

Judges Chapters 19-21

The downward spiral of spiritual and moral decay.

- Wife abuse –
 - concubines were considered wives. Food, clothing and shelter were provided and if there was a child it was legitimate, however the child may or may not share in the family inheritance.
- Blatant homosexuality
- Gang rape
- Murder
- Injustice
- Brother killing brother – civil war
- Kidnapping
- Idolatry

Chapter 19

VS 1 No King in Israel – repeated theme throughout the book.

VS 2 -10

- The concubine leaves her husband (plays the harlot).
- The Levite goes to reconcile with her after a four-month absence.
- Levite meets her father (his father-in-law) and the “partied hardy” for 5 days.

VS 11 – 21

- Levite and his concubine travel back home.
- They decided not to stay in Jerusalem (the city of Jebusites) because they were not of Israel.
- They decided to stay the night in Gibeah.
- Gibeah was a city of the tribe of Benjamin.
- They were shown no hospitality.
- Initially they were going to spend the night on the streets.
- Finally, they are welcomed by an elderly citizen of Gibeah.
- Hospitality is provided for lodging, food and animals.

VS 22 – 25

- Certain sons of Belial in the city demanded the old man hand over the visitor for sexual perversion.
- Sound a lot like Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and Genesis 19
- Romans 1 chronicles the downward cycle

- Idolatry
- Immorality
- Sexual perversion
- Depravity
- Leviticus 18 – entire chapter
- The older man correctly described this behavior as wickedness and counselled against it.
- The man's daughter and the stranger's concubine are offered in place of the Levite.
- They take the concubine and abuse her all night.
- She is found dead in the morning.

VS 26 – 30

- Levite finds her dead and places her on one of the donkeys.
- When he arrives home, he cuts her into 12 pieces and sends each tribe a piece of the body.
- What was his motivation?
 - Arouse the nation against Gibeah?
 - Call for a national hearing regarding the blood guilt upon the nation for this act.
 - Calling for justice?
- Nothing like this had happened in the corporate life of Israel.

Chapter 20

VS 1 – 9

- All Israel responds and gathers at Mizpah to consider the matter.
- Timing?
 - Israel was not under oppression.
 - Israel was more united than scattered.
 - They still had a national conscience.
 - They were still willing to muster armies and unite in a common cause of war.
- Four hundred thousand fighting men assemble.
- The tribe of Benjamin did not send any representatives.
- Levite explains giving his version of the events.
- A unanimous decision to come against Gibeah has been reached.

VS 10 – 14

- The strategy against Gibeah – 10 percent of the soldiers will be the supply train.
- The guilty men of Gibeah were to be delivered over for judgment and death.
- This punishment would remove (put away) the evil from Israel.
 - Achan – Jericho.
- The sin was not adultery since the concubine was given, however, gang rape was punishable by death – Deut 22:25-26
- The Tribe of Benjamin refused this request and gathered against the other tribes.

VS 15 –17

- Twenty-six thousand Benjamite's were assembled against 400,000 of the sons of Israel.
- 700 hundred were left-handed from Gibeah and were skilled with slings.
- Benjamin did not
 - Expose the sin
 - Confess the sin
 - Punish the sinners.
 - They were in rebellion to God.
- They allowed pollution to continue in society and the land to be defiled.
 - Leviticus 20:22 - the land will spew you out.

VS 17 48

- Judah is to lead Israel into battle against Benjamin.
- Israel is defeated and 22,000 are killed in the firsts battle.
- Israel is defeated and 18,000 are killed in the second battle.
- Israel weeps, fasts and offers burnt offerings before the Lord.
- God promises victory and the go to fight again.
- Israel is successful and 25,100 men.
- The city is destroyed along with all the other cities of Benjamin.
- Only 600 men of Benjamin survive and take refuge in Rimmon for four months.

Chapter 21

VS 1 – 24

- Israel made a vow that no wives be given to the surviving men of the tribe of Benjamin from any of the other tribes.
- Neither side sought the Lord after the battle.
- Now a tribe of Israel would be lost.
- What to do?
- One camp, Jabesh-Gilead did not participate in the battle.
- This city was to be punished and was.
- 400 virgins were spared and given to 400 men of Benjamin
- Kidnapping wives at Shiloh during the feast at the time of harvest.
- Benjamin restores the ruined cities and the tribe continues.

VS 25

**IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO KING IN ISRAEL.
EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.**