

Judges 20 - 21

Civil War in Israel

Lesson 10

Lesson 9 concluded with the Levite cutting up his dead concubine and sending a portion of her body to each of the 12 tribes. *"Everyone who saw it said, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came out of Egypt. Think about it! Consider it! Tell us what to do!"* Judges 19:30

Civil War - 20:1-48

1. Then Israel from Dan to Beersheba (poetic for all of Israel from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south) and Gilead (poetic meaning the Transjordan tribes) came together as one. Who did they come before and where? (vs. 20:1 & Joshua 18:21 & 26)
2. How many came and in what condition? (vs. 2)
3. Which tribe was not there? (vs. 3)
4. The leaders of the assembly ask for details, to which the Levite gives a brief summary. Using Judges 20:4-7:
 - What does he say?
 - Comment on his testimony.
5. What plan of action did they decide upon? (vs. 8-10)
6. A united army of Israel went throughout all Benjamin. Why? (vs. 11-13a)
7. How did the Benjaminites respond to their request? (vs. 13b - 14)

8. What was the total number of Benjaminites that came? (vs. 15)
9. Why were 700 were specifically mentioned? (vs. 16)
10. After sending some troops for supplies, how many fighting men did Israel have left? (vs. 17)
11. What reason was given for Israel going to Bethel before the battle? (vs. 18)
 - Why at Bethel? (vs. 27)
12. Who was chosen to go first? (vs. 18c)
13. Describe how the battle went. (vs. 19-36a)
14. Verses 37-48 retell the battle giving more details. From verse 48, what was the final act of war by Israel?

Remorse - 21:1-25

15. What was the oath or vow the men of Israel had taken? (vs. 1) (Deut. 23:21-23).
16. Second thoughts caused the Israelites to grieve over the loss of their brothers. How did Israel deal with this grief? (vs. 2-6)
17. What was their new problem and the first step to a solution? (vs. 7-9)

18. Once they discovered Jabesh Gilead had not responded to the call to war (vs. 20:1) they put a second step into motion. What did they do? (vs. 10-12)
19. Once again all Israel joined together and sent word to the remaining men of Benjamin. What happens next? (vs. 13-14)
20. The people again grieve for Benjamin. What were they grieving about this time? (vs. 15-18)
21. What creative solution did they come up with? (vs. 19-24)
22. Comment on this solution.
23. What was the condition in Israel at the end of the book of Judges? (vs. 25)

Think about it!

The book of Judges records some of the events around the nation of Israel, in transition. After 400 years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the wilderness learning to trust their God, Joshua, as God's servant, brought them into the Land of Promise. But, they failed to obey the Lord by fully driving out the Canaanites and experienced the consequences of that disobedience. As future generations were born, they went further away from the Lord their God and followed the ways of the Canaanites. Their disobedience included the sin of idolatry. God allowed them to experience the consequence, which according to His Law, was oppression by foreign nations. But God did so from a heart of love, drawing them back to Him. The book of Judges covers a period of about 325 years and is best described by the cycle of: rebellion, oppression, crying out to God, repentance of their sin followed by His deliverance through 12 men and women empowered with His Spirit. The phrase most often used to describe the time of the Judges is, "*every man did what was right in his own eyes.*" Finally, at the end of Judges, the nation of Israel cried out to God for mercy and renewed their covenant. Now they were ready for God to move forward in building His nation.