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|  | **LightHouse Ranch**  **Bible Study** |

***Religion, Immorality, then Anarchy***

[***Judges 17-21***](swordsearcher://bible/judg17-21) ***;*** [***I and II Timothy***](swordsearcher://bible/1tim)

**I. False Religion**

**II. Gross Immorality**

**III. Anarchy - Civil War**

**IV. How did we get here?**

**V. The Last Days - A Similar (Typical) Time**

[**Proverbs 14:34**](swordsearcher://bible/prov14.34) Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

**Religion, Immorality, then Anarchy –** [Judges 17-21](swordsearcher://bible/judg17-21)

The book of Judges’ last five chapters are not placed in chronological order. They actually happened sometime in the first chapter and I believe the LORD is teaching us a concept about human government found only in these five chapters. The statement, “In those days there was no king in Israel”, is only found in: [Judges 17:6](swordsearcher://bible/judg17.6), [Judges 18:1](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.1), [Judges 19:1](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.1), and [Judges 21:25](swordsearcher://bible/judg21.25).

Human government was established by God in Noah’s time. This government simply stated: “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed.” Later, God built a people out of Abraham and gave them the Law at Mount Sainai, but when Joshua lead the people into the promised land, all twelve tribes failed to obey God’s command to completely destroy the Canaanite from their allotments of land. The result of this disobedience was that the Canaanite religion was a snare enticing them to depart from God and to serve after other gods. This apostacy explains the evilness at the time of the judges and is a type of the apostacy in the last days before the great Tribulation. God is teaching us that the liberty with which He created us, needs to be secured and rightly constrained by human government (as murder, etc.), or all will succumb to anarchy or tyranny. God has, however, His remnant in every generation.

Knowledge of liberty and the constraints of liberty is very necessary for any people to live prosperously; and we can learn through history and Scripture, that along with liberty comes responsibility. It is also apparent that liberty must be personally limited in God’s way in order to serve God or be a good citizen. Not enough liberty, (Communism) brings about tyranny and despotism; whereas, too much liberty (As in the French Revolution) leads to anarchy and civil war. (This is also the difference between a straight democracy and federalism)

The founders and framers of the United States realized that the country, in order to succeed, needed the governed righteously in order to be a good people, as they were to give their rational consent to officials they elected. Benjamin Rush, the founder of public schools – State, not Federal - was also known for his statement: “Whatever it takes to make a person a good Christian also makes that person also a good citizen.” For this same reason, the framers would, if they found a church that was lacking funds, use Federal money to help them keep the doors open. They knew a good and moral citizenry was what the new country needed.

The book of Judges teaches us that the road to defeat and despair begins with false religion (any philosophy that is unscriptural) - this leads to gross immorality – the next step is anarchy and civil war.

**I.** **False Religion**

**Man Made Gods – A cursing Mother, Micah, a runaway Levite, the Tribe of Dan, and Danite spies**

[**Judges 17:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg1.4) And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name *was* Micah.  
**Judges 17:2** And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver *is* with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed *be thou* of the LORD, my son.  
**Judges 17:3** And when he had restored the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.  
**Judges 17:4** Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred *shekels* of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

**Man designed service to an idol – Micah’s son (of Ephraim) made priest - Man ordained Priest**  
[**Judges 17:5**](swordsearcher://bible/judg17.5) And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

**A run away Levite** **hired and ordained to replace Micah’s son - Apostacy**  
[**Judges 17:6**](swordsearcher://bible/judg17.6-10) In those days *there was* no king in Israel, *but* every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.  
**Judges 17:7** And there was a young man out of Beth-lehem-judah of the family of Judah, who *was* a Levite, and he sojourned there.  
**Judges 17:8** And the man departed out of the city from Beth-lehem-judah to sojourn where he could find *a place*: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.  
**Judges 17:9** And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I *am* a Levite of Beth-lehem-judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find *a place*.  
**Judges 17:10** And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten *shekels* of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.  
**The Levite was content to live there – Until a better offer comes along – False religion**

[**Judges 17:11**](swordsearcher://bible/judg17.11-13) And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.  
**Judges 17:12** And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

**Judges 17:13** Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to *my* priest.

**These are the days the tribe of Dan sent out spies –** [Judges 1:34](swordsearcher://bible/judg1.34) – **Disobedience crowded Dan out**

[**Judges 18:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.1-10) In those days *there was* no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day *all their* inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.  
**Judges 18:2** And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.  
**Judges 18:3** When they *were* by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this *place*? and what hast thou here?  
**Judges 18:4** And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.  
**Judges 18:5** And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.  
**Judges 18:6** And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD *is* your way wherein ye go.  
**Judges 18:7** Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that *were* therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and *there was* no magistrate in the land, that might put *them* to shame in *any* thing; and they *were* far from the Zidonians, and had no business with *any* man.  
**Judges 18:8** And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What *say* ye?  
**Judges 18:9** And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it *is* very good: and *are* ye still? be not slothful to go, *and* to enter to possess the land.  
**Judges 18:10** When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where *there is* no want of any thing that *is* in the earth.

**Dan equips an army of 600 men**  
[**Judges 18:11**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.11-14) And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war.  
**Judges 18:12** And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath-jearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahaneh-dan unto this day: behold, *it is* behind Kirjath-jearim.  
**Judges 18:13** And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

**Judges 18:14** Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.

**The Danite spies came to Micah’s house**  
[**Judges 18:15**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.15-20) And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, *even* unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.  
**Judges 18:16** And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which *were* of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate.  
**Judges 18:17** And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, *and* came in thither, *and* took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men *that were* appointed with weapons of war.  
**Judges 18:18** And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye?  
**Judges 18:19** And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: *is it* better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?  
**Judges 18:20** And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.

**Micah’s priest, departs Mica’s house with the Danites – Micah chases after them**  
[**Judges 18:21**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.21-26) So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.  
**Judges 18:22** *And* when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that *were* in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.  
**Judges 18:23** And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?  
**Judges 18:24** And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what *is* this *that* ye say unto me, What aileth thee?  
**Judges 18:25** And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.  
**Judges 18:26** And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they *were* too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.

**Dan and the priest come to Laish to conquer the city**  
[**Judges 18:27**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.21-27) And they took *the things* which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people *that were* at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.

**They named their city Dan**  
[**Judges 18:28**](swordsearcher://bible/judg18.28-31) And *there was* no deliverer, because it *was* far from Zidon, and they had no business with *any* man; and it was in the valley that *lieth* by Beth-rehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.  
**Judges 18:29** And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city *was* Laish at the first.  
**Judges 18:30** And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.  
**Judges 18:31** And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

**II. Gross Immorality**

**A Levite, his concubine, father-in-law, the Ephraimite, Benjaminite city of Gibeah, certain sons of Bilial**

[**Judges 19:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.1-2) And it came to pass in those days, when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah.  
**Judges 19:2** And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Beth-lehem-judah, and was there four whole months.

**The Levite goes to his father-in-law’s house to speak to his concubine**  
[**Judges 19:3**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.3-9) And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, *and* to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into her father's house: and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.  
**Judges 19:4** And his father in law, the damsel's father, retained him; and he abode with him three days: so they did eat and drink, and lodged there.  
**Judges 19:5** And it came to pass on the fourth day, when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart: and the damsel's father said unto his son in law, Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way.  
**Judges 19:6** And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry.  
**Judges 19:7** And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged there again.  
**Judges 19:8** And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the damsel's father said, Comfort thine heart, I pray thee. And they tarried until afternoon, and they did eat both of them.  
**Judges 19:9** And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.

**The Levite, his servant, his concubine depart and come to Jebus**  
[**Judges 19:10**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.10-13) But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus, which *is* Jerusalem; and *there were* with him two asses saddled, his concubine also *was* with him.  
**Judges 19:11** *And* when they *were* by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it.  
**Judges 19:12** And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that *is* not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah.  
**Judges 19:13** And he said unto his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in Ramah.

**The Levite wants to stay at Gibeah a city of Benjamin**

[**Judges 19:14**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.14-16) And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them *when they were* by Gibeah, which *belongeth* to Benjamin.  
**Judges 19:15** And they turned aside thither, to go in *and* to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for *there was* no man that took them into his house to lodging.  
**Judges 19:16** And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even, which *was* also of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place *were* Benjamites.

**Don’t lodge in the street**  
[**Judges 19:17**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.17-21) And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou?

**Judges 19:18** And he said unto him, We *are* passing from Beth-lehem-judah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence *am* I: and I went to Beth-lehem-judah, but I *am now* going to the house of the LORD; and there *is* no man that receiveth me to house.  
**Judges 19:19** Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man *which is* with thy servants: *there is* no want of any thing.  
**Judges 19:20** And the old man said, Peace *be* with thee; howsoever *let* all thy wants *lie* upon me; only lodge not in the street.  
**Judges 19:21** So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.

**Certain sons of Belial beset the house – Reminds me of Lot in Sodom**  
[**Judges 19:22**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.22-24) *Now* as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, *and* beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.  
**Judges 19:23** And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, *nay*, I pray you, do not *so* wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.  
**Judges 19:24** Behold, *here is* my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing.

**Rape and Sexual Abuse**  
[**Judges 19:25**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.25) But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go.

**The abused woman makes it back to the door of the house the next morning**  
[**Judges 19:26**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.26-27) Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord *was*, till it was light.

**Judges 19:27** And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down *at* the door of the house, and her hands *were* upon the threshold.

**The Levite cuts the woman into 12 pieces**  
[**Judges 19:28**](swordsearcher://bible/judg19.28-30) And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her *up* upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.  
**Judges 19:29** And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, *together* with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.  
**Judges 19:30** And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak *your minds*.

**III. Anarchy - Civil War –** [Chapter 1 especially verses 21 and 34](swordsearcher://bible/judg1.21-34)

**400 thousand soldiers of Israel (A tribal army) want to know what happened**

[**Judges 20:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.1-7) Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh.  
**Judges 20:2** And the chief of all the people, *even* of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.  
**Judges 20:3** (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.) Then said the children of Israel, Tell *us*, how was this wickedness?

**Judges 20:4** And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that *belongeth* to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge.  
**Judges 20:5** And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, *and* thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead.  
**Judges 20:6** And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel.  
**Judges 20:7** Behold, ye *are* all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

**The army is ready - This is what we shall do to Gibeah**[**Judges 20:8**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.8-12) And all the people arose as one man, saying, We will not any *of us* go to his tent, neither will we any *of us* turn into his house.  
**Judges 20:9** But now this *shall be* the thing which we will do to Gibeah; *we will go up* by lot against it;  
**Judges 20:10** And we will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel.  
**Judges 20:11** So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man.  
**Judges 20:12** And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness *is* this that is done among you?

**Civil war between Benjamin against the rest of Israel**  
[**Judges 20:13**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.13-17) Now therefore deliver *us* the men, the children of Belial, which *are* in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel:  
**Judges 20:14** But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel.  
**Judges 20:15** And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men.  
**Judges 20:16** Among all this people *there were* seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair *breadth*, and not miss.  
**Judges 20:17** And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these *were* men of war.

**Battle the first day – The children of Israel asked council**   
[**Judges 20:18**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.18-21) And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah *shall go up* first.  
**Judges 20:19** And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.  
**Judges 20:20** And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Gibeah.  
**Judges 20:21** And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand men.

**Battle the next day**  
[**Judges 20:22**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.22-25) And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day.  
**Judges 20:23** (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD said, Go up against him.)  
**Judges 20:24** And the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day.  
**Judges 20:25** And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword.

**The children of Israel offer a burnt sacrifice**  
[**Judges 20:26**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.20-26) Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

**The third and final day of battle – Moses great grandson – Benjamin almost wiped out!**  
[**Judges 20:27**](swordsearcher://bible/judg20.27-48) And the children of Israel inquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God *was* there in those days,  
**Judges 20:28** And Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days,) saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the LORD said, Go up; for to morrow I will deliver them into thine hand.  
**Judges 20:29** And Israel set liers in wait round about Gibeah.  
**Judges 20:30** And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times.  
**Judges 20:31** And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, *and* were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the people, *and* kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goeth up to the house of God, and the other to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel.  
**Judges 20:32** And the children of Benjamin said, They *are* smitten down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways.  
**Judges 20:33** And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baal-tamar: and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their places, *even* out of the meadows of Gibeah.  
**Judges 20:34** And there came against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore: but they knew not that evil *was* near them.  
**Judges 20:35** And the LORD smote Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty and five thousand and an hundred men: all these drew the sword.  
**Judges 20:36** So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: for the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted unto the liers in wait which they had set beside Gibeah.  
**Judges 20:37** And the liers in wait hasted, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers in wait drew *themselves* along, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword.  
**Judges 20:38** Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city.  
**Judges 20:39** And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite *and* kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: for they said, Surely they are smitten down before us, as *in* the first battle.  
**Judges 20:40** But when the flame began to arise up out of the city with a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and, behold, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven.  
**Judges 20:41** And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed: for they saw that evil was come upon them.  
**Judges 20:42** Therefore they turned *their backs* before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and them which *came* out of the cities they destroyed in the midst of them.  
**Judges 20:43** *Thus* they inclosed the Benjamites round about, *and* chased them, *and* trode them down with ease over against Gibeah toward the sunrising.  
**Judges 20:44** And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these *were* men of valour.  
**Judges 20:45** And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon: and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them unto Gidom, and slew two thousand men of them.  
**Judges 20:46** So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these *were* men of valour.  
**Judges 20:47** But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months.  
**Judges 20:48** And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of *every* city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

**In Mizpeh, the men of Israel had sworn they would not give their daughters to any Benjaminite to wife**

[**Judges 21:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg21.1) Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.

**IV. How did we get here?**  
[**Judges 21:2**](swordsearcher://bible/judg21.2-5) And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;  
**Judges 21:3** And said, O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel?  
**Judges 21:4** And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.  
**Judges 21:5** And the children of Israel said, Who *is there* among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the LORD? For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the LORD to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

**The children of Israel repent of their deeds**  
[**Judges 21:6**](swordsearcher://bible/judg21.6-15) And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day.  
**Judges 21:7** How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?  
**Judges 21:8** And they said, What one *is there* of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the LORD? And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.  
**Judges 21:9** For the people were numbered, and, behold, *there were* none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.

**Judges 21:10** And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children.  
**Judges 21:11** And this *is* the thing that ye shall do, Ye shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman that hath lain by man.  
**Judges 21:12** And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which *is* in the land of Canaan.  
**Judges 21:13** And the whole congregation sent *some* to speak to the children of Benjamin that *were* in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably unto them.  
**Judges 21:14** And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead: and yet so they sufficed them not.  
**Judges 21:15** And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

**How was Benjamin to repopulate?**  
[**Judges 21:16**](swordsearcher://bible/judg21.16-22) Then the elders of the congregation said, How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?  
**Judges 21:17** And they said, *There must be* an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel.

**Judges 21:18** Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters: for the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed *be* he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.  
**Judges 21:19** Then they said, Behold, *there is* a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly *in a place* which *is* on the north side of Beth-el, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Beth-el to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.  
**Judges 21:20** Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;  
**Judges 21:21** And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.  
**Judges 21:22** And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favorable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, *that* ye should be guilty.  
**Judges 21:25** In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

**V.** **The Last Days - A Similar (Typical) Time**

The day in which we live, the Last Days, is the precursor to the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”, or as Jesus named it the “Great Tribulation”; which, as Jesus described it, “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”. ([Matthew 24:21](swordsearcher://bible/matt24.21)) Teaching in both epistles, concerning the last days, the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy, his son in the faith, to come against false doctrine wherever it appears. The Word of God is the source of sound doctrine and its message needs to be delivered to all people. To effectively serve God, obedience as found in the Scriptures is a complete necessity.

**I Timothy begins by instructing Timothy to teach sound doctrine - to stay and to minister in Ephesus**

[**I Timothy 1:1**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim1.1-10) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope;  
**I Timothy 1:2** Unto Timothy, *my* own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**I Timothy 1:3** As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,  
**I Timothy 1:4** Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.  
**I Timothy 1:5** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:  
**I Timothy 1:6** From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;  
**I Timothy 1:7** Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.  
**I Timothy 1:8** But we know that the law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully;  
**I Timothy 1:9** Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,  
**I Timothy 1:10** For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

**Christ enabled Paul according to the Gospel – Accounting him faithful**  
[**I Timothy 1:11**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim1.11-17) According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.  
**I Timothy 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

**I Timothy 1:13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.  
**I Timothy 1:14** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.  
**I Timothy 1:15** This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.  
**I Timothy 1:16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.  
**I Timothy 1:17** Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**I commit to thee, son Timothy, war a good warfare**  
[**I Timothy 1:18**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim1.18-20) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;  
**I Timothy 1:19** Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:  
**I Timothy 1:20** Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

**Exhortation to be good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior**

[**I Timothy 2:1**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim2.1-7) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;  
**I Timothy 2:2** For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.  
**I Timothy 2:3** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;  
**I Timothy 2:4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.  
**I Timothy 2:5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
**I Timothy 2:6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.  
**I Timothy 2:7** Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

**The mystery of godliness for the “Latter Days” - After teaching proper conduct for men and women**

[**I Timothy 3:16**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim3.16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**Now, the Spirit speaketh in the latter times (The above verse was in the past tense)**

**[I Timothy 4:1](swordsearcher://bible/1tim4.1-5)** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;  
**I Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;  
**I Timothy 4:3** Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.  
1 **Timothy 4:4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:  
1 **Timothy 4:5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

**Put the brethren in remembrance of these things – Live unto godliness**  
[**I Timothy 4:6**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim4.6-10) If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.  
**I Timothy 4:7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.  
**I Timothy 4:8** For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.  
**I Timothy 4:9** This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.  
**I Timothy 4:10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

**These things command and teach**  
[**I Timothy 4:11**](swordsearcher://bible/1tim4.11-16) These things command and teach.  
**I Timothy 4:12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.  
**I Timothy 4:13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.  
**I Timothy 4:14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.  
**I Timothy 4:15** Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.  
**I Timothy 4:16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

II Timothy, instructs Timothy to continue in faith and, by the Holy Ghost, to hold fast to sound Words

**[II Timothy 1:1](swordsearcher://bible/2tim1.1-14)** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,  
**II Timothy 1:2** To Timothy, *my* dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**II Timothy 1:3** I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;  
**II Timothy 1:4** Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;  
**II Timothy 1:5** When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.  
**II Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.  
**II Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.  
**II Timothy 1:8** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;  
**II Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
**II Timothy 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:  
**II Timothy 1:11** Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.  
**II Timothy 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.  
**II Timothy 1:13** Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.  
**II Timothy 1:14** That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Now, in II Timothy 2, there is strong advise to study the Scripture, because it is Scripture that furnishes God’s people to be able to serve Him. The Holy Spirit enables and the Scripture thoroughly furnishes. Now we will be directed back to the last days:

**[II Timothy 3:1](swordsearcher://bible/2tim3.1-4.5)** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.  
**II Timothy 3:2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

**II Timothy 3:3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,  
**II Timothy 3:4** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;  
**II Timothy 3:5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.  
**II Timothy 3:6** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,  
**II Timothy 3:7** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
**II Timothy 3:8** Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.  
**II Timothy 3:9** But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.  
**II Timothy 3:10** But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,  
**II Timothy 3:11** Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.  
**II Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.  
**II Timothy 3:13** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.  
**II Timothy 3:14** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;  
**II Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.  
**II Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:  
**II Timothy 3:17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

**II Timothy 4:1** I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;  
**II Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.  
**II Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;  
**II Timothy 4:4** And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.  
**II Timothy 4:5** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

**Paul has finished his course**  
**II Timothy 4:6** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
**II Timothy 4:7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:  
**II Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

[**Proverbs 14:34**](swordsearcher://bible/prov14.34) Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.