



Judges:

Coulda  
Shoulda

But Didn't

# Judges 20:1-28



The image features a central graphic of a stylized eye. The eye is composed of a large, dark, almond-shaped outer outline and a smaller, similarly shaped inner outline, creating a central lens area. The background of the entire image is a light brown, pebbled texture. The eye graphic is set against a dark grey background that has a jagged, geometric border. This border is primarily dark grey but has several red, angular shapes protruding from it, particularly on the left and right sides. The text 'PLANK EYE' is centered horizontally across the middle of the eye's lens area.

PLANK EYE

During the time of the  
book of Judges, Israel  
was steeped in sin



Judges 20:1-3

Leaders are gathered  
from each Tribe  
(except Benjamin - the  
tribe in question)  
to a place called Mizpah



This collection of leaders  
try to get to the bottom of  
what happened

Judges 20:8-12



Together, in one accord,  
in unity these leaders decide  
that they would **NOT** return  
home until they dealt with  
this atrocity first



Only problem is the  
text implies NO one  
asked God





Before going into battle the  
11 Tribes send some  
ambassador type people to  
the Tribe of Benjamin to  
give them a chance to do  
the right thing



# Judges 20:13-17

Unfortunately, the Tribe  
of Benjamin **DOESN'T**  
see this as a problem &  
they don't listen



“Listen” = obey; yield to; to  
give heed or consent

The Tribe of Benjamin  
would **NOT** come to terms &  
so they prepare for war!



26,700 men line up from  
the Tribe of Benjamin &  
the 11 tribes bring to battle  
a total of 400,000 men



Such a super sad point in  
Israel's history, a Civil War  
looming!

Judges 20:18-21



Many commentators believe that Bethel was the same location as Shiloh (where the temple, ark, & high priest were located)



Israel's decision was  
made in unison, but Israel  
only seems to check in  
with God, like He's their  
magical genie



Roughly 400,000 men  
camp around Gibeah,  
ready for battle





Benjamin's army had also gathered together at Gibeah to protect & defend those lawless & wicked men of the city



Result = 22,000 people died  
(it was an absolute slaughter)

Judges 20:22-23



These 11 Tribes DON'T go  
to God weeping for their sins  
Israel bemoans their loss &  
then they second guess if they  
should attack their brother  
Benjamin again



Judges 20:24-27a

On the second day, the 11

Tribes once again go &

attack Benjamin

Result = 18,000 MORE

people died



It's one thing to come to  
God broken, knowing you're  
wicked & guilty, it's another  
thing to stay broken!



It's **NOT** okay to stay  
broken (that's the thrust  
of the book of Judges)



I believe Israel **NEVER**  
addressed the planks in their  
own eyes, while they desired  
to address the speck in their  
brother's eye



After the second defeat,  
Israel again goes to Bethel  
This time Israel's weeping  
**WASN'T** just for the lost  
lives, but it was **ALSO** for  
their own personal sin





This weeping was  
accompanied by fasting &  
sacrifice

Judges 20:27b-28



Israel had decided to leave  
the entire matter at the feet  
of God (they **WEREN'T** going  
to do anything else until  
God made it clear & blessed  
their attack)



SO WHAT?



# Matthew 7:1-5

