

Bad Religion

I have never heard a single reference from
pulpit or song writer or study leader or
anybody else at all-never one single tiny
whispered sound- that related to the Micah
of the book of Judges.

- John Hercus

Judges 17:1-2

There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. And he said to his mother, “The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.” And his mother said, “Blessed be my son by the LORD.”

Judges 17:3-4

And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, “I **dedicate the silver to the LORD** from my hand for my son, **to make a carved image and a metal image**. Now therefore I will restore it to you.” So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, who made it into a carved image and a metal image. And it was in the house of Micah.

Exodus 20:4

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Isaiah 48:11

For my own sake, for my own sake,
I do it, for how should my name be
profaned? My glory I will not give
to another.

Since He is the only God, the Creator of heaven and earth, He cannot endure that any creature of His own hands, or fiction of a creature's imagination should be thrust into His throne, and be made to wear His crown.

– Charles Spurgeon

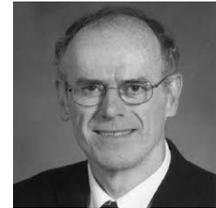


Judges 17:5-6

And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. **In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

The writer so much as says, “Had there been a king back then, he would have obviously put a stop to Micah’s godless nonsense.”

- Dale Ralph Davis



Judges 17:7-8

Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a **Levite**, and he sojourned there. And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn **where he could find a place**. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.

Joshua 21:5

And the rest of the Kohathites received by lot from the clans of the tribe of **Ephraim**, from the tribe of **Dan** and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ten cities.

Joshua 21:20-21

As to the rest of the Kohathites belonging to the Kohathite clans of the Levites, the cities allotted to them were out of the tribe of **Ephraim**. To them were given **Shechem**, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, **Gezer** with its pasturelands,

Judges 17:9-11

And Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?”
And he said to him, “I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn where I may find a place.” And Micah said to him, “**Stay with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten pieces of silver** a year and a suit of clothes and your living.” And the Levite went in. And the Levite was **content to dwell** with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.

This Levite was a wandering opportunist.

- K. Lawson Younger



Judges 17:12-13

And Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. Then Micah said, “Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest.”

When we simply ignore (either intellectually or psychologically) the parts of God we don't like, it means we don't have a God that can ever contradict our deepest desires or say "no" to us. We never wrestle with him. We never let him make demands on us. We can end up worshiping a much more comfortable God, but also a non-existent one.

- Tim Keller



Judges 18:1

In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the **people of Dan was seeking for itself an inheritance** to dwell in, for until then no inheritance among the tribes of Israel had fallen to them.

Judges 1:34

The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.

Judges 18:2-3

So the people of Dan sent five able men from the whole number of their tribe, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. And they said to them, “Go and explore the land.” And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the **house of Micah, and lodged there.** When they were by the house of Micah, **they recognized the voice of the young Levite.** And they turned aside and said to him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?”

Judges 18:4-6

And he said to them, “This is how Micah dealt with me: he has hired me, and I have become his priest.” And they said to him, “**Inquire of God**, please, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will **succeed.**” And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The journey on which you go is **under the eye of the LORD.**”

Judges 18:7

Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were there, how they lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, lacking nothing that is in the earth and possessing wealth, and how they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.

Judges 18:8-10

And when they came to their brothers...They said, “Arise, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. And will you do nothing? Do not be slow to go, to enter in and possess the land. As soon as you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is spacious, **for God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is in the earth.**”

Judges 18:11-14

So 600 men of the tribe of Dan, armed with weapons of war, set out...and they passed on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah. Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, “Do you know that in these houses there are an **ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image?** Now therefore consider what you will do.”

They were good luck charms; it was pure superstition. The emptiness of these false gods and their disobedience to the true and living God do not seem to have bothered them for a moment. They felt safe, without needing to have any dealings with a transcendent deity. That's always the attraction of false religions.

- David Jackman



Judges 18:18-19

And when these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?" And they said to him, "**Keep quiet**; put your hand on your mouth and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be **priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?**"

Judges 18:20

And the **priest's heart was glad**. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and **went along with the people**.

The overall message is clear. We are to see how the sins of one man are multiplied on a tribal scale, which will in turn become the sins of the whole nation.

- David Jackman



Judges 18:30-31

And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and **Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses**, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. So they set up Micah's **carved image** that he made, as long as **the house of God was at Shiloh.**

The more we see our sinfulness, the more we appreciate grace in its basic meaning of God's undeserved favor. The more we see our frailty, weakness, and dependence, the more we appreciate God's grace in its dimension of His divine assistance. Just as grace shines more brilliantly against the dark background of our sin, so it also shines more brilliantly against the background of our human weakness.

- Jerry Bridges

