

would I remove Avimelech. And he said to Avimelech, Gather thine tze'va (army), and come out!

[30] And when Zevul the sar of the Ir heard the words of Gaal ben Eved, his anger was kindled.

[31] And he sent malachim unto Avimelech covertly, saying, Hinei, Gaal ben Eved and his brethren have come to Shechem; and, hinei, they incite the Ir against thee.

[32] Now therefore go up by lailah, thou and the people with thee, and lie in wait in the sadeh:

[33] And it shall be, that in the boker, as soon as the shemesh is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the Ir; and, hinei, when he and the people with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them just as thy hand finds to do.

[34] And Avimelech rose up, and kol haAm that were with him, by lailah, and they laid wait in ambush against Shechem in four companies.

[35] And Gaal ben Eved went out, and stood in the petach sha'ar haIr; and Avimelech and the people that were with him rose up from lying in wait for ambush.

[36] And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zevul, Hinei, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zevul said unto him, Thou seest the tzel of the mountains as if seeing anashim.

[37] And Gaal spoke again, and said, Hinei, there come people down the middle of the land, and another company come along by the Elon Me'onenim.

[38] Then said Zevul unto him, Where is now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who is Avimelech that we should serve him? Is not this the

people that thou hast despised? Go out, now, and fight against him.

[39] And Gaal went out before the ba'alei Shechem, and fought with Avimelech.

[40] And Avimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown and chalalim (wounded), even unto the petach hash'a'ar.

[41] And Avimelech dwelt at Arumah; and Zevul thrust out Gaal and his achim, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

[42] And it came to pass on the next day, that the people went out into the sadeh; and they told Avimelech.

[43] And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait concealed in the sadeh, and looked, and, hinei, the people were come forth out of the Ir; and he rose up against them, and attacked them.

[44] And Avimelech, and the company that was with him, rushed forward, and stood in the petach sha'ar of the Ir; and the two other companies rushed upon all who were in the sadeh, and slaughtered them.

[45] And Avimelech fought against the Ir all that day; and he took the Ir, and slaughtered the people that was therein, and destroyed the Ir, and sowed it with melach (salt).

[46] And when all the ba'alei migdal Shechem heard that, they entered into the stronghold of the bais el brit.

[47] And it was told Avimelech, that all the ba'alei migdal Shechem were gathered together.

[48] And Avimelech got him up to Mt Tzalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Avimelech took axes in his yad, and cut down a branch from the etzim (trees), and lifted 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 kol haAm likewise cut down every man his branch, and followed Avimelech, and piled them against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on eish over them; so that all the anshei migdal Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

[50] Then went Avimelech to Tevetz, and encamped against Tevetz, and captured it.

[51] But there was a migdal oz within the Ir, and there fled all the anashim and nashim, and all ba'alei haIr, and locked it after them, and got them up to the top of the migdal.

[52] And Avimelech came unto the migdal, and fought against it, and drew near unto the petach of the migdal to burn it with eish.

[53] And a certain woman dropped an upper millstone upon Avimelech's head, and cracked his gulgolet (skull).

[54] Then he called hastily unto the na'ar his armor-bearer, and said unto him, Draw thy cherev, and slay me, that men say not of me, An isha slaughtered him. And his na'ar thrust him through, and he died.

[55] And when the Ish Yisroel saw that Avimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.

[56] Thus Elohim repaid the wickedness of Avimelech, which he did unto his av, in slaying his seventy brethren; [57] And all the evil of the anshei Shechem did Elohim render upon their heads: and upon them came the Kelalat Yotam ben Yerubaal.