

Judges 21

“Another Mess God got Us Into...!”

DOUBLE ENDING of Book of Judges > Appendix after Final Judge Samson

2 SLICES of LIFE from EARLY in the 400 yr Period of JUDGES

Both TRIGGERED by LEVITES > Should have been Most HOLY & NOBLE

Horrible Pictures of How REALLY BAD the Situation in those Days Was

Chapters 17 & 18 RELIGIOUS Chaos // 19 – 21 MORAL Chaos

Ch 19 > Levite and Concubine > Passing thru Gibeah in Land Tribe of Benjamin

Some Terrible Men in Town Pounded on Door wanting Sex with Levite

Woman GANG RAPED thru Night > Left for Dead at Door of Guest House

Man CUT Woman into 12 PIECES and Sent to Each of 12 Tribes of ISRAEL

**Perhaps Thought ONLY way get NATION’S Attention when was NO KING**

11 ENRAGED Tribes Gathered to Dispense Justice to GUILTY in Benjamin

DEFEATED Soldiers AND All CITIZENS of BENJAMIN & ANIMALS!

Near ANIHILATION > NEVER Did to Canaanites > Did to BROTHERS!

## 1. Bitter before God

a. Splattered with the BLOOD and GUTS of Hand to Hand Warfare

The people of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and destroyed on that day 22,000 men of the Israelites. Judges 20.21

So the people of Israel came near against the people of Benjamin the second day. And Benjamin...destroyed 18,000 men of the people of Israel. Judges 20.24,25

2 Days > 40 k of Israel’s SON, UNCLES, BROTHERS, Grandfathers DEAD!

Before BOTH ILL-FATED SORTIES Israel CONSULTED God...

And the LORD said, “Go up against them.”

Judges 20.23

b. Shamed > Going to have to CHANGE their MEDIA Campaign in CANAAN  
 Now have to CHANGE All their T-Shirts >> TEAM ISRAEL Not in BIG 12  
 Things were CHEAPER by DOZEN > Had 1 Sub for Football Games  
 NOW One TRIBE of ISRAEL MISSING > a SON of Jacob Absent from Table  
 SOLDIERS of ISRAEL Saw this COMING...

And the people of Israel... inquired of the LORD, "Shall we again draw near to fight against *our brothers, the people of Benjamin?*" Judges 20.23

v. 3 "...one tribe lacking in Israel?"

v. 6 And the people of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel this day.

v. 17 And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel.

c. Sorry

v. 15 And the people had compassion on Benjamin *because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.*

Not JUST Story of 11 Punishing 12<sup>th</sup> Tribe > God of Israel Punishing them ALL  
 His PLANS will be ESTABLISHED with Justice, Truth, & Righteousness

vs. 2,3 And the people came to Bethel and sat there till evening before God, and they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly. And they said, "O LORD, the God of *Israel*, why has this happened in *Israel*, that today there should be one tribe lacking in *Israel?*"

NO Admission of RESPONSIBILITY >> NOT Asking for GOD'S HELP

When GOD'S SPIRIT CONVICTS us we Realize we are SINFUL

NOT About US "Against, YOU and You ONLY have I Sinned GOD!"

The three-fold reference to Israel, after addressing Yahweh as the God of Israel, implies that the situation is essentially his responsibility. The inquiry is less a request for information than an oblique form of protest...to absolve themselves of responsibility.

Barry Webb

GOD, IF you are ON OUR SIDE > You BETTER FIX this MESS YOU MADE!

It is easier to put God in the wrong than to engage in self-reflection. Tim Keller

R U Bitter before God – Did HE Let You Down!?

Married Wrong Person? Never Got Married? Had Wrong Kid? In wrong UNI?

Going to wrong CHURCH? Definitely came on WRONG SUNDAY!!

There can be A LOT GOING ON behind your Beautiful SMILING FACES!

d. Sure

v. 4 And the next day the people rose early and built there an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

OFFERINGS that MOSES Prescribed > Everything is GOOD with GOD

RELATIONSHIP is CORE of Acceptable Offerings > God looks to HEART

GLAD you are Here > Hope it is HIGH POINT of Week in Fellowship with God

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...”

1 Samuel 15.22

e. Stupid

v. 1 Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, “No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin.”

SWORN VOW should Set Off ALARM Bells for Reader of JUDGES

Think of FOOLISH Judge JEPHTAH who MURDERED his DAUGHTER

Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”

Judges 11.30,31

Makes you WONDER what kind of Things Jephthah kept INSIDE his House?

Was there a BARNYARD in there NEXT to the BIG SCREEN T.V.?

LOVING Daughter ran Out Door to give BIG Welcome Home Hug to DADDY

DANGER of Making VOWS > We're Human Sinners

HUMANITY > We cannot SEE the WHOLE Picture – Only God OMNISCIENT

Our EYES only PERCEIVE a LIMITED SLICE of BIG PICTURE

Even what we DO SEE we DON'T SEE RIGHTLY, PERFECTLY

If your YES is YES there is NO NEED to MAKE a VOW!

v. 1 Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, “No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin.”

End of Chapter 20 > Think FINALLY Sorted Out Problem w/ Benjamin

WRITER is MASTER at ELEMENT of SURPRISE

VOW – Made Some Time AGO – We just NOW LEARN About It

UH, OH! HOUSTON!! We GOT a PROBLEM!

So all who fell that day of Benjamin were 25,000 men who drew the sword, all of them men of valor. But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and remained at the rock of Rimmon four months. Judges 20.46,47

Another Example of STUPIDITY > Did GUILTY from GIBEAH GET AWAY?

MAYBE the SEXUAL ASSUALTERS are HIDDEN Among SURVIVING 600?

Here is ANOTHER MISTAKE God made...

TOLD Us to WIPE Out ONE of 12 TRIBES – OUR BROTHERS!

Thank their LUCKY STARS – 600 POTENTIAL FATHERS are Still ALIVE

But God ACCEPTED Our VOW...So we can't Give 600 Potential MOTHERS!

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know

what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4.13-16

## 2. Blind without God

Many LESSONS and COMPARISONS can be MADE to Modern Nation-States

TOTAL Failure of ANY HUMAN Solution to Change HUMAN HEARTS

If God NOT Center of Society, SWIMMING in POOL of Human IGNORANCE

BIG PROBLEM > NOT Supposed to be PAGAN Nation >> GOD’S ISRAEL

But SADLY we see that ISRAEL has a FUNCTIONALLY PAGAN CULTURE

Lots of CHATTER and COMING and GOING in Chapter 21

But LOOK who NEVER SPEAKS > NOT One WORD from GOD!

This BOOK of Judges SHOULD BE Much Shorter > NOT 21 Chapters

Sermon Series started in NOVEMBER – T-Shirts “I Survived Judges @ ZGC!”

Period of Judge took 400 Years – And they STILL NEVER Got Job DONE!

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” Judges 1.1,2

God sends ISRAEL Out with His PROMISE & POWER to Clear HOMELAND

Establish HOLY NATION for GLORY of His Name and GOOD of All Nations

Book SHOULD have been ONE Chapter – Make QUICK Work of ENEMIES

Rest Chapter 1 – ISRAEL NOT Walking w/God, NOT Winning their Battles

Chapter 2 – Evident GONNA Be LOOONG Time of Failure and Frustration...

“I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” Judges 2.1-4

HERE we ARE in LAST Chapter of this SAD and SORRY STORY!

God is BLAMED by BITTER Israelites in Chapter 21 > God is SILENT

God Not Accept their Accusation – UNMOVED by Weeping and RITUALS

v. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

NO Message from God – No KING to Lead them – Must Figure Something Out

vs. 16-18 Then the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?” And they said, “There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel. Yet we cannot give them wives from our daughters.” For the people of Israel had sworn, “Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin.”

PLAN Made by ELDERS of Congregation > BROKENESSS of All Society

Levite leads People AWAY from God

HOSPITALITY is Perverted by HOMOSEXUALS

JUSTICE is TURNED into GENOCIDE

WISDOM of the ELDERS brings SLAUGHTER and STEALING

MARRIAGES built on VIOLENCE > Wives are VICTIMS

a. Wives from Slaughter

vs. 5-7 And the people of Israel said, “Which of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?” For they had taken a great oath

concerning him who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah, saying, “He shall surely be put to death.” And the people of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother and said, “One tribe is cut off from Israel this day. What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them any of our daughters for wives?”

WE Cannot give DAUGHTERS to those BAD BOYS from BENJAMIN

Maybe we can FIND Some Neighbors whose Daughters would Fill that NEED

vs. 8-12 And they said, “What one is there of the tribes of Israel that did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah?” And behold, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead, to the assembly. For when the people were mustered, behold, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there. So the congregation sent 12,000 of their bravest men there and commanded them, “Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword; also the women and the little ones. This is what you shall do: every male and every woman that has lain with a male you shall devote to destruction.” And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known a man by lying with him, and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

CULL at JABESH-GILEAD did NOT YIELD Enough WIVES

Got 2/3's of Job Done by SLAUGHTERING their Mom's/Dad's,  
Grandma's/Grandpa's – Aunt's/Uncle's – Brother's/Sister's – and all their PETS

But they DELIVER 400 Virgins – who No Doubt WILLINGLY Volunteered

Could have SENT Some M's with CLIPBOARDS to do a SURVEY

Found Out just HOW MANY Potential WIVES lived in Jabesh-Gilead

No, TOO DIFFICULT! – Let's just KILL Everyone First, then Ask Questions!

vs. 13,14 Then the whole congregation sent word to the people of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them. And Benjamin returned at that time. And they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but they were not enough for them.

Like BAD FRUIT of One-Child-Policy > Bunch of LONELY, SAD Men  
 NOT Told how Figured Out WHO were 400 LUCKY Guys & 200 LOSERS  
 Arm Wrestling? One on One Basketball? Chess Matches?

## b. Wives from Stealing

vs. 19-23 So they said, “Behold, there is the yearly feast of the LORD at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.” And they commanded the people of Benjamin, saying, “Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards and watch. If the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards and snatch each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. And when their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, we will say to them, ‘Grant them graciously to us, because we did not take for each man of them his wife in battle, neither did you give them to them, else you would now be guilty.’” And the people of Benjamin did so and took their wives, according to their number, from the dancers whom they carried off. Then they went and returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and lived in them.

NOT CLEAR What this Festival Was > “dancing in vineyards”

NOT Part of 3 OT Festivals – Passover, Weeks, and Tabernacles

Not Clear if they’re DANCING to YAHWEH or BAAL??

But it is GREAT GATHERING of GETTABLE GIRLS!

O.K. Put on Your DANCING CLOTHES > Hide in MUD and WEEDS

When LOVELY LADIES come out DANCING > STEAL ONE!

Flew In Rev. MOON from UNIFICATION Church to Lead MASS WEDDING

OBVIOUSLY 600 Happy Homes are Now Established in Benjamin

Told them to Download “5 Love Languages” on KINDLES and Make Nice!



The rape of the Levite's concubine  
 "Holy" war against Benjamin  
 Problem: The Oath – Benjamin threatened with Extinction  
 "Holy" war against Jabesh-gilead  
 The rape of the Daughters of Shiloh

STORY began with ABUSE of ONE Woman > Ends by ABUSING MANY!

### 3. But for the Grace of God...

#### a. Election, Not Exceptionalism

v. 24 And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance.

Israel THOUGHT Happily Every After Story! THEY WORKED All Out Nicely

GOT Wives – Homes Established – NATION Survives and Soon THRIVES

And Benjamin REGAINS Full Status as TRIBE of Israel > Provides KING...!

a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish...a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul ...the LORD had revealed to Samuel: "...I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel"  
 1 Samuel 9.1-16

LITTLE Word in v. 24 – Should REMIND Them and US – NOT About US!

v. 24 And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his *inheritance*.

INHERITANCE – Mercy, Grace, Gift Given because of Kindness of Another

...the tribe of Benjamin was preserved. But the Israelites tackled the problem in a cocky, conceited, highhanded way. How estranged from the Lord's service Israel had become...there is no other explanation for this miracle than that God, in his grace in the Christ, wished to dwell in the midst of that people in spite of its sin.

S.G. DeGraaf

God's FAITHFULNESS Arcs across History from GENESIS to REVELATION

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers...Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. Deuteronomy 7.1-11

“Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you...for you are a stubborn people. Deuteronomy 9.3-6

No other book in the Old Testament offers the modern church as telling a mirror as this book. This book is a wake-up call for a church moribund in its own selfish pursuits. Instead of heeding the call of truly godly leaders and letting Jesus Christ be Lord of the church, everywhere congregations and their leaders do what is right in their own eyes. Daniel Block

## b. King is Still Coming...

v. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

**FIRST Verse Looks BACKWARD / LAST Verse Looks FORWARD**



After the death of Joshua... Judges 1.1

In those days there was no king in Israel. Judges 21.25



Looks BACK to JOSHUA, MOSES, ABRAHAM, CREATION itself...

Looks FORWARD to KINGDOM...esp Kingship of DAVID from JUDAH  
 Book likely WRITTEN When DAVID or SOLOMON was KING (emph Judah)  
 FIRST Readers must of SEEN What we EVEN MORE CLEARLY See

CRACKS in FOUNDATION of KING'S CASTLE > FAILURE in his FAMILY  
 Even MAN After GOD'S HEART will BREAK God's Heart by REBELLION  
 Our DELIGHT in DAVID will soon turn to DISAPPOINTMENT

We must KEEP LOOKING for ANOTHER – EVEN BETTER – KING!!

We LIVE IN World where KINGS – TERRORIZE and TORTURE

100 k are STARVING in SOUTH SUDAN

400 k have been KILLED in SYRIA

NO HUMAN King can Abolish Death and bring Life & Immortality to Light

the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: ...your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’” 2 Samuel 7.4,5,16

Philosophers DEBATE Whether BAD Person can be GOOD RULER

History clearly shows BAD People can be BULLIES & TYRANTS

And thru FEAR they might Accomplish some GREAT THINGS

But God's King wins HEARTS & MINDS and RULES the NATIONS

AND THEN IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME...

An angel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1.30-33

THEN at the END OF THE AGES...

I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Revelation 19.11-16

We ALL NEED a King to RESCUE and RULE Us

I TRUST YOU CAN PRAY THIS WITH ME...

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old: you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free; for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them. You are my King, O God... Psalm 44.1-4

JUDGES 21.<sup>1</sup>Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, “No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin.”<sup>2</sup>And the people came to Bethel and sat there till evening before God, and they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly.<sup>3</sup>And they said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that today there should be one tribe lacking in Israel?”<sup>4</sup>And the next day the people rose early and built there an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.<sup>5</sup>And the people of Israel said, “Which of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?” For they had taken a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah, saying, “He shall surely be put to death.”<sup>6</sup>And the people of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother and said, “One tribe is cut off from Israel this day.<sup>7</sup>What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them any of our daughters for wives?”<sup>8</sup>And they said, “What one is there of the tribes of Israel that did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah?” And behold, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead, to the assembly.<sup>9</sup>For when the people were mustered, behold, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there.<sup>10</sup>So the congregation sent 12,000 of their bravest men there and commanded them, “Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword; also the women and the little ones.<sup>11</sup>This is what you shall do: every male and every woman that has lain with a male you shall devote to destruction.”<sup>12</sup>And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known a man by lying with him, and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.<sup>13</sup>Then the whole congregation sent word to the people of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them.<sup>14</sup>And Benjamin returned at that time. And they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but they were not enough for them.<sup>15</sup>And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.<sup>16</sup>Then the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?”<sup>17</sup>And they said, “There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel.<sup>18</sup>Yet we cannot give them wives from our daughters.” For the people of Israel had sworn, “Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin.”<sup>19</sup>So they said, “Behold, there is the yearly feast of the LORD at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.”<sup>20</sup>And they commanded the people of Benjamin, saying, “Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards<sup>21</sup>and watch. If the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards and snatch each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.<sup>22</sup>And when their fathers or their brothers come to

complain to us, we will say to them, ‘Grant them graciously to us, because we did not take for each man of them his wife in battle, neither did you give them to them, else you would now be guilty.’”<sup>23</sup> And the people of Benjamin did so and took their wives, according to their number, from the dancers whom they carried off. Then they went and returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and lived in them.<sup>24</sup> And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance.<sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1.5