

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Moral Anarchy

Judges 19:1-30

Lesson 19

Introduction

The events in chapters 17-21 covers approximately 350 years of Israel's history. Israel now moves from spiritual anarchy to moral anarchy. If sin is not dealt with it spreads, destroys and kills. The root cause of Israel's disobedience was her independence of God and indifference to His law.

The Levite, who should have been a spiritual example to Israel, followed the laws of the land, which allowed him to take a concubine, but was not in compliance with God's strict regulations and laws for His priests. When God's leaders fail to be a Godly influence on His people, it is time for judgment.

Apathy leads to apostasy and apostasy leads to anarchy. Anarchy is the result of everyone doing what is right in his own eyes with no king but himself.



Looking for Gold - What does it say?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: Read Gen. 19:1-21, Lev. 18:22, Lev. 21:1-9, Josh. 21 for added insight. Use an atlas or other sources to place the cities in the appropriate place on your map. Pay attention to who's inheritance they are occupying.

Judges 19:1-9

1 And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months. 3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him. 4 Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there. 5 Then it came to pass on the fourth day that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way." 6 So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay all night, and let your heart be merry." 7 And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again. 8 Then he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate. 9 And when the man stood to depart — he and his concubine and his servant — his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early, so that you may get home."



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Judges 19:10-21

10 However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him. **11** They were near Jebus, and the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it." **12** But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah." **13** So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah." **14** And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin. **15** They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into his house to spend the night.

16 Just then an old man came in from his work in the field at evening, who also was from the mountains of Ephraim; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place were Benjamites. **17** And when he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?" **18** So he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; now I am going to the house of the Lord. But there is no one who will take me into his house, **19** although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything." **20** And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square." **21** So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

Judges 19:22-26

22 As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!" 23 But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. 24 Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!" 25 But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go. 26 Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.



Judges 19:27-30

27 When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. 28 And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

29 When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. 30 And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"



Boiling it Down – What does it mean?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 19:1-9 _____

Judges 19:10-21 _____

Judges 19:22-26 _____

Judges 19:27-30 _____



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 19:1-9 _____

Judges 19:10-21 _____

Judges 19:22-26 _____

Judges 19:27-30 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

What did God say? Lev 21:7-8

What was the wickedness of the men of Gibeah? v 22-25

How did the old man and the priest choose to deal with it?

What does the way that they dealt with the issue say about the times?

What words or phrases are repeated?

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 19:1-9 _____
Judges 19:10-21 _____
Judges 19:22-26 _____
Judges 19:27-30 _____

Bars of Gold: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



Hide Your Treasure in your Heart

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:17-18

Radiating His Truth . . .

Sodom is the great O.T. example of rebellion against God that rightly brings upon itself the judgment of God . . . God's people have become like Sodom.

— Timothy Keller

