

# Judges 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel.

## Analysis

**We will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand**—a decimation system (10% supply support, 90% combat forces) showing sophisticated military logistics. **To fetch victual for the people** (לְקַחַת צְדָה לְעַמּוֹ, laqachat tzeidah la'am)—the combat force would require massive supply lines. **That they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel**—the stated purpose: punish Gibeah's 'folly' (תְּבִלָּה, nevalah, covenant-breaking wickedness).

Israel's military organization demonstrates competence and scale but reveals concerning assumptions. They plan for sustained siege warfare against a brother tribe without first attempting diplomacy, negotiation, or calling for Benjamin to surrender the guilty parties. Their logistics anticipate total war—complete destruction of Gibeah—rather than targeted justice against specific perpetrators. Righteous causes pursued through disproportionate means become unrighteous. The chapter will demonstrate this truth: Israel's initial defeats stem not from military incompetence but from spiritual inadequacy. Their comprehensive preparation for war contrasts with their incomplete preparation of heart. When we

make thorough plans for human action but minimal provision for spiritual discernment, we guarantee stumbling despite superior resources.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern warfare required extensive logistical preparation, especially for prolonged campaigns. The 10:1 ratio of combatants to supply personnel mirrors patterns seen in later Israelite military organization (2 Chronicles 25:5). The text's detailed focus on logistics emphasizes that Israel approached this as major warfare, not police action—showing how seriously they took covenant violation, yet also how quickly righteous indignation escalates to total war.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. When do your thorough preparations for action reveal inadequate preparation in prayer and spiritual discernment?
2. How do you escalate from proportionate justice to total warfare when dealing with offenses?
3. What does it mean to match military (or practical) competence with spiritual wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָל	וּמִא	הָעָשָׂרָה	לְכָל	מִתְ
And we will take	ten	H376	and an hundred	H3605
H3947	H6235		H3967	
שְׁבָטִים	וּמִא	הָעָשָׂרָה	אֶלָּא	וְבִשְׂרָאֵל
throughout all the tribes	in Israel	H3478	and an hundred	and a thousand
H7626		H3967		H505
אֶלָּא	לְרַבֵּבָה	לְכָל	אֶלָּא	לְעַמּוֹד
and a thousand	out of ten thousand	And we will take	victual	for the people
H505	H7233	H3947	H6720	H5971
עָשָׂה	לְבָזָם	לְגַבֵּעַ	כְּכָל	בְּנֵי
that they have wrought	when they come	to Gibeah	of Benjamin	H3605
H6213	H935	H1387	H1144	
פָּנְבָּלָה	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	בִּשְׂרָאֵל:	in Israel
according to all the folly	H834	H6213		H3478
H5039				

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