

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

The Mercies of God Manifest at Rock Rimmon

Judg. 20:47 "But **six hundred men** turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months."

In the 19th and 20th Chapters of the book of Judges, we read of a civil war in Israel. The tribe of Benjamin had allowed and many had participated in the commission of Sodomy. The scriptures plainly teach us that God had cast out the nations which dwelt in the land of Canaan before the children of Israel because of their wicked practices. One of their wicked practices was that they engaged in sodomy. Now the tribe of Benjamin was embracing the practice that resulted in the destruction of those nations preceding Israel in the land of Canaan. Ultimately, this led to a war between Benjamin and the other eleven tribes of Israel. In this war, Benjamin was put to the worst and all of Benjamin including men, women, and children were destroyed except for the **remnant army of six hundred men**.

These **six hundred men** fled for their lives to the rock Rimmon, hoping to find shelter from the opposing army. Rimmon was a deity worshipped by the Syrians. In summary, the Benjaminite army had fought for the wrong cause (Sodomy) and then sought shelter in a false God. One might think that God would destroy them, yet that was not the case. Rather God was merciful to them for they were a part of the nation with which God had covenanted. God moved the other tribes to mourn for Benjamin and to speak kindly to them and to find wives for them.

Many of God's children today fight for wrong causes, engage in evil practices and worship false gods. Yet God is merciful to his children. His grace is manifest as they are a part of his covenant of redemption. They will ultimately be housed in heaven's glory world. While we often are chastened and punished for evil works and rebellion here in time, yet God is still merciful to us and will glorify every one that he foreknew before the foundation of the world.

