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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺
lokpeter@outlook.com

Judges

The Book of Judges is a historical and theological book in the Christian Old Testament. It covers a period of Israel's history from the death of Joshua (around 1350 BC) to the beginning of the monarchy under Saul (around 1050 BC).

The book describes a cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance that characterizes the history of Israel during this period. The judges, who are military leaders appointed by God to rescue Israel from their enemies, play a prominent role in the book. The book begins with the death of Joshua and the failure of the Israelites to completely conquer the land of Canaan. The people begin to worship the gods of the Canaanites, and God allows them to be oppressed by their enemies as punishment for their disobedience. The judges, including Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson, are raised up by God to deliver Israel from their enemies. However, even the judges are not immune to sin, and the cycle of sin and oppression continues.

The book concludes with a series of stories that illustrate the moral decay of Israel during this period. The Israelites turn away from God and do what is right in their own eyes, leading to chaos and destruction.

Overall, the Book of Judges portrays a complex and often troubled period in Israel's history, characterized by disobedience, sin, and repentance. The judges serve as a reminder of God's faithfulness to his people, despite their shortcomings, and the need for obedience and faithfulness in order to receive his blessings.

Here is a summary of each chapter in the Book of Judges:

Chapter 1: The Israelites fail to completely conquer the land of Canaan. They are able to defeat some of their enemies, but others remain. The chapter also highlights the faithfulness of Caleb and his descendants.

Chapter 2: The angel of the Lord appears to the Israelites and rebukes them for not completely driving out the inhabitants of the land. The people begin to worship other gods, and God allows them to be oppressed by their enemies.

Chapter 3: The Israelites are oppressed by several different nations, and God raises up Othniel, the first judge, to deliver them. The chapter also includes the stories of Ehud and Shamgar.

Chapter 4: Deborah, a prophetess, becomes the leader of Israel and helps defeat the Canaanites under the command of Sisera. Jael, a woman, kills Sisera.

Chapter 5: This is a song of victory sung by Deborah and Barak after their victory over the Canaanites.

Chapter 6: The Israelites are oppressed by the Midianites, and God raises up Gideon to deliver them. Gideon destroys the altar of Baal and leads Israel to victory over the Midianites.

Chapter 7: Gideon's army is reduced from 32,000 to 300 men, and they defeat the Midianites with trumpets and torches.

Chapter 8: Gideon continues to fight against the Midianites and the kings of Midian. He makes an ephod that becomes an object of worship.

Chapter 9: Abimelech, Gideon's son, becomes king and kills his brothers. He is eventually killed by a woman who drops a millstone on his head.

Chapter 10: The Israelites are oppressed by the Philistines and the Ammonites. God raises up Jephthah to deliver them, but Jephthah makes a foolish vow that results in the death of his daughter.

Chapter 11: Jephthah leads Israel to victory over the Ammonites. He also has a conflict with the tribe of Ephraim.

Chapter 12: The Ephraimites are angry that they were not included in the battle against the Ammonites. Jephthah defeats them in battle.

Chapter 13: Samson is born to a barren woman. An angel appears to his parents and tells them that Samson will be a Nazirite from birth and will deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Chapter 14: Samson falls in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah. He kills a lion and later uses honey from the lion's carcass to create a riddle for the Philistines.

Chapter 15: Samson sets fire to the Philistines' fields with foxes tied together with torches. The Philistines retaliate by killing Samson's wife, and Samson kills many Philistines in revenge.

Chapter 16: Delilah learns the secret of Samson's strength and betrays him to the Philistines. They blind Samson and make him a slave, but he regains his strength and pulls down the pillars of the temple, killing himself and many Philistines.

Chapter 17: A man named Micah steals silver from his mother and uses it to make an idol. He hires a Levite to be his priest.

Chapter 18: The tribe of Dan is looking for a place to settle and sends spies to the house of Micah. The spies steal the idol and the Levite and establish a new place of worship.

Chapter 19: A Levite and his concubine visit a city and are offered hospitality, but the concubine is raped and dies as a result. The Levite sends her body throughout Israel to provoke outrage and a call to action.

Chapter 20: The tribes of Israel demand that the men of the city be punished, but the tribe of Benjamin refuses to comply. This leads to a war between the tribes, in which many people are killed.

Chapter 21: The Israelites come up with a plan to kidnap women from a festival and give them to the remaining Benjamites as wives to preserve the tribe's survival.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 1 in the Christian Bible talks about the Israelites' conquests and failures in their attempts to take over the land of Canaan after Joshua's death. The chapter begins with a description of Judah's victory over the Canaanites and their capture of Jerusalem. However, the other tribes of Israel did not completely drive out the inhabitants of their allotted territories, and the Canaanites remained among them as a thorn in their side.

The chapter also details the successes and failures of various tribes in their battles against the Canaanites. It mentions the capture of Bezek, the defeat of Adoni-Bezek, the conquest of Bethel, and the destruction of the city of Luz. However, the chapter also notes instances where the Israelites failed to drive out their enemies, and instead allowed them to live among them.

Overall, the chapter serves as an introduction to the theme of the Book of Judges, which is the Israelites' cycle of sin, oppression, and deliverance under the leadership of various judges. The chapter sets the stage for the struggles and triumphs of the Israelites as they seek to maintain control over the land of Canaan and remain faithful to God.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 1 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

1. "After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord, 'Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?'" (Judges 1:1)
2. "The Lord was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had chariots fitted with iron." (Judges 1:19)
3. "As for the Benjamites, they did not drive out the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the Benjamites." (Judges 1:21)
4. "The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain." (Judges 1:34)

These verses introduce the situation in Israel after Joshua's death, describe some of the battles and struggles between the Israelites and other tribes in the region, and hint at the ongoing difficulties that the Israelites would face in their efforts to settle the land.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 2 in the Christian Bible talks about the Israelites' failure to fully obey God's commands and their resulting consequences. The chapter begins with the Angel of the Lord rebuking the Israelites for not driving out the Canaanites, warning that they will become a snare to them and their gods will become a source of trouble. The chapter then details how the Israelites repeatedly turned away from God, worshiped other gods, and disobeyed His commandments, leading to His anger and their defeat at the hands of their enemies.

The chapter introduces the theme of the book, which is the cycle of sin, oppression, and deliverance. It explains that after Joshua's death, the Israelites did not follow God and instead worshiped Baals and Ashtoreths. As a result, God allowed their enemies to conquer them and oppress them, causing the Israelites to cry out to Him for deliverance. In response, God raised up judges, such as Othniel, Ehud, and Deborah, to deliver the Israelites from their oppressors.

Overall, the chapter emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commands and the consequences of disobedience. It sets the stage for the rest of the book, which recounts the stories of various judges and the Israelites' struggles to remain faithful to God.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 2 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

1. "The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, 'I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, "I will never break my covenant with you."' (Judges 2:1)
2. "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10)
3. "Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders." (Judges 2:16)
4. "Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them." (Judges 2:18)

These verses highlight the theme of the book of Judges, which is the cycle of sin, judgment, and redemption that characterized the history of Israel during this period. The passage speaks of God's faithfulness to his covenant with Israel, the failure of subsequent generations to honor that covenant, and the role of the judges in saving Israel from its enemies.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 3 in the Christian Bible talks about the continued cycle of sin, oppression, and deliverance in the time of the judges. The chapter begins by listing the nations that the Lord left in the land of Canaan, to test the Israelites and see if they would obey His commandments. The chapter then describes the Israelites' failure to drive out the Canaanites, and how they intermarried with them and began worshiping their gods.

As a result of their disobedience, God allowed the king of Mesopotamia to conquer them and rule over them for eight years. The Israelites then cried out to God for help, and He raised up Othniel, the first judge, to deliver them from their oppressor. After Othniel's death, the Israelites fell back into sin and were oppressed by the Moabites for eighteen years. Again, they cried out to God, and He raised up Ehud to deliver them.

The chapter also recounts the story of Ehud's assassination of Eglon, the king of Moab, which led to the defeat of the Moabites and a period of peace for the Israelites. However, the chapter ends by stating that the Israelites continued to sin and worship other gods, setting the stage for the next cycle of sin, oppression, and deliverance.

Overall, the chapter highlights the consequences of disobedience to God's commandments and the importance of relying on Him for deliverance. It also introduces the theme of the book, which is the cycle of sin and deliverance in the time of the judges.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 3 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

1. "These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only to teach warfare to the

descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience)." (Judges 3:1-2)

2. "But when the Israelites cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them." (Judges 3:9)
3. "Again the Israelites cried out to the Lord, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite." (Judges 3:15)
4. "After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel." (Judges 3:31)

These verses continue to emphasize the cycle of sin, judgment, and deliverance that characterizes the book of Judges. In Chapter 3, we see the Israelites falling into sin, crying out to God for help, and then receiving deliverance through the judges whom God raises up. These verses also introduce some of the judges who will play significant roles in the book, such as Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. Finally, the first verse of Chapter 3 sets the stage for the following stories, indicating that God allowed certain nations to remain in the land in order to test the Israelites and teach them the ways of warfare.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 4 in the Christian Bible talks about the story of Deborah, a prophetess and judge of Israel, and the victory of the Israelites over the Canaanite army led by Sisera. The chapter begins by describing how the Israelites once again fell into sin and were oppressed by Jabin, the king of Canaan, for twenty years. Jabin had a powerful army commanded by Sisera, and the Israelites were unable to overcome them.

Deborah, who was a judge and prophetess, sent for Barak and instructed him to lead an army of ten thousand men to Mount Tabor, where they would face Sisera's army. Barak was hesitant and asked Deborah to accompany him, to which she agreed. Deborah prophesied that Sisera would be defeated, but that the victory would go to a woman rather than to Barak.

The Israelites attacked the Canaanite army at Mount Tabor, and with the Lord's help, they were able to defeat Sisera's army. Sisera fled on foot and took refuge in the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. Jael welcomed Sisera and offered him milk, but while he slept, she drove a tent peg through his temple, killing him.

The chapter ends with a song of victory sung by Deborah and Barak, praising the Lord for delivering the Israelites from their oppressors. The story of Deborah and the victory over Sisera highlights the importance of trusting in the Lord and following the guidance of His prophets and judges. It also emphasizes that God can use anyone, even a woman, to accomplish His purposes.

Here are some key verses from chapter 4 of the Book of Judges in the Christian Bible (NIV translation):

- "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim." (Judges 4:1-2)
- "Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill

country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided." (Judges 4:4-5)

- "'Very well,' Deborah said, 'I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.' So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh." (Judges 4:9)
- "At Barak's advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot." (Judges 4:15)
- "But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died." (Judges 4:21)

The Book of Judges, Chapter 5 in the Christian Bible is a song of victory sung by Deborah and Barak after the defeat of the Canaanite army led by Sisera. The chapter begins with a call to praise the Lord for delivering the Israelites from their oppressors and for the courage and faith of those who fought in the battle. The song describes the various tribes of Israel who participated in the battle and the role they played in the victory. The chapter also praises Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for her bravery in killing Sisera. It describes how she welcomed Sisera into her tent and then killed him while he slept, which was a crucial turning point in the battle.

The song emphasizes the power of the Lord in delivering the Israelites from their enemies and the faithfulness of those who trusted in Him. It also includes a warning to those who did not participate in the battle and a curse on Meroz, a town that did not offer assistance to the Israelites.

Overall, the chapter serves as a celebration of the victory over the Canaanites and a testament to the faith and courage of those who fought in the battle. It emphasizes the importance of trusting in the Lord and following His guidance, and the power of God to overcome even the most formidable foes.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 5 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible (New International Version translation):

- "When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the Lord!" (Judges 5:2)
- "My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord!" (Judges 5:9)
- "The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel." (Judges 5:7)
- "So may all your enemies perish, Lord! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." (Judges 5:31)

Chapter 5 is known as the Song of Deborah, and it is a poetic celebration of the victory of the Israelites over their Canaanite oppressors. These key verses praise the Lord for the victory and attribute it to the leadership of the princes of Israel and the willingness of the people to offer themselves. Deborah is also celebrated as a mother figure who played a key role in the victory. Finally, the chapter ends with a prayer for the destruction of

Israel's enemies and a blessing for those who love the Lord.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 6 in the Christian Bible talks about the story of Gideon, one of the judges of Israel, and the defeat of the Midianites who had been oppressing the Israelites. The chapter begins by describing how the Israelites once again fell into sin and were oppressed by the Midianites, who plundered their crops and livestock.

The Lord then appeared to Gideon and called him to be a deliverer of the Israelites. Gideon was hesitant and doubted his ability to lead the people, but the Lord reassured him and promised to be with him. Gideon asked for a sign to confirm that the Lord had indeed called him, and the Lord responded by causing fire to come out of a rock and consume a sacrifice that Gideon had offered.

Gideon then gathered an army of thirty-two thousand men to face the Midianites, but the Lord instructed him to reduce the number of men so that the victory would be attributed to Him and not to the strength of the Israelites. Gideon ultimately led an army of three hundred men and surprised the Midianites by attacking them at night with torches and trumpets.

The Midianites were thrown into confusion and began to fight among themselves, allowing the Israelites to defeat them and drive them out of the land. The chapter ends with the Israelites offering to make Gideon their king, but he refused, saying that the Lord was their ruler.

The story of Gideon and the defeat of the Midianites emphasizes the importance of trusting in the Lord and not relying on one's own strength. It also highlights the power of the Lord to deliver His people from their oppressors and the importance of being obedient to His commands.

Here are some key verses from chapter 6 in The Book of Judges:

- "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years." (Judges 6:1)
- "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." (Judges 6:15)
- "And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man." (Judges 6:16)
- "And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." (Judges 6:13)
- "And Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:24)
- "And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me." (Judges 7:2)
- "And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place." (Judges 7:7)
- "And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread

tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along." (Judges 7:13)

- "And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them." (Judges 8:4)
- "And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon." (Judges 8:28)

These are just a few key verses, but there are many more important passages in this chapter as well.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 7 in the Christian Bible talks about the continued story of Gideon and the defeat of the Midianites. After reducing his army to only three hundred men, Gideon and his soldiers encamped near the Midianite army, which numbered in the tens of thousands.

The Lord then instructed Gideon to lead a nighttime attack on the Midianites, but first, he must reduce his army even further by having all those who were afraid leave. Gideon followed the Lord's instructions, and two-thirds of his already small army left, leaving only one hundred men.

That night, Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp and at his signal, broke the jars covering the torches they were carrying, revealing their presence and causing the Midianites to panic and attack each other. Gideon and his men then pursued the fleeing Midianites and defeated them.

The chapter emphasizes the importance of trusting in the Lord and obeying His commands, even when they may seem counterintuitive or challenging. It also demonstrates the power of the Lord to accomplish great things through a small and faithful group of people.

Overall, the story of Gideon and the defeat of the Midianites in chapter 7 of The Book of Judges serves as a reminder that victory does not always depend on numerical superiority or human strength but on faith and obedience to God's will.

Here are some key verses from chapter 7 in The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible in English:

- "The Lord said to Gideon, 'You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, "My own strength has saved me."' - Judges 7:2
- "So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, 'Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.'" - Judges 7:5
- "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home." - Judges 7:7
- "The Midianites, Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore." - Judges 7:12
- "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do." - Judges 7:17

- "When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath." - Judges 7:22

These verses recount the story of how God used Gideon and a small group of 300 men to defeat a much larger army of Midianites through a strategic battle plan and the power of God.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 8 in the Christian Bible talks about the aftermath of the victory of Gideon and his men over the Midianites. After the battle, Gideon pursued the remaining Midianite leaders, Zebah and Zalmunna, and captured them. However, Gideon faced opposition from the Ephraimites, who accused him of not including them in the battle and claimed that they should have received a share of the spoils.

Gideon appeased the Ephraimites by acknowledging their contribution and offering them a share of the spoil. Gideon then executed Zebah and Zalmunna and returned to his home in peace.

However, Gideon's success did not last long, as he later created an ephod, which was a vestment worn by the high priest, and placed it in his hometown. This act led the Israelites to worship the ephod, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family. The chapter concludes with Gideon's death, and the Israelites returning to their idolatrous ways, forgetting the Lord and His deliverance.

The story of Gideon in Chapter 8 of The Book of Judges shows the consequences of forgetting the Lord and His deliverance, and how even the greatest heroes of the faith can falter and fall into sin. It also serves as a warning against the dangers of idolatry and the temptation to trust in human strength or resources rather than relying on the Lord.

Here are some key verses from chapter 8 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

- "Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they accused him fiercely." (Judges 8:1)
- "Then Gideon and the three hundred men who were with him came to the Jordan and crossed over, weary yet pursuing." (Judges 8:4)
- "And Gideon said to them, "I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil." (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)" (Judges 8:24)
- "Then Gideon made it into an ephod and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household." (Judges 8:27)

These verses showcase Gideon's leadership and the challenges he faced as a military leader. They also reveal his flaws and mistakes, such as creating an idol that ultimately became a snare to his own household.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 9 in the Christian Bible talks about the rise and fall of Abimelech, one of Gideon's sons who sought to become a king over Israel. Abimelech

first killed all of his seventy brothers, except for one who escaped, and then gained the support of the leaders of Shechem to make him their ruler.

However, Abimelech's reign was short-lived, as he soon faced opposition from a man named Gaal, who also sought to become the ruler of Shechem. Abimelech defeated Gaal and his followers, but his reign was plagued by conflict and opposition.

Eventually, Abimelech and his army attacked a tower in the city of Thebez, where a woman dropped a millstone on his head, mortally wounding him. Abimelech then commanded his armor-bearer to kill him, so that it would not be said that he was killed by a woman.

The chapter concludes with a brief mention of several other judges who followed Abimelech, but whose stories are not told in detail.

The story of Abimelech in Chapter 9 of The Book of Judges serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of seeking power and glory for oneself, and the destructive consequences of selfish ambition. It also highlights the importance of wise and just leadership, which seeks the good of the people rather than one's own interests.

Here are some key verses from Judges chapter 9:

- "Now Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives and said to them and to the whole clan of his mother's family, 'Say in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, "Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal rule over you, or that one rule over you?"'" (Judges 9:1-2)
- "But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my abundance, by which gods and men are honored, and go hold sway over the trees?'" (Judges 9:9)
- "And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech." (Judges 9:23)
- "Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers." (Judges 9:56)

These verses highlight the story of Abimelech, one of Gideon's sons, who attempted to become a ruler over Israel by killing all his brothers. He made a pact with the leaders of Shechem to support him in his quest for power, but ultimately they turned on him and he died. The parable of the trees, in which the olive tree, fig tree, and vine each decline to rule over the other trees, is used to illustrate the folly of Abimelech's ambition.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 10 in the Christian Bible talks about the reign of two minor judges, Tola and Jair, who judged Israel for a total of forty-five years. However, the chapter primarily focuses on the continued cycle of sin and repentance among the Israelites.

The chapter begins by describing how the Israelites again turned away from God and began worshiping other gods. As a result, God allowed them to be oppressed by the Philistines and the Ammonites for eighteen years. The Israelites cried out to God for help, and God rebuked them for their unfaithfulness, but also had compassion on them and raised up a new judge, Jephthah, to lead them.

Jephthah was a skilled warrior, but he had a tragic personal history. He had been banished from his home by his half-brothers and had become the leader of a group of outcasts and raiders. However, when the Israelites asked him to lead them against the

Ammonites, he agreed on the condition that he would become their permanent leader if he were victorious.

Jephthah then made a vow to God that if He gave him victory over the Ammonites, he would offer as a burnt offering whatever or whoever came out of his house to meet him upon his return. Jephthah was successful in battle, but upon his return, his only child, a daughter, came out to meet him. Jephthah was grief-stricken, but he fulfilled his vow and offered his daughter as a burnt offering to God.

The chapter ends with a brief mention of three more judges who led Israel after Jephthah's death.

The story of Jephthah in Chapter 10 of The Book of Judges is a sobering reminder of the dangers of making rash vows and promises to God. It also highlights the ongoing struggle of the Israelites to remain faithful to God and avoid the consequences of their sin.

Here are some key verses from Judges chapter 10 in the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Christian Bible:

- "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashteroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him." (Judges 10:6)
- "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites" (Judges 10:7)
- "And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, 'We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.'" (Judges 10:10)
- "And the Lord said to the people of Israel, 'Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines?'" (Judges 10:11)
- "Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more." (Judges 10:13)
- "And he [God] was grieved by the misery of Israel." (Judges 10:16)

The Book of Judges, Chapter 11 in the Christian Bible talks about Jephthah, the ninth judge of Israel, who was a Gileadite and a mighty warrior. Jephthah was initially rejected by his half-brothers and forced to flee his home, but was later called upon by the elders of Gilead to lead them in battle against the Ammonites.

Jephthah agreed to lead the Israelites on the condition that if he was victorious, he would become the permanent leader of Gilead. After defeating the Ammonites, Jephthah returned to his home, but his daughter came out to greet him, and he realized that he had made a vow to God to sacrifice whoever or whatever first came out of his house upon his return.

Despite his grief, Jephthah fulfilled his vow and sacrificed his daughter to God. The chapter also describes how the tribe of Ephraim challenged Jephthah's leadership, leading to a battle in which many Ephraimites were killed. The chapter ends with a brief account of three more minor judges who judged Israel after Jephthah.

The story of Jephthah in Chapter 11 of The Book of Judges is a tragic tale of a leader who made a hasty vow and was forced to pay a terrible price. It also highlights the ongoing conflict and divisions among the tribes of Israel and the need for strong and just leadership to maintain unity and peace.

Here are some key verses in chapter 11 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

- "Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute." (Judges 11:1)
- "And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, 'If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.'" (Judges 11:30-31)
- "And Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter." (Judges 11:34-35)
- "And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made." (Judges 11:39)

These verses highlight the story of Jephthah, a mighty warrior who made a vow to God that he would sacrifice whatever came out of his house to meet him if he won the battle against the Ammonites. Tragically, his only daughter was the first to greet him, and he was forced to keep his vow by sacrificing her as a burnt offering to the Lord.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 12 in the Christian Bible talks about the conflict between the tribe of Ephraim and the other tribes of Israel. After Jephthah's victory over the Ammonites, the Ephraimites felt slighted that they were not invited to participate in the battle and accused Jephthah of not respecting their tribal pride.

This led to a confrontation in which the men of Gilead, Jephthah's tribe, defeated the Ephraimites and took control of the fords of the Jordan River, preventing the Ephraimites from escaping across the river. In the ensuing conflict, many Ephraimites were killed, and the chapter gives a detailed account of the names and numbers of the casualties.

The chapter also briefly mentions two minor judges who judged Israel after Jephthah's death, Ibzan of Bethlehem and Elon of Zebulun, who judged Israel for a total of twenty-three years.

The story of the conflict between the tribe of Ephraim and the other tribes of Israel in Chapter 12 of The Book of Judges highlights the ongoing struggles and divisions among the tribes of Israel, even in times of victory and peace. It also emphasizes the importance of unity and cooperation among the tribes to avoid destructive conflicts and promote the welfare of all Israelites.

Here are some key verses in chapter 12 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible in English:

1. "Then the men of Ephraim were summoned, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, 'Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.'" (Judges 12:1)

2. "Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, 'You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh.'" (Judges 12:4)
3. "And Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem. After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun." (Judges 12:10-12)

These verses describe the conflict between Jephthah and the men of Ephraim, as well as the succession of judges after Jephthah.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 13 in the Christian Bible talks about the birth of Samson, who would become one of the most famous judges of Israel. The chapter begins by describing how the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord and were oppressed by the Philistines for forty years.

In response to their cries for deliverance, an angel of the Lord appeared to a barren woman from the tribe of Dan and promised her that she would conceive and bear a son who would be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. The angel also instructed her to abstain from wine and strong drink during her pregnancy, and to raise her son according to the laws of the Nazirites.

The woman's husband, Manoah, prayed for further guidance from God, and the angel appeared again to repeat the instructions and reassure them that their son would begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

The chapter ends with the birth of Samson and his growth as a young man in the tribe of Dan. The story of Samson's birth in Chapter 13 of The Book of Judges emphasizes God's faithfulness to Israel even in times of disobedience and the importance of obedience to God's commandments, as seen in the Nazirite vow that Samson would undertake.

Here are some key verses from chapter 13 of The Book of Judges in the English Standard Version (ESV) translation:

- "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years." (Judges 13:1)
- "And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.'" (Judges 13:3)
- "And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him." (Judges 13:24)
- "And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol." (Judges 13:25)

The Book of Judges, Chapter 14 in the Christian Bible talks about Samson's marriage to a Philistine woman and the events that followed. Samson, now a young man, went down to Timnah, a Philistine town, and saw a woman there whom he desired to marry.

Against his parents' advice, Samson insisted on marrying her, and they held a wedding feast. During the feast, Samson posed a riddle to thirty Philistine companions, promising

them thirty changes of clothing if they could solve it. The riddle was a challenge to their wit, and the Philistines became determined to solve it.

To do so, they threatened Samson's wife, who eventually coaxed the answer from him. When Samson discovered the Philistines' treachery, he became angry and killed thirty Philistines in Ashkelon, taking their clothing to fulfill his wager.

As a result of his actions, Samson's wife was given to one of the companions who had solved the riddle, and Samson left her. The chapter ends with Samson's burning anger and his return to his father's house.

The story in Chapter 14 of The Book of Judges highlights Samson's impulsive nature and his strength as a deliverer of Israel. It also reveals the ongoing tension and conflict between Israel and the Philistines, which would continue throughout Samson's life and the time of the judges.

Here are some key verses from Judges chapter 14:

1. "Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman." (Judges 14:1) - This verse sets the scene for the story of Samson and his marriage to a Philistine woman, which becomes a major conflict in the following chapters.
2. "Then Samson went down to the woman, and he made a feast there, for so the young men used to do." (Judges 14:10) - This verse shows Samson's reckless behavior and disregard for his Nazirite vow, as he participates in a feast that likely included alcohol and other prohibited activities.
3. "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." (Judges 14:14) - This enigmatic riddle is posed by Samson to the Philistines, and its answer becomes a source of conflict and violence in the story.
4. "So the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle." (Judges 14:19) - This verse shows Samson's strength and power, which is attributed to the Spirit of the Lord, as he carries out a violent act of revenge against the Philistines who solved his riddle.
5. "And his father went down to the woman. And Samson prepared a feast there, for so the young men used to do." (Judges 14:10) - This verse is a repetition of verse 10, but with Samson's father taking part in the feast, highlighting the complicity of those around Samson in his disobedience and rebellion.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 15 in the Christian Bible talks about Samson's revenge against the Philistines, who had taken his wife and given her to another man.

Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat as a gift, but her father told him that she had been given to another man. In his anger, Samson caught three hundred foxes, tied them tail to tail in pairs, and attached a torch to each pair. He then let the foxes loose in the Philistines' fields, causing widespread destruction.

The Philistines retaliated by burning Samson's wife and her father. In response, Samson attacked the Philistines with great fury, killing many of them. He then went to live in a cave in the rock of Etam.

The chapter ends with the Philistines coming up to attack Judah, and the men of Judah asking Samson why he had caused trouble with the Philistines. Samson replied that he

had only done to them what they had done to him, and the men of Judah went to the Philistines to make peace.

The story in Chapter 15 of The Book of Judges continues to show the ongoing conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines, as well as Samson's strength and determination in seeking revenge for his wife's mistreatment. It also shows the political dynamics within Israel, with the men of Judah seeking to maintain peace with the Philistines.

Here are some key verses from Judges chapter 15:

1. "Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, 'I'm going to my wife's room.' But her father would not let him go in." (Judges 15:1)
2. "Samson said to them, 'This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.' So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves." (Judges 15:3-5)
3. "They said to him, 'We have come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines.' Samson said, 'Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves.' 'Agreed,' they answered. 'We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you.' So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock." (Judges 15:12-13)
4. "As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands." (Judges 15:14)
5. "Then Samson said, 'With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men.'" (Judges 15:16)

The Book of Judges, Chapter 16 in the Christian Bible talks about the downfall of Samson due to his relationship with a Philistine woman named Delilah.

The chapter begins with Samson visiting a prostitute in Gaza, where the Philistines had captured him. He then fell in love with Delilah, who was hired by the Philistine rulers to discover the secret of Samson's strength. Delilah repeatedly asked Samson to tell her the secret, and he gave her several false answers, but finally he revealed that his strength came from his uncut hair, which was a symbol of his Nazirite vow.

While Samson slept, Delilah cut his hair, and he lost his strength. The Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and took him to Gaza, where they put him to work grinding grain in prison.

The story ends with Samson's death. While he was imprisoned, his hair grew back, and one day the Philistine rulers brought him to the temple of their god Dagon to entertain them. Samson asked God to restore his strength one last time, and he pushed apart the temple's pillars, bringing down the roof and killing himself along with thousands of Philistines.

The story in Chapter 16 of The Book of Judges portrays Samson as a tragic figure who is undone by his own desires and flaws. His relationship with Delilah ultimately leads to his

downfall, and his death symbolizes his final act of strength and his ultimate triumph over the Philistines. The chapter also highlights the ongoing conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines and the power of God to work through even flawed human beings to accomplish his purposes.

Here are some key verses from chapter 16 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible (NIV translation):

1. "One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her." (Judges 16:1)
2. "Then the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, 'Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.'" (Judges 16:23)
3. "But Samson said to the servant who held his hand, 'Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.'" (Judges 16:26)
4. "Then Samson prayed to the Lord, 'Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.'" (Judges 16:28)
5. "Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived." (Judges 16:30)

The Book of Judges, Chapter 17 in the Christian Bible is a story about a man named Micah who creates his own idolatrous shrine and hires a Levite to be his personal priest. The chapter begins with Micah admitting to his mother that he stole 1,100 pieces of silver from her. She curses the thief, but Micah confesses and returns the money. Micah's mother dedicates some of the silver to the Lord and has an idol made, which Micah places in his own shrine. He makes some household gods and hires a Levite from Bethlehem to be his personal priest.

The Levite is pleased to accept the position, and Micah considers himself blessed to have a Levite serving in his own house. The chapter concludes with a brief statement that there was no king in Israel at the time, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Chapter 17 of The Book of Judges highlights the spiritual decay and moral confusion that existed during the time of the judges. Micah's actions demonstrate how far the Israelites had strayed from their faith in God and the worship of the true God. The fact that Micah creates his own shrine and hires a Levite to be his personal priest shows how the Israelites had deviated from the centralized worship system that God had established through Moses.

The chapter also underscores the absence of leadership and authority in Israel during this period, as there was no king to rule over the people and enforce God's law. This led to a moral vacuum and widespread moral relativism, where people did what was right in their own eyes rather than following God's commands.

Here are some key verses from Judges 17:

- "Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim said to his mother, 'The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.'" (Judges 17:1)

- "Then Micah said, 'Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest.'" (Judges 17:13)
- "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." (Judges 17:6)

These verses introduce us to Micah, a man who stole money from his mother and then returned it after she had cursed whoever had taken it. Micah's mother then used the silver to make an idol, and Micah hired a Levite to be his priest. This chapter also highlights the fact that there was no king in Israel during this time, and that people were doing whatever they wanted without any centralized authority.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 18 in the Christian Bible tells the story of the tribe of Dan's search for land to settle in, and their encounter with a man named Micah and his idolatrous shrine.

The chapter begins with the tribe of Dan seeking new territory to settle in, as they had not yet received their allotted inheritance. Five of their scouts come across Micah's house in the territory of Ephraim and recognize the Levite who serves as Micah's personal priest. They ask the Levite to inquire of God about their journey, and he tells them that God has blessed their journey and they will find success.

The scouts then continue on their journey and come to the city of Laish, which they find to be rich and peaceful. They return to their tribe and encourage them to attack Laish and take the city as their own. Six hundred men from the tribe of Dan set out to conquer Laish, and along the way, they stop at Micah's house and steal his idols, ephod, and personal priest.

When Micah realizes that his idols have been taken, he gathers some of his men and goes after the tribe of Dan. However, the Danites overpower Micah and his men, and they continue on to Laish, where they conquer the city and settle there. They rename the city Dan, after their tribe.

Chapter 18 of The Book of Judges highlights the chaos and lawlessness that existed during the time of the judges. The story shows how the Israelites had deviated from God's law and had adopted the practices of the surrounding nations, including idol worship. The Levite who serves as Micah's personal priest is a reminder of how far the Israelites had strayed from the centralized worship system that God had established through Moses. The story also shows the aggressive and opportunistic nature of the tribe of Dan, who were willing to conquer and take over a peaceful city in order to secure their own land. It highlights the lack of unity and cooperation among the tribes of Israel, who were still seeking to establish their own territories and were not working together as a unified nation under God's leadership.

Here are some key verses from Judges 18:

- "In those days Israel had no king; and in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking a place of their own where they might settle, because they had not yet come into an inheritance among the tribes of Israel." (Judges 18:1)
- "So the five men left and came to Laish, where they saw that the people were living in safety, like the Sidonians, at peace and secure. And since their land lacked nothing, they were prosperous. Also, they lived a long way from the Sidonians and had no relationship with anyone else." (Judges 18:7-10)

- "So the Danites went their way, and Micah saw that they were too strong for him. So he turned and went back to his home." (Judges 18:26)
- "Then they took what Micah had made, and his priest, and went on to Laish, against a people at peace and secure. They attacked them with the sword and burned down their city." (Judges 18:27)

These verses describe how the tribe of Dan, which had not yet received a portion of land in Israel, sent out five men to scout for a new territory to settle in. The scouts visited the city of Laish and reported back to the tribe that it was a good place to live. The tribe then sent 600 armed men to conquer the city and make it their own. They also took Micah's idols and priest, which had been used for worship in a nearby town.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 19 in the Christian Bible tells the gruesome story of a Levite and his concubine, who are traveling through the territory of the tribe of Benjamin and seek refuge in the town of Gibeah.

The chapter begins with the Levite and his concubine leaving Bethlehem to return to their home in the hill country of Ephraim. Along the way, they stop in the town of Gibeah to spend the night. However, the men of the town, who are described as "worthless fellows," surround the house where the Levite and his concubine are staying and demand that the Levite be turned over to them so they can have sex with him.

The owner of the house refuses to turn the Levite over to the mob, but instead offers his own virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine to the men of the town. The mob refuses the offer of the daughter but takes the concubine and repeatedly rape her throughout the night. She eventually dies at the doorstep of the house where they were staying.

The Levite discovers his concubine's body in the morning, and he cuts her body into twelve pieces and sends them to the twelve tribes of Israel as a sign of the heinous crime that was committed in Gibeah. The other tribes are outraged and gather to punish the men of Gibeah for their wickedness.

The chapter ends with a war between the tribe of Benjamin and the other tribes of Israel, resulting in the near-total annihilation of the tribe of Benjamin. The horrific events of the chapter illustrate the moral decay and chaos that existed during the time of the judges, and the consequences of turning away from God's laws and living according to one's own desires.

Chapter 19 of The Book of Judges is a stark reminder of the importance of justice and righteousness in society. The actions of the men of Gibeah and the Levite's extreme response highlight the depravity of humanity when left to its own devices, as well as the need for a just and fair system of governance. The violent and tragic events of the chapter also serve as a warning against moral decay and the consequences that can follow when people turn away from God's laws.

Here are some key verses from Judges 19 in the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible:

- Judges 19:1 - "In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah."
- Judges 19:22 - "As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, 'Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.'"
- Judges 19:25 - "But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go."
- Judges 19:29 - "And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel."

These verses depict a disturbing and violent story of a Levite and his concubine, who are attacked and abused by a group of men in a city. The Levite eventually cuts up his concubine's body and sends the pieces to the other tribes of Israel, sparking a gruesome and tragic conflict. The story serves as a warning against lawlessness and violence, as well as the dangers of ignoring God's laws and commands.

what is The Book of Judges in chapter 20 in Christian bible talk about in English
The Book of Judges, Chapter 20 in the Christian Bible continues the story of the events that occurred in the aftermath of the rape and murder of the Levite's concubine in the town of Gibeah.

The chapter begins with the tribes of Israel gathering together to discuss how they should respond to the heinous crime committed in Gibeah. The tribe of Benjamin, to which the men of Gibeah belonged, refused to turn over the perpetrators for punishment. Instead, they prepared for war against the other tribes of Israel.

The tribes of Israel decided to take up arms against Benjamin, and they sought God's guidance and blessing before doing so. They approached the tabernacle of the Lord, where they wept and fasted, asking for God's help and direction.

In response, God gave them a strategy for battle, and the tribes of Israel attacked the tribe of Benjamin. The first two battles resulted in heavy losses for the tribes of Israel, but they eventually gained the upper hand in the third battle, with the help of a surprise attack that involved a planned retreat followed by an ambush.

The chapter concludes with the tribes of Israel successfully defeating the tribe of Benjamin and executing justice against the men of Gibeah who had committed the crime. Only 600 men of Benjamin survived the battle, and the other tribes of Israel mourned the loss of so many lives.

Chapter 20 of The Book of Judges serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking God's guidance and direction, particularly in times of conflict and crisis. It also highlights the consequences of failing to uphold justice and righteousness, as the tribe of Benjamin suffered heavy losses due to their refusal to turn over the perpetrators of the crime in Gibeah. The chapter also emphasizes the unity and cooperation that is necessary for a society to function properly, as the tribes of Israel worked together to bring justice and peace to their land.

Here are some key verses from Judges 20 in the English Standard Version (ESV):

- "Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the Lord at Mizpah." (Judges 20:1)
- "And the people of Israel said, 'Tell us, how did this evil happen?'" (Judges 20:3)
- "And the people of Benjamin did not listen to the voice of their brothers, the people of Israel." (Judges 20:13)
- "And the people of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until the evening. And they inquired of the Lord, 'Shall we again draw near to fight against our brothers, the people of Benjamin?' And the Lord said, 'Go up against them.'" (Judges 20:23-24)
- "So all the men of Israel gathered against the city, united as one man." (Judges 20:11)
- "And the Lord defeated Benjamin before Israel, and the people of Israel destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day. All these were men who drew the sword." (Judges 20:35)

what is The Book of Judges in chapter 21 in Christian bible talk about in English
The Book of Judges, Chapter 21 in the Christian Bible concludes the story of the events that occurred in the aftermath of the rape and murder of the Levite's concubine in the town of Gibeah, as recounted in Chapter 19.

The chapter begins with the tribes of Israel lamenting the heavy losses suffered during the war with the tribe of Benjamin. The other tribes of Israel had made an oath not to allow their daughters to marry the men of Benjamin, but they were concerned about the future of the tribe and the risk of it dying out.

To resolve the issue, the elders of Israel gathered together to devise a plan. They decided to attack the town of Jabesh-gilead, which had not participated in the war, and to kill all of its inhabitants except for the virgin women, whom they would take as wives for the men of Benjamin.

After carrying out the plan, the tribes of Israel returned to their land and gave the surviving women to the men of Benjamin. However, there were not enough women to go around, and some men remained without wives.

The chapter concludes with the elders of Israel suggesting that the men of Benjamin kidnap women who were dancing at the annual festival in Shiloh and take them as their wives. The chapter ends with the statement that there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Chapter 21 of The Book of Judges presents a somber reflection on the consequences of sin and the failure of leadership. The oath made by the tribes of Israel not to allow their daughters to marry the men of Benjamin was a result of their anger and desire for revenge, rather than a commitment to justice and righteousness. The elders of Israel, who were responsible for leading the people, failed to uphold God's laws and instead resorted to violence and abduction to resolve the issue. The chapter concludes with a sobering reminder of the absence of a king in Israel and the consequences of everyone doing what is right in their own eyes, highlighting the need for strong and just leadership.

Here are some key verses from chapter 21 of the Book of Judges in the Christian Bible in English:

- "The men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: 'Not one of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite.'" (Judges 21:1)
- "Then they asked, 'Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to assemble before the Lord at Mizpah?' They discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the camp for the assembly." (Judges 21:8)
- "So the assembly sent twelve thousand fighting men with instructions to go to Jabesh Gilead and put to the sword those living there, including the women and children." (Judges 21:10)
- "Then the elders and leaders of the assembly said, 'With the women of Benjamin destroyed, how shall we provide wives for the men who are left?'" (Judges 21:16)
- "So they instructed the Benjamites, saying, 'Go and hide in the vineyards and watch. When the young women of Shiloh come out to join in the dancing, rush from the vineyards and each of you seize a wife from the young women of Shiloh and go to the land of Benjamin.'" (Judges 21:20-21)

These verses describe the aftermath of the civil war between the tribes of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites had taken an oath not to give their daughters in marriage to the Benjamites, but then they realized that this meant the tribe of Benjamin would not have any women to marry. They decided to find a way to provide wives for the Benjamites and ultimately resorted to a violent and controversial solution.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions in the Book of Judges that have no clear answer:

1. What was the nature of the "spirit of the Lord" that came upon the judges? (Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 14:6, etc.) Was it a divine force or a psychological state of mind?
2. Why did God allow Jephthah to sacrifice his daughter? (Judges 11:29-40) Was it a test of Jephthah's faith or a tragic misunderstanding?
3. Why did Samson reveal the secret of his strength to Delilah, leading to his downfall? (Judges 16:4-21) Was he truly in love with her or was he trying to test her loyalty?
4. Why did the tribe of Benjamin almost get destroyed by the other Israelite tribes? (Judges 19-21) Was it due to the sins of the Benjamites or was it a result of a breakdown of the social order?

These are some of the most difficult questions in the Book of Judges, and scholars continue to debate their meaning and significance.