

BOOK OF SHOFTIM

CIVIL WAR & SUPERHEROES



A. The Factors of Failure

1. Shoftim Chapter 1 - The King Has Left the Building

<p>1 And it was after the death of Joshua, that the children of Israel asked of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall go up for us first against the Canaanites, to fight against them?"</p>	<p>א וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּה' לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה לָּנוּ אֶל הַכְּנַעֲנִי בַתְּחִלָּה לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ:</p>
<p>2 And the Lord said, Judah shall go up; behold I have given the land into his hand.</p>	<p>ב וַיֹּאמֶר ה' יְהוּדָה יַעֲלֶה הַגֵּנָה נָתַתִּי אֶת הָאָרֶץ בְּיָדוֹ:</p>

2. Shoftim Chapter 3 - Intermarriage

<p>5 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.</p>	<p>ה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יָשְׁבוּ בְּקִרְבֵּי הַכְּנַעֲנִי הַחִתִּי וְהָאֲמֹרִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי וְהַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוּסִי:</p>
<p>6 And they took their daughters to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and served their gods.</p>	<p>ו וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת בָּנוֹתֵיהֶם לָהֶם לְנָשִׁים וְאֶת בָּנוֹתֵיהֶם נָתְנוּ לְבָנֵיהֶם וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֶת אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:</p>
<p>7 And the children of Israel did that which displeased the Lord, and they forgot the Lord their God, and served the Baalim and the Asheroth.</p>	<p>ז וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ה' וַיִּשְׁכַּחוּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֵיהֶם וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֶת הַבַּעֲלִים וְאֶת הָאֲשֵׁרוֹת:</p>

3. Shoftim Chapter 11 - Selfishness of Yiphtach

<p>31 And it will be, whatever comes forth, that shall come forth from the doors of my house towards me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall be to the Lord, and I will offer him up for a burnt-offering."</p>	<p>לא וְהָיָה הַיּוֹצֵא אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִדְּלַתִּי בֵּיתִי לְקִרְאָתִי בְּשׂוֹבִי בְּשָׁלוֹם מִבְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וְהָיָה לַיהוָה וְהַעֲלִיתֶהוּ עֹלָה:</p>
--	---

<p>32 And Jephthah passed over to the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hand.</p>	<p>לב וַיַּעֲבֹר יִפְתָּח אֶל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן לְהִלָּחֵם בָּם וַיִּתְּנֵם ה' בְּיָדוֹ:</p>
<p>34 And Jephthah came to Mizpah, to his house, and behold, his daughter was coming out towards him with timbrels and with dances, and she was an only child, he had from her neither a son nor a daughter.</p>	<p>לד וַיָּבֹא יִפְתָּח הַמְצַפֶּה אֶל בֵּיתוֹ וְהִנֵּה בָּתוֹ יֹצֵאת לְקִרְאתוֹ בְּתַפִּים וּבְמַחְלוֹת וְרֶקֶם הִיא יְחִידָה אֵין לוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ בֶן אוֹ בַת:</p>

C. Civil War

1. Shoftim Chapter 19 - History Repeats Itself

<p>17 And he raised his eyes, and saw the wayfaring man in the thoroughfare of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going and from where do you come?"</p>	<p>יז וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת הָאִישׁ הָאֹרֶחַ בְּרֹחַב הָעִיר וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הַזְקֵן אָנָּה תֵּלֵךְ וּמֵאֵינן תָּבוֹא:</p>
<p>18 And he said to him, "We are passing from Beth-lehem of Judah to the edge of the mountain of Ephraim, from there am I, and I went until Beth-lehem of Judah; and I am going to the House of the Lord, and no one takes me home.</p>	<p>יח וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו עֹבְרִים אֲנַחְנוּ מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה עַד יִרְפְּתֵי הַר אֶפְרַיִם מִשָּׁם אֲנִי וְאֵלֶיךָ עַד בֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה וְאֵת בֵּית ה' אֲנִי הֹלֵךְ וְאֵין אִישׁ מְאַסֵּף אוֹתִי הַבָּיְתָה:</p>
<p>19 And also there is straw and provender for our donkeys, and also bread and wine for myself, for your maidservant, and for the lad who is with your servants; there is no want of anything."</p>	<p>יט וְגַם תָּבוֹן גַּם מִסְפּוּא יֵשׁ לְחַמּוּרֵינוּ וְגַם לָחֶם וַיִּין יֵשׁ לִי וְלֵאמֹתְךָ וּלְנַעַר עִם עֲבָדֶיךָ אֵין מַחְסוֹר כָּל דָּבָר:</p>
<p>20 And the old man said, "Peace be to you, just let all your needs be upon me, but do not lodge in the street."</p>	<p>כ וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ הַזְקֵן שְׁלוֹם לְךָ רַק כָּל מַחְסוֹרְךָ עָלַי רַק בְּרֹחַב אֶל תֵּלֵן:</p>
<p>21 And he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys, and they washed their feet, ate and drank.</p>	<p>כא וַיְבִיאוּהוּ לְבֵיתוֹ וַיִּבֵּל (כתיב וַיִּבֹּל) לְחַמּוּרֵים וַיִּרְחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתּוּ:</p>
<p>22 As they were enjoying themselves, and behold, the men of the city, men of wickedness, surrounded the house, (and were) beating at the door. And they spoke to the man, the elderly master of the house, saying, "Bring out the man that came into your house, so that we may be intimate with him."</p>	<p>כב הִמָּה מִיִּטְיָבִים אֶת לִבָּם וְהִנֵּה אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר אֲנָשֵׁי בְנֵי בְלִיעַל נֹסְבוּ אֶת הַבַּיִת מִתְדַּפְּקִים עַל הַדֶּלֶת וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת הַזְקֵן לֵאמֹר הוֹצֵא אֶת הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּא אֶל בֵּיתְךָ וַנְּדַעְנּוּ:</p>
<p>23 And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not do so wickedly now. Since this man has come into my house, do not commit this</p>	<p>כג וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵיהֶם הָאִישׁ בְּעַל הַבַּיִת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אֵל אַחֵי אֵל תִּרְעוּ נָא אַחֲרַי אֲשֶׁר בָּא הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה אֶל בֵּיתִי</p>

disgraceful deed.	אל תעשו את הנבלה הזאת:
24 Here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine, I will bring them out now and (you should) afflict them, and do with them as you please, but to this man do not do this disgraceful act."	כד הנה בתי הבתולה ופילגשהו אוציאה נא אותם וענו אותם ועשו להם הטוב בעיניכם ולאיש הזה לא תעשו דבר הנבלה הזאת:
25 But the men did not want to listen to him, and the man grabbed his concubine, and brought her forth to them outside. And they were intimate with her, and abused her the entire night until the morning, and they sent her away when the day began to dawn.	כה ולא אבו האנשים לשמע לו ויחזק האיש בפילגשו ויצא אליהם החוץ וידעו אותה ויתעללו בה כל הלילה עד הבקר וישלחוה בעלות (כתיב בעלות) השחר:
26 And the woman came as the morning began. And she fell down at the entrance of the man's house, where her master was, until it was light.	כו ותבא האשה לפנות הבקר ותפל פתח בית האיש אשר אדניה שם עד האור:
27 And her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way. And behold, the woman, his concubine, was lying after having fallen at the entrance of the house, with her hands on the threshold.	כז ויקם אדניה בבקר ויפתח דלתות הבית ויצא ללכת לדרכו והנה האשה פילגשו נפלת פתח הבית וידיה על הסף:
28 And he said to her, "Arise, and let us go," but no one answered. And he took her upon the donkey, and the man rose up and went to his place.	כח ויאמר אליה קומי ונלכה ואין ענה ויקחה על החמור ויקם האיש וילך למקמו:
29 And he came to his house, and took the knife, and took hold of his concubine and cut her into limbs, into twelve pieces, and he sent her throughout all the borders of Israel.	כט ויבא אל ביתו ויקח את המאכלת ויחזק בפילגשו וינתחה לעצמיה לשנים עשר נתחים וישלחה בכל גבול ישראל:
30 And it came to pass anyone that saw (it), would say, "There has not happened nor has there been seen (anything) like this from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day; concern yourself about it, take counsel, and speak."	ל והיה כל הראה ואמר לא נהיתה ולא נראתה כזאת למיום עלות בני ישראל מארץ מצרים עד היום הזה שימו לכם עליה עזו ודברו:

D. There Can Be (Super)Heroes!

1. Shoftim Chapter 13 - Special Baby

1 And the children of Israel continued to do that which displeased the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.	א ויספו בני ישראל לעשות הרע בעיני ה' ויתנם ה' ביד פלשתים ארבעים שנה:
--	--

2 And there was one man from Zorah, from the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and had not borne.	ב ויהי איש אחד מצרעה ממשפחת הדני ושמו מנוח ואשתו עקרה ולא ילדה:
3 And an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, "Behold now, you are barren, and have not borne; and you shall conceive and bear a son.	ג ויבא מלאך ה' אל האשה ויאמר אליה הנה נא את עקרה ולא ילדת והרית וילדת בן:
4 Consequently, beware now, and do not drink wine or strong drink, and do not eat any unclean thing.	ד ועתה השמרי נא ואל תשתי יין ושכר ואל תאכלי כל טמא:
5 Because you shall conceive, and bear a son; and a razor shall not come upon his head, for a Nazirite to God shall the lad be from the womb; and he will begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."	ה כי הנך הרה וילדת בן ומורה לא יעלה על ראשו כי נזיר אלהים יהיה הנער מן הבטן והוא יחל להושיע את ישראל מיד פלשתים:

2. Shoftim Chapter 14 - More Powerful than a Locomotive!

5 And Samson and his father and mother went down to Timnath, and they came to the vineyards of Timnath, and behold, a young lion roared towards him.	ה ויבא שמשון ואביו ואמו תמנתה ויבאו עד פרמי תמנתה והנה כפיר אריות שאג לקראתו:
6 And there rested on him a spirit of the Lord, and he rent it as one would rent a kid, although he had nothing in his hand, but he did not tell his father and mother what he had done.	ו ותצלח עליו רוח ה' וישסעהו כשסע הגדי ומאומה אין בידו ולא הגיד לאביו ולאמו את אשר עשה:

3. Shoftim Chapter 16 - Shimshon's Kryptonite

16 And it was, as she nagged him with her words every day, and pressed him, that his soul was vexed to death.	טז ויהי כי הציקה לו בדבריה כל הימים ותאלצהו ותקצר נפשו למות:
17 And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has not come upon my head, for I am a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I will be shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any man."	יז ויגד לה את כל לבו ויאמר לה מורה לא עלה על ראשי כי נזיר אלהים אני מבטן אמי אם גלחתי וסר ממני כחי וחליתי והייתי ככל האדם:

4. Shoftim Chapter 16 - True Source of Strength

27 Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And upon the roof (there were) about three thousand men and women, the spectators of Samson's sport.	כז והבית מלא האנשים והנשים ושמה כל סרני פלשתים ועל הגג כשלישת אלפים איש ואשה הראים בשחוק שמשון:
28 And Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God,	כח ויקרא שמשון אל ה' ויאמר אדני

<p>remember me and strengthen me now, only this once O God, that I may be avenged the vengeance for one of my two eyes from the Philistines."</p>	<p>יְהוָה זְכֹרְנִי נָא וְחַזְקֵנִי נָא אֶךְ הַפְּעַם הַזֶּה הָאֵלֹהִים וְאַנְקָמָה נִקֵּם אַחַת מִשְׁתֵּי עֵינַי מִפְּלִשְׁתִּים:</p>
<p>29 And Samson grasped the two pillars of the center, upon which the house rested, and leaned upon them, (the) one with his right hand and the other with his left.</p>	<p>כט וַיִּלְפַּת שְׁמֹשׁוֹן אֶת שְׁנֵי עַמּוּדֵי הַתּוֹךְ אֲשֶׁר הַבַּיִת נִכּוֹן עֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּסְמְךְ עֲלֵיהֶם אֶחָד בְּיַמִּינוֹ וְאֶחָד בְּשִׁמְאֹלוֹ:</p>
<p>30 And Samson said, "Let my soul die with the Philistines," and he bent with (his) might, and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. And the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his lifetime.</p>	<p>ל וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמֹשׁוֹן תָּמוּת נַפְשִׁי עִם פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּט בְּכַח וַיִּפֹּל הַבַּיִת עַל הַסְּרָנִים וְעַל כָּל הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בּוֹ וַיְהִיו הַמֵּתִים אֲשֶׁר הָמִית בְּמוֹתוֹ רַבִּים מֵאֲשֶׁר הָמִית בְּחַיָּיו:</p>