

Judges – End of Days

This is the ugliest part of the Entire Bible.

Idolatry, Theft, Gang Rape, Homosexuality, Murder, Deception, Mutilation, Betrayal, Genocide, Pillaging, Revenge, Incitement to murder, blasphemy.

Welcome to Hell on Earth.

You see, when patterns are left unchecked,

When we allow for Conformity with the World, Selfishness & Corrupt Religion

This is the end product.

There are two cycles of stories here.

Bad Things

Chapter 17

Micah steals his mother's silver, when he confesses she praises him and casts an idol of that silver.

He sets up this idol and Micah picks one of his own sons to be a priest.

He meets a Levite who they then invite to be priest – because he's a levite

Chapter 18

Some men from the tribe of Dan run into the Levite.

They learn he was made a priest and ask for a prophesy.

They are told they will succeed in their mission. (Notice no details!)

They were sent to find a land to settle.

And they do succeed in finding a peaceful people in a city name Laish.

They return with an army, stopping to raid the shrine and take the priest.

Micah protests but they threaten him.

Then they slaughtered the innocent people and take their land.

Worse Things

Chapter 19

A Levite's concubine runs away home from a Levite after being unfaithful

The Levite goes to fetch her.

On the way home, he stops in Gibeah in the territory of the Benjamites.

There he stays with an older man.

A group of wicked men in the region surround the house and demand

To have gang sex with the man.

In response the older man offers his daughter to them.

The Levite throws his concubine to them and they gang rape her all night

In the morning, the woman is lying at the doorstep, alive but unresponsive.

He throws her over his donkey and takes her home.

There, he cuts her into 12 pieces and send her body parts around Israel.

Chapter 20

Outrages, All the tribes ban together and ask the Levite what happened. He exaggerates and blames the entire tribe of Benjamin.

All the other tribes, deceived but thirsting for vengeance raise an army.

In the ensuing war, Benjamin holds its own for a while, but loses.

Luring the fighting men out of the city, the tribes slaughter the women & children.

In the end, only 600 Benjamite men are left.

Chapter 21

The tribes swear never to let any of the Benjamites marry their daughters.

In time, however, they feel sorry but they made an oath already.

They call the tribes together to discuss what to do.

One city in particular did not show up for the gathering.

So, they decide to kill everyone except the virgin girls in that town.

They took four hundred women and gave them to the Benjamites.

But they weren't enough. So they decide to pick another town.

They tell the Benjamites to wait for the feast of tabernacles

that celebrate God's provision in the Exodus

When the virgins came out to dance, they could abduct them.

This they do.

How is this relevant?

What do we say? Is this not the world we live in today?

War, famine, slavery, child prostitution, gangs, drugs, moral decay, murder...

Why?

Eden – "You will be like God and know good from evil."

You see, Israel had a King – God.

But each person wanted to be their own king.

Everyone did what they wanted to do.

What about us?

We may not do the things these people do but there is something we share.

I will live for me. I will make my own decisions. I am in control. I am King.

And so there is the image in the revelation

of the elders casting down their crowns.

God invites us to let go.

We clutch onto our own lives so tightly. We strangle all our joy and peace.

What is the message of judges? Let go and let God. Let him be your King.