

Judges Series

Lesson #97

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Understanding the Failure Judges 19–21



JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

What we learned last time:

- 1. The impact of spiritual apostasy on the nation's Divine Institutions.**
- 2. The anatomy of national self-destruction.**
- 3. How the decisions of individuals within a nation impact the whole nation.**

**Micah and the
Levitical Priest
Judges 17–18**

**Violation of the First
Commandment**

**Matt. 22:37, “Jesus said to
him, ‘ “You shall love the
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART, WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL
YOUR MIND.” ’ ”**

**The Levitical Priest and
His Concubine
Judges 19–21**

**Violation of the Second
Commandment**

**Matt. 22:39, “And the second
is like it: ‘You shall love your
neighbor as yourself.’
Matt. 22:40, “On these two
commandments hang all the
Law and the Prophets.”**

What we're going to learn:

- 1. The anatomy of national self-destruction.**
- 2. The role authority orientation plays in individual and national spiritual health.**
- 3. How the decisions of individuals within a nation impact the whole nation.**

- 4. The structure of these three chapters (Judges 19–21):**
 - a. The background to the horrific attack (19:1–9);**
 - b. The details of the horrific attack (19:10–28);**
 - c. Israel’s response to the horrific attack (19:29–20:48);**
and
 - d. The national implosion created by the horrific attack (21:1–24).**

Lev. 19:18, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the Lord.”

Matt. 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:30–33; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8.

Idolatry is condemned in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; 1 Cor. 5:10–11; 6:9; 10:7, 14; 2 Cor. 6:16; Gal. 5:19–20; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5; 1 Pet. 4:3; 1 John 5:21

Col. 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Judg. 19:1, “And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.” [NKJV]

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פִּיִּלְגֶּשׁ piylegeš: A concubine was a legitimate wife; however, she was of secondary rank. This is evident by the references to the concubine as having a husband (Judg. 19:2); and that this man and her father are considered to be son-in-law (cf. Judg. 19:5) and father-in-law (cf. Judg. 19:4), respectively. But concubines were presented opposite the wives of higher rank (1 Kgs. 11:3; Song 6:8). The ability to have and to keep concubines was a sign of wealth, status, and often of royalty (1 Kgs. 11:3; Esth. 2:14; Song 6:8). To sleep with a king's concubine would have indicated plans to usurp the throne (2 Sam. 3:7; 16:21, 22; cf. 1 Kgs. 2:21–24). ~ *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament.*

Two observations:

- 1. The concubine is from Bethlehem in Judah. Why is that important?**

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- 1. The concubine is from Bethlehem in Judah. Why is that important?**
- 2. The horrible events take place in Gibeah. Why is that important?**

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**1. Go to the end: Judges 21:13–22,
200 Benjamite men capture 200 female dancers at Shiloh
and take them as wives under the authority of the elders
of Israel. Why did they give permission to do this?**

2. The reason this was necessary is because the tribes in Jabesh Gilead could not provide enough wives for the 600 men in Benjamin, all that remained of Benjamin after the civil war. Judges 21:13–22

**3. Jabesh Gilead could provide only 400 wives for the Benjamites because that is all the virgins the Israelites had found for the remnant of the 600 Benjamites.
Judges 21:8–12**

4. The other tribes in Israel approached Jabesh Gilead to get wives for the Benjamite men because they felt sorry for them (Judges 21:1–7), because they had annihilated all but these 600 men of Benjamin. Judges 20:14–48

5. The other tribes had attacked Benjamin in a devastating civil war because Benjamin would not hand over the inhabitants of Gibeah after the horrific attack.

Judges 20:12–13

6. The other tribes had demanded that Gibeah be handed over because of the Levites' testimony about the horrible assault on his concubine. Judges 20:4–11

**7. The other tribes demanded an explanation from the Levite after they gathered in response to the grotesque message he sent, the fragments of the woman's body.
Judges 19:29–20:3**

**8. The Levite cut up the body of the woman as an alarming message to what was going on in Israel. The concubine had been gang-raped and left for dead at his doorstep.
Judges 19:25–29**

9. The woman was gang-raped because the man (host) gave her to the men of Gibeah. Judges 19:25

**10. The man, the host, had given them his concubine
because his host felt obligated to protect him.
Judges 19:22–24**

11. The man, the host, felt obligated to protect him because he had found him in the open square of Gibeah. Judges 19:16–21

12. The Levite stopped to overnight in Gibeah because he had procrastinated and got caught away from home and couldn't get home by nightfall. Judges 19:10–15

13. The Levite was on a journey home because he had gone to retrieve his concubine from his father-in-law's house. Judges 19:3–9

14. The Levite needed to get his concubine because she had left him. Judges 19:2b

**because she was angry with him,
because ... Judges 19:2a**

15. She was angry with him because ...

everyone was doing what was right/good in their own eyes. Judges 21:25

****As goes the believer so goes the nation.**

****The assault on sexuality is an assault on Divine Institutions #2, #3, which will end up fragmenting and destroying the nation.**

****A state of antagonism exists between the sexes as a result of the curse. The more a culture rejects establishment principles and Biblical teaching, the more this antagonism and breakdown of sexual identity is exacerbated.**

****In pagan culture, one sex or the other dominates: either in a human viewpoint patriarchy, in which case women become abused, or in a human viewpoint matriarchy, which has never been successful.**

****The only solution is a Divine Viewpoint recognition of the roles of male and female and the equality as image bearers.**