

Micah, his Mom, the Levite, and Dan

JUDGES 17-19: NOTES

Outline

- I. Micah, his Mom & the Idol
 - A. Micah the Ephraimite steals silver from his mother and returns it once she delivers a curse upon the thief.
 - B. His Mom issues a blessing and dedicates a portion of the silver to God in the form of an idol, with Micah's son serving as priest.
- II. The Levite
 - A. Jonathan, a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, comes looking for a job and Micah hires him, replacing his son as priest.
 - B. Micah takes the presence of the Levite as a sign of God's blessing.
- III. The Danites
 - A. The Danites had trouble repelling the Canaanites from their allotment of land, so they decide to head up north and see if they can find more land up there.
 - B. The surveyors stop at Micah's and recognize the voice (accent?) of the Levite, whom they ask for discernment.
 - C. The surveyors find easy pickings in Laish – unsuspecting Sidonians, whom they decide to kill.
 - D. On the way back North they stop at Micah's place and hire his priest out from under him and steal the idol and ephod.
 - E. They kill the Sidonians of Laish and set up idolatrous shrines which they continued to use even after Shiloh

Topics for Discussion

- The clergy, Levites.
- Curses, again.
- Idols.
- The people of this time were so far gone they didn't even realize when they were sinning!
- "And be my Father and priest."
- Discernment of God's blessing.
- When Dan realized they weren't up to
- Victimless crimes.

Points

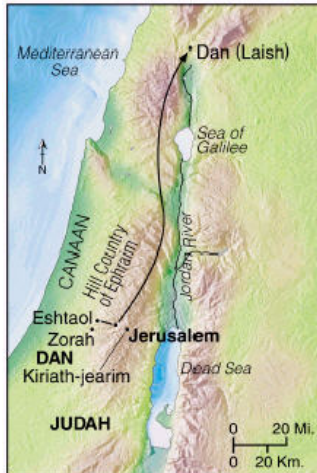
- Their sin is so heinous that they are excluded from the 144,000 listed in Rev 7:5-8!
- The Levites lived in 48 cities set apart for them, which don't include Bethlehem, where this Levite lived.

Questions

- What were the duties of Levites? How were they able to accomplish them while living in their set-apart cities?

Micah, His Mom, the Levite and the Danites

Judges 17-18



The distance from Dan to Laish was roughly twice the distance from Rochester to Dansville.

BACKGROUND

- The tribe of Dan was allotted a small portion of land near the Mediterranean, in the thick of Amorite and Philistine country.
- Unable to take this land from the Canaanites (Judges 1:34), they decide to resettle up North (Josh 19:40-48).
- The events of 17-21 occur before those of the middle section about the judges, 3:7-16:31.
- *Fun Fact:* Samson was the most famous Danite.

FACTUAL QUESTIONS

- 1) Who did the Levite replace when he became Micah's priest?
- 2) When the Danites decided to send up surveyors into the hill country of Ephraim, who were they imitating?
- 3) What did Micah do wrong? How about his mother? The Levite? The Danites? Did anyone do anything *right*?
- 4) What were the effects of Micah's idols (cf. 18:30-31)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Name some modern examples of idolatry which might tempt members of our church.
- 2) We tend to think of idolatry as a victimless crime, but Judges 17-18 suggests otherwise. How far would a member of our church have to fall prey to the examples you gave in Question 1, before it would be appropriate for the pastor or elders to speak with him or her? How would they know to do so? Is our church's reluctance to intervene in matters of personal spirituality a reflection of American individualism or Biblical standards?
- 3) The Danites were in a tight spot in their allotted land. They carefully followed the example of the initial conquest of Canaan, requested discernment of a Levite, and generously supported him after their migration. While they succeeded in their conquest, they failed God in their idolatry. What was missing? When we embark on "conquests" of our own (plans at church, new jobs, etc.), how can we avoid the trap they fell into?
- 4) Read Rev 7:5-8. Which tribe is excluded from the 144,000 being sealed for protection from the Tribulation? Why? (Was Dan's sin worse than Benjamin's in 19-21?) If the tribes in Rev 7 represent the Church, does it matter what they are called?