

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
Judges 20-21
Wednesday July 24, 2013

Judges 20 Is A Continuation Of Judges 19 – Judges 20:4-11

Judges 17-21 – These chapters are non-chronological to the book of Judges, but they were included as supplements.

Judges 17-18 – Is insight into the religious condition of the nation – very poor.

Judges 19-21 – Is insight into the moral condition of the people.

Judges 17:6

Judges 18:1

Judges 19:1

Judges 21:25

Without a strong leader to model/lead God’s standards, there is a breakdown of the social structure.

Judges 20:1-11 – Explanation Of The Situation Of Judges 19: Judges 20:1

Judges 19:29-30

Mizpah - meaning “watch tower” in Hebrew. About 7 miles North of Jerusalem.

Judges 20:2-8

Romans 1:28-32

Judges 20:9-11

Judges 20:12-28 – The Battle Against Benjamin: Judges 20:12-13

Their own idea of right and wrong was perverted – no absolutes.
Isaiah 5:20

Judges 20:14-18

Israel Inquired Of God: "sons of Israel arose, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God,"

Note: They didn't ask the Lord "if" they should go to battle but who should go 1st?

Too many times we determine what we are going to do, then ask the Lord to bless it.

Judges 20:19-22 – The 1st Battle Was A Failure – Judges 20:19-22

Judges 20:23 – Israel Inquired Of God 2nd time: Judges 20:23

Judges 20:24-25 – The 2nd Battle Was Also A Failure – Judges 20:24-25

Judges 20:26-28 – 3rd Inquiry Of The Lord – They Even Ask If They Should Cease: Judges 20:26-28

God wanted to be in charge. God must be our pilot not our co-pilot.

Judges 20:29-48 – The Victory: Judges 20:29-32

Israel used their former defeats as a means to victory.

Judges 20:33-36

Verses 37-48 – Retelling Of The Battle: Judges 20:37-48

Judges 21 – The Regret of Rage:

Judges 21:1-3 – Victory Soon Lead To Regret: Judges 21:1-3

Rage always goes too far!

"Why, O LORD, God of Israel, has this come about in Israel," – Classic to blame God for what has happened!

Ephesians 4:26

Benjamin was left with only 600 men – Judges 20:47: "But 600 men"

Judges 21:4-15 – Plan #1, Find A Loophole In The Vow: Judges 20:4-11

This was following the philosophy – doing what was right in your own eyes!

Judges 20:12-15

It was not the Lord but Israel that caused this! Blaming God for the division and the civil war that has taken place, instead of repentance and owning up for sin!

Judges 21:16-25 – Plan #2, Fabricate An Additional Loophole:
Judges 20:16-21

Exodus 21:16 – Every man was doing what was right in his own eyes!

Judges 20:22-25

No King – God was not Israel’s King; God’s plan from the beginning to govern Israel.

Israel – “Governed By God”

Result – everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Application:

5 Lessons From Judges:

1. The Basis Of Moral Behavior Is Of Critical Importance: Must be based on God’s Word. If not, we will do what is right in our own eyes.
2. Ethical Relativism Is Degrading And Dehumanizing: We are confused as a society, ethically, and morally. 2 Peter 2:19 – “promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.”
3. Theology And Morality Cannot Be Separated: Only certain basis for morality is the character of God and His Word.

Our God is a holy God (Absolute standard of right and wrong)

God is revealed through Jesus Christ: John 14:6

God has spoken – It is His Word, the Bible.

4. The Alternative To Moral Ethical Relativism Is A Personal Relationship With Jesus Christ: Not legalism, rules and regulations but a real relationship!
5. We Must Not Only Know God’s Answers, We Must Internalize His Values: We need to live out the Gospel, abide in Him.