

Judges 19:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.

Analysis

There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day—the universal horror expressed by all who saw the dismembered concubine's body parts sent throughout Israel's tribes. The comprehensive time frame—from the Exodus until the present—emphasizes that this atrocity surpasses even Egypt's oppression and Israel's wilderness rebellions in its wickedness. **Consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds** (**שִׁמְעָה לְקָם עַלְפָךְ עַצְוֹ וְדָבָרָה**, simu lachem aleha utzu vedaberu)—three imperatives calling for national council: lay it to heart, deliberate together, speak decisively.

This verse concludes the horrific narrative of chapters 19 with a call to action. The gang rape and murder of the Levite's concubine at Gibeah (belonging to Benjamin) parallels Sodom's wickedness (Genesis 19), demonstrating that Israel has become as depraved as the Canaanites they were supposed to displace. The Levite's calculated dismemberment of her body—sending twelve pieces throughout Israel's tribes—forces the nation to confront its moral collapse. When no king governs and everyone does what is right in their own eyes (21:25), society descends to this level of barbarism. The verse's shocked rhetoric demands response: evil of this magnitude cannot be ignored or tolerated. Yet chapter 20 reveals that even righteous indignation can become self-righteous vengeance when God is not properly consulted.

Historical Context

The crime at Gibeah occurred during the period when Benjamin's territory had become thoroughly corrupt. Gibeah (later Saul's hometown, 1 Samuel 10:26) was only three miles from Jerusalem. The Levite's method of raising the nation—dismembering his concubine's corpse and sending parts to the twelve tribes—mirrors Saul's later action with oxen (1 Samuel 11:7), but here the medium matches the message's horror. The tribal assembly at Mizpah (20:1) became a national war council.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when confronted with shocking evil—with righteous action or self-righteous rage?
2. What does this narrative reveal about the inevitable moral collapse when society abandons God's authority?
3. In what ways does contemporary culture parallel Judges' moral chaos, and what is the church's prophetic response?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	נָהִיתָ	הַ	לֹא	אָמַר	כִּי	נָהִיתָ	וְאֵת	וְאֵת
And it was so	H3605	done nor seen	H7200	it said	H559	And it was so	H3808	
H1961			H1961	H3808		H1961		
בְּנֵי	עַל	זֹאת	כִּי	וּמָ	כִּי	זֹאת	בְּנֵי	
done nor seen	There was no such deed	from the day	came up	that the children				
H7200	H2063	H3117	H5927	H1121				
שִׁימֹוּ	בְּזַה	בְּזַה	בְּזַה	בְּזַה	בְּזַה	בְּזַה	שִׁימֹוּ	
of Israel	out of the land	of Egypt	from the day				consider	
H3478	H776	H4714	H5704	H3117	H2088	H7760		
לְכָמֹד	עַל	יְפַ	לְכָמֹד	יְדַבֵּר	עַל	צָוָא	עַל	יְפַ
H0	H5921		H5779		H1696			H5921
of it take advice	and speak							

Additional Cross-References

Judges 20:7 (References Israel): Behold, ye are all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

Proverbs 13:10 (Parallel theme): Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.