

Judges 21 Why has this Come to Pass?

- Correlation between United States today/Israel in Book of Judges is **astounding**
Godlessness and Lawlessness rampant...
- Calls to defund Police and replace w/ Social Workers moving forward?

08/10/2020 [Breitbart] **Seattle Approves Plan to Defund Police**, Lay Off 100 Cops, Slash Salaries. On Monday, only council member Kshama Sawant voted against the budget package, saying it **does not do enough to defund the police**.

- **Riots/Unrestrained Lawlessness/Anarchy**
 1. **Seattle:** Governor claims no knowledge of Riots. Police Chief resigns 08/09/2020.
 2. **Chicago:** 432 murders this year as of 07/29/2020. Looters. Draw Bridge raised
 3. **Portland:** Mayor join rioters/Deny help from Federal Government.

Acting Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf tweeted Monday that in the ten days since federal law enforcement officials had been withdrawn from their posts in Portland, Oregon, local police had declared **twelve official riots**. [Protests are legal/Riots are not]

- **Summer of Love...until it's at their doorstep? Destroying places we live?**

Zechariah 7:14 [Israel forsook the God and His law] Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they **made the pleasant land desolate.**

Don't know what you got till it's gone...

Took for granted the blessing of God/Refused to honor Him as King

Judges 21:25 In those days there was **no king in Israel**; everyone did what was right in **his own eyes**.

Perfect Storm for Civil War

- **Godlessness:** No recognition/respect for God-given authority
- **Lawlessness:** No recognition of rule of Law

Ch. 20 Israel digresses into Civil War against brothers

The tribes of Israel prepared for a small civil war against the tribe of Benjamin. Israel was right in believing that the greatest good was not unity. Unity apart from justice and truth is unity not worth having.

- **But they went too far...** engaged in Genocide on men of entire Tribe

Judges 20:48 ...the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the **edge of the sword**—from **every city**, men and beasts, all who were found. They also **set fire** to all the cities they came to.

- What a tangled web we weave when we follow the dictates of our wicked hearts

I. Wives for Benjamites

1 Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, **"None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."**

- Oath: No one from any tribe gives his daughter to a Benjamite
 1. **600 male Benjamites are left.** Tribe is on verge of extinction
 2. Could not marry outside non-Israelite as per law of Moses

2 Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly, 3 and said, **"O Lord God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?"**

"Why O LORD has this come to pass?"

- **Book of Judges:** Everyone did what was right in own eyes
 1. **Idolatry**
 2. **Perversion**
 3. **Pride...**Masters of our own destiny. Don't need God/His commands. OK.

Q. Why has this come about...Lord

A. Why are you asking Me? These are the consequences of **your actions**

- Why is my marriage failing? Because you lived together/had sex first
- Why are my kids not Christian? Because you're a hypocrite
- Why is my liver failing? Because you were drinking/drugging without a care
- Why are so many businesses leaving Seattle? Because you voted not to protect them
- Why do we have Martial Law in United States? Because you **covered to rioters**

**...for they made the pleasant land desolate
Why is the Tribe of Benjamin almost gone...LORD?**

Don't blame Me. You slaughtered them/then took an oath not provide wives for them

- **Why?** Because actions have consequences

4 So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

Just a show to try to fix what they broke with religiosity...

Matthew 15:7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 **And in vain they worship Me...**

- God desires obedience to His voice rather than religiosity...

1 Samuel 15:22 [Samuel to Saul] "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, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the **sin of witchcraft,** And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

- **God never told them** to completely slaughter Benjamin
- **God never told them** to make an oath not to give their wives

They continue to devise a plan rather than seek God...
If your digging a hole for yourself the best thing you can do is to stop digging

- **Insanity:** Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
- **The Devil is happy to assist our insanity...**this time It will work

5 The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the Lord?" For they had made a **great oath** concerning anyone who had not come up to the Lord at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

- **2 Oaths made at Mizpah**

1. **Oath 1:** No wives to be given to Benjamin from us and...
2. **Great Oath 2:** Anyone who did not show up for oath one dies [see v.8]

6 And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today. 7 What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the Lord that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"

- **Very definition of Religion:** Let's come up with a plan to fix what we broke

Genesis 3:7 [Religion] [After sin] ...the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they **sewed fig leaves** together and made themselves coverings... [Relationship] 21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

- 11 Tribes conjure up 2 Plans to get wives for 600 men of Benjamin that are left

**PLAN #1 Wives for Benjamin:
Exterminate another clan of Israel...but leave virgins for Benjamin**

- **Trying to fix our sin:** Out of the pan and into the fire
 1. **Religiosity:** Trying to cover our sin w/good deeds leading to...
 2. **Self-Righteousness** leading to...
 3. **Legalism** inevitably leading to
 4. **Condemning** others

...rather than the real fix...**Humility/Repentance before God/others**

8 And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the Lord?" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from **Jabesh Gilead** to the assembly. 9 For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there. 10 So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead

with the edge of the sword, including the women and children. 11 And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately.”

- **What?** In order to fix the last genocide, **go and do it again?**
- Leave only the virgins...

12 So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead **four hundred young virgins** who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

- God graciously leaves out details of this current Genocide
- **Aftermath:** 400 hundred virgins for Benjamites. Worked right?
Brought the 400 widowed women to Shiloh which is in Canaan
- Not God’s plan...plans devised by the flesh...**I think we should...?**
 1. Programs not initiated by Holy Spirit
 2. Traditions not found in the Word of God

Things that we make up. Not God’s plan yet in the church. Result is death of a church

13 Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced **peace to them**. 14 So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.

- **600 Benjamites and only 400 virgins:** Now what?

15 And the people **grieved for Benjamin, because the Lord** had made a **void** in the tribes of Israel.

Sovereignty of God

- The Spirit dwells with man showing man the way for a time...
- The Spirit will not dwell w/man forever
- The Spirit will eventually allow people go their own/rebellious ways/reap consequences

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way**. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed...

- Q.** Why Oh Lord has this come to pass? **A.** Because decisions have consequences
Sometimes decisions/choices have far-reaching consequences

Poor choices lead to grief...When God says don’t, He means **“Don’t hurt yourselves”**

...they made the pleasant land desolate.

- **People grieved for Benjamin...**
- **PLAN # 1** Exterminate another clan/leave virgin/still need 200 more

PLAN #2 Wives for Benjamin

Find a Loophole in the ridiculous oath to not give daughters to Benjamin...

16 Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?" 17 And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel. 18 However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, 'Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.'" 19 Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the Lord in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah." 20 Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, "**Go, lie in wait in the vineyards,** 21 and **watch;** and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man **catch a wife** for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin. 22 Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, 'Be kind to them for our sakes, because **we did not take a wife** for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.'"

Loophole: Couldn't "give" daughters/could set them out as bait to be caught by Benjamites

- Benjamites hide in the Vineyards of Shiloh
- Benjamites wait for woman of Israel to come out and dance
- Benjamites each grab one/Bring her back to the land of Benjamin
- Men of Israel look innocent/Did not give the virgins/only allowed to be taken

Everything is beautiful in its own way? Ends justify the means

23 And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they **rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.** 24 So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.

25 In those days there was **no king in Israel;** everyone **did what was right in his own eyes.**

- Rebuilt cities in Benjamin/everyone went home continued his/her own way
 1. We deceive ourselves that Judgment is not coming
 2. Even after tragedies allowed by God to wake us up
 3. **Mantra We will Rebuild!** Babel, Benjamin, Twin Towers...man will prevail?

**Things get back to somewhat normal and instead of learning from the hurt
...People choose to forget the pain/what caused it, i.e. our rebellion**

- As things digress man will increasingly seek normality/routine to silence voice of God

Matthew 24:37 ... as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

- **Natural Man:** Resilient in his determination to prove God wrong
- **Mocking God...**
 1. You sent destruction but we rebuilt and will rebuild again
 2. Any disaster You send against us...we will prevail as we have before
 3. We have no authority but ourselves...
 4. We are a law unto ourselves and will do what is right in our own eyes
 5. God is a dawdling old man in the sky who obviously is impotent and weak

But wait...maybe there is something the world chooses to forget?

What about the rock sculptures in the middle of deserts? What molded those? Wind?
What about the Grand Canyon? How was that created? Sea shells on Mountaintops?

2 Peter 3:3 [Be sure of this] ... scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they **willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed **perished, being flooded with water**. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire** until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering toward** us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy **conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Q. Why has this come the Pass? **A.** Because actions have Consequences

Judges 21:25 In those days there was **no king in Israel**; everyone **did what was right in his own eyes**.

Godlessness leading to Lawlessness...made the pleasant land desolate.

Israel took for granted the blessing of God/Refused to honor Him as King/Lost the blessing

Is America doing the same? Hopefully we will realize what we have/repent before it's gone

and we also ask...

Why has this come to pass...Lord?

