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Jashub's Journal

An Old Testament Law Story

with
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Jashub's Journal

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Jashub's Journal

An Old Testament Law Story

with

Companion Bible Study

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Jashub's Journal: An Old Testament Law Story with Companion Bible Study
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A Few Notes

1. Jashub's journal entries are written in English for this story, but keep in mind that he would have written in Hebrew.
2. The chapter titles are the months of the Jewish year. Shebat is the eleventh month in the Jewish year. Some of the month names have changed over the years; we've used the early names for this story.
3. All characters, except Caleb, are fictitious.
4. This story is not meant to be an exhaustive study of the whole Mosaic Law. It is simply a living sampler of some of the laws, intended to reflect God's wisdom and justice.
5. Don't miss the links, updates, and other Bonus Features posted on our Web site for all those using *Jashub's Journal*: <http://simplycharlottemason.com/books/jashubs-journal-old-testament-law-story/>

Cast of Characters

Jashub: The main character, who is recording the events and giving counsel. Has one son, Noah.

Noah: Jashub's ten-year-old son, who has a pet lamb, Zelophehad.

Hamul: A soft-spoken shepherd.

Koshen: Hamul's oldest son, fifteen. Has a quick temper but a good heart.

Dathan: Hamul's younger son and Koshen's younger brother. Noah's friend.

Eliab: A priest and old friend of Jashub.

Gaddi: A merchant. Good with numbers, bad with tools.

Shelah: Gaddi's uncle. Inventor and carpenter.

Michael: An easy-going farmer. Has one married son. Lost his other sons in the conquest battles with Joshua.

Zaccur: Michael's and Peleth's father. Energetic and on-the-go.

Peleth: Michael's younger brother and Zaccur's son. Takes after his father.

Shebat

This morning as I put the goats into the abandoned stable, I found three half-starved ewes. They were very weak and sick, and I wished I could ask Father what to do. I remember how careful he was with our goats as we wandered in the wilderness. Whenever he had a spare minute, he would teach me more about taking care of them and about the Law.

Helping Moses judge the people was a hard task, but he did it with all his heart.

I will always look up to my father and admire him. I hope that someday I may be half the man he was. He would have loved it here in Canaan.

Shebat

*Especially in our new home, the
deserted town of Beth-Zur.*

*I know that we will build our lives here in
freedom and truth, following the Law.
And one day, we will live in peace.*



“Miriam,” Jashub called, “where’s Noah?”

“I don’t know, dear,” his wife called back. “He’s probably outside playing with Dathan.”

Jashub picked up a stack of wooden milk buckets and opened the front door. “If you see him, please tell him I’ll need his help with the new goats.”

“I will.”

Letting the door swing shut behind him, Jashub paused. He couldn’t hear the goats’ usual noisy demands for food. *Noah must have fed them, he thought.*

Mentally, he calculated the amount of produce they needed to feed the goats and winced. *Hopefully, in a few days I’ll be able to send them out with Hamul’s flocks.*

As he walked around to the back of the house, he thanked the Lord for the abandoned Canaanite town of

Shebat

Beth-Zur. They had spent only a few days here, but it felt like home already.

He passed a small pen built close to the stone wall bordering their property and caught sight of the open gate. With a sigh he set the buckets down. *Zelophehad got out again?* He surveyed the empty enclosure. That would explain where Noah was. Jashub smiled. His ten-year-old son's pet lamb had broken out of more pens than he could count.

An insistent bleat from the stable reminded him that he had a job to do.



Milk streamed into the pail.

Jashub looked up as the barn door inched open, and a small boy poked his head in.

"Good morning," Jashub said. "Did you find Zelophehad?"

Noah nodded. "Dathan and me had to go almost to the stream."

"Dathan and I."

Noah leaned against the wall. "Dathan and I."

Jashub untied the goat and stood up. "Does this mean we need to pay Shelah a visit?"

Shebat

Noah smiled and nodded. He took Jashub's hand and they left the barn.



"He got out again?" The old carpenter was clearly annoyed. Pursing his lips, he clasped his hands behind his back and paced back and forth. "Hmm," he mumbled, "maybe the lever was too low." He stopped and squinted at Noah. "Was the gate broken or just open?"

"Open," Noah replied.

Shelah drummed his fingers on his workbench and stared at a pile of wood shavings in thought. "What if I covered the lever..." He snatched up a sharp twig and began scratching on a piece of bark. "I can put a triangle of heavy wood here and a spike there." He held up the sketch. "How does that look?"

Jashub studied the diagram. "Now, how can Noah get at the lever to open the gate?"

Shelah's wrinkled face fell. "Guess I'll need to work on it some more."

Jashub turned to go. "I need to get back to the goats. A few of them aren't doing so well."

Shebat

Shelah dug through a heap of scrap wood. "A few poles should do it."

Noah looked up at Jashub. "May I stay and help?"

Jashub nodded. "Yes, you may. Goodbye, Shelah."

"Goodbye," Shelah replied, scratching away at the bark.

Jashub stepped out through the open door into the street.

"By the way," Shelah called, "how are your goats?"



Jashub ladled goat's milk into a large wooden bowl. "Has Hamul found good pasture yet?" he asked the young woman who held the bowl.

Tirzah shook her head. "Father hasn't left yet today. Koshen and he are getting one of the sheep out of a pit."

Jashub set the ladle down on his cart. "A pit?"

Tirzah balanced the bowl in one hand and pointed down the road. "Over by Michael's house."

Holding the donkey's rope, Jashub started in the direction Tirzah had pointed. "I'll go see if I can help. I've delivered all the milk."

Shebat



“Pull!” Koshen shouted from inside the pit. “Pull!”
Jashub tied his donkey to a fence post and watched Hamul tug on the forefeet of a sheep. The shepherd lifted the animal over the edge and set it on the ground.

It lay unmoving.

“Is it dead?” Jashub asked.

Hamul sighed. “Yes.”

Koshen climbed out of the hole, his face flushed and suffused with anger. “Thanks to whoever dug this pit, we’ve lost one of our best ewes.”

Hamul laid a hand on Koshen’s shoulder. “Now, son, now. Calm down.”

As the anger drained from Koshen’s face, Jashub asked, “Do you know who dug the pit?”

Koshen took a deep breath and let it out slowly. Then he said, “Michael was digging it for a cistern.”

Jashub walked around the deep hole. “Bring the ewe,” he said. “We need to have a talk with Michael.”

*(Complete the Bible study on the following pages,
then continue reading the story.)*

Shebat Bible Study

Scenario

Michael dug a pit and left it uncovered. One of Hamul's sheep fell into the pit and died.

Scripture

Read these verses to discover what God's Law says about this scenario.

- Exodus 21:33, 34

Counsel

Based on the verses you read, what should Jashub counsel Michael and Hamul to do?

Shebat

God's Wisdom

How would this solution be fair to the victim?

How does this solution encourage responsibility?

Continue reading to discover Jashub's counsel and check your answer.

Shebat



After leaving the donkey in the barn, Jashub walked back toward the house.

The smell of freshly baked bread filled the air.

He stopped to check on Zelophehad. The lamb gazed back up at him with wide, innocent eyes and chewed a mouthful of grass.

Jashub chuckled at the veritable fortress Shelah had erected around the gate. *Shelah never gives up*, he thought.



Jashub sat down at the empty table and spread out a roll of crackling parchment. Behind him he heard Miriam preparing supper.

“What are you doing?” Noah asked, coming in to stand beside him.

Jashub patted his son’s thatch of brown hair. “I am keeping a record, like Joshua did.” He dipped a twig into a bowl of ink and started writing.

When Hamul, Koshen, and I went

Shebat

to speak with Michael, I was rather worried that he might resent my interfering. However, he was very apologetic and appreciated my mediating between him and Hamul. He paid Hamul the money for the dead ewe and promised to cover the pit as soon as possible.