

Judges

- ((JUDGES)) Religious Introduction & Epilog
- ((JUDGES)) Political/Moral Introduction & Epilog

Intro

- Wars left behind the enemy
- Made agreements w/ enemy
- Toleration of their altars
- Lord's rebuke at Bochim (weepers)
- Left as thorn in side
- Story of moral family / prized woman influence / bold rescuing husband

Epilog

- Near destruction of tribe in Civil War
- Strange agreements with God & tribes
- War amongst altars
- Much weeping throughout the land
- Details of the bleeding
- Immorality / family breakdown / woman sex object / harsh master

Epilog #2 – A sad chapter for Israel

- We read the situation last week...
- Ephraim had failed to secure their Levitical towns 1:29
 - So a Levite is living in the rural "remote" part of Ephraim 19:1
 - The Levite has multiple wives – this one of lesser importance
- Benjamin "did not" drive out the Jebusites in Jerusalem 1:21
 - So great problems occurred in area near Jebus – Gibeah (4mi north)
 - Horrible immorality, rape, homosexuality 19:22-29
- We looked at family life – men drinking, parties, sex
 - Concubine shown little importance, not valued!!
 - "Husband" -> "Master"
- We contrasted the two families (Othniel's Vs Levite's)
 - Massive difference – Loving Husband Vs. Uncaring Master

Epilog #2 – A sad chapter for Israel

- What happened in Gibeah AND why??
- #1 They did not obey the Lord & picked up the ways of the world around them!

PSA 106:34 They did not destroy the peoples, As the Lord commanded them, 35 But they mingled with the nations, And learned their practices, 36 And served their idols, Which became a snare to them. 37 They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons, 38 And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood. 39 Thus they became unclean in their practices, And played the harlot in their deeds. 40 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against His people, And He abhorred His inheritance. 41 Then He gave them into the hand of the nations; And those who hated them ruled over them. 42 Their enemies also oppressed them, And they were subdued under their power. 43 Many times He would deliver them; They, however, were rebellious in their counsel, And so sank down in their iniquity. 44 Nevertheless He looked upon their distress, When He heard their cry; 45 And He remembered His covenant for their sake, And relented according to the greatness of His lovingkindness. 46 He also made them objects of compassion In the presence of all their captors.

- #2 It's in character GEN 49:27 "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he devours the prey, And in the evening he divides the spoil."

JDG 19:29 When he entered his house, he took a knife and laid hold of his concubine and cut her in twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel. 30 And it came about that all who saw it said, "Nothing like this has ever happened or been seen from the day when the sons of Israel came up from the land of Egypt to this day. Consider it, take counsel and speak up!"

JDG 20:1 Then all the sons of Israel from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, came out, and the congregation assembled as one man to the Lord at Mizpah. 2 And the chiefs of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, took their stand in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 foot soldiers who drew the sword. 3 (Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) And the sons of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wickedness take place?" 4 So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "I came with my concubine to spend the night at Gibeah which belongs to Benjamin. 5 "But the men of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me; instead, they ravished my concubine so that she died. 6 "And I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her throughout the land of Israel's inheritance; for they have committed a lewd and disgraceful act in Israel. 7 "Behold, all you sons of Israel, give your advice and counsel here." 8 Then all the people arose as one man, saying, "Not one of us will go to his tent, nor will any of us return 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 "And we will take 10 men out of 100 throughout the tribes of Israel, and 100 out of 1,000, and 1,000 out of 10,000 to supply food for the people, that when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, they may punish them for all the disgraceful acts that they have committed in Israel." 11 Thus all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united as one man. 12 Then the tribes of Israel sent men through the entire tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness that has taken place among you? 13 "Now then, deliver up the men, the worthless fellows in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove this wickedness from Israel." But the sons of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel. 14 And the sons of Benjamin gathered from the cities to Gibeah, to go out to battle against the sons of Israel. 15 And from the cities on that day the sons of Benjamin were numbered, 26,000 men who draw the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah who were numbered, 700 choice men. 16 Out of all these people 700 choice men were left-handed; each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss. 17 Then the men of Israel besides Benjamin were numbered, 400,000 men who draw the sword; all these were men of war. 18 Now the sons of Israel arose, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God, and said, "Who shall go up first for us to battle against the sons of Benjamin?" Then the Lord said, "Judah shall go up first." 19 So the sons of Israel arose in the morning and camped against Gibeah. 20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel arrayed for battle against them at Gibeah.

Tribes recognize the sin of another...

- Observations/questions/comments?
- Sons of Israel asked for the "worthless" / "wicked" men
 - Belial – influentially wicked – their actions lead others to sin.
 - PSA 101:3-4 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.
- In what verse do they decide to go to war?
- Decision to fight / Planning / Ask Benjamin for explanation and guilty parties / Ask God for direction
 - What's wrong with this picture?
- What did they ask of the Lord? Response from the Lord?
- Why wouldn't Benjamin turn over the guilty men?
 - Loyalty to family?
 - Bought in to Canaanite message of tolerance?
 - Maybe they're involved in this type of sin as well...

JDG 20:19-48 So the sons of Israel arose in the morning and camped against Gibeah. 20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel arrayed for battle against them at Gibeah. 21 Then the sons of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and felled to the ground on that day 22,000 men of Israel. 22 But the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and arrayed for battle again in the place where they had arrayed themselves the first day. 23 And the sons of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until evening, and inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall we again draw near for battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin?" And the Lord said, "Go up against him." 24 Then the sons of Israel came against the sons of Benjamin the second day. 25 And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah the second day and felled to the ground again 18,000 men of the sons of Israel; all these drew the sword. 26 Then all the sons of Israel and all the people went up and came to Bethel and wept; thus they remained there before the Lord and fasted that day until evening. And they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. 27 And the sons of Israel inquired of the Lord (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, 28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, Aaron's son, stood before it to minister in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the Lord said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand." 29 So Israel set men in ambush around Gibeah. 30 And the sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day and arrayed themselves against Gibeah, as at other times. 31 And the sons of Benjamin went out against the people and were drawn away from the city, and they began to strike and kill some of the people, as at other times, on 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 sons of Benjamin said, "They are struck down before us, as at the first." But the sons of Israel said, "Let us flee that we may draw them away from the city to the highways." 33 Then all the men of Israel arose from their place and arrayed themselves at Baal-tamar; and the men of Israel in ambush broke out of their place, even out of Maareh-geba. 34 When ten thousand choice men from all Israel came against Gibeah, the battle became fierce; but Benjamin did not know that disaster was close to them. 35 And the Lord struck Benjamin before Israel, so that the sons of Israel destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day, all who draw the sword. 36 ¶ So the sons of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. When the men of Israel gave ground to Benjamin because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah, 37 the men in ambush hurried and rushed against Gibeah; the men in ambush also deployed and struck all the city with the edge of the sword. 38 Now the appointed sign between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they should make a great cloud of smoke rise from the city. 39 Then the men of Israel turned in the battle, and Benjamin began to strike and kill about thirty 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, Benjamin looked behind them; and behold, the whole city was going up in smoke to heaven. 41 Then the men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were terrified; for they saw that disaster was close to them. 42 Therefore, they turned their backs before the men of Israel toward the direction of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them while those who came out of the cities destroyed them in the midst of them. 43 They surrounded Benjamin, pursued them without rest and trod them down opposite Gibeah toward the east. 44 Thus 18,000 men of Benjamin fell; all these were valiant warriors.

45 The rest turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, but they caught 5,000 of them on the highways and overtook them at Gidom and killed 2,000 of them. 46 So all of Benjamin who fell that day were 25,000 men who draw the sword; all these were valiant warriors. 47 But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they remained at the rock of Rimmon four months. 48 The men of Israel then turned back against the sons of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, both the entire city with the cattle and all that they found; they also set on fire all the cities which they found.

Tribes remove the sin of another...

- Observations/questions/comments?
- Why unsuccessful on day 1 & 2 yet successful on day 3?
 - Poor strategy, poor questions of the Lord
- What changed?
 - Lost confidence in their numbers (no longer trusting 40:1 odds)
 - Everyone approached the Lord! (not just a few)
 - Fasting & offerings = humbling, confessing their own sin
 - Strategy changed - Moved to destroy city w/fire (not just get the guilty guys), also included entire area Baal-tamar, Maareh-geba
- Why are these differences important?
 - Recognized God as the power source
 - Dealt with the problem - all-encompassing
 - This is what God required!! DEU 13:12-16
- Why repeat the details in 36-48?
 - Sounds like Ai all over again...

DEU 13:12 "If you hear in one of your cities, which the Lord your God is giving you to live in, anyone saying that 13 some worthless men have gone out from among you and have seduced the inhabitants of their city, saying, ' Let us go and serve other gods' (whom you have not known), 14 then you shall investigate and search out and inquire thoroughly. And if it is true and the matter established that this abomination has been done among you, 15 you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it and all that is in it and its cattle with the edge of the sword. 16 "Then you shall gather all its booty into the middle of its open square and burn the city and all its booty with fire as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God; and it shall be a ruin forever. It shall never be rebuilt. 17 "And nothing from that which is put under the ban shall cling to your hand, in order that the Lord may turn from His burning anger and show mercy to you, and have compassion on you and make you increase, just as He has sworn to your fathers,

Tribes remove the sin of another...

- Lessons for us?
 - Be careful in our decision making process
 - Don't make the decision first then ask the Lord for some indication
 - Ask the Lord FIRST & wait upon Him -> ask wisely
 - Beware of acting as God's agent with sin on your own account. (Log, In Private, GAL 6:1)
 - When dealing with sin, take strong action – careful not to leave any aspect around