

## Judges 20 Tribal & National Results of Idolatry

v1-10 At Mizpah, the tribes gather and respond. Compare the decision made here with the decision of Barak or Gideon to engage in war. What is the most important difference?

Mizpah was a place where they could speak to the LORD (11:11; 1 Sam. 7:5-6. But the tabernacle was at Shiloh Josh. 19:21; Judges 18:31; 1 Sam. 1:24).

When telling what happened, the Levite does not tell how the men of Gibeah got his concubine.

While the character of the Benjamites is most obviously stained, what has the book of Judges taught us about the spiritual condition of the rest of the tribes who are gathered on this occasion?

v11-16 Benjamin defends the men of Gibeah, willing to fight to protect them.

What does Romans 1:32 say that is related to this?

In verse 13, Israel insists that they must “remove the evil from Israel.” However, what other tribes tolerated other sorts of evil? What were they tolerating? (review chapters 17-18 and the early chapters of Judges)

v18-23 The first day of battle: Twenty-two thousand Israelites killed

v24-28 The second day of battle: Eighteen thousand Israelites killed

v29-48 The third day of battle: Twenty-five thousand Benjamites killed and property destroyed

Clearly, Israel is far away from what God desired for them when He brought them into this land to inherit it. They have gone from supporting each other in conquering this land to fighting each other within it.

What are the causes of this division?

Was it possible for the tribes have the unity that God desired? If so, how?

What would be some wrong ways for them to achieve unity?