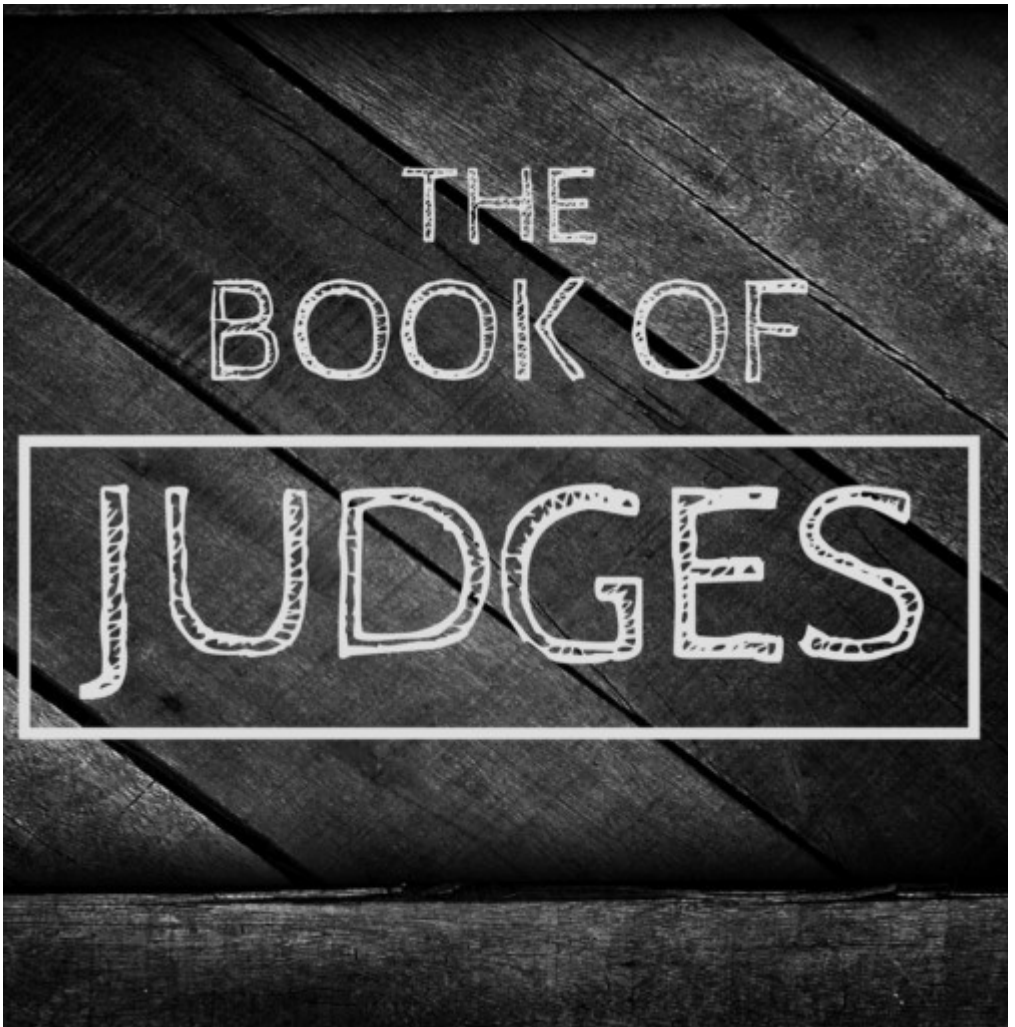


# Let's Worship God

20th-25th June 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 21:13-18 - A Problem Not Yet Solved**

The civil war in Israel has left only 600 men of Benjamin alive. The Israelites who fought them have vowed that they will not give their daughters in marriage to the Benjaminites. Wives have been found for 400 of these survivors by destroying the town of Jabesh-Gilead and forcing the young women into marriage with them, but that leaves 200 men of Benjamin without wives, making it harder for the tribe to recover. The Israelites recognize that their disturbing solution has not completely solved the problem, asking "What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?" There is still a great danger that this weakened tribe may "be blotted out from Israel."

In these events we again see the dangers of making rash vows. We also see how out of touch with God's Word the Israelites were. As we observed in regard to Jephthah, if keeping a vow causes us to sin, we must not keep that vow, but must be ready to accept the consequences of not keeping it. Furthermore, Numbers 15:22-31 sets forth the appropriate sacrifices for unintentional sins. It would have been wiser of Israel to acknowledge their sin in their rash vow, repent and make the appropriate sacrifices rather than to solve their problem through further (and unnecessary) violence. This is yet another result of every man doing what is right in his own eyes. Rather than doing what is right in our own eyes, let us live by God's Word, avoiding rash vows and seeking solutions to our problems that are consistent with His revealed will.

## **Questions**

1. What problem remains after the destruction of Jabesh-Gilead?
2. What might the Israelites have done differently in regard to their rash vow?
3. Where must we seek solutions to our problems?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the wisdom to find the solution to our problems that are in keeping with God's Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 9 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 21:19-22 - Another Disturbing Solution**

The Israelites have vowed not to give their daughters in marriage to the men of Benjamin, yet after the destruction of Jabesh-Gilead and the forced marriage of the young women of that town to the survivors, 200 Benjaminites remain without wives. The solution the Israelites propose is as disturbing as the earlier one. They encourage the men of Benjamin to capture and force the young women of Shiloh into marriage, taking them by force as they come out of the town to dance during a feast of the LORD. They believe that by allowing the Benjaminites to take these women by force, they will have kept their rash vow not to "give" any of their daughters in marriage to them.

To their sins of making a rash vow and of using and encouraging violence in order to force women into marriage, the Israelites add the sin of deceit. In Matthew 5:33-36, Jesus warns of the foolishness of trying to deceive God by twisting our words. God is not fooled when we use double-speak or otherwise rationalize or excuse wrongdoing by manipulating our words or the words of others. In addition to avoiding rash vows, we must let our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no," and not "swear deceitfully" (Psalm 24:4).

## **Questions**

1. How do the Israelites solve the problem of finding wives for the remaining 200 men of Benjamin?
2. What is deceitful about this solution? What other problem is there with this solution?
3. In addition to avoiding rash vows, what must we consider when making oaths or vows?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to help us not to swear deceitfully, to avoid rash vows and to be honest in keeping our righteous vows.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 10 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 21:23-24 - Wives for the Rest**

Following the advice of their Israelite brethren, the men of Benjamin go to Shiloh and hide themselves in the vineyards at the time of a feast. When the young women of the town come out to dance in celebration the men of Benjamin rush them and carry off enough women to be the brides of the remaining 200 Benjaminites who do not have wives. Once again, hundreds of women are taken by force and married to the survivors of Benjamin. After nearly obliterating an entire tribe of their nation, forcing 400 women of Jabesh-Gilead into marriage, and encouraging the capture of the young women of Shiloh, the armies of Israel return to their homes.

Israel has sunk so low, morally and spiritually, that not only do they turn a blind eye to the injustice of forcing women into marriage against their and their families' wills, they encourage and actively participate in such wrongdoing. What began as a demand for justice in the case of the Levite's concubine ended with injustice on a broader scale and the near-destruction of one of the tribes of Israel.

At the same time, we see that God has sovereignly caused the Israelites' faithlessness to return upon them. He has used these circumstances, including the foolish decisions and sinful desires and actions of the people of Israel, to bring about His good purpose of disciplining His people and calling them to repentance. Over the next few days, we will consider a few of the ways that the LORD has been pleased to use these events for His glory and our good.

## **Questions**

1. What are some things we see in Judges that show Israel's deep spiritual and moral decline?
2. For what purposes might God have allowed this civil war?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God that He uses even our foolish decisions and sinful desires and actions for His good purposes.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 11 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 21:25 - The Underlying Problem

The disturbing events at the end of the Book of Judges show us just how low the Israelites have sunk in this period. Idolatry has become prevalent. The Levites are not supported by the tithes of the people. At least one Levite, Jonathan, is willing to engage in false religion for profit. The men of Gibeah act like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-11) whom God destroyed for their great wickedness. Rather than bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice, the people of Israel nearly destroy the entire tribe of Benjamin. Remorseful at their acts and seeking a way around their rash vows, they force 600 women into marriage with the surviving Benjaminites. Clearly the Israelites of every tribe have acted foolishly and sinfully.

These sins are disturbing, individually, but there is a serious underlying problem. That problem is restated in today's Scripture: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." In Jeremiah 17:9 we learn that the heart of man is wicked and deceitful. If we do what is right in our own eyes, and our hearts are wicked and deceitful, then that which seems right to us will often be evil.

Through these events, the LORD has exposed the foolishness of rebellion against Him. When we think that we can and should do what is right in our own eyes, rather than doing what He has revealed to be good, disaster upon disaster will be the result. Rejecting God's Kingship brings about a downward spiral of depravity that eventually creates such instability in society that heinous acts, strife and bloodshed become the norm. May we honor God's right to rule us and seek to live in obedience to His Word, and not do that which merely seems right to us.

### Questions

1. What kinds of sins do we see at the end of the Book of Judges?
2. What is the real underlying problem?
3. What has the LORD exposed through these events?

### Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He has exposed the foolishness of doing what is right in our own eyes.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 12 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 21:25 - The Stage Is Set

Another way the LORD has been pleased to use the events recorded at the end of the Book of Judges is to set the stage for the establishment of the kingship in Israel. Unwilling to submit to God's Kingship, the Israelites will demand a king like the nations around them. The LORD will give them Saul, a Benjaminite of Gibeah whose first action as king will be to aid the town of Jabesh-Gilead (suggesting that he is a descendant of one of the women of that town who was forced into marriage with a surviving man of Benjamin). After giving them the kind of king they thought they wanted, the LORD will next give Israel a king after His own heart, David, who will be God's fulfillment of His promise in Deuteronomy 17:14-15 to give Israel an appropriate king of His choice.

The Book of Judges was written in the days of King David or one of his descendants. Thus we can see that the words, "In those days there was no king in Israel," would serve as a warning to Israel not to ignore God's authority mediated through the king of David's line whom He had given them. However, the LORD, Himself, was the true King of Israel (as David will acknowledge in Psalm 5:2, for example).

We see these two streams of kingship - that of God and that of His chosen human king - coming together in the Person of Jesus Christ, who, according to His human heritage is the rightful King of Israel descended from David, and who is the King of Creation because He is God, Himself. Furthermore, as the Person of the Godhead who humbled Himself and took the form of a servant, He has been exalted (Philippians 2:4-11) and given to the Church as the Head of all things (Ephesians 1:22). That He is the Ruler of all on behalf of the Church is known as the Mediatorial Kingship of Jesus Christ. May we be grateful that the LORD has so governed the events of history that He has given us such a King.

### Questions

1. Who is the ultimate King of Israel? In whom do the two streams of kingship, God's and His chosen human king, come together?
2. What is the Mediatorial Kingship of Jesus Christ?

### Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He has given Christ to the Church as the Head of all.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119: Part 13 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 21:25 - Review of Judges**

The Book of Judges began at the end of Joshua's life when the Land of Canaan had been apportioned to the tribes of Israel, but had not yet been fully conquered. As the tribes moved to occupy their allotted lands a pattern soon developed: a generation would forget the LORD; He would discipline them (usually through oppression by their enemies, but sometimes through civil wars or other calamities); they would cry out for deliverance; He would send a judge to rescue them; they would be (more or less) faithful to Him until the generation who had been rescued had passed away; the next generation would forget the LORD; the cycle would begin again with each generation becoming more depraved than the last. This downward spiral reached its lowest point with the events recorded in the last several chapters of the book. Throughout this there were several appearances of the Angel of the LORD - God, Himself, appearing as His own Messenger. For several reasons we understand this to be an appearing of the Son of God before His birth as Jesus of Nazareth.

The Book of Judges teaches the themes of God's holiness and sovereignty. His holiness is seen in that He punishes the wicked for their sins and disciplines His children when they go astray from Him. His sovereignty is seen in how He overrules events to bring about His good purposes (even using human folly and sin to His good ends), shows His strength in human weakness (using flawed men such as Jephthah and Samson and the few and the weak such as Gideon's army or Jael), and demonstrates His rightful Kingship over Israel (and the foolishness of disregarding that Kingship to do what is right in one's own eyes). We can be very grateful that God has given us the Book of Judges from which we can learn so much

## **Questions**

1. What pattern do we find in the Book of Judges?
2. How do we see God's holiness in this book?
3. How do we see His sovereignty?

## **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**

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part 14 - 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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