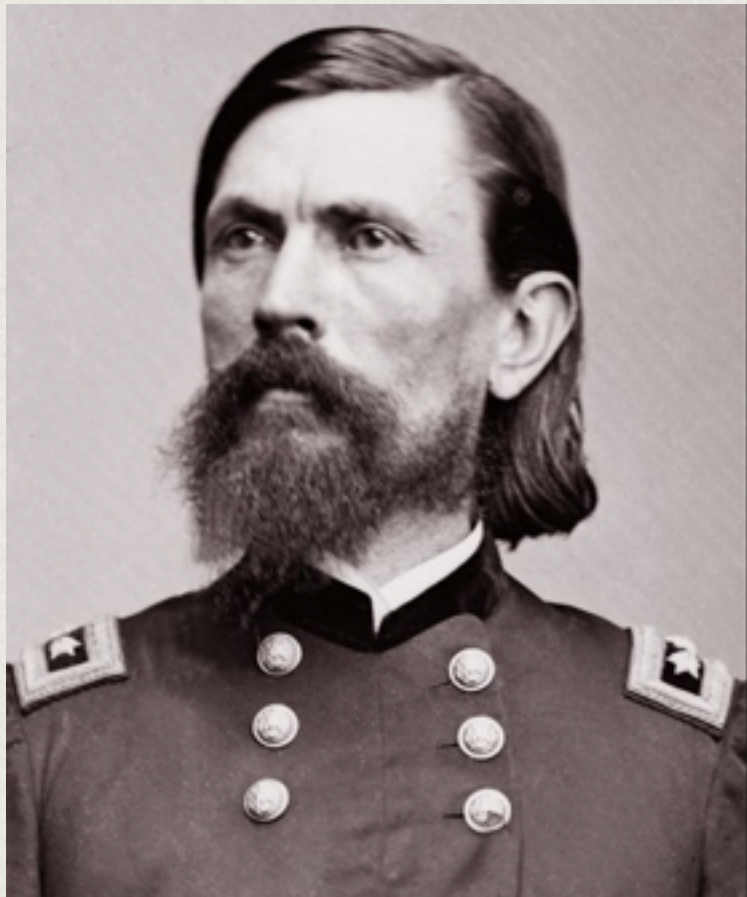


A CIVIL WAR

Judges 20

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



Scene 1- The War Council Meets (1-11)

A Humble Gathering (1-3)

- the largest gathering of God's people in the book of judges
- "as one man"

The Levite called to testify (3-7)

- A Selective Testimony

Israel's commitment to deal with Gibeah (8-11)

- Purge the evil from Israel

Scene 2- Benjamin called to give up the men of Gibeah (12-13)

- 1) Who is making the call to the Benjamites?
- 2) The verb “listen” is dealing with the “will”

“At its core all sin is an act of pride. Pride says, “Move over, God, I’m in charge, I’ll do what I want.” Therefore all sin at its core is blasphemy because it attacks God. When we come into this world we love sin, and so we love our rebellion and we love our pride and we love our blasphemy. We delight in it and we seek every opportunity we can to manifest it” (John MacArthur)

What we have seen of the Benjamites so far ...

- We saw a glimpse of rebellion in their lack of Hospitality
- We saw the desire of their rebellion in the request to sodomize the Levite
- We saw the physical manifestation of their rebellion in their rape and murder of the concubine
- We see the vocalization of their rebellion “We will not give the men up!”

Scene 3- Preparations for War (14-17)

Armies of Benjamin

Benjamin-26,000 (men
who drew the sword)

Gibeah-700, left-handed,
able to sling a stone

Armies of Israel

Israel- 400,000 (men
who drew the sword,
men of war)

Scene 4-The First Battle (18-22)

An initial inquiry of the Lord (18-21)

Israel defeated (21)

Self-sufficiency is Satan's net, wherein he catches men, like poor silly fish, and does destroy them. Be not self-sufficient. Think yourselves nothing, for you are nothing, and live by God's help. (Spurgeon)

For men have no taste for [God's power] till they are convinced of their need of it and they immediately forget its value unless they are conditionally reminded by awareness of their own weakness.(Calvin)

Scene 5-The Second Battle (23-25)

Weeping and Inquiring of the Lord (23-25)

- 1) There is a spiritual tenderness and humility, even amidst the purging of Benjamin
- 2) There is a growing dependence on the Lord to accomplish victory

Israel's 2nd defeat (24-25)

Scene 6-The Final Battle (26-44)

Weeping, worship, and seeking the Lord (26-28)

- 1) *Collective Contrition- "All the sons of Israel and all the people"*
- 2) *Repentance and Desperation- "Wept and fasted"*

"voluntary fasting in the Old Testament expressed a mournful, urgent seeking of God in distressing circumstances Those who were fasting were faced with extreme circumstances of impending death or God's imminent judgment. Greatly distressed and conscious of their utter helplessness, they suspended their normal eating habits in an urgent, extraordinary seeking of God who alone could deliver them from their distress. Fasting was an outward expression of the inward reality of a shattered heart. It was an urgent response of repentance and great humility. It was the seeking of deliverance from a gracious God in profoundly desperate situations." (Macarthur)

- 3) *Worship and Thanksgiving- "offered burnt offerings and peace offerings"*

Scene 6-The Final Battle (26-44)

Weeping, worship, and seeking the Lord (26-28)

Israel Victorious (29-48)

In Conclusion ...

The Lord both hates and punishes sin

“God’s wrath means that he intensely hates all sin.” (Grudem)

From this passage, we see the components of saving faith needed to escape His wrath

Humility-sitting before the Lord

Repentance-weeping over sin

Desperation-Fasting

Faith- Believing that He alone can deliver us from Sin

Atonement- Sacrifice needed to satisfy the wrath of God

How can God’s wrath be satisfied fully?

Through the blood of His beloved Son

THE BATTLES OF JUDGES

20

