

¹وَدَهَبَ أَبِيمَالِكُ بْنُ يَرْبَعَلٍ إِلَى شَكِيمَ إِلَى أَوْحَالِهِ، وَقَالَ لَجَمِيعِ عَشِيرَةِ بَيْتِ أَبِي أُمَّةَ، ²تَكَلَّمُوا الْآنَ فِي آذَانِ جَمِيعِ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ. أَيْمًا هُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ، أَلَّا يَتَسَلَّطَ عَلَيْكُمْ سَبْعُونَ رَجُلًا، جَمِيعُ بَنِي يَرْبَعَلٍ، أَمْ أَنْ يَتَسَلَّطَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَجُلٌ وَاحِدٌ. وَادُّكُرُوا أَنِّي أَنَا عَظُمُكُمْ وَلَحْمُكُمْ. ³فَتَكَلَّمَ أَوْحَالُهُ عَنْهُ فِي آذَانِ كُلِّ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ بِجَمِيعِ هَذَا الْكَلَامِ. فَقَالَ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَرَاءَ أَبِيمَالِكِ، لِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا، أَحْوَا هُوَ. وَأَعْطَوْهُ سَبْعِينَ شَافِلَ فِصَّةٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ بَعْلٍ بَرِيتَ، فَاسْتَأْجَرَ بِهَا أَبِيمَالِكُ رَجُلًا بَطَالِينَ طَائِشِينَ، فَسَعَوْا وَرَاءَهُ. ⁵ثُمَّ جَاءَ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِيهِ فِي عَفْرَةٍ وَقَتْلَ إِخْوَتِهِ بَنِي يَرْبَعَلٍ، سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا، عَلَى حَجَرٍ وَاحِدٍ. وَبَقِيَ يُونَامُ بْنُ يَرْبَعَلٍ الْأَصْغَرَ لِأَنَّهُ اخْتَبَأَ. ⁶فَلَا جَمَعَ جَمِيعُ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ، وَكُلُّ سُكَّانِ الْقَلْعَةِ وَدَهَبُوا وَجَعَلُوا أَبِيمَالِكَ مَلِكًا عِنْدَ بِلُوطِيَةِ النَّصْبِ الَّذِي فِي شَكِيمَ. ⁷وَاحْتَبَرُوا يُونَامَ فَدَهَبَ وَوَقَفَ عَلَى رَأْسِ جَبَلٍ جَرِيمٍ، وَتَادَى، اِسْمَعُوا لِي يَا أَهْلَ شَكِيمَ يَسْمَعُ لَكُمْ اللَّهُ. ⁸مَرَّةً دَهَبَتِ الْأَشْجَارُ لِيَتَمَسَّحَ عَلَيْهَا مَلِكًا. فَقَالَتْ لِلرَّيْثُوتَةِ، اْمْلِكِي عَلَيْنَا ⁹فَقَالَتْ لَهَا الرَّيْثُوتَةُ، أَأَتْرُكُ دُهْنِي الَّذِي بِهِ يُكْرَمُونَ بِيَ اللَّهِ وَالنَّاسِ، وَأَدْهَبُ لَأَمْلِكَ عَلَى الْأَشْجَارِ. ¹⁰ثُمَّ قَالَتْ الْأَشْجَارُ لِلنَّبِيَةِ، تَعَالَيِ أَنْتِ وَامْلِكِي عَلَيْنَا. ¹¹فَقَالَتْ لَهَا النَّبِيَةُ، أَأَتْرُكُ خَلَاوَتِي وَتَمْرِي الطَّيِّبَ وَأَدْهَبُ لَأَمْلِكَ عَلَى الْأَشْجَارِ. ¹²فَقَالَتْ الْأَشْجَارُ لِلْكَزْمَةِ، تَعَالَيِ أَنْتِ وَامْلِكِي عَلَيْنَا. ¹³فَقَالَتْ لَهَا الْكَزْمَةُ، أَأَتْرُكُ مِسْطَارِي الَّذِي يُفَرِّخُ اللَّهُ وَالنَّاسَ وَأَدْهَبُ لَأَمْلِكَ عَلَى الْأَشْجَارِ. ¹⁴ثُمَّ قَالَتْ جَمِيعُ الْأَشْجَارِ لِلْعُوسَجِ، تَعَالِ أَنْتِ وَامْلِكِي عَلَيْنَا. ¹⁵فَقَالَ الْعُوسَجُ لِلْأَشْجَارِ، إِنْ كُنْتُمْ بِالْحَقِّ تَمْسُخُونِي عَلَيْكُمْ مَلِكًا فَتَعَالَوْا وَاخْتُمُوا تَحْتَ طَلْبِي. وَإِلَّا فَتَخْرُجْ تَارٌ مِنْ الْعُوسَجِ وَتَأْكُلُ أَرْزَ لُبَّانٍ. ¹⁶فَالآنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ عَمِلْتُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَالصَّحَّةِ إِذْ جَعَلْتُمْ أَبِيمَالِكَ مَلِكًا، وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ فَعَلْتُمْ خَيْرًا مَعَ يَرْبَعَلٍ وَمَعَ بَنِيهِ. وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ فَعَلْتُمْ لَهُ خَسَبَ عَمَلٍ بَدِيهِ ¹⁷لَأَنَّ أَبِي قَدْ خَارَبَ عَنْكُمْ وَخَاطَرَ بِنَفْسِهِ وَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْ يَدِ مَذْيَانَ ¹⁸وَأَنْتُمْ قَدْ فُتِمْتُمْ الْيَوْمَ عَلَى بَيْتِ أَبِي وَقَتَلْتُمْ بَنِيهِ، سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا عَلَى حَجَرٍ وَاحِدٍ وَمَلَكْتُمْ أَبِيمَالِكَ ابْنَ أُمَّتِهِ عَلَى أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ لِأَنَّهُ أَحْوَكُمْ. ¹⁹فَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ عَمِلْتُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَالصَّحَّةِ مَعَ يَرْبَعَلٍ وَمَعَ بَنِيهِ فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ، فَافْرَحُوا أَنْتُمْ بِأَبِيمَالِكِ، وَلْيَفْرَحْ هُوَ أَيْضًا بِكُمْ. ²⁰وَإِلَّا فَتَخْرُجْ تَارٌ مِنْ أَبِيمَالِكِ وَتَأْكُلُ أَهْلَ شَكِيمَ وَسُكَّانَ الْقَلْعَةِ، وَتَخْرُجْ تَارٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ وَمِنْ

¹And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, ²Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh. ³And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother. ⁴And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him. ⁵And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. ⁶And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem. ⁷And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you. ⁸The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. ⁹But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to

سُكَّانِ الْقَلْعَةِ وَتَأْكُلُ أَيْمَالِكَ.²¹ ثُمَّ هَرَبَ يُوثَامُ وَقَرَّرَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى بَثْرَ، وَأَقَامَ هُنَاكَ مِنْ وَجْهِ أَيْمَالِكَ أَخِيهِ.²² فَتَرَأَسَ أَيْمَالُكَ عَلَى إِسْرَائِيلَ ثَلَاثَ سِنِينَ.²³ وَأَرْسَلَ الرَّبُّ رُوحًا رَدِينًا بَيْنَ أَيْمَالِكَ وَأَهْلِ شَكِيمَ، فَقَعَدَ أَهْلُ شَكِيمَ بِأَيْمَالِكَ.²⁴ لِئَانِّي ظَلُمْتُ نَبِيَّ يَرْبَعَلَّ السَّبْعِينَ وَنَجَلْتُ دَمَهُمْ عَلَى أَيْمَالِكَ أَخِيهِمُ الَّذِي قَتَلَهُمْ، وَعَلَى أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ الَّذِينَ سَدَّدُوا يَدَيْهِ لِقَتْلِ إِخْوَتِهِ.²⁵ فَوَضَعَ لَهُ أَهْلُ شَكِيمَ كِمِينًا عَلَى رُؤُوسِ الْجِبَالِ، وَكَانُوا يَسْتَلْبِثُونَ كُلَّ مَنْ عَبَّرَ بِهِمْ فِي الطَّرِيقِ. فَأَجْبَرَ أَيْمَالُكَ.²⁶ وَجَاءَ جَعَلُ بْنُ عَايِدَ مَعَ إِخْوَتِهِ وَعَبَّرُوا إِلَى شَكِيمَ فَوَثِقَ بِهِ أَهْلُ شَكِيمَ.²⁷ وَخَرَجُوا إِلَى الْحَقْلِ وَقَطَعُوا كَرْوَمَهُمْ وَدَاسُوا وَصَنَعُوا تَمَجِيدًا، وَدَخَلُوا بَيْتَ إِلَهُهِمْ وَأَكَلُوا وَشَرَبُوا وَلَعَنُوا أَيْمَالِكَ.²⁸ فَقَالَ جَعَلُ بْنُ عَايِدَ، مَنْ هُوَ أَيْمَالُكَ وَمَنْ هُوَ شَكِيمُ حَتَّى تَحْدِمَهُ. أَمَا هُوَ ابْنُ يَرْبَعَلَّ، وَزَبُولُ وَكِيلُهُ. اخْدُمُوا رَجَالَ خَمُورِ أَبِي شَكِيمَ. فَلَمَّاذَا تَحْدِمُهُ تَحْنُ.²⁹ مَنْ يَجْعَلُ هَذَا الشَّعْبَ يَدِي قَاغَزِلَ أَيْمَالِكَ. وَقَالَ لِأَيْمَالِكَ، كُنْتُ جُنْدَكَ وَاخْرُجْ.³⁰ وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ زَبُولُ رَئِيسُ الْمَدِينَةِ كَلَامَ جَعَلُ بْنُ عَايِدَ حَمِيَّ غَضَبُهُ،³¹ وَأَرْسَلَ رُسُلًا إِلَى أَيْمَالِكَ فِي ثَرَمَةِ يَقُولُ، هُوَذَا جَعَلُ بْنُ عَايِدَ وَإِخْوَتُهُ قَدْ أَتَوْا إِلَى شَكِيمَ، وَهَذَا هُمْ يَهَيِّجُونَ الْمَدِينَةَ ضِدَّكَ.³² فَلَا تَنْ فُمْ لَيْلًا أَنْتَ وَالشَّعْبُ الَّذِي مَعَكَ وَآمِنٌ فِي الْحَقْلِ.³³ وَتَكُونُ فِي الصَّبَاحِ عِنْدَ شُرُوفِ الشَّمْسِ أَنْتَ تُبَكِّرُ وَتَفْتَحِمُ الْمَدِينَةَ. وَهَذَا هُوَ وَالشَّعْبُ الَّذِي مَعَهُ يَخْرُجُونَ إِلَيْكَ فَتَفْعَلُ بِهِ حَسَبًا تَجِدُهُ بِذَلِكَ.³⁴ فَقَامَ أَيْمَالُكَ وَكُلُّ الشَّعْبِ الَّذِي مَعَهُ لَيْلًا وَكَمَتُوا لِشَكِيمَ أَرْبَعَ فَرَقٍ.³⁵ فَخَرَجَ جَعَلُ بْنُ عَايِدَ وَوَقَفَ فِي مَدْخَلِ بَابِ الْمَدِينَةِ. فَقَامَ أَيْمَالُكَ وَالشَّعْبُ الَّذِي مَعَهُ مِنَ الْمَكْمَنِ.³⁶ وَرَأَى جَعَلُ الشَّعْبَ فَقَالَ لِرَبُولُ، هُوَذَا شَعْبُ تَارِلَ عَنْ رُؤُوسِ الْجِبَالِ. فَقَالَ لَهُ رَبُولُ، إِنَّكَ تَرَى ظِلَّ الْجِبَالِ كَأَنَّهُ أَتَانِي.³⁷ فَقَادَ جَعَلُ وَقَالَ أَيْضًا، هُوَذَا شَعْبُ تَارِلَ مِنْ عِنْدِ أَعَالِي الْأَرْضِ، وَفِرْقَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ آتِيَةٌ عَنْ طَرِيقِ بَلُوطَةَ الْعَاثِيَيْنِ.³⁸ فَقَالَ لَهُ رَبُولُ، أَبْنِ الْآنَ قُمْكَ الَّذِي قُلْتَ بِهِ، مَنْ هُوَ أَيْمَالُكَ حَتَّى تَحْدِمَهُ. أَلَيْسَ هَذَا هُوَ الشَّعْبُ الَّذِي رَدَلْتَهُ. فَاخْرُجِ الْآنَ وَحَارِبِيهِ.³⁹ فَخَرَجَ جَعَلُ أَمَامَ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ وَحَارَبَ أَيْمَالِكَ.⁴⁰ فَهَرَمَهُ أَيْمَالُكَ، فَهَرَبَ مِنْ قُدَّامِهِ وَسَقَطَ قَتْلَى كَثِيرُونَ حَتَّى عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ.⁴¹ فَأَقَامَ أَيْمَالُكَ فِي أَرُومَةٍ. وَطَرَدَ رَبُولُ جَعْلًا وَإِخْوَتَهُ عَنِ الْإِقَامَةِ فِي

be promoted over the trees?¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.¹¹ But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?¹² Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.¹³ And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?¹⁴ Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.¹⁵ And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.¹⁶ Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands;¹⁷ (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian: And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;)¹⁸ If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.²⁰ But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour

شَكِيمَ.⁴² وَكَانَ فِي الْعِدِّ أَنَّ الشَّعْبَ خَرَجَ إِلَى الْحَقْلِ
وَأَخْبَرُوا أَيْمَالِكَ.⁴³ فَأَخَذَ الْقَوْمَ وَقَسَمَهُمْ إِلَى ثَلَاثِ فِرْقٍ،
وَكَمَنَ فِي الْحَقْلِ وَتَطَرَّ وَإِذَا الشَّعْبُ يَخْرُجُ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ،
فَقَامَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَصَرَبَهُمْ.⁴⁴ وَأَيْمَالِكُ وَالْفِرْقَةُ الَّتِي مَعَهُ
افْتَحَمُوا وَوَقَفُوا فِي مَدْخَلِ بَابِ الْمَدِينَةِ. وَأَمَّا الْفِرْقَتَانِ
فَهَجَمَتَا عَلَى كُلِّ مَنْ فِي الْحَقْلِ وَصَرَبَتَاهُ.⁴⁵ وَحَارَبَ
أَيْمَالِكُ الْمَدِينَةَ كُلَّ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ، وَأَخَذَ الْمَدِينَةَ وَقَتَلَ
الشَّعْبَ الَّذِي فِيهَا، وَهَدَمَ الْمَدِينَةَ وَزَرَعَهَا مِلْحًا.⁴⁶ وَسَمِعَ
كُلُّ أَهْلِ بَرْجِ شَكِيمَ قَدْخَلُوا إِلَى صَرْحِ بَيْتِ إِبِلِ
بَرِيثَ.⁴⁷ فَأَخْبَرَ أَيْمَالِكُ أَنَّ كُلَّ أَهْلِ بَرْجِ شَكِيمَ قَدْ
اجْتَمَعُوا.⁴⁸ فَصَعِدَ أَيْمَالِكُ إِلَى جَبَلِ صُلْمُونَ هُوَ وَكُلُّ
الشَّعْبِ الَّذِي مَعَهُ. وَأَخَذَ أَيْمَالِكُ الْفُؤُوسَ بِيَدِهِ، وَقَطَعَ
غُصْنَ شَجَرٍ وَرَقَعَهُ وَوَضَعَهُ عَلَى كَتِفِهِ، وَقَالَ لِلشَّعْبِ
الَّذِي مَعَهُ، مَا رَأَيْتُمُونِي أَفْعَلُهُ فَأَسْرِغُوا أَفْعَلُوا
مِثْلِي.⁴⁹ فَقَطَعَ الشَّعْبُ أَيْضًا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ غُصْنًا وَسَارُوا وَرَاءَ
أَيْمَالِكِ، وَوَضَعُوهَا عَلَى الصَّرْحِ وَأَحْرَقُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الصَّرْحَ
بِالنَّارِ. قَمَاتِ أَيْضًا جَمِيعُ أَهْلِ بَرْجِ شَكِيمَ، تَحُوَ أَلْفِ رَجُلٍ
وَأَمْرَأَةٍ.⁵⁰ ثُمَّ دَهَبَ أَيْمَالِكُ إِلَى تَابَاصَ وَتَرَلَّ فِي تَابَاصَ
وَأَخَذَهَا.⁵¹ وَكَانَ بَرْجُ قَوِيٍّ فِي وَسْطِ الْمَدِينَةِ فَهَرَبَ إِلَيْهِ
جَمِيعُ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَكُلُّ أَهْلِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَغْلَفُوا وَرَاءَهُمْ
وَصَعِدُوا إِلَى سَطْحِ الْبَرْجِ.⁵² فَجَاءَ أَيْمَالِكُ إِلَى الْبَرْجِ
وَحَارَبَهُ، وَافْتَرَبَ إِلَى بَابِ الْبَرْجِ لِيُخْرِقَهُ
بِالنَّارِ.⁵³ فَطَرَحَتْ امْرَأَةٌ قِطْعَةً رَحَى عَلَى رَأْسِ أَيْمَالِكِ
فَسَجَّتْ جُمُوعُهُ.⁵⁴ قَدْغَا خَالًا الْغُلَامُ حَامِلَ عُذْبِهِ وَقَالَ
لَهُ، احْتَطَّ سَيْفُكَ وَافْتُلْنِي، لِنَلَّا يَقُولُوا عَنِّي، قَتَلْتُهُ
امْرَأَةٌ. فَطَعَنَهُ الْغُلَامُ قَمَاتِ.⁵⁵ وَلَمَّا رَأَى رِجَالُ إِسْرَائِيلَ
أَنَّ أَيْمَالِكَ قَدْ مَاتَ، دَهَبَ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى مَكَانِهِ.⁵⁶ فَزَدَ
اللَّهُ شَرَّ أَيْمَالِكِ الَّذِي قَعَلَهُ بِأَبِيهِ لِقَتْلِهِ إِخْوَتَهُ
السَّعْيِينَ،⁵⁷ وَكُلَّ شَرِّ أَهْلِ شَكِيمَ رَدَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِمْ،
وَأَتَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ لَعْنَةُ يُونَامَ بْنِ يَرَبْعَلِ.

Abimelech.²¹ And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.²² When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,²³ Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:²⁴ That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.²⁵ And the men of Shechem set liars in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.²⁶ And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.²⁷ And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.²⁸ And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?²⁹ And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out.³⁰ And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.³¹ And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold,

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Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee.³² Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that is with thee, and lie in wait in the field:³³ And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, when he and the people that is with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion.³⁴ And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.³⁵ And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from lying in wait.³⁶ And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men.³⁷ And Gaal spake again and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.³⁸ Then said Zebul unto him, Where is now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? is not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them.³⁹ And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.⁴⁰ And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown and wounded, even unto the entering of the gate.⁴¹ And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in

Shechem.⁴² And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech.⁴³ And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people were come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them.⁴⁴ And Abimelech, and the company that was with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two other companies ran upon all the people that were in the fields, and slew them.⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.⁴⁶ And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard that, they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith.⁴⁷ And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.⁴⁸ And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said unto the people that were with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done.⁴⁹ And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.⁵⁰ Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.⁵¹ But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither

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fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut it to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.⁵² And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire.⁵³ And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.⁵⁴ Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.⁵⁵ And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.⁵⁶ Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:⁵⁷ And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.