

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 17:1-13

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“SO GOES A NATION” – PART 1

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Godlessness, Anarchy, Judgment,

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 17:1-13

**From Judges Chapter 17 to Chapter 19
begins what is called an epilogue or an appendix.**

there is no “chronology” to these
upcoming chapters.

But what these chapters are is a “broad-brush” overview of the years,
times and cultural challenges during the times of the Judges of Israel.

Note This Please.

**The cycle that has been seen with Israel is to us a terrifying
revelation to us here in America.**

No Other Nation Outside of Israel
has had a Biblical beginning like America. No other nation can boast that its founders,
the pilgrims, came searching for a new world for religious freedoms, proclaiming...

“No king, but King Jesus”!

I recommend a Couple of Books ;
"The Light and the Glory" by Peter Marshall
&
"The Mayflower" by Nathaniel Philbrick

Now, The Cycle of Israel's Existence

is a warning to us today – that a nation goes from bondage, to enlightenment, to freedom, to prosperity, to indifference, to apathy, to bondage. = America

Our Social Sciences Reveal That America has long been in the "apathy" stage and is now well into the "bondage" stage...

The Bondage of Self – We have Deified our Wants
as a People.

The Danger for us is – America isn't Israel.
as a nation, America has no Promises. It has no Prophetic Place
America isn't even mentioned in the Bible !

Once **the Greatest Christian** Nation on Earth, not mentioned.
(the gospel, the Bible is becoming illegal and is banned in most public places)

Once **the Greatest Military** Power on Earth, not mentioned.
(our power is a perception – the politicians don't have the will to fight)

Once **the Greatest Economy** on Earth, not mentioned.
(the united states of America is the most "bankrupt" nation on earth - perception)

Once **the Freest People** on Earth, not mentioned.
(our Biblical and civil freedoms are vanishing in the name of political correctness)

In Fact, Look Ahead to...

Judges 17:6
In those days **there was no king** in Israel;
everyone did (especially congress) did what was right in their own eyes.

Without the Lord – A Nation Dies - America is Dying
and may very well be on life support tonight.
These Next 5 Chapters will teach us what happens to a culture that
embraces idolatry,

17-18 = idolatry (*the tolerance and acceptance of foreign gods*)
19-21 = cultural change (*the moral decline which leads to civil war*)

Judges 17:1-2

Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was **Micah**. (*who is like the Lord*) :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!*”

this is one weird family

Micah’s mom looks in her purse and finds out she’s been robbed. She then curses the thief who did it and then finds out her son’s showing “criminal tendencies” because he’s the bum that’s robbed her. then she, out of an emotional illness asks the Lord to bless him.

“ A Dysfunctional Nation
Produces Dysfunctional Families which in Turn,
Produces a Dysfunctional Nation.”

Judges 17:3-4

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 (YHVH) for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you.*” :4 Thus he (Micah) 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.

Mom’s a Piece a Work.
she knows God’s name (Yahweh) but she doesn’t know God’s Heart.

Bibles, Horoscopes, Lucky Charms and Mother Earth

“She Buys an Idol – a Custom Idol”

So she hires an idol maker

to make an idol for her son and he, like any weird son growing up in a weird house, takes his little knick-knack idol that mom gave him and puts it over his mantle.

**Spirituality is in the Human Heart – The Lord’s Placed It There.
Man was Created to Have Fellowship with God.**

Judges 17:5-6

The man Micah had a **shrine**, and made an **ephod** and household **idols**; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his **priest**. :6 In those days *there was no king in Israel*; (SO) everyone did *what was right* in his own eyes.

Why Not Get to Know The Real Lord God of Creation?

No – Create Your Own Worship System – With Your Own Stuff and It Can be All About You.

If your Religion Requires You to Honor a man or a prophet, exalt a man or a prophet, and Worship a man or a prophet,
- - then you're right in the middle of a cult.

Have You Noticed That When Someone Attacks the Bible, The Jews and Christians Don't Respond by Burning Cars in the Streets, Rioting and Blowing Up People or Embassies.

If Someone **Curses Jesus Christ** or Writes a Book

Called the Da Vinci Code which clearly commits Blasphemy against Jesus Christ, we don't bomb Barnes and Noble.

I have never seen Christians threaten to **kill people over a cartoon** that mocks God, attacks the Bible, curses Jesus Christ or...

The Reason is, Our God, the God of the Bible, is Real and He Can and Will Defend Himself. – *He doesn't need us to fight for Him.*

But Pastor Jack Hibbs
don't we worship a man by worshipping Jesus Christ?
I'm glad you asked that question.

Do Christians Worship a Man by Worshipping Jesus Christ as God?

Isaiah 48:12

"Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Isaiah 44:6

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: `I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.

Isaiah 41:4

Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning?
"I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He."

Isaiah 43:10

"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He.
Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 4:8

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Revelation 1:11

saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches

Revelation 21:6

And He said to me, "It's done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:13

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Revelation 1:17

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last...

Revelation 1:18

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

Revelation 2:8

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, `These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

Exodus 3:14-15

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " :15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

John 8:24

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

John 10:32

Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" :33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Titus 2:10

...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, who alone is wise...

1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in **the living God, who is the Savior of all mankind...**

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not share with another...

Hosea 13:4

Yet I am the LORD your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; for there is no Savior besides Me.

Isaiah 45:21

Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.

Isaiah 43:11

I, even I, am the LORD (yehovah), and besides Me there is no savior.

Psalms 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Exalt Him who rides on the clouds,
His name is YAH, rejoice before Him.

Proverbs. 30:4

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?

Psalms 2:11-12

Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. :12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. = "God among us"

Luke 1:30-32

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest;

Philippians 2:10-11

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for
The Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. = Savior!

John 4:42

And so the Samaritans said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent The Son as Savior of the world.

2 Peter 1:11

for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It's No Wonder Then...

Romans 10:13

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Remember Again...

Philippians 2:10-11

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; :11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

and this is just a few verses from the Bible explaining that we Worship Jesus...

Philippians 2:6-8

Jesus Christ, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, :7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. :8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Judges 17:7-10

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 stay 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.

So Micah Comes Up with This Idea of "Renting a Levite"

End of Study