

# Judges 20

Jesus

## Instead of reviving/thriving in the Promised Land Israel is sinking/stinking in their own filth...

**Godlessness:** No King. Did not acknowledge God as King. Masters of own destiny?

**Lawlessness:** Did what was right in own eyes/Dictates of their own hearts, def of Idolatry

- Levite shacking up w/concubine
- Concubine leaves to become a Prostitute
- Levite finds her/On way home stay w/ stranger in land of Benjamin
  1. City square is not safe. Why?
  2. Old man/Daughters, Concubine stay with old man that night
  3. Perverted men of Benjamin bang on door to have sex with Levite
  4. Old man instead offers his daughters/Levite throws concubine to wolves in the night
  5. Throws concubine to wolves. Raped all night/killed by Benjamites/Levite finds at door

**Judges 19:28** And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place. 29 When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. 30 And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. **Consider it, confer, and speak up!**"

## I. Israel's War with the Benjamites

**1 So all the children of Israel came out**, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together **as one man** before the Lord at Mizpah.

- **Dan to Beersheba:** North to South
- **Land of Gilead:** East of Jordan

**All the Children of Israel Came out  
Levite's shock tactic worked... Gathered as one man before the Lord**

- **Mizpah:** Just south of Shiloh where Tabernacle/Ark of Covenant/Priests

**2 And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves** in the assembly of the **people of God**, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.

- **Leaders/Laypeople/Soldiers:** 400,000 total gather at Mizpah

**3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.)**

- **Tribe of Benjamin...**
  1. Tribe that committed the rape/murder
  2. **Hear/Prepare** for confrontation...

**3b...** Then the children of Israel said [to the Levite], "Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?"

- **Wicked deed:** What is the meaning of 12 parts to 12 Tribes?

4 So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "My concubine and I went into **Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin**, to spend the night. 5 And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They **intended to kill me**, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died. 6 So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they committed **lewdness and outrage in Israel**. 7 Look! All of you are children of Israel; **give your advice and counsel here and now!**"

The Levite spun the story to his own advantage. What he said was true, but he didn't mention the cruel and callous way he abandoned his concubine to the mob. [Guzik]

- What started as sexual sin between Levite/Concubine becomes Civil War

8 So **all the people arose as one man**, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house; 9 but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot. 10 We will take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel." 11 So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, **united together as one man**.

- **Resolve quick judgment** unlike today...thieves

**07/31/2020** The death sentence for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was behind the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing, was **overturned** by a federal appeals court on Friday...[He] was convicted on 30 charges, which include conspiracy and the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The April 15, 2013, attack in Boston left three dead and injured more than 260 others who were in the area after two pressure-cooker bombs were detonated by him and his brother. [Now 8 Years after the crime/still in jail/death penalty overturned. Where is the deterrent?]

**Ecclesiastes 8:11** Because the sentence against an evil work is **not executed speedily**, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

- **Not these guys...**

1. Gathered as one man/one mind/one purpose
2. No one goes home until we...repay the vileness among God's people

**All the men of Israel gathered against their brother Benjamin  
Are there valid reasons for Civil War?**

- **America's Civil War: 1861-1865**

1. **Deaths:** Recalculated in 2012 up from **618,222** to **750,000**. Most US deaths by war
2. **Reason:** Long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery.
3. Are there valid reasons for Civil War?

12 Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin,

saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you? 13 Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!"

**What is this wickedness?** Though they were all wicked at this point

- Begin with diplomacy...fair trial
  1. Let's hear your side of this
  2. Give us just those involved...

**13b...** But the **children of Benjamin** would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel.

- **Identified** tribe with mob
- **Condoned** the sins of the mob
- **Guilty** of the same sins as the mob because...

They refused to condemn what they flat-out knew was wrong

**Romans 1:32** [People who condone sin...] knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only **do the same** but also **approve of those who practice them.**

14 Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel. 15 And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered **twenty-six thousand men** who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men. 16 Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were **left-handed**; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss. 17 Now besides Benjamin, the men of **Israel numbered four hundred thousand** men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war.

- Jacobs last words to his sons...re. Benjamin.

**Genesis 49:27** "Benjamin is a **ravenous wolf**; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."

Prowls/Tears his prey to pieces like a Ravenous Wolf? The wolves who knocked on door?

- **Saul the First King** of Israel Benjamite: Viciously slaughtered whole town of Priests
- **Saul of Tarsus** [Apostle Paul] also a Benjamite: Savagely pulled Christian men, women, children out of homes stone death. Save. Penned 2/3 of NT. Who'd guess?

**Benjamin:** Instead of handing over the offenders...defend evil-doers

- **11 Tribes of Israel** 400,000 Guys
- **Tribe of Benjamin** 26,000 but also 700 Special Forces/all left-handed...

**...who could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss**

18 Then the children of Israel arose and went **up to the house of God to**

**inquire of God.** They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?"

### **Inquire of God, but did they?**

They don't ask if they *should go*...but **who goes first?**

- Do we stack the deck for God when we pray?
- Peter says we need an Apostle to take Judas place

**Acts 1:24** "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show **which of these two** You have chosen

- **Joseph or Matthias:** These are your choices Lord. Paul was waiting in wings  
Who should go up first to fight the battle you have not yet said to fight?

**18b** The Lord said, "Judah first!"

- Your going to go anyway...send Judah first
- **Jesus is from the Tribe of Judah**

**Revelation 5:5** "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

- Jesus lion of Judah steps forward/opens the scroll/begins judgment on earth
- Tribe of Judah steps forward to begin Judgement on Benjamin

19 So the children of Israel rose **in the morning** and encamped against Gibeah. 20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel put themselves in **battle array** to fight against them at Gibeah.

- **Rose in morning...**
  1. Seemingly blessed by the Lord/ready to go
  2. Dressed in battle array/on the front line

21 Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground **twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites.**

- **Day One:** Benjamin cuts down 22,000 men of Israel? Why? How did that happen  
Did Israel ask if they should go/when they should go/how they should go?  
Was Israel was going to go no matter what? Did they wait on God?

22 And the people, that is, the men of Israel, **encouraged themselves** and again formed the **battle line** at the place where they had put themselves in array **on the first day.**

- **Soldiers give each other pep talk:** Line up in same place of defeat

23 Then the children of Israel went up and **wept before the Lord** until evening, and asked counsel of the Lord, saying, "Shall I again draw near for

battle against the children of my **brother Benjamin?**"

- **Common people weep before Lord**...getting more/more serious

**23b... And the Lord said, "Go up against [Benjamin]." 24** So the children of Israel **approached the children of Benjamin** on the second day. **25 And Benjamin went out** against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.

- **Day Two:** Benjamin on the offensive cuts down another **18,000 Israelites**

**Q.** If this is really the Lord's will **why these set-backs?**

**A/Q.** How serious were we seeking God/Waiting on God that we might give Glory to God?

**26** Then all the children of Israel, that is, **all the people**, went up and came to the house of **God and wept**. They **sat there before the Lord** and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

**People get serious/sober about seeking God  
What does it mean to be serious in seeking the will of God?**

1. **Humbled themselves before the Lord:** Wept. Confessed...You are God/I am not.
2. **Waited on the Lord:** Sat there? Didn't move until God spoke
3. **Sacrificed to the Lord:** Offered Burnt/Peace offerings/Fasted. Not my will by Yours

**Now they are serious about seeking God...**

**27** So the children of Israel inquired of the Lord (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, **28** and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the Lord said, **"Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."**

If Pride comes before the fall...Humility comes before the victory  
Humility; i.e. knowing who we are before a Holy God

God used [two defeats] to humble the whole nation. They had to understand that the horror of the crime at Gibeah was not merely the result of the sin of one group of men, or one city, or even one tribe. The whole nation had to be humbled because they first thought that the sin problem was only in Benjamin. Israel had to see that that nation as a whole had a sin problem. [Guzik]

**29** Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. **30** And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the **third day**, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times. **31** So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down and kill some of the people, as at

the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, **about thirty men of Israel**. 32 And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us, as at first."

- Benjamin confident after killing 30

**32b...** But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways." 33 So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba. 34 And ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites **did not know that disaster was upon them**. **35 The Lord defeated Benjamin before Israel**. And the children of Israel destroyed that day **twenty-five thousand one hundred Benjamites**; all these drew the sword.

- **Ambush Strategy**

1. Draw Benjamin out of city
2. Have men set in field kill those who flee
3. Take the city and those left in it...

### **Benjamin would not know disaster was upon them**

- **End Result?** 25,000 Benjamites defeated

**NOTE: The Lord defeated Benjamin** V 35: God gets the glory

- If Israel had won the first two battles Israel would take the Glory
- After humility **they** had victory...but **God** received the Glory

Pride needed to be dealt with before there could be a victory that would glorify God

- **Victory on Day Three:**

### **Greatest Victory has been/ever will be was on the Third Day**

Satan did not know disaster was upon him

Jesus victory over sin/death/devil on Third Day: Validated by Resurrection from dead

**Mark 8:31** ... He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after **three days rise again**.

- **Sacrifice for our sin** accepted by the Father
- **Penalty of our sin**; Eternal Judgment paid for by Jesus

Death/Satan now defeated enemies as Jesus walked out of the Tomb...

**John 11:25** ... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of

Israel had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah. 37 And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword. 38 Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city, 39 whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about **thirty of the men of Israel**. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle." 40 But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven. 41 And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of **Benjamin panicked**, for they saw that disaster had come upon them. 42 Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and whoever came out of the cities they destroyed in their midst. 43 They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily **trampled them down** as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east. 44 And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor. 45 Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they **cut down five thousand** of them on the highways. Then they pursued them **relentlessly** up to Gidom, and killed two thousand of them. 46 So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor.

- Panicked/Trampled Down/Relentlessly Pursued
- **Same strategy used by Joshua to defeat Ai:** Were they seeking written Word?

47 But **six hundred men** turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months. 48 And 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.

**Cut down with the Sword:** Word of God will take down the Devil forever.

- **Problem:** Israel still godless/lawless people...
  1. 11 Tribes excessively cruel to brethren
  2. Only 600 men of Benjamin left alive. Genocide.
- **Q.** What will become of the Tribe of Benjamin? **A.** Ch. 21 Last Chapter of Judges