

## GIBEAH

Gibeah (a Hill) in Benjamin, how your tragic story does unfold before us with sorrow and pain.

The wickedness and shame in your streets wrought by the "sons of Belial" (Judges 19:22) will live in infamy for which judgment and wrath hath come.

### **The Levite, the Concubine and the Old Man of Mount Ephraim**

Oh, Gibeah, what harm you did the man of God, the Levite from Mount Ephraim when he came to you from Bethlehem. Forsaking to lodge in Jebus, City of the Jebusites, seeking rather to find lodging among his brethren on his journey home; the man of God came to you, Gibeah, with his concubine and servant on that fateful night (Judges 19:1-30). And when an old man from Mount Ephraim came to him in the square and inquired of him, for no man gave him lodging, the old man welcomed him in peace (Judges 19:20); and gave him "provender for the donkeys, washed their feet, and did eat and drink" together. But the evil men of your city have come to the house to do much harm. Gibeah, the "sons of Belial" have rejected the pleas for mercy from the old man, the "master of the house" when he "went out to 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. . .but the men would not hearken to him" (Judges 19:23,25a). Now, Gibeah, these evil men have wrought wickedness in the Land by their vile and murderous acts upon the Levites's concubine. Gibeah, this sin and reproach to the man of God shall be avenged by all the Tribes who shall rise up as one man to pour out retribution upon you and purge the Land from your uncleanness (cp. Judges 20:8-9).

## **The Prophet Cries Out for Judgment**

Oh, how the Prophet, Hosea, did cry against you in his day when he pronounced judgment on Israel for their corruption, saying "as in the days of Gibeah: therefore, He will remember their iniquity, He will visit their sins" (Hosea 9:9). And proclaiming further "O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah. . ." (Hosea 10:9). Yes, Gibeah the prophets remember by the mouth of the LORD and proclaim judgment on all unrighteousness of ungodly men.

## **All Israel Assembles at Mizpah**

Gibeah in Benjamin, you will suffer retribution and wrath from your brethren in Israel. Your sons will die in battle and your women and children will be slaughtered in their homes and streets, and the City shall be burned with fire for your great wickedness (cp. Judges 20:35,37,46,48). Now all the Tribes have met in Mizpah and vowed before the LORD that none of their daughters shall be given to the sons of Benjamin to wed (Judges 21:1).

Oh, the grief you have caused to Israel. Weeping and sorrow in every Tribe for fear that one Tribe will now be lost from among the people. Israel, devise now a plan for Benjamin for there are yet 600 men who remain at the Rock of Rimmon, who have escaped from the battle and have fled for refuge there.

See, now, how the people have gathered to seek the LORD with weeping and prayers, and have built an Altar in Mizpah to offer burnt offerings and the *shelem*, peace and fellowship offerings before the LORD. And the people repented that a Tribe in Israel was in danger of being cut off; so they have sought to get wives for your men, oh Benjamin. Then it was determined that the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead did not come up for battle when the Tribes were called to

assemble. Therefore, did all Israel descend upon the men of Jabesh-gilead and slew them (Judges 21:11). Then were found there 400 young virgins whom they brought to Shiloh to be given to the men at Rimmon to wed (Judges 21:14). These were given to raise up children to restore the Tribe of Benjamin, so there would be no Tribe lost in Israel.

### **Gibeah Gives Israel a King**

Gibeah in Benjamin, though your wickedness was great and you were nigh unto being lost as a Tribe; yet see now, even from you shall the LORD raise up one from among your brethren, children of the virgins of Jabesh-gilead, and the virgins of Shiloh (Judges 21:21), even this one shall rule as king in all Israel. Yes, even Saul, son of Kish, of the family of Matri (cp. 1 Samuel 10:21). Yes, even Saul, who "when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward." This Saul, son of Kish, whom Samuel did anoint with oil (1 Samuel 10:1). And then did "Samuel say to all the people, 'See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people.' And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king" (1 Samuel 10:23-24)!

### **Grace, Redemption and the Love of God**

Oh, Gibeah, you not only speak to us of the great wickedness of men, but also the great mercy of our God. Yes, you speak to us of grace. You speak to us of redemption, forgiveness and the love of God for His people, not willing that even one should be lost (cp. Luke 15:3-7). You remnant of Benjamin, smallest of the Tribes, have given all Israel a king, chosen of God and ordained by His prophet, Samuel. Even as the great Apostle has written: "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past you walked according to

the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the "sons of Belial" the children of disobedience:" (Ephesians 2:1-2).

### **Out of Benjamin an Apostle to the Nations**

Yes, Gibeah, God has even raised up another of your sons named Saul, one Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor and enemy of the Church, God has called; yes, this "Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the Tribe of Benjamin" (Romans 11:1; cp. Philippians 3:5), God has made a "chosen vessel. . .to bear the name of Christ before the Gentiles, and kings, and all the children of Israel" (cp. Acts 9:15). This one God has raised to be an Apostle in the Church of God to proclaim the revelation of Christ to the world; to shine forth the glorious Light, to declare the mercies of God Who "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (II Timothy 1:10). Now, this Saul, who is also Paul further declares: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Gibeah, you hold not only the workings of the "mystery of iniquity" (cp. II Thessalonians 2:7); you hold also the "mystery of the Gospel" (cp. Ephesians 6:19), and the "mystery of God's will" (Ephesians 1:9). For out from iniquity, ruin and sin, from the shameful death of the concubine, has come forth the virgin daughters of Shiloh to be joined to the Benjamin of God, the Son of the Right Hand (cp. Genesis 35:18; Psalms 80:17; Ephesians 1:20). "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" says the Apostle (II Corinthians 11:2). Yes, even Christ Jesus the LORD, for he

says again "He has made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

### **Oh, How the Virgins Love Thee**

"Sing, O daughter of Zion, shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem" (Zephaniah 3:14). "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King comes unto thee: He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zechariah 9:9).

Yes, enter in you wise virgins. Your Bridegroom has arrived! The cry has gone out, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him!" The wedding feast has been prepared and the marriage of the Lamb has come (cp. Matthew 25:1-13).

"Because of the savor of Thy good ointments Thy Name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love Thee. Draw me, we will run after Thee: the King has brought me into His chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in Thee, we will remember Thy love more than wine: the upright love Thee" (Song of Solomon 1:3-4).

### **Pleasures at the Right Hand, the *Yamiyn***

"I will bless the LORD, who have given me counsel; my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand (*yamiyn*), I shall not be moved. . . Thou wilt show me the path of Life; in Thy Presence is fullness of joy; at Thy *Yamiyn* there are pleasures forevermore" (Psalms 16:7-8,11). Yes, the *Yamiyn* is the place of the King, and the Ben-jamin, the Benjamin of God, the Son of the Right Hand. He has become our

King who reigns forever, even the One who became sin and Who as an offering for sin was cut off from the Land; but Who was also raised again to Life and given a Kingdom with all authority and power over all the kingdoms of the world, “for the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ” (Revelation 11:15; cp 12:10).

Thank you, Gibeah, for your time has come to declare all that was formerly in you hidden; but now has been revealed to us by the Spirit, to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (cp. Ephesians 3:5,8). To God be glory, honor, dominion and power forever, Amen.