

# Judges 17-18 – 2 December 2021

## “Mixed Religion: It’s Spread And Effects”

### Introduction

\*Turn to II Tim 3:1-5

\*“form of godliness” – w/o the Gospel (Rom 1:16)

\*Although this characterized the last days that we live in, there have been pockets of this thru history

\*Book of Judges’ theme is “*everyone did that which was right in their own eyes*”. Therefore, a cycle of sin & deliverance develops where God raises up judges

\*We just finished that section, chap 17-21 is an appendix showing the moral decay during that time

\*Moral decay is one thing, but many are convinced that they’re serving God WITH their corrupt lifestyle

\*They have religious trappings, but no truth or power

**\*Today, we’ll see the spread of Mixed religion and then 3 effects of mixed religion**

## **Mixed Religion spreads when idolatry begins effecting just one family (Chap 17:1-6)**

Read Chap 17:1-3

1. Micah stole from his mom and she pronounces a curse on the person, so he returns the money
2. They know of the Lord God with knowledge
3. They say they serve God but have idols

Read Chap 17:4

1. Said it was wholly dedicated but it wasn't
2. Graven image – wood covered in silver
3. Molten image – solid silver idol
4. They're right down road from the Tabernacle

Read Chap 17:5-6

1. He's creating an entire religious system
  - a. Teraphim – statues of female gods
2. Those that seek the true Lord will find Him

## **Mixed Religion continues when idolatry effect one whole household (Chap 17:7-13)**

Read Chap 17:7-8

1. Bethlehem of Judah, not of Zebulun
2. Find out later his name is Jonathan the Levite

Read Chap 17:9-12

1. Levite is looking for a job – what a hireling
2. A man of God goes where he's called
3. A hireling goes to make money and gain
4. You're either a shepherd or a hireling
5. Read John 10:11-14
6. Hireling is commercially gained, a shepherd is to love

Read Chap 17:13

1. Micah knows true worship, but wants his way
2. It's just a bonus it lines up with God's will
3. This is a picture of self-deception

## **Mixed Religion continues when idolatry effect a region (Chap 18:1-6)**

Read Chap 18:1

1. Dan hadn't taken their land along the coast b/c they thought it was too small
2. Danites were discontent with what God was giving them
3. They despised what God wanted to do w/ them

Read Chap 18:2

1. 5 Danites pass Micah's house on their way north

Read Chap 18:3-6

1. Never should have asked God, b/c God has already declared His will
2. First Micah helped Jonathan feel comfortable in his sin
3. Now Jonathan helps these Danites feel comfortable in their sin
4. Mixed religion often looks like it's working out

## **Mixed Religion continues when idolatry effect a whole nation (Chap 18:7-10)**

Read Chap 18:7

1. The easy plan is not always God plan
2. Fighting the giant Philistines was God's plan
3. Going God's way, they would've seen giants fall

Read Chap 18:8-10

1. God hasn't called us to an easy life, He's called us to an important life (whether easy or hard)
2. Now the Danites think God is in this and it's not true
3. Get to know and trust what God has already revealed
4. 5 Danites convince a whole nation into mixed religion
5. Follow after true important things not easy things

# **1<sup>st</sup> Effect of Mixed Religion: You're willing to lie, cheat & steal to maintain it (Chap 18:11-21)**

Read Chap 18:11-13

1. 600 Danites going north to Laish
2. Coming thru Ephraim and Micah's house

Read Chap 18:14-19

1. Pure religion and undefiled before God is to steal people and to keep yourself worshipping graven images (Sarcasm)
2. If you're god is so little that he can be stolen, you have the wrong god
3. Verse 20 proves that Jonathan is just a hireling and not a shepherd

Read Chap 18:20-21

1. Are we in our place for what we can get or give
2. Do you know what you're called to do
3. Don't live for comfort but for commitment
4. If you're pastor can be bought, he's a hireling

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Effect of Mixed Religion: You lose the very thing you've been striving for (Chap 18:22-26)**

Read Chap 18:22-24

1. Micah's men go confront the 600 Danites
2. They've taken away Micah's very life, that's have vested Micah was in this false religion
3. I don't to serve a god that needs rescued, I serve a God that supports and rescues me

Read Chap 18:25-26

1. They didn't need to take Micah's live; he was already dead (to what he was living for)
2. This was God's grace to Micah to strive him of all the false worship and give him another chance
3. Remember Chap 17:13 – Everything about Micah was about his own will and not of God
4. When you buy your religion with money and good works it can be stolen
5. When you're born into relationship with God, that can't be taken away

## **3rd Effect of Mixed Religion: You live a self-willed, man-centered life (Chap 18:27-31)**

Read Chap 18:27-29

1. God's judgement was on the Canaanites, not these innocent people
2. So they did what they set out to do, falsely believing that they're in the will of God
3. This man-centered, mixed, false religious worship became a staple in their life for generations

Read Chap 18:30

1. Outside of Bethel, Dan would be the territory that Jeroboam would set up golden calves for the nations false worship

Read Chap 18:30

1. This all began with one man Micah who was living right next to the tabernacle of God in Shiloh
2. Had he only driven into knowing God
  - a. Read Jam 1:27 – Stay undefiled & unspotted



## Conclusion

We think our impurity & allowance of bad beliefs & practices only hurts ourselves, but it will easily spread  
If you build your own false religious system, then you have to maintain it

- 1. You'll be willing to lie, cheat & steal to maintain it**
- 2. And at some point, you'll lose the very thing you've been striving for**
- 3. All long you're living a self-willed, man-centered life**

All we really have to do is look just beyond the horizon at the Lord and His tabernacle

- 1. He's ready to teach us and lead us**
- 2. He doesn't need rescued & supported, He's ready to rescue, support & love us!**

Mixed Religion is just what Jesus warned Pergamos about (Rev 2:12-17) Look at the overcomer in vs 17