

07-Judges-15-Transcript

[Music]

[Music]

well good evening brethren welcome to another wednesday night bible study we're up to judges 17 and what that means is we've now finished the judges the individual careers of the judges and we're now in the epilogue or the conclusion of the story and uh what we're going to see now is more looking at everyday life or or samples of everyday life among the israelites before we were looking at the actual careers now we're just going to look at you know what happens underneath the surface and this is not necessarily sequential these things could have been happening alongside the the judges that we've just finished reading about let's open with the word of prayer and we'll cover god willing judges 17 and 18 this evening as they they form a unit heavenly father we're ever so grateful to you lord for your your everlasting mercy your love for israel your covenant with israel we thank you god for uh grafting us into israel and we thank you father for giving us a hunger and a thirst for your word we pray god that you will bless us as we show up each week wanting to dig deeper to deepen our understanding and to deepen our conviction and our faith especially now father in this world of turmoil and chaos and instability we pray for the stability that comes

from building our lives on your word
we praise you we thank you we thank you
for jesus christ and in his name we pray
amen so we are up to
uh judges 17 and let's just go i want to
just um
as context let's go back to
um deuteronomy which is where we started
when
we were beginning the book of judges we
actually went before context we went to
deuteronomy
so let's do that again and we read here
when the lord your god shall deliver
them so these are the people that the
occupants of the promised
land that israel is going into inherit
when the lord your god shall and these
are
mighty powerful nations and tribes
when the lord your god shall deliver
them before you god is going to do this
for you
you shall smite them and utterly destroy
them this was the plan
that israel would go into the promised
land and completely remove
these corrupted individuals from the
land
you shall make no covenant with them nor
show mercy unto them just completely
remove them from the land
neither shall you make marriages with
them your daughter you shall not give
unto his son
nor his daughter shall you take unto
your son and of course we were looking
at samson
last week where he just commands his
parents get me that
philistine woman to wife and they cave
in and do his will
and it's the exact opposite of god's
will

why for they will turn away your son
from following me
that they may serve other gods so will
the anger of the lord be kindled against
you and destroy you suddenly so this was
uh the whole point
is stay away from this idolatry stay
away from this corruption
god is using you to remove the
corruption from the land don't you
become corrupt as well
so have nothing to do with these people
you in fact
are to be a model of righteousness to
the world
he says but thus shall you deal with
them you shall destroy their altars
and break down their images and cut down
their groves
and burn their graven images with fire
why because you are a holy people unto
the lord your god
the lord your god has chosen you to be a
special people unto himself and of
course we recognize peter
quoting this speaking of the church
being a peculiar people because
we are grafted into israel and we are
the first fruits of the fulfillment
ultimately
of this selection and this election
so god has chosen you to be a special
people unto himself
above all people that are upon the face
of the earth and so
all people are not equal god has
privileged some people
above others he's the creator he doesn't
apologize for this in fact he does this
in order to bless
all people a little bit of further
context before we get into this epilogue
of judges that
israel served the lord all the days of

joshua so joshua was a very
strong leader mooses was a strong leader
joshua came up after
him he was a strong leader israel served
the lord all the days of joshua
and all the days of the elders that
overlived joshua so that generation
and which had known all the works of the
lord
that he had done for israel so that was
the context
uh there was very specific commands that
israel was given
to to serve the lord and um
they didn't follow that they didn't
follow that
uh joshua did as he took them into the
promised land and then that that
generation was very careful
but then it just deteriorated
and so after joshua's death and we begin
the book of judges othniel was a very
righteous judge
but after that we just see this this
complete
deterioration from

[Music]

in fact if we just take a look at the
the careers of these judges that we've
studied
we'll see here that
we see how um there's this sort of the
unit one unit two unit three unit four
and i like the way this person uh steve
rudd has
kind of shown this sort of descent
because uh
the the the situation just keeps getting
worse and worse
so they go from and let me just uh make
this bigger for you
give me one moment
there we go so we go from othniel which
uh

you know clearly he was a man that uh
and that should be othniel he's got his
typo there not uthnil
uh he he was a righteous judge he did
what was right he married righteously
you see he was adhering to the word of
god from there we have a hood who is a
deceptive man
we have deborah who actually told barack
you need to deliver the people barack
was very cowardly wouldn't go unless she
was with him
she said okay they will be delivered but
it won't be to your honor
it'll be to the honor of a woman and we
see that a woman actually was the one
who drove the tent peg
into the enemy of uh israel then we saw
gideon
who was very faithless and took a while
to to
believe god and even when he then
delivered god he wanted to sort of
interject himself
into the deliverance so that he would
get credit
for the deliverance and not just not
just god abimelech was a complete
disaster
a very ambitious man and and uh wanting
to
uh make up for his earlier rejection uh
and then we don't hear much about tola
and and year but you know clearly this
is a time when israel is descending
uh then we saw the um story of jephthah
and how ambitious he was and
um while empowerment was ruthless uh
jephthah was really ambitious
uh very knowledgeable about god but only
academically
not really caring about uh doing the
will of god
and then of course we looked at the

prayer of samson
which was just
horrible to to actually read this and
this is a man that's supposed to
represent god
however all of these judges advanced
the will of god all of them they moved
the ball forward for israel they kept
israel alive they
they delivered israel from her enemies
so we understand then
that you know israel is precious to god
israel is precious to god and despite
the unrighteousness of the nation
god uses these imperfect men
and a woman in one case um you know to
the shame of the nation he
used a mother in israel because of his
covenant
with israel because of his love for
israel
so we now come to judges 17 which is now
sort of a snapshot
of what's going on at the underground so
we sort of saw what's going on with the
leaders
but what what happens on the ground
what's been give us a sample
and so the author here is giving
us a sense and i i think this really was
written for saul
to understand the importance of
leadership and how israel needed
a king to pull everybody together and
keep them pointed to
the lord so let's get a sense now of
life
in israel and there was a man judges 17.
there was a man of mount ephraim whose
name
was micah and micah means who is like
jehovah so it's a a name that praises
jehovah
and he's from ephraim so this is one of

the most powerful tribes
if not the most powerful and he said
unto his mother
the 1100 that's that's a big number
the 1100 shekels of silver and that's in
fact the same number when we were in
samson
that each of the men offered a delilah
to
take down samson uh the eleven hundreds
of shekels of
the 1100 shekels of silver that were
taken from you so somebody stole
a very large amount of money from
his mother obviously she would be really
upset to find that she was saving up
this money
and suddenly it went missing and she
pronounced a
curse on the thief it must have been a
terrible curse because when micah hears
it
it terrifies him and he said unto his
mother
the 1100 shekels of silver that were
stolen from you
about which you cursed and spake
of also in my ear so she's probably
sitting with him at breakfast and
i can't believe somebody stole this
money from me and and then just bring
down the curses of god
on this person and he's listening to
this and and maybe over and over at
breakfast at lunch at dinner
before he goes to bed when he wakes up
in the morning she's just really moved
uh with with energy to curse this person
whoever this thief was
that took the money and you spoke of
this also in my ears behold
the silver's with me i stole it from you
i took it and how does the mother react
so she's

cursing the thief she's dismissed this
is a big amount of money that was taken
from her
how does she react and his mother said
blessed be you
of the lord my son so
you know us we have to be careful as
parents
that we are you know down the line
and we we teach our children
righteousness
and you know as a young man as a boy
i was punished a lot maybe more than my
siblings
and you know what i never felt abused i
i got serious punishment
but i always felt like i deserved it
that's just
this is justice and so i just grew up
with a sense of right a good
solid sense of right and wrong and i
think you know here's a religious woman
you know she's saving up this woman and
uh so she's saving up this woman is
saving up
to devote this money to the lord so
she's
uh you know clearly at least ostensibly
are a righteous woman um but yet when
she finds out her son is a thief
she goes from cursing the thief to
blessing the thief
and and you know as christians we can't
be like this where we just have our
children
and they can do no wrong our children
can do no wrong we'll defend them no
matter what evil they do
no if our children are wrong we tell
them they're wrong
and we hold the line and we show them
the scriptures she doesn't care about
the scripture she doesn't really care
about god

this is all surfaced and so this is what we see is happening on the ground with israel
it's all surface religion in fact it's worse than that
now just to give you a sense of how much is 1100 shekels of silver
what is that worth this is what this is to do with abraham
my lord hearken unto me the land is worth 400 shekels of silver so this is when abraham wanted to buy a plot of land
to bury his wife and this is how much he paid for the land
the land is worth 400 shekels of silver she saved up
1100 shekels but what is that between me and you bury your dead there and abraham hearkened on the ephraim
and he weighed to if run the silver which he had named in the audience of the sons of heth
so he was very careful like i am paying you for this land i'm paying you what it's worth
400 shekels of silver current money with the merchant
so imagine 400 shekels of silver buys a very and abraham wanted a very uh desirable plot of land 400 shekels of silver
we're talking about 1100 shekels of silver here
also in proverbs what does the proverb say about thieves particularly those who steal from their parents
whoso robs his father or his mother and says
it is no transgression the same is the companion of a destroyer so although micah has the name that praises jehovah he's actually a companion of the devil

let's go back to judges and when he had
restored the 1100 shekels of silver to
his mother
so he didn't repent he wasn't sorry
he was just afraid of the curse that she
just kept pronouncing on this thief
and he probably felt like my life is
over if this curse comes to pass
i'm done for so because of that fear
that he went and he restored the 1100
shackles of silver
but this in no way speaks of any sort of
repentance
it's just really uh he was worried he
probably couldn't sleep at night
and now he's restored the 1100 shekels
of silver to his mother
so when his mother said i had wholly
dedicated the silver unto jehovah
from my hand for my son sounds like a
very righteous woman
so this 11 and a very wealthy woman
again 1100 shekels of silver that's a
lot of money
and this was just what she saved up
simply for this purpose
and it's dedicated to the lord now
there's a couple of things wrong here
first of all she says she
wholly dedicated it to the lord if you
dedicated it to the lord it's the lord's
you know you have people today who will
give tithes or they'll give offerings
and then maybe they'll phone up and say
i want that back you can't
you can't do that if it's the lord's it's
the lord's
so you dedicate it to the lord and it's
gone it's out of your hands
and we pray that our offerings and our
tithes will be used
according to god's will and will bless
god's people and advance god's will
but you don't own it anymore in fact it

was that our tithes are not ours
that first 10 of our increase it belongs
to god it's not ours
in fact to keep it is to steal from god
so here
she says she's wholly dedicating it to
the lord and yet she's retaining control
of
it and why what does she want so that's
one thing she's retaining control of
what she says
is wholly dedicated to the lord and then
secondly what does she want to do with
it
she wants to take that 1100 shekels of
silver which she dedicates to jehovah
and then what does she want to do to
make a graven image and sorry i should
make sure that you can see
the scripture as we read it together
to make a graven image and a molten
image
now therefore i will restore it unto you
so
she retains complete control of the
money even though she says it's
dedicated to jehovah
she wants to take the money to make
graven images
this is uh this is really amazing what
we see here
now the commandment is very clear you
shall
not make unto you any graven 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 so you shall not make
any graven image period
but they have drifted so far from torah
so far from the commandments that they
don't even know that this is wrong
that they they're mixing up i'm i'm so

righteous i'm going to save so much
money
and i'm going to use that money to make
a graven image when the
command is very clear so this is what's
happening on the ground
and it really speaks to a lack of
leadership a lack of instruction
a lack of teaching a lack of handing
down from one generation to the next
the knowledge and purposes of god
verse 4 yet he restored the money onto
his mother so he gives the money back he
he's imagine that he's this is a lot of
money that he stole from his mother so
that tells you something about him
and how selfish he is and how ambitious
he is
how self-centered he is and the only
reason he gives the money back
is because of this terrible curse that
she pronounced upon the thief
as soon as she finds out it's him she
flips the curse into a blessing
so he still even though he hears the
blessing he still restores the money to
his mother
and his mother took 200 shekels of
silver
earlier she said she has wholly
dedicated
this eleven hundred dollars that this is
holy this is this is separated
and it's given unto the lord she gets it
back
and now maybe she's not so keen on her
son
so rather than taking the 1100 dollars
shekels
to set up this image in the community
to really promote her son as the next
leader of the community
she cuts it back again she's retaining
control of

this this this wealth that she's offered
to god
which is clearly wrong but then the
purpose that she's going to use it for
is wrong
and now she reduces the amount don't
know it doesn't say what she does with
the other 900
but you know supposed to be dedicated to
the lord so she took 200 shekels of
silver
and gave them i was just thinking of
ananius and saphira
who said you know we sold the house for
so much a property for so much
and then they lied to the holy
spirit and they didn't use the full
amount
uh so maybe she's lying to her son now
and saying this is what 1100 shekels of
silver has built when it actually it was
only two
and his mother took so real
dysfunctional family
200 shekels of silver and gave them to
the founder
who made their of a graven image in a
molten image and again
you know the founder is going to be an
israelite most likely and they can't
even see that hey this is wrong
that this is something that we we don't
do uh these
we don't we don't create these molten
images
but that's something that they clearly
don't understand
and you can see here the kind of image
that they're we're probably talking
about
in terms of a molten image there's
probably something that
looks looks along these lines
so this this is what the the this is

this would be out of silver though so
they've taken the gods of the nations
around them
which they should have uh over they
should have completely destroyed
instead of completely destroying those
those the gods of those nations
they've now adopted them so
she makes this image he made there of a
graven image and a molten image
and these two images were in the house
of micah
so she made them for her son and now her
son is established and
maybe become some sort of center of
worship for the israelites in that area
and the man micah had
a house of gods so some sort of a shrine
where there's all these different pagan
gods because you never know which idol
you might upset which god you might have
set so
think of the kaaba in in arabia before
muhammad cleansed it and just had one
god allah
it was you know 365 gods because you
just never know which god you might
upset
and so he's setting up this this house
that everybody can come and worship
and the man micah had a house of gods
and made an ephod
and a teraphim and consecrated one of
his sons
who became his priest so he's really
setting up this
uh you know today you would think of
maybe um
if a young man started a had a
technology startup
some sort of cloud-based internet-based
uh technology you know people will be
like wow okay he's up and coming he's
gonna make it he's gonna be very wealthy

well back in the day it would have been
religion not technology
so he's setting himself up to be very
wealthy by
by um uh marketing religion
and trading in religion so he's
establishing this center
and he takes one of his sons so we know
he has more than one son
and uh this son now becomes his priest
and he's going to officiate
in this process and then the the
narrator gives us this
in those days there was no king in
israel
but every man did that which was right
in his own eyes and we've heard this
before and we saw it with the judges and
we certainly saw it with samson the
final
career that we looked at where whatever
he saw with his eyes he just went after
it
uh and so here that was at the
leadership level on the ground
it's the same thing you know so goes the
leader so goes the pack
so there was no king and some people say
you know these kings there was no judge
no no supreme court judge that people
could come to
with their cases for the judge to decide
what the that's not what this is saying
king means king there was no monarch
even even jehovah himself was rejected
as a king
the other nations had kings but they
didn't have a king they didn't have
someone who could
kind of consolidate and prove and
provide leadership for them
and so in those days there was no king
in israel
so whoever is writing this and we

believe it's samuel
is writing it when this is no longer the
case
now there is a king in israel and the
the narrator the author is writing to
say look
this was the state of affairs before
there was a king
now that there's a king you have to be
very clear about your purpose
unite israel in the proper worship of
jehovah
so in those days before there was a king
in those days there was no king in
israel and every man did
what was right in his own eyes so
everything that we just read
what we saw micah do what we saw his
mother do well we saw all the judges
that we've just uh read about everything
that they did
everybody's it's not that they're doing
evil and they
are enjoying the evil to know that it's
evil
they actually think they're doing right
this is you know
according to their doctrine according to
their philosophy
this is good what does that mean to us
today
the very same thing these things are
written
as examples for us upon whom
the ends of the age have come and so you
know today
there's a lack of leadership and and and
the church does not
uh the church struggles we live in an
age that rejects authority
and so since the 60s we've had this this
turn in culture
that rejects authority and so we
struggle to accept authority

and yet this is how god works in
ephesians 4 and verse 11
after christ ascended to heaven his
first priority
was to give gifts and he says he gave
some
apostles and some prophets and some
evangelists and some
pastors and teachers and he does that so
that we're not
you know thrown about with every wind of
doctrine
that that this is the way god works to
protect the church
and yet the church struggles to respect
any form of leadership
or to accept any form of leadership and
now as this unfolds
we see paul writing to timothy saying
the time will come
when they will not endure sound doctrine
in other words every man will want to do
what's right in his own eyes he will not
want sound doctrine he will
not want to know what the will of the
lord is he will not want somebody to
tell him this is the way
walk you in it he will want to go his
own way so
so this is what's going to come upon us
and we can't say no we're just
way too righteous for this to happen to
us
because the people of israel in the time
of the judges they thought they were
righteous
everything that we just read about
micah's mother was very religious
and mike is setting up himself to be
very religious
and when we do that we can seduce
ourselves
and we can deceive ourselves and that's
why god gives teachers

for the time will come when the people
of god
will not endure sound teaching but after
their
own lusts shall they heap to themselves
teachers
having itching ears we're going to see
the exact same thing
in judges now people want to hear what
they want to hear
and they will look for the teachers that
will bring to them what they want to
hear
but the faithful teachers are going to
give us what we need to hear
and they're going to give it to us right
out of the word of god undiluted
without apology back to judges
and there was a young man out of
bethlehem judah
or bethlehem in judah
of the family of judah who was a levite
and he's adjourned there so he's not
necessarily a bloodline judah
but he's living with the tribe of judah
and he's actually a levite but he's
staying there
and the man departed out of the city
from bethlehem
judah to sujern where he could find a
place
in other words he wasn't very useful
there they didn't have much need for him
there
and he came to mount ephraim to the
house of micah
as he journeyed so he's looking for
employment he's unemployed
he's a levite that's unemployed because
israel doesn't have much use
for the religion of jehovah the true
religion of jehovah
and here we see in numbers 3 that when
the lord spoke to moses saying bring the

tribe of levi near
and present them before aaron the priest
that they may minister unto him
and they shall keep his charge and the
charge of the whole congregation before
the tabernacle of the congregation
to do the service of the tabernacle and
they shall keep all the instruments of
the tabernacle of the congregation
and the charge of the children of israel
to do service of the tabernacle
so this whole system was set up and now
they're in the promised land and the
idea was the levites they wouldn't have
any
allotment because they would continue to
serve in this role
but the israelites would be faithful in
their ties and their offerings
uh so that the levites could focus on
the religious leadership
and service now you know
same old same story different verse you
know it could get better but it's going
to get worse
malachi 3 as we come to the end of the
old testament is the same situation
where god is saying what are you doing
why are the levites unemployed
bring you all the tithes into the
storehouse why
that there may be meat in my house this
is the the economy of jehovah
that you pay your tithes and offerings
to finance the
the levite ministry that there may be
meat in my house and prove me now
herewith
protest me with this says the lord of
hosts if i will not open
to you the windows of heaven and pour
you out a blessing
that there shall not be room enough to
receive it so

with the right doctrine with the right
teaching this is going to strengthen
israel
and put israel in the in in the will of
god and god is now going to
significantly bless the the people of
israel but the opposite happens
they discard good doctrine and they end
up being cursed
back to judges 17 so this
unemployed levite is wandering around
trying to find employment
he leaves bethlehem and judah he comes
to ephraim
again the biggest tribe and he comes to
the house of micah
probably very clearly a wealthy man so
why not go there
and micah said unto him where are you
coming from
and he said i'm a levite of bethlehem
judah
and i'm going to sojourn i'm traveling
where i may find a place i'm basically
unemployed
and i'm trying to find work and micah
said unto him dwell with me
and be unto me a father and a priest
it's not so much like a
physical father of authority but it's
almost like uh
more like a divine or somebody i can go
to for guidance when i
when i have a decision to make i can
come to you and you serve as a priest
for me as well
and i will give you notice this 10
shekels of silver by the year
so the mother saved up 1100 shekels of
silver
to create a graven image you can imagine
how spectacular this image would have
been for
1100 shekels in the end she spent 200

shekels
but still you can imagine how
spectacular it would be
if it's going to take um you know 20
years
or sorry 10 shekels yeah 20 years to
save up that much money
if this levite was if he was going to
say i'm going to create an image like
that
that's that's a lot of that's a lot of
money but he's going to make here 10
shekels of silver by the year
and the suit i'll give you clothing and
i'll give you your food so
i'll pay you 10 shekels a year i will
give you clothing
and i'll pay for all your food and
imagine the clothing is going to be very
spectacular to
again promote this religion so the
levite went in
this is this is a levite who is supposed
to be
dedicated to jehovah and instead he's
he's a minister for hire
you know how much did you say you were
going to pay me okay i'm in
and the levite was content to dwell with
the man
micah and the young man was unto him
as one of his sons so remember he had
consecrated his
perhaps his eldest son but one of his
sons to be priest
now he gets a better offer and he kicks
his son out of the priesthood
and now puts a real levite in this role
so you can just see how opportunistic
and ambitious
this man is and how dysfunctional he is
steals from his mother
uh um uses his son discards his son
brings in this levite and micah

consecrated the levite
and the young man became his priest and
was in the house of micah
then said micah now
finally i know
that the lord will do me good seeing i
have a levite
to my priest so you can tell in verse 13
that the curse the intense curse that
his mother
pronounced on the thief that really
affected him that shook him up
to the point where he restored the money
and it was still
in the back of his mind and now finally
he has some relief
that by having a levite as a good luck
charm
and this is again how you see that the
pagan religion and idolatry that's
around them
creeping into israel they were supposed
to wipe these people out wipe their
influence out but they didn't
so now you see their influence creeping
into israel and he says
i have a lucky charm i have a levite as
my priest
and so now everything is just going to
go so well for me
in those days and again now the author
there repeats this
and though they in those days there was
no king in israel he doesn't repeat the
second part so every man did what was
right in his own eyes but i think we we
get the idea by now
but he's now introducing this next
movement in the story
uh with the same phrase everybody just
does what's right in their own eyes
because there's no leadership
in those days there was no king in
israel and in those days

the tribe of the danites sought them
an inheritance to dwell in for unto that
day
all their inheritance had not fallen
unto them
among the tribes of israel so again
they're doing what's right in their own
eyes
each tribe was told by joshua
what their allotment was in the promised
land
and they were given the instruction to
go in and take that allotment
the danites didn't do that and so we saw
here right at the beginning when we
started judges in verse
34 of chapter 1 that the amorites
forced the children of dan into the
mountain they had to back up and retreat
for they would not allow them to come
down to the valley
so the amorites were very powerful and
the dananites were not faithful
so they could not overcome the amorites
and they had to leave that
that was their allotment they had to
leave it so now we see here
that they're searching for an
inheritance
where where can they stay they're like
wanderers and they're like we need to
establish ourselves somewhere
the last thing that would occur to them
is like why don't we just do what god
said
why don't we just do we know what the
instructions that joshua gave us why
don't we do that
no no we've got our own ideas and the
church is exactly the same way today
that rather than read the text and be
faithful to the text
we have our own ideas text says one
thing but we're smarter

we're more sophisticated we have other ideas the danites have other ideas beside what god instructed them

verse 2 and the children of dan sent of their family five men from their coasts men of valor from zorah and from eshtaol to spy out the land and to search it and they said unto them go search the land who when they came to mount ephraim to the house of micah they lodged there so a couple of things here one is that they come from zora and eshtal so this is where we just left off with samson samson came from the same area or his parents they're spying out the land which sounds very much like you know joshua and caleb and the original spies that went into the promised land to sort of see the land so it's the same model that they're following and then they come to mount ephraim which is the biggest tribe and they go to micah so mica obviously is a very comes from a very wealthy family and it's sort of like maybe a downtown so you you know downtown ephraim or downtown mount ephraim is the house of micah and his parents sort of set him up to be that attention getting center so they went there and they lodged there so they're they're on their way trying to find land and they're staying there with micah now just to remind you of uh samson there was a certain man of zora of the family of the danites whose name was manoa and his wife was

barren and bear not
and so that's where they come from and
it's also here where we see the spirit
of the lord began to move at
time move him at times in the camp of
dan
between zorah and ishtaal so it's very
interesting that they are coming from
the place where the holy spirit
actually where first of all samson's
parents come from but it's also the
place where the spirit of the lord
began to move on samson
when they were by the house of micah
so they're staying at micah's house
he's giving them accommodation when they
were there
they knew the voice of the young man the
levite
so you could say they they recognize the
accent
so you know the young man uh came from
judah
and traveled down to ephraim they
also traveled down to ephraim we know
that
judah and samson had some issues where
sam the judah
the jews gave up samson to the
philistines
and so there was some perhaps
cross-pollination between the danites
and the
judahites and so they can recognize the
the accent
so they're in the house of micah and
they hear this levite talking
and they knew the voice and they turned
in there and said unto him
what do you do what are you doing here
that's odd the last person we'd expect
to see here somebody from another place
uh what do you so they said unto him who
brought you here

and what makes you in this why are you
here and
what have you here like this is weird
and he said unto them
thus and thus deals micah with me and he
has hired me
and i am his priest so he's just so
happy and he's like
lay i i have employment this man hired
me and i'm his priest
and they said unto him ask
counsel we ask we beg you of god of
jehovah
that we may know whether our way which
we go
shall be prospered so we're we're on a
mission here and
uh we want to know is is our way going
to be prosperous
and the priest said unto them shalom
go in peace before the lord
is your way wherein you go now
they said ask of the lord ask counsel we
beg you of god
that we may know the priest doesn't ask
counsel
he's just like obviously you want to be
successful in what you're doing oh
peace to you yeah absolutely he tells
them
what they want to hear he tells micah
what micah wants to hear he is
completely unfaithful
and and again you know in our day
isaiah prophesies of israel throughout
time
which say to the seers see not
we don't want you to see and to the
prophets
prophesy not unto us right things don't
tell us the things in the word of god
speak unto us smooth things prophesy
deceits
and so this time is coming when the

people will not endure a sound doctrine
we have to fight against that
and recognize it in ourselves and
recognize it in each other
and then help each other to endure to
the end
and the only way we can endure to the
end you know thinking of deacon jan's
sermon on
sabbath with which he just gave we've
got to hold on to the word of god
it's very simple just stick to the word
of god
and that's clearly what israel did not
do it's what this levite didn't do
there's no leadership here
and and he gives he tells them what they
want to hear smooth things
the the the go in peace before the lord
is your way wherein you go
so it didn't even it doesn't have a it
doesn't have to ask god i'll give me a
moment let me go and seek god's will no
peace then the five men departed
and came to laish and saw the people
that were therein how they dwelt
careless
after the manner of the zidonians quiet
and secure so
they find a spot where there's clearly
um no protection it's it's it's wide
open
so it's an open spot and so
they say the the people to all careless
they're they're just they don't have any
they don't have any cares
maybe the the just the geographical
location is isolated
so they don't really have to worry about
things
it's quiet and secure and there was no
magistrate in the land
that might put them to shame in anything
and they were far from the zidonians and

had no business with any man so it's a
quite an isolated spot and they came
unto their brethren to zora
and eshtaal and their brethren said unto
them
what do you say so what did you find out
and they said arise that we may go up
so they clearly see now
that
this is a this is an opportunity they
they so it's like this you know
joshua and caleb when they saw the
promised land they said let's take it
so they're kind of operating in the same
spirit except that they're not
and they said arise that we may go up
against them
for we have seen the land and behold it
is very good
and are you still like like come on
let's go
be not slothful to go and to enter to
possess the land
so this is not land that was allotted to
them they're actually being unfaithful
to god
when you go you shall come unto a people
secure
into a large land for god has given it
into your hands did they do they know
this
god god has allotted land for dan but no
this is the land they want
so the kind of covetousness they they
want what god is not
designated for them for god has given it
into your hands a place where there is
no want of anything that is in the earth
and there went from there the family of
the danites out of zorah
and out of ishta'al 600 men appointed
with weapons of war
so i don't think this is the whole tribe
but this is probably just the

military-aged men
go and take the land and they went up
and they they do have their family with
them but i don't i don't necessarily
know if it's the whole tribe
if it is they've really been reduced
maybe they've been in a lot of battles
and they've just been very unsuccessful
and they're just reduced in number it's
not it's not like the you know uh gideon
was able to put together about 32
000 men so it's clearly a very small
number here
and they went up and pitched in kurjath
jiram
in judah therefore they called that
place
unto this day so they wherever they go
they like to call things so this is the
camp of dan
behold it is behind kirijath jiram
and they pass there unto mount ephraim
and came to the house of micah so the
spies
took a certain route and they're
following the same route and along the
way they come to the house of micah
so the five spies that were originally
that originally went out there with
these men
and there they've obviously led them the
same route that they took
took them to the house of micah then
answered the five men
that went to spy out the country of
laish
and said unto their brethren uh excuse
me
do you know that there is in these
houses
an effort and terraphim
and a graven image and a molten image
now therefore consider what you have to
do

i mean are these the people of god
is this the promise the people who are
who've gone into the promised land the
peculiar people
who are to be a shining example
to the rest of the world brother shall
betray brother we're told in the
scripture
and this is what happens when people
depart from the word of god and so these
people have
no concept of what's right and wrong
they do what's right in their own eyes
so these five spies the whole time
they've been thinking about the wealth
of micah
and thinking about these graven images
that are made of silver
and are very spectacular and they're
like you know what you know what's
inside that house
there's these graven images and a molten
image
and these these gods there's effort in
this terraphim these
religious paraphernalia
so consider think about it and what are
you going to do about it
in other words they're encouraging them
to steal
from a fellow israelite
and they turned to their word or to turn
toward it
and came to the house of the young man
the levite
even unto the house of micah and saluted
him
and the levi probably had a little um
quarters that was separate from the main
house
so they come to him and the 600 men
appointed with their weapons of war
which were of the children of dan
stood by the entering of the gate so

that's quite a
a military it's like you know when the
3000 philistines came
uh i think it was no i don't know it was
three thousand i think it was three
thousand
jews that came but when the the
philistines came to judah
and they were in battle array that was
very intimidating
uh same here so you got these 600 uh
warriors at the gate that's quite a
quite an intimidating
stance and the five men
that went to spy out the land went up
and came in there
and took the graven image so they they
spied out the land but
but they also spied out micah's house
and they knew exactly where things were
so they come in and they took the graven
image so imagine this these are
israelites
and they are coveting after graven
images
they took the graven image and the ephed
and the terraphim
and the molten image and the priests
stood in the entering of the gate
with the 600 men that were appointed
with weapons of war
so you get the sense here that uh this
is more of a distraction
that maybe they're talking to the priest
and he doesn't exactly know
what what's going on while they're
distracting him so
so he's there talking to these 600 men
at the gate
while the five men go in and they take
everything
and these went into micah's house and
fetched the car of image the carved
image the effort

and the terraphim and the molten image
then said the priest
to them what are you doing so now he
realizes what they're doing like what
are you doing
like this is micah's and they said unto
him basically
shut up hold your peace
lay your hand upon your mouth don't say
a word
and come with us and be to us a father
and a priest
so you want employment we'll we'll
employ you
isn't it better for you to be a priest
unto the house is it better for you to
be a priest
unto the house of one man or that you
should be a priest
unto a tribe and a family in israel so
think about it
right now you're a priest to micah
that's just one man if you come with us
you'll be a priest to a whole tribe of
israel
and the priest's heart was glad this
this is where we are
and this is just again a snapshot of
what's going on on the ground
so we've we've come through the careers
of these different judges and we see the
deterioration
of israel through the leadership but now
we're on the ground level
the typical family of israel typical
tribe
what what's happening with these people
and there's just
no connection to torah whatsoever they
are completely
disconnected from god even though god is
still on their lips
so this levite is thrilled with this
opera this is fantastic you're stealing

from my
my employer um you you're you're taking
his wealth
uh you want me to betray him but hey
it's good for me
yeah i'm all in the priest's heart was
glad
and he took the ephod and the terafim
and the graven image
and went in the midst of the people so
so these guys stole it now the priest
says okay yeah i'm the religious leader
here i'll take it
let's go now in malachi 2 again we
this is the history of israel but as we
conclude the old testament
god speaks of levi and the levites
and he says my covenant was with levi of
life and
peace so there was a separate covenant
that god made with levi
and i gave them to him for the fear
wherewith he feared me and that's a
story in the old testament with the time
of moses
where levi stood up and his family stood
up and withstood the evil in israel
and he was afraid before my name the law
of truth was in his mouth
and iniquity was not found in his lips
he walked with me in peace and equity
and to turn many away from iniquity
that's what levi did
and then he goes on to say for the
priest's
lips should keep knowledge that's what
priests should do
the whole world can be going what's the
saying going to hell in the hand basket
the whole church can be departing the
whole nation of israel
can be unfaithful the priest
should be stable the priest should be
fixed

in torah in the knowledge of the
scriptures
and when people come to the priest he
doesn't give them his own ideas well i
think this
oh yes peace shalom shalom peace to you
what you're doing is great yeah god will
bless you for sure
you know this decision that you're
making i know it's going to make you
happy
and it's going to make god happy why is
it going to make god happy because it
makes you happy
and we're just here to give you joy no
if you come to us we're going to give
you the word of god
whether you like it or not just we'll
listen well this is what taurus says
here's the principle from torah here's
what the scripture says here's what the
prophecy says
here's an example from the old testament
here's an example from the new testament
we've given you the information we're
not going to make the decision for you
we're going to give you the word of god
and then you have a decision to make
for the police the pre-slip should keep
knowledge and they should seek the law
at his mouth they should come to the
priest for the torah
for he is the messenger of the lord of
hosts that's how god has designed it
but you priests of israel
you have departed out of the way nothing
new here
you have caused many to stumble at the
law
you have corrupted the covenant of levi
says the lord of hosts so there was a
special covenant of levi
and the levites were to fulfill this
they've corrupted it so now the danites

come to this levite
and instead of saying look here's what
the torah says and what you're doing is
wrong and i could never go with you
you're you're wicked people
this is what god says you need to repent
no oh this his heart was glad
because he corrupted the covenant of
levi so back to judges 18

21

so they turned and departed and put the
little ones in the cattle and the
carriage before them so
this this shows you this verse alone
shows you that
here they actually know they're doing
wrong or at least they know that they're
going to incur
micah's wrath so they're leaving
and they know that micah is going to
find out what they've done and he's
going to chase them
so what do they do they put their family
and the cattle in the front
and all the warriors then are in the
back
so when micah catches up to them they
will face the worry he will face the
warriors first
and when they were a good way from the
house of micah
the men that were in the houses near to
micah's house were gathered together so
you can see that micah was a leader this
this
young man a very ambitious young man you
can tell he was a leader in the
community was set up to be a leader he
set up his house as a shrine
everybody was so he was sort of the
downtown of that community
and so the houses that were near to
micah's house were gathered
together and overtook the children of

dan so
he pulls together kind of a small
militia team
to go after dan to get his goods back
and they cried unto the children of dan
and they turned their faces
so dan turned and said unto micah what's
wrong
you have a problem what's your issue
hello
what do you want is there a problem here
what ails you that you come
with such a company you've got quite a
lot of men with you micah what's going
on
and he said you have taken these these
this is an israelite
talking to an israelite so micah talking
to dan the tribe of dan
these are israelites these are people of
the torah and he said
it's just it's hard for me to read this
it's hard for me to read it just
on it on its face but then it's hard for
me to read it because
of the prophetic significance that these
things are written
unto us as examples
upon whom the ends of the age have come
that we should not
lust after evil things but the time will
come
when we will not endure sound doctrine
and we will look for teachers
that will teach us smooth things we'll
have itching ears
we'll want to hear what we want to hear
so that we can pursue our own lusts
so what goes around comes around and
it's gonna come around again
for the church the first fruits of
israel this is the prophecy
so it's hard for me to read this and he
said

you danites of israel have taken away
my gods of ephraim i'm an israelite
tribe you're israel we have the torah
you've taken gods i i made these god
and the priest who was serving as an
idolatrous priest
at my beck and call and you are gone
away
and what have i more so you know this
man was
you know the fact that he stole the 1100
shekels of silver in the first place
very ambitious very materialistic
uh he sets up this shrine he gets the
levity oh great god is going to bless me
now
and uh he's he's all about material
wealth
and you have christians today this whole
health and wealth gospel that are the
same way
i have god in my back pocket and every
time i
you know rub my hands in prayer he gives
me magic things
and this is the same this kind of
religion that micah has and now he says
look
if you take all this away from me and
i'm quite a wealthy person
in ephraim you've took in my wealth
taken my wealth away
i've got nothing left and what have i
more
and what is this that you say unto me
what's my problem like of course i have
a problem what are you asking me what
ails me
now how do the children have dan how
does one tribe
answer a fellow israelite and the
children of dan said unto him
let not your voice be heard among us
we don't want to hear you like don't

make that mistake twice
okay you've come to us with the
complaint we never want to hear from you
again
do not let your voice be heard among us
lest
angry fellows run upon you take a look
at our army here
and you lose your life with the lives of
your household
we're not playing here we've taken what
what we think
belongs to us go home
lest we slaughter you and your family
and the children of dan went their way
this is this is what the people of god
have come to and when micah saw
that they were too strong for him he
turned
and went back onto his house this is
maybe this is the curse that the mother
called down upon him but he thought oh
i've got a levite now everything's gonna
go so well for me uh not so much
now he's going back to ephraim mount
ephrain
penniless he's got nothing now they've
taken it all
even his priest is gone now
this kind of treachery and cruelty
from one israelite to another
what does the prophecy say second
timothy 3
1 this know also we need to know this
that in the last days perilous times
shall come this this is what happens
when god's people leave the word of god
we have no idea we have no idea
and we feel like because we've been in
the word of god
we feel like we're righteous and then
slowly the word of god
leaves us but we still believe
we're righteous and we still go through

the religious
motions we still go through the
religious rituals
we still keep the sabbath we still keep
the holy days maybe we still keep
on giving offerings and tithes we still
say the right things though god is still
coming off our lips
but our heart is far from god
and the word of god means nothing to us
we
you know maybe we're not sure about
something and the word of god is given
to us and we throw it away we don't care
we don't want to hear that
we have nothing to say about the word of
god well
where we're heading is to become
perilous people in the last days
we will be in peril it's going to be
very dangerous
and what we're going to see is what we
saw with the danites
and they took the things which micah had
made
and they took the priest which he had
and came untilish
unto a people that were at quiet and
secure
and they smote them with the edge of the
sword and burnt the city with fire
now this is not according to god's
instruction
they had their allotment they don't care
what god says
every man's doing what's right in his
own eyes and whatever pleases them
that's what they're going after
and there was no deliverer because it
was far from zion so they were just
isolated and they had no business with
any man
and it was in the valley that lies by
beth rahab

and they built a city and dwelt they're
in and they called the name of the city
dance wherever they go they like to put
their name on things
it's interesting because you know
they're trying to establish themselves
without god
when we see later on even in the book of
revelation
when the tribes are numbered dan isn't
mentioned
dan didn't take the allotment dan didn't
follow god dan didn't stick to the word
of god
they disappear they completely disappear
but they're trying to establish
themselves with their own strength
and they call the name of the city dan
after the name of dan their father
who was born unto israel they are
israelites so they're just
they're acting like devils howbeit
the name of the city was laisha the
first
and the children of dan set up the
graven image
this this is bizarre but this is what
happens to the people of god
when they leave the word of god
so so being the people of god is
irrelevant
if we are not abiding in the word of god
it's the word of god that keeps us alive
in god
but if we depart from the word of god
this we're looking at our future
and the children of dan set up the
graven image and
jonathan so we get the name of the
priest now the son of gershom
the son of manasseh he and his sons were
priests
to the tribe of dan until the day of the
captivity of the land

so now we see that
the land was and so
nasa is not necessarily the tribe of
manasseh but just the name of nasa
um so they think they're going to do
they think they're going to prosper
uh and yet god says i will come with
sudden destruction
and so the assyrians are going to come
in eventually and just
take them away and to completely destroy
everything
but they have this religiosity and they
feel really good about themselves
and they're mentioning god's name but
god has nothing to do with them
so they set up this graven image and
they have this priest
doing their bidding and they set them up
micah's graven image which he made
all the time that the house of god was
in shiloh so this is before
the house of god was established in
jerusalem the worship center was shiloh
they don't care about that they've got
their own image they've got their own
religion
and they think they're doing very well
and they're going to prosper
and so this is just a snapshot this
gives us a sense
of typical family in israel
typical tribe behavior what's going on
in the land when there's no leadership
there's no adherence to the word of god
the levites have corrupted themselves
the people have no use for them
they're they're ministers for hire the
levites are a priest for hire
and they'll go to the highest bidder and
they'll say whatever
the people with itching ears want to
hear you know so this is where
you know paul sort of sets the model to

be tent makers
that we we don't we don't need money we
we make our own money even if it causes
us to have to work
long hours and double you know this is
all volunteer work that we do as
ministry
within the cgi model most of us are
volunteers
and then we still have our own work to
do we have to make tense
but this way you know we're not
ministers for hire
we just we study the word of god and we
teach the word of god
and if those if people cannot endure
sound doctrine
that's on them the job of the watchmen
is to give the people sound doctrine
and to give the people warning from god
and if they take heat that's wonderful
and if they don't oh well but we do have
the examples
here in the old testament to see what
happens to god's people
when they depart from the word of god so
this is the the epilogue of judges
the this is the first part 1718 sort of
tells a unit
uh next week god willing we'll get into
chapter 19
and it is horrendous it's horrendous and
i'll warn you from now
viewer discretion is advised it's going
to be very very difficult reading
we definitely want to make sure you read
ahead of time so you know what we're
going to be
covering it's going to be very difficult
but this is what happens to the people
of god
when they depart from the word of god
and
the spirit expressly says that god's

people will depart from the word
they will depart from the faith and
perilous times are coming
so this is going to give us some insight
into what the future holds
brethren we serve a mighty god
thank you so much for uh for joining me
this evening
and i hope that the study is edifying
we're almost finished the book of judges
we've got
three more chapters i think i don't
think we'll cover all three chapters
next week but we're almost finished
and again uh try to study these books
uh for their value today don't just read
them as the sort of ancient text
that happened long long time ago no
these things are written
as examples for us that we don't follow
these bad examples
we serve a mighty god a faithful god
let's be faithful
to our god amen god bless
let me just finish with this proper
image here
and we don't want to be serving the
idols that
israel served
you