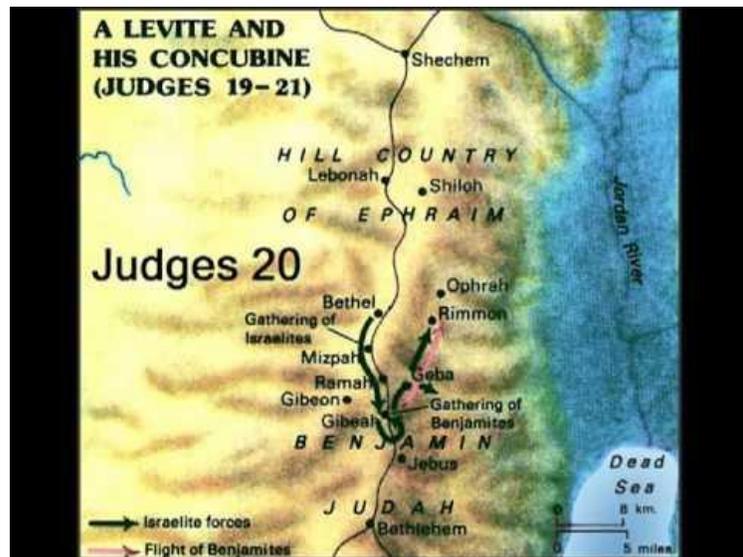


**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 11, 2016**

- ✓ **Judges 20:1-21:25.** The high cost of ‘everyone doing what was right in his own eyes.’
- ✓ **Philippians 4:21-23.** Grace always determines failure or success at (not “in”) life.
- ✓ **Psalm 72:1-20.** Solomon and the coming Messiah.

COMMENTS:

Judges 20:1-21:25. These last two chapters of Judges describe the civil war that was a result of the total breakdown of law and order—and with it basic morality in the land as per “in those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” The atrocious event described in 19:22-29 is but the evil consequence of forsaking God’s rule and doing what is right in one’s own eyes. What a grotesque use of the woman’s body! The attack upon the Levite and his concubine results in civil war between Israel and Benjamin. It is unfortunate that it took this event and a civil war to unite



Israel, “as one man before the Lord,” for the first time in Judges. During this period Israel had morally sunk to its lowest depths and was reaping the consequences of doing what was right in its own eyes. Note their weeping and entreaties in the house of the Lord to the Lord (21:2). It really is amazing that the people of God can reject God and when things do not go right, cry out to Him ‘Why’? It is amazing that so many believers complain about their difficult circumstances, which have come to define the meaning of their lives, instead of God, and then complain to God when things fall apart. What possible solution could God give a person who lives of the world who feels like his world/god is falling apart? More stuff? solutions that enable the believer to keep on chasing the world and human approbation? Consider the incoherence and blasphemous nature of prayers made by Christians who do not live for God as they ask God to fill their secular lives with more “good” secular stuff for more secular pursuits.

Philippians 4:21-23. Note how Paul closes out this book. The last thing one says is always filled with crucial principles. Note his warm affections for fellow believers. Note how he ends this letter with “grace.” It really is all about the grace of God. We are what we are only by the grace of God. Any and all goodness that we may possess is due to His grace. The same holds true for our little church. The fact that we can come together and support each other as we grow in grace and knowledge is only because of God’s grace. I also need to point out that any failure that we experience in our lives comes down to rejection of God’s grace in one way or another. Let us never forget that it really is all about accepting or rejecting God’s grace—the true, good, and beautiful.

Psalms 72:1-20. This psalm was written by Solomon. Note how it also speaks of the millennial reign of the Messiah, “the king’s Son.” We are given descriptions of the extent of the Messiah’s reign as well as the fact that people from all around the world will respond to His greatness by bringing gifts for Him when “the whole world will be filled with His glory.”

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don