

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: *Judges – verse by verse*

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 17 – Corruption of the people of Israel; Micah and the Levite

Today's Message:

"Priest for Hire"



INTRODUCTION

Previously, we learned about the famous love story of Samson and Delilah – which was not at all about love! After falling in lust to his own ruin, Samson brought God more glory in his death than his life. Today, we make a transition in Judges from a chronology to a general description of the corruption of the people of Israel. God will draw our attention to a house full of wickedness in mount Ephraim. Yet, most people do not even see it. For in this chapter, God will give us everything we need to know to unlock the “*mystery religion*” of Babylon from Genesis to Revelation. There are two key ingredients to this man-made religion that is to become the one-world religion of the Antichrist soon (or already). The **first** is a robed **PRIEST** who is called a **FATHER** and uses **IDOLS** as aids in worship. He does this all the while believing that God is going to bless him for doing it! The **second** is a **LEVITE**. For you see, Micah will be operating his religion just fine after consecrating one of his sons to be his priest. However, the ultimate religion molded by the Antichrist will be Micah's religion **UNITED** with a form of Judaism!

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Judges 17:1-13

#1. The House – Micah's “house” was full of **IDOLS** and wickedness. (1-6)

➤ The characteristics of Micah and his “house of gods”

✓ THE MAN MICAH

- Micah is from **mount Ephraim** – a historical place of godly service. **Jdg 18:31**
- Micah decided to create his own religion that **DEFIES** God and His truth. **Jn 4:22**
- God chose to record that Micah had **STOLEN** money from **his mother**. **Ex 20:15**

✓ THE RELIGION OF MICAH

- Micah's **MOTHER** is providing the **financing** for his religion. **Jer 7:18; 44:17-25**
- Micah's **mother** is known for **HYPOCRISY** and **cursing**. **Mt 23:23; Lev 24:11,14**
- Micah's **house of gods** is full of **IDOLS** (teraphim) and **idolatry**. **Ezek 8:5-18**
- Micah's son was **consecrated** to be a **robe-wearing** (ephod) **PRIEST**. **Ex 28:4**

NOTE After Micah's intro, God summarized Israel's idolatry and wickedness with **Jdg 17:6**.

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Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Hireling – a Levite was sojourning to find a PLACE for himself. (7-8)**➤ The characteristics of the Levite****✓ THE MAN**

- God calls him a **YOUNG** man from *Bethlehem-judah* who was a **Levite**. **1Ki12:8**
- The Bible says **ALL Levites** were to serve God from age 30-50. **Num 4:3,23,30**
- God does not say he was a **PRIEST**. **Num 18:20-23; Lev 21 and 22 (“holy” 94x)**
- God repeats that he is a **sojourner** – he has **NO** permanent dwelling plan.
- God repeats that he was **looking** to **FIND** a place. **Ezra 7:10; Ps 62:5; 1Cor 7:27**
- Interestingly, the Danite spies will recognize his **VOICE**... **Jdg 18:3**

NOTE This Levite is ripe for Satan to pick him off (**1Tim 3:6**); he only cares about himself.

#3. The Hybrid – the Levite was CONTENT to dwell with and be his priest. (9-13)**➤ The Levite made a surprisingly easy transition to Micah’s wickedness.****✓ MICAH’S OFFER**

- **Dwell with me, and be unto me a FATHER and a priest...** **Mt 23:9; Mk 7:13**
- **I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the YEAR... apparel... thy victuals.**

✓ THE LEVITE’S PART

- **So the Levite went in.** **2Cor 2:11; Col 2:8; 1Pet 5:8; 2Pet 3:17 (Lk 17:32!!)**
- **And the Levite was content to dwell with the man...** **1Cor 6:16,19; Jas 4:4**

✓ THE MIXED RELIGION

- The Levite was “**consecrated**” by Micah and **BECAME** his priest. **Pr14:12; Jn4:22**
- The **Levite** was now the **CENTRAL** figure in the religion of **the house of Micah**.
- Micah believed that God would **BLESS** him now. **Isa 44:20; 66:3,4; Rom 10:2,3**

NOTE Micah’s religion can now be stolen by the Danites; it will take Israel into apostasy.

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)**1. This story was written for you to be able to discern the TIMES in which you live.**

❖ **Question:** Are you able to discern signs of the times? **Matthew 16:3; 2Timothy 3:1-7**

2. God wanted you to know that Israel’s apostasy began with individual FAMILIES.

❖ **Question:** How could a family get so far away from God? **Deut 6; Ezek 8; 1Pet 4:17**

3. It is possible to have a false SECURITY while really living in disobedience to God.

❖ **Question:** How do you know that you are obeying Jesus Christ? **John 14:15; 2Cor 13:5**

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