

I. INTRODUCTION: NO KING... RIGHT IN OWN EYES (Jdgs.17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

A. NO KING: INTERREGNUM (Joshua – David; Jdgs.1:1; see Ruth 1:1; 4:17f)

B. RIGHT IN OWN EYES: EVIL IN GOD'S SIGHT (Jdgs.17:6; 21:25; see 3:12; 4:1; 10:6; 13:1)

C. CHIASM: THE SUM OF ALL EVIL (Jdgs.17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25; c.17,18 & 19-21; see Mt.22:37,39; Rom.1:18f; 23,25,26)

II. OBSERVATIONS: A TALE OF TWO LEVITES (Jdgs.17-21)

A. THE FIRST LEVITE: IDOLATRY (Jdgs.17,18)

1. offering for the Lord (17:3)

2. idols for the Lord (17:4f; see Ex.32:1f; 1Kngs.12:28; see Ex.20:1f)

3. priest for the Lord (17:5,7f; 18:30; see Ex.28:1f; Num.16:1f)

4. tribe for the Lord (18:1f (Num.13:1f) w/1:34f; Josh.19:40f; see Jdgs.18:30,31)

5. summary: no king; right in their own eyes (17:6; 18:1; idolatry)

B. THE SECOND LEVITE: IMMORALITY (Jdgs.19-21)

1. adultery (19:2; see v.25; see Ex.20:14)

2. hatred (19:3f/10f; 15,18(21); see Mt.22:39; 25:44f; Ex.20:14f)

3. perversity (19:22f; 20:6; see Gen.19:4f; Rom.1:26f; 1Cor.6:9f; Ex.20:14)

4. murder (19:25f; 20:4; see 21:5f; Ex.20:13)

5. failure of discipline (20:13f; see Mt.18:15; 1Cor.5:1f; see Mt.22:39)

6. wicked faithfulness (21:1f,5f; see 11:29f; Lev.27:1f)

7. summary: no king; right in their own eyes (19:1; 21:25; immorality)

III. LESSONS: RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD

A. DON'T REJECT YOUR KING! (1Sam.8:7; see Jdgs.8:23; Ex.6:7; 20:1f; Lk.19:14; Heb.13:20f)

B. DON'T TRUST YOUR EYES! (Jdgs.17:6; 21:25; see *Prv.14:12; 16:25*)

1. don't exchange your Deity! (Jdgs.17,18; see Rom.1:23,25)

2. don't undo your humanity (Jdgs.19-21 (19:29); see Rom.1:26f; Gen.1:26f)

C. TURN BACK TO YOUR TRUE, SERVANT KING! (Mt.11:27f (28:18f); 20:28; Eph.1:20f; Col.1:13f)

D. SUBMIT TO HIS GOVERNING SPIRIT (Rom.8:11f,16; Eph.4:30; Gal.5:13f; Heb.13:21)

E. MAKE USE OF HIS GOVERNING ORDINANCES (Dt.12:8/25,28; 1Kngs.15:5; 1Jn.3:22; see Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:15f; 22:37f; see 2Tm.3:14f; Acts 2:42)

F. THE BLESSING OF FAITHFUL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mt6:22 /Gal5:23; 2Pt1:6 /1C9:7(11:29);1T4:7)

G. THE BLESSING OF GOVERNMENT (Jdgs.17:6,etc.; see Rom.13:1f; 1Pt.2:13f; 3:1f)

H. JUDGES: A STORY OF UNQUENCHABLE LOVE (Rom.5:20; 2Tm.2:13; see Dt.30:1f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of Judges 17-21? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you *do* these things?
6. Why does *not having a king* sound like a good idea? Why is it a bad thing?
7. Why does *doing what's right in your own eyes* sound like a good idea? Why is it a bad thing?
8. How do these statements in 17:6; 18:1; 19:1 and 21:25 structure these chapters? What's the point of this structure?
9. What about the main characters in each section (c.17,18 & c.19-21) confirm that these are two parts of one thing?
10. How do the themes of the two parts fit together? (see Mt.22:37,39; Ex.20:1f&13f; Rom.1:23f)
11. Which of the elements of II,A are most striking to you? Why?
12. Which of the elements of II,B are most striking to you? Why?
13. Do you have a king? What does this mean for your faith and life?
14. Do you do what is right in your own eyes?
 - a. If not, *why* not?
 - b. If not, what *do* you do?
 - i. *Why* do you do this?
 - ii. *How* do you do this?
15. What is the blessing of self-government?
16. What is the blessing of government?
17. What do chapters 17-21 and the whole book of Judges say about God's relationship with His people?