

## ***When Justice Becomes Unjustifiable*** **Judges 20**

### ***Justifiably, a war is declared to right a terrible wrong. 1-17***

- ❖ Note rare tribal unity! For Mizpah see Josh. 18:26, I Sam. 7:5, 10:17.
- ❖ Compare the Levite's account with 19:25ff. His slanted story offers what type of warning for us when we hear someone's grievances?

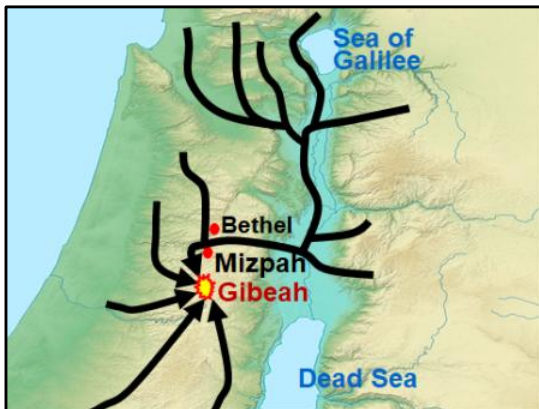
- ❖ What does Benjamin's defensive response suggest to us about how we should handle criticisms about those close to us?

### ***Shockingly, the wrong army wins the early battles. 18-25***

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> attack fails (didn't ask if they should attack but who to lead it).
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> attack fails (now ask if they should attack after much weeping).
- ❖ Big question: Why did God offer directives in this war but allow the wrong army to win twice? Is this unknown anger as in II Sam. 24:1?

### ***Finally, the right army wins the war but in brutal fashion. 26-48***

- ❖ Before the 3<sup>rd</sup> attack the 11 tribes are even more humble—they weep, fast, make offerings, and again ask if they should still fight.
- ❖ Phinehas intervenes, which also helps date this, see Num. 25:7.
- ❖ Compare these battles to earlier battles fought at Ai in Joshua 7,8.
- ❖ 600 Benjamite soldiers escape and hide out for four months.
- ❖ Was this widespread slaughter of the Benjamites justified?



Is it possible to be right and “win” but go overboard in such a way so as to create more problems?