

## Judges

- Today: Finish the first epilog – companion to 2:6-3:7
- Inter-generational failure to pass the knowledge of YHWH
  - Their actions were right in their own eyes (JDG 17:6)
  - Their actions were evil in the Lord's eyes (JDG 2:11)
- Failure of a family & Micah's appealing religion
  - Sensory oriented worship – several visual symbols
  - Some knowledge of YHWH – Levite, Ephod, etc.
  - He built a place for his worship (House of God - Shrine)
  - He provided for new revelation from God (ephod & teraphim)
  - He established a priesthood (consecrated son, then the Levite)
- Failure of the religious leaders - Levites
  - Ignoring God's allotted cities he wandered into hill country of Ephraim
  - For prestige, pay, & power, the Levite made the religion semi-scriptural
  - He became their Authority (Father) and their representative to God (Priest)
- Failure of a tribe - Danites
  - Ignoring God's word about taking possession of the land they headed north
  - Intrigued by the Ephod, teraphim, & idols, they desired Micah's religion
  - The results were long lasting for Dan...

JDG 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 And he said to them, "Thus and so has Micah done to me, and he has hired me, and I have become his priest." 5 And they said to him, "Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether our way on which we are going will be prosperous." 6 And 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; for there was no ruler humiliating them for anything in the land, and they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone. 8 When they came back to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, "What do you report?" 9 And 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. 10 "When you enter, you shall come to a secure people with a spacious land; for God has given it into your hand, a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

11 Then from the family of the Danites, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, six hundred men armed with weapons of war set out. 12 And they went up and camped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. Therefore they called that place Mahanehdan to this day; behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim. 13 And they passed from there to the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah. 14 ¶ Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered and 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." 15 And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young man, the Levite, to the house of Micah, and asked him of his welfare. 16 And the six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the sons of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. 17 Now the five men who went to spy out the land went up and entered there, and took the graven image and the ephod and household idols and the molten image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men armed with weapons of war. 18 And 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 And 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 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod and household idols and the graven image, and went among the people. 21 Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the livestock and the valuables in front of them.

JDG 18:22 When they had gone some distance from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house assembled and overtook the sons of Dan. 23 And they cried to the sons of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, "What is the matter with you, that you have assembled together?" 24 And he 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?'" 25 And the sons of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest fierce men fall upon you and you lose your life, with the lives of your household." 26 So the sons of Dan went on their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house. 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 And 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 And the sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, 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.

## YHWH Worship in City of Dan

- Lessons that stood out to you in this epilog?
- How do we know that this was Man-Made worship of YHWH?
  - God's word stresses it...

24 "You have taken away my gods which I made

27 Then they took what Micah had made and the priest who had belonged to him, and came to Laish,

31 So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he had made

- Three types of Idols – clearly not God's instruction!

- What's the result for Dan?

30 And the sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image...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.

- Eventual judgment resulted
- Competed with true worship
- This worship originated from & belonged to MAN – NOT GOD
- It seemed right in their eyes – NOT the Lord's

## Man-Made Worship

- What are some principles of MAN-MADE worship of YHWH?
  - The name of the Lord used often (names, blessings, idols, etc.)
  - It appeals / oriented toward the bodily senses
  - Location is important – "House of God"
  - Focus of worship becomes the experience – visible, tangible
  - Some from scripture, some from culture – mixture truth + other
  - New revelation becomes paramount
    - Takes precedence over established revelation
  - The leader (Authority of a "Father") can speak for God
  - Single leader over larger numbers of people
  - The number of followers implies value & validity
    - Ambition stronger than loyalty to God's word
    - Leaders say what the people want to hear – increases numbers!
  - It competes with the true worship of the Lord
    - Viewed by most as a valid variation
  - IT SEEMS RIGHT IN MAN'S EYES (Sincere)

## Man-Made Worship

- Have we seen any of these patterns today?

"God chasers have a lot in common. Primarily, they are not interested in camping out on some dusty truth known to everyone."

"The difference between the truth of God and revelation is very simple. Truth is where God's **been**. Revelation is where God **is**. Truth is God's tracks. It's His trail, His path, but it leads to what? Perhaps the masses of people are happy to know where God's been, but true God chasers are not content just to study God's trail, His truths; they want to know Him. They want to know where He is and what He's doing right now."

"A God chaser may be excited about some dusty truth, and may even be thrilled somewhat over determining the weight of the kabod, or glory, that passed in the path, and how long ago it was. But that's just the problem. How long ago was it? A true God chaser is not happy with just **past** truth; he must have **present** truth. God chasers don't want to just study from the moldy pages of what God has done; they're anxious to see what God is doing."

"We have studied God's Word and His old love letters to the churches so much that some of us claim to know all about God. But now people like you and me around the world are beginning to hear a voice speak to them with persistent but piercing repetition in the stillness of the night: 'I'm not asking you how much you know about Me, I want to ask you, 'Do you really know me? Do you really want Me?'"

## Man-Made Worship

- What are the idols of our day?

MAT 6:21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

MAT 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

## Man-Made Worship

- What are the idols of our day?
- How much devotion do we give to them?
- How do the idols of our culture affect our lives?
  - They compete with our true worship of the Lord!
  - They interfere with our walk with the Lord, study of His word, prayer
  - They dull our senses, lull us into a state of complacency
  - Will bring about the Lord's discipline (aka time period of Judges)

1TH 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

## God-Made Worship

JOH 4:20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

JOH 4:23-24 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

MAT 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

ISA 1:10 Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. 11 "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams, And the fat of fed cattle. And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats. 12 "When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? 13 "Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies-- I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. 14 "I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me. I am weary of bearing them. 15 "So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you, Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen.

## God-Made Worship

- How is this different than Man's?

**True Worship:** Knowing & Understanding God, Believing what he has said, Living life like you believe it, and Yielding to His Spirit.

**Man Made Worship:** What you do; Where you do it; How many do it; What it looks like, sounds like, feels like

## Take a stand for TRUTH

- It's clear in our day that the battle between truth & lies rages hotter every day
- We asked several weeks ago:
  - WHERE WERE ALL THE TEACHERS?
  - Where were the folks standing up for the truth?
- What happens to a society where the chosen ones of God sit quietly and fail to teach/pass on the truth?
- So what actions do we take in a day like this?

MAT 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men..."

## Epilog #2: Political/Military

- Companion to 1<sup>st</sup> introduction 1:1-2:5
  - Political / Military / Moral Introduction
- Civil war triggered by gross immorality & dysfunctional family
- Relationship between prologue & epilog
  - Israel seeks word from Lord about battle
  - Relationships of tribes
  - Details of war – who fights whom, how many die
  - Jerusalem set on fire / Gibeah set on fire
  - Embedded story of family of influence
  - Father, daughter, son-in-law, donkeys
  - Family will rescue or bring war to Israel
- Timeline: Phinehas (20:28) is Aaron's grandson – Next generation after Joshua – Same as Othniel & Achsah

JDG 1:1 Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" 2 And the Lord said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." 3 Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you." So Simeon went with him. 4 And Judah went up, and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands; and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek. 5 And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek and fought against him and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. 7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." So they brought him to Jerusalem and he died there. 8 Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. 9 And afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country and in the Negev and in the lowland. 10 So Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba); and they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi. 11 Then from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher). 12 And Caleb said, "The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will even give him my daughter Achsah for a wife." 13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah for a wife.

14 Then it came about when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. Then she alighted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" 15 And she said to him, "Give me a blessing, since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. 16 And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people. 17 Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. 18 And Judah took Gaza with its territory and Ashkelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory. 19 Now the Lord was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots. 20 Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak. 19 Now the Lord was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots. 20 Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak. 21 But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the Lord was with them. 23 And the house of Joseph spied out Bethel (now the name of the city was formerly Luz). 24 And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city and we will treat you kindly." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free. 26 And the man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and named it Luz which is its name to this day. 27 But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land. 28 And it came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely. 29 Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them. 30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor. 31 Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob. 32 So the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. 33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became forced labor for them.

34 Then the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 yet the Amorites persisted in living in Mount Heres, in Aijalon and in Shaalbim; but when the power of the house of Joseph grew strong, they became forced labor. 36 And the border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

JDG 2:1-5 Now the angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, 2 and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? 3 "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall become as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" 4 And it came about when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 So they named that place Bochim; and there they sacrificed to the Lord.