June 18, 2023 Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall

***BLESSED FATHER’S DAY TO ALL FATHERS:***

Today’s Father’s Day Message: ***The Fathers of the Day***

**In Judges 19-21**

Introduction:

1) re**C**apitulation:

 a) The **C**anaanites and the Broken **C**ovenant **Chaps 1, 2**

 b) The **C**orruption of Israel’s **C**ourt Judges. **Chaps. 3-16**

 c) The **C**ycles of **R**ebellion, **R**eturn, **R**epentance and **R**estoration in Judges.

 Othniel and Ehud Chap. 3
Deborah. Chaps. 4, 5
Gideon. Chaps. 6-9
Jephthah. Chaps. 10-12
Samson Chaps. 13-16
Micah and Dan. Chaps. 17-18

2) The **C**onditions of the Day - Chaps. 17-18; **19-21**

 [in the days of Moses’ and Aaron’s Grandsons, Jonathan & Phinehas (18:30; 20:28)]

 No **R**uler: *And it came to pass in those days, when there was* ***no king in Israel****…* Jud. 19:1; 21:25

 3) The **C**orruption of those days:

 No **R**eal **R**ighteousness: *every man did that which was* ***R****ight in his own eyes.* Jud. 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

1. The **C**ommencement of the Study on Jud. 19-21 -
 **The Fathers of those Days** when there was no King in Israel…

Today on “***Father’s Day***” (18th June, 2023)

5) The **C**haracter of the Fathers of those days:

 What Kind of a Father are you?

**A . The Holy Father? – *The Levite* Jud. 19:1**

 *And it came to pass in those days…that there was a certain* ***Levite****…*

1. He **R**eplaced the “***F****irstborn*” among the children of Israel. Num. 3:5-13

 *I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn… therefore the Levites shall be Mine.* 3:12

 They were those **R**edeemed with five shekels of silver. Num. 18:15, 16 Ct. I Pet. 1:18

2. His **R**ole to help Aaron “**F**ather” the Children of Israel for God. Num. 8:14-19 *And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.* Num. 3:6-9

3. His **R**esponsibilities – Num. 3:6-7

 *Bring the tribe of Levi near…and they shall do the service of the tabernacle*

4. His **R**esidence – *a…Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim.* 19:1

* **As Levite Fathers We Are…** [Cf. 17:10 (7-13) - *Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and* ***be unto me a father and a priest****…So the Levite went in.*]
1. **Holy Priests** to **W**orship God, Offering up Spiritual Sacrifices to Him. I Pet. 2:5

*Ye also…are built up…an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

1. **Holy Fathers** to bring up their children to know the **W**ord of God: Deut. 6:5-9...

5 ***thou shalt love the LORD thy God*** *with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. and these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

*7 And* ***thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children****, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

*8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

**B. The “Holy Father” with the Harlot? – *the Levite.* 19:1***there was a certain Levite sojourning…who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah* [Not Micah’s Levite, 17:13]

1. The **C**oncubine – Her Marital **S**tatus, “wife” to *her husband* 19:3
2. The **C**orresponding Terms: The **L**evite’s **L**egal **S**econdary wife -

 *father-in-law* (19:4, 7, 9); *son-in-la*w, (19:5)

1. The **C**omparison - The **L**evirate **L**aw. Deut. 25:5

*If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her.*

1. The **C**ourtesan’s Illegal activities – *But his concubine played the harlot against him….* 19:2, NKJV
* **L**ive up to your Holy Father:
* *Be ye holy, for I am holy.* I Pet. 1:16
* *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.* I Cor. 6:15, 16
* How many priests have mistresses?

*Bishop Pat Buckley said a conservative estimate was that one in 10 of the 5000 priests enjoyed regular sex with women and some even referred to their clerical collar as the "bird catcher".* 22 May 2009

 By Ruth Graham

 *The influential evangelist Ravi Zacharias, who died last spring, engaged in “sexting, unwanted touching, spiritual abuse, and rape,” according to a report released on Thursday by the global evangelical organization he founded.* Feb. 11, 2021

**C. The Homely Father-in-Law Jud. 19:2-10a**

1. He **R**eceived his **R**iotous daughter back when she **R**eturned to him. Jud.19:2 *His concubine played the whore against him, and went away…from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months*

2. He **R**ejoiced to welcome the **L**evite after he had **R**econciled with his daughter – *speak friendly with her… bring her again* Jud. 19:**3b**-9

3. The Levite **R**esided with him until the fifth afternoon. Jud. 19:4-9

4. Then he **R**eturned home by another **R**oute bypassing Jebus to Gibeah. Jud. 19:10-15

 Cf. The Father’s **R**eception of the Prodigal Son. Lk. 15:22-24

**D. The Hospitable Fatherly Old Man? Jud. 19:16-21**

*And, behold, there came an old man…and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place were Benjamites.*

1. An Old Man **S**taying in Ephraim **S**ojourned in Gibeah, cf. Lot
2. No one in Gibeah offered to **H**ost the Levite though he was **S**elf-**S**ufficient.
3. However, it was an old man who opened **H**is **H**ouse to **H**ost him.

Cp. The **H**igh Importance of **H**ospitality in the Christian Church – *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.* Rom.12:13

 *A bishop then must be blameless…given to hospitality, apt to teach*;

 *A lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy.* Tit. 1:8

 *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.* I Pet. 4:9

**E. The Homosexual “Fathers” and their unfatherly Acts?** **Jud. 19:22-26**

 1. They wanted to “**F**ather” the **L**evite – *so we can have sex with him!* 19:22, HCSB

 Cf. *They called out to Lot and said, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!”* Gen. 19:5, HCSB

 2. This was **F**ailure to **F**ollow the book of the **L**aw –

The **H**oly Book’s Precept against **H**omosexuality: Lev. 18:22

* *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*
* *If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them*. 20:13
* *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.* Rom.1:27

**F. The Horrible old Father’s Folly Jud. 19:23-24**

1. The Old Man’s **F**oolishness in condemning their **F**olly…

he offered them the **F**emales in the house! Judg. 19:23-24

*And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you,* ***do not so wickedly****; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.*

1. His **H**einous counter-offer to the **H**omosexuals: Jud. 19:24-25 *Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man* ***do not so vile a thing****.*

 Cf. Lot’s Similar Offer: Gen. 19:8
 *Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes:* ***only unto these men do nothing****; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.*

3. They did not **H**earken to him and it led to the **R**uin of the **H**arlot! 19:25-28

1. The men’s **R**efusal and the **O**ld man’s next **O**ffer: *But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her fort unto them;*
2. The **R**ape of the Harlot: *and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: when the day began to spring, they let her go*
3. The **R**uin of the Harlot: *Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light.*
4. The Sun **R**ose but the Harlot did not **R**ise:*And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold.*
5. The **R**ealisation and the **R**evenge: *And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.*

**G. The Horrendous “Holy” (!) Father’s Act to get Revenge.** **Jud. 19:29-30**

 The **R**epulsive Act of **R**evenge to **R**eport to the **R**est of the tribes:

1. The **C**utting of the **C**arcase for **C**irculation. 19:29 cf. Exo. 29:17; Lev. 1:6; I Sam. 11:7 *And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Isr*

*A Hong Kong model, socialite, and Internet celebrity…was reported missing on 21 February 2023. On 24 February 2023, three days after she was reported missing, Choi was found murdered, with her headless body discovered at a village in Tai Po, a suburb in Hong Kong. Reportedly, some of her body parts were hidden inside a refrigerator and some of them were cooked.*

2. The **C**onclusion that there was no **C**omparison: 19:30a

3. The **C**all to form a **C**ouncil to **C**onsider the **C**onsequences: 19:30b

**H. THE HORRORS OF WAR THAT LEFT no WOULD-BE FATHERS. Jud. 20:1-48**

1. The **M**eeting at **M**izpah **Jud. 20:1, 2** *All the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpah.*
2. The **B**oycott of the **B**enjamites. 20:3

 *(Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpah.) Then said the children of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness?*

3. The **R**eport of the **R**ape. 20:4-6

4. The **C**ommitment to **C**ounsel: 20:7-11
*Behold, ye are all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.*

5. The **R**ising up to take **R**evenge: Jud. 20:7-11

a. The **U**nanimity and **U**nity in **A**ction: *And all the people arose as one man…* *So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. But now this shall be the thing which we will do to Gibeah; we will go up by lot against it;*

b. The **A**rrangements in the **A**ction: *…*

**I. THE HORRORS OF WAR THAT LEFT no WOULD-BE FATHERS. Jud. 20:1-48**

 [A cycle of violence ensues, resulting in…

* the slaughter of many Benjaminite men, women, and children (20:35–48),
* the slaughter of most of the inhabitants of the city of Jabesh-gilead (21:8–12),
* and the kidnapping of young women at Shiloh (21:15–24)].

1. The **R**ejection of the **R**equest to Surrender the **R**ebels. 20:13

2. The **C**ontrast in **P**reparation for **B**attle:20:14-17

1. The 26,700 **B**enjamites sent out their **B**est **S**oldiers against their **B**rothers –

**S**wordsmen and Experts with **S**lings. 20:14-16

1. 400,000 Israelites went to **B**ethel to seek God’s **B**est Counsel for **B**attle – 20:17-18

3. The **C**hronicles of the War in three days:

1. The First Day: **C**onsider below -

The **C**ounsel, the **C**onflict, the **C**asualties, the **C**ommitment and the **C**rying – 22,000 Israelites killed. 20:18-23

1. The Second Day: **C**onsider the above: 20:23-26
2. 18, 000 Israelites slain; *Fasted that day until even, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before the Lord*

c. Third Day: 20:27-30

1. The **C**ounsel: *Israel enquired of the Lord*  20:27, 28
2. The **C**ampaign: The **S**ummary. 20:29, 30, 31-35

 The **S**upplement and Details: 20:36-48

18,000 Men of Benjamin who drew the **S**word were **S**lain and all in every city.

 *Also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.* 20:44, 45, 48

**J. The Plan to Provide for Future Fathers. Jud. 21:1-25**

1. The **P**roblem About the Wives: 21:1-7

 *Why is this…that there should be today one tribe lacking in Israel?* 21:3

 *How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?* 21:7

1. The **P**light in the Tribe of Benjamin: 20:44, 45, 48

 25,000 Men of Benjamin who drew the **S**word were Slain and all others in every city;

 600 fled to the Rock of Rimmon.

b. The **P**ledge made in Mizpah: *Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying,*

 *There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.* 21:1

2. The **P**otential **P**lan to **P**rovide the wives Jud. 21:8-14

 a.From the **M**issing **M**izpeh **A**ssembly **A**bsentees – 21:8, 9

1. *There* ***C****ame none to the* ***C****amp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.*
2. The **C**onfirmation:*For the people were numbered, and, behold,*

*there was none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there.* 21:9

1. The **M**urder of the **M**en and Women in Jabesh-gilead except the **R**eserved 400 Virgins. 21:10-13
2. "*Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead"…the women and the children... every male, and every woman* 21:10
3. *Found... four hundred young virgins... brought them unto the camp to Shiloh* 21:11
4. *Sent some to speak to the children of Benjamin that were in the Rock Rimmon... they gave them wives... of the women of Jabesh-gilead –* but they were not Sufficient 21:13, 14 cf. 20:47

c. The **C**apture of more Women from a Dance **C**elebration. 21:15-24

 The second means - get them from dancers at the annual feast held in Shiloh.

1. The **P**roblem: – no **M**arriage, **M**eaning no inheritance for the Remaining Benjamites. 21:16-17
2. The **P**erplexity: The Benjamites might be **W**iped out. 21:18
3. The **P**lan: Catch a **W**ife from the dance! 21:22-24

*And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.*

1. The **P**ostscript: *And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance.*

 **F**athers, on this **F**ather’s Day,
What kind of **F**atherhood will you establish in your **F**amily?

1. Are You a **H**oly Father?
2. Are You a “**H**oly Father” with a Concubine?
3. Are You the **H**omely Father-in-Law?
4. Are You the **H**ospitable Fatherly Old Man?
5. The **H**omosexual Fathers?
6. The **H**orrible Father with his **H**orrendous Acts

 Let it never be said, *There is no* ***F****ather in your* ***F****amily!!*

*Judges 21:25 (NKJV, adapted)*

***In these days there is no Father in the Family; everyone does what is right in his own eyes!***

***A BLESSED FATHER’S DAY***

***TO ALL FATHERS***

**Acknowledgement**:
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