

Bible Study on Judges
JUDGES 17-18: MICAH'S ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP

Judges 17. Micah rejoices in his silver image and hired priest.

17.1-6. Micah restores stolen silver to his mother who gave it to make idols for Micah.

17.7-13. Micah hires a Levite to be his family priest.

Judges 18. Micah's idolatry spread to the tribe of Dan.

Summary: Dan couldn't conquer and hold the inheritance that God had given them, so they ended up plundering a fellow Israelite and establishing itself in a territory other than what God gave them.

APPLICATION

- *Micah's idolatry should cause us to reflect upon the type of worship we offer to God in our churches. It should cause us to ask ourselves whether we are worshiping God in the manner that He has prescribed. Our desire to be faithful to God in the way we worship Him is one of the most glorious aspects of the Reformed tradition (Godfrey)*
- Do we think we can worship God however we think best? No need to go to Shiloh. We can worship as we please in the convenience and comfort of our own home. "Does this not parallel the contemporary mood (even in the church) that worship is a very individual affair, a matter of sheer personal preference? To declare that faith, worship, and religion are rather regulated by royal revelation and subject to sovereign subscriptions sounds like a novel idea. Surely, contemporary Danites tell us, God is not so picky" (Keddie, 208).
- "Too many charlatan preachers have controlled and convinced people that adhering to them and their teaching will bring them divine blessing. It is imperative to worship God in spirit and truth and to test the legitimacy of any minister in the clear light of God's Word" (RHB).
- God is worthy of our worship even if our circumstances do not change.