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YouTube Prayer Link

Millions of troops were respond to the murderously raped to death of the wife

Judges 20

20:2 The leaders of the Israelite peoples, the captains of the tribes, stood in the congregation of the people. There were 400,000 infantry armed with swords .

20:4 And the Levites, the husband-in-law of the slain woman, answered and said, My concubine and I have come to Gibeah of Benjamin, and lodging there.

20:5 And the children of Gibeah arose in the night, and surrounded my house, and tried to kill me, and raped my concubine to death.

20:46 Benjamin died that day, twenty-five thousand, men with swords.

Chapter 20 of the book of Judges focuses on the tribes of Israel uniting to avenge the sins committed by the tribe of Beniah and preparing for war against Benjam. The Beniicians refused to surrender those who had done evil, so the Israelites attacked Benjam, but failed on the first two occasions. The third time, the Israelites turned to God for help, and received God's instructions, and eventually won the war, destroying the town of Benjam, leaving only a few who escaped. There are many references to war in the Bible, and some of these passages focus on the context, strategy, and moral aspects of war.

War is one of the most devastating events in human history, and it has caused enormous damage to human society and the environment on many levels. First, the war has led to the loss of countless lives, not only soldiers on the battlefield, but also innocent civilians and even children. The loss of these lives is not only a human tragedy, but also a long-term pain and trauma for society as a whole.

Second, the war has caused widespread and far-reaching damage to the economy and infrastructure. During the war, infrastructure was damaged, economic activity was severely affected, and a large amount of wealth was spent on war expenditures. The war also disrupted farmland, cities, and transportation networks, leading to shortages of food and resources, and even outbreaks of famine and disease.

In addition, the war has also caused great damage to the environment. Weapons and military technology used during war often pollute land, water and air, and continue to affect the balance of local ecosystems. The war has also led to large-scale deforestation, land destruction and wildlife extinction, exacerbating the deterioration of the global ecological environment.

Overall, wars not only bring short-term damage, but also lasting social, economic and environmental damage over a long period of time. Resolving conflicts through peace, cooperation and diplomacy is therefore an important way to avoid such widespread destruction. Ephesians 6:11-12

This part talks about the need for Christians to wear the full armor of God in spiritual warfare, because our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of evil and the forces of darkness.

Exodus 15:3

This passage mentions God as a warrior and his name is "Yahweh." This is seen as a description of God's role in protecting the Israelites and being with them.

I Samuel 17:47

The story of David's battle with Goliath emphasizes the importance of faith and God's strength, even in the face of a seemingly impossible enemy. Let us pray together that the flames of war around the world will be extinguished and that war and violence will no longer rule human society. May all countries and peoples be able to replace hostility and conflict with dialogue and understanding, based on peace and tolerance.

The relationship between religion and war is a complex and multifaceted one. There are many sects and views in Christianity, and therefore there are differences in attitudes toward war.

Some Christian teachings emphasize peace, love, and forgiveness, and advocate the avoidance of violence and war. For example, the biblical teachings of Jesus Christ emphasize love of one's enemies as oneself, peace, and forgiveness. Many Christian churches and believers believe that it is in line with Christian values to resolve disputes and conflicts by peaceful means.

Historically, however, there have been Christian communities and nations that have considered self-defense or the defense of justice necessary in certain situations, including engaging in war. This view may derive from the recognition of self-defence or the interpretation of the moral obligation that sometimes the use of force may be required to preserve and protect the weak.

For Christians, how war is viewed often depends on their interpretation of what is taught in the Bible and their understanding of personal and moral responsibility. Some Christians may be

adamantly opposed to engaging in any form of war, while others may believe that in some extreme cases, the use of force is necessary.

Regardless of the point of view, it is important that Christians are thoughtful and follow their own beliefs when confronted with such issues, while seeking to establish dialogue and understanding with others.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

Let us pray that leaders will resolve differences and strife with wisdom and goodwill, work together for the common good, and work for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

May each of us be able to treat others with love and tolerance, regardless of race, religion or cultural background, starting from our hearts. May we bear in mind the importance of peace and inclusion and spread these values globally at the individual level.

May there be peace and tranquility in every corner of this world, and let us pray together for an end to war and a lasting peace.

Seek Amen in the name of Jesus Christ

Judges Chapter 20

Ju. 20:1 Then all the Israelites from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came out as one man and assembled before the LORD in Mizpah.

Ju. 20:2 The leaders of all the people of the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand soldiers armed with swords.

Ju. 20:3 (The Benjamites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the Israelites said, "Tell us how this awful thing happened."

Ju. 20:4 So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, said, "I and my concubine came to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night.

Ju. 20:5 During the night the men of Gibeah came after me and surrounded the house, intending to kill me. They raped my concubine, and she died.

Ju. 20:6 I took my concubine, cut her into pieces and sent one piece to each region of Israel's inheritance, because they committed this lewd and disgraceful act in Israel.

Ju. 20:7 Now, all you Israelites, speak up and give your verdict." Ju. 20:8 All the people rose as one man, saying, "None of us will go home. No, not one of us will return to his house.

Ju. 20:9 But now this is what we'll do to Gibeah: We'll go up against

it as the lot directs.

Ju. 20:10 We'll take ten men out of every hundred from all the tribes of

Israel, and a hundred from a thousand, and a thousand from ten thousand, to get provisions for the army. Then, when the army arrives at Gibeah in Benjamin, it can give them what they deserve for all this vileness done in Israel.”

Ju. 20:11 So all the men of Israel got together and united as one man against the city.

Ju. 20:12 The tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What about this awful crime that was committed among you?

Ju. 20:13 Now surrender those wicked men of Gibeah so that we may

put them to death and purge the evil from Israel.” But the Benjamites would not listen to their fellow Israelites.

Ju. 20:14 From their towns they came together at Gibeah to fight against the Israelites.

Ju. 20:15 At once the Benjamites mobilised twenty-six thousand swordsmen from their towns, in addition to seven hundred chosen men from those living in Gibeah.

Ju. 20:16 Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

Ju. 20:17 Israel, apart from Benjamin, mustered four hundred thousand swordsmen, all of them fighting men.

Ju. 20:18 The Israelites went up to Bethel and enquired of God. They

said, “Who of us shall go first to fight against the

Benjamites?” The LORD replied, “Judah shall go first.”

Ju. 20:19 The next morning the Israelites got up and pitched camp near Gibeah.

Ju. 20:20 The men of Israel went out to fight the Benjamites and took up battle positions against them at Gibeah.

Ju. 20:21 The Benjamites came out of Gibeah and cut down twenty two thousand Israelites on the battlefield that day.

Ju. 20:22 But the men of Israel encouraged one another and again took up their positions where they had stationed themselves the first day.

Ju. 20:23 The Israelites went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and they enquired of the LORD. They said, “Shall we go up again to battle against the Benjamites, our brothers?” The LORD answered, “Go up against them.”

Ju. 20:24 Then the Israelites drew near to Benjamin the second day. Ju. 20:25 This time, when the Benjamites came out from Gibeah to oppose them, they cut down another eighteen thousand Israelites, all of them armed with swords.

Ju. 20:26 Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

Ju. 20:27 And the Israelites enquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there,

Ju. 20:28 with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ministering before it.) They asked, “Shall we go up again to battle with Benjamin our brother, or not?” The LORD responded, “Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands.”

Ju. 20:29 Then Israel set an ambush around Gibeah.

Ju. 20:30 They went up against the Benjamites on the third day and took up positions against Gibeah as they had done before. Ju. 20:31 The Benjamites came out to meet them and were drawn away from the city. They began to inflict casualties on the Israelites as before, so that about thirty men fell in the open field and on the roads — the one leading to Bethel and the other to Gibeah.

Ju. 20:32 While the Benjamites were saying, “We are defeating them as before,” the Israelites were saying, “Let’s retreat and draw them away from the city to the roads.”

Ju. 20:33 All the men of Israel moved from their places and took up positions at Baal Tamar, and the Israelite ambush charged out of its place on the west of Gibeah.

Ju. 20:34 Then ten thousand of Israel’s finest men made a frontal attack on Gibeah. The fighting was so heavy that the Benjamites did not realise how near disaster was.

Ju. 20:35 The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel, and on that day the Israelites struck down 25,100 Benjamites, all armed with swords.

Ju. 20:36 Then the Benjamites saw that they were beaten. Now the men of Israel had given way before Benjamin, because they relied on the ambush they had set near Gibeah.

Ju. 20:37 The men who had been in ambush made a sudden dash into Gibeah, spread out and put the whole city to the sword. Ju. 20:38 The men of Israel had arranged with the ambush that they should send up a great cloud of smoke from the city, Ju. 20:39 and then the men of Israel would turn in the battle. The

Benjamites had begun to inflict casualties on the men of Israel

(about thirty), and they said, “We are defeating them as in the first battle.”

Ju. 20:40 But when the column of smoke began to rise from the city, the Benjamites turned and saw the smoke of the whole city going up into the sky.

Ju. 20:41 Then the men of Israel turned on them, and the men of Benjamin were terrified, because they realised that disaster had come upon them.

Ju. 20:42 So they fled before the Israelites in the direction of the desert, but they could not escape the battle. And the men of Israel who came out of the towns cut them down there.

Ju. 20:43 They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them and easily overran them in the vicinity of Gibeah on the east.

Ju. 20:44 Eighteen thousand Benjamites fell, all of them valiant fighters.

Ju. 20:45 As they turned and fled towards the desert to the rock of Rimmon, the Israelites cut down five thousand men along the roads. They kept pressing after the Benjamites as far as Gidom and struck down two thousand more.

Ju. 20:46 On that day twenty-five thousand Benjamite swordsmen fell, all of them valiant fighters.

Ju. 20:47 But six hundred men turned and fled into the desert to the rock of Rimmon, where they stayed for four months.

Ju. 20:48 The men of Israel went back to Benjamin and put all the towns to the sword, including the animals and everything else they found. All the towns they came across they set on fire.

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)

Judges chapter 20 provides a reflection on the consequences of collective sin, the importance of seeking justice, and the need for unity and accountability within the community of Israel.

The chapter begins with the aftermath of the heinous crime committed against the Levite's concubine in the previous chapter. The Levite cuts up the concubine's body and sends the pieces to each tribe, calling for justice and retribution. In response, the Israelites gather together as one man, from Dan to Beersheba, to address the issue.

They seek counsel from God and inquire who should lead the battle against the tribe of Benjamin, to whom the wicked men from Gibeah belonged. God instructs the Israelites to go into battle, but in their first two attempts, they suffer heavy losses against the tribe of Benjamin. After seeking God's guidance once again, they receive a strategy that leads to victory in the third battle. The tribe of Benjamin is defeated, their cities are burned, and the tribe is nearly wiped out.

The reflection in Judges chapter 20 underscores the consequences of collective sin and the importance of seeking justice. The horrific crime committed against the Levite's concubine not only highlights the moral decay of certain individuals but also reveals the need for the entire community to address and confront such sins. The unity and collective action of the Israelites demonstrate the significance of holding each other accountable and seeking justice for the sake of righteousness and the well-being of the community.

The chapter also emphasizes the role of seeking God's guidance and following His instructions. The Israelites' initial defeats in battle serve as a reminder of the need for reliance on God and the importance of aligning their actions with His will. It demonstrates that victory comes not through their own strength but through seeking and obeying God's guidance.

Furthermore, the story reflects on the consequences of division within the community of Israel. The conflict between the tribe of Benjamin and the rest of Israel highlights the destructive nature of internal strife and the need for unity and reconciliation. The severe punishment dealt to the tribe of Benjamin serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences that can arise from disunity and the erosion of shared values.

Overall, Judges chapter 20 provides a reflection on the consequences of collective sin, the importance of seeking justice, and the need for unity and accountability within the community of Israel. It reminds believers of the importance of confronting and addressing sin collectively, seeking God's guidance in all endeavors, and fostering unity and reconciliation among God's people.