

# Book of Judges

## Part 5

### “Stirred to Action”

I would say that for me, Judges chapter 19 has to be one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible...

I don't know if I have ever heard anyone preach this text...  
This is the part most would leave out...

As I read it I see clearly God's intent and why it is there for us to read...  
God used this story to stir Israel to Action...

In previous chapters God uses a person...  
Here God uses His entire nation...

**I do believe the opening statement of this chapter speaks loudly to the text...** “In those days Israel had no king.”

- One could say: Israel had no king therefore Israel had no leader...
- I believe it speaks to the fact that, spiritually, Israel refused to recognize God's leadership over them.

## **A Levite and His Concubine**

### **Judges 19**

In those days Israel had no king.

Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. **2** But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her parents' home in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months, **3** her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her parents' home, and when her father

saw him, he gladly welcomed him. **4** His father-in-law, the woman's father, prevailed on him to stay; so he remained with him three days, eating and drinking, and sleeping there.

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**9** Then when the man, with his concubine and his servant, got up to leave, his father-in-law, the woman's father, said, "Now look, it's almost evening. Spend the night here; the day is nearly over. Stay and enjoy yourself. Early tomorrow morning you can get up and be on your way home." **10** But, unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two saddled donkeys and his concubine.

**11** When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, "Come, let's stop at this city of the Jebusites and spend the night."

**12** His master replied, "No. We won't go into any city whose people are not Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah."

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**16** That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was living in Gibeah (the inhabitants of the place were Benjamites), came in from his work in the fields. **17** When he looked and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going? Where did you come from?"

**18** He answered, "We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live."

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**20** "You are welcome at my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square." **21** So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink.

**22** While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

**23** The owner of the house went outside and said to them, “No, my friends, don’t be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don’t do this outrageous thing. **24** Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them and do to them whatever you wish. But as for this man, don’t do such an outrageous thing.”

**25** But the men would not listen to him. So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they... (interject - did horrible things) raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go.

**26** At daybreak the woman went back to the house where her master was staying, fell down at the door and lay there until daylight.

**27** When her master got up in the morning and opened the door of the house and stepped out to continue on his way, there lay his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

**28** He said to her, “Get up; let’s go.” But there was no answer. Then the man put her on his donkey and set out for home.

**29** When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

**30** Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, “Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So speak up!”

- This is the story that spread throughout all of Israel and people were shocked by it...

## 1st They had to See it

- **Burdens are built on information**
- How often do people sit by and remain unmoved and unaware of a desperate need until something shocking takes place...
- Burdens are built on information...
- When I first read this I was so bothered by it, then I realized that is why God put it there, first to wake his people...
  
- The account here is almost a mirror image of what took place in Genesis 19 when the two angels came to Lot's house in Sodom and Gomorrah...
- The difference is, Sodom and Gomorrah was a pagan people, and the two men were angels that struck the perpetrators with blindness..
- In this account, this is happens among a tribe of Israel, the Benjamites and God will deal with them swiftly...

### Isaiah 5:16

But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his **justice**, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.

### Psalms 45:6

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of **justice** will be the scepter of your kingdom.

- It is a dangerous thing when evil and injustice prevail, but God in his mercy will bring them to justice...
- When I read this story my heart brakes and I want to go get the guys who did this...
- That is exactly why the story was told...

- The story went all around and was used to shake the nation out of a slumber and make them aware of the spiritual condition they were in...

## 2nd they had to do something

- Israel was stirred to action

### Vs. 30

“Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So speak up!”

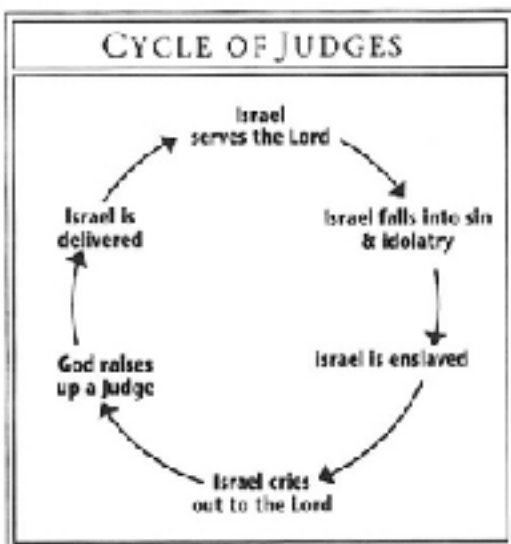
Part 1. The Cycle of Judges

Part 2. The early Judges God uses a Judge to restore Israel. We see them at a distance.

Part 3. God uses Gideon. We relate to Gideon.

Part 4. God uses Samson, but first the cycle of Judges happens in a man before he can be a deliverer.

Part 5. God uses the entire nation.



## Judges 20

Then all Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came together as one and assembled before the Lord in Mizpah. **2** The leaders of all the people of the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of God's people, four hundred thousand men armed with swords.

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**8** All the men rose up together as one, saying, "None of us will go home. No, not one of us will return to his house. **9** But now this is what we'll do to Gibeah: We'll go up against it in the order decided by casting lots.

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**11** So all the Israelites got together and united as one against the city.

- The result is, God mobilized a mighty army to take action against the wickedness of Gibeah...

Here's a lesson we all learn from this today:

- It's possible to fight the right battles the wrong ways...
- The Israelites lost to the Benjamites twice...

Israel had 400,000 soldiers  
Benjamin had 26,000 soldiers

In the first battle Israel lost, losing 22,000 men  
In the second battle Israel lost, losing 18,000 men

- The outrage was there... The unity was there... They were still losing the battles...
- They were fighting the right battle but their hearts weren't right; rendering them ineffective.
- They were fighting God's battle, without God...

### 3rd They had to get their Hearts right with God

#### Judges 20

**26** Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the Lord. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the Lord.

**27** And the Israelites inquired of the Lord. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there, **28** with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ministering before it.) They asked, “Shall we go up again to fight against the Benjamites, our fellow Israelites, or not?”

The Lord responded, “Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands.”

- **For Righteousness to prevail a Right Heart is Needed**
- **Without a right heart they were defeated.**
- **When Israel humbled themselves, God gave them the strategy that lead to victory.**

**34** Then ten thousand of Israel’s able young men made a frontal attack on Gibeah. The fighting was so heavy that the Benjamites did not realize how near disaster was. **35** The Lord defeated Benjamin before Israel, and on that day the Israelites struck down 25,100 Benjamites, all armed with swords. **36** Then the Benjamites saw that they were beaten.

- For spiritual victory to happen for Israel, God had to be at the right place in their lives...
- For spiritual victory to happen for us, God has to be at the right place in our lives...

and by the way we are in a battle...

## **2 Timothy 4**

**7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.