

## Judges 17 - 19

### Micah, the Danites & the Priest

### Lesson 9

The period of the Judges show how God, in His love, raised up leaders to break His people free from foreign oppression. Yet over and over again Israel refused to follow God's covenant. They did not love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind, they did not obey His laws or teach their children the ways of the Lord. The results were disastrous. As we continue through the Judges, the new battles Israel faced were not from outside oppressors, but from within.

#### **Micah - 17:1-13**

1. What was the situation that set up this story? (vs. 17:1-4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Do you notice anything inconsistent? Please comment. (Exodus 20:2-4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What was unusual at Micah's house? (vs. 17:5)

Note: An ephod was a special garment worn by the High Priest of God. It represented the presence of God and the role of the High Priest as he bore the nation of Israel on his shoulders before the Lord. Ex. 28:6-14

4. What was the condition of Israel at this time? (vs. 17:6)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Which tribe had God chosen to serve as His priests? (Numbers 8:5- 6 & 14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What tribe was Micah's son from? (vs. 17:1)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. A young man stopped by Micah's house. Describe the conversation as you see it. (vs. 17:7-10)

8. What did the Levite decide and what do you think was his motivation? (vs. 17:11)
9. Micah's motivation was given in verse 13. What was he thinking?

**The Tribe of Dan - 18:1-31**

10. The spiritual condition of Israel was rapidly declining as they practiced syncretism, the combining of God with Canaanite worship. God had warned that idolatry would affect their land inheritance. Why was the tribe of Dan looking for a "place of their own"? (vs. 18:1; Joshua 19:40-48 and 23:4-13)
11. The Danites sent spies to explore the land and found a suitable location to settle. But what else did they find and how? (vs. 18:2-3)
  - Where did we read this before? Comment (vs. 12:5- 6)
12. After explaining, what was the priest's blessing? (vs. 18:6)
13. What did they discover about the city of Laish? (vs. 18:7-10)
14. How many warriors set out to conquer the land? (vs. 18:11)
15. What happened on the way? (vs. 18:12-20)
16. What was the priests' motivation? (vs. 18:19b-20a)

17. Micah was informed of the situation and pursued the men. What happened when he reached them? (vs. 18:22-26)
18. How did the city of Laish become the city of Dan? (vs. 18:27-29)
19. The identity of the Levite priest was finally given in verse 30. Who was he and please comment?
20. What was the spiritual condition of Dan? (vs. 18:30-31)

**A Levite and His Concubine - 19:1-30**

21. Another story about a Levite is recorded in chapter 19. This Levite had a concubine (or secondary wife) who was unfaithful to him. She left him and returned to her own family home. After four months, what happened when he went to get her? (vs. 19:3-10)
22. That night they passed near Jebus (Jerusalem) but didn't stop because it was still a Canaanite city. The next town was Gibeath. In whose territory was Gibeath located? (Joshua 18:21 & 28)
23. What happened that night? (vs. 19:14-21)
24. While they were relaxing and enjoying themselves, some "wicked men" come. What did they want? (vs. 19:22)

25. How did the old man handle the situation? (vs. 19:23-24)
26. When the wicked men didn't listen, what action did the Levite take? (vs. 19:25-26)
27. When morning arrived, where was she found? (vs. 19:27)
28. What did her husband do? (vs. 19:28-29)
29. How did Israel (the 12 tribes) respond to this graphic illustration? (vs. 19:30)
30. What do you think the tribes were reacting to?

**Think about it!**

The gang rape of the Levite's concubine brought Israel's moral depravity to a new low. Israel was appalled, but would their solution solve the problem or add to it? The moral decay in society today is no different. The Bible does not "*sugar coat*" history to make it more palatable but documents it just as it was -- so future generations could learn from their mistakes. "*Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.*"

1 Cor. 10:6

As we look around us today we will see this generation is as morally depraved as they were, and God's solution has never changed. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength ... impress these commandments upon your children.*"

Deut. 6:5, 7

"...what does the Lord your God ask of you? but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees ... for your own good." Deut. 10:12, 13