

## Timeline of Truth: Jonathan – The Compromising Levite – Micah and Jonathan (Judges 17:1-13)

**Judges 17:6** In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

<p><sup>1</sup> Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred <i>shekels</i> of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears-- here <i>is</i> the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you <i>be</i> blessed by the LORD, my son!"</p>	<p>1. <b>Micah Returns Stolen Silver</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. From Ephraim</li> <li>b. Micah – means “Who is like YAHWEH.”</li> <li>c. Micah is a thief – he stole 1,100 shekels of silver.</li> <li>d. Micah returns the silver after his mother curses the thief.</li> <li>e. Micah's mother blesses Micah             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o She blesses the thief she had cursed originally</li> <li>o She blesses in the name of YAHWEH</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>3</sup> So when he had returned the eleven hundred <i>shekels</i> 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."</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred <i>shekels</i> 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.</p>	<p>2. <b>Micah's Mother Makes an Idol</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Micah's mother had dedicated the silver.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To the LORD</li> <li>2) To make a carved/molded image                 <p><b>Ex 20:4-6</b> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of <i>anything</i> that <i>is</i> in heaven above, or that <i>is</i> in the earth beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.</p> </li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Micah's mother used part of the silver.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) She gave it to a silversmith.</li> <li>2) She only gave part of the money to the silversmith.</li> <li>3) He made a carved/molded image</li> <li>4) It was in Micah's house.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>5</sup> The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.</p>	<p>3. <b>Micah Sets Up His Own Religious System</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Micah made a shrine for worship             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In Ephraim – Shiloh was in Ephraim</li> <li>2) Shrine – <i>beth elohim</i> – house of God                 <p><b>Deut. 12:5</b> "But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.</p> </li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Micah made articles for worship             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ephod -                 <p><b>Ex 29:5-8</b> "Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. <sup>6</sup> "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. <sup>7</sup> "And you shall take the anointing oil, pour <i>it</i> on his head, and anoint him. <sup>8</sup> "Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them.</p> </li> <li>2) Household Idol – <i>teraphim</i> – only used 8x in OT. May mean “divine thing”                 <p><b>Zech. 10:2</b> For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore <i>the people</i> wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because <i>there is</i> no shepherd.</p> </li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Micah consecrated a man for worship</li> <li>d. Micah followed the cultural norm             <p><b>Deut. 12:8-9</b> "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today-- every man doing whatever <i>is</i> right in his own eyes— <sup>9</sup> "for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.</p> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>6</sup> In those days <i>there was</i> no king in Israel; everyone did <i>what was</i> right in his own eyes.</p>	<p>4. <b>God Identifies the Problem</b></p> <p><i>Is the problem that there is no king? (Did kings promote righteousness?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The problem is “everyone did what was right in their own eyes.”</li> <li>o Instead of submitting to the King they already had.</li> </ul>

**The True Issue: We Cannot Think God's Thoughts Apart from God**

**a. The \_\_\_\_\_ that We Must Accept:**

- **Jer 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?
- **Prov 28:26** He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
- **Is 5:21** Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!
- **1 Co 8:2** And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

**b. The Only Real \_\_\_\_\_:**

- **Prov 1:7** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- **Prov 9:10** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.
- **Heb 4:12** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**c. Our \_\_\_\_\_ Attitudes and Actions:**

- **Prov 3:5-8** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.
- **Rom 12:1-2** ... <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **Col 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there. <sup>8</sup> The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a *place*. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.  
<sup>9</sup> 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."

**5. A Levite Comes to Micah**

- a. A young man – from Judah, a Levite.
- b. The Levite was looking for a new place to stay  
**Deut 18:5-7** "For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever. <sup>6</sup> "So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses, <sup>7</sup> "then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites *do*, who stand there before the LORD.
- c. He came to Ephraim – to the house of Micah
- d. Micah asks about him
- e. The Levite answers Micah

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.

**6. Micah Hires the Levite**

- a. Micah offer the Levite a place to stay
- b. Micah offers the Levite a position
- c. The Levite accepts the offer

<sup>12</sup> So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah.  
<sup>13</sup> Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"

**7. Micah Consecrates the Levite**

- a. The Levite became a priest to Micah
- b. The Levite lived with Micah
- c. Micah proclaims the Lord's blessing
  - 1) The Lord will be good to him
  - 2) Because he has the Levite as a priest

"When God's people disregard God's authority and instruction, they may become indistinguishable from those around them." (Way, K. C. (2016). *OT217 Interpreting Judges*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

1. We must \_\_\_\_\_ God in God's way. We cannot disregard what God tells us in His word to do whatever we want to do. Are there ways in which you are redefining the God has said to worship?
2. When we \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word, we make foolish, sinful decisions. Our own thoughts become "right in our own eyes." What must we do to keep this from happening? [Combine #2 and #3 somehow?]
3. When we \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word, we justify our foolish, sinful decisions so that they sound right even to ourselves. Can you think of examples of how we may have done this in our past?
4. We cannot think that religious affiliations, actions, and artifacts are a \_\_\_\_\_ to God's blessings. We need to do what God says, as well as for God's intended reasons.