

The Structure of Judges

Judges: Between Conquest and Kingdom

1:1-3:6, Prolog

1:1-2:5, **Social** Disintegration

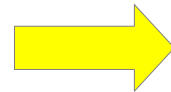
2:6-3:6, **Spiritual** Departure

3:7-16:31, The Judges

3:7-11, Othniel *good marriage*

3:12-32, Ehud and Shamgar
messages, fords

4:1-5:31, Deborah and Barak
woman breaks skull of villain



6:1-8:32, Gideon

8:33-10:5, Abimelech, Tola, Jair
woman breaks skull of villain

10:6-12:15, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon
messages, fords

13:1-16:31, Samson *bad marriages*

17:1-21:25, Epilog and Diagnosis

17:1-18:31, **Spiritual** Weakness—Micah's Idol

19:1-21:25, **Social** Strife—Civil War

Micah's Levite and the Structure of Judges

Prologd	A: Fighting	Israel Fights Enemies (1:1-2:5)
	B: Idolatry	Israel Faces Idolatry (2:6-3:6)
Center of Cycles	B: Idolatry	Gideon Faces Idolatry (6:1-32)
	A: Fighting	Gideon Fights Enemies (6:33-7:25)
	A: Fighting	Gideon Fights Israel (8:1-21)
	B: Idolatry	Gideon Forges Idolatry (8:22-32)
Epilog	B: Idolatry	Israel Forges Idolatry (17:1-18:31)
	A: Fighting	Israel Fights Israel (19:1-21-25)

Other insights from this history:

- Two idols → Baal and Asherah/Ashterah (2:13; 3:7; 10:6)
- Faithfulness of Samson's parents (they didn't move north!)
- Samson's solo heroism

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17:1-21:25, Epilog and Diagnosis

17:1-18:31, **Spiritual** Weakness: **Dan**

17:1-5, An Irregular Sanctuary

17:6, **Refrain: No King**

17:7-13, An Irregular Levite

18:1a, **Refrain: No King**

18:1b-32, An Irregular Tribe

19:1-21:25, **Social** Strife: **Benjamin**

19:1a, **Refrain: No King**

19:2b-21:24, Reconciliation, Rape, Revenge

21:25, **Refrain: No King**

The Epilog's Refrain

No king (= the Lord) in Israel

Every man did that which was **right in his own eyes**

Recall 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1

Doing what is Right in the Eyes ...

Deut. 12:8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man **whatsoever is right in his own eyes.**

Exploring the Options

	Right	Evil
Lord	Dt 12:25, 38; 13:8, ...	Judg. 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1, ...
Man	Dt 12:8; Jdg 17:6; 21:25, ...	1 Sm 29:7

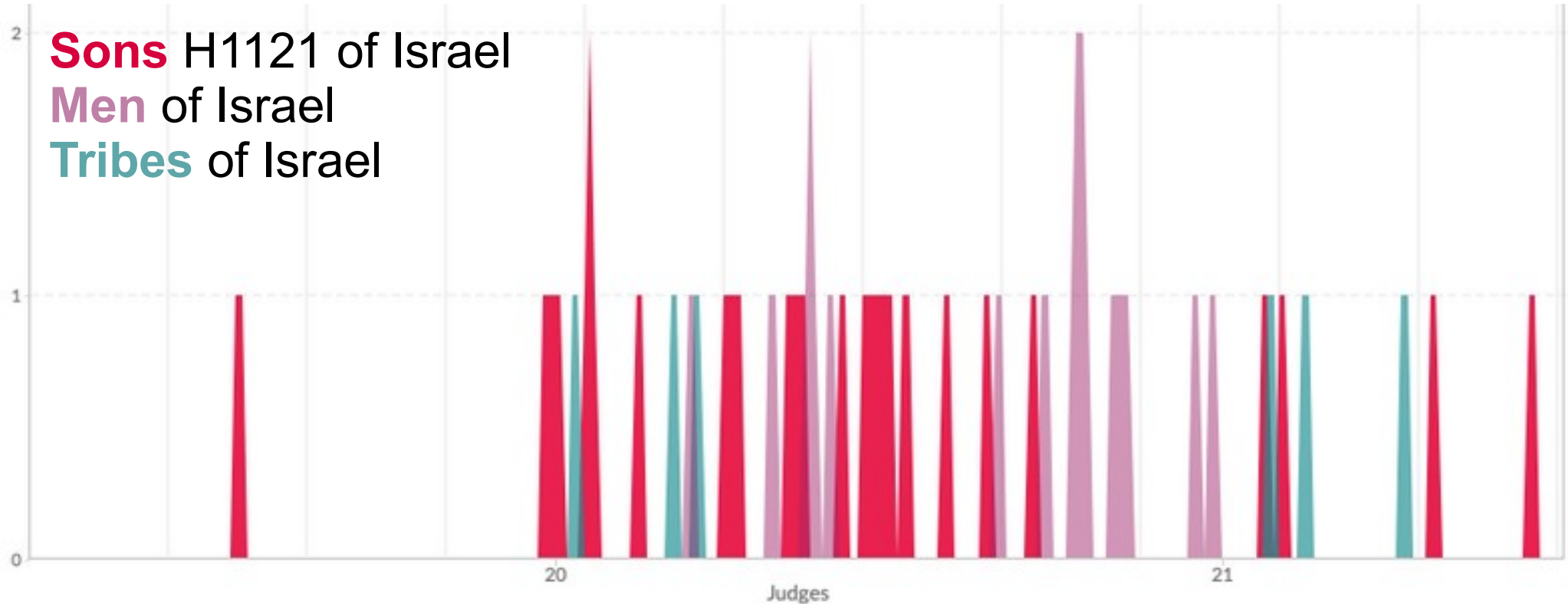
Deut. 12:25 Thou shalt not eat it [the blood]; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do **that which is right in the sight of the LORD.**

Deut. 12:28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest **that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.**

Deut. 13:18 When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do **that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.**

Designations of Israel

19, The Levite & his Concubine		20, The War with Benjamin				21, Wives for Benjamin	
A Family Quarrel	Rape of the Concubine	Tribal Council	First Battle	Second Battle	Third Battle	Tribal Council	Rape of Jabesh Gilead & Shiloh



Judg. 20:11 So all the **men of Israel** were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. 12 And the **tribes of Israel** sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you? 13 Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the **children of Israel**:

More than just “Children of Israel”

“**Tribes of Israel**”--corporate responsibility

1Cor. 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, **as though I were present**, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when ye are gathered together**, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

“**Man of Israel**”--courage, strength

1Co 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men, be strong.**
2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a **good soldier** of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a **soldier.**