

The Structure of Judges 20

Judges 20, War with Benjamin

1-10, Council of Tribes (tribes)

11-17, Ultimatum to Benjamin (tribes, men)

18-48, Three Questions & Three Battles

18 Who shall go first? (children)

19-21 Defeat (men)

22-23 Shall I go? (men)

24-25 Defeat (children)

26-28 Shall I stop? (children)

29-48 Victory (men)

20:11 “knit together as one man”

Is it bad?

Num. 14:15 Now if thou shalt kill all this people **as one man**, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

Judg. 6:16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites **as one man**.

Or is it good?

1Sam. 11:7 And [Saul] took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out **with one consent**.

2Sam. 19:14 And [David] bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even **as the heart of one man**; so that they sent this word unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.

Ezra 3:1 And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together **as one man** to Jerusalem.

Neh. 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together **as one man** into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

Exodus 23:2

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;
neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after
many to wrest judgment:

- Who do we follow to get to the FINISH line?



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Bilson Peters

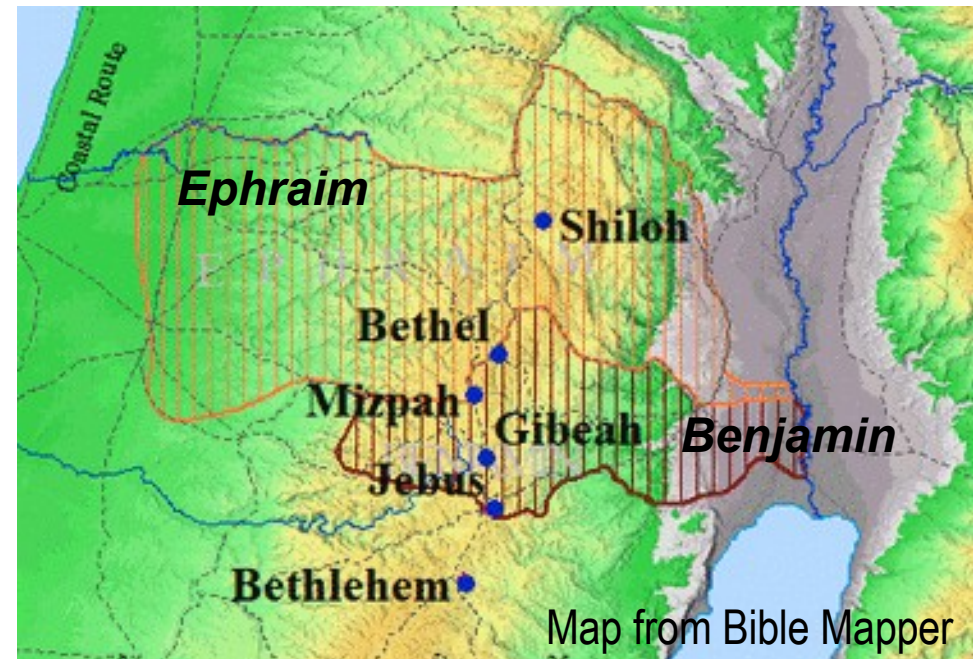
Israel's Shrinking Strength

Num. 26:41 These are the sons of **Benjamin** after their families: and they that were numbered of them were **forty and five thousand and six hundred**.

Num. 26:51 These were the numbered of the **children of Israel**, **six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty**.

Deu 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: ... 29 And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

	Benjamin	Israel - Benjamin
Numbers 26	45,600	556,130
Judges 21	26,700	400,000
Change	-41%	-28%





20:9 we will go up by lot
20:18 the Lord said ...

Josh 7:16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: 17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarahites: and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: 18 And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

1Sam. 14:40 Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee. 41 Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, **Give a perfect lot.** And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped. 42 And Saul said, Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.

Why send Israel to a Losing Battle?

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1-10, Council of Tribes (tribes)

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18-48, Three Questions & Three Battles

18 Who shall go first? (children)
Asked counsel of **God**

19-21 Defeat (men)

22-23 Shall I go? (men)
Asked counsel of the **LORD**

24-25 Defeat (children)

26-28 Shall I stop? (children)
Wept, fasted, sacrificed

29-48 Victory (men)

John 7:17 If any man will do his will [wants to do his will], he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.