

Judges

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes. “The Levite and the Concubine”

Don't do what is right in your own eyes, do what is right in God's eyes.

Judges 19:1-3 (NIV)

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.

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,

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.

Judges 19:22 (NIV)

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."

Judges 19:29 (NIV)

....he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

Judges 21:1 (NIV)

¹ The men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: "**Not one of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite.**"

Judges 21:5 (NIV)

For they had taken a solemn oath that **anyone who failed to assemble before the LORD at Mizpah should certainly be put to death.**

Judges 21:8 (NIV)

"Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to assemble before the LORD at Mizpah?" They discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the camp for the assembly.

Judges 20:15 (NIV)

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.

Judges 20:17 (NIV)

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

Judges 20:43-48 (NIV)

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

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

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.

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

⁴⁷ But six hundred.. turned and fled into the desert to the rock of Rimmon,...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.

Judges 21:2-3 (NIV)

² The people went to Bethel, where they sat before God until evening, raising their voices and weeping bitterly.

³ "O LORD, the God of Israel," they cried, "why has this happened to Israel? Why should one tribe be missing from Israel today?"

Judges 21:19-21 (ESV)

...“Behold, there is the yearly feast of the LORD at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.”

...The Benjaminites would...Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards

²¹ and watch. If the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, the Benjamites come out of the vineyards and snatch each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

Judges 21:23-24 (NIV)

²³ So that is what the Benjaminites did. While the girls were dancing, each man caught one and carried her off to be his wife. Then they returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and settled in them.

²⁴ At that time the Israelites left that place and went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance. ²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

1. If people or a nation choose to follow what is right in their own eyes rather than God’s, then _____.
2. If people or a nation choose to follow what is right in their own eyes rather than God, then _____ reigns.
3. If a people or a nation choose to do what is right in their own eyes rather than God’s, then the _____ get _____.
4. Don’t do what is right in your own eyes; _____ the king (_____).

Psalms 19:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.