

¹Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.²And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.³Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.⁴And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.⁵And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:⁶And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.⁷And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?⁸And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.⁹And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?¹⁰And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.¹¹Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah

¹وَكَانَ يَفْتَا حِجَّارِ بَاسٍ، وَهُوَ ابْنُ امْرَأَةٍ زَانِيَةٍ. وَجِلْعَادُ وَلَدَ يَفْتَا.²ثُمَّ وَلَدَتْ امْرَأَةُ جِلْعَادَ لَهُ بَنِينَ. فَلَمَّا كَبُرَ بَنُو الْمَرْأَةِ طَرَدُوا يَفْتَا، وَقَالُوا لَهُ، لَا تَرِثْ فِي بَيْتِ أَبِيئَا لِأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ ابْنُ امْرَأَةٍ أُخْرَى.³فَهَرَبَ يَفْتَا مِنْ وَجْهِ إِخْوَتِهِ وَأَقَامَ فِي أَرْضِ طُوب. فَاجْتَمَعَ إِلَى يَفْتَا رِجَالٌ بَطَالُونَ وَكَانُوا يَخْرُجُونَ مَعَهُ.⁴وَكَانَ بَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ أَنَّ بَنِي عَمُّونَ حَارَبُوا إِسْرَائِيلَ.⁵وَلَمَّا حَارَبَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ إِسْرَائِيلَ دَهَبَ شَيْوخُ جِلْعَادَ لِيَأْتُوا يَفْتَا مِنْ أَرْضِ طُوب. وَقَالُوا لِيَفْتَا، تَعَالَ وَكُنْ لَنَا قَائِدًا فَتَحَارِبَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ.⁷فَقَالَ يَفْتَا لَشُيُوخِ جِلْعَادَ، أَمَّا ابْعِضْهُمْ بَنِيئِي أَنْتُمْ وَطَرِّدْهُمْ بَنِيئِي مِنْ بَيْتِ أَبِي. فَلَمَّاذَا أَتَيْتُمْ إِلَيَّ الْآنَ إِذْ صَافَيْتُمْ.⁸فَقَالَ شَيْوخُ جِلْعَادَ لِيَفْتَا، لِدَلِكْ قَدْ رَجَعْنَا الْإِنَّ إِلَيْكَ لِنُدْهَبَ مَعًا وَتُحَارِبَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ، وَتَكُونَ لَنَا رَأْسًا لِكُلِّ سَكَّانِ جِلْعَادَ.⁹فَقَالَ يَفْتَا لَشُيُوخِ جِلْعَادَ، إِذَا أَرْجَعْتُمْ بَنِيئِي لِمُحَارَبَةِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ وَدَفَعْتُمْ الرَّبَّ أَمَامِي فَأَنَا أَكُونُ لَكُمْ رَأْسًا.¹⁰فَقَالَ شَيْوخُ جِلْعَادَ لِيَفْتَا، الرَّبُّ يَكُونُ سَامِعًا بَيْنَنَا إِنْ كُنَّا لَا نَفْعَلُ هَكَذَا حَسَبَ كَلَامِكَ.¹¹فَدَهَبَ يَفْتَا مَعَ شُيُوخِ جِلْعَادَ، وَجَعَلَهُ الشَّعْبُ عَلَيْهِمْ رَأْسًا وَقَائِدًا. فَتَكَلَّمَ يَفْتَا بِجَمِيعِ كَلَامِهِ أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ فِي الْمِصْفَاةِ.¹²فَأَرْسَلَ يَفْتَا رُسُلًا إِلَى مَلِكِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ يَقُولُ، مَا لِي وَلَكَ أَلَيْكَ أَتَيْتَ إِلَيَّ لِلْمُحَارَبَةِ فِي أَرْضِي.¹³فَقَالَ مَلِكُ بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِرُسُلِ يَفْتَا، لِأَنَّ إِسْرَائِيلَ قَدْ أَخَذَ أَرْضِي عِنْدَ ضُغُودِهِ مِنْ مِصْرَ مِنْ أَرُوبَ إِلَى الْيَبُوقِ وَإِلَى الْأُرْدُنِّ. فَلَاآنَ رُدَّهَا بِيَسَلَامٍ.¹⁴وَعَادَ أَيْضًا يَفْتَا وَأَرْسَلَ رُسُلًا إِلَى مَلِكِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ¹⁵ وَقَالَ لَهُ، هَكَذَا يَقُولُ يَفْتَا، لَمْ يَأْخُذْ إِسْرَائِيلُ أَرْضَ مُوَابَ وَلَا أَرْضَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ،¹⁶ لَأَنَّهُ عِنْدَ ضُغُودِ إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ مِصْرَ سَارَ فِي الْقَفْرِ إِلَى بَحْرِ سُوفٍ وَأَتَى إِلَى قَادِشَ.¹⁷وَأَرْسَلَ إِسْرَائِيلُ رُسُلًا إِلَى مَلِكِ أَدُومَ قَائِلًا، دَعْني أُعْبِرُ فِي أَرْضِكَ. فَلَمْ يَسْمَعْ مَلِكُ أَدُومَ. فَأَرْسَلَ أَيْضًا إِلَى مَلِكِ مُوَابَ فَلَمْ يَرْضَ. فَأَقَامَ إِسْرَائِيلُ فِي قَادِشَ.¹⁸وَسَارَ فِي الْقَفْرِ وَدَارَ بِأَرْضِ أَدُومَ وَأَرْضِ مُوَابَ وَأَتَى مِنْ مَشْرِيقِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَى أَرْضِ مُوَابَ وَتَرَّلَ فِي غَيْرِ أَرُوبَ، وَلَمْ يَأْتُوا إِلَى تُحْمِ مُوَابَ لِأَنَّ أَرُوبَ تُحْمِ مُوَابَ.¹⁹ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَ إِسْرَائِيلُ رُسُلًا إِلَى سِيحُونَ مَلِكِ الْأَمُورِيِّينَ مَلِكِ حَسْبُونَ، وَقَالَ لَهُ إِسْرَائِيلُ، دَعْني أُعْبِرُ فِي أَرْضِكَ إِلَى مَكَايِبِ.²⁰وَلَمْ يَأْمَنْ سِيحُونُ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ أَنْ يَغْبِرَ فِي تُحْمِهِ، بَلْ جَمَعَ سِيحُونُ كُلَّ سَعْيِهِ وَتَرَّلُوا فِي

uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.¹² And Jephthah sent messengers unto 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?¹³ And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably.¹⁴ And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon:¹⁵ And said unto him, Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon:¹⁶ But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh;¹⁷ Then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land: but the king of Edom would not hearken thereto. And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not consent: and Israel abode in Kadesh.¹⁸ Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.¹⁹ And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place.²⁰ But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in

بَاهَصَ وَحَارَبُوا إِسْرَائِيلَ.²¹ فَدَقَعَ الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ إِسْرَائِيلَ سِيحُونَ وَكُلَّ شَعْبِهِ لِيَدِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَصَرَبُوهُمْ، وَامْتَلَكَ إِسْرَائِيلُ كُلَّ أَرْضِ الْأَمُورِيِّينَ سَكَّانَ تِلْكَ الْأَرْضِ.²² قَامْتَلَكُوا كُلَّ تَحْمِ الْأَمُورِيِّينَ مِنْ أَرُنُونَ إِلَى الْيُوبِقِ وَمِنْ الْقَفْرِ إِلَى الْأُرْدُنِّ.²³ وَالْآنَ الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ إِسْرَائِيلَ قَدْ طَرَدَ الْأَمُورِيِّينَ مِنْ أَمَامِ شَعْبِهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَقَانَتْ تَمْلِكُهُ.²⁴ أَلَيْسَ مَا يَمْلِكُكَ إِيَّاهُ كَمَوْشَ إِلَهِكَ تَمْلِكُكَ. وَجَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ طَرَدَهُمُ الرَّبُّ إِلَهُتَا مِنْ أَمَامِنَا قَالَاهُمُ تَمْلِكُكَ.²⁵ وَالْآنَ قَهْلُ أَنْتَ خَيْرٌ مِنْ بَالَاقِ بْنِ صِفُورَ مَلِكِ مُوَابَ، قَهْلُ خَاصَمِ إِسْرَائِيلَ أَوْ حَارِبِهِمْ مُحَارِبَتَهُ.²⁶ جِبْنَ أَقَامَ إِسْرَائِيلُ فِي حَشُونٍ وَقُرَاهَا وَعَرُوعِيرَ وَقُرَاهَا وَكُلَّ الْمَدِينِ الَّتِي عَلَى جَانِبِ أَرُنُونَ ثَلَاثَ مِئَةِ سَنَةٍ، فَلَمَّاذَا لَمْ تَسْتَرِدَّهَا فِي تِلْكَ الْمُدَّةِ.²⁷ قَالَا لَمْ أَحْطِ إِلَى إِلَيْكَ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتَ فَأَنْتَ تَفْعَلُ بِي شَرًّا يَمْحَارِبَتِي. لِيَقْضِ الرَّبُّ الْقَاضِي الْيَوْمَ بَيْنَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَبَيْنِ عَمُّونَ.²⁸ فَلَمْ يَسْمَعْ مَلِكُ بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِكَلَامِ يَفْتَاخَ الَّذِي أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ.²⁹ فَكَانَ رُوحُ الرَّبِّ عَلَى يَفْتَاخَ، فَغَبَرَ جِلْعَادَ وَمَتَسَّى وَغَبَرَ مِصْفَاةَ جِلْعَادَ، وَمِنْ مِصْفَاةَ جِلْعَادَ غَبَرَ إِلَى بَنِي عَمُّونَ.³⁰ وَتَذَرُ يَفْتَاخَ تَذَرًا لِلرَّبِّ قَائِلًا، إِنْ دَفَعْتَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِيَدِي فَالْخَارِجُ الَّذِي يَخْرُجُ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ بَيْتِي لِلِقَائِي عِنْدَ رُجُوعِي بِالسَّلَامَةِ مِنْ عِنْدِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ يَكُونُ لِلرَّبِّ، وَأَصْعِدُهُ مُحْرَقَةً.³¹ ثُمَّ غَبَرَ يَفْتَاخَ إِلَى بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِمَحَارِبَتِهِمْ. فَدَقَعَهُمُ الرَّبُّ لِيَدِهِ.³² فَصَرَبَهُمْ مِنْ عَرُوعِيرَ إِلَى مَجِينِكَ إِلَى مِئَتَيْ عِشْرِينَ مَدِينَةً وَإِلَى آتَلِ الْكُرُومِ صَرْبَةً عَظِيمَةً جَدًّا. فَذَلَّ بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَمَامَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.³³ ثُمَّ أَتَى يَفْتَاخَ إِلَى الْمِصْفَاةِ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ، وَإِذَا بِابْنَتِهِ خَارِجَةً لِلِقَائِهِ يَذْفُوفٍ وَرَفُصٍ. وَهِيَ وَحِيدَةٌ. لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ ابْنٌ وَلَا ابْنَةٌ غَيْرَهَا.³⁴ وَكَانَ لَمَّا رَأَاهَا أَنَّهُ مَرَّقَ نَيْابَةً وَقَالَ، آه يَا ابْنَتِي. قَدْ أَحْزَنْتَنِي حُزْنًا وَصِرْتَ بَيْنَ مُكْذَرِّي، لِأَنِّي قَدْ فَتَحْتُ قَمِي إِلَى الرَّبِّ وَلَا يُمَكِّنُنِي الرَّجُوعُ.³⁵ فَقَالَتْ لَهُ، يَا أَبِي، هَلْ فَتَحْتَ قَاكَ إِلَى الرَّبِّ. فَأَفْعَلُ بِكَ كَمَا حَرَجَ مِنْ فَيْكَ، بِمَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ انْتَقَمَ لَكَ مِنْ أَعْدَاكَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ. ثُمَّ قَالَتْ لِأَبْنَتِهَا، فَلْيَفْعَلْ لِي هَذَا الْأَمْرُ، ائْتِكُنِي شَهْرَتَيْنِ قَادَهُبَ وَأَنْزِلْ عَلَى الْجِبَالِ وَأَبْكِي عَذْرَاوَتِي أَنَا وَصَاحِبَاتِي.³⁶ فَقَالَ، اذْهَبِي. وَأَرْسَلَهَا إِلَى شَهْرَتَيْنِ. فَذَهَبَتْ هِيَ وَصَاحِبَاتُهَا وَبَكَتْ عَذْرَاوَتُهَا عَلَى الْجِبَالِ.³⁷ وَكَانَ عِنْدَ نِهَائِهِ الشَّهْرَتَيْنِ أَنَّهُا رَجَعَتْ إِلَى أَبِيهَا، فَقَعَلَ بِهَا تَذَرُهُ الَّذِي تَذَرُ. وَهِيَ لَمْ تَعْرِفْ رَجُلًا.

Jahaz, and fought against Israel.²¹ And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.²² And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan.²³ So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldest thou possess it?²⁴ Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.²⁵ And now art thou any thing better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them,²⁶ While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities that be along by the coasts of Arnon, three hundred years? why therefore did ye not recover them within that time?²⁷ Wherefore 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 Israel and the children of Ammon.²⁸ Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.²⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.³⁰ And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children

فَصَارَتْ عَادَةً فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّ بَنَاتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ يَذْهَبْنَ
مِنْ سَنَةٍ إِلَى سَنَةٍ لِيُنْحَنَ عَلَى يَنْتِ يَفْتَاخَ الْجِلْعَادِيِّ
أَرْبَعَةَ أَشْهُامٍ فِي السَّنَةِ.

of Ammon into mine hands,³¹ Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth 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.³² So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.³³ And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.³⁴ And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto 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.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 art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.³⁶ And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.³⁷ And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.³⁸ And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.³⁹ And it

came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto 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 Israel,⁴⁰ That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.