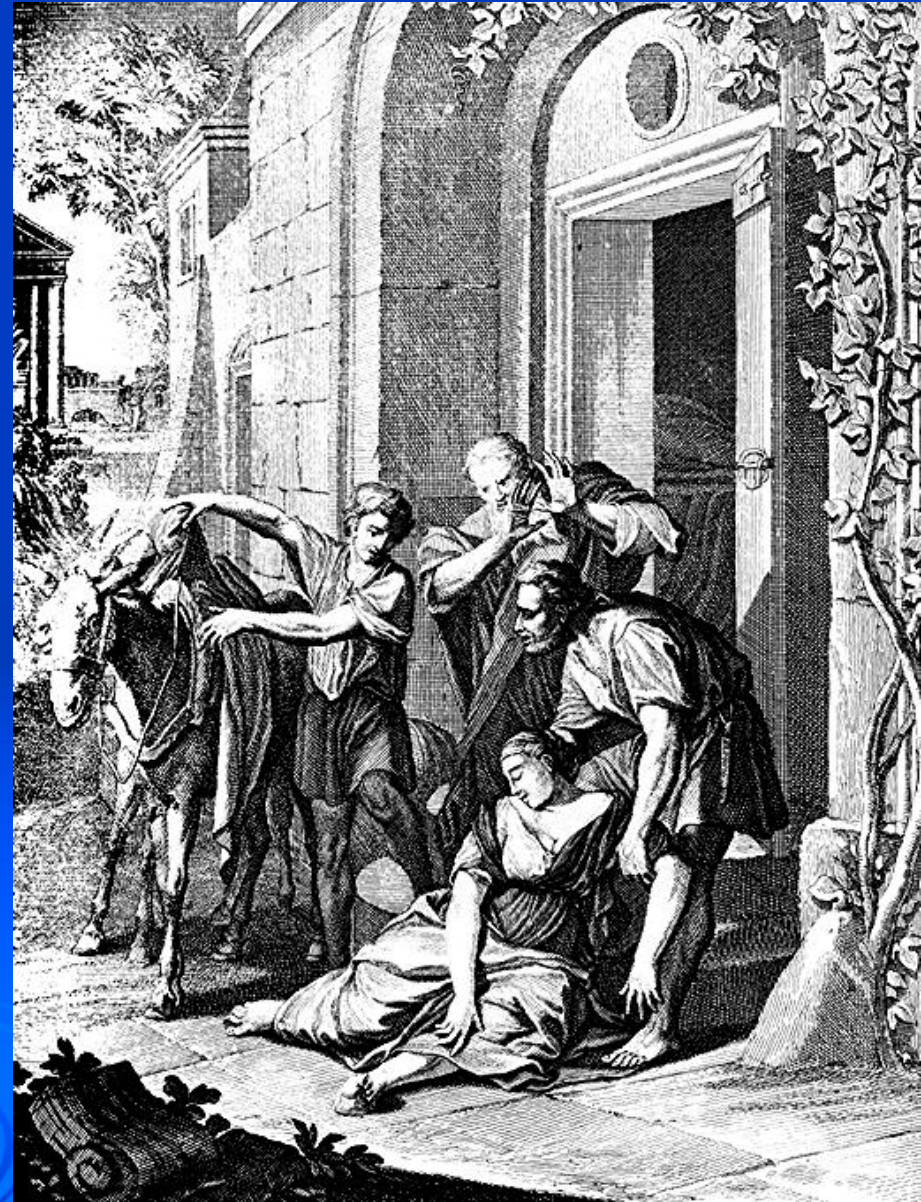


DEATH OF THE CONCUBINE IN GIBEAH

- About 20 years after Joshua died
- Gibeah's residents were of the tribe of Benjamin
- An old man offers hospitality to the Levite and his concubine
- Mob of men demand homosexual sex with the Levite
- Concubine sent out instead
- Raped to death
- Levite takes the corpse home, cuts her up into 12 pieces and sends them to the 12 tribes



JUDGES 20: WAR WITH BENJAMIN

- All Israel gathered for war against Benjamin
- Even the 2 ½ tribes from east of the Jordan came
- Gilead occupied by Manessah and Gad
- It was HEBREWS who attacked and killed the concubine, members of Benjamin



11 TRIBES GATHERED AT MITZPAH



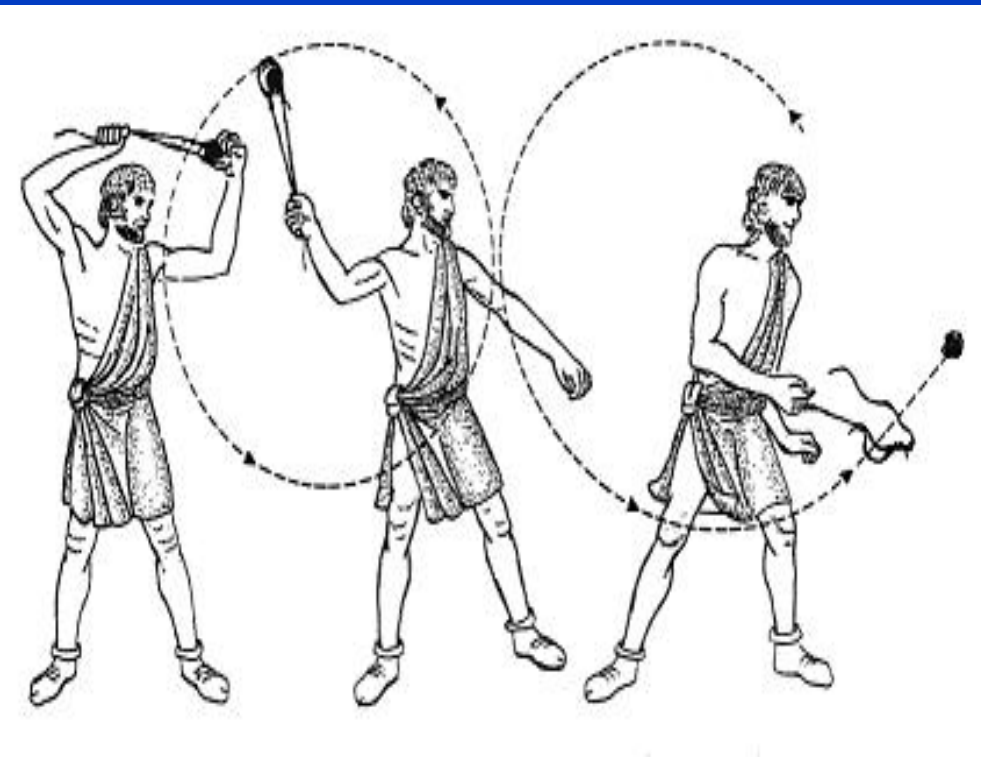
- This was considered to be a “holy convocation”
- *Kahal ha’edah* = congregation of the people (before God)
- 400,000 armed men came
- Still much unity in Israel
- Benjamin was not present
- Levite tells his story, starting with a lie

THE TRIBES SWEAR AN OATH

- Israel vowed not to return home without retribution upon Benjamin
- *Ohel* = tent
- *Bayith* = dwelling, house
- Israel expected a long war with Benjamin
- Messenger sent to Benjamin to turn over the criminals, but they refused
- Benjamin's tribal loyalty is typical among tribal societies



700 STONE SLINGERS



- Benjamin gathered 26,000 troops for war
- Plus 700 left-handed slingers
- “Children of Israel”, and “Children of Benjamin” endearing terms meaning those who represent the tribe or nation
- 400,000 Israelite troops only 2/3rds of the available forces
- Benjamin outnumbered almost 20 to 1

TABERNACLE IS AT BEIT-EL



- Commanders go to Beit-El to inquire of God
- Wilderness Tabernacle first at Shechem, then Shiloh, then Beit-El, than back to Shiloh
- The inquiry utilized the Urim and Thummim of the High Priest
- The words “Judah should go first” were NOT uttered by God, it was just what the Urim and Thummim indicated by means of a yes or no answer

ISRAEL'S ARMY SLAUGHTERED

- 22,000 Israelite troops killed in the first attempt to capture Gibeah
- Gibeah is hill country, and thus the terrain favored the defense
- Commanders went back to Beit-El and consulted the Urim and Thummim again
- They attacked a 2nd time and lost 18,000 men!
- Israel went back to Beit-El, sacrificed, repented and went forward with a different attitude



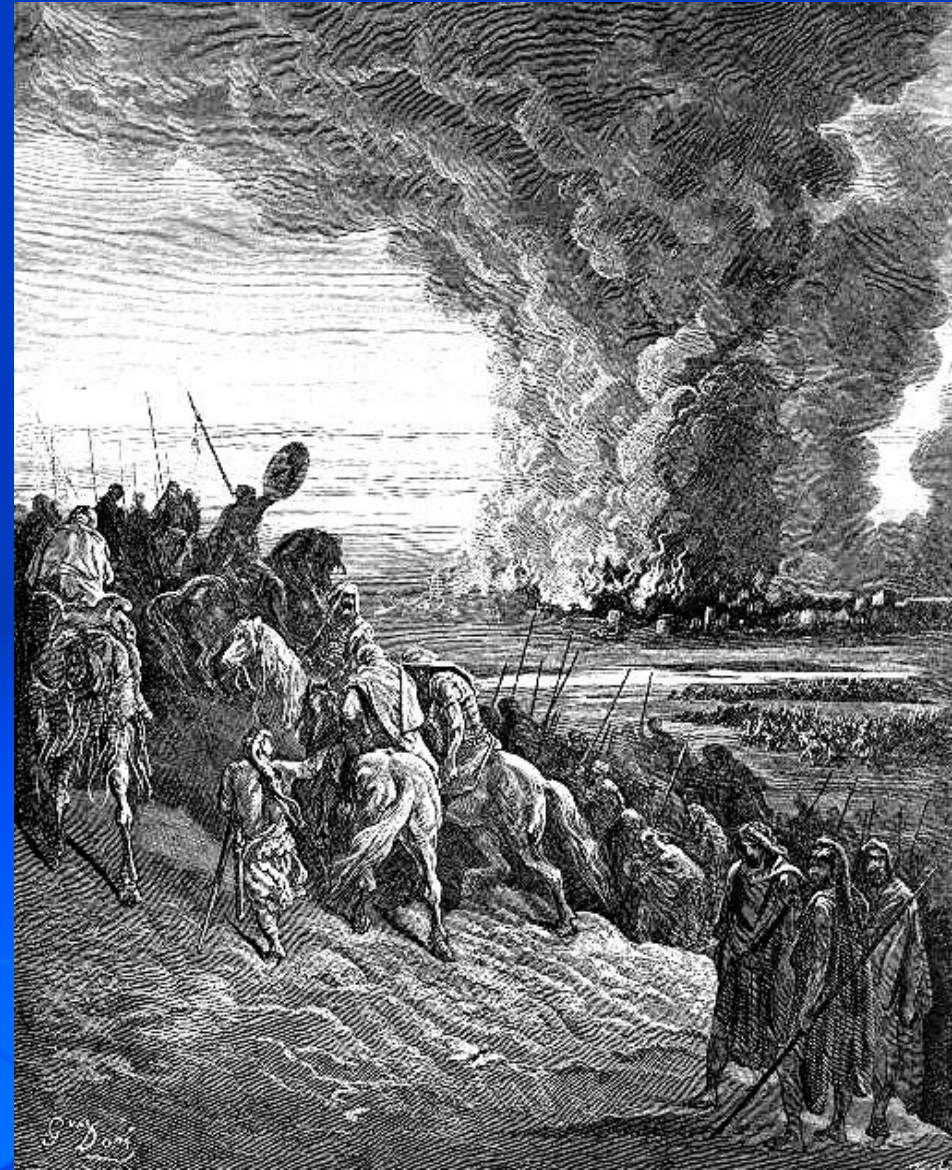
ISRAEL CHANGED THEIR TACTICS



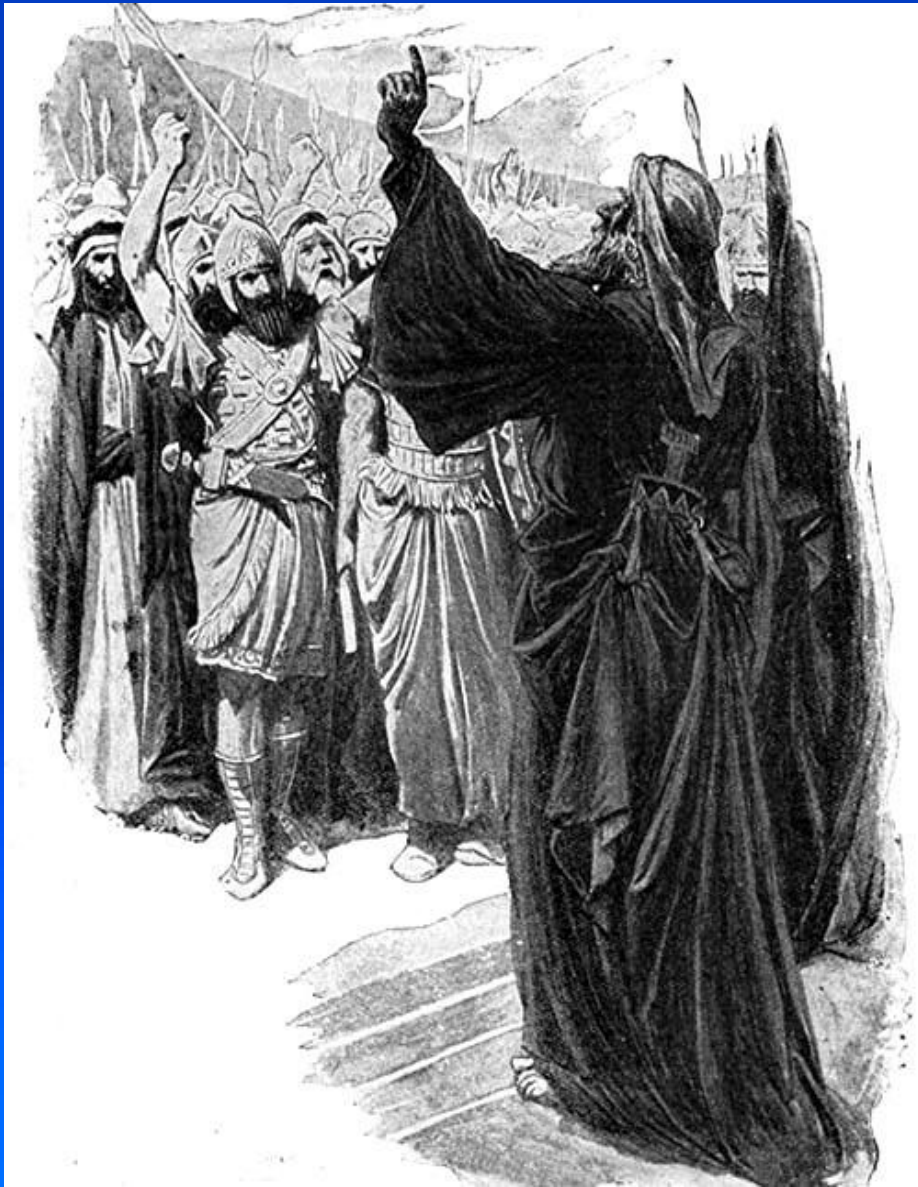
- Instead of a direct frontal attack Israel designed an ambush
- Phinehas was the war priest
- He was the one who killed the Midianite woman and Hebrew man with a spear
- His name was Egyptian
- *Pe-nehasi* = Penechas = Phinehas
- Means, dark skinned one

GIBEAH IS BURNED

- Israel acted like this was another frontal attack, but then ran
- Benjamin chased them
- Some Israelite men raced into the vacated city and burned it, and then the fleeing Israelite troops turned and caught the Benjamites as in a vise
- 18,000 Benjamite troops killed
- 5,000 more killed on the road to Rimmon (means Pomegranate tree)
- 2,000 more killed at Geba
- Only 600 survivors



THE PROBLEM WITH MAKING OATHS AND VOWS TO GOD

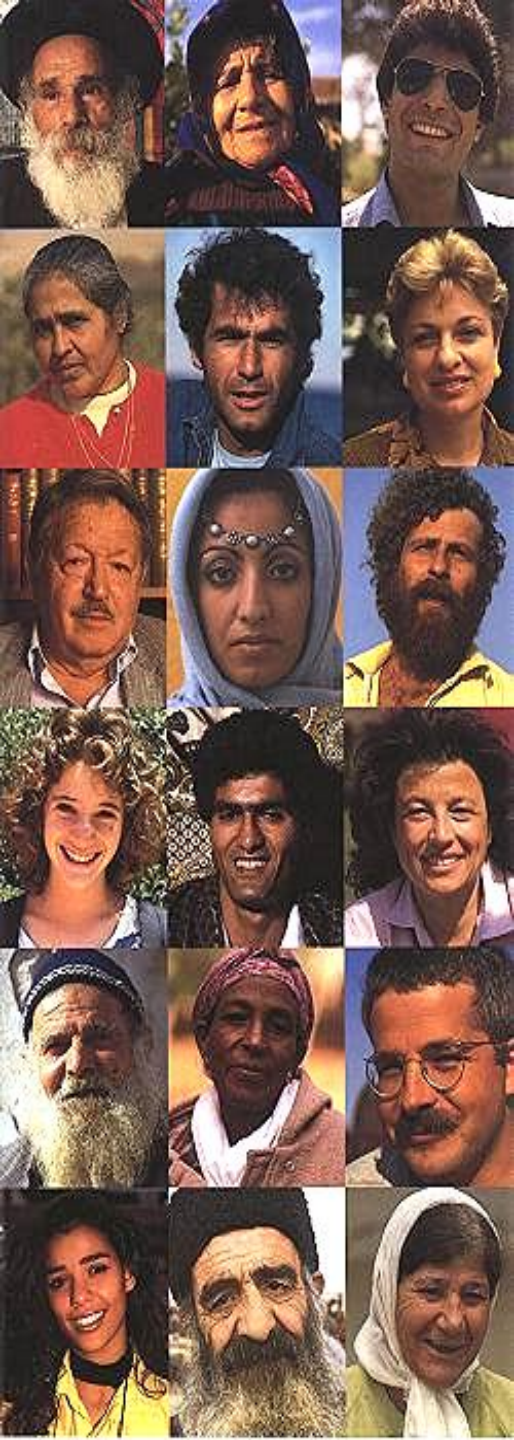


- After the war was over Israel fell into grief over what had happened
- To the ancient mind there was virtually no choice but to follow through with a vow
- The 11-tribe force vowed never to give their daughters to Benjamin for wives
- But all that remained of Benjamin was 600 men and no women of childbearing age
- The extinction of Benjamin was a real probability

WIVES FOR BENJAMIN



- The people of Jabesh-Gilead had not sent troops
- Jabesh attacked, all killed except for 400 virgins
- **Herem** = ban, to set aside for God in a Holy War
- 200 more wives were provided by allowing Benjamin to abduct girls from a Feast of the Lord at Shiloh!!
- No vow broken because the daughters were **TAKEN** and not **GIVEN**



BENJAMIN NOW MIXED

- All further Benjamites were born to women primarily from Manessah, Gad and Reuben
- Israel lost genealogical purity at Shechem with Jacob!
- King Saul had a close relationship with the people of Gilead
- Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin, so he was closely blood related to the people of Gilead
- ***“ At that time there was no king in Israel; a man simply did whatever he thought was right”***