

Why did God tell the people of Israel to go up against a people yet get defeated?

Many times it may appear that the acts of God does not make any sense. It sometimes seems that God defends, protects, and provides for the most vile of sinners while defeating those going up against them.

1. Where do we find God telling Israel to go up against a people?
Judges **20:4-7** Judges **20:14-21**
Judges **20:22-25**

After the some men from the tribe of Benjamin raped and murdered the Levite's concubine, the other tribes of Israel gathered together in order to come to an understanding of what ought to be done about the situation and to bring about some sense of justice in the midst of this horrific crime.

2. What could be some of the reasons why Israel lost the first battle?
Judges **20:4-6** cmp Judges **19:22-25** Joshua **9:7-15**
Proverbs 18:13 Proverbs **18:17**
Habakkuk 1:3-4 Judges **20:12**

Part of the reason could be that the Levite did not exactly tell the account properly. He claimed that the men of the city wanted to kill him but that was not the issue. They wanted to rape him but settled for raping his concubine. The second reason could be that the leaders of Israel did not bother to actually seek out counsel from the LORD to determine what should be done. They made themselves out to be the judges, the jury, and the executioners. The third reason could be that the people of Israel did not actually take the time to investigate the matter. They took the Levite at his word and made their evaluation based upon only a part of the information.

3. What could be some of the reasons why Israel lost the second battle?
Judges **21:25** 2 Chronicles **28:8-15**
Galatians **3:27-28** 1 Peter **3:7**
Matthew **7:1-5** Revelation **21:8**
Numbers 22:20-22

Although for the second battle, the people of Israel took the time to ask if they should even go up against Benjamin (Judges 20:23), they lost the battle partly because the people of Israel were no better than the people of Benjamin. They were not living in obedience to the commandments of God. Even in the case that they were attempting to deal with justly, they did not do justly. The Levite's own sinfulness against God and dishonoring his concubine not only by his treatment of her before cutting her (treated her as mere and insignificant property), he performed the despicable act of actually cutting her body into multiple pieces. The people of Israel should have dealt with their own sinfulness and repented of their own sinfulness before judging the people of Benjamin. Although homosexuality is a sin against God, it truly is not a greater nor more despicable sin than

so many other sins like idolatry, lying, marital infidelity, fornication, hatred and the like. None of us is truly any better than they are.

4. Why did the people of Israel finally defeat the people of Benjamin?

Judges **20:26-28**

Leviticus **18:22**

Habakkuk **1:12-13**

Genesis **18:16-22**

Romans 1:24-27

Psalm **73:12-19**

Finally, the people of Israel seemed to diligently seek out counsel from the Lord and sought to approach the situation before them the right way. It is also the situation that the truth of the crime that Benjamin sought to do was a crime that God declared as abominable and as such needed to be condemned and punished.