

Judges 20

King James Version (KJV)

(Chapters 17 – 21 document what was happening in Israel during the time of the Judges. The country was rife with multi-culturalism, paganism, perversion and Idolatry. They deserted God over and over and yet HE forgave them every time they repented)

20 Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh. (The whole country of Israel was united on this issue)

² And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword. (Why didn't these men help Dan regain their land from the Amorites? Why didn't they also get upset when all these people were worshipping the gods of the heathen? Probably because they were doing the same) See chapter-18

³ (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.) Then said the children of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness? (Mizpeh – this one is on the SW border of Benjamin)

⁴ And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.

⁵ And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead. (They probably would have been safer in Jebus, among the heathen) (He conveniently never mentions that they wanted homosexual sex with him first, and that he gave her to them to be raped in his stead. This guy is as guilty as the rapists and murderers)

⁶ And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel. (Homosexuality, rape and murder) Deuteronomy-19, Numbers-35 (The penalty for rape and murder is death)

⁷ Behold, ye are all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel. (Pass judgment and act)

⁸ And all the people arose as one man, saying, We will not any of us go to his tent, neither will we any of us turn into his house. (They will not look the other way. They mean to avenge this crime)

⁹ But now this shall be the thing which we will do to Gibeah; we will go up by lot against it; (by lot – might mean - to attack in groups. It might also mean - to destroy Gibeah and then draw lots to see who takes the land and possessions afterwards)

¹⁰ And we will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel. (These 10% are the supply lines for the army) (folly = perversion – better translation)

¹¹ So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. (All in agreement)

¹² And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you? (It's time for the rest of Benjamin to decide whose side they are on. Side with Gibeah or side with Israel)

¹³ Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel. (This is a sign of the widespread perversion. Benjamin sided with Gibeah)

(Look at western countries today- pretending that sodomy, homosexuality and trans-sexuality are a "lifestyle"; and those who object to the perversion are "bigots")

¹⁴ But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel. (They are siding with the homosexual rapists)

¹⁵ And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men. (Civil war is coming) (26,400 against 400,000)

¹⁶ Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss. (Benjamites were known for their marksmanship with the sling and with the bow and arrow. This will give them a great advantage against swordsmen)

¹⁷ And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these were men of war.

¹⁸ And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up first. (God = El-O-Heem- God the creator; not Yahoveh, the covenant God. Israel had completely forgotten their God of the covenant. By now they were all practicing idolatry)

(They didn't ask God if they should go up. They asked God who should go first. Also, there is no promise of victory from God, since they never asked of Him)

¹⁹ And the children of Israel rose up 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 array to fight against them at Gibeah.

²¹ And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand men. (These are high losses for Judah)

²² And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day. (These are the rest of the tribes, who had also abandoned God and worshipped idols. God was no longer protecting them)

²³ (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD said, Go up against him.) (LORD – Yahoveh – the God of the covenant; NOW they remember God. They are asking if they should go)

²⁴ And the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day.

²⁵ And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword. (More losses for Israel – 10% of the 400K men are now dead)

Matthew-7:5 (Jesus asked – How is it that you see that mote <spec of dust> in your brother's eye, but you do not see the beam in your eye? The tribes of Israel were all guilty of many atrocities including Idolatry)

²⁶ Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. (Unto the house of God – In Shiloh. The true tabernacle of God) (Now they are finally humbling themselves and repenting for their own sins. They are making offerings to God to ask forgiveness for themselves)

Note – (this is the first fast that is written of in the Bible. They fasted to humble themselves before God and to ask forgiveness for their own sins)

²⁷ And the children of Israel enquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, (After their defeat, they must have sent for the high priest and the Arc of the Covenant, which was in Shiloh)

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 Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the LORD said, Go up; for to morrow I will deliver them into thine hand. (Now God will give them the victory)

²⁹ And Israel set liers in wait round about Gibeah. (This is the same strategy that Joshua used in the Book of Joshua-8) (The Benjamites are archers. Israel needs a better strategy in order to overcome that advantage)

³⁰ And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times. (This time, they had other men hidden, waiting to ambush the Benjamites. This time they also had the assurance of God that He would give them the victory)

³¹ And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the people, and kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goeth up to the house of God, and the other to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel. (The Benjamites believe they will win again)

³² And the children of Benjamin said, They are smitten down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways. (They are pretending to retreat to draw the Benjamites away from the safety of Gibeah; out into the open)

³³ And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baaltamar: and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their places, even out of the meadows of Gibeah. (They came up between the Benjamites and Gibeah, cutting them off from any retreat back to the city) (Baaltamar = possessor of the palm tree)

³⁴ And there came against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore: but they knew not that evil was near them. (they – the Benjamites; evil= calamity, misfortune)

³⁵ And the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty and five thousand and an hundred men: all these drew the sword. (God gave Israel the victory just as He promised) (25,100 out of 26,700 – the Benjamites are almost all dead)

(Verses 36-46 - Going back in time to explain the sequence of events before and during this battle to give more detail of what happened)

³⁶ So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: for the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted unto the liers in wait which they had set beside Gibeah. (They= Israel – the 30 men that the Benjamites killed at first, during the fake retreat)

³⁷ And the liers in wait hasted, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers in wait drew themselves along, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword. (They executed the city of perverts who raped and killed the woman. Gibeah is wiped out)

³⁸ Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up

out of the city. (This was the signal to the main army that Gibeah had been destroyed. The Benjamites would have no place to retreat to)

³⁹ And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: for they said, Surely they are smitten down before us, as in the first battle. (This verse ties back to as it was stated in verse 31)

⁴⁰ But when the flame began to arise up out of the city with a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and, behold, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven. (They realized that they had been out maneuvered)

⁴¹ And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed: for they saw that evil was come upon them. (Evil= calamity, misfortune) (amazed= frightened, trembling – better translation)

⁴² Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and them which came out of the cities they destroyed in the midst of them. (Bad translation. Should be - in the midst of it; - i.e. the desert)

⁴³ Thus they inclosed the Benjamites round about, and chased them, and trode them down with ease over against Gibeah toward the sunrising. (They were surrounded. Bows and arrows aren't very effective in close combat)

⁴⁴ And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these were men of valour. (Of the 25,100 total killed in verse-35)

⁴⁵ And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon: and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them unto Gidom, and slew two thousand men of them. (7,000 more slain)

⁴⁶ So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these were men of valour.

⁴⁷ But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months. (One of these was an ancestor to Paul – a Benjamite) see Romans-11:1

⁴⁸ And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every

city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to. (They pretty much killed all the men, women and children of Benjamin. There are only 600 men left)