Jesse Abelman 6/24/201

Haftarot: Parashat Hukkat Drisha Institute for Jewish Education

Judges 11:30-32 (English translation from JPS 1917)

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said: 'If Thou wilt indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand, 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, it shall be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt-offering.'

ל נִיִּדַר יִפְתָּח נֶדֶר לֵיהנָה, נִיֹאמֵר: אָם-נָתוֹן תִּתֵּן אֶת-בָּגִי עַמוֹן, בָּיָדִי .לֹא וְהָיָה הַיּוֹצֵא, אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִדְּלְתֵי בִיתִי לְקְרָאתִי ,בְּשׁוּבִי בְשֶׁלוֹם, מִבְּנֵי עַמוֹן--וְהָיָה, לַיהנָה ,וְהַעֲלִיתִיהוּ, עֹ'לָה

Judges 11:37-40 (English translation from JPS 1917)

37 And she said unto her father: 'Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may depart and go down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions.' 38 And he said: 'Go.' And he sent her away for two months; and she departed, she and 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 yow which he had vowed; and she had not known 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.

לֹז וַתּ ֹאמֶר, אֶל-אָבִיהָ, יֵעֲשֶׂה לִּי, הַדָּבֶר הַזֶּה :הַרְפֵּה מְמֶנִי אֲלְבָּה וְיָרַדְתִּי עַל-הָהָרִים, וְאֶבְכָּה מְמֵנִי עַל-בְּתוּלֵי, אָב ֹכִי ורעיתי (וְרֵעוֹתִי .(לֹח וַיִּ ֹאמֶר לֵכִי, עַל-בְּתוּלֵי, אָב ֹכִי ורעיתי (וְרֵעוֹתִי .(לֹח וַיִּ ֹאמֶר לֵכִי, וַיִּשְׁלַח אוֹתָה שְׁנֵי חָדָשִׁים; וַהַּלֶּךְ הִיא וְרֵעוֹתֶיהָ, וַתַּבְךְּ עַל-בְּתוּלְיִהָ עַל-הָהָרִים .לֹט וַיְהִי מִקֵץ שְׁנֵיִם חֲדָשִׁים, וַתַּשְׁב אָל-אָכִיהָ ,וַיַּעֲשׁ לָה, אֶת-נִּדְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָדֶר; וְהִיא לֹ א-יָדְעָה אִישׁ ,וַתְּהִי-חֹ ק בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל .מ מִיְמִים יָמִימָה, הַּלַכְנָה בְּנוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְתַנּוֹת, לְבַת-יִפְּתָּח הַגּּלְעַדִי-- אַרְבַּעת יָמִים, בַּשְׁנָה.

Bavli Taanit 4a

Rabbi Shmuel bar Nahmani said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan: "Three people made requests of God in inappropriate ways. Two of them were answered appropriately, one was answered inappropriately, and these are themL אמר רבי שמואל בר נחמני אמר רבי יונתן :שלשה שאלו שלא כהוגן ,לשנים השיבוהו כהוגן ,לאחד השיבוהו שלא כהוגן .ואלו הן :אליעזר עבד אברהם , ושאול בן קיש ,ויפתח הגלעדי... יפתח הגלעדי -דכתיב "<u>והיה</u> היוצא אשר יצא מדלתי ביתי וגו" יכול

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. אפילו דבר טמא השיבו שלא כהוגן

Eliezer the servant of Abraham, Saul the son of Kish and Yiftah of Gilead... Yiftah of Gilead, as it says "It will be whatever exits the door of my house etc..." It was possible that it might be something impure. He was answered inappropriately—His daughter happened upon him.

Rabbi David Kimhi's Commentary on the Book of Judges 11:31

(31) "And I will sacrifice him/it as a burnt offering"—The opinion of the sages on this is known. My father explained "And I will sacrifice him/it: The letter vav [translated here as "and"] should be read here as "or." The meaning of [verse 31] is that it/he will be consecrated to God if it is not fitting to be a burnt offering, or I will sacrifice him/it as a burnt offering if it is fitting. This vav is the same as "If he strikes his father and mother" (Ex. 21:15) [which means] "or mother." He explained it well, and thus it seems from the verse that he did not killed her, as it says "I will cry for my virginity." (v. 37) This is evidence that he did not kill her, rather that she never knew a man, as it says "she never knew a man." (v. 39) It also says "Thus he did to her that which he had sworn," (v. 39), and not "he sacrificed her as a burnt offering." This is evidence that its meaning is "This is the vow which he sowre, and she was God's." This makes sense according to the simple reading of the verses. If the words of the sages are a tradition which they hold in their hands, we must accept them

(לא) והעליתיהו עולה -דעת רז"ל בזה ידוע וא"א ז"ל פירש והעליתיהו הוי"ו במקום או ופירש והיה לה 'הקדש אם אינו ראוי לעולה או העליתיהו עולה אם ראוי לעולה וכמו זה הוי"ו מכה אביו ואמו או אמו ויפה פי 'וכן נראה מהפסוק כי לא המיתה שאמר ואבכה על (נפשי) [בתולי] לאות כי לא המיתה אך לא ידעה איש כמו שאמר והיא לא ידעה איש ומה שאמר גם כן ויעש לה את נדרו אשר נדר ולא אמר ויעלה עולה לאות כי פרושה היתה וזהו את נדרו אשר נדר והיה להשם כך נראה לפי פשטי הפסוקים ודברי רז"ל והיה להשם כך נראה לפי פשטי הפסוקים ודברי רז"ל אם קבלה היא בידם עלינו לקבלה:.

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Exodus 21:15 (English translation from JPS 1917)

15 And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.

שו וּמַכֵּה אָבִיו (אָמּוֹ, מוֹת יוּמָת.

Rabbi David Kimhi's Commentary on the Book of Judges 11:3

(31) "who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed"—That he made her a house and put her there, and there she was separate from humanity and from the ways of the world.

(לט) ויעש לה את נדרו אשר נדר -שעשה לה בית והכניסה שם והיתה שם פרושה מבני אדם ומדרכי העולם והיה חק בישראל כי משנה לשנה היו הולכות אליה בנות ישראל: