

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: *Judges – verse by verse*

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 18 – Corruption of God’s people; Danites steal Micah’s religion

Today’s Message:

“The Religion Heist”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began a transition in Judges to a description of the corruption of the people of Israel. God led us to a house full of wickedness in mount Ephraim where a man named Micah had created his own religion with **a robed priest** he called a **father** who used **idols** as aids in his worship of what he thought was God but really was Satan. That religion was blessed in his mind when a Levite came to his house and was willing to become his priest! Today, Micah’s religion is going to be **STOLEN**. What kind of religion can be stolen? A **FALSE** one! And how do you steal a religion? That is a really good question. However, we do not have to guess for God has given us every detail in His holy book of perfect **HISTORY**.

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Judges 18:1-31

#1. The Spies – five men were chosen of the Danites to **SPY** out the land. (1-10)

➤ *In those days... in those days... the Danites were crowded out of their inheritance.*

✓ FIVE MEN WERE SENT OUT

- Five men were chosen to **spy out the land**, and to search it. *Jdg 13:2,25; 16:31*
- They **came to the house of Micah** and **LODGED** there. *Jdg 17:8; 19:1, 18*
- They **knew the voice of the Levite** and asked him questions. *Mt 26:73*
- They **asked counsel of the Levite** from God – Go in **PEACE**. *Ezk 21:21; Hos 4:12*
- They **came to Laish** and saw a people who dwelt **CARELESS**. *Rev 18:7*
- They dwelt **after the manner of the Zidonians** – quiet and **SECURE**. *Josh 11:8; 1Ki 11:1, 5, 33; 16:31-33; 2Ki 23:13; 1Chr 22:4*
- There was **no magistrate in the land**... might put them to **SHAME**. *1Sam 3:13*
- They had **no business** with **any** man. *Prov 6:26; Heb 10:24-25; Jude 19*

✓ THE DECISION WAS TO GO

- They **returned home** with a positive report to **DEPART** at once. *Num 13:30*
- They spoke of **a people secure**... and of a **LARGE** land... *Num 13:31-33*
- **For God hath given it into your hands**... *17:13; 18:6; Jer 6:14; 8:11*
- **A place were there is no want of any thing that is in the earth**. *Num 13:27*

NOTE They seemed so excited – like the first view of Promised Land – this was their idea.

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Steal – the five men led the heist to TAKE the religion bundle. (11-26)

➤ *The focus of the heist was the ephod, teraphim, graven image and molten image.*

✓ **THE PRIEST OFFER**

- The Danites **went into Micah's house** and **FETCHED** his religion. *Jdg 18:10*
- The Danites **offered** the Levite a **PROMOTION** as **father** of tribe. *Isa 5:20; 56:11*
- The priest's **heart** was **GLAD**; he **took the religion bundle** and departed. *Est 5:9*

✓ **MICAH THREATENED**

- The **men of the houses** near Micah gathered to try to stop the heist. *Ezek 13:19*
- Micah **cried out** that they had **STOLEN** his **religion** and **priest!** *Jer50:38; Php3:19*
- The Danites used **brute force** and **THREATS** to quench Micah's zeal. *Jer 10:8*

NOTE The Danites were too strong for Micah; they threatened his life and his household.

#3. The Setup – the Danites destroyed Laish and built a CITY there. (27-31)

➤ *The Danites settled a new city in northern Israel and called it Dan.*

✓ **LAISH IS BURNT WITH FIRE**

- They **came** unto **Laish**, unto a people that were **quiet and secure**. *Prov 25:28*
- They **smote** them... **burnt** the city with fire... **there was no deliverer**. *Josh 11:11*
- They **built** a city... they **called the name of the city Dan**. *Gen 11:4; Josh 19:47*

✓ **MICAH'S RELIGION IS SETUP**

- The children of Dan **set up the graven image**. *Ex20:4; Lev26:1; De 17:2-7; 27:15*
- Jonathan, **the son of Gershom**... and **his sons were priests**. *[no grandson of Moses]*
- **Until the day of the captivity of the land**. *1Sam 4:2-11; Ps 78:60-62; Acts 19:26*
- And they **set them up Micah's graven image**, which he had made.
- **All the time that the house of God was in Shiloh**. *Josh18:1; 1Sam1:3;4:4; Jer7:12*

NOTE The "Religion Heist" is done! 1 tribe in Israel is officially turned in the way of Baal.

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. A "little leaven" (Micah's religion) ultimately **CORRUPTED** a whole tribe in Israel.

❖ **Question:** What "little leaven" of sin or evil is affecting your life? *1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9*

2. The enemy's ordinary method is to prey on people **ISOLATED** from God's flock.

❖ **Question:** What are you doing to avoid isolation? *1 Pet 5:8; Heb 10:25; 2Pet 3:17*

3. True Christianity can never be **STOLEN**; any religion that can be taken is of man.

❖ **Question:** What part of your religion can be stolen? *Col 2:8; Mt 10:17; 1Pet 1:18-19*

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