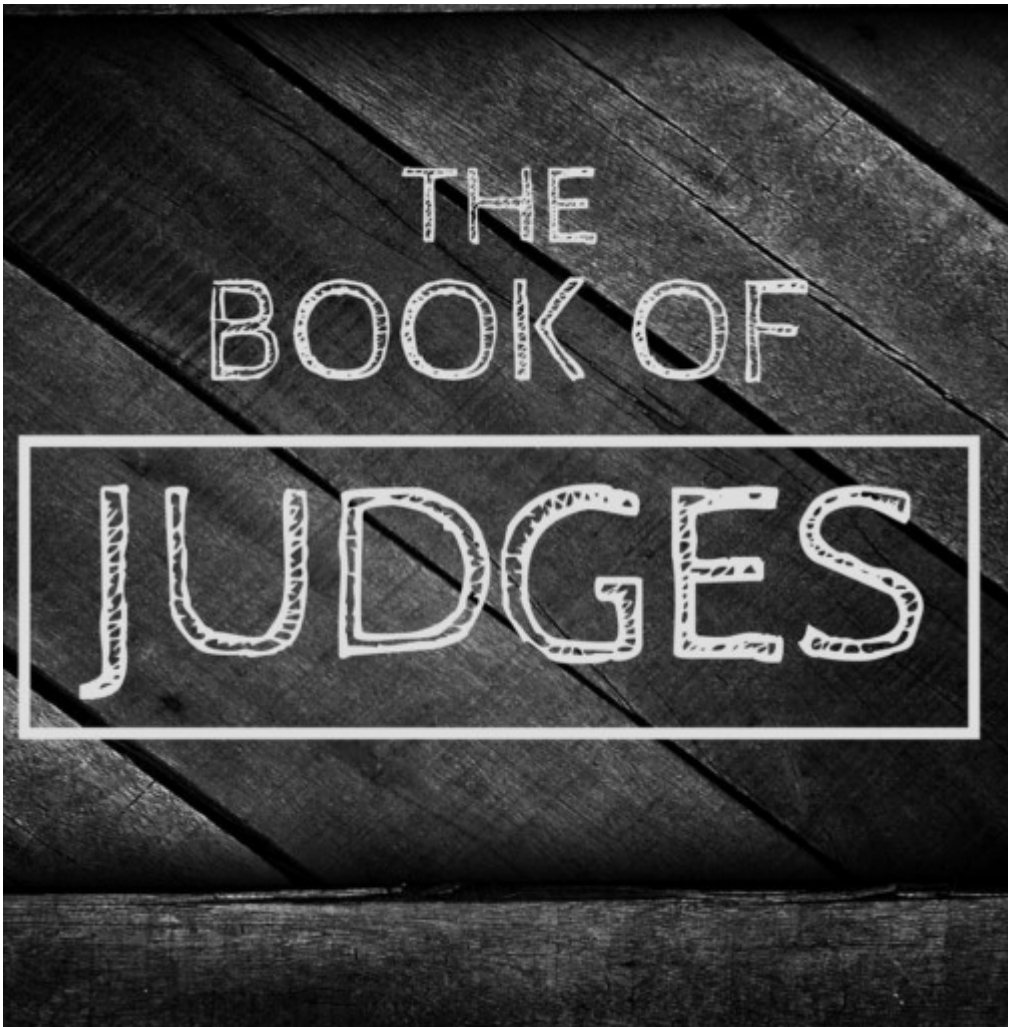


# Let's Worship God

13th-18th June 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 20:29-35 - Benjamin Defeated**

The other tribes of Israel have been defeated in battle for two days straight by the tribe of Benjamin, but the LORD has commanded "Go up, for tomorrow I will give them into your hand." Therefore, the Israelites prepare for a third day of battle. This time, instead of meeting Benjamin head on, as on the two previous days, the Israelites use a clever plan. Ten thousand men hide just west of the nearby town of Geba. When the army of Israel comes against Gibeah, the army of Benjamin issues forth against them as before. The Israelites retreat before them, luring them to battle out in the highways and countryside distant from Gibeah. Meanwhile, the ten thousand men in hiding attack the city, as the rest of the Israelite army engages the Benjaminites in battle. Caught between these two forces and uncertain whether to fight the main body of Israel's army or to move back to aid Gibeah, the men of Benjamin are soundly defeated. 25,100 of the men of Benjamin die in this battle. As the entire army of Benjamin before the war began counted 26,700 men, this is a devastating defeat.

Importantly, Judges 20:35 reminds us of who is in control through all of this. The Israelites may have put a clever plan into practice (just as Gideon had before, for instance), but it is the LORD who has given this victory. He defeated Benjamin before Israel that day. Likewise, we may engage in clever strategies as we seek to do God's will in our lives individually and in the Church, but apart from the LORD, our plans will come to nothing. "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

### **Questions**

1. What clever plan do the Israelites use against Benjamin?
2. How many Benjaminites are killed in the battle?
3. Who really accomplished the victory for Israel?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God will grant that our plans may be in accord with His revealed will and that He would bless such godly plans for His glory.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 20:36-46 - The Slaughter of Benjamin**

Yesterday, we saw an overview of the third day of battle between Benjamin and the other tribes of Israel in which 25,100 Benjaminites were slain. Today, we find the details of the battle laid out for us and learn how so many lost their lives. (This is a common feature in ancient historical accounts, in which an overview is given before the details are explained. For example, Genesis 2:4-25 is not a different account of the creation of mankind, but merely a detailed explanation of what is covered in Genesis 1:26-27).

When the army of Israel arrays itself for a third day of battle, the Benjaminites issue from Gibeah as before. The Israelites seem once again to be defeated before Benjamin, as they begin to retreat. As Benjamin pursues the retreating army, the ten thousand men in hiding rush upon the city and begin putting the inhabitants to the sword, setting fire to the city. When the Benjaminite army sees the smoke rising from Gibeah, they turn back to aid the city. At the signal of the smoke rising, the men of Israel halt their retreat and chase down and slaughter the men of Benjamin whose backs are turned to them. Caught between two Israelite forces, eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fall before the rest turn and flee toward the Rock of Rimmon about four miles east of Bethel. Five-thousand more fall on the way before they are caught at Gidom, where another two-thousand are slain.

We may find it difficult to understand why God would ordain such events, but as we read on in the books that follow Judges, we find that these tragic events set the stage for David, whose kingship sets the stage for the coming of Christ. Likewise, we can trust that the LORD will cause the tragic events of our time to bring about a good outcome.

### **Questions**

1. What happens on the third day of battle between Israel and Benjamin?
2. Can we trust that God uses such tragic events for good purposes?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to build up our confidence in Him, as we learn to trust that He will cause tragic events to have a good outcome.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 4 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 20:46-48 - Six Hundred Survivors**

Yesterday we read that eighteen thousand men of Benjamin died in the initial battle and pursuit as they fled toward Nohah. Another five thousand were killed on the highways. Finally two thousand were killed at Gidom, bringing the total to 25,000 men of Benjamin killed in one day of battle. This is a round number. Judges 20:35 gives the more specific number of 25,100. Another thousand were probably killed in the battles on the two previous days. Thus, of the original force of 26,700 men of Benjamin, only six-hundred remain. When these survivors make it to the refuge of the Rock of Rimmon, the Israelite army turns its wrath upon the rest of the tribe of Benjamin. Instead of punishing the wicked people of Gibeah, only, they put every city and town of Benjamin to the sword, killing every human being and animal and setting fire to every town. The six hundred men holed up at Rimmon are the only survivors of this tribe of Israel.

While we understand that the LORD superintends all events and that nothing can happen without His having ordained it to come to pass, He is not morally responsible for the sinful decisions of His creatures. The people of Israel set out to see justice done upon the evildoers at Gibeah. When the people of Benjamin stand in their way, they forget their initial purpose and turn their ire upon the entire tribe. God will use even such a tragedy as this for His good purposes, but that does not excuse the fact that the Israelites have acted impulsively and foolishly. They have nearly destroyed an entire tribe of their fellow Israelites. Likewise, we may trust that God will work out His good purposes no matter what foolish decisions we may make, but let us avoid such unwise actions and seek to obey the LORD's revealed will.

### **Questions**

1. How many men of Benjamin came out to fight originally?
2. What do the Israelites do to the tribe of Benjamin following the battle?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God would help us to obey His revealed will.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 21:1-7 - A Serious Problem

In chapter 20, we read that the Israelites gathered at Mizpah and swore to punish the evildoers of Gibeah. Today, we learn that they have also sworn not to give any of their daughters in marriage to the men of Benjamin. Sadly, their rash behavior toward the remainder of Benjamin after the battle has left only six-hundred survivors of the tribe, all of whom are men. With no wives for these men, the tribe of Benjamin will cease to exist. According to their vow, no Israelite who gathered at Mizpah may give his daughter in marriage to a man of Benjamin, and there are no women of Benjamin left. The tribe of Benjamin appears doomed to die, and the other tribes of Israel mourn, recognizing that their nation is greatly weakened by this loss.

Here we see the kinds of consequences we can face if we act impulsively or overreact to a problem we encounter. Galatians 5:22 tells us that one of the fruits of the spirit is self-control, and Proverbs 13:16 commends acting only after we have thought things through. The Israelites' actions after their victory have gone far beyond their original intention of seeing justice done at Gibeah. Coupled with their rash vow not to give their daughters in marriage to men of Benjamin, they may well have brought about the destruction of an entire tribe. Let us be careful to think our course of action through before we act, lest we create many unintended consequences.

### Questions

1. How many women are left in the tribe of Benjamin?
2. Can any of the Israelites who fought them give their daughters in marriage to men of Benjamin?
3. Why ought we to think things through before we act?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will grant us the fruit of self-control
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 6 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 21:8-15 - A Disturbing Solution

Yesterday, we noted that the Israelites have a problem. They have destroyed all of the tribe of Benjamin except for six-hundred men. Tragically, they have vowed not to give any of their daughters in marriage to the men of Benjamin. With no other Israelite women to marry, the tribe of Benjamin will cease to exist. However, a disturbing solution presents itself. The Israelites have also vowed to destroy any group of Israelites who did not send men to deal with the problem of Gibeah. When it is learned that no one has come from Jabesh-Gilead (a town on the east side of the Jordan River) they send an army of 12,000 to destroy the town, killing everyone except the unmarried young women. Four-hundred young women of Jabesh-Gilead are thus forced into marriage with men of Benjamin after witnessing the slaughter of their hometown.

Nowhere do the Scriptures tell us that this was done with God's approval. In fact, words that would indicate that the people sought the LORD's will in this, such as we find before and during the civil war in Judges 20:1, 18, 23, and 28, are conspicuously absent from this passage. Once again, we see that "everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Moreover, we see just how tragic, disturbing, and out of hand events can become if we do not first consider what God has told us in His Word is pleasing to Him before we take action.

## Questions

1. How do the Israelites try to solve the problem that there are no wives for the 600 men of Benjamin?
2. Was this done with God's approval?
3. What ought we to do before we take action?

## Prayer Points

1. Ask God to help us learn and remember His Word, that our actions may be pleasing to Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 7 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 21:13-15 - A Breach in the Tribes of Israel**

Over the last two weeks, we have read of the great tragedy of a civil war in Israel. The people who have been claimed by the LORD as a nation unto Him have gone to war among themselves. The result has been the near destruction of one of the tribes of Israel at the hands of their brothers. After their rash behavior, the people of the other tribes make peace with the remaining six hundred men of Benjamin and have compassion on them. At the same time, they recognize the sovereignty of God, acknowledging that it is the LORD who has made this breach in Israel.

Indeed, these events, ultimately, are the doing of the LORD. As we have noted before, He is not morally responsible for the sinful choices of men, but He overrules events so that even those sinful choices are used for His good purposes. He has used this civil war and the near destruction of one of the tribes of Israel to punish wickedness and to chastise His children, bringing them back to Himself. Israel's spiritual and moral decline has resulted in these tragic event, but God is using them to call His people to repentance and to remind them of what happens when they seek to do what is right in their own eyes, rather than doing what He has revealed is right.

### **Questions**

1. How does the war end between Israel and Benjamin? Do the other tribes make peace with the remaining Benjaminites?
2. Why did God allow this civil war in Israel?

### **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**

"And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel." Judges 21:15

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part 8 - 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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