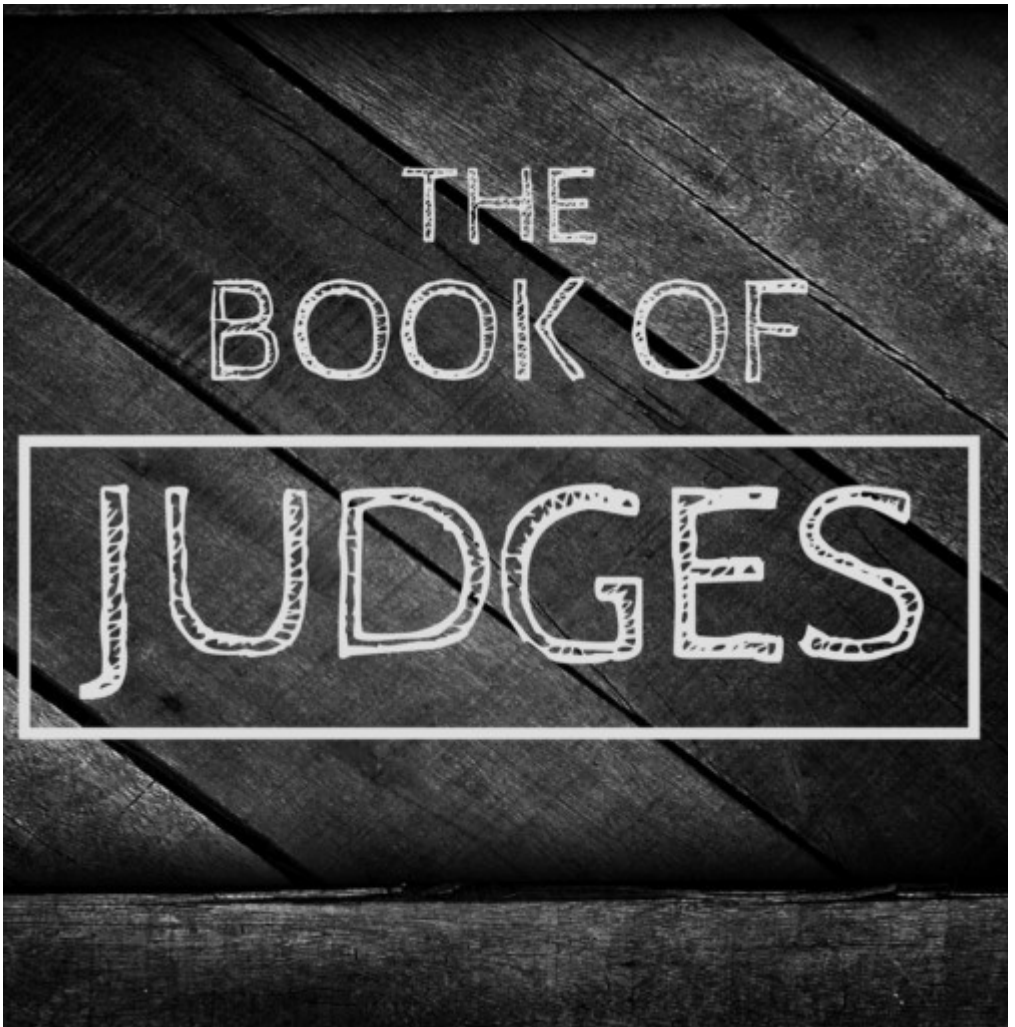


# Let's Worship God

6th-11th June 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## Monday - Judges 20:1-7 - A Dreadful Tale

Last week we read of the murder of the Levite's concubine by the men of Gibeah, following which the Levite cut her body into twelve parts and sent a part to each of the tribes of Israel. Shocked by such a gruesome sign, the people gather a few miles north of Gibeah at Mizpah to hear the tale straight from the mouth of the offended Levite. The accusation the Levite makes against Gibeah is not merely that a few ruffians unhampered by the local authorities committed this crime, but that it was the leaders of Gibeah who carried out such a heinous act. Having made his case that an abomination has been committed in Israel, he asks the advice of the tribes concerning what should be done.

Notably, the first verse of chapter 20 gives us an indication of just how profound an effect the grisly dismemberment of the Levite's concubine has had on Israel. We are told that the people of Israel "assembled as one man." This includes, as verse two tells us, four-hundred thousand fighting men from all the tribes other than Benjamin. Not only has this shocking event united the majority of Israel, it has caused them to return to the LORD, for they "assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah." At arguably the most depraved time in Israel's history (at least so far), there is a seeking of the LORD's will by the masses.

Modern news media allow us the ability to learn of many shocking events daily from natural disasters to wicked crimes. Particularly shocking are the murderous acts of terrorists. Many may ask, "Why would God allow such evil to occur?" One answer may be "To shock His people into seeking Him in repentance."

## Questions

1. How did the tribes of Israel react to the dismemberment of the Levite's concubine?
2. What was the result of this shocking news?
3. How might the LORD be using the shocking events of our own day?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that people may seek the LORD in the midst of tragedy.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 115 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 20:7-11 - A Grim Determination**

Having related his account of the events, the offended Levite asks for the advice of the assembled tribes. Hearing the dreadful tale has galvanized the people of Israel. We are told they "arose as one man," - that is, they unanimously agree to the answer they give the Levite. They determine that no one will return home until the matter has been settled and justice has been visited on the wicked men who carried out this heinous crime. Sending one man in ten for supplies, the rest prepare to assault Gibeah, if necessary.

By committing to this plan, the Israelites are determined to purge this evil from Israel (see verse 13). However, Gibeah is hardly the only place in Israel where evil has occurred. Judges 17:6, 18:1, and 19:1 have indicated that the LORD's rule as King of Israel was rejected while every man did what was right in his own eyes. It is a good thing that the people now seek the LORD in this matter, but the book will end with Judges 21:25 reiterating "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." The problem is far bigger than one town, and its solution will take more than the destruction of these criminals.

It is good to seek justice in society, and it is appropriate for civil governments to use the power of the sword to punish evil, but the evil we see in the world around us should also cause us to examine ourselves that we might constantly be killing the sin in our own hearts, as well.

## **Questions**

1. What is the plan the Israelites determine to carry out?
2. How do we know the problem is bigger than just what has happened at Gibeah?
3. What should our reaction to evil in our own time be?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the Lord will destroy evil in the world and in our hearts.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 116 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 20:12-17 - Refusing to Be Reasonable**

The other tribes of Israel have gathered in the land of Benjamin and have come to the town of Gibeah to see justice done. Before attacking the city, they send messengers throughout Benjamin, asking the tribe to surrender the wicked men (and thus participate in the carrying out of justice). However, the Benjaminites refuse to be reasonable. Without care for righteousness or decency, they foolishly move to protect the wrongdoers. The result will be civil war in Israel, with 26,700 Benjaminites (including 700 left-handed men who were skilled with the sling) against 400,000 from the other tribes.

We often instinctively desire to protect those near and dear to us, even if they have acted foolishly or wickedly. We may be tempted to turn a blind eye to the sins of our loved-ones. However, I Corinthians 13:6 tells us that love "does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." Certainly, we should be patient with the failings of others, remembering that we, too, are weak sinners who, but for God's grace, would continue under condemnation, but our love for others must never become an excuse to rejoice in sin, undermine justice or ignore the truth.

## **Questions**

1. What do the tribes of Israel do before attacking Gibeah?
2. What is Benjamin's answer?
3. How might we show love for other sinners? What should we not do?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would never rejoice in wrongdoing, but would rejoice with the Truth.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 117 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 20:18 - Inquiring of the LORD

Since the Benjaminites have gathered for battle in order to protect Gibeah, a civil war is now inevitable if justice is to be visited upon the evildoers. Realizing this, the people of Israel inquire of God. In those days (as we will see in verses 27-28), the Ark of the Covenant and the priests who ministered before it were at Bethel, just a few miles north of Gibeah. So it is to Bethel that the people go to hear from the LORD, by means of His priests, how they are to conduct themselves in this war. The high priest likely consulted the Urim and Thummim. In Exodus 28:30 and Leviticus 8:8 we find that the Urim and Thummim were objects (maybe stones or jewels) attached to the ephod (breast-piece) of the high priest's garments. In Numbers 27:21, the LORD indicates that His will may be discerned by means of these objects.

As He did in Judges 1:2, He instructs the tribe of Judah to go up to battle first. This is likely because of Judah's leadership role declared by Jacob in his prophecy in Genesis 49:10. It is interesting to note that in a few generations, King Saul will be from Gibeah while his successor, King David will be from the tribe of Judah.

Today, the Church does not have Urim and Thummim to determine the LORD's will in a given situation. However, we have the full counsel of His written Word, which reveals to us what the Old Covenant saints longed to see (Matthew 13:17) and which is a more sure Word than even if we were to hear a voice from heaven (II Peter 1:16-21). We discern God's will by learning His Word and applying it to our lives.

### Questions

1. Where do the Israelites go to inquire of God?
2. Why would they go there?
3. Which tribe does He tell to go up to battle first? Why is this significant?
4. How do we discern God's will today?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the wisdom rightly to apply God's Word to our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 118 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 20:19-23 - Civil War

The LORD has commanded that Judah go up to battle first against the Benjaminites. So, Israel moves against Benjamin at Gibeah and the battle lines are drawn. Though gravely outnumbered, the Benjaminites take the fight to their brother Israelites, issuing forth from Gibeah to attack. Their onslaught is successful and twenty-two thousand Israelites are killed.

We might think the Israelites would be discouraged by this heavy loss, but they take courage and draw up the battle lines again. Before continuing the war, however, they weep before the LORD and inquire of Him whether they should go up to battle the next day. The Israelites have two reasons to weep. First, they have taken heavy losses. Second, as they acknowledge, the enemies they are fighting are their brothers. Nevertheless, they obey the LORD and prepare to fight again.

It is often hard for us to continue on in the face of adversity. As we seek to obey the LORD's revealed will, we often encounter obstacles, hardships, and setbacks. These afflictions are not a sign that God does not want us to continue, but that we must persevere in obedience no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, trusting that He will cause all things to work together for our good (Romans 8:28).

## Questions

1. What happened on the first day of battle?
2. Does Israel's loss mean they should quit?
3. Do difficulties mean we should stop obeying God's revealed will?

## Prayer Points

1. Ask God to keep us faithful to persevere even through great hardship.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part 1 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 20:23-28 - Loss for Israel**

Though Israel lost the first day of battle against Benjamin, the LORD commands them to go up against the Benjaminites again the next day. It is noteworthy that in verse 23 He does not assure them of victory. When the Israelites obey, Benjamin comes out to fight and slaughters another eighteen thousand Israelites. Israel has now lost a total of forty-thousand men.

The entire army then moves to Bethel where they weep and fast before the LORD, offering burnt offerings and peace offerings at the sanctuary. Once more, they inquire of the LORD as to whether they should return to battle against Benjamin or give up and go home. This time God assures them of victory when they go up against Benjamin again.

Some might ask, "If God intended to give Israel the victory, why did He allow them to lose the first two days?" As we have noted before, one reason is to teach Israel perseverance. Another is that He is using this civil war, as He has used other afflictions in Israel's history recorded in this book, as a means to correct His wayward people. Israel has sunk into great depths of depravity and idolatry in this period. The Israelites must live with the consequences of their earlier choices, including this tragic war with their brothers. As we have noted numerous times while studying Judges, the LORD is sovereign. He is using this conflict, which is the direct result of heinous sin, to chastise His people. Israel's losses are a part of God's plan.

## **Questions**

1. When Israel fights Benjamin a second day, what happens?
2. Why would God order Israel to battle for two days straight, but not give them victory either day?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

## **Memory Verse**

"Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah."  
Judges 20:1

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part 2 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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