

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 21:1-25

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD”

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Repentance, Sin, Judgment,

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 21:1-25

***Chapter 21 Brings Us to The End.
The Scene is Ugly, It's Brutal,
and the 11 Tribes of Israel have all but annihilated
the Tribe of Benjamin.***

The Tribe of Benjamin Had Sought to Cover Over the Sin of Homosexuality Which Led to Rioting Which Led to the Gang Rape of a Female Servant Which Led to Her Being Hacked Up in to 12 Pieces and Fed-Ex'ed to the Other Tribes...

The Book of Judges Teaches Us About

The Progression of, or Infestation of, Sin in a Culture and How it Destroys a People, a Nation...

A Culture Crashes When It Hits
Rock Bottom

I Have a Couple of Questions:

“how do we know if what we **want** *I* what we **want**?

“how do we know if what we **need** *I* what we **need**?

“I don’t always **want** what *I* **need**?

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. :14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. :15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Sin leads to a breakdown in this **World**.

Because Sin leads to a breakdown in **Government**.

But Wait - Sin leads to a breakdown in the **Culture**.

Sin leads to a breakdown in the **Society**.

But Wait - Sin leads to a breakdown in the **Church**.

But Wait There’s More - Sin leads to a breakdown in the **Family**.

Until Sin leads to a breakdown in an **Individual**.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3

“Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, :2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, :3 that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

How Can We Know if This is Happening in Our
Country?

There Are Two Clear Ways of Knowing...

(1)

When God's People are So Backslidden
That They Look and Act Just like the World.

(2)

And When Morality and Civility Break down

Judges 21:25

In those days *there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

The Faithful Follower of Jesus Christ
Will Stand Out -- Christians Stand Out Against This World.

WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD

1.) Consider how you got there

v.1-9

1a.) There are places that God won't go

v.1-3

Now the men of Israel had **sworn an oath** at Mizpah, saying, "**None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife.**" (those sick reprobates) :2 Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly, :3 and said, "**O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?**"

This is just like the human nature.

"God, how could this have happened to me, to us?"

It's like a guy who picks up a drink...

and then wonders how could a God of love allow him to have gotten into an accident."

or the cigarette smoker

who can't believe that God would have allowed them to get cancer...

America went through that at 9/11 for about a half hour.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. :8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh **reap** corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit

Romans 8:5-8

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. :6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. :7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. :8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 9:8

That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God;

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, :20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, :21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

CONSIDER HOW YOU GOT THERE

1b.) There are things that God can't do

v.4-5

So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and **built an altar there**, (there already was an alter there) and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. :5 The children of Israel said, "**Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?**" For they had made **a great oath** concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "**He shall surely be put to death.**"

O' Brother Where Art Thou

what are we going to do. we've nearly killed off the DNA of Benjamin and now the 600 who are left, we made a vow that we would kill and man that didn't help us in our causes.

**Hang Some more "Religion" On It Will Ya.
make it look better quick**

(like decorating a Charlie brown christmas tree)

there's more bells and whistles than reality

Things That The God of The Bible Cannot Do;

Titus 1:2

...God, cannot lie,

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie,

CONSIDER HOW YOU GOT THERE

1c.) There are things that God will not bless

v.6-9

And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "***One tribe is cut off from Israel today. :7 What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?***" :8 And they said, "***What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?***" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly. :9 For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there.

**We Need to Be Careful Church "How"
We Listen to God.**

"the Lord said to me" or "I prayed about it"
or..

WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD

2.) Know that there is a way back

v.10-23

You are about to hear again what happens when we take matters into our own hands

KNOW THAT THERE IS A WAY BACK

2a.) Stop and turn around now

v.10-12

So the congregation sent out there (12,000) twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, ***“Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children. :11 And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man sexually.” :12*** So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead (400) four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,

Proverbs 14:14

The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways,

KNOW THAT THERE IS A WAY BACK

2b.) Forsake your own plans

v.13-18

Then the whole congregation sent word to the children (the 600 surviving men) of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them. **:14** So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them. **:15** And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel. **:16** Then the elders of the congregation said, ***“What shall we do***

for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?” :17 And they said, “There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel. :18 However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, “Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.’ ”

“ I Got It - This is What Seems Right in My Eyes ”

we cannot give our daughters away, hmm, give, give, but what if we look that way and 200 of our daughters get kidnapped?

Proverbs 3:6-10

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. :7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. :8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. :9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; :10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

KNOW THAT THERE IS A WAY BACK

2c.) Stay away from bad people

v.19-23

Then they said, *“In fact, there is a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.” :20 Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, “Go, lie in wait in the vineyards, :21 and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and “every man catch a wife” for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.*

:21 Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, “Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.’ ” :23 And the children (men) of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, (dancing queens) whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.

what a dysfunctional nation

do you think that the current American, yeah – the global crisis is a result of men doing what is right in their own eyes?

Proverbs 1:10-16

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. :11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; :12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; :13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; :14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse" :15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; :16 for their feet rush into sin,

WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD

3.) The end does not have to be the end v.24-25

3a.) Who will be the one who will control you ? v.24

So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his own inheritance.

Currently, There is No King in Israel.
but that's gonna change someday..

Is There a King in Your Heart, In Your
Life ?

my prayer is that that's gonna change someday too!

Psalm 37:3-7

Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass. :6
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. :7
Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;

THE END DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THE END

3b.) What will be the direction you take ? v.25

In those days there was no king in Israel;
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way *that seems* right to a man,
But its end *is* the way of death.

Who Is The a King in Your
Heart?

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; :2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. :3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

**WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD
you don't have to be there alone.**

there are times in life when everything
that you've believed in will be tested.

for the **rich man**, he will be tested in the area of his **money**.

for the **gifted woman**, she will be tested in the area of her **abilities**.

for **the Christian**, his or her faith will be tested in the area **doubt**.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will fulfill [his purpose] for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever — do not abandon the works of your hands.

————— *End of Study* —————