

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 2

*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

**Judges Chapter 18 Opens Up With What Has
Become a Little too Familiar for us here in America...**

Judges 18:1

In those days there was no king in Israel.

And in those days the tribe of the Dan was seeking an inheritance **for itself**

“Self-Seeking”

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...

Psalms 9:17

The wicked shall be turned into hell, *And all* (USA) the nations that forget God.

1.) Making up your own rules

v.1-6

1a.) Like being greedy

: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."

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

2a.) Like living for pleasure

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 !

Numbers 26:55

But the land shall be divided **by lot**; they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.

Our "Lot" in Life - is
Ordained of God

But Here's The Good News for Us;
This is The Very Same "Dark Background" that The Church was
Born into During The Roman Empire and The Greek World.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; :4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. :5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions,

At this time in Israel's history,
they had strayed far from the Lord and by doing so, they had become
a self-absorbed Society and what followed was a Cultural Shift
- It Happens!

whenever we become self-reliant, self-dependent,
man descends into a base-animal-like existence.

Like Rome, America is Dying from Within.

it's like a cancerous body, at first there is no sign of danger.
the assault on the Bible, the humanism of society

“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 too?" - - "hey, count me in"

This is a Picture of what the Bible
Calls a Hireling

Job 7:2b

as 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 gods walk away

v.20-27

Judges 18:20-27

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

EVEN IF IT'S THE WRONG THING TO DO

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...

(make the drive if you
need to make it)

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

End of Study