

OT-OV

Lesson 78

1. Last week we continued our study of the Book of Judges.
2. When time expired I had just finished teaching the life of Samson.
3. Let's review some of that learned and then we will pick up with new material on page two.

3.1 The Book of Judges was written somewhere around 1100 B.C. by an unknown, most of the events recorded in the book occurred between 1400-1100 B.C. It is a story of tribal rights under a Theocracy and the success of the system even amidst terrible personal failures on the part of the individual Judges.

3.2 In historical sequence it covers the period of Israel's history between Joshua and Samuel.

3.3 Once more the mighty acts of God were displayed as a number of judges responded to the call of God to lead the Israelites in military exploits to rout the oppressing nations.

3.4 The Book describes a series of religious and political cycles of sin, sorrow and supplications. Some of the Judges were contemporaries serving in different parts of the country. God raised up "Judges" to deliver Israel at various times. Though each judge ruled in his tribe and in the main solved only intra-tribal problems, God in periods of exigency used certain heroes to resolve inter-tribal problems.

4. And now for a study of Israel's apostasy. Jdg 17:1-21:25

4.1 Michah's idolatry, Jdg 17:1-13

Jdg 17:1 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim

Jdg 17:2 said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse-- I have that silver with me; I took it."

Then his mother said, "The LORD bless you, my son!"

Jdg 17:3 When he returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, "I solemnly consecrate my silver to the LORD for my son to make a carved image and a cast idol. I will give it back to you."

Jdg 17:4 So he returned the silver to his mother, and she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into the image and the idol. And they were put in Micah's house.

Jdg 17:5 Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some idols and installed one of his sons as his priest.

Jdg 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

Jdg 17:7 A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah,

Jdg 17:8 left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim.

Jdg 17:9 Micah asked him, "Where are you from?" "I'm a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah," he said, "and I'm looking for a place to stay."

Jdg 17:10 Then Micah said to him, "Live with me and be my father and priest, and I'll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food."

Jdg 17:11 So the Levite agreed to live with him, and the young man was to him like one of his sons.

Jdg 17:12 Then Micah installed the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house.

Jdg 17:13 And Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest."

4.2 Danite migration, Jdg 17:14-18:31

Jdg 18:1 In those days Israel had no king. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking a place of their own where they might settle, because they had not yet come into an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.



Jdg 18:2 So the Danites sent five warriors from Zorah and Eshtaol to spy out the land and explore it. These men represented all their clans. They told them, "Go, explore the land." The men entered the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah, where they spent the night.

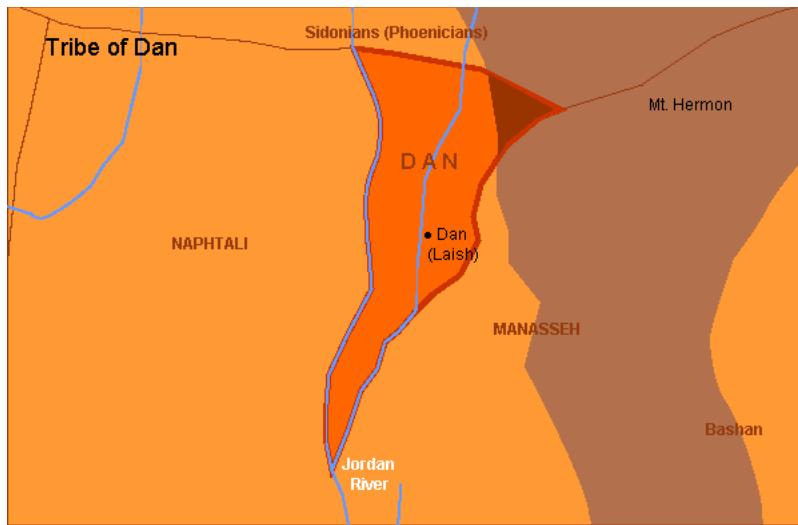
Jdg 18:3 When they were near Micah's house, they recognized the voice of the young Levite; so they turned in there and asked him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? Why are you here?"

Jdg 18:4 He told them what Micah had done for him, and said, "He has hired me and I am his priest."

Jdg 18:5 Then they said to him, "Please inquire of God to learn whether our journey will be successful."

Jdg 18:6 The priest answered them, "Go in peace. Your journey has the LORD'S approval."

Jdg 18:7 So the five men left and came to Laish, where they saw that the people were living in safety, like the Sidonians, unsuspecting and secure. And since their land lacked nothing, they were prosperous. Also, they lived a long way from the Sidonians and had no relationship with anyone else.



Jdg 18:8 When they returned to Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers asked them, "How did you find things?"

Jdg 18:9 They answered, "Come on, let's attack them! We have seen that the land is very good. Aren't you going to do something? Don't hesitate to go there and take it over."

Jdg 18:10 When you get there, you will find an unsuspecting people and a spacious land that God has put into your hands, a land that lacks nothing whatever."

Jdg 18:11 Then six hundred men from the clan of the Danites, armed for battle, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol.

Jdg 18:12 On their way they set up camp near Kiriath Jearim in Judah. This is why the place west of Kiriath Jearim is called Mahaneh Dan to this day.

Jdg 18:13 From there they went on to the hill country of Ephraim and came to Micah's house.

Jdg 18:14 Then the five men who had spied out the land of Laish said to their brothers, "Do you know that one of these houses has an ephod, other household gods, a carved image and a cast idol? Now you know what to do."

Jdg 18:15 So they turned in there and went to the house of the young Levite at Micah's place and greeted him.

Jdg 18:16 The six hundred Danites, armed for battle, stood at the entrance to the gate.

Jdg 18:17 The five men who had spied out the land went inside and took the carved image, the ephod, the other household gods and the cast idol while the priest and the six hundred armed men stood at the entrance to the gate.

Jdg 18:18 When these men went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the other household gods and the cast idol, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

Jdg 18:19 They answered him, "Be quiet! Don't say a word. Come with us, and be our father and priest. Isn't it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel as priest rather than just one man's household?"

Jdg 18:20 Then the priest was glad. He took the ephod, the other household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.

Jdg 18:21 Putting their little children, their livestock and their possessions in front of them, they turned away and left.

Jdg 18:22 When they had gone some distance from Micah's house, the men who lived near Micah were called together and overtook the Danites.

Jdg 18:23 As they shouted after them, the Danites turned and said to Micah, "What's the matter with you that you called out your men to fight?"

Jdg 18:24 He replied, "You took the gods I made, and my priest, and went away. What else do I have? How can you ask, 'What's the matter with you?'"

Jdg 18:25 The Danites answered, "Don't argue with us, or some hot-tempered men will attack you, and you and your family will lose your lives."

Jdg 18:26 So the Danites went their way, and Micah, seeing that they were too strong for him, turned around and went back home.

Jdg 18:27 Then they took what Micah had made, and his priest, and went on to Laish, against a peaceful and unsuspecting people. They attacked them with the sword and burned down their city.

Jdg 18:28 There was no one to rescue them because they lived a long way from Sidon and had no relationship with anyone else. The city was in a valley near Beth Rehob. The Danites rebuilt the city and settled there.

Jdg 18:29 They named it Dan after their forefather Dan, who was born to Israel--though the city used to be called Laish.

Jdg 18:30 There the Danites set up for themselves the idols, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land.

Jdg 18:31 They continued to use the idols Micah had made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh.

4.3 Gibeah's atrocity, Jdg 19:1-30

Jdg 19:1 In those days Israel had no king. Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

Jdg 19:2 But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her father's house in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months,

Jdg 19:3 her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her father's house, and when her father saw him, he gladly welcomed him.

Jdg 19:4 His father-in-law, the girl's father, prevailed upon him to stay; so he remained with him three days, eating and drinking, and sleeping there.

Jdg 19:5 On the fourth day they got up early and he prepared to leave, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh yourself with something to eat; then you can go."

Jdg 19:6 So the two of them sat down to eat and drink together. Afterward the girl's father said, "Please stay tonight and enjoy yourself."

Jdg 19:7 And when the man got up to go, his father-in-law persuaded him, so he stayed there that night.

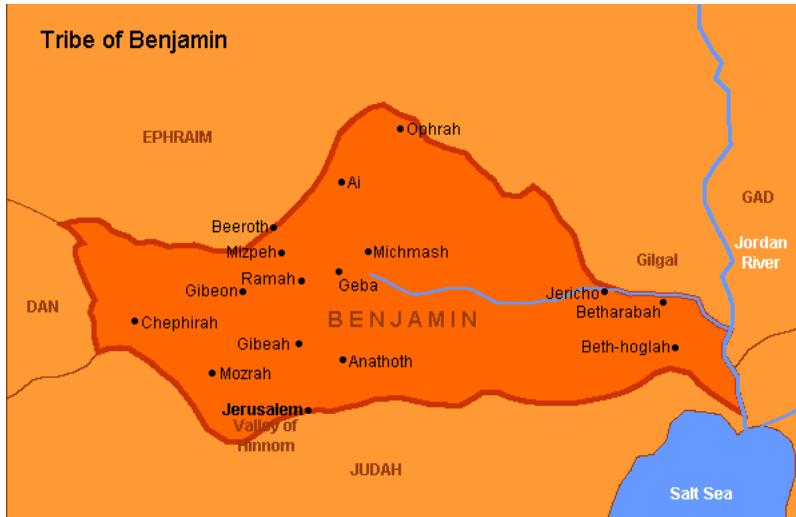
Jdg 19:8 On the morning of the fifth day, when he rose to go, the girl's father said, "Refresh yourself. Wait till afternoon!" So the two of them ate together.

Jdg 19:9 Then when the man, with his concubine and his servant, got up to leave, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said, "Now look, it's almost evening. Spend the night here; the day is nearly over. Stay and enjoy yourself. Early tomorrow morning you can get up and be on your way home."

Jdg 19:10 But, unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two saddled donkeys and his concubine.

Jdg 19:11 When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, "Come, let's stop at this city of the Jebusites and spend the night."

Jdg 19:12 His master replied, "No. We won't go into an alien city, whose people are not Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah."



Jdg 19:13 He added, "Come, let's try to reach Gibeah or Ramah and spend the night in one of those places."

Jdg 19:14 So they went on, and the sun set as they neared Gibeah in Benjamin.

Jdg 19:15 There they stopped to spend the night. They went and sat in the city square, but no one took them into his home for the night.

Jdg 19:16 That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was living in Gibeah (the men of the place were Benjamites), came in from his work in the fields.

Jdg 19:17 When he looked and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going? Where did you come from?"

Jdg 19:18 He answered, "We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live. I have been to Bethlehem in Judah and now I am going to the house of the LORD. No one has taken me into his house.

Jdg 19:19 We have both straw and fodder for our donkeys and bread and wine for ourselves your servants-- me, your maidservant, and the young man with us. We don't need anything."

Jdg 19:20 "You are welcome at my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square."

Jdg 19:21 So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink.

Jdg 19:22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

Jdg 19:23 The owner of the house went outside and said to them, "No, my friends, don't be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don't do this disgraceful thing.

Jdg 19:24 Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them and do to them whatever you wish. But to this man, don't do such a disgraceful thing."

Jdg 19:25 But the men would not listen to him. So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go.

Jdg 19:26 At daybreak the woman went back to the house where her master was staying, fell down at the door and lay there until daylight.

Jdg 19:27 When her master got up in the morning and opened the door of the house and stepped out to continue on his way, there lay his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

Jdg 19:28 He said to her, "Get up; let's go." But there was no answer. Then the man put her on his donkey and set out for home.

Jdg 19:29 When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

Jdg 19:30 Everyone who saw it said, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Think about it! Consider it! Tell us what to do!"

4.4 The Benjamite war, Jdg 20:1-48

Jdg 20:1 Then all the Israelites from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came out as one man and assembled before the LORD in Mizpah.

Jdg 20:2 The leaders of all the people of the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand soldiers armed with swords.

Jdg 20:3 (The Benjamites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the Israelites said, "Tell us how this awful thing happened."

Jdg 20:4 So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, said, "I and my concubine came to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night.

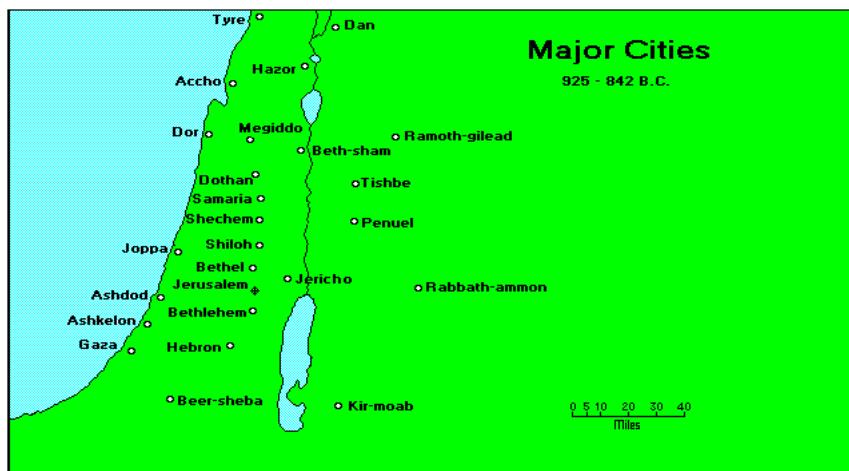
Jdg 20:5 During the night the men of Gibeah came after me and surrounded the house, intending to kill me. They raped my concubine, and she died.

Jdg 20:6 I took my concubine, cut her into pieces and sent one piece to each region of Israel's inheritance, because they committed this lewd and disgraceful act in Israel.

Jdg 20:7 Now, all you Israelites, speak up and give your verdict."

Jdg 20:8 All the people rose as one man, saying, "None of us will go home. No, not one of us will return to his house.

Jdg 20:9 But now this is what we'll do to Gibeah: We'll go up against it as the lot directs.



Jdg 20:10 We'll take ten men out of every hundred from all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred from a thousand, and a thousand from ten thousand, to get provisions for the army. Then, when the army arrives at Gibeah in Benjamin, it can give them what they deserve for all this vileness done in Israel."

Jdg 20:11 So all the men of Israel got together and united as one man against the city.

Jdg 20:12 The tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What about this awful crime that was committed among you?

Jdg 20:13 Now surrender those wicked men of Gibeah so that we may put them to death and purge the evil from Israel." But the Benjamites would not listen to their fellow Israelites.

Jdg 20:14 From their towns they came together at Gibeah to fight against the Israelites.

Jdg 20:15 At once the Benjamites mobilized twenty-six thousand swordsmen from their towns, in addition to seven hundred chosen men from those living in Gibeah.

Jdg 20:16 Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

Jdg 20:17 Israel, apart from Benjamin, mustered four hundred thousand swordsmen, all of them fighting men.

Jdg 20:18 The Israelites went up to Bethel and inquired of God. They said, "Who of us shall go first to fight against the Benjamites?" The LORD replied, "Judah shall go first."

Jdg 20:19 The next morning the Israelites got up and pitched camp near Gibeah.

Jdg 20:20 The men of Israel went out to fight the Benjamites and took up battle positions against them at Gibeah.

Jdg 20:21 The Benjamites came out of Gibeah and cut down twenty-two thousand Israelites on the battlefield that day.

Jdg 20:22 But the men of Israel encouraged one another and again took up their positions where they had stationed themselves the first day.

Jdg 20:23 The Israelites went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and they inquired of the LORD. They said, "Shall we go up again to battle against the Benjamites, our brothers?" The LORD answered, "Go up against them."

Jdg 20:24 Then the Israelites drew near to Benjamin the second day.

Jdg 20:25 This time, when the Benjamites came out from Gibeah to oppose them, they cut down another eighteen thousand Israelites, all of them armed with swords.

Jdg 20:26 Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

Jdg 20:27 And the Israelites inquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there,

Jdg 20:28 with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ministering before it.) They asked, "Shall we go up again to battle with Benjamin our brother, or not?" The LORD responded, "Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands."

Jdg 20:29 Then Israel set an ambush around Gibeah.

Jdg 20:30 They went up against the Benjamites on the third day and took up positions against Gibeah as they had done before.

Jdg 20:31 The Benjamites came out to meet them and were drawn away from the city. They began to inflict casualties on the Israelites as before, so that about thirty men fell in the open field and on the roads-- the one leading to Bethel and the other to Gibeah.

Jdg 20:32 While the Benjamites were saying, "We are defeating them as before," the Israelites were saying, "Let's retreat and draw them away from the city to the roads."

Jdg 20:33 All the men of Israel moved from their places and took up positions at Baal Tamar, and the Israelite ambush charged out of its place on the west of Gibeah.

Jdg 20:34 Then ten thousand of Israel's finest men made a frontal attack on Gibeah. The fighting was so heavy that the Benjamites did not realize how near disaster was.

Jdg 20:35 The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel, and on that day the Israelites struck down 25,100 Benjamites, all armed with swords.

Jdg 20:36 Then the Benjamites saw that they were beaten. Now the men of Israel had given way before Benjamin, because they relied on the ambush they had set near Gibeah.

Jdg 20:37 The men who had been in ambush made a sudden dash into Gibeah, spread out and put the whole city to the sword.

Jdg 20:38 The men of Israel had arranged with the ambush that they should send up a great cloud of smoke from the city,

Jdg 20:39 and then the men of Israel would turn in the battle. The Benjamites had begun to inflict casualties on the men of Israel (about thirty), and they said, "We are defeating them as in the first battle."

Jdg 20:40 But when the column of smoke began to rise from the city, the Benjamites turned and saw the smoke of the whole city going up into the sky.

Jdg 20:41 Then the men of Israel turned on them, and the men of Benjamin were terrified, because they realized that disaster had come upon them.

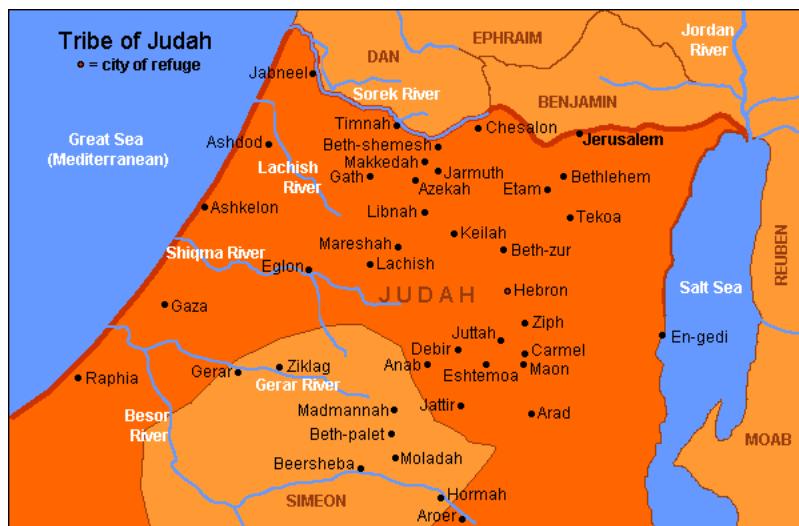
Jdg 20:42 So they fled before the Israelites in the direction of the desert, but they could not escape the battle. And the men of Israel who came out of the towns cut them down there.

Jdg 20:43 They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them and easily overran them in the vicinity of Gibeah on the east.

Jdg 20:44 Eighteen thousand Benjamites fell, all of them valiant fighters.

Jdg 20:45 As they turned and fled toward the desert to the rock of Rimmon, the Israelites cut down five thousand men along the roads. They kept pressing after the Benjamites as far as Gidom and struck down two thousand more.

4.4.1 The rock of Rimmon was located 15 miles north of Jerusalem and seven miles north east of Gibeah.



Jdg 20:46 On that day twenty-five thousand Benjamite swordsmen fell, all of them valiant fighters.

Jdg 20:47 But six hundred men turned and fled into the desert to the rock of Rimmon, where they stayed four months.

Jdg 20:48 The men of Israel went back to Benjamin and put all the towns to the sword, including the animals and everything else they found. All the towns they came across they set on fire.

End Lesson