

BACK TO ANARCHY

JUDGES 17-21

IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO KING IN
ISRAEL. EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT
IN HIS OWN EYES.

JUDGES 21:25



Judges 17:1-6; 18:1-6; 19:1,2; 21:25

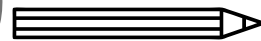
17:1 There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the Lord." 3 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." 4 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. 5 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. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. [...]

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. 2 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. 3 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?" 4 And he said to them, "This is how Micah dealt with me: 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 the journey on which we are setting out will succeed." 6 And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord."

19:1 In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months.

21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

----- NOTES



ANALYZE

1. LIST WORDS FROM THE TEXT THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

- shrine
- small sacred site dedicated to a god and which contains holy items.

- -----
- -----
- -----
- -----

2. WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS PASSAGE?

3. WHAT DOES MICAH'S MOTHER DO WITH THE SILVER GIVEN TO GOD?

4. HOW DID MICAH'S MAN BECOME A PRIEST?



DISCUSS

1. Why does the author repeatedly remind us that there was no king in Israel? What was the result of this reality?

2. Was any of the judges fit to be a king? Whose kingship does human failure point us to?

3. Is there any point in being obedient to God if he is not your ultimate authority?

4. Most of the judges' lives were skill-centered and not God-centered? What was the result of this fact?



APPLICATION

WHAT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD AND US CAN YOU APPLY TO YOUR LIFE FROM JUDGES 12?

1. *Submission to God is more important than investing in personal skills.*

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



LEARN THE TEXT

Obedience and Knowledge of God. It is obvious that all throughout the book of Judges the people of Israel, together with their leaders struggled to obey God and keep their covenant with him. The proper response to the book of Judges is not to simply think that we should obey better. Obedience is not a goal in itself, but a symptom, just as disobedience is also a symptom. A disobedient act betrays a self-autonomous and rebellious heart, and the solution is not to change our actions, but to change our hearts. The main problem in Israel's life through this book was their own hearts, that became more and more rebellious and resulted in darker and darker times.

The cure to a self-autonomous and rebellious heart is a king that would take control of your whole life and subdue your heart. Jesus has died for us and was made king over the whole creation (Ephesians 1:20–21). Our lives should be lived in submission to His kingship and abandonment of ourselves (Matthew 16:24-26). If you struggle with disobedience you need to renounce on yourself, know God better, and submit to everything that He is. Don't leave the book of Judges missing the fact that the people's biggest issue was the lack of a King to whom they should have submitted.



TOOLS

IDENTIFY THE KING OF YOUR LIFE

Humans are created by God to be worshipers. He made us that way so that we will worship Him; but instead of that, after sin entered the world we started worshipping things other than God. People started carving images of false gods, glorifying their leaders, or worship elements of nature. Thus, we took something that God made for commitment (worshipers of God by nature) and turned it into a tool for rebellion against Him (idolatry).

Therefore, people, by definition, cannot stop worshipping. The question is not if we worship, but whom do we worship. As many others today, we perhaps are not tempted to worship a carved image anymore, but we surely are tempted to worship our own image.

IF JESUS IS NOT KING OVER EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE, THEN SOMETHING/SOMEBODY ELSE IS - PERHAPS EVEN YOURSELF.

NOTES



SMALL GROUP

Work individually in answering the following tasks:



1. Consider the whole book of Judges. Go back to previous lessons if you don't remember each judge.



2. Identify the 4R cycle in YOUR OWN story and write down a short description of each stage.

- Rebellion

- Ripples

- Redemption

- Restoration



3. Answer the following question.

- Which judge is the one in whom you find yourself most? Why did you pick this judge?

- Which judge is the one like whom you would like to be more? Why did you pick this judge?

- Which judge taught you most about God through this study? Why did you pick this judge?



MIDWEEK

HIGHSCHOOLERS & MIDDLESCHOOLERS



READ THE TEXT

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.



DISCUSS

1. Did Israel have a king before the book of Judges? Did they have a king after Judges? Did that make things clearly better for Israel? Why do you think that they needed a king now?

2. What sin is revealed in the actions of Micah's mother in Judges 17? Can you identify the irony in her actions? Are we today vulnerable to the same actions.

3. Was there anything sinful in the passage from Judges 18? What about in chapter 19? What do all these tell us about the moral state of Israel at the end of this book?

4. Comparing this passages to the whole book, when was Israel worse, when there was no judge or during some judges? Explain.

5. How does the book of Judge prove that we are unstable people and that God is forever faithful? What about your personal life, how are you unstable and how has He been faithful to you?

6. Did God change your life in any way or measure as you studied the book of Judges? If yes, what exactly is changed in you. If no, how would you explain the transforming power of the word of God in your life?

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

READ THE PASSAGE OF JUDGES FOR THE NEXT LESSON



READ YOUR FAVORITE CHAPTERS IN JUDGES

DAY 1 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES

DAY 2 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES

DAY 3 - JUDGES _:_-__



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANSWERED PRAYERS

THIS WEEK I PRAYED FOR (PEOPLE THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE):

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____