

Judges Session 9: Epilogue 17:1-21:25

YouTube channel: [Chris Nazarian](#)

Previous video:  Judges: Samson and Delilah

Q and A

- How does the epilogue and prologue compare?
 - Now a tribe is setting up its own religion instead of taking on foreign gods
- What is the solution for the atrocity with the Levite's concubine?
 - Near annihilation of the tribe of Benjamin
 - Abduction of young women to repopulate Benjamin

Previously...

- The demise of Samson
- Worldly problems dealt with in worldly ways yields worldly results
 - Think sowing and reaping

Religious decline (people to God)

17:1-18:31

- Micah and the Levite
 - Verse 6 (actions are wrong)
 - Verse 13 (understanding is wrong)
 - They don't realize what they are doing is wrong
- The tribe of Dan is displaced, so they find a new home
 - Take Micah's idol and priest
- Dan defeats the unsuspecting people of Laish
 - Moved from south to north
 - New religion established led by Moses' grandson

Political decline (people to people)

19:1-21:25

- "In those days..." (19:1)
 - What happens next is shocking but not surprising
- The Levite and his concubine
 - She is unfaithful and leaves him returning to her father's house
 - He gets her and journeys home stopping in Gibeah for the night
 - Men of Gibeah want to rape the man, but get the women instead

- She dies and is used to rally Israel against Benjamin

The levite and his concubine

- She left the covenant
 - Adultery
 - Physical dislocation
- Sowing and reaping
 - What would be the fruit of what she has sown?
 - She left him and had sex with other men without his consent (sown)
 - He leaves her and other men have sex with her without her consent (reaped)
- “In those days...” (19:1)
 - Sets up why one tribe is brought to near extinction

Saul is discredited, David exalted

- Saul is of Benjamin from Gibeah
 - 1st Samuel 9:1-2; 10:26
- Saul does the same act as the Levite
 - 1st Samuel 11:7
- Saul is linked to this story to show nothing good comes from Gibeah or Benjamin
 - Therefore, David is the true king of Israel, not a descendant of Saul

Extinction Level Event (ELE)

- Israel rallies against Gibeah
 - Benjamin sides with Gibeah
- 26,000 VS 400,000
 - Benjamin routes Israel
 - Israel routes Benjamin
- Benjamin reduced to 600 men (ELE)
 - Israel feels bad
 - Rash vow hinders helping Benjamin (21:1)
 - The solution: men taking women without their consent (19:25)

The king of Israel

- Yahweh is sovereign through it all
 - Works his will through instruments and agents
 - Subdues Israel's enemies
 - Keeps the covenant
- Yahweh disciplines
 - Gives them over to their sin, but not fully (think Samuel and Boaz)
 - Judges starts with faithfulness, then handed to enemies, then handed to themselves
 - God is not intimidated by our faithlessness

Practical Application: just do it

- We've made it to the end of Judges, now you are responsible
 - 2nd Timothy 3:16
- The consequences of human kings
 - Brutality, treachery, cunning, and death
- Trust Yahweh as your king
 - He will deliver you from your enemies
 - He will keep his promises to you
 - He will use you as an agent as much as you submit

Next time...

Redemption

Read: (optional) Ruth, 1st Samuel 1:1-4:1; 7:3-8:22; 10:17-25

Think about:

- What reversal does Ruth show? Does the foreign woman lead the Israelite man astray?
- Compare Samson's story with Samuel's story. What are the similarities? How does Samuel reverse the downward spiral paradigm?

