

# Judges Series

## Lesson #79


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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Jephthah's Daughter**  
**Judges 11:32–40**

# JUDGES

2021

**When Chaos Was King**





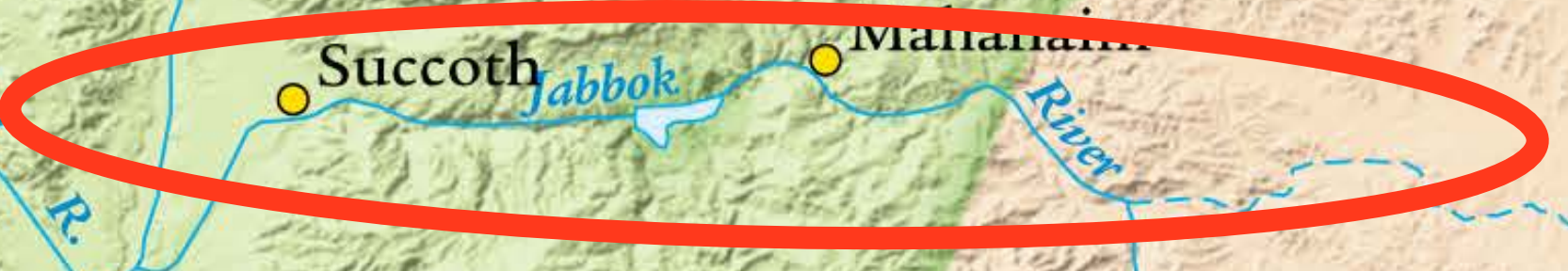
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

Jezreel Valley

AMMON

desert



Aphek, Shimron, Endor, Dor, Jokneam, Megiddo, Taanach, Jezreel, Beth-shan, Ibleam, Hephher, Socoh, Tirzah, Shechem, Tappuah, Joppa, Aphek, Bethel, Ai, Gezer, Shaalbim, Aijalon, Gibeon, Jericho, Ekron, Beth-shemesh, Jerusalem, Jarmuth, Adullam, Libnah, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Lachish, Eglon, Makkedah, Hebron, Heshbon, Medeba, Bezer, Dibon, Aroer, Jogbehah, Jazer, Rabbah (Amman), Succoth, Manasseh, Jabesh-gilead, Ramoth-gilead, Edrei, Ashtaroth, Golan, Yarmuk R., Jordan R., Faria R., Arnon R., Galilee, DEAD SEA



- **Jephthah owns the negotiations with the Ammonites, they lose. Judg. 11:12–28**
- **Jephthah's win-lose attempt to manipulate God, Judg. 11:29–33**
- **Jephthah's pagan vow. Judg. 11:34–40**

**Judg. 11:29, “Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.**

**Judg. 11:30, “And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, ‘If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,**

**Judg. 11:31, “ ‘then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.’ ” ~NKJV**

**Heb. 11:32, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:**

**Heb. 11:33, “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,**

**Heb. 11:34, “quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.” ~NKJV**



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

#10 Elon—from the tribe of Zebulun (Judg. 12:11-12)

ZEBULUN

Aijalon | Ailon

NAPHTALI

with Deborah at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:6)

Kedesh-naphtali

EAST MANASSEH

Mt. Tabor

Ophrah

#5 Gideon—from a family from the tribe of Manasseh; he was associated with the Harod spring and the towns of Succoth and Penuel (Judg. 6:1-8:27)

Valley ISSACHAR

#7 Jair—from the region of Gilead and related to the region of Havvoth-jair (Judg. 10:3-5)

Kamon

Ramoth-gilead

WEST MANASSEH

#6 Tola—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 10:1); based on name similarity, this town is often associated with the site of Samaria, later incorporated into Israel (1 Kgs. 16:24)

Shamir

Tirzah

#8 Jephthah—probably from the tribe of Manasseh; he was related to Tob (East of Ramoth-gilead), Mizpah in Gilead, and Aroer (Judg. 10:6-12:7)

#11 Abdon—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 12:13-15)

Pirathon

Shechem

Jabbok

Succoth

Penuel

Mizpah

Abimelech lived in Arumah after his failed attempt at monarchy in Shechem (Judg. 9:31, 41)

Arumah

Adam

EPHRAIM

Shiloh

Gilgal

#4a Deborah—associated with Barak at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:1-5:31)

Bethel

Mizpah

Ramah

#2 Ehud—from the tribe of Benjamin (Judg. 3:12-30)

Jericho

Gilgal

GAD

Jazer

Rabbah (Amman)

Heshbon

Joppa

DAN



**Judg. 11:30, “And *Yiptah* vowed a vow to Yhwh and said, ‘If you surely give the sons of Ammon into my hand**

**Judg. 11:31, “ ‘it will be that whatever comes [masc sg participle] out of the door to my house to greet me, when I return in peace [*shalom*] from the sons of Ammon then I will offer up to Yhwh a burnt offering.’ ”**

**עֹלָה *olah* comm fem sing abs**

**HALOT “sacrifice which is wholly burned, comprising domestic animals and occasionally birds”**

**DCH “burnt offering, i.e., sacrifice entirely consumed by fire, offered daily morning and evening”**

**BDB “n.f. (noun, feminine) whole burnt-offering (that which goes up (√ 6) to heaven (al. on altar))**



**Gen. 28:20**, “Then Jacob vowed a vow, saying, **‘If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,**

**Gen. 28:21**, “ ‘so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, **then the LORD shall be my God.**”

**Gen. 28:22**, “ ‘And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.’ ”



**Num. 21:2, “So Israel made a vow to the LORD, and said, ‘If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.’ ”**



**1 Sam. 1:11, “Then she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.’ ”**



**2 Sam. 15:7**, “Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, ‘Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD.

**2 Sam. 15:8**, “ ‘For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, “**If the LORD indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.**” ’ ”



## **Evidence of child sacrifice**

**Deut. 12:31, “You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.”**

**Deut. 18:10, “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,”**



## **Evidence of child sacrifice**

**2 Kings 3:26, “And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not.**

**2 Kings 3:27, “Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land.”**



## **Evidence from Carthage**

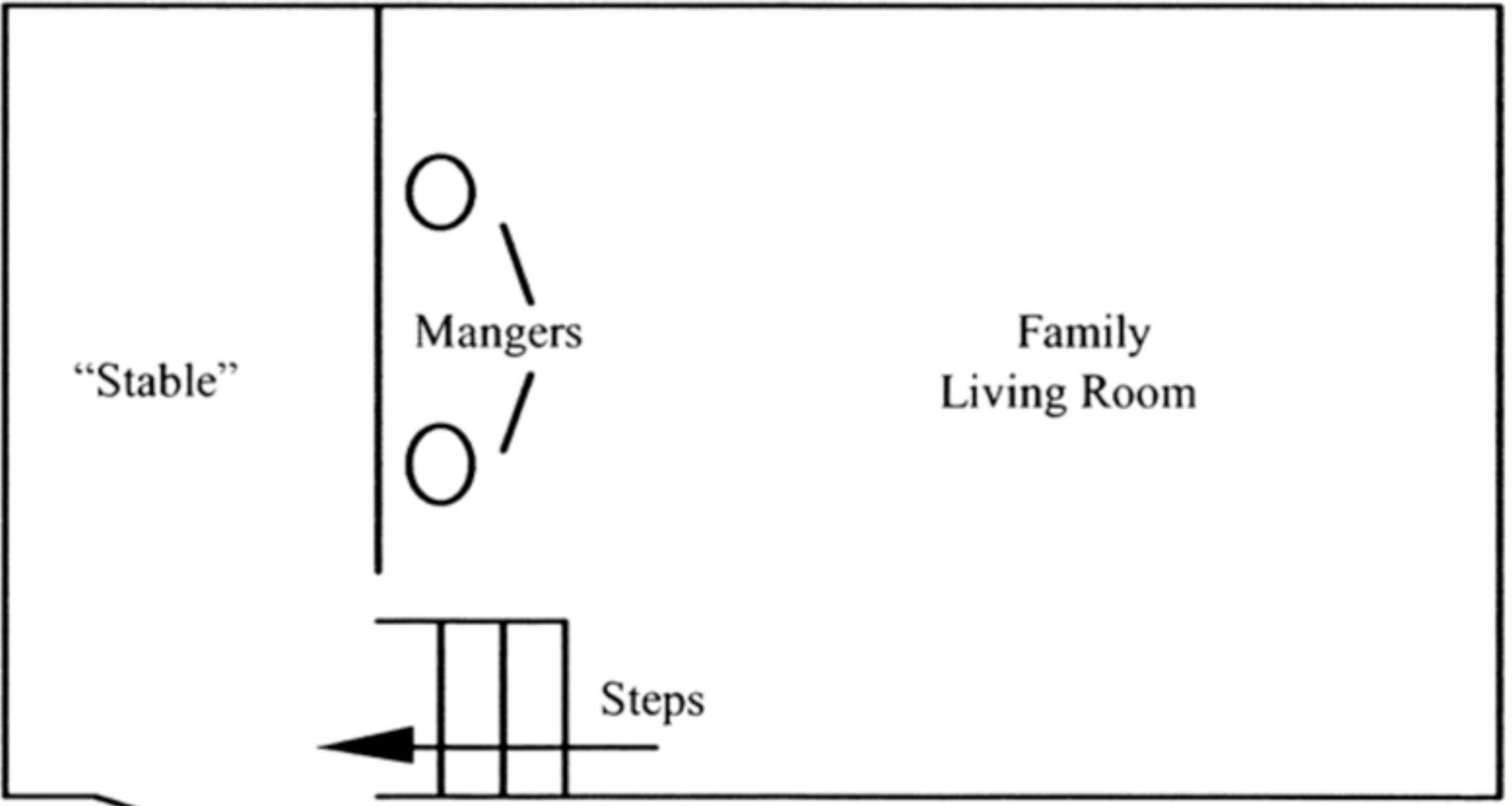
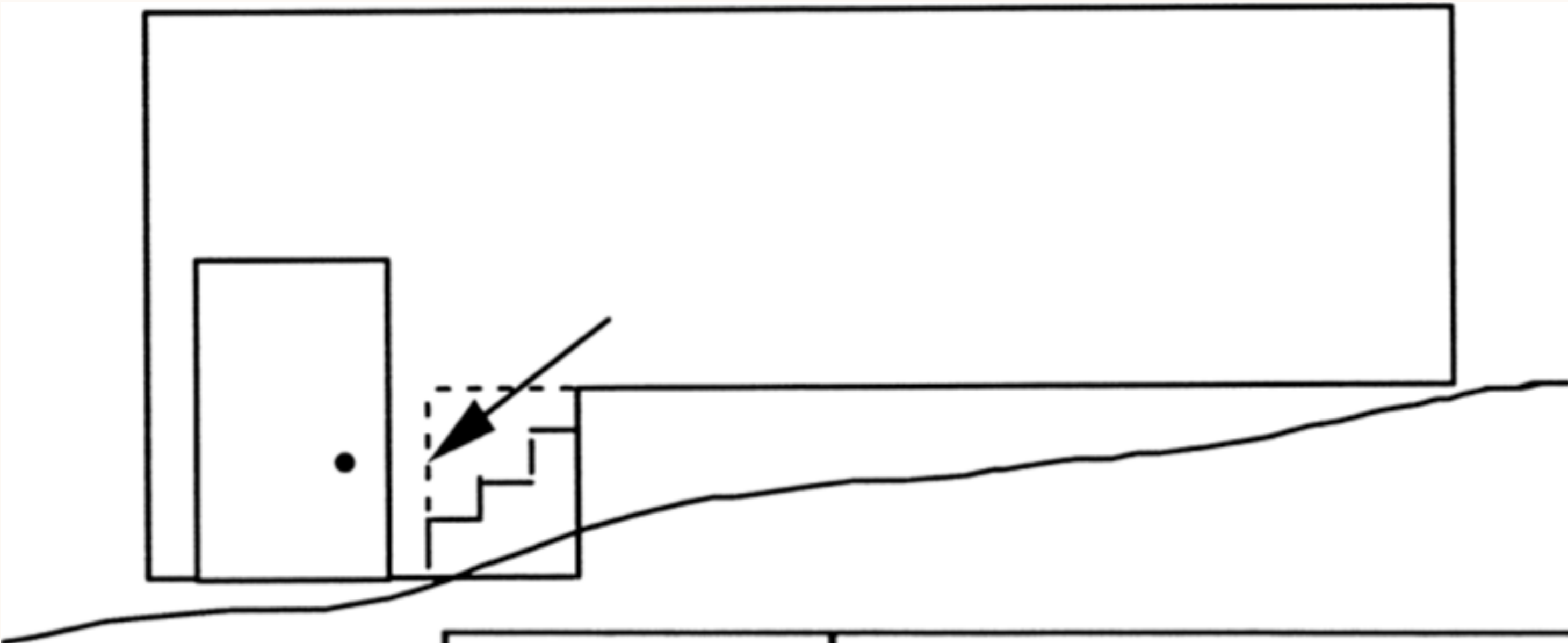
**“To our lady, to Tanit, the face of Baal, and to our lord, to Baal-hamon that which was vowed by [A], son of [B], son of [C], because he [that is, the deity] heard [A’s] voice and blessed him.”**



**“Agamemnon, Captain of Hellas, there can be no way of setting your ships free, till the offering you promised Artemis is given to her. You had vowed to render Her in sacrifice the loveliest thing each year should bear. You have vowed long since the loveliness which Clytemnestra had borne to you, your daughter, Iphigenia. Summon your daughter now and keep your word.”**

**A story from Crete**

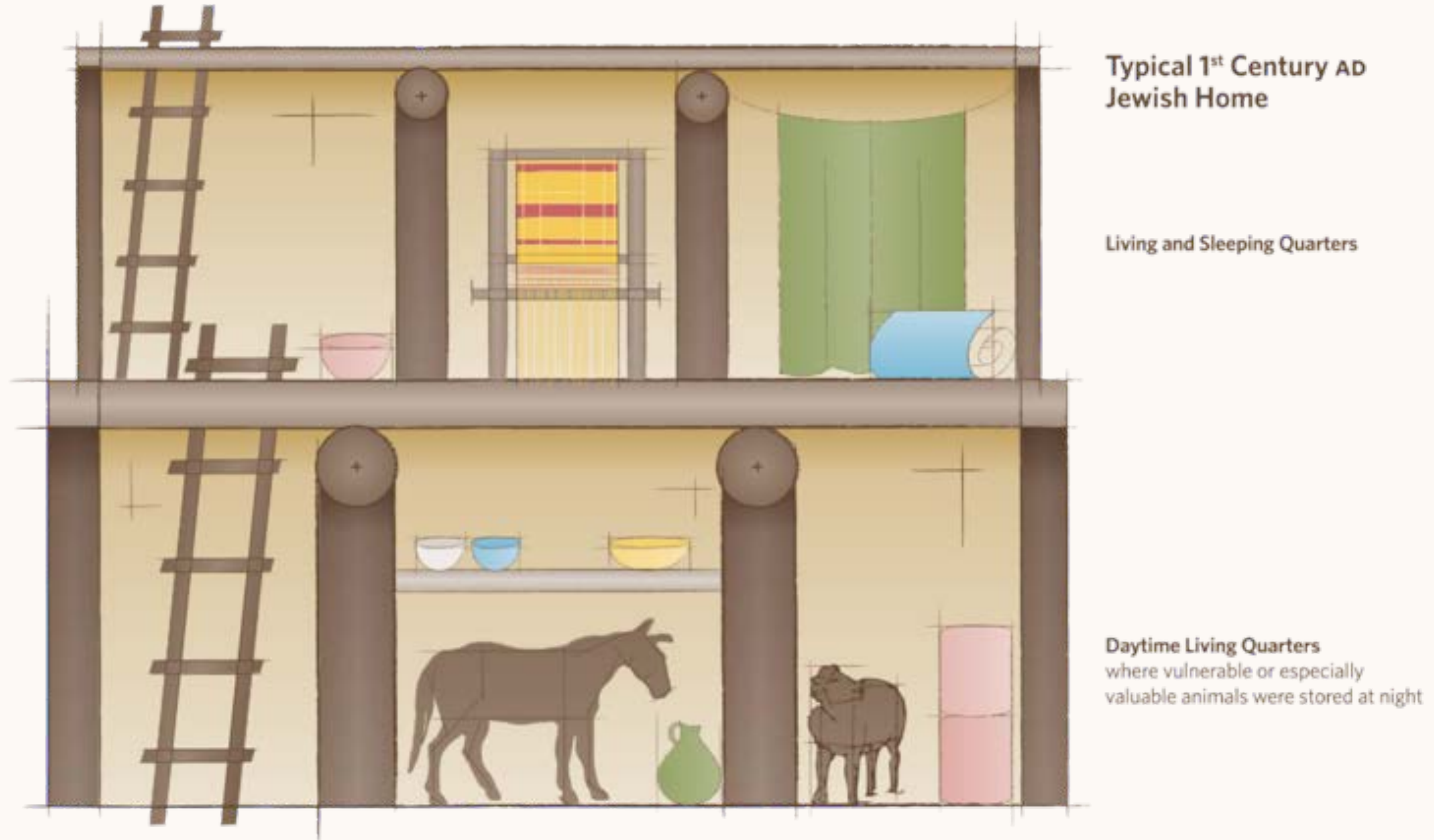






# Away in a Manger, but Not in a Barn

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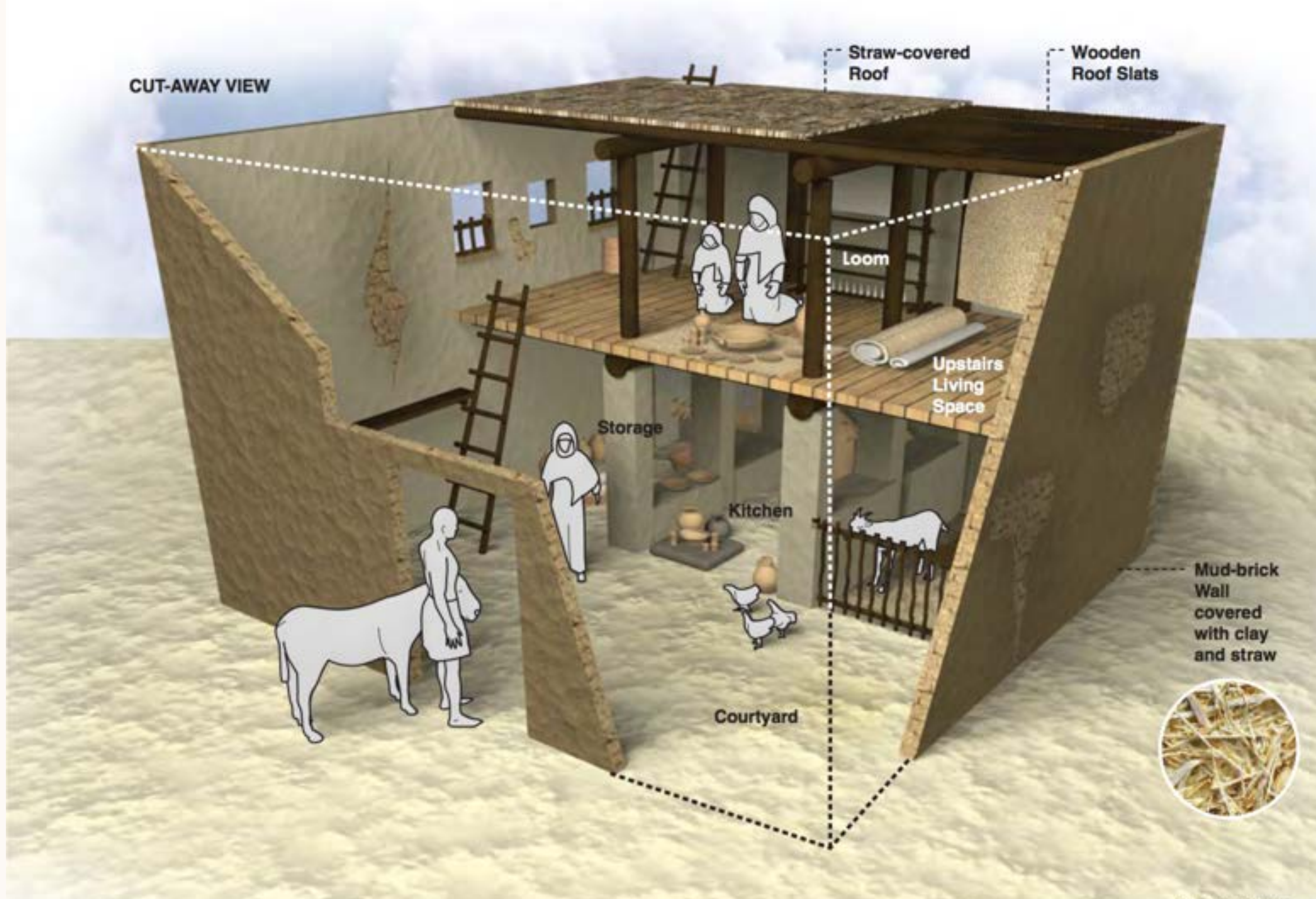


Typical 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD  
Jewish Home

Living and Sleeping Quarters

Daytime Living Quarters  
where vulnerable or especially  
valuable animals were stored at night



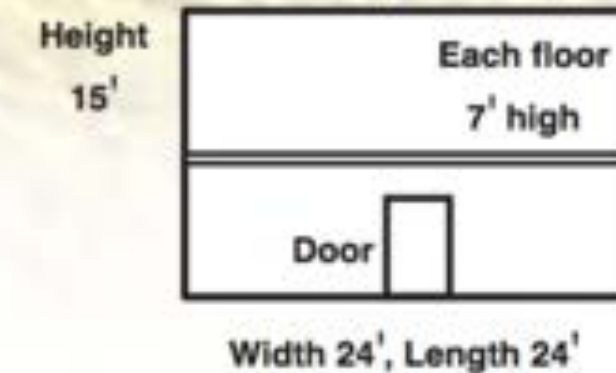


# First-Century Israelite House

The homes of poor families were small and plain. They were built of rough stone (or mud-brick) walls and roofs of woven branches covered with clay. Living spaces were used for household work—cooking and weaving. At night, the family's domestic animals were housed in the lower level.

## Size comparison:

First-century houses were smaller than modern double-wide trailers and accommodated an entire family.



Double wide mobile home (front view)



Width 24', Length 60'



**Judg. 11:34, “When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.**

**Judg. 11:35, “And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, ‘Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it.’ ”**



**Judg. 11:34, “When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.”**



**Judg. 11:34, “When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.”**

יָחִיד *yachid*

**fem sing abs  
only**



**Gen. 22:2, “Then He said, ‘Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’ ”**

**Gen. 22:12, “And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’ ”**

**Gen. 22:16, “and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—’ ”**



## **Genesis 22**

**Deliberate, detailed focus on the sacrifice**

**The climax of the the narrative**

**Test of the faithfulness of Abraham**

**God initiates the command to sacrifice Isaac**

**Abraham is obedient, and trusts God to do the right thing.**

**Abraham loves his only son**

**Confirmed Abraham's faith**

## **Judges 11**

**Abridged, quick account of only five words**

**Appears to be extraneous to the story**

**Tests the faithfulness of God to paganized Israel**

**Jephthah initiates from a pagan theology**

**Jephthah sinfully and abusively destroys the life of his daughter and future.**

**Jephthah seems more concerned about himself, his daughter goes alone to the mountain.**

**Confirmed Jephthah's faithlessness**

**Judg. 11:35, “And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, ‘Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it.’ ”**

**1־בַּת־1 בִּתִּי *bitti***

**comm fem sing constr  
my daughter**



**Judg. 11:35, “And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, ‘Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it.’ ”**

**1 בַּת־1 *bat-1* בִּתִּי *bitti*  
comm fem sing constr  
my daughter**

**Judg. 11:36, “So she said to him, ‘My father, if you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon.’ ”**

**נִקְמָה *neqamah***

**comm fem plur abs  
justice, vengeance**



**Lev. 27:1**, “Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

**Lev. 27:2**, “ ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the LORD, according to your valuation,

**Lev. 27:3**, “ ‘ “if your valuation is of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

**Lev. 27:4**, “ ‘ **“If it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels;**

**Lev. 27:5**, “ ‘ “and if from five years old up to twenty years old, then your valuation for a male shall be twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels;” ’ ”

**Lev. 27:6, “ ‘ “and if from a month old up to five years old, then your valuation for a male shall be five shekels of silver, and for a female your valuation shall be three shekels of silver;**

**Lev. 27:7, “ ‘ “and if from sixty years old and above, if it is a male, then your valuation shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.**

**Lev. 27:8, “ ‘ “But if he is too poor to pay your valuation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value for him; according to the ability of him who vowed, the priest shall value him.” ’ ”**



**Judg. 11:37, “Then she said to her father, ‘Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I.’ ”**

**Judg. 11:38, “So he said, ‘Go.’ And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.”**

**Judg. 11:27, “ ‘Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon.’ ” ~NKJV**



**Judg. 11:39, “And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel**

**Judg. 11:40, “that the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.”**

**Mic. 6:6, “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?”**

**Mic. 6:7, “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”**

**Mic. 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”**