

## EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES

--JUDGES 21:1-25--

### INTRODUCTION:

We come this morning to the final chapter of the book of Judges. If you were hoping for a good ending to this book, you will be sorely disappointed. Beginning in chapter 17 the author began painting for us a picture of the religious and moral decay of the nation of Israel as they adopted more and more the ways of the Canaanites who were living among them because they had not destroyed them as God had commanded them. Beginning in chapter 20, the rape, abuse, murder, and dismemberment of a concubine draws the attention of all Israel so that they go up and attack Benjamin, kill everyone, and burn all their cities. In the end only 600 Benjamite soldiers were left hiding at the Rock of Rimmon. Today we will look at the decision of what to do with these men.

- I. ACCUSING GOD (Judges 21:1-7)
  - a. This chapter opens by telling us of an \_\_\_\_\_ that the men of Israel had taken when they had first gathered at Mizpah.
  - b. Arriving at Bethel they sat before God or the ark of the covenant, which was there, until evening, and they \_\_\_\_\_ before the LORD, they wept bitterly.
  - c. Now understand from the Israelite perspective this is a legitimate question, and even one that they could \_\_\_\_\_ in their own minds.
  - d. Blaming God for trouble we have brought upon ourselves is an age-old \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 3:12)
- II. MAKING OTHERS PAY (Judges 21:8-23)
  - a. With no word from God, the elders of Israel conclude it is up to them to make sure that the tribe of Benjamin \_\_\_\_\_ and is not blotted out from Israel.
  - b. They made a review of who had attended the assembly and it was discovered that the city and the clan of Jabesh-Gilead was not \_\_\_\_\_ at the assembly.

- c. The sons of Israel sent a delegation to the rock of Rimmon to make \_\_\_\_\_ with the Benjamite soldiers who were holed up there.
- d. Finally, they came up with a plan that would furnish the remaining \_\_\_\_\_ wives needed for Benjamin.
- e. This is unbelievable, they have hit rock bottom if this is what seemed right in their own eyes. Everything is \_\_\_\_\_ here.
- f. To make matters worse, the leaders who came up with this solution to their problem, before it is even carried out, they have worked out a justification that will clear everyone involved of \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. FUTURE HOPE (Judges 21:23b-25)

- a. In the closing verses we read that the people of Israel returned to their \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. “\_\_\_\_\_” speaks of a connection with the past and the possibility of a future.
- c. Even in the last verse, with its reminder of the problem that was almost Israel’s undoing, there is a thread of \_\_\_\_\_.

### CONCLUSION:

Some concluding remarks on the history that we have just read through in the last three chapters of Judges. First, the history of the Levite and his concubine shows us what happens in a society when “everyone does what is right in his own eyes.”

Second, these chapters show that even a nation like Israel, with the history of God’s love, grace, and deliverance, and all the privileges of revelation, can become this kind of society if it abandons faithfulness to God’s Word.

Third, and this is the good news, these chapters show that the presence of chaos does not mean the absence of God. The problem is that He has been abandoned when it comes to moral authority, the peoples’ approach to everyday matters such as sex, marriage, hospitality, justice, the treatment of others, among other things was to do what seemed right in your own eyes. This is why there is the moral chaos and why all their institutions are breaking down. This is why

our nation is in moral chaos and why all our institutions are breaking down. This is why common life ceased to be the wholesome, good thing God intended it to be and why society becomes chaotic and cruel. But God has been in the chaos!

So, when you are dismayed with the state of our nation, when you see churches caving to the world system in our own day, especially in their departure from the Word of God and the moral confusion that results, take heart, God is still present. The church has existed for more than 2000 years and will continue to do so, because it is God's church, and He has not abandoned it and never will. The end that He will bring about in His perfect time will be glorious beyond our imaginings. (Revelation 21:1-4)