

Judges 21: Kidnapping the Daughters of Shiloh

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

21:22 The Danger of Thinking like a Lawyer

Matt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Matt 23:16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! ... 18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. ... 23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. ... 25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Isa 66:2 but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and **trembleth** at my word.

2Pe 3:16 they that are unlearned and unstable **wrest (twist)** [Paul's epistles], as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

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: ...

Judg 21:24 and the Date of the Epilog

Judg 21:24 And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence **every man to his inheritance.**

Josh. 24:28 So Joshua let the people depart, **every man unto his inheritance.**

Judg. 2:6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went **every man unto his inheritance** to possess the land.

Evidence for the date of the epilog:

- 18:20 Jonathan the grandson of Moses
- 20:28 Phinehas the grandson of Aaron
- ch. 18 Migration of Dan (Josh 19:47; Judg 1:34)
- 21:12 Shiloh “in the land of Canaan”
- 21:24 describes *start* of individual tribal possession

Judg 2:1 I said, I will never break my covenant with you. 2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?

Judges 17-21 as Anti-Conquest

Command	Judges 17-21
<p>Deu 7:5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves [Asherah images], and burn their graven images with fire.</p>	<p>ch. 17, Micah's idols</p>
<p>Jos 13:1 Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed. ... 7 Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh,</p>	<p>ch. 18, Dan retreats from its assigned territory and goes elsewhere</p>
<p>Deu 20:10 When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. 11 And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.</p>	<p>ch. 19, Even an Israelite city is not subject to the law of God</p>
<p>Deu 20:16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:</p>	<p>Applied to Israelite cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ch. 20, Gibeah • 21:6-14, Jabeshgilead
<p>Deu 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.</p>	<p>21:1-5, applied to fellow-Israelites</p>

21:25, Final Summary

25b every man **did that which was right in his own eyes.**

Deut. 13:18 [MT 19] 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.**

Judg 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1 The children of Israel **did evil in the sight (eyes) of the LORD.**

25a In those days there was **no king** in Israel:

Ex. 15:18 **The LORD shall reign** [as king] מֶלֶךְ H4427 for ever and ever.

Num. 23:21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: **the LORD his God** is with him, and **the shout of a king** is among them.

Deut. 33:5 And **he [the Lord] was king in Jeshurun** [or: there was a king in Jeshurun], when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.

Judges: Between Conquest and Kingdom

Prolog	1:1-2-5, Social Disintegration	2:6-3:6, Spiritual Departure
Death of Joshua	1:1a	2:6-10
Experience	1:1b-36	2:11-19
Warning from God	2:1-3	2:20-23
National Response	2:4-5	3:1-6

3:7-16:31, The Judges: Seven Cycles

17:1-21:25, Epilog and Diagnosis

17:1-18:31, **Spiritual** Weakness: **Dan (Deuteronomy 12)**

17:1-5, An Irregular Sanctuary

17:6, **Refrain: No King; Right in own eyes**

17:7-13, An Irregular Levite

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

18:1b-32, An Irregular Tribe

19:1-21:25, **Social** Strife: **Benjamin (Deuteronomy 13)**

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

19 The Rape of the Levite's Concubine

20 War with Benjamin

21 The Rape of Jabeshgilead and Shiloh

21:25, **Refrain: No King; Right in own eyes**

Review of Judges

Deut 12 (False Sanctuaries)

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**.

Deut. 12:25 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 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, Punishing Wayward Tribes

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**.