

MICAH & THE ORIGIN OF IDOLATRY THE PERNICIOUS POISON OF RELIGION

Judges 17: 1 Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah

- 2 He said to his mother, "The eleven hundred pieces of silver which were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse in my hearing, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the LORD."
- 3 He then returned the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said, "I wholly dedicate the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son to make ~~a graven image~~ a **carved** image and a molten image; now therefore, I will return them to you."
- 4 So when he returned the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver and gave them to the silversmith who made them into ~~a graven image~~ a **carved** image and a molten image, and they were in the house of Micah.

Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself ~~an idol~~ a **graven image, or** any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

Exodus 34:17 You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

Leviticus 19:4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods

- 5 And the man Micah had a shrine and he made an ephod and household idols and consecrated one of his sons, that he might become his priest.
- 6 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

- 7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite; and he was staying there.
- 8 Then the man departed from the city, from Bethlehem in Judah, to stay wherever he might find a place; and as he made his journey, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.
- 9 Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to stay wherever I may find a place."
- 10 Micah then said to him, "Dwell with me and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year, a suit of clothes, and your maintenance." So the Levite went in.
- 11 The Levite agreed to live with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.
- 12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in the house of Micah.
- 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, seeing I have a Levite as priest."

Judges 18: 1 In those days there was no king of Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for themselves to live in. 

~~for until that day an inheritance had not been allotted to them as a possession among the tribes of Israel.~~

- 2 So the sons of Dan sent from their family five men out of their whole number, valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it; and they said to them, "Go, search the land." And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.
- 3 When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite; and they turned aside there and said to him, "Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this place? And what do you have here?"
- 4 He said to them, "Thus and so has Micah done to me, and he has hired me and I have become his priest."
- 5 They said to him, "Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether our way on which we are going will be prosperous."
- 6 The priest said to them, "Go in peace; your way in which you are going has the LORD'S approval."
- 7 Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it living in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure...

- 9 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 sit still? Do not delay to go, to enter, to possess the land.
- 14 Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish said to their kinsmen, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod and household idols and a graven image and a molten image? Now therefore, consider what you should do."
- 18 When these went into Micah's house and took the graven image, the ephod and household idols and the molten image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"
- 19 They said to him, "Be silent, put your hand over your mouth and come with us, and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"
- 20 The priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod and household idols and the graven image and went among the people.
- 24 He {Micah} said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and have gone away, and what do I have besides? So how can you say to me, 'What is the matter with you?'"
- 27 Then they took what Micah had made and the priest who had belonged to him, and came to Laish, to a people quiet and secure, and struck them with the edge of the sword; and they burned the city with fire.
- 28 And there was no one to deliver them, because it was far from Sidon and they had no dealings with anyone, and it was in the valley which is near Beth-rehob. And they rebuilt the city and lived in it.
- 29 They called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father who was born in Israel; however, the name of the city formerly was Laish.
- 30 The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, ~~the son of Manasseh~~ the son of **Moses**, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.
- 31 So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh.