

*GREEDY OF GAIN, THE TRIBE OF EPHRAIM MARCHES NORTHWARD
INTO GREAT DARKNESS AND JUDGMENT*

05-07-06

*(Prov 1:18,19) And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily [hide secretly (in ambush)] for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is **greedy of gain**; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.*

*(Judg 12:1-3) And the men of Ephraim [double fruit] gathered themselves together, and went northward [in contrast to being sent by the Lord], and said unto Jephthah [he will open], Wherefore passedst thou over [used very widely of any transition] to fight against the children of Ammon [tribal, i.e. inbred; a son of Lot through incest (symbol of unsaved peoples)], and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire. And Jephthah said unto them, **I and my people were at great strife** [i.e. Great Tribulation, the sixth seal] with the children of Ammon; **and when I called you** [to shriek (from anguish or danger)], **ye delivered me not** [rescued, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save (-iour), get victory] **out of their hands**. And when I saw that **ye delivered me not**, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, **and the LORD delivered them into my hand**: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?*

1. **northward** = Heb: hidden, i.e. dark; used only of the north as a quarter (gloomy and unknown):--north (-ern, side, -ward, wind) /// to hide (by covering over); fig. to deny; spec. (favorably) to protect, (unfavorably) to lurk:--esteem, hide (-den one, self), lay up, lurk privily, (keep) secret (-ly, place).
2. (Exo 13:21) And the LORD went before them **by day in a pillar of a cloud**, to lead them the way; and **by night in a pillar of fire**, to give them light; to go by day and night:
3. (Exo 14:18-20) And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; **and it was a cloud and darkness** [(lit.) darkness; fig. misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness] **to them, but it gave light [happiness] by night** [a twist (away of the light), i.e. night; fig. adversity] **to these**: so that the one came not near the other **all the night**.
4. (Joel 2:1) Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all [the whole; hence all, any or every] the inhabitants of the land tremble: **for the day of the LORD cometh**, for it is nigh at hand; (Joel 2:2) **A day of darkness** [(lit.) darkness; fig. misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness] **and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, /// as the morning [dawn: day, light] spread upon the mountains**: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations [i.e. to the end of the 1000 year Millennium].
5. (Mark 6:45-51) And straightway he constrained [to necessitate; compel /// necessary, needful] his disciples **to get into the ship** [symbolic of the church], **and to go to the other side** [Palestine, the Promised Land, symbolic of Heaven] before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people [the unbelievers]. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling [tortured: pain, toil, torment, toss, vex] in rowing [to push (as wind, oars or demonical power)]; for the wind was contrary [opposite, antagonistic: against] unto them: and **about the fourth watch of the night** [between 3am and 6am, about sunrise] he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea [i.e. being supported by the Holy Spirit], **and would have passed by them**. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; **be not afraid**. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.
6. (John 6:20,21) But he saith unto them, It is I; **be not afraid**. Then they willingly received him into the ship: **and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went**.
7. (Rom 13:12-14) **The night is far spent, the day is at hand**: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

8. (1 Th 5:1-10) But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep **sleep in the night**; and they that be drunken are **drunken in the night**. But let us, **who are of the day**, be sober, **putting on** the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
9. (Rev 22:1-5) And he showed me **a pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. **And there shall be no night there**; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

(Judg 12:4) Then Jephthah gathered together *[under the command of the Holy Spirit]* all the men of Gilead *[heap of testimony, heap of witness (i.e. all the men of the cross)]*, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead **smote Ephraim**, because they *[the Ephraimites]* said, Ye Gileadites **are fugitives** *[a refugee: (that have) escaped]* of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, and among the Manassites *[causing to forget]*.

1. (Prov 26:27) Whoso diggeth **a pit** *[a pit (spec. as a trap); fig. destruction:--corruption, destruction, ditch, grave]* shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, **it will return upon him**.

(Judg 12:5-7) And the Gileadites took the passages *[crossing places: fords]* of Jordan *[symbol of the Holy Spirit]* before the Ephraimites: and it was so that when those Ephraimites which **were escaped** *[fugitives]* said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay; Then said they unto him, Say now **Shibboleth**: and he said **Sibboleth**: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, **and slew him** at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand. And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

1. Shibboleth = Heb: shibbol; a stream (as flowing); also an ear of grain (as growing out); by anal. a branch:--branch, channel, ear (of corn), ([water-]) flood /// stream in flood. *[alive, growing, flowing = action]*
2. Sibboleth = Heb: cibboleth; an ear of grain. *[dead = no action]*
3. Commentary: The tribe of Ephraim is not listed as one of the twelve tribes of the 144,000 in Revelations 7:4-8, whereas the tribe of Manasseh (Judg 12:4) is listed.

Amen