



# Divine Providence







## Judges 19

29 When he reached his house, he picked up a knife, took hold of his concubine, cut her limb by limb into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel.

30 And everyone who saw it said, “Nothing like this has been seen or done from the day the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt until this day.

Consider it, take counsel and speak up!”

## Judges 20

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3 (Now the people of Benjamin heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.)

And the Israelites asked, “Tell us, how did this wicked thing happen?”

## Judges 20

4 So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered: “I and my concubine came to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night.

5 And during the night, the men of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house.

They intended to kill me; instead, they ravished my concubine so that she died.

6 So I took my concubine, cut her into pieces, and sent her throughout the land of Israel’s inheritance, because they had committed an abomination and outrage in Israel.

7 Behold, you people of Israel, all of you, give your advice and counsel here.”

## Judges 20

8 Then all the people arose as one man and said,  
“Not one of us will go to his tent, nor will any of us return  
to his house.

9 But now this is what we will do to Gibeah: We will go up  
against it by lot.

10 We will take ten men out of every hundred from all the  
tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of every thousand,  
and a thousand out of every ten thousand,  
to supply provisions for the army when they go to Gibeah  
in Benjamin to punish them for the outrage that they have  
committed in Israel.”

## Deuteronomy 13

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12 If, regarding one of your cities the LORD your God is giving you to inhabit, you hear it said 13 that wicked men have arisen from among you and have led the people of their city astray, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods” (which you have not known),

14 then you must inquire, investigate, and interrogate thoroughly.

And if it is established with certainty that this abomination has been committed among you,

15 you must surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword. Devote to destruction all its people and livestock.

## Deuteronomy 13

16 And you are to gather all its plunder in the middle of the public square, and completely burn the city and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God.

The city must remain a mound of ruins forever, never to be rebuilt.

## Judges 20

**11 So all the men of Israel gathered against the city, united as one man.**

**12 And the tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What is this wickedness that has taken place among you?”**

**13 Now then, give up the men, the worthless fellows in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and purge evil from Israel.”**

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## 1 Corinthians 5

12 What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

13 God will judge those outside.

“**Expel** the wicked man from among you.”

[Deuteronomy 13:5, 17:7, 19:19, 21:21, 22:21, 22:24, and 24:7]

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13 But the people of Benjamin refused to heed the voice of their fellow Israelites.

14 And from their cities they came together at Gibeah to go out to battle against the Israelites.

15 On that day the people of Benjamin mobilized 26,000 swordsmen from their cities, in addition to the 700 select men of Gibeah.

16 Among all these soldiers there were 700 select left-handers, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

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17 The Israelites, apart from Benjamin, mobilized 400,000 swordsmen; all these were men of war.

18 The Israelites arose, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God, “Who of us shall go up first to fight against the sons of Benjamin?”

“Judah shall go up first,” the LORD replied.

19 The next morning the Israelites set out and camped against Gibeah.

20 And the men of Israel went out to fight against Benjamin and took up their battle positions at Gibeah.

## Judges 20

21 And the sons of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and destroyed 22,000 Israelites on the battlefield that day.

22 But the people, the men of Israel took courage and again took their battle positions in the same place where they had arrayed themselves on the first day.

23 And the people of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until the evening.

And they inquired of the LORD, “Shall we again draw near to fight against our brothers, the people of Benjamin?”

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And the LORD answered, “**Go up against them.**”

# Judges 20

24 On the second day the Israelites advanced against the people of Benjamin.

25 And Benjamin went against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed 18,000 men of the people of Israel. All these were men who drew the sword.

## Judges 20

26 Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept.

They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

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They asked, “Shall we go out once more to battle against our brothers, the people of Benjamin, or shall we cease?”

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(In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there, 28 and Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, served before it.)

They asked, “Shall we go out once more to battle against our brothers, the people of Benjamin, or shall we cease?”

The LORD answered, “Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.”

## Judges 20

29 So Israel set up an ambush around Gibeah.

30 On the third day the Israelites went up against the sons of Benjamin and arrayed themselves against Gibeah as they had done before.

31 The sons of Benjamin came out against them and were drawn away from the city.

They began to attack the people as before, killing about thirty men of Israel in the fields and on the roads, one of which led up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah.

32 “We are defeating them as before,” said the sons of Benjamin.

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32 “We are defeating them as before,” said the sons of Benjamin. But the Israelites said, “Let us retreat and draw them away from the city onto the roads.”

## Judges 20

33 So all the men of Israel got up from their places and arrayed themselves at Baal-tamar, and the Israelites in ambush charged from their positions west of Gibeah.

34 Then 10,000 select men from all Israel made a frontal assault against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce.

But the sons of Benjamin did not realize that disaster was upon them.

35 The LORD defeated Benjamin in the presence of Israel,

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But the sons of Benjamin did not realize that disaster was upon them.

35 The LORD defeated Benjamin in the presence of Israel, and on that day the Israelites slaughtered 25,100 men of Benjamin, all men who drew the sword.

36 So the sons of Benjamin saw that they were defeated.

# Judges 20

Now the men of Israel had retreated before Benjamin because they were relying on the ambush they had set against Gibeah.

**37 The men in ambush rushed suddenly against Gibeah; they advanced and struck all the city with the edge of the sword.**

38 The men of Israel had arranged a signal with the men in ambush:

When they sent up a great cloud of smoke from the city,

**39 the men of Israel would turn in the battle.**

## Judges 20

When the sons of Benjamin had begun to strike them down, killing about thirty men of Israel, they said,

“They are defeated before us as in the first battle.”

40 But when the column of smoke began to go up from the city, the sons of Benjamin looked behind them and saw the whole city going up in smoke.

41 Then the men of Israel turned back on them, and the men of Benjamin were terrified when they realized that disaster had come upon them.

42 So they fled before the men of Israel toward the wilderness, but the battle overtook them, and the men coming out of the cities struck them down there.

# Judges 20

43 They surrounded the sons of Benjamin, pursued them, and easily overtook them in the vicinity of Gibeah on the east.

44 And 18,000 Benjamites fell, all men of valor.

45 Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and Israel cut down 5,000 men on the roads. And they overtook them at Gidom and struck down 2,000 more.

**46 That day 25,000 Benjamite swordsmen fell, all men of valor.**

**47 But 600 men turned and fled into the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, where they stayed four months.**

## Judges 20

48 And the men of Israel turned back against the people of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, the city, men and beasts and all that they found. And all the towns that they found they set on fire.

## Judges 21

2 So the people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening, lifting up their voices and weeping bitterly.

3 “Why, O LORD God of Israel,” they cried out, “has this happened in Israel?”

Today in Israel one tribe is missing!”

# Seven truths demonstrated in Judges 20:

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1. One's love for God will be revealed in our hatred for that which He hates.

**Romans 12**

**Love must be sincere.**

**Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.**

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1. One's love for God will be revealed in our hatred for that which He hates.
2. Aligning ourselves with the Lord will eventually cost us friends/loved ones.

## Matthew 10

37 Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me;

## Luke 14

26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be My disciple.

27 And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

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2. Aligning ourselves with the Lord will eventually cost us friends/loved ones.
3. This treatment of sin/evil (Judges 20), reveals the true holiness of God.
  - We are not good appraisers of the evil of sin, nor the holiness of God.
  - We see the holiness of God by what He is willing to do to deal with sin.

## Romans 3

25 God presented Him as the atoning sacrifice through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had passed over the sins committed beforehand.

26 He did this to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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4. Obeying God's prescriptive will for us, does not guarantee that His providential "blessing" will reward our obedience.
5. God's will for us is determined by His word, not by our experience.
  - Nor is it determined by what we perceive as His "blessing".
6. In this life, God's providence is usually a mystery to us.

## Ecclesiastes 8

17 I saw every work of God, and that a man is unable to comprehend the work that is done under the sun.

Despite his efforts to search it out, he cannot find its meaning; even if the wise man claims to know, he is unable to comprehend.

## Judges 21

15 The people grieved for Benjamin,  
because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.

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7. There is only one way to approach God: complete selfless humility.

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