

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

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

## JUDGES CHAPTER 18:1-31

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## “IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT” – PART 1

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

### SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Rebellion, Disobedience, Idolatry, Lordship**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**Judges 18:1-31**

### **As we continue to look at the cycle of a nation;**

It almost seems impossible that what went wrong within a family could spread out beyond the four walls of the house and infect an entire nation. but that is exactly what we see when a home disintegrates into a multi-cultural, politically correct, spiritually religious breeding ground for a cult worship system.

In Chapter 18 That Is Exactly What We See Happen in Israel...  
What Started in The Home – Spread to the Nation!

## “IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT”

**1.) Make up your own rules**

**v.1-6**

**Remember Now What Had Gone On @ Micah’s House ?**

**Judges 17:6**

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

# YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR OWN RULES

1a.) Like being greedy

v.1-6

## Judges 18:1-6

**In those days there was no king in Israel.** And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance **for itself to dwell in**; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.

*The Tribe of Dan* was allotted an Inheritance between the territory of the tribe of Benjamin westward to the Mediterranean Sea.

BUT... they had failed to wage war against the Amorite Kingdom and win. by losing they retreated as it were to the north.

## Judges 1:34

And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

Even The Lord Had Said; "I will give you the victory."

Failing to Stand Firm on His Promises

there must be stability for all things that tend to drift.  
ships have anchors. buildings have foundations, and people have laws,  
and nations have leaders (godly ones you hope for)

God Knows Our Hearts

## The Ten Commandments

*(now illegal in most of America's Schools, Government Buildings and Courtrooms)*

#1

**you shall have no other gods before me – exodus 20:3**

#2

**you shall not make for yourselves an idol – exodus 20:4**

#3

**you shall not take the Lord's name in vain – exodus 20:7**

#4

**you shall remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy – exodus 20:8**

#5  
you shall honor your father and mother – exodus 20:12

#6  
you shall not murder – exodus 20:13

#7  
you shall not commit adultery – exodus 20:14

#8  
you shall not steal – exodus 20:15

#9  
you shall not lie – exodus 20:16

#10  
you shall not covet – exodus 20:17

**Covetousness is Wanting What Someone Else Has.**

### Verse 2-6

:2 So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, “Go, search the land.” So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. :3 While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?” :4 He said to them, “Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest.” :5 So they said to him, “Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous.” :6 And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The presence of the LORD be with you on your way.”

The Danites, already in disobedience to God, slip deeper into trouble with God – this is a rent-a-levite, he’ll say anything.

**YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR OWN RULES  
when the real God is not in the picture**

Under General Joshua, The Lord had Given Him very specific appointments to the land of Israel.

The Lord Had Appointed The Division of The Land – not the tribes!

### James 4:1-2

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? :2 You **lust** and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

When “You **lust** and do not have” Know This...

“You Can Never Have, Because Lust Cannot Be Filled.”

The World is Catering to Human Lusts  
– It’s the Biggest Money Maker of All

## “IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT”

2.) What’s mine is mine and what’s yours is mine v.7-10

2a.) Like living for pleasure v.7-10

### Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, :25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to **enjoy the passing pleasures of sin**, :26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

### Judges 18:7-10

So the five men departed and went to **Laish**. They saw the people who *were* there, how they dwelt **safely**, in the manner of the Sidonians, **quiet** and **secure**. *There were no rulers (enemy forces)* in the land who might put *them* to shame for anything. They *were far* from the Sidonians, and **they had no ties** with anyone. = sitting ducks !

At the time of the Judges of Israel,  
Sidonians were one of the Phoenician groups  
that lived there in Laish, These Sidonian’s practiced Canaanite worship.

**This is One of My Favorite sites to Visit in Israel**  
the area of Laish or Dan today.

there are archeological sites there that date back 5,000 years ago.

## Verse 8-10

:8 Then *the spies* came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, “**What is your report?**” :9 So they said, “**Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land.** :10 When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. **For God has given it into your hands,** (*not true – they wanted it to be true*) a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth.”

### 1 John 2:15

**Do not love** the world (*greek: stop loving the world. the implication is that the spirit of the world pulls on us, grasps for us, entices us*) or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. :16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. :17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

### Matthew 19:16-24

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” :17 So He said to him, “**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**” :18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “**‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’** :19 **‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** :20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” :21 Jesus said to him, “**If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**” :22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. :23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “**Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. :24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.**”

## Here's The Good News

### 1 John 5:3-5

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. :4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world - - even our faith.** :5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

### Ezekiel 36:27

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

### John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - - :17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

**John 16:6-7**

But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. :7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**“IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT”**

**3.) Just looking out for number one**

**v.11-19**

Now six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war. :12 Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Ma’ha’neh Dan to this day. There, west of Kirjath Jearim.) :13 And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah. :14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, **“Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do.”**

**JUST LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE**

**3a.) As long as you’re paying**

**v.15-19**

:15 So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man—to the house of Micah—and greeted him. :16 The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. :17 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, **they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image.** The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war. :18 When these went into Micah’s house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, **“What are you doing?”** :19 And they said to him, **“Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?” - -**

**THIS IS LIKE OUR WORLD TODAY !**

**“What are you doing?” – NOT “STOP WHAT YOU’RE DOING”**  
rather it’s “can I play” - - “hey, count me in”

This is a Picture of what the Bible  
Calls a Hireling

**Job 7:2b**

a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages, (clock watcher)

**John 10:11-14**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. :12 But a hireling, *he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. :13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. :14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*

**"IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT"**

**4.) My gods are bigger than your gods v.20-27**

**4a.) When god's walk away v. 20-27**

**So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people. :21** Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them... :22 When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan. :23 And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?" :24 So he said, **"You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?'"**

**Psalm 115:3-8**

But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. :4 Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men's hands. :5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; :6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; :7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. :8 Those who make them are like them; *So is everyone who trusts in them.*

**Idolaters Carry The Gods They Worship.  
Christians Are Carried by The God They Worship.**

:25 And the children of Dan said to him, “Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest **angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life**, with the lives of your household!”  
:26 Then the children of Dan went their way. And **when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house**. :27 So they took *the things* Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

## “IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT”

5.) Even if it's the wrong thing to do

v.28-31

5a.) Refusing to do what's right

v.28-31

### Judges 18:28-31

*There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there. :29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish. :30 Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh (or Moses), and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan* until the day of the captivity of the land. :31 So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, **all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh**. :31 So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, **all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh**.

### Joshua 18:1

Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

## Fellowship with God and His People...

Well, O.K. Fine Pastor Jack,  
But What am I supposed to Do With This ?

*End of Study*