

¹وَقَالَ لَهُ رَجَالُ أَفْرَايِمَ، مَا هَذَا الْأَمْرُ الَّذِي فَعَلْتَ بِنَا، إِذْ لَمْ تَدْعُنَا عِنْدَ ذَهَابِكَ لِمُحَارَبَةِ الْمِصْيَانِيِّينَ. وَخَاصُّمُوهُ بِشِدَّةٍ.² فَقَالَ لَهُمْ، مَاذَا فَعَلْتَ الْآنَ تَطْطِيرُكُمْ. أَلَيْسَ خُصَاصَةُ أَفْرَايِمَ خَيْرًا مِنْ قِطَافِ أَبِيعَزَّرَ. لِيَدِكُمْ دَفَعَ اللَّهُ أَمِيرِي الْمِصْيَانِيِّينَ غُرَابًا وَذَنْبًا. وَمَاذَا قَدِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْمَلَ تَطْطِيرُكُمْ.. جَبَبْتُ زَوْجَهُمْ عِنْدَمَا تَكَلَّمْتُ بِهِذَا الْكَلَامَ.⁴ وَجَاءَ جِدْعُونُ إِلَى الْأَزُدِّ وَعَبَّرَ هُوَ وَالثَّلَاثُ مِئَةَ الرَّجُلِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ مُعْسِينَ وَمُطَارِدِينَ.⁵ فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِ سُكُوتَ، أَغْطُوا أَرْغَفَةَ خُبْرٍ لِلْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ لِأَنَّهُمْ مُعْيُونَ، وَأَنَا سَاعٍ وَرَاءَ رَبِّحٍ وَصَلْمُنَّاعٍ مَلِكِي مِصْيَانَ.⁶ فَقَالَ رُؤَسَاءُ سُكُوتَ، هَلْ أَبَدِي رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعٌ يَبِيدُكَ الْآنَ حَتَّى تُعْطِيَ جُنْدَكَ خُبْرًا.⁷ فَقَالَ جِدْعُونُ، لِيَذَلَّ عِنْدَمَا يَدْفَعُ الرَّبُّ رَبِّحَ وَصَلْمُنَّاعَ يَدَيَّ أَذْزُسُ لِحُكْمِكَ مَعَ أَشْوَكَ الْبَرِّيَّةِ بِالنَّوَارِجِ.⁸ وَصَعِدَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ إِلَى قَنُوتَيْلَ وَكَلَّمَهُمْ هَكَذَا. فَأَجَابَتْ أَهْلُ قَنُوتَيْلَ كَمَا أَجَابَ أَهْلُ سُكُوتَ، فَقَالَ أَيْضًا لِأَهْلِ قَنُوتَيْلَ، عِنْدَ رُجُوعِي بِسَلَامٍ أَهْدِمُ هَذَا النَّجْعَ.¹⁰ وَكَانَ رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعُ فِي قَرْقَرٍ وَجَيْشُهُمَا مَعَهُمَا نَحْوُ خَمْسَةِ عَشَرَ أَلْفًا، كُلُّ الْبَاقِينَ مِنْ جَمِيعِ جَيْشِ بَنِي الْمَشْرِيقِ. وَالَّذِينَ سَقَطُوا مِئَةً وَعِشْرُونَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ مُحْتَطِبِي السَّيْفِ.¹¹ وَصَعِدَ جِدْعُونُ فِي طَرِيقِ سَاكِبِي الْخِيَامِ شَرْقِيَّ نُوبَحَ وَبُجْهَةِ، وَضَرَبَ الْجَيْشَ وَكَانَ الْجَيْشُ مُطْمَئِنًّا.¹² فَهَرَبَ رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعُ، فَتَبِعَهُمَا وَأَمْسَكَ مَلِكِي مِصْيَانَ رَبِّحَ وَصَلْمُنَّاعَ وَأَرْعَجَ كُلَّ الْجَيْشِ.¹³ وَرَجَعَ جِدْعُونُ بْنُ يُوَاشَ مِنَ الْحَرْبِ مِنْ عِنْدِ عَقَبَةِ خَارَسَ.¹⁴ وَأَمْسَكَ غُلَامًا مِنْ أَهْلِ سُكُوتَ وَسَأَلَهُ، فَكَتَبَ لَهُ رُؤَسَاءُ سُكُوتَ وَنُبُوحَهَا، سَبْعَةَ وَسَعِينَ رَجُلًا.¹⁵ وَدَخَلَ إِلَى أَهْلِ سُكُوتَ وَقَالَ، هُوَذَا رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعُ اللَّذَانِ عَبَّرْتُمُونِي بِهِمَا قَائِلِينَ، هَلْ أَبَدِي رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعُ يَبِيدُكَ الْآنَ حَتَّى تُعْطِيَ رَجَالَكَ الْمُعْسِينَ خُبْرًا.¹⁶ وَأَخَذَ سُيُوحَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَشْوَكَ الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَالنَّوَارِجَ وَعَلَّمَ بِهَا أَهْلَ سُكُوتَ.¹⁷ وَهَدَمَ بُرْجَ قَنُوتَيْلَ وَقَتَلَ رَجَالَ الْمَدِينَةِ.¹⁸ وَقَالَ لِرَبِّحَ وَصَلْمُنَّاعَ، كَيْفَ الرَّجَالُ الَّذِينَ قَتَلْتُمَاهُمْ فِي تَابُورٍ. فَقَالَا، مَتْلُهُمْ مَتْلَكَ. كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَصُورَةِ أَوْلَادِ مَلِكٍ.¹⁹ فَقَالَ، هُمْ إِخْوَتِي بَنُو أُمِّي. حَتَّى هُوَ الرَّبُّ لَوْ اسْتَحْيَيْتُمَاهُمْ لَمَا قَتَلْتُكُمَا.²⁰ وَقَالَ لِيَتَرَ يَكْرِهُ، فَمِ افْتُلَّهُمَا. فَلَمْ يَخْطِرِ الْغُلَامُ سَبْقَهُ، لِأَنَّهُ خَافَ، بِمَا أَنَّهُ قَتَلَ بَعْدَ.²¹ فَقَالَ رَبِّحٌ وَصَلْمُنَّاعُ، فَمِ أَنْتَ وَقَعَ عَلَيْنَا، لِأَنَّهُ مِثْلُ الرَّجُلِ بَطْلُسُهُ. فَقَامَ جِدْعُونُ وَقَتَلَ رَبِّحَ وَصَلْمُنَّاعَ،

¹And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.² And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?³ God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.⁴ And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.⁵ And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.⁶ And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?⁷ And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.⁸ And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered him.⁹ And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there

وَأَخَذَ الْأَهْلَةَ الَّتِي فِي أَغْتَاقِ جِمَالِهِمَا.²² وَقَالَ رَجُلٌ إِسْرَائِيلَ لِحِذْغُونٍ، تَسَلَّطْ عَلَيْنَا أَنْتَ وَابْنُكَ وَابْنُ ابْنِكَ، لِأَنَّكَ قَدْ خَلَصْتَنَا مِنْ يَدِ مَدْيَانَ. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ حِذْغُونُ، لَا أَسَلَّطُ أَنَا عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا يَتَسَلَّطُ ابْنِي عَلَيْكُمْ. أَلَرَّبُّ يَتَسَلَّطُ عَلَيْكُمْ.²⁴ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُمْ حِذْغُونُ، أَطْلُبُ مِنْكُمْ طَلِيَّةً، أَنْ تُعْطُونِي كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ أَفْرَاطَ غَنِيمَتِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ لَهُمْ أَفْرَاطُ ذَهَبٍ لَأَنَّهُمْ إِسْمَاعِيلِيُّونَ.²⁵ فَقَالُوا، إِنَّا نُعْطِي. وَقَرَّشُوا رِدَاءً وَطَرَحُوا عَلَيْهِ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ أَفْرَاطَ غَنِيمَتِهِ.²⁶ وَكَانَ وَزْنُ أَفْرَاطِ الذَّهَبِ الَّتِي طَلَبَ أَلْفًا وَسِتِّ مِئَةٍ شَاقِلٍ ذَهَبًا، مَا عَدَا الْأَهْلَةَ وَالْحَلْقَى وَأَنْوَابَ الْأَرْجُوانِ الَّتِي عَلَى مُلُوكِ مَدْيَانَ، وَمَا عَدَا الْقَلَائِدَ الَّتِي فِي أَغْتَاقِ جِمَالِهِمْ.²⁷ فَصَنَعَ حِذْغُونُ مِنْهَا أَفُودًا وَجَعَلَهُ فِي مَدْيَتِهِ فِي عَقَرَةٍ. وَرَبَّى كُلَّ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَرَاءَهُ هُنَاكَ، فَكَانَ ذَلِكَ لِحِذْغُونِ وَبَنِيهِ قَحًا.²⁸ وَذَلَّ مَدْيَانُ أَمَامَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَمْ يَعُودُوا يَرْفَعُونَ رُؤُوسَهُمْ. وَاسْتَرَاحَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً فِي أَيَّامِ حِذْغُونِ.²⁹ وَذَهَبَ يَرْبَعُلُ بْنُ يُوَاشَ وَأَقَامَ فِي بَيْتِهِ.³⁰ وَكَانَ لِحِذْغُونِ سَبْعُونَ وَلَدًا حَارِجُونَ مِنْ ضُلَيْهِ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَتْ لَهُ نِسَاءٌ كَثِيرَاتٌ.³¹ وَسَرَّبَتْهُ الَّتِي فِي شَكِيمَ وَلَدَتْ لَهُ هِيَ أَيْضًا ابْنًا قَسَمَاهُ أَيِمَالِكَ.³² وَمَاتَ حِذْغُونُ بْنُ يُوَاشَ بِسَيِّئَةِ صَالِحَةٍ، وَدُفِنَ فِي قَبْرِ يُوَاشَ أَبِيهِ فِي عَقَرَةٍ أَبِيعَزَرَ.³³ وَكَانَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِ حِذْغُونِ أَنَّ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ رَجَعُوا وَرَبَّوْا وَرَاءَ النُّعْلِيمِ، وَجَعَلُوا لَهُمْ يَعْلَ بَرِيَّةَ إِلَهًا.³⁴ وَلَمْ يَذْكُرْ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ الرَّبَّ إِلَهُهُمْ الَّذِي أَنْقَذَهُمْ مِنْ يَدِ جَمِيعِ أَعْدَائِهِمْ مِنْ حَوْلِهِمْ.³⁵ وَلَمْ يَعْمَلُوا مَعْرُوفًا مَعَ يَبْتِ يَرْبَعُلَ حِذْغُونِ تَطْيِيرَ كُلِّ الْخَيْرِ الَّذِي عَمِلَ مَعَ إِسْرَائِيلَ.

fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.¹¹ And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was secure.¹² And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.¹³ And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun was up, ¹⁴ And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and enquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, even threescore and seventeen men.¹⁵ And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men that are weary?¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.¹⁷ And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.¹⁸ Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men were they whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou art, so were they; each one resembled the children of a king.¹⁹ And he said, They were my brethren, even the sons of my mother: as the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.²⁰ And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth.²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon

arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks.²² Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.²³ And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.²⁴ And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)²⁵ And they answered, We will willingly give them . And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.²⁶ And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.²⁸ Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.²⁹ And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.³⁰ And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.³¹ And his concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.³² And Gideon the son of Joash

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died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.³³ And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god.³⁴ And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:³⁵ Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely , Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.