

Judges 17:1-13 **Micah – his Idols, Ephod, shrine, and Levite Priest**

1,100 shekels of silver stolen and returned

¹ Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. ² And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears--here is the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!"

Silver dedicated to Yehowah used to make idols

³ So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you." ⁴ Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah. ⁵ The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes

⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Levite Priest

⁷ Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there. ⁸ The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed. ⁹ And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay." ¹⁰ Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in. ¹¹ Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him. 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 be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"

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Facts Revealed:

1,100 shekels of silver stolen and returned [Judges 17:1-2]

- ✧ Micah was of the tribe of **Ephraim**, and he took 1,100 shekels of silver from his mother.
- ✧ His mother pronounced a curse on the one who had taken the money.
- ✧ Micah heard the curse and returned the money.
- ✧ His mother said, "May you be blessed by Yehowah (the LORD), my son!"

Silver dedicated to Yehowah used to make idols [Judges 17:3-5]

- ✧ The money had been dedicated to Yehowah for Micah.
- ✧ The intent of the dedication was to make a carved and molded image.
- ✧ His mother gave 200 shekels of silver to the silversmith and he made it into a carved and molded image.
- ✧ The images were kept in the house of Micah as his household idols.
- ✧ Micah had a shrine, made an ephod, and household idols.
- ✧ Micah consecrated one of his sons to be his priest.

The Law of Yehowah on the subject was:

- ✧ You shall have no other gods before Me. [Exodus 20:1-3, 34:13-17]
- ✧ You shall make no graven images. [Exodus 20:4-6, 22-23, 34:12-17, Leviticus 19:4, Deuteronomy 5:6-10, 6:14-15]
- ✧ Shrines became a curse against Israel. [Ezekiel 16:24, 31]
- ✧ The Ephod was to be worn by the high priest only. [Exodus 28:1-4, 29:4-7, 1 Samuel 2:27-28]
- ✧ Ephods became stumbling blocks for Israel as they became objects of worship. [Judges 8:27, Micah 17:5, 18:14-20]
- ✧ Priests of Israel were to be direct descendants of Aaron exclusively. [Exodus 28:1-4, Numbers 3:10]
 - ◇ The total form of worship of Micah and his mother were in violation to the direct commandments of Most High God.

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes

- ✧ **In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.** [Judges 17:6]
 - ◇ It is the same today, everyone does what is right in his own eyes without searching out what God has commanded for our behavior, and this is to our shame.

Levite Priest

- ✧ A young Levite from Bethlehem of Judea, looking for a place to serve, traveled to the mountains of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah. [Judges 17:7-8]
- ✧ Micah inquired who he was and where he was from. Learning that he was a Levite from Bethlehem of Judea looking for a place to serve, Micah offered him a job as his personal Priest, which the Levite accepted. [Judges 17:9-12]
 - ◇ Micah's motive was to entice God to bless him since he had a Levite as his Priest. [Judges 17:13]
 - ◇ The Levite was not a descendant of Aaron.
- ◇ As in America today, human nature is to expect God to bless us even when we are in direct disobedience to the recorded commandments of God.
- ◇ We overlook the revelation of God when He said He will punish those who disobey His commandments.
- ◇ Doing what is right in our own eyes, we say, "God bless America" as we have changed His Laws to reflect our evil desires and America is in disobedience to God's Laws.
- ◇ How can God continue to bless a nation that has cast Him and His Word out of our national, political, commercial, personal, social, educational, and community life?
- ◇ What is right in the human perspective is not always pleasing to God Most High who will call us to account for the choices we have made. Judgment is coming.