



Judges 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

MARKS OF PEOPLE WHO DO WHAT'S RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES:

1. THEY REDEFINE GOD RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO HIM

Judges 17:3 "I now dedicate these silver coins to the LORD. In honor of my son, I will have an image carved and an idol cast."

Judges 17:5-6 Micah set up a shrine for the idol, and he made a sacred ephod and some household idols. Then he installed one of his sons as his personal priest. ⁶In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

2. THEY USE GOD RATHER THAN WORSHIP HIM

Judges 17:13 "I know the LORD will bless me now," Micah said, "because I have a Levite serving as my priest."

Judges 18:24 Micah replied. "You've taken away all the gods I have made, and my priest, and I have nothing left!"

3. THEY LOOK FOR HUMAN SOLUTIONS TO SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS

Judges 19:1-2 Now in those days Israel had no king. There was a man from the tribe of Levi living in a remote area of the hill country of Ephraim. One day he brought home a woman from Bethlehem in Judah to be his concubine. ² But she became angry with him and returned to her father's home in Bethlehem.

Judges 19:14-15 So they went on. The sun was setting as they came to Gibeah, a town in the land of Benjamin, ¹⁵ so they stopped there to spend the night. They rested in the town square, but no one took them in for the night.

Judges 19:20 "You are welcome to stay with me," the old man said. "I will give you anything you might need. But whatever you do, don't spend the night in the square."

Judges 19:22 A crowd of troublemakers from the town surrounded the house. They began beating at the door and shouting to the old man, "Bring out the man who is staying with you so we can have sex with him."

Judges 19:25-29 So the Levite took hold of his concubine and pushed her out the door. The men of the town abused her all night, taking turns raping her until morning. Finally, at dawn they let her go. ²⁶ At daybreak the woman returned to the house where her husband was staying. She collapsed at the door of the house and lay there until it was light. ²⁷ When her husband opened the door to leave, there lay his concubine with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ He said, "Get up! Let's go!" But there was no answer. So he put her body on his donkey and took her home. ²⁹ When he got home, he took a knife and cut his concubine's body into twelve pieces. Then he sent one piece to each tribe throughout all the territory of Israel.

Judges 20:48 The Israelites returned and slaughtered every living thing in all the towns—the people, the livestock, and everything they found. They also burned down all the towns they came to.

Judges 21:1 The Israelites had vowed at Mizpah, "We will never give our daughters in marriage to a man from the tribe of Benjamin."

Judges 21:2-3 Now the people went to Bethel and sat in the presence of God until evening, weeping loudly and bitterly. ³ "O LORD, God of Israel," they cried out, "why has this happened in Israel? Now one of our tribes is missing from Israel!"

Judges 21:10-11 So the assembly sent 12,000 of their best warriors to Jabesh-gilead with orders to kill everyone there, including women and children. ¹¹ "This is what you are to do," they said. "Completely destroy all the males and every woman who is not a virgin."

Judges 21:23-25 So the men of Benjamin did as they were told. Each man caught one of the women as she danced in the celebration and carried her off to be his wife. They returned to their own land, and they rebuilt their towns and lived in them. ²⁴ Then the people of Israel departed by tribes and families, and they returned to their own homes. ²⁵ In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

- ❖ **THE WEAK ARE ABUSED**
- ❖ **SEXUAL IMMORALITY RUNS RAMPANT**
- ❖ **VIOLENCE RULES THE DAY**
- ❖ **PEOPLE LIVE IN FEAR AND DESPAIR**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.