

Judges 21

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)

21 Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife. (God didn't ask them to take this vow. HE also didn't tell them to kill everyone in every city of Benjamin)

² And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore; (These idiots are finally coming to their senses. They took their revenge upon all of Benjamin; not just the guilty ones. They murdered all the people in the Benjamite cities)

³ And said, O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel? (It is because they made covenants with the Canaanites and took on their perverted ways and their idolatry. That's how they got off on the wrong path. Look at western nations today with muslim influxes and homosexual "marriages")

⁴ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. (They built additional altars later for the many offerings to God. They are repenting for their sins)

⁵ And the children of Israel said, Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the LORD? For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the LORD to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death. (All men were to show up or die. God didn't ask them to make this oath either)

⁶ And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day. (Benjamin is in danger of becoming extinct)

⁷ How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives? (This oath was not God's plan. God never told them to do that)

⁸ And they said, What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the LORD? And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabeshgilead to the assembly. (Jabeshgilead was a part of one of the tribes, on the east side of the Jordan)

⁹ For the people were numbered, and, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead there.

¹⁰ And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children. (Again, not God's plan. They are slaves to their own oath. These women and children were innocent)

¹¹ And this is the thing that ye shall do, Ye shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman that hath lain by man. (Not the virgins)

¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. (Shiloh was where the tabernacle of God was located)

¹³ And the whole congregation sent some to speak to the children of Benjamin that were in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably unto them. (Making peace; declaring a truce)

¹⁴ And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabeshgilead: and yet so they sufficed them not. (There weren't enough women for the men)

¹⁵ And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel. (The LORD didn't do this. They did it and now they are blaming God) (breach = peh-retz – a gap)

¹⁶ Then the elders of the congregation said, How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?

¹⁷ And they said, There must be an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel.

¹⁸ Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters: for the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin. (God never told them to take that oath)

¹⁹ Then they said, Behold, there is a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah. (God made three feasts, not one. Also, no one knows what or where this feast is. Israel had become basically a heathen nation at this time. They had made up their own "religious feast", and ignored the 3 feasts that God had appointed for them)

²⁰ Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards; (The 200 Benjamites who didn't get a wife)

²¹ And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. (This was not the feast that God made. This was a heathen dance in the groves. Israel had descended into total corruption, where God was concerned)

²² And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, that ye should be guilty. (Hypocrites saying - you didn't give them a wife - they "stole" one; so therefore, you haven't violated your oath. These people are pathetic)

²³ And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them. (This would repopulate Benjamin)

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

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (These people had become a pathetic heathen nation because they abandoned God and His Word)