

*Greetings, today our manna is Judges 20; Acts 24; Jeremiah 34; Psalms 5 & 6.*

## *August 6 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective*

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

### **Judges 20**

#### **Israel's War with the Tribe of Benjamin**

**Jdg 20:1** And all the children of Yisra'ël came out, from Dan to Be'ërsheba, and from the land of Gil'ad, and the congregation assembled as one man before ה'ה' at **Mitspah.**

Jdg 20:2 And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Yisra'ël, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of Elohim, **four hundred thousand foot soldiers** who drew the sword.

Jdg 20:3 And the children of Binyamin heard that the children of Yisra'ël had gone up to Mitspah. And the children of Yisra'ël said, **"Speak up, how did this evil come about?"**

The Levite recounts the evil done while in Gilad [Gibeah which belonged to Benjamin tribe].

Jdg 20:4 And the man, **the Lëwite, husband of the woman** who was murdered, answered and said,

"My concubine and I went into Gib'ah, which belongs to Binyamin, to spend the night.

Jdg 20:5 "And the masters of Gib'ah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. **They thought to kill me, but instead they humbled my concubine, and she died.**

Jdg 20:6 **"Then I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the land of the inheritance of Yisra'ël, because they committed wickedness and folly in Yisra'ël.**

Jdg 20:7 **"Look, you are all children of Yisra'ël, speak and give your counsel here!"**

The children of Israel make plans to come against Gibah in Binyamin.

Jdg 20:8 And all the people rose as one man, saying, "Let not one of us go to his tent, nor any of us turn back to his house.

Jdg 20:9 "And now, this is what we do to Gib'ah: go against it by lot.

Jdg 20:10 "And we shall take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Yisra'ël, and a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make food for the people, to prepare for their going to Gib'ah in Binyamin,

for all the folly they did in Yisra'ël.”

Jdg 20:11 And all the men of Yisra'ël were gathered against the city, knit together as one man.

Jdg 20:12 And the tribes of Yisra'ël sent men through all the tribe of Binyamin, saying, **“What is this evil that has come about among you?”**

Jdg 20:13 **“And now, give us the men, the sons of Beliya'al who are in Gib'ah, so that we put them to death and put away evil from Yisra'ël!”** But **the children of Binyamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the children of Yisra'ël.**

The Benjaminite's would not listen to reason and decide to war against the children of Israel.

Jdg 20:14 **So the children of Binyamin gathered together from their cities to Gib'ah, to go to battle against the children of Yisra'ël.**

Jdg 20:15 And from their cities at that time the children of Binyamin registered **twenty-six thousand men** who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gib'ah, who registered **seven hundred** chosen men.

Jdg 20:16 Among all this people there were **seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed,** each one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.

Jdg 20:17 And besides Binyamin, **the men of Yisra'ël registered four hundred thousand men who drew the sword, all of these were men of battle.**

Jdg 20:18 And the children of Yisra'ël rose and went up to Bëyth Ēl to ask of Elohim, and they said,

The children of Israel ask Elohim for guidance.

**“Who of us go up first to battle against the children of Binyamin?”** And יהוה said, **“Yehudah first.”**

Jdg 20:19 And the children of Yisra'ël rose in the morning and encamped against Gib'ah.

Jdg 20:20 And the men of Yisra'ël went out to battle against Binyamin, and the men of Yisra'ël put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gib'ah.

On the first day, the children of Israel suffer much loss; 22,000 men of Israel were cut down.

**Jdg 20:21** And the children of Binyamin came out of Gib'ah, and on that day cut down to the ground **twenty-two thousand men of Yisra'ël**.

Israel strengthens themselves and tearfully go up to YHWH to again make inquiry.

**Jdg 20:22** But the people, the men of Yisra'ël, strengthened themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day.

**Jdg 20:23** And the children of Yisra'ël went up and wept before **יהוה** until evening, and asked of **יהוה**, saying,

**“Should I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Binyamin?”** And **יהוה** said, **“Go up against him.”**

Again, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of battle, the children of Israel suffer much loss. This time 18,000 were cut down. They return and weep before YHWH and fasted; an offered ascending and peace offerings.

**Jdg 20:24** And the children of Yisra'ël drew near to the children of Binyamin on the **second day**.

**Jdg 20:25** And Binyamin went out against them from Gib'ah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Yisra'ël – all these drew the sword.

**Jdg 20:26** And all the children of Yisra'ël, even all the people, went up and came to Běyth Ĕl and wept, and sat there before **יהוה** and fasted that day until evening. And they offered ascending offerings and peace offerings before **יהוה**.

As the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of battle approaches, once more they go before YHWH to inquiry if they persist or cease. It is noted that Pinehas, son of Elazar, son of Aaron, stood before the ark of the covenant of Elohim in those days.

**Jdg 20:27** And the children of Yisra'ël asked of **יהוה** – the ark of the covenant of Elohim was there in those days,

**Jdg 20:28** and Pinehas son of El'azar, son of Aharon, stood before it in those days – saying,

“Should I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Binyamin, or should I cease?” And יהוה said, **“Go up, for tomorrow I give them into your hand.”**

The children of Israel get the ‘green light’ to go forth; for YHWH would give the Benjaminite into their hands.

Jdg 20:29 And Yisra’ël set ambushers all around Gib’ah.

Jdg 20:30 And the children of Yisra’ël went up against the children of Binyamin on the **third day**, and put themselves in battle array against Gib’ah as at the other times.

Jdg 20:31 And the children of **Binyamin came out to meet the people** – drawn away from the city. And they began to strike some of the people, slaying, as at the other times, in the highways, of which one went up to Běyth Ēl and the other to Gib’ah in the field, **about thirty men of Yisra’ël.**

The tribe of Benjamin become overconfident and haughty after they strike down 30 men of Israel.

Jdg 20:32 And the children of Binyamin said, **“They are going to be smitten before us, as previously.”**

**But the children of Yisra’ël said,** “Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways.”

Jdg 20:33 And all the men of Yisra’ël rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Ba’al Tamar. And the ambush of Yisra’ël broke forth from their position at Ma’areh lēḇa. [meadows of Gibeah]

Jdg 20:34 And **ten thousand chosen men from all Yisra’ël came against Gib’ah, and the battle was fierce. But they did not know that calamity was close to them.**

Jdg 20:35 **And יהוה smote Binyamin before Yisra’ël.** And the children of Yisra’ël destroyed **twenty-five thousand one hundred men on that day in Binyamin** – all these drew the sword.

The tables turn and now the tribe of Benjamin has been smitten with a loss of 25,100.

Jdg 20:36 And the children of Binyamin saw that they were smitten. And the men of Yisra’ël had given ground to the Binyamites, because they trusted in the ambush that they had set against Gib’ah,

Jdg 20:37 and the ambush hurried and came against Gib’ah, and the ambush spread out and struck the entire city with the edge of the sword.

Jdg 20:38 And **the appointed signal** between the men of Yisra'ël and the ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city,

Jdg 20:39 **then the men of Yisra'ël would turn in battle, and Binyamin began to strike dead about thirty of the men of Yisra'ël.** For they said, “They are indeed smitten before us, as at the first battle.”

Jdg 20:40 Then the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, and the **Binyamites looked behind them, and saw the entire city going up in smoke** to the heavens.

Jdg 20:41 And when the men of Yisra'ël turned back, the men of Binyamin were troubled, for they saw that calamity was close to them.

Jdg 20:42 And they turned their backs before the men of Yisra'ël toward the way of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them, while those who had come out of the cities were destroying them in their midst.

Jdg 20:43 **They surrounded the Binyamites and pursued them, and with ease trampled them down as far as the front of Gib'ah toward the east.**

Jdg 20:44 And **there fell of Binyamin eighteen thousand men** – all of these were mighty men.

Jdg 20:45 And they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. **And they cut down five thousand of them on the highways, and followed after them up to Gidom, and struck two thousand of them.**

Jdg 20:46 **And all who fell of Binyamin that day were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword, all of these were mighty men.**

Six hundred Benjaminite fled to the rock of Rimmon [meaning Pomegranate] for refuge for 4 months.

Jdg 20:47 But **six hundred men** turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they dwelt at the rock of Rimmon **for four new moons.**

The men of Israel set all the cities of Benjamin on fire and struck them with the sword; men, beasts, and all who were found. This may have been avoided if they would have reasoned with the children of Israel.

Jdg 20:48 And the men of Yisra'ël turned back against the children of Binyamin, and struck them with the edge of the sword from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. And they set fire to all the cities they came to.

## Acts 24

### Paul Before Felix at Caesarea

**Act 24:1** And after five days the high priest Hananyah came down, with the elders, and **a certain speaker – Tertullus**. And they brought charges against Sha’ul before the governor.

**Act 24:2** And when he was called upon, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “Having obtained great peace through you, and reforms being brought to this nation by your forethought,

**Act 24:3** we accept it always and in all places, most excellent Felix, with all thanks.

**Act 24:4** “But in order not to hinder you any further, I beg you to hear us briefly in your gentleness.

Hananyah and the elders bring with them Tertullus. We can think of him in modern day terms as a highly sought-after prosecuting attorney. One who was very articulate and persuasive at nauseam.

He wastes no time in ‘buttering up’ Governor Felix. Tertullus flatters Felix with the peace and reforms ‘he had brought to his nation’ because of his ‘forethought.’ Then goes on to essentially say, he did not want to detain or inconvenience him any further; they could proceed and briefly wrap up this case. He was implying it was easy and ‘clear cut.’

**Act 24:5** “For having found **this man a plague**, who **stirs up dissension among all the Yehudim throughout the world**, and **a ringleader of the sect of the Natsarenes**,

**Act 24:6** who **also tried to profane the Set-apart Place**, and whom we seized, and wished to judge him according to our law,

Tertullus goes from ‘dripping with honey’ to a ‘fire-breathing dragon.’ He vehemently degrades Paul with 4 false claims.

- Calls him a plague,
- Accuses him of stirring up dissension among ALL the Yehudim throughout the world!
- Accuses him of being a ringleader of the ‘sect of the Nazarenes’,
- Finally, states Paul tried to profane the Set-apart place...

All of which were blatantly FALSE.

While Tertullus is still ‘fired up’, he turns to attack the Commander Lysias with words...

**Act 24:7 but the commander Lysias**

- came along and with much violence took him out of our hands,
- **Act 24:8** commanding his accusers to come to you.

And by examining him yourself you shall be able to know all these *matters* of which we accuse him.”

**Act 24:9** And the Yehudim also agreed, maintaining that these *matters* were so.

Tertullus insinuates that pretty much ‘without a doubt’, Felix would reach the same ‘conclusions’ as did he and the Yehudim.

Felix turns the attention to Paul by motioning him to speak.

**Act 24:10** And when the governor had motioned him to speak, Sha’ul answered,

**Acts 24:11-21 – Paul replies** - Paul also knew Felix’s history and was definitely capable of articulating his own defense; so, he proceeds. Again, we can see this skill as being another reason why Paul was YHWH’s chosen vessel.

*“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge of this nation, I gladly defend myself, seeing you are able to know that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to Yerushalayim to worship. “And **they neither found me in the Set-apart Place disputing with anyone nor stirring up the crowd**, either in the congregations or in the city. “**Nor are they able to prove the charges of which they now accuse me.**”*

*“And this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, **so I worship the Elohim of my fathers**, Exo 3:15 believing all that has been written in the Torah and in the Prophets, having an expectation in Elohim, which they themselves also wait for, that there is to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the unrighteous.”*

*“And in this I exercise myself to have a clear conscience toward Elohim and men always. “And after many years I came to bring kind deeds to my nation and offerings, at which time certain Yehudim from Asia found me cleansed in the Set-apart Place, neither with a crowd nor with disturbance, who ought to be present before you to bring charges if they have any matter against me. “**Or else let these themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, other than for this one declaration which I cried out, standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you today.’**”*



Bottom line Paul boldly states to Felix that these accusing him would not be able to prove their charges.

### Paul Kept in Custody

**Act 24:22** And having heard this, having known more exactly about the Way, Felix put them off, saying, “When Lysias the commander comes down, I shall decide your case.”

The commander Lysias seems to have been one of good reputation; and it appears Felix had confidence in his report. So much for Tertullus’ bashing of Lysias.

**Act 24:23** And he ordered the captain to keep Sha’ul and to have ease, and not to forbid any of his friends to attend to him.

**Act 24:24** And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a female Yehudi, he sent for Sha’ul and heard him concerning the belief in Messiah.

Paul is invited by Felix and his wife Drusilla to hear more about the belief in Messiah. What an awesome and divine opportunity!

**Act 24:25** And as he reasoned about righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, “For the present, go. And when I find time I shall send for you.”

**Act 24:26** At the same time too he was anticipating that money would be given him by Sha’ul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.

**Act 24:27** But after two years had passed Porcius Festus succeeded Felix. And wishing to do the Yehudim a favour, Felix left Sha’ul bound.

Felix was a politician and unfortunately politicians have a tendency to compromise and appease. Some even value the ‘under the table’ cash deals. It appears Felix was anticipating Paul would provide such a transaction; but that was not to be.

Instead, Felix keeps Paul confined to stay in ‘good graces’ with the Yehudim; and subsequently leaves the case for his predecessor, Festus, to address.

### Jeremiah 34

**Zedekiah to Die in Babylon** – However, Zedekiah would die in peace. All the cities of Judah would be burned and uninhabited.



**Jer 34:1** The word which came to Yirmeyahu from יהוה, when Neḅuḱadnetṣar sovereign of Babel and all his army, and all the reigns of the earth under his rule, and all the people, fought against Yerushalayim and all its cities, saying,

Jer 34:2 “Thus said יהוה the Elohim of Yisra’ēl, ‘Go and speak to Tsidqiyahu sovereign of Yehudāh and say to him, “Thus said יהוה,

- ‘See, I am giving this city into the hand of the sovereign of Babel.
- And he shall burn it with fire,
- Jer 34:3 and you shall not escape out of his hand, but certainly be taken and given into his hand.
- And your eyes shall see the eyes of the sovereign of Babel,
- and his mouth shall speak with your mouth, and you shall go to Babel.’ ”

Jer 34:4 “But hear the word of יהוה, O Tsidqiyahu sovereign of Yehudāh! Thus said יהוה concerning you,

- ‘You shall not die by the sword.
- Jer 34:5 In peace you are to die, and as in the burnings of spices for your fathers, the former sovereigns who were before you, so they shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, “Alas, master!” ’ For I have spoken the word,” declares יהוה.

Jer 34:6 And Yirmeyahu the prophet spoke all these words to Tsidqiyahu the sovereign of Yehudāh in Yerushalayim,

Jer 34:7 while the sovereign of Babel’s army was fighting against Yerushalayim and all the cities of Yehudāh that were left, against Laḱish and Azēqah. For only these walled cities remained of the cities of Yehudāh.

Jer 34:8 The word which came to Yirmeyahu from יהוה, after Sovereign Tsidqiyahu had made a covenant with all the people who were at Yerushalayim to proclaim release to them:

Jer 34:9 that everyone was to set free his male and female slave, the Hebrew man and the Hebrew woman, no one was to keep a Yehudi, his brother, enslaved.

Jer 34:10 And when all the heads and all the people who had come into the covenant heard that each one was to set free his male and female slaves, and not keep them enslaved any longer, they obeyed and released them.

Jer 34:11 But afterward they changed their minds and made the male and female slaves return, whom they had set free, and brought them into subjection as male and female slaves.

The release after six years mirrors how Yahusha had come to set the ‘captives free’ as well. This was a well-established covenantal pattern. We know we presently live in the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium leading to the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium when we will rule and reign for 1000 years with Yahusha as our King of kings. On the 8<sup>th</sup> great day [or 8<sup>th</sup> millennium], is the time of new beginnings when YHWH will create a new heaven and a new earth.

All His Word is about His beautiful love story to release us from captivity; and take us to be His people and His bride. YHWH gives us patterns upon patterns to speak to us more deeply. He is faithful to His promise and to His Covenant.

Jer 34:12 Therefore the word of יהוה came to Yirmeyahu from יהוה, saying,

Jer 34:13 “Thus said יהוה the Elohim of Yisra’el,

- ‘I Myself made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of bondage, saying,
- Jer 34:14 “**At the end of seven years each one should set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him.** And when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you.”
- But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear.
- Jer 34:15 And you recently turned and did what was right in My eyes, each man proclaiming release to his neighbor. And you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My Name.
  - Jer 34:16 But you turned back and profaned My Name, and each one of you took back his male and female slaves, whom he had set free, at their pleasure, and brought them into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.’

Jer 34:17 “Therefore thus said יהוה,

- ‘You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming release, each one to his brother and each one to his neighbor.
- See, I am proclaiming release to you,’ declares יהוה,
  - ‘to the sword,
  - to the pestilence, and
  - to the scarcity of food!
  - And I shall make you a horror to all reigns of the earth.

Jer 34:18 And **I shall give the men who are transgressing My covenant,** who have not established the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it:

Jer 34:19 the heads of Yehudah, and the heads of Yerushalayim, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf.

**TSK Cross Reference:** This is an allusion to the solemn ceremony used by several ancient nations, when they entered into a covenant with each other. The victims, slain as a sacrifice on this occasion, were divided, and and parts laid asunder. The contracting parties then passed between them, imprecating, as a curse on those who violated the sacred compact, that they might in like manner be cut asunder ([Gen 15:10](#)).

- [Jer 34:20](#) And I shall give them into the hand of their enemies
- and into the hand of those who seek their life.
  - And their corpses shall be for food to the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth.
- [Jer 34:21](#) And I shall give Tsidqiyahu sovereign of Yehudah and his heads into the hand of their enemies,
  - and into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the hand of the sovereign of Babel's army that has withdrawn from you.

[Jer 34:22](#) See, I am commanding,' declares **יהוה**, 'and shall bring them back to this city, and they shall fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. **And I shall make the cities of Yehudah a ruin without inhabitant.'** ”

## Psalm 5 &6

David, was in the righteous line of the Melchizedek order. He was a man after YHWH's own heart. His relationship with YHWH was close. David knew His voice and YHWH knew David's voice. YHWH blessed David in good times; and chastised him at other times.

David knew his help came from YHWH; therefore, he prayed that YHWH would lead him in His righteousness. He also prayed and knew that his enemies, and those doing evil, would be dealt with by YHWH.

Psa 5:12 For **You bless the righteous, O יהוה; You surround him with favour as with a shield**

### Lead Me in Your Righteousness

**Psa 5:1** Give ear to my words, O **יהוה**, Consider my meditation.

**Psa 5:2** Attend to the voice of my cry, My Sovereign and my Elohim, **For unto You I pray.**

**Psa 5:3** O **יהוה**, in the morning You hear my voice; I present myself to You in the morning, And I look up.

**Psa 5:4** For You are not an **Ĕl** taking delight in wrong, Nor does evil dwell with You.

**Psa 5:5** The boasters do not stand before Your eyes; You hate all workers of wickedness.

**Psa 5:6** You destroy those speaking falsehood; **יהוה** loathes a man of blood and deceit.

**Psa 5:7** But I, I enter Your house In the greatness of Your loving-commitment; I bow myself toward Your set-apart Hēḱal in Your fear.

**Psa 5:8** O **יהוה**, lead me in Your righteousness because of those watching me; Make Your way straight before my face.

**Psa 5:9** For there is no stability in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open burial-site; They flatter with their tongue.

**Psa 5:10** Declare them guilty, O Elohim! Let them fall by their own counsels; Thrust them away for their many transgressions, Because they have rebelled against You.

**Psa 5:11** But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; Let them ever shout for joy, because You shelter them; And let those who love Your Name exult in You.

**Psa 5:12** For **You bless the righteous, O יהוה; You surround him with favour as with a shield.**

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**The only thing that has given all of us hope is YHWH's steadfast loving-commitment. David cries out in his grief with a sincere and humbled heart.**

He also engages in spiritual warfare by declaring all workers of wickedness to depart from him. He stands on the authority that YHWH has heard his pleas and has received his prayers.

### **YHWH, Deliver My Life**

**Psa 6:1** O **יהוה**, do not rebuke me in Your displeasure, Nor discipline me in Your wrath.

**Psa 6:2** Show favour to me, O **יהוה**, for I am fading away; O **יהוה**, heal me, for my bones have been troubled.

**Psa 6:3** And my being has been greatly troubled; And You, O **יהוה** – till when?

**Psa 6:4** Return, O **יהוה**, rescue my life! Oh, save me for Your loving-commitment's sake!

**Psa 6:5** For in death there is no remembrance of You; Who gives You thanks in She'ol?

**Psa 6:6** I have grown weary with my groaning; Every night I flood my bed; I drench my couch with my tears.

**Psa 6:7** My eye has grown dim because of grief; It grows old because of all my adversaries.

**Psa 6:8** Depart from me, all you workers of wickedness; For **יהוה** has heard the voice of my weeping.

Devotional Highlights – August 6

**Psa 6:9** יהוה has heard my pleading; יהוה receives my prayer.

**Psa 6:10** Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; They turn back suddenly, ashamed.

*~ Shalom ~ Libby*

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>