

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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*“A Levite & His Concubine; War with Benjamin, Part I”*

*“The sin of Gibeah”*

**Text: Judges 19:1 – 20:28**

**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL**

JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak





# Theology of this Section:

- **Chapters 17-21 = an appendix**  
(The Cycle of the judges ends with Samson)
- Contains **two main historical events:**
  - Micah and Danite apostasy (17-18).
  - The rape of the Levite's concubine and the civil war with Benjamin (19-21).

# Theology of this Section:

- What do these two events illustrate?
  - How **wicked** and **low** the nation had become during this time when the nation had “**no king**” and “**every man did what was right in his own eyes**” (17:6, 21:25).

# How did the prophet Hosea reference this event?

Hosea 9:9, 10:9-12

## Bible: HOSEA 9

7. " ..the days of recompense are come.. "



9. "They have **deeply corrupted themselves,**  
**as in the days of Gibeah**



# How did the prophet Hosea reference Judges 19-20?

Hosea 10:9-12

“Thou hast sinned since the days of Gibeah,  
and the battle against the children of iniquity.”

**SOW** to yourselves in righteousness

**Reap** according to mercy

**Break** up your fallow ground

for it is **Time** to seek the **LORD..**

Hosea 10:12



# Theology of this Section:

- How does this compare to the moral decline described in Romans 1?

ROMANS 1:21-32	JUDGES 17-21
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1:24 “Given up to lusts of their hearts.. dishonor their bodies.”	
1:26 “Given up to vile passions (men with men)..	
1:28 “Given up to a base mind.. Do things not fitting (murder, violence, etc)	
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1:28 “Given up to a base mind.. Do things not fitting (murder, violence, etc)	Abused her all the night (19:25-26). They had become like Sodom (Gen 19). Murdered the concubine (20:4)
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1:28 “Given up to a base mind.. Do things not fitting (murder, violence, etc)	Abused her all the night (19:25-26). They had become like Sodom (Gen 19). Murdered the concubine (20:4)
1:32 “Approve of those who practice them”	Benjamin refused to give up the evil-doers (20:13).

# **Historical Background:**

How did the kings often call people to war?

See I Sam 11:6-7

#1

When the Levite arrived at his wife's parents' home to retrieve her, how long did it take for him to actually leave with her? Why?

*Because her father kept insisting that the Levite stay a little longer, he actually did not leave with her until he had spent 4 nights there. Even then, it was late in the day before he could 'tear himself away' from his wife's parents' house (19:8-9).*



#2a

What reason did the Levite give for not spending the night in Jebus?

*Jebus was still inhabited by the Jebusites who were inhabitants of the land that the Israelites were commanded to push out. The Levite felt that it would be better for them if they stayed in a town inhabited by Israelites (19:12). (It should be remembered that they were known for being very immoral people.)*

**Continued on next slide**



Do you think it would have been better or worse for him to have stayed overnight there?

*One can certainly speculate either way, but it would be hard to contend that they would have been worse off by lodging there.*

#3

Where did the old man originally live? What was his sole request of the Levite?

*The old man that hosted the Levite was, like the Levite, from the hill country of Ephraim (19:16).*

*His only request was that the Levite not stay the night in the city square (19:20). Why?*



#4

Of what sins or crimes can you indict the people of Gibeah, according to 19:14-28?

*Their inhospitality demonstrated that they did not love their neighbor as their selves (Leviticus 19:18).*

*Similarly, they oppressed sojourners (Exodus 23:9).*

*They were guilty of murder (Exodus 20:13).*

*They were guilty of rape (Deuteronomy 22:23-27).*

*They were guilty of homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22).*

#5

Of what sins or crimes did the Levite accuse the people of Gibeah, according to 20:4-7?

*Attempted murder of him (20:5).*

*Rape of his concubine (20:5).*

*Destruction of personal property (concubine) (20:5).*

#6

How many men did the nation of Israel have in their army? How many did the Benjaminites have?

*Israel had 400,000 men.*

*The Benjaminites had 26,700.*



#7

As soon as they heard the Levite's statement, what did the people decide to do? What was the 1<sup>st</sup> inquiry they made to the Lord?

*Immediately, they decided that they would take the city by force and they were very united in this decision (20:8-11). Before they attacked, though, they did send emissaries to Benjamin asking for the men of Gibeah, but they were rebuffed. (20:12-13)*

*The first time they asked anything of the LORD was when they were trying to decide which tribe should be the first to attack (20:18).*

#8

What was the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> battle? What was the outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle?

*Israel lost badly (22,000 men) (20:21).*

*Israel lost badly (18,000 men) (20:25).*

#9

What reasons can you think of as to why God would tell the Israelites to go up in battle twice, only to be defeated twice?

*It appears that the Israelites were too confident of the outcome, given the distinct advantage in the number of men that they held. By sending them to two defeats, they learned that the battle belonged to the Lord and not necessarily to the one with superiority in numbers. Note the increasing dependency upon God each time they approached Him.*

#9

What reasons can you think of as to why God would tell the Israelites to go up in battle twice, only to be defeated twice?

*Did they deserve to suffer for waiting so long to do something about the moral depravity in the land?*



# TRUE/FALSE

11. **T** **F** *Before Israel attacked Benjamin, they requested that the men of Gibeah be handed over. (20:13)*
12. **T** **F** *When Israel assembled at Shiloh, there were people there from Gilead. (20:1)*
13. **T** **F** *The Levite told the old man that he had provisions enough for himself & his animals. (19:19)*
14. **T** **F** *When they came to Jebus, the Levite's concubine suggested they stay the night there. (19:11)*
15. **T** **F** *When the Levite arrived to get his wife, her father was angry with him. (19:3)*

Next week: March 15

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## Lesson Four

*“War with Benjamin, Part II”*

Text: Judges 20:29 – 21:25