לֹא חָלְקוּ אֶת נַחֲלֶתָם שִׁבְעָה שְׁבָּטִים : (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֵׁעַ אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד אָנָה אַתֶּם מִתְרַפִּים לָבוֹא לָרֶשֶׁת אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָכֶם ה׳ אֱ-לֹקֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם :

7. <u>Judges 2:20-23</u>

²⁰Then the LORD became incensed against Israel, and He said, "Since that nation has transgressed the covenant that I enjoined upon their fathers and has not obeyed Me, ²¹I for My part will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died." ²²For it was in order to test Israel by them—[to see] whether or not they would faithfully walk in the ways of the LORD, as their fathers had done—²³that the LORD had left those nations, instead of driving them out at once, and had not delivered them into the hands of Joshua.

שופטים ב:כ-כג

(כ) וַיִּחַר אַף הי בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָבְרוּ הַגּוֹי הַזֶּה אֶת בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִּי אֶת אֲבוֹתָם וְלֹא שְׁמְעוּ בְּקֹלִי: (כא) גַּם אֲנִי לֹא אוֹסִיף לְהוֹרִישׁ אִישׁ מִפְּנֵיהֶם מִן הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר עָזַב יְהוֹשֵׁעַ וַיָּמֹת: (כב) לְמַעַן נַסּוֹת בָּם אֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲשֹׁמְרִים הֵם אֶת דֶּרֶךְ הי לֶלֶכֶת בָּם כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמְרוּ אֲבוֹתָם אִם לֹא: (כג) וַיַּנַּח הי אֶת הַגּוֹיִם בָּם אֶר יִשְׁרָאֵל הְבָּלְתִּי הוֹרְישָׁם מַהֵר וְלֹא נָתַנָם בְּיֵד יְהוֹשְׁעַ:

8. Joshua 24:14

"Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve Him with undivided loyalty; put away the gods that your forefathers served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

יהושע כד:יד

ּוְעַתָּה יְראוּ אֶת ה׳ וְעִבְדוּ אֹתוֹ בְּתָמִים וּבֶאֱמֶת וְהָסִירוּ אֶת אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר עַבְדוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם בְּעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר וּבִמָצְרַיִם וְעִבִדוּ אֵת ה׳:

J	ud	lges	2:	6-	11

⁶When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites went to their allotted territories and took possession of the land. ⁷The people served the LORD during the lifetime of Joshua and the lifetime of the older people who lived on after Joshua and who had witnessed all the marvelous deeds that the LORD had wrought for Israel. ⁸Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten years, ⁹and was buried on his own property, at Timnath-heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰And all that generation were likewise gathered to their fathers. Another generation arose after them, which had not experienced [the deliverance of] the LORD or the deeds that He had wrought for Israel. ¹¹And the Israelites did what was offensive to the LORD. They worshiped the Baalim

Joshua 24:28-31

²⁸Joshua then dismissed the people to their allotted portions. ²⁹After these events, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten years. ³⁰They buried him on his own property, at Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. ³¹Israel served the LORD during the lifetime of Joshua and the lifetime of the elders who lived on after Joshua, and who had experienced all the deeds that the LORD had wrought for Israel.

שופטים ב:ו-יא

(ו) וַלְשַׁלֵּח זְהוֹשָׁע אֶת הָעָם וַגֵּלְכוּ דְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ לְנַחֲלָתוֹ לֶרֶשֶׁת אֶת הָאָרֶץ: (ז) וַזַּעֲבְדוּ הָעָם אֶת הי כּל יְמֵי יְהוֹשַׁעַ וְכֹל יְמֵי הַזְּקֵנִים הַבֶּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָּׁה לִישְׁרָאַל: (ח) וַיָּמֶת יְהוֹשַׁעַ בְּשָׁ בְּנוֹ עָבֶּד הי בֶּן מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׁר שָׁנִים: (ט) וַיִּקְבָּרוּ אוֹתוֹ בִּגְבוּל נַחֲלָתוֹ בְּתִמְנַת הָרֶס בְּהַר אָפָרֵיִם מִצְּפוֹן לָהַר נָּעֵש:

(י) וְגַם כָּלֹהַדּוֹר הַהוּא נֶאֶסְפוּ אֶלֹאֲבוֹתָיו וַיָּקֶם דּוֹר אַתֵּר אַחֲרִיהָם אֲשֶׁר לֹאִיּיָדְעוּ אֶת־הִי וְגַם אֶת־ הַפֵּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר עָשָּׁה לְיִשְׁרָאֵל: (יא) וַנִּצֵשׁוֹ בְנֵייִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הָרִע בְּצִינֵי הי וַיַּצַבְדוּ אֶת־הַבְּעָלִים:

יהושע כד:כח-לא

(כח) וַיְשַׁלַּח יְהוֹשָׁעַ אֶת הָעָם אִישׁ לְנַחֲלֶתוֹ : (כט) וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַנָּמֶת יְהוֹשָׁעַ בַּן נוּן עֶבֶד הי בֶּן מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׁר שָׁנִים : (ל) וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אתוֹ בִּגְבוּל נַחֲלֶתוֹ בְּתִמְנֵת סֶרַח אֲשֶׁר בְּהַר אֶבְרִים מִצְפוֹן לְהַר גָּעַשׁ : (לא) וַיִּעֲבֹד יִשְׁרָאֵל אֶת הי כֹּל יְמֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכֹל יְמֵי הַלֵּשֶׂה הי אֲשֶׁר עַשָּׁה לִישִּׂרָאֵל : מַעֲשָׂה הי אֱשֵּׁר עַשָּׁה לִישִׂרָאֵל :

9. Ramban on Exodus 1:1

It is for this reason that He [i.e., God] returns to the beginning of the subject [stated in the Book of Genesis], which is the verse, And all his seed he [Jacob] brought with him into Egypt (Gen. 46:7). There is it written afterward, And these are the names of the children of Israel, who came into Egypt, etc. (Gen. 46:8). This is the very same verse that He repeats here. Even though they are two separate books, the narrative is connected with subjects which follow one another successively.... A similar case is found in the Book of Chronicles and the Book of Ezra....The author repeated the very language of these two verses at the beginning of the Book of Ezra in order to connect the narrative.

רמביין שמות א:א

טעם ואלה שמות - כי הכתוב ירצה למנות ענין הגלות מעת רדתם למצרים, כי אז גלו בראש גולים, כאשר פירשתי, ולפיכך יחזור אל תחלת הענין שהוא מפסוק וכל זרעו הביא אתו מצרימה (בראשית מו ז), ושם כתוב אחריו ואלה שמות בני ישראל הבאים מצרימה וגוי, ואותו הפסוק בעצמו הוא שהחזיר בכאן, כי אף על פי שהם שני ספרים, הספור מחובר בדברים באים זה אחר זה, וכאשר הזכיר בני יעקב קצר בבני בניו וכל זרעו, והחזיר הכלל כאשר אמר שם כל הנפש לבית יעקב הבאה מצרימה שבעים. וכענין הזה בספר דברי הימים וספר עזרא, שהשלים דברי הימים ובשנת אחת לכורש מלך פרס לכלות דבר ה' בפי ירמיהו העיר ה' את רוח כורש וגו', כה אמר כורש מלך פרס וגו', ואותם שני פסוקים בלשונם החזיר בראש ספר עזרא לחבר הספור, אלא שהיו שני ספרים, השלים הראשון במה שהיה קודם בנין הבית והספר השני מעת הבנין.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

INTRODUCTION (Chapters 1-2)

Chapter 1: After Joshua's death, Judah takes leadership. List of

conquests and laxity in conquest of tribes

Chapter 2: Condemnation of tribes for laxity in conquest. Narrator's

description of cycle: intermarriage, idolatry, oppression, Israel cries to God, God appoints savior, starts again after

death of savior.

CYCLES OF INDIVIDUAL JUDGES (Chapters 3-16)

Chapter 3: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar

Chapters 4-5: Deborah (and Barak) and her song

Chapters 6-8: Gideon
Chapter 9: Abimelech

Chapter 10: Tola, Jair, prophetic condemnation of Israel

Chapters 11-12: Jephthah

Chapter 12: Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Chapters 13-16: Samson

BLEAK APPENDIX STORIES SINCE NO KING (Chapters 17-21)

Chapters 17-18: The idol of Micah

Chapters 19-21: The concubine at Gibeah