

Handout: Judges Lesson 7

Judges Chapters 19-21:

The Sin of Immoral Conduct

- An Example of Personal Immorality (Judg 19:1-10)
- An Example of Tribal Immorality (Judg 19:11-30)

The Failure of Israel through Disunity and Civil War

- War Between Israel and the tribe of Benjamin (Judg 20:1-48)
- Failure of Israel after the War (21:1-25)

The moral depravity in Gibeah compared to Sodom:

| Genesis Chapter 19:1-8 | Judges Chapter 19:11-24 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The travelers reach Sodom in the evening (Gen 19:1a). | The travelers reach Gibeah in the evening (Judg 19:11). |
| Lot invites strangers to stay in his home for the night (Gen 19:1b-3). | A man invites the travelers to stay in his home for the night (Judg 19:20-21a). |
| They wash their feet upon entering Lot's house (Gen 19:2). | They wash their feet upon entering the man's house (Judg 19:21b). |
| A crowd of "worthless men" demand to have sex with the guests in Lot's house: <i>Send out the men who went into your house that we may know them</i> (Gen 19:4-5). | A crowd of "worthless men" demand to have sex with the guest in the man's house: <i>Send out the man who went into your house that we may know him</i> (Judg 19:22). |
| Lot tries to dissuade them (Gen 19:6-7). | The man tries to dissuade them (Judg 19:23). |
| Lot offers his virgin daughters instead, placing the obligation of hospitality over the protection of his virgin daughters (Gen 19:8). | The man offers his virgin daughter instead, placing the obligation of hospitality over the protection of his virgin daughter (Judg 19:24). |

| Israelite Warriors | Numbers Chapter 26 | Judges Chapter 20 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| The Twelve Tribes | 601,730 | 426,700 |
| The Tribe of Benjamin | 45,600 | 26,700 |
| The Eleven Other Tribes of Israel | 556,130 | 400,000 |

Judges 21:25 ~ *In those days there was no king in Israel, and everyone did as he saw fit [what was right in his eyes].* The repeated statement closes the history of the Judges of Israel. It is the summary statement of the failure of Israel in this period of salvation history:

- Israel does what is "evil in the eyes of Yahweh" (Judg 2:11 and repeated seven times in chapters 3-16).
- Samson does what is "right in his eyes" (Judg 14:4).
- Everyone does what is "right in his eyes" (chapters 17-21).

In doing what each man saw was "right in his eyes," the Israelites were in direct violation of their covenant command to act "by doing what is good and right in the eyes of Yahweh your God" (Dt 12:28). Michal E. Hunt Copyright © 2013