

Judges Session 9

The Slide into Anarchy, Phase One 17:1-18:31

After the recounting of Samson's story, the tone of the book changes. We no longer read about particular judges raised up by God to rescue the Israelites from particular threats. Instead we are shown background events that were probably going on throughout the period, but were neither heroic nor noble. Whereas the rhythm of the Judges was marked by "and Israel once more did evil," the drumbeat in these closing chapters is "in those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

- A. Micah recruits a Levite from Bethlehem as household priest 17:1-13
1. Micah returns money he stole from his mother.
 2. The mother devotes some of the money to make family idols.
 3. Micah sets up a pagan shrine, with his son as "priest."
 4. Micah upgrades his priest to a genuine Levite.

Question: If a priest's salary is ten pieces of silver a year, how much did Micah steal from his mum??

- B. 600 Danites steal Micah's idols *and* his priest 18:1-26
1. A scouting party visits Micah's home, asking for a blessing
 2. The scouts go north as far as Laish, almost in Lebanon
 3. They report back about easy pickings in Laish (and at Micah's house)
 4. The 600 head north to take Laish, robbing Micah and co-opting his priest
- C. The raiders take Laish, rename it Dan 18:27-30
- D. The Danites worship Micah's idols at Dan 18:31

Question: Read Revelation 7:1-8. What's missing?