

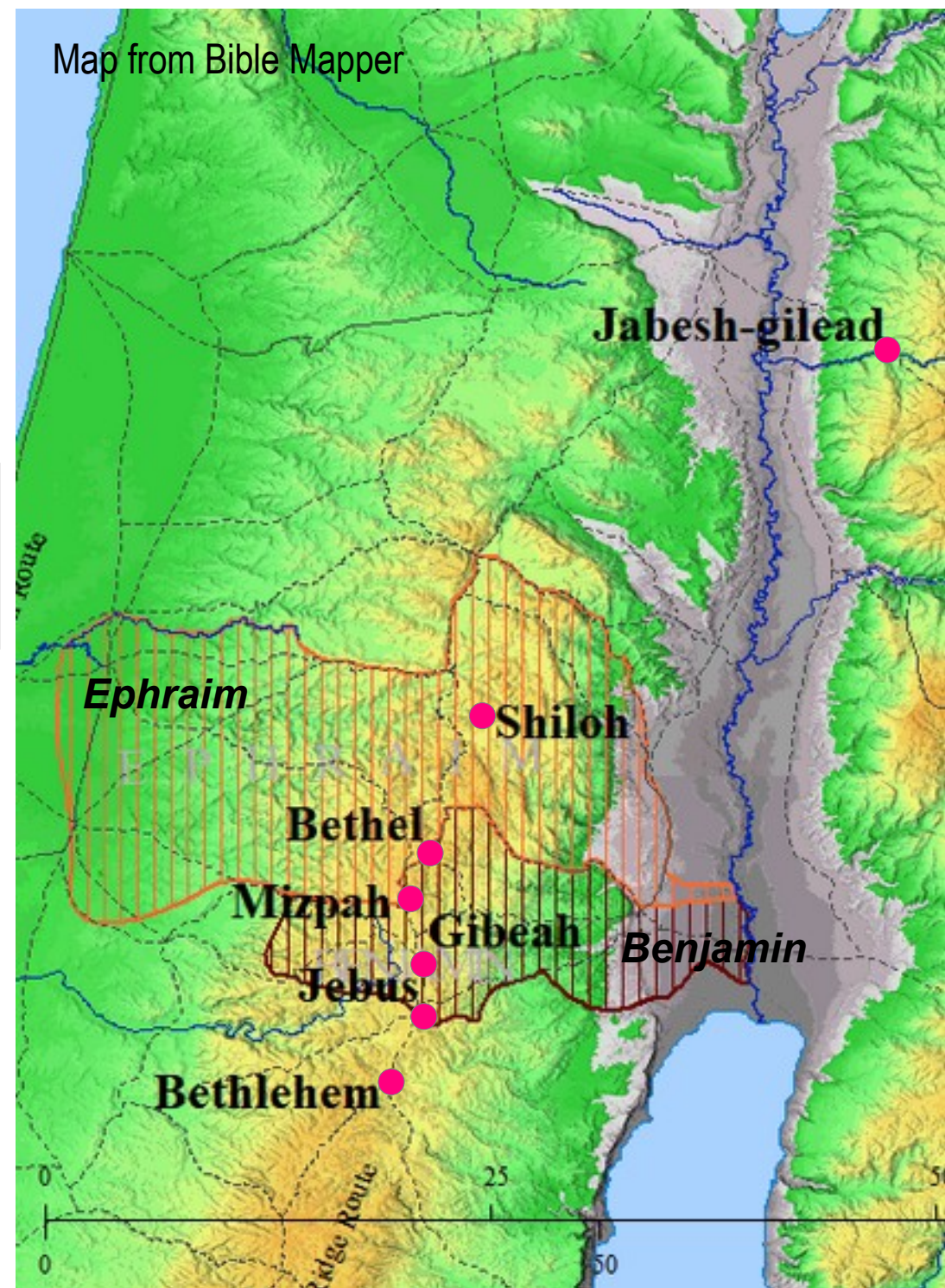
# Judges 21 Wives for Benjamin

Judges 19-21, Social Strife

19, The Levite and his Concubine  
1-9, Hospitality in Bethlehem  
10-29, Hostility in Gibeah

20, War with Benjamin  
1-17, Tribal Council  
18-21, First Battle  
22-25, Second Battle  
26-48, Third Battle

21, Wives for Benjamin  
1-9, Tribal Council  
10-15, Rape of Jabeshgilead  
16-25, Rape of Shiloh



# Swearing H7650 Oaths H7621 and Vowing H5087 Vows H5088

## Vow:

Num. 21:2 And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.

## Oath:

1Kings 19:2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

	Vow	Oath
<i>A promise to:</i>	God	Man
<i>Human action:</i>	Promised if God acts	Promised to keep God from acting
<i>Divine action:</i>	Condition for human action	Penalty for human non-action (often understood and not stated)

Mat 5:34 But I say unto you, **Swear not at all**; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. [or, the Evil One]

# Helpful References

21:1 no daughters for Benjamin

Deut 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, ...

3 ... **thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.**

21:2 and **lifted up their voices, and wept sore**

Jdg 2:4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, **that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.**

21:5 Israel's short fuse

Ex. 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering** (slow to anger), and abundant in goodness and truth,

Prov. 14:29 He that is **slow to wrath** is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Prov. 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is **slow to anger** appeaseth strife.

Prov. 16:32 He that is **slow to anger** is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Prov. 19:11 The discretion of a man **deferreth his anger**; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression

# Wrath in the NT

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering**, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance:

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, **slow to wrath**: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Eph. 4:31 Let all **bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice**: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Col. 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; **anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy**, filthy communication out of your mouth.

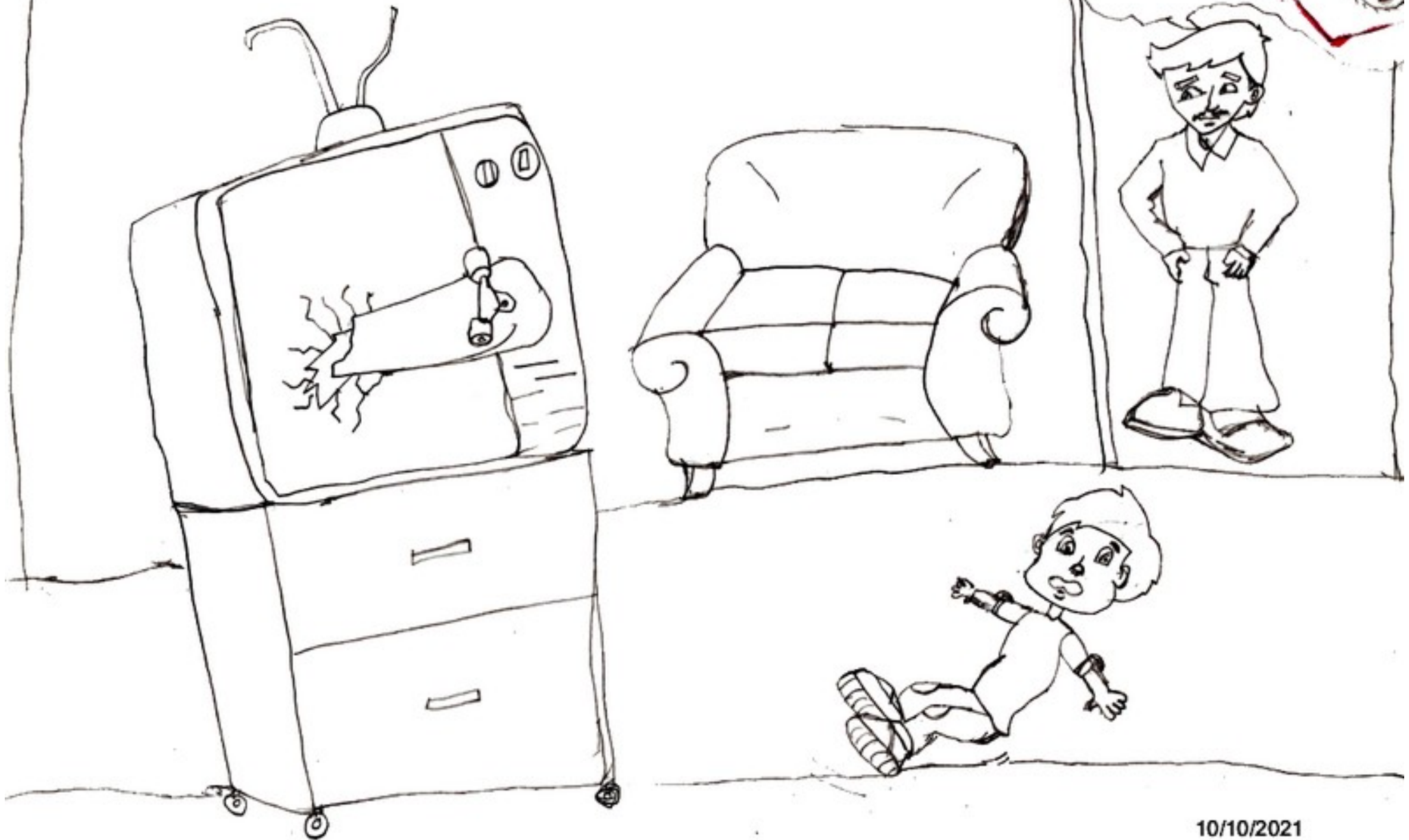
Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;

- Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
*5 violations of "thou shalt not commit adultery"*
- Idolatry, witchcraft,  
*2 violations of "no other gods"*
- hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders,  
*9 violations of "thou shalt not kill"*
- drunkenness, revellings, and such like:  
*2 violations of "thou shalt not covet"*

of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Proverbs 16:32  
He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,  
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

- Is it better to be Angry or Forgive?



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Bilson Peters

# Can an oath be cancelled?



<https://www.rct.uk/collection/search#/16/collection/1046/the-story-of-abraham-series>  
16<sup>th</sup> century tapestry at Hampton Court, UK

Gen 24:2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: 3 And I will make thee **swear by the LORD**, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that **thou shalt not** take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: 4 But **thou shalt** go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. ... 8 And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then **thou shalt be clear from this my oath**: only bring not my son thither again.

# Finding Wives for Benjamin: The Problem

<b>6-14, Jabeshgilead</b>	<b>15-24, The Feast of the Lord</b>
6a And the children of Israel <b>repented them for Benjamin</b> their brother,	15a And the people <b>repented them for Benjamin,</b>
21:3 ... O LORD God <b>of Israel,</b> why is this come to pass <b>in Israel,</b> that there should be to day one tribe lacking <b>in Israel?</b>	15b because that <b>the LORD had made a breach</b> in the tribes of Israel.
6b and said, <b>There is one tribe cut off from Israel</b> this day.	17 And they said, There must be an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, <b>that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel.</b>
7 <b>How shall we do for wives for them that remain,</b>	16 Then the elders of the congregation said, <b>How shall we do for wives for them that remain, ...</b>
seeing <b>we have sworn</b> by the LORD <b>that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?</b>	18 Howbeit <b>we may not give them wives of our daughters:</b> for the children of Israel have <b>sworn,</b> saying, Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.

# Finding Wives for Benjamin: Solutions

## 6-14, Jabeshgilead

8 And they said, What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the LORD? And, **behold**, there came none to the camp from Jabeshgilead to the assembly.

10 And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, **Go and smite** the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children ...

12a And they found among the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male:

12b and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

14 And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabeshgilead: ...

## 15-24, The Feast of the Lord

19 Then they said, **Behold**, there is a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.

20 Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, **Go and lie in wait** in the vineyards; 21a And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards,

21b and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh,

21c and go to the land of Benjamin.

23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: ...