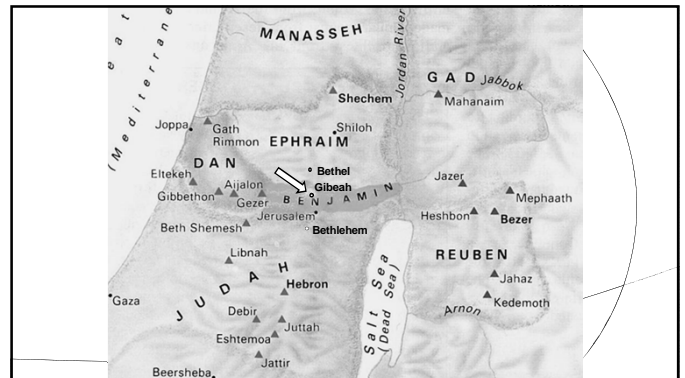


Epilogue: Religious & Moral Chaos
JUDGES 17-21

***“In those days there was no king in Israel;
 every man did what was right in his own eyes.”***

(Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

Moral Chaos: Outrage at Gibeah
Judges 19-21



Outrage at Gibeah

1. Gibeah: a new Sodom

- the moral perversity of the men of Gibeah
- the perverted values of the older Ephriamite
- the calloused, indifferent and self-serving character of the Levite

Outrage at Gibeah

2. Benjamin: an almost extinct tribe

- Israel declared “herem” war against the tribe of Benjamin – complete destruction
- 40,000 Israelites were killed before Benjamin was defeated (“Yahweh struck Benjamin”)
- The entire tribe of Benjamin was destroyed except for 600 men

Outrage at Gibeah

3. Israel: a convoluted salvation

- Israel provided 400 wives for the survivors of Benjamin by destroying Jabesh-gilead
- the men of Benjamin were allowed to kidnap 200 daughters of Shiloh for wives

Summary:

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Summary:

1. A Display of Man's Inherent Depravity

- left to themselves the people have no moral compass
- the sin/moral problem is not merely external but a corrupt nature

Summary:

2. A Display of God's Faithful Love

- Benjamin, as well as all Israel, still exists in the land at the end of Judges!
- it is of the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed