

Sunday Sermon | Calvary Chapel Waterford
Judges 17 - 18 Sermon Outline Pastor John Mikolay

Spiritual Decline in Israel Judges Intro

- ***Chapters 17-21 show spiritual decline spreading throughout Israel.***
- ***"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."***
- ***Rejecting God's authority leads to moral and spiritual confusion.***

Micah's Self-Made Religion Judges 17

- ***Micah steals silver, and his mother makes an idol.***
- ***Micah builds a shrine and unlawfully consecrates his son.***
- ***A wandering Levite arrives, and Micah hires him as a personal priest.***
- ***Avoid fashioning a custom faith for comfort or security.***
- ***Beware trading God's clear calling for easy compromise.***

The Tribe of Dan's Compromise Judges 18:1-13

- ***Danites failed to conquer their land and began seeking an easier settlement.***
- ***Spies visit Micah's house, receiving an unauthorized hollow blessing.***
- ***Spies give good report of Laish, prompting 600 armed Danites north.***

Theft of Micah's House Judges 18:14-26

- ***Danites steal Micah's artifacts and pressure the Levite to be their priest.***
- ***Micah pursues them, but turns back after being threatened with violence.***
- ***Self-made faith is fleeting; God cannot be stolen away.***

Conquest and Long-Term Legacy Judges 18:27-31

- ***Danites destroy Laish, rebuilding it and renaming it Dan.***
- ***Idolatry continues for generations to come.***
- ***Dan's compromise planted seeds of compromise for the whole nation.***

Scripture Cross References

Judges 17 - 18

Judges 2:8-11: 8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

Exodus 40:13-15: 13 “You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as Priest. 14 “And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. 15 “You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.”

Number 35:1-3: 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, saying: 2 “Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall also give the Levites common-land around the cities. 3 “They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals.

Numbers 3:5-9: 5 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 6 “Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him. 7 “And they shall attend to his needs and the needs of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of meeting, to do the work of the tabernacle. 8 “Also they shall attend to all the furnishings of the tabernacle of meeting, and to the needs of the children of Israel, to do the work of the tabernacle. 9 “And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are given entirely to him from among the children of Israel.

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Judges 1:34: And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

Joshua 18:2-3: 2 But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. 3 Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: “How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?

1 Kings 12 28-30: 28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

Genesis 49:16-17: 16 “Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse’s heels So that its rider shall fall backward.