

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 07 June 2026 ..... Joshua 01 ..... Strong and Courageous
- 2) 14 June ..... Joshua 02 ..... Amazing Grace
- 3) 21 June ..... Joshua 03-05 ..... Remembering God's Works
- 4) 28 June ..... Joshua 06 ..... Winning Strategy
- 5) 05 July ..... Joshua 07-13 ..... Sin Revealed
- 6) 12 July ..... Joshua 14-22 ..... Unwavering Determination
- 7) 19 July ..... Joshua 23-24 ..... Vital Decision
- 8) 26 July ..... Judges 01-05 ..... Consequences
- 9) 02 Aug ..... Judges 06 ..... Called
- 10) 09 Aug ..... Judges 07-15 ..... Trust
- 11) 16 Aug ..... **Judges 16-21** ..... **Compromise**
- 12) 23 Aug ..... Ruth 01-02 ..... Faithfulness
- 13) 30 Aug ..... Ruth 03-04 ..... Redemption

**INTRODUCTION – JUDGES 16**

- Samson – the Judge who made decisions based on his emotions
  - ♦ How many times have we heard from others that we need to check our minds at the door and worship God with our feelings?
  - ♦ The Israelites got themselves into big trouble when they did that
  - ♦ The God of the Bible commands us to be sober-minded. It's not that we check our emotions at the door before we worship God, but our emotions do not take the lead
  - ♦ We worship God in spirit (of righteousness) and in truth
  - ♦ Samson's decisions were often based on satisfying his sexual wants, his anger, or his desire for vengeance. Few of his decisions were based on doing the right thing, the right way, at the right time, for the right reason

Passage	Comments
16:1-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. <b>6<sup>th</sup> Emotional Decision</b> – Sexual Desires Again</li> <li>• v4. <b>7<sup>th</sup> Emotional Decision</b> – Sexual Desires Rule</li> <li>• vv16-17. <b>8<sup>th</sup> Emotional Decision</b> – Weariness led to his downfall. Be not weary in well doing ..... <a href="#">Gal 6:9</a></li> <li>• v20. The Lord had left him. Samson did not take his God-given gift of strength seriously – he used it for his own gain, and not for God's</li> <li>• vv26-30. <b>9<sup>th</sup> Emotional Decision</b> - Based on Vengeance again, &amp; it looks like God honored his decision to kill 3000 by giving him the strength to topple columns                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Was this a good prayer or one where God sent leanness to his soul ..... <a href="#">Ps 106:15</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Over the course of 20 years Samson single-handedly killed more than the Japs killed at Pearl Harbor (1941) or the terrorists killed on 9/11/2001</li> <li>• Tragically, Samson had a greater spiritual impact in his death than in his life. With all of his shortcomings, he still warranted a mention in <a href="#">Heb 11:32</a> as a man of faith</li> </ul>
Note on Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotions are a God-given ability to help us make sense of various conditions in our surrounding from pleasure to danger – should we fight, flight, or have fun</li> <li>• When we make decisions based purely on our emotions and not on God's Word we will often find ourselves doing what is right in our own eyes</li> </ul>

**JUDGES 16 CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Samson's faith may not have been much to brag about, but the little faith which was evident was enough for God to use to bring peace to the land of Israel for 20 years
- Recall what Jesus said that if our faith was as small as a grain of mustard seed we can accomplish much for God's Kingdom
- But do we do things God's way or do we do things our way?
- Be like Samson and trust God for the strength you need when you need it. BUT, don't be like Samson and use God's gifts selfishly
- **What great things do we plan to accomplish for God this year?**

**INTRODUCTION – JUDGES 17-18**

- What happens when we take the path of least resistance?
- What happens when we compromise our moral standards?
- The last 5 chapters of Judges (17-21) tell the unglamorous story of two Levites living during the time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes
- **Judges 17-18.** The 1<sup>st</sup> Levite, a grandson of Moses, seemed to have a tender heart, but he chose the path of least resistance and joined forces with whomever would pay him the most

Passage	Comments
Judges 17:1-13 18:1-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The characters in the next 51 verses make quite a Soap Opera: <b>1) Micah</b> stole from his mother but returned the money; <b>2) Micah's mother</b> turns the returned loot into an idol; <b>3) Micah's son</b> becomes the family priest to honor this idol; <b>4) An unnamed Levite</b> assumes the priestly duties of Micah's household for money; <b>5) Some spies</b> from the tribe of Dan seek for more land to acquire and they recognize the Levite staying at Micah's house; <b>6) 600 Danites</b> traveling by Micah's house entice Micah's Levite to travel with them – of course for more money – and the Danites rob precious things from Micah's house, and threaten Micah's life if he tries to put up a fight; <b>7) Laishites</b> are annihilated by the Danites for being an easy prey; <b>8) Jonathan</b> is revealed as the unnamed Levite – and his grandfather was Moses (18:30)</li> <li>• We are given an historical marker that all this took place while the house of God was still at Shiloh. Shiloh, in a few years, would eventually be destroyed and the ark of God captured by the Philistines ..... <a href="#">1Samuel 4:11</a></li> <li>• This story seems to have nothing in common with the next Levite story EXCEPT for the common time period they lived in where men did what was right in their own eyes, &amp; the moral fiber of the nation was spiraling down</li> </ul>
Verses to highlight: 17:1 17:6-7 17:13  18:1 18:3 18:19-20 18:30-31	
	<p><b>The Story's Conclusion.</b> Even the revered lineage of Moses is tainted with idolaters and moral decay</p> <p><b>Note.</b> Some translations for 18:30 identify Moses as the grandfather of Jonathan (ESV, NIV, HCSB), while other versions have Manasseh (AV, NASB, NKJV).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Latin Vulgate has "Moses," the Septuagint "Manasses."</li> <li>• According to Barne's commentary "the Masoretes, probably grieved that a descendant of Moses should have been implicated in idolatrous worship, adopted this expedient (a slight character shift in the name) for disguising the fact without absolutely falsifying the text"</li> </ul>



**INTRODUCTION – JUDGES 19-21**

- What happens when we take the High Road?
  - ♦ **Judges 19.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Levite seemed awfully calloused, but he chose the hard path and did what was right, though it meant nearly wiping out the tribe of Benjamin
  - ♦ **Judges 20-21.** The tribe of Benjamin gets nearly wiped out for protecting certain worthless fellows” who sought to rape a man, but who gave his wife to be raped instead, then cut her up in 12 pieces, all because everyone did what was right in his own eyes

Passage	Comments
Judges 19:1-30 20:1-48 21:1-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another Soap Opera story unfolds with an unnamed Levite chasing his wayward wife back to her home town. He is restrained from leaving by his father-in-law.</li> <li>• Eventually, the Levite, his servant, and his wife head back to the Levite's hometown in northern Israel</li> <li>• They stop for the night near Jerusalem in a suburb populated by people of the tribe of Benjamin</li> <li>• Similar to what happened in Sodom with Lot's visitors (<b>Gen 19</b>), "worthless men" came to rape the Levite.</li> </ul>
Verses to Highlight 19:1-3 19:10 19:14-16 19:22-30 20:1,4-6 20:11-15 20:17,21 20:23-27 20:35 20:46-47 21:3,15 21:19-23 21:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strange to our western understanding, the host offers up his virgin daughter and the man's wife to the rapists, but the Levite seems to thrust his wife into their arms</li> <li>• When the Levite gets up in the morning he callously tells his wife – 'get up and let's go' – but she was dead</li> <li>• The Levite carves up his wife's body and sends a piece to each of the tribes – something so brutal &amp; grotesque demanded a response by all of Israel</li> <li>• The Israelites did not act rashly, but investigated the incident, and sought godly counsel before taking action - It was 400,000 Israelites against 26,000 of Benjamin</li> <li>• For some reason, God allowed the Israelites to lose 2 fierce battles and suffer more than 40,000 casualties</li> <li>• The Israelites nearly wipe out the tribe of Benjamin, but allowed the remaining 600 men to cart off young women participating in a feast in Shiloh to recover</li> </ul>
A Note on the Tribe of Benjamin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tribe of Benjamin eventually recovered in numbers.</li> <li>• To Benjamin's credit, they learned their lesson and they become the only tribe willing to stand with Judah to remain loyal to God as the other tribes broke away to set up their own kingdom in northern Israel.</li> <li>• From Benjamin came the first anointed King of Israel (Saul) and the Apostle Paul (previously named Saul)</li> </ul>

**JUDGES 19-21 CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- To turn a wicked situation around there might be wars to fight, and not all righteous wars can be won without suffering heavy losses
- We are not commanded to fight with swords these days, but with prayer to pull down the enemy's strong holds .....**2Cor 1-3-5**
- What other weapons can we use? Testimony? Money? \_\_\_\_\_?

Passage	Comments
A Note on the Tribe of Dan & Ephraim	From this point forward in Scripture, the Tribe of Dan, which was part of the northern kingdom of Israel, is reckoned with idolaters. Dan along with Ephraim, are eventually de-listed from the 12 tribes of Israel, and are replaced with Joseph and Levi ..... see <b>Rev 7:5-8</b>
<b>The 12 Sons of Jacob/Israel</b>	<b>Identified Tribes of Israel</b>
<b>Leah's Sons:</b> 1. Reuben 2. Simeon 3. Levi 4. Judah 5. Issachar 6. Zebulun	<b>Revelation 7:5-8</b> 1. Reuben 2. Simeon 3. Judah 4. Issachar 5. Zebulun 6. Naphtali 7. Gad
<b>Bilhah's Sons (Rachel's maid)</b> 7. Dan 8. Naphtali	8. Asher 9. Joseph
<b>Zilpah's Sons (Leah's maid)</b> 9. Gad 10. Asher	10. Ephraim (Joseph's son) 11. Manasseh (Joseph's son) 12. Benjamin
<b>Rachel's Sons</b> 11. Joseph 12. Benjamin	13. Levi (Priestly duties, scattered throughout Israel)
<b>Final 12 Tribes of Israel (Rev 7:5-8) named on the 12 Gates of the New Jerusalem</b>	<b>Recognized Apostles to be named on the 12 Foundations of the New Jerusalem</b>
1. Judah 2. Reuben 3. Gad 4. Asher 5. Naphtali 6. Manasseh (Joseph's son replaces Dan) 7. Simeon 8. Levi (Replaces Ephraim, son of Joseph) 9. Issachar 10. Zebulun 11. Joseph 12. Benjamin	1. Simon Peter 2. James, son of Zebedee 3. John, brother of James 4. Andrew (Peter's brother) 5. Philip 6. Bartholemew 7. Matthew 8. Thomas 9. James, son of Alphaeus 10. Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot) 11. Judas, son of James (Thaddaeus) 12. Judas Iscariot, son of Perdition (presumably replaced by Paul)
<b>Please Note:</b> We are all replaceable. If God has no problems replacing troubling sons of Jacob due to probable idolatry and replacing one of His Apostles for traitorous behavior, we too can lose rewards if we opt to backside. Fortunately, our salvation is secure. So, stay faithful and true to our Lord and Savior.	

**NEXT WEEK: Ruth 1-2.** Ruth, born into a heathen culture, through providence became a Jewish wife, a daughter-in-law, a widow, a wife for 2<sup>nd</sup> time, a mother, and finally a great-great-grandmother of Jesus

- Nobody is a waste in God's scheme if they chose to follow Him
- God is not concerned about our past, but about our future

