

Getting started: Share an unusual story you've heard about how a man (or his family) procured a bride.

Read 21:1-7

Weeping over Benjamin

1. What oath had Israel sworn concerning the tribe of Benjamin? Why did Israel weep bitterly before the house of the Lord? (vv. 1-3)
2. As the Israelites met before the Lord, why did they build an altar the next morning? What did they decide to do with the tribes who sent no one to help against Benjamin? (vv. 4-6) What kept resurfacing in their discussion about Benjamin? (v. 7)

Read 21:8-15

Brides for Benjamin

3. What camp had not sent men with the assembly to battle? How did the assembly decide to address this trespass? How many virgins were captured from the camp? (vv. 8-12)
4. Who did Israel have in mind for these 400 virgins? How many men were gathered there? (20:47) What problem remained? (vv. 13-15)

Read: 21:16-25

More Brides for Benjamin

5. What had happened to all the other women of Benjamin? What stood in the way of providing more wives for this tribe? (vv. 16-18). What wisdom might we gain about making oaths from this chapter? (vv. 1, 18)
6. What plan did Israel have to provide wives for the remaining 200 men? What were the men of Benjamin to do? (vv. 19-21)
7. What explanation was to be given to the women's families? What did Benjamin do when they returned to their land with their wives? What did Israel do after this? (vv. 22-24)
8. The final verse serves as a theme for the book (c.f. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). What recurring problem do we find with the people in this book? (v. 25) List at least 3 examples from this book of people doing precisely this thing. What is the answer for a people who have sunken to this point in their lives?