

OUR GOD'S FAILURES & FAITHFULNESS

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Part 22 — “Moral Chaos & the Abuse of Women by Weak Men”— October 26, 2025

Introduction: The Reality of Evil in a Fallen World

Living in a fallen world means that we are regularly confronted with evil. There are examples of natural evils which come in the form of tragedy, illness, natural disasters. At the same time, we see evidence of moral or perpetrated evils which come from the actions of sinful men and women. Knowing that God is ultimately sovereign over all things does not always make things easier to understand or accept, but it is a point of anchor for us. We serve a God who has Himself experienced the evils of life in a fallen world and has promised to one day set all things right for His glory and our good.

Main Point: How men _____ women and _____ them is a demonstration of their own moral strength or weakness.

Judges 19:1-30

In the first conclusion to Judges, Israel's sorry spiritual condition was presented on an individual level through the accounts of an idolatrous man named Micah and a greedy Levite, and on a tribal level through the unbelief of the Danites. In the second conclusion, the moral condition of the people is illustrated through the story of an abusive and uncaring Levite and his concubine.

Exposition:

I. The moral chaos in Israel at this time is introduced through the account of a priest, his concubine, and her father (19:1-9).

Observations:

(1) The second introduction begins with an explanatory declaration that there was no _____ in Israel at this time.

(2) The account centers on the relationship between a man from the priestly tribe and his concubine.

“a certain Levite was sojourning”

“concubine”

(3) Something occurred in their relationship that led her to leave him and return to the home of her _____.

“unfaithful”— *zānā*— ‘to commit adultery or fornication.’ Many argue, however, that a better understanding is ‘to become angry with or to abhor.’ This is supported in the LXX (“she became angry”).

⇒ While it is possible that her adultery was the cause of their split, it is just as likely that something occurred in their relationship which led her to feel anger or repugnance towards him.

(4) The account then focuses in on the Levite and the girl's father.

⇒ The Levite intended to persuade her to return to him by speaking “_____” to her.

⇒ The father is highlighted as the primary figure in this portion of the account:

“the girl's father”

“his father-in-law”

* He repeatedly enticed them to _____ longer with him and he spent time specifically with the Levite.

Key Point: _____ rather than _____ communication is often the best way for men to handle situations of relational difficulty or concern.

II. The moral chaos in Israel is further displayed when the Levite and his party arrive in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. (19:10-21)

Observations:

(1) The condition of the city of _____ and the debate over where to stay hints at the trouble ahead.

“the city of the Jebusites”

⇒ Although the city had been originally captured by Judah (Judges 1:8), the tribe of Benjamin had failed to complete its conquest in accordance with God's commands (Judges 1:21).

- (2) Their arrival in Gibeah did not result in the _____ that they seem to have expected.
"no one took them in"
- (3) The interactions with the old man are foreboding in how they unfold and in what they recall.
"Ephraim, from which I come" "I am going to the house of the Lord"
"your female servant" "do not spend the night in the square"

Key Point: Men must know the difference between times for _____ and times for _____.

III. The moral chaos in Israel is made explicit through the actions of the men of Benjamin and the Levite. (19:22-30)

Observations:

- (1) That evening, "_____" men came to the home with the intent of humiliating the Levite.
 ⇒ These men are referred to literally as the "sons of Belial." The term means 'wickedness' or 'evil' and was associated with Sheol, chaos, and death. It eventually became a proper name for Satan (2 Cor. 6:15).
 "...their intent is specifically to shame him—since he is an unwelcome outsider, inappropriately offered hospitality by another outsider—by [physically violating] him." —Boda & Conway
- (2) The old man sought to prevent them from doing one wicked thing by offering the opportunity to do what in his mind was a less wicked thing.
"here are my virgin daughter and his concubine"
- (3) The Levite quickly intervened and threw his concubine out to the wicked men who abused her.
- (4) The true character of the Levite is revealed in his treatment of her following the attack.
"Get up, let us be going" "he divided her...and sent her throughout all...Israel"

Key Point: Men who are unable or unwilling to use violence to _____ others, will often _____ wicked men to inflict violence upon the vulnerable.

Assessing the Second Conclusion So Far

- The account demonstrates the _____ - _____ and moral _____ of the men of Israel
The Levite
The Girl's Father
The Tribe of Benjamin
- The account demonstrates how societal conditions have deteriorated for the _____ of Israel
- The account demonstrates that Israel has essentially become a worse version of _____ & _____

Applying the Text

- Scripture tells men and women the truth about _____.
We need a _____ I _____ We need to understand God's good _____ for us as men & women!
- Scripture tells men and women the truth about _____.
Women are not _____ and they are not _____ I _____
Men are not _____ and they are not _____ I _____

