

JUDGES

Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Week 23: Civil War

Scripture Reading: Judges 20:1-48

1. A call to assemble (verses 1-7)

- “Dan to Beersheba” = a common way of saying “everyone”
- “As one man” appears **3x** in Judges 20. Israel hasn’t come together as one man since Judges 3
- 11 tribes vs. Benjamin
- The unnamed Levite tells quite the story for a “guilty” verdict to easily be made

2. A call to war (verses 8-17)

- *The irony of the 11 tribes coming together as one:* the last time they came together as one was to conquer over Canaan and God’s enemies (**Judges 1**) – now, they come together to fight each other while remaining Godless (**Judges 20**)
- Verses 12-13: The people of Israel give the tribe of Benjamin a chance to hand over the “worthless fellows” from Gibeah “*that we may put them to death and purge evil from Israel*”
- The foolish idol of “*protect the family/friends at all costs*”
- The advantage of Benjamin: **700** “slingers”
 - **Ehud**, the second judge from Judges 3 was left-handed and was a Benjaminite
 - *Genesis 49:27*
- End of verse 17: 26,000 vs. 400,000

SEE CHART on next page for battle statistics

3. A call to God (verses 18-28)

- The Tabernacle has now moved to **Bethel**
- **Judah** will be the first to FIGHT. *They haven't done this since Judges 1*
- The civil war will span over 3 days – an extremely short amount of time for how many people are killed
- Verse 27 is the only time the Ark of the Covenant is mentioned in all of Judges
- The same Phinehas from **Numbers 25**
- A faithful God they didn't deserve tells them HE will give them into their hands in verse 28

4. A call to victory (verses 29-36)

- Verses 29-36 are a **summary** of the third day, while verses 37-48 give more **detail**
- Verse 36 = The Israelites declare victory on the third day over the Benjaminites

5. A call to bitterness (verses 37-48)

- In verses 46-48, after Benjamin has been defeated and lost 25,000+ men, **600** of them retreat to the *rocks of Rimmon* while Israel turns back and destroys everything in their path, including women and children!
- Unnecessary **fratricide & genocide**
- The 600 men that fled are all that's left of Benjamin
- When our sin becomes untamed, unchecked, and out of control – look at the devastating results
- This isn't the first civil war, Jephthah in Judges 12 committed the same act against Ephraim.
- *God's people had forgotten about God's wonderful gift: **forgiveness***

AERIAL VIEW:**THE BATTLE OF JUDGES 20****SIDES & STATS:****BENJAMIN**

26,000 men total including:
700 left handed "slingers"

vs.

UNITED ISRAEL

400,000 men total

BATTLE 1 ON THE FIRST DAY (verses 17-23)

Troops= 26,000 from Benjamin

vs.

400,000 from United Israel

Result = 0 casualties

22,000 casualties

- Israel goes before the LORD in verse 23

BATTLE 2 ON THE SECOND DAY (verses 24-28)

Troops= 26,000 from Benjamin

vs.

378,000 from United Israel

Result = 0 casualties

18,000 casualties

- Israel goes before the LORD in verses 26-28
- God promises deliverance in verse 28

BATTLE 3 ON THE THIRD DAY (verses 29-48)

Troops = 26,000 from Benjamin

vs.

360,000 from United Israel

Result = 25,100 casualties
-Only 600 survivors remain
-300 unaccounted for?
-All livestock & cities in Tribe
Of Benjamin destroyed by fire

30 killed in the open country (v. 31)

- Victory because of GOD

NOTE: The third battle is given in two accounts:

Verses 29-36 = general summary and overview

Verses 37-48 = detailed close up of what actually took place