

Society's Consequences for Redefining God

June 6, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 17:7-18:31

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Summary of Micah so Far

Judges 17:1-6

- Micah stole from mom, she cursed, he tells, she blesses¹⁻²
- Money restored, mom commissions idol, Micah has shrine³⁻⁵
- We're being shown God's people are choosing to ignore God
- This rejection is occurring quickly Jdg 18:30

A Self-seeking Priest v7

- Levite wandering in search of a better place⁷⁻⁸
- Micah offers priest a job & clothing; no concern for law
- Micah's heart: 17:13 - the Lord will prosper me
- Religion: effort to gain access to God so he serves you
- Gospel Faith: give God your heart so you serve Him
- Religion: reduces God to a man-made image which serves us
- Gospel: God provides what we need so we have fellowship

The tribe of Dan Rejecting God

- No king (except God), Dan seeks itself an inheritance 18:1
- Dan: author's example of doing what was right in own eyes
- God gave Dan inheritance^{Josh19:40-48}; they didn't take it^{Jdg1:34}
- God had even promised to be with them & help^{Dt7:22;Jos24:16-18}
- Dan has rejected God's gift, now seeking better deal (5 spies)
- Interestingly we find Dan not mentioned in Rev 7:5-8
- Men of Dan just like Micah – taking God on their own terms
- Ignore His Word & refuse to walk in faith - right in own eyes
- Levite priest affirms them^{18:6} so no need to rely on God^{18:7-10}

Dan applies Micah's methods to him

- While on the way, spies mention Micah's religious shrine...
- Danites decide to take it; Levite speaks up but gets offer...
- Levite helps pack up shrine and goes with the Danites
- Consider the Levite's motives: self-promotion; religion for \$
- Micah runs after gods he made... he was let down by them
- Danites take Laish by slaughter, call town Dan, now outside of promised land.
- Dan now led by Jonathan & his sons - grandson of Moses
- In just a generation, apostasy & religion of own design^{18:30}

What Do We Learn?:

- Remaking or redefining god never works... Ex 20:3-6;Ps 115:4-8
- Remember the importance of God-directed worship, not your own ideas!
 - No tabernacle today - Jesus came and tabernacled^{Jn1:14}
 - Remember importance of Christ's body (church)^{1 Cor 12:27}
 - Fellowship with His body (church) so important for faith
- Contrast Gospel w/ man-made religion: 1 Jn 5:3
- Follow & Worship King Jesus according to His Word!^{Heb 10:24-25}

Society's Consequences for Redefining God

June 6, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 17:7-18:31

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Summary of Micah so Far

Judges 17:1-6

- Micah stole from mom, she cursed, he tells, she blesses¹⁻²
- Money restored, mom commissions idol, Micah has shrine³⁻⁵
- We're being shown God's people are choosing to ignore God
- This rejection is occurring quickly Jdg 18:30

A Self-seeking Priest v7

- Levite wandering in search of a better place⁷⁻⁸
- Micah offers priest a job & clothing; no concern for law
- Micah's heart: 17:13 - the Lord will prosper me
- Religion: effort to gain access to God so he serves you
- Gospel Faith: give God your heart so you serve Him
- Religion: reduces God to a man-made image which serves us
- Gospel: God provides what we need so we have fellowship

The tribe of Dan Rejecting God

- No king (except God), Dan seeks itself an inheritance 18:1
- Dan: author's example of doing what was right in own eyes
- God gave Dan inheritance^{Josh19:40-48}; they didn't take it^{Jdg1:34}
- God had even promised to be with them & help^{Dt7:22;Jos24:16-18}
- Dan has rejected God's gift, now seeking better deal (5 spies)
- Interestingly we find Dan not mentioned in Rev 7:5-8
- Men of Dan just like Micah – taking God on their own terms
- Ignore His Word & refuse to walk in faith - right in own eyes
- Levite priest affirms them^{18:6} so no need to rely on God^{18:7-10}

Dan applies Micah's methods to him

- While on the way, spies mention Micah's religious shrine...
- Danites decide to take it; Levite speaks up but gets offer...
- Levite helps pack up shrine and goes with the Danites
- Consider the Levite's motives: self-promotion; religion for \$
- Micah runs after gods he made... he was let down by them
- Danites take Laish by slaughter, call town Dan, now outside of promised land.
- Dan now led by Jonathan & his sons - grandson of Moses
- In just a generation, apostasy & religion of own design^{18:30}

What Do We Learn?:

- Remaking or redefining god never works... Ex 20:3-6;Ps 115:4-8
- Remember the importance of God-directed worship, not your own ideas!
 - No tabernacle today - Jesus came and tabernacled^{Jn1:14}
 - Remember importance of Christ's body (church)^{1 Cor 12:27}
 - Fellowship with His body (church) so important for faith
- Contrast Gospel w/ man-made religion: 1 Jn 5:3
- Follow & Worship King Jesus according to His Word!^{Heb 10:24-25}