

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

THE APPENDICES: Chapters 17-21

- A. THE FIRST APPENDIX: MICAH’S LEVITE AND THE MIGRATION OF DAN. (17-18)
- B. THE SECOND APPENDIX: THE BENJAMINITE WAR. (19-21)
- C. THE THIRD APPENDIX: THE BOOK OF RUTH (Ruth 1–4)

THE TIMING CHRONOLOGICALLY:

- A. Some scholars place the timing early on in Judges, between the the time of the death of Joshua and the elders (2:7-10) and the oppression of Cushan (3:8).
 - 1. They point out that Micah’s priest was the “*grandson*” of Moses, and his sons were priests until the captivity of the land of Dan (18:30), thus early on.
 - a. However, the Text allows it to mean not a *direct* son or grandson, but a *descendant* of Moses through Gershom, which was the case with Achan (Joshua 7:24 w/ 7:1 and Joshua 17).
 - 2. They also say that the Danite migration should be placed before the war with Sisera because Deborah seems to imply the migration of Dan and that they had amalgamated somewhat with the sea-faring Phoenicians (5:17).
 - a. However, it is more likely that Dan was still in the south, too entrenched in the shipping industry with the Phoenicians, as their clients, to participate in an anti-Canaanite war, since the Phoenicians were Canaanites.¹
 - 1) This would make more sense since the land of Dan in the south was on the Mediterranean coast.
- B. Other scholars place it AFTER the Death of Samson.

¹ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum. “The Books of Judges and Ruth.” iBooks. p. 142

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

1. This was before there was a king (17:6), thus before Saul became king.
2. The migration of Dan must have happened *after* Samson’s death because during his life, the Danites were still in the Shephelah (13:25; 18:11), west of Jerusalem.
3. This happened before “*the captivity of land*” (18:30).
 - a. The “*captivity of the land*” does not necessarily refer to the entire nation of Israel, but could refer to the *land* of the Tribe of Dan, and could refer to when the Amorites drove them to the mountains (1:34).
 - b. Some scholars think it may refer to the time Shiloh was destroyed and the Ark taken captive since it’s mentioned for the first time in Judges in the next verse (18:31).

I. MICAH AND THE LEVITE (17)

MICAH AND HIS IDOL (v. 1-6)

(1) And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

- A. “*mount Ephraim*” = area near Shiloh, where the Tabernacle was located (18:31)
- B. “*Micah*” - Heb. “*Who is like God*”
 1. His parents gave him a godly name, but we’ll see that they are all mixed up spiritually.

(3) And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.

- A. They have broken most of the 10 commandments!

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

1. He’s stolen, dishonored his mother, lied, has other gods before Jehovah, has a graven image, coveted his mom’s money, they’ve taken the LORD’s name in vain, etc.

- B. His mother is mixing religious beliefs to what suits her and her son.
 1. There are many people in American Christianity that don’t truly follow Christ, but mix in their own beliefs to what benefits them.
 2. One of the saddest things is when a person says that they are a Christian and yet lives contrary to the Word of God.

(4) Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

- A. “*founder*” - Heb. “*silversmith*”

- B. “*graven image*” - Heb. *pesel* - “*carved out idol*”
 1. The Hebrew word *pesel* means “*to hew out*” or “*to cut*” and speaks of when the craftsman would sculpt a stone or piece of wood into a shape. It has the idea of *carving*, whether it’s wood, stone, or metal.

- C. “*molten image*” - Heb. *maccekah* - “*metal cast idol*”
 1. The Hebrew root means “*to pout out*” and speaks of when the craftsman would make a mold or cast and pour out the hot metal into it and melt into the shape of the mold.
 - a. Cf. [Exodus 32:2-4, 20-24](#) - Aaron made a “*molten*” calf of gold

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

- D. When a man makes an idol, or begins to worship some kind of object, it shows 2 things:
1. That a person has lost their consciousness of the nearness of God. A person who lives in the consciousness of God’s presence does not need an idol.
 2. That that person is inwardly desiring the presence of God, that which was lost. So the relic helps remind them of God’s presence.
 - a. Cf. **2 Kings 18:4** - Later in Israel’s history, we read of King Hezekiah that *“He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.”*
 - 1) “Nehushtan” - Heb. “A Thing of Brass”
- E. The Nation of Israel, during the times of the Judges, lost the consciousness of God, so they started worshiping these little graven and molten images.
1. **Q** = Do people worship objects today?...
 - a. Some have their shiny molten idols in their garage; their home sanctuary has more square footage and more closets; the latest Apple i-dol, I mean iPhone; businesses; promotions;
 - b. In some churches today, they have their icons and relics, stained glass, robes, candles, etc.

MICAH AND HIS PRIEST (v. 7-13)

(10) And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.

- A. “be unto me a father”

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

1. Jesus discouraged that concept of a spiritual father when He said, “*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*” ([Matthew 23:9](#))
 - a. I have a hard time with those churches that have established a fatherhood of priests would go against the direct command of Jesus.
 - 1) “*Pope*” - Latin *Papa* from Greek *pappas* - “*Father*”
 - 2) “*Abbot*” - Gr. *Abba* - “*Father*”
 - 3) The title “*father*” is given to the priest.
 - b. I wouldn’t want any of you to call me father, I have enough kids of my own! I shun titles, period.
 - 1) I reject the title of *Reverend*. The Bible says, “*Holy and reverend is His name*” ([Psalm 111:9](#)). There’s nothing reverend about the name ‘Rick.’
- B. “*and a priest*”
 1. Not all Levites were priests, but all priests were Levites.
 - a. Only the descendants of Aaron were priests, and this guy was not a descendant of Aaron.
 2. **NOTE:** Micah is offering this guy a job that God did not want him to have.
 3. **KEY:** Too many people are being put in a position that God has not called them to. We need to stay in our lane and who God made us to be.

(13) Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

- A. Micah wanted a priest so that he might get God’s benefits and blessings upon his life.

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

1. There some men today that want the benefits of religion, but they don't really want the Lord.

- B. Micah saw the LORD as a means to an end, rather than the end in Himself.
 1. **Q** = For you, is God an end or is He a means? Have you decided in your Christian life if God is an end or a means?
 2. **Q** = Are you going to serve the Lord because of what He can do for you? Or do you serve Him because He is worthy and deserves your obedience?

- C. Micah, and this Levite, sold out God for 10 shekels and shirt!
 1. Too many Christians are influenced by Humanism (which declares that the end of all being is the happiness of man).
 - a. They go to church because it will help them be more happy.
 - b. They go to church to help them try and overcome addiction... so that they can be happy.
 - c. They enjoy the worship because it makes them feel good.
 - d. They financially support the ministry so that God might reward them for sowing that “seed of faith.”
 - 1) Many of the TV preachers use God as a means to get rich! Horrible!!
 2. Paris Reidhead: Speaking of Humanism creeping into the Church, in his sermon titled “Ten Shekels and a Shirt,” he said, “I’m afraid that it’s become so subtle that it goes everywhere. What is it? In essence it’s this! That this philosophical postulate that the end of all being is the happiness of man, has been sort of covered over with evangelical terms and Biblical doctrine until God reigns in heaven for the happiness of man, Jesus Christ was incarnate for the happiness of man, all the angels

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

exist.....Everything is for the happiness of man! And I submit to you that this is Unchristian! Isn't man happy? Didn't God intend to make man happy? Yes. But as a by-product, and not a prime-product."²

D. **Q** = WHY should we *Serve* and *Worship* the Lord?...

1. It is COMMANDED in His Word.
 - a. Cf. **Psalm 117:1-2; 199:164, 171; 138:1-2, 4-6; Jeremiah 13:1-11; 25:6-7; Matthew 4:8-10; Revelation 19:10**
2. He DESERVES our worship:
 - a. Because of WHO HE IS!
 - 1) Cf. **Deuteronomy 10:20-21; Nehemiah 9:5-6; Psalm 45:11; 89:5-7; 95:6-7; 100**
 - b. Because of HIS NAME.
 - 1) Cf. **Psalm 29:1-2; 48:10-11; 63:1-6; 66:1-4; 113:1-6; 135:1-3; Isaiah 42:5-13; 48:9-11**
 - c. Because HE IS HOLY.
 - 1) Cf. **Psalm 99:1-3, 5, 9; 111:9-10**
 - d. Because of HIS SALVATION.
 - 1) Cf. **Psalm 50:22-23; 71:14-17, 22-24; 86:8-13; 109:30-31; 116:16-19; 118:21-23; 119:175; 149:1-6; Isaiah 12:1-6; 38:16-20; 49:7; 61:10-11; Jeremiah 33:7-9**
 - e. Because of HIS MERCY.
 - 1) Cf. **2 Chronicles 7:1-4, 6; 20:21; Psalm 5:7; 57:9-11; 106:1; 108:1-6; 118:1-5; 136:1-26**
 - f. Because of HIS WORKS.

² https://youtu.be/nDQC45_RA2c

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

1) Cf. [Psalm 139:13-15](#); [145:1-13](#); [148](#); [150:2](#); [Isaiah 25:1](#); [Daniel 4:34-37](#); [Revelation 4:11](#); [15:3-4](#)

3. **KEY:** Our worship and service is not about us! It is about Jesus Christ!

a. Cf. [1 Corinthians 10:31](#) - Paul the apostle said, “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

II. THE MIGRATION OF DAN (18)

THE DANITE SCOUTS (v. 1-10)

(1) In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

“for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.”

- A. NOTE: Chapter 17 reveals the apostasy of the INDIVIDUAL; chapter 18 shows the apostasy of the TRIBE.
- B. The land was allotted to the Tribe of Dan ([Joshua 19:40-48](#)), but they hadn’t come into their possession since they were driven out by the Philistines.
- C. Samson’s failure to free the Danite territory from Philistine control led to the Danite migration.

(6) And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

- A. “*the LORD*” - Heb. YHVH, the covenant name of the God of Israel
 - 1. Just because a religious leader uses the name of the Lord does not mean they are a true minister from God.

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

2. There are many in pulpits today that use the name of Jesus, but do not follow the Jesus of the Bible. We need to heed the warnings of Scripture in these Last Days!
 - a. Cf. **Matthew 7:15, 21-23** - Jesus said, *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ... Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*
 - b. Cf. **Matthew 24:4-5, 11** - In speaking of the Last Days and the signs of His coming, Jesus said, *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”*
 - c. Cf. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** - *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*
 - d. Cf. **2 Peter 2:1-3** - *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”*

THE MIGRATION (v. 11-13)

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

THE HIRING OF THE LEVITE (v. 14-20)

THE RESPONSE OF MICAH (v. 21-26)

THE DANITE CONQUEST (v. 27-31)

(30) And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

- A. “*Manasseh*” - The Hebrew Text reads “Moses”, but it has a hanging letter nun so that it reads “Manasseh” (probably inserted by a scribe to avoid connecting Moses with idolatry).
 - 1. Cf. [Exodus 2:22](#)

- B. “*Jonathan, the son of Gershom*”
 - 1. If Jonathan was the *son* of Gershom, thus the grandson of Moses, this would place this event early in the book of Judges. However, the Hebrew allows it to mean not a direct son or grandson, but a descendant of Moses and Gershom, which was the case with Achan ([Joshua 7:24 w/ 7:1; 17](#)).
 - 2. **NOTE:** At this point, the line of Moses has become a dynasty of false priests for the Tribe of Dan, in opposition to the Aaronic line through Moses’ brother Aaron, who God established as the true priesthood line.

(31) And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

- A. “*all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh*”
 - 1. **KEY:** The Tabernacle and the presence of God was always there and available to the people. Yet, they didn’t seek the Lord. They went after their own beliefs.
 - 2. **KEY:** The Lord is always available to those that want Him.

THRU BIBLE

Judges 17–18 | “Ten Shekels And A Shirt”

- a. Cf. **Deuteronomy 4:29** - *“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”*
 - b. Cf. **Isaiah 55:6** - *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”*
 - c. Cf. **Jeremiah 29:11-14a** - *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:...”*
- B. **NOTE:** People cannot come to God in their own way, but only in the way which He has prescribed, which is through Jesus Christ.
1. Cf. **John 14:6** - *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*
 2. Cf. **1 Timothy 2:5** - *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”*