



Judges

Part #10 –
Civil War

Paul Idusogie
Senior Pastor, HELON House



Introduction

Key Scriptures

- And it came to pass in those days, when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah. – Judges 19:1
- And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that *is not* of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah. – Judges 19:12
- *Now* as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, *and* beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. – Judges 19:22



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- Behold, *here is* my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing. – Judges 19:24
- And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, *together* with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel. And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak *your minds*. – Judges 19:29,30



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh. – Judges 20:1



Keys

Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel: . – Judges 20:13

- A concubine's death precipitates a civil war



In this lesson

Moral depravity and civil war

- Absence of moral standards
- Appeasing lewdness
- Anarchy and Civil war
- And Rule shifting and tricks avail



Absence of moral standards

And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah. And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehemjudah, and was there four whole months. – Judges 19:1,2

- The prevailing standard seems right to the morally decrepit
- She fled, and the father was happy to see the man



Absence of moral standards – Cont'd

Definition of Concubine

- A woman with whom a man cohabits without being married: such as
- one having a recognized social status in a household below that of a wife
- A mistress

Definition of Paramour

- specifically : an illicit or secret lover



Appeasing lewdness

And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly. Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing. But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. – Judges 19:23,24,25

- Choices
- He valued the stranger more than his daughter
- An appeasement or an abuse
- Another did not value his concubine, though she was willing to dwell with him



Anarchy and Civil war

And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place. - Judges 19:28

Anarchy

- absence of government
- a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority



Anarchy and Civil war – Cont'd

And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place. - Judges 19:28

- As if there was nothing wrong with his decision
- What happened next?
- He presents his case to the country as if he had been wronged!



Anarchy and Civil war – Cont'd

*(Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.)
Then said the children of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness? - Judges 20:3*

- A partial rendition of the story precipitates a civil war!
- The understood her death as an act of wickedness
- No one was held accountable for this vileness, and no one came forward!



Anarchy and Civil war – Cont'd

*(Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.)
Then said the children of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness? - Judges 20:18*

- Judah shall go first! – What! Remember Judges 1:1,2
- But I prayed the first time! And God said Judah shall go first! – loss of 22,000 men of Israel
- But I sought the Lord about it the second time! And God said Go! – loss of 18,000 men of Israel
- What was different the third time? – See Judges 20:35
- Benjamin loses – 25,100 men; 18, 000 men; 25,000 men



And Rule shifting and tricks avail

But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months. - Judges 20:47

- Lamentation for a missing tribe
- Bound with a curse to not give their daughter unto the Benjamites
- Punishment by death of Jabeshgilead – part of the half tribe of Manessah
- 200 wives short
- You may jump from the bush and grab a wife!



Summary

In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25



Next Week

We will continue next week, the book of Acts